DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 215th Brigade Support Battalion
1st Cavalry Division
Baquabah, Iraq
APO AE 09336

AFVA-SC-215-CDR 23 January 2007

MEMORANDUM THRU Commander, 3D Heavy Brigade Combat Team, FOB Warhorse, Iraq APO AE 09336

FOR Chief OQMG, USA Quartermaster Center, 1201 22d Street, Fort Lee, VA 23801-1601

SUBJECT: Quartermaster Hall of Fame, Distinguished Unit of the Regiment.

1. As the present Commander of the 215th Brigade Support Battalion, I strongly recommend the unit as a Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment. The battalion is in the middle of its second deployment in support of the global war on terror in less than 18 months. The unit is currently deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08 performing full spectrum Logistical Operations in support of the 3d Heavy Brigade Combat Team "Greywolf Brigade", First Cavalry Division, Baquabah Iraq.

2. Prior to deployment, the battalion's 92Gs showcased their culinary technical skills as the Operation Iraqi Freedom Dining Facility placed first in the Phillip A. Connelly competition for III Corps and Ft Hood, large category; placed first in the Southwest Region, and competed for the Department of the Army competition. This was all done in concert with preparing to deploy to Iraq, which occurred one week after the Phillip A. Connelly inspection.

3. Since deploying to Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08, the 215th Brigade Support Battalion has established itself as a cornerstone for 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team's operations within the Diyala Province of Iraq. The battalion has supported numerous brigade kinetic and non-kinetic operations which have greatly increased the security of the provincial population and increased the efficiency of the Iraqi Government.

4. The battalion has assumed several non-logistical missions including land manager of a twenty eight hundred Soldier Forward Operations Base which include mayoral responsibilities. In addition, the battalion has taken command of the Forward Operations Base Defense mission which includes the Base Defense Operations Center, command of over two hundred Soldier multi-national (Georgian) daily force protection element which includes tower guards and the Quick Reaction Force made up of Logistics Warriors.

5. The battalion provides numerous logistics functions which include conducting daily Combat Logistics Patrols throughout the province and out of sector missions to sustain brigade maneuver forces and Military Transition Teams; security of the Combat Logistics Patrols is conducted by the battalion internal Logistics Warriors Security Detachment. The battalion developed a Logistics Academy to train the Iraqi Security Forces in the areas of supply, medical, and maintenance management; the first in this area of operations. The battalion medical company provides the only Level II medical care in the brigade's area of operation, providing daily medical treatment for multiple traumas to US, coalition, and local national personnel. The battalion conducts daily brigade ammunition re-supply to two Combined Arms Battalions, two Armored Reconnaissance Battalions, one Field Artillery Battalion, and a Brigade Special

Troops Battalion. The Alpha Distribution Company manages air and ground refueling operation; a 250,000 gallon bag fuel storage site; a Forward Arming and Refueling Point that has refueled and armed over 1600 aircraft to date; a 4800 line Class II/IV and IX Supply Support Activity.

6. The Blacksmith Battalion reflects the battalion motto of 'No Task Too Tough' in its wide array of daily missions and the soldiers, leaders, and unit deserve recognition as a Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment.

RONALD KIRKLIN
LTC, QM
Commanding

4 Encl:
1. Letter of Recommendation
2. Battalion History
3. Unit Crest
4. Lineage & Honors

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized)
Fort Hood, Texas 76544

REPLY TO THE
ATTENTION OF

26 January 2007

AFYB-CG

MEMORANDUM FOR President of the Board, Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment, ATTN: Regimental Officer, CPT Adjutant, Fort Lee, Virginia 23801

SUBJECT: Letter of Recommendation

1. It is a distinct honor and pleasure to recommend the 215th Brigade Support Battalion, "Blacksmith's" for selection as a Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment.

2. As the former Division Chief of Staff, Division Artillery commander and most recently the Assistant Division Commander – Support, I am acutely aware of the many great things that this outstanding unit has accomplished, and continues to do. During my tenure as the ADC-S of the 1st Cavalry Division, I saw first-hand the work of this unit throughout the demanding tour in Iraq. Vignettes of the 215th supporting the much-heralded Fallujah operation, pushing support on the outskirts of the city to 2-7 CAV quickly come to mind.

3. The 215th Brigade Support Battalion has a rich history of support to 3d "Greywolf" Brigade and the 1st Cavalry Division. As with most First Team units, it was tested in the jungles and outposts of Vietnam. The battalion continues writing history, as it supports the 3d Heavy Brigade Combat Team in the Diyala Province of Iraq, across an area of operations over seventy-seven thousand square miles.

4. The unit did not rest on its laurels and accolades from OIF II, but pushed ahead and began "forging" a new history in Blacksmith fashion, as it converted to a modular unit of action. It was not enough to be good – they strove to be the best. This is best exemplified in their pursuit of the Philip A. Connelly award. As the operators of OIF II Memorial DFAC, the 215th cooks won the Division, Installation and Corps, and Southwest Region Connelly competition and competed in the DA level competition one week before deploying to OIF 06-08.

5. I send my total endorsement of the "Blacksmith" Battalion. They are a unit that embodies everything good in a support battalion, and exactly the caliber of unit that the Quartermaster Regiment should enshrine as a distinguished unit. The 215th BSB truly exemplifies their motto of "No Task Too Tough."

JEFFERY W. HAMMOND
MG, USA
Commanding

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, I CORPS AND FORT LEWIS
BOX 339500
FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON 98433-9500

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZH-DC

19 January 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: President of the Board, Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment, ATTN: Regimental Officer, CPT Adjutant, Fort Lee, Virginia 23801

SUBJECT: Letter of Recommendation

1. It is without hesitation that I unequivocally recommend the 215th Brigade Support Battalion for selection as a Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment.

2. As Assistant Division Commander-Support, 1st Cavalry Division, from June 2005 to June 2006, I had many occasions to visit this unit, both in garrison and in the field, in a wide variety of circumstances. For several reasons I spent more time with this unit than any unit I had oversight of. The 215th was the single best logistics unit I have ever observed and it was one of the top two battalions of any kind in the 1st Cavalry Division. The unit commander, LTC Ronald Kirklin, and his CSM inculcated excellence in every task this unit performed. In garrison, everything from routine tasks such as PT, to special events, such as Thanksgiving Dinner were done to the highest standard without exception. The battalion had a healthy competitive streak that made them want to be the best at everything they did and they were never satisfied unless they were. In the field, the battalion trained as it would fight, maintaining their combat focus, holding themselves to the tough standards that get the mission accomplished in combat while never forgetting the safety and welfare of the soldiers. During their Mission Rehearsal Exercise at JRTC, the unit performed superbly by all accounts, keeping their BCT logistically supported, and ensuring every battalion commander had every conceivable logistic advantage possible.

3. Beyond their performance in garrison and the field, I found this unit to have an excellent safety record, a high reenlistment rate, and very few individual disciplinary problems, all the indicators one would expect of a truly high-performing unit. The officers and non-commissioned officers were proud to be in the 215th and never hesitated to let me know.

4. Selection of the 215th as a Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment would be in keeping with the highest traditions of the Quartermaster Corps and would be suitable recognition of excellence in a logistics unit.

WILLIAM J. TROY
Brigadier General, USA
Deputy Commanding General
I Corps and Ft. Lewis

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3RD BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION
FOB WARHORSE, IRAQ APO AE 09336

AFVA-3B-CDR

25 January 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: President of the Board, Distinguished Unit of Quartermaster Regiment, ATTN: Regimental Officer, CPT Adjutant, Fort Lee, Virginia 23801

SUBJECT: Letter of Endorsement for the Quartermaster Hall of Fame, Distinguished Unit of the Regiment.

1. As the unit's Brigade Commander, I strongly endorse the selection of the 215th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) as a Distinguished Unit of the Regiment.

2. In 2004, the 215th BSB deployed as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. During that operation, the unit supported the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team (HBCT) throughout successful security operations in Baghdad. These operations enabled the formation of the new Iraqi government, the first meeting of the Iraqi parliament, and the successful elections of January of 2005. In addition, elements of the battalion supported combat operations in Najaf and during the re-taking of Fallujah.

3. During the OIF II deployment, the battalion conducted well over half a million miles of Combat Logistics Patrols around the Baghdad area of operations. The battalion also took part in many engagements around Baghdad. These included security operations on Haifa Street and the defense of Combat Logistics Patrols on Route Irish. These two areas were notorious for their frequency and level of insurgent violence. The battalion also helped defend the International Zone from numerous small arms and suicide vehicle-born improvised explosive device attacks.

4. Upon redeployment to Fort Hood, the battalion re-configured from the Force XXI format to the Unit of Action format. The battalion successfully supported the 3rd HBCT during brigade-level gunnery, Division and Corps Warfighter Exercises, and pre-deployment training exercises. This support occurred without interruption even while eighty percent of the battalion's equipment was in operational reset. In addition, the 215th BSB provided materials to humanitarian missions supporting the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The cooks of the battalion also won the Fort Hood and Southwest Region Connelly competition, qualifying them to compete at the national level. While deployed to Joint Readiness Training Center, the battalion's efforts during an excellent brigade rotation earned accolades for superior support.

5. The 215th BSB is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08. The battalion supports the 3rd HBCT in the Diyala province under the tactical control of the 25th Infantry Division. While deployed for less than 4 months to date, the battalion has used internal resources to secure and conduct 113 Combat Logistics Patrols over 78,000 miles. These patrols support three Forward Operations Bases and personnel in five outlying locations who directly train Iraqi Army and Police personnel. The battalion has supported five major brigade-level operations and operations during the Hajj and Ashura Muslim holidays.

6. The 215th BSB has also conducted maintenance and repair operations for Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police vehicles and weapons. The unit also has trained numerous Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police personnel in Combat Lifesaver and welding techniques. In addition, the battalion commands and controls the force protection efforts for the two thousand Soldiers occupying Forward Operating Base Warhorse. The 215th provides this security in a province with one of the highest levels of enemy activity in the country.

7. Selection as a Distinguished Unit of the Regiment would formally recognize what 215th BSB has accomplished throughout a myriad of difficult missions. The 215th BSB truly epitomizes the battalion motto, "No Task Too Tough!" I strongly endorse their selection.

DAVID W. SUTHERLAND
COL, IN
Commanding

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 15TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE
CAMP TAJI, IRAQ
APO AE 09378

AFVA-SC-CDR

27 January 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR President of the Board, Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment, ATTN: Regimental Officer, CPT Adjutant, Fort Lee, Virginia 23801

SUBJECT: Letter of Recommendation

1. I emphatically tender my endorsement of the 215th Brigade Support Battalion, "Blacksmith's" for selection as a Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment.

2. As a former battalion commander in the 1st Cavalry Division Support Command (DISCOM), my unit supported alongside the 215th. It is an outstanding organization with tremendous credentials, that can count several senior logisticians as part of its alumnae.

3. The unit has a solid history of support throughout the years, including Vietnam, Operation Iraqi Freedom II, support to Hurricane Katrina operations, and most recently Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

4. In fitting tribute to their motto "No Task Too Tough", the 215th redeployed from OIF II, converted to a Unit of Action while serving as part of the Korean PTDO package. While doing this, they supported the 3d Heavy Brigade Combat Team in its training for JRTC through multiple gunneries and field exercises. It was here that the 215th stood out, as it won both the Division and III Corps Philip A. Connelly competition. Immediately following, the unit deployed to JRTC in support of 3HBCT, setting itself apart from any other support unit, as recognized by the Operations Group. Upon return from JRTC, the 215th went directly into gunnery support and the Southwestern IMA Region Connelly competition, which it won. This truly distinct honor allowed the 215th to compete in the DA level Philip A. Connelly evaluation. One week later the battalion deployed to Kuwait to begin RSO operations in preparation for OIF 06-08.

5. In summary, the 215th is an outstanding unit that has a proud history. Its members have provided world class support to the 3d "Greywolf" Brigade over these many years. Recognition as a Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment is a fitting tribute to such a superlative unit.

AUNDRE F. PIGGEE
COL, QD
Commanding

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 45TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE
Q-WEST BASE COMPLEX, IRAQ
APO AE 09351

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

APVG-WZO-CO

27 January 2007

FOR: Chief OQMG, USA Quartermaster Center, 1201 22d Street, Fort Lee, VA 23801-1601

SUBJECT: Quartermaster Hall of Fame, Distinguished Unit of the Regiment.

1. The 215th Brigade Support Battalion is the most deserving logistics battalion to be considered as a Distinguished Unit of the Regiment. My assertion is based upon two considerations. First, I command the 45th Sustainment Brigade in Multi-National Division-North in Iraq. I have the privilege to command the largest CSS Brigade in Iraq as well as the privilege of serving as the senior logistician in MND-N. The 215th BSB has the most challenging mission in the most volatile region (Diyala Province) in our AOR. Their performance and sacrifice is simply the best. Excellence starts at the top with their Commander, LTC Ron Kirklin & permeates through their ranks. My job affords me the opportunity to observe all 11 CSS Battalions in our AOR. 215th BSB represents the best of the best. Secondly, I served as 215th Commander May 1999 - July 2001. I can personally attest to the professionalism, OPTEMPO & selfless accomplishments of these great Troopers.

2. Previous successful deployments include their deployment to OIF II, where they supported the 3rd HBCT in Baghdad. The battalion's efforts ensured the Brigade's successful security operations. This enabled the formation of the new Iraqi government, the first meeting of their parliament and the successful elections.

3. Upon redeployment to Fort Hood, the battalion re-configured from the Force XXI format to the Unit of Action format. The battalion successfully supported the 3rd HBCT during brigade level gunnery, Hurricane Katrina Support, and pre-deployment training exercises even while eighty percent of the battalion's equipment was in National Level RESET. While deployed to JRTC, the battalion supported brigade collective training, earning accolades for superior support.

4. Selection for membership in this elite fraternity formally recognizes 215th BSB's many accomplishments and epitomizes the battalion motto, 'No Task Too Tough!'

Michael T. McBride
COL, OD
Commanding

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE
3911 S. Walton Walker Blvd.
Dallas, Texas 75236-1598

24 January 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: President of the Board, Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment, ATTN: Regimental Officer, CPT Adjutant, Fort Lee, Virginia 23801

SUBJECT: Letter of Recommendation

1. It is without reservation that I strongly recommend the 215th Brigade Support Battalion for selection as a Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment.

2. The unit's performance since its re-activation in July of 1991 has been nothing short of superb. The 215th BSB has compiled a sterling record of achievement and support excellence that is unrivaled in the 1st Cavalry Division. It has provided support to the 3d Brigade Combat Team on a worldwide basis. The battalion has continued to provide stellar support to the 3BCT through two periods of transformation, in July 2003 to a Force XXI FSB and the most recent transformation to a Brigade Support Battalion.

3. Through numerous deployments in support of training and contingency operations the 215th BSB has served and supported with distinction. The Battalion superbly supported the 3d Brigade during two Intrinsic Action rotations to Kuwait, numerous NTC/JRTC rotations, and two deployments to Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The 215th BSB provided support to the entire International Zone during Operation Iraqi Freedom II. It was the single source of all classes of supply and transportation for well over 12 thousand Coalition military and civilian personnel working in Central Baghdad. It provided area support daily to units transiting the IZ and fuel, food, maintenance and water to the tenant US Embassy and Combat Support Hospital organizations.

4. In every instance the 215th BSB performance was stellar and in keeping with the finest traditions of the Quartermaster Regiment. In view of the outstanding accomplishments of this fine unit I request that favorably consideration be given to its inclusion on the rolls of the Distinguished Units of the Quartermaster Regiment.

Darfus L. Johnson
COL, TC
Deputy Director Logistics
HQ AAFES

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment
1st Cavalry Division
FOB Warhorse, Iraq APO AE 09336

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFVA-3BDE-1-12-CDR

26 January 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: President of the Board, Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment, ATTN: Regimental Adjutant, Fort Lee, Virginia 23081

SUBJECT: Letter of Recommendation

1. 215th Brigade Support Battalion is the "Best of the Best," which is why "Blacksmith" Battalion will be selected as a Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment.

2. To date (currently executing Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08) 1-12 CAV had the following combat systems "Code F": four M1A2 SEP Tanks, nine M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and ten M1114's during sustained combat operations. Within 72 hours of the vehicles evacuation to FOB Warhorse, the Estimated Cost of Damage document was complete and all the required documentation was submitted to division. In addition, Blacksmith conducts combat logistical patrols in support of six platoon sized combat outposts and three other battalions throughout the Diyala Province, ensuring that these outposts are supplied with all classes of supplies. 215th BSB conducts as many combat logistical patrols as 1-12 CAV conducts combat operations. The Blacksmith Battalion personifies their motto, "No task too tough."

3. To date, 1-12 CAV sustained 7 KIA, 46 WIA, 9 NBI and numerous soldiers screened due to IEDs. The care "Charlie" Med, 215th BSB provides is first rate. The soldiers of our battalion know they are in good hands with "Charlie" Med, 215th BSB. The "Charlie" Med team is directly responsible for saving countless 1-12 CAV soldiers' lives. I thank God they are on our team.

4. 215th BSB was entrusted to conduct some of our "Hero Flights." Blacksmith Battalion was chosen to place the remains of our fallen brothers on an aircraft while 1-12 CAV presented full military honors. They executed every ceremony with precision and flawlessness. They are our brothers in arms, I could not ask for any better.

5. I do not give praise easily or often, but "Blacksmith" is the best support battalion I have ever served with and 1-12 CAV is eternally grateful for their service and sacrifice in support of 3HBCT. They are the "Best serving the Best."

Morris T. Goins
MORRIS T. GOINS
LTC, IN
Commanding