



**United States Army
Presidential Unit Citation
Award Ceremony
In Honor of the
96th Infantry Division**



**July 27, 2001
8:45 AM**

**Palace Ballroom
Holiday Inn Central
Omaha, Nebraska**





Presidential Unit Citation Certificate



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS AWARDED THE

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION
TO THE

96TH INFANTRY DIVISION

FOR
EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN MILITARY
OPERATIONS AGAINST AN ARMED ENEMY.

1ST APRIL 1945 TO 30TH JUNE 1945

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON

THIS 10TH DAY OF JANUARY 2001



James D. ...
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY



Presidential Unit Citation Award Ceremony

Pre-Ceremony Music

43rd Army Band, Nebraska Army National Guard
Specialist Brian Anderson, Director

Narrator's Welcoming Remarks

Donald Dencker, Historian, 96th Infantry Division Association
Co. L, 382nd Infantry

City of Omaha Greetings

Pete Festersen
Representing Mayor Mike Fahey

Sound Attention

Bugler, 43rd Army Band

Official Party Arrival

Presentation of Colors

Command Sgt. Major Jeffrey Mellinger with First/Third Army Color Guard

National Anthem

43rd Army Band

Invocation

Raymond Boykin, Chaplain, 96th Infantry Division Association
Co. E, 381st Infantry

Award Ceremony Remarks

Brig. General James P. Collins, U.S. Army Reserve
Commanding General, 96th Regional Support Command

Keynote Speaker

Lt. General John M. Riggs, U.S. Army
Director, Objective Force Task Force

Video Presentation

Award Address

Presentation of Presidential Unit Citation, Certificate, Ribbon, and Streamer

Lt. General Riggs Presents Certificate to:

James Causey, President, 96th Infantry Division Association
Co. C, 381st Infantry

Lt. General Riggs Presents Citation to:

Ernest Malkewitz, Vice President, 96th Infantry Division Association
Co. M, 381st Infantry

Lt. General Riggs Presents Ribbon to Mr. Causey

Affixing Presidential Unit Citation Streamer to 96th Infantry Division Flag by:

Sam Wood, Lt. Col., U.S. Army, Retired
Co. M, 383rd Infantry

Tank Battalion Citation Remarks

William Bonnell
Co. A, 763rd Tank Battalion

World War II Era Musical Selection

Congratulatory Message

Senator Ron Wyden, Oregon
Presented by Molly McCarthy, Staff Assistant

Citation Acceptance Remarks

James Causey, Lt. Col., U.S. Army, Retired

Taps

Benediction

Chaplain Boykin

Retire the Colors

Army Song

43rd Army Band

Departure of Official Party and Dismissal



Presidential Unit Citation



By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, I have today awarded

THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)
FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM
TO THE
96TH INFANTRY DIVISION

The 96th Infantry Division and attached units distinguished themselves during the period 1 April 1945 to 30 June 1945, by extraordinary heroism and gallantry in action against the enemy in the conquest of Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, Japan. On 1 April 1945 the 96th Infantry Division made an assault landing on the Hagushi beaches of Okinawa and within three days overcame all resistance in the large Sunabe hill mass which dominated the XXIV Corps' landing beaches. The division then immediately attacked rapidly and skillfully south down the western half of the island, overrunning and destroying or driving in enemy outpost lines and strong points guarding the approaches to the main Japanese defense hub at Shuri. By 7 April, the division had penetrated the main outer ring. On 9 April, the division initiated a series of attacks against the powerful Japanese defense position at Kakazu Ridge. It was necessary to dig, blast and burn or bury forever the fanatical enemy defenders. By 15 April, the division had gained control of dominant portions of the ridge. On 16 April, the division became an interior division when a third division entered the lines on its right flank. It continued its day after day assaults. Tombstone Hill was seized. Tanabaru and Maeda escarpments were captured. Needle Rock Hill 153 and the Gate were all taken. On 1 May, the division was withdrawn for nine days of rest and for reception and assimilation of replacements totaling over 4,000. On 9 May, the division reentered the lines on the left (east) flank, and began a series of bitter, bloody, hand-to-hand assaults designed to wrest from the Japanese Conical Hill, the vital key to the eastern section of the Shuri battle position. The desperate defenders struck back with all the fire and manpower at their command. Concentrations of artillery and medium and heavy mortar fire were placed upon our lines in durations previously unknown in the Pacific War. By 21 May, the crest and eastern slopes of Conical Hill had been captured, opening an envelopment route to turn Shuri. To the west of Conical Hill, the division captured Sugar Hill and broke through the Shuri line to within 200 yards of the Nahi-Shuri-Yonaburu Road, the enemy's innermost and essential communication line. Loss of Conical Hill doomed the Shuri position, and the enemy withdrew, shortly after its fall, to final positions along the south tip of the island. The division continued its pursuit of the retreating enemy. On the final enemy positions on the Yuzo-Yaeju-Dake escarpments, the two highest hills were in the zone of the 96th Division. The division assaulted heroically and with a fury that could not be stopped, using the same hand-to-hand, digging, blasting, burning assaults required in earlier engagements. The 96th Division ended its portion of the organized fighting as it began it, closing to bayonet range with a gallantry, heroism and determination to win which carried its attacks forward despite terrible and crippling casualties and physical discomforts almost beyond human endurance. The division killed a total of 37,763 of the enemy in 73 days of fighting. Its own battle losses totaled 7,294, including 1,504 killed. The brilliant victories achieved by the 96th Division on Okinawa contributed greatly to the defeat of the large enemy garrison. The esprit, heroism and continuing demonstrations of raw courage throughout the battle exemplified the highest traditions of the military service.



