



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) “STRIKE HISTORY” 01 February – 07 February 2015



February 1971

Operation Jefferson Glen: The STRIKE Force entered 1971 still engaged in Operation Jefferson Glen with the 1st Brigade. The CP remained on OP Checkmate located on Hill 342 approximately 10 miles Southwest of Hue City. Checkmate was a show place and a source of pride to the STRIKE Force Battalion. It boasted such luxury features as plank sidewalks, hot showers, (for those ambitious enough to carry the water), hard surface chopper pads, a barber shop, neatly painted structures and even a television for evening viewing in the briefing room. The bunkers were manned by personnel who for various reasons could not perform in the canopy. These Soldiers included temporary and permanent physical profiles, excess cooks, commo personnel, and the like. Their performance was evidence of their pride in the battalion and these were the Soldiers who built and defended “The Hill”.

Heavy and frequent rains characterized early 1971 as the monsoon dragged to and end. In the canopy, the “grunt” lived a wet, chilly and uneventful existence through January. Resupply was not regular as aircraft were frequently grounded by bad weather. Few combat assaults were conducted and movement on the ground was kept to a minimum. The area of operations through January and most of February remained the same as the last three months of 1970 – from Sang Bo River to 8 kilometers east and north from FB Veghel about 12 kilometers. Constant patrolling produced extensive coverage of the area effectively denying the enemy a base of operations. One measure of success is the fact that TET, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year celebration, passed quietly without any attacks on Hue City – scene of bloody conflict during TET of 1968. The North Vietnamese were then heavily engaged in Cambodia which diverted their attention from traditional targets of previous years. Whatever the reasons might have been, it was both satisfying and a relief that TET 1971 passed without incident.

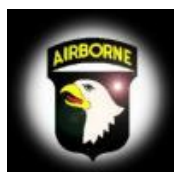
The number one concern of the STRIKE Force rear area at Camp Eagle was the “Get set for TET” program. The bunker line was improved as much as possible despite a shortage of materials and manpower. A Battalion reaction platoon staged several practice alerts for reinforcement of the bunker line. Bunker in the cantonment area were improved to provide greater protection in the event of an attack.

The men of Company “A” took credit for the only contact of January. While moving towards an LZ, the element observed and engaged three NVA at close range. The action resulted in two enemy KIA without friendly casualties. One AK-47 rifle was captured. Company “A” found 3 recent graves the next day and reported signs of activity and movement around their position but has no further contact with the enemy.

Early in February the “STRIKE Force” gradually worked into security operations. Charlie Company joined Delta Company in securing the road from OP Checkmate to FB Veghel. Recon Platoon secured the road east of FB Bastogne and Alpha Company secured the road east of FB Birmingham. Bravo Company was digging up a tunnel complex near the Song Bo.



1



Gradually the 2-502d Infantry's AO was extended to cover all the area East of the Song Bo, South from the 12 grid line approximately ten kilometers and East past FB Birmingham for kilometers. The basic mission in this new AO was to secure Route 547 in support of operations to the West.

Also at this time the companies were moved individually to Camp Eagle for 36 hours stand-down. Delta Company, because they were securing FB Veghel was excluded from these abbreviated stand-down.

"Jump CP" was saying used quite often at the TOC at OP Checkmate. The Battalion was put on numerous contingency plans and each time a jump CP was readied to meet communications and command requirements. (2-502d INF Unit History)

Feb-Mar 2006

Operation Safe

Passage. Joint combined air assault operation to disrupt AIF plans against Ashura pilgrims. 1-502 IN conducted Operation Safe Passage, a combined joint raid with ISF units to disrupt AIF operations at suspected terrorist training camps and allow the safe pilgrimage of Ashura observers.



February 2006

Operation Gallant Eagle (1-502 IN). 1-502 conducted a sequential Air Assault from two different FOBs to prevent AIF egress to the southeast from Sadr Al Yusufiyah. This Operation played an integral part in preparing and setting the conditions for future operations in AO Strike.

February 2003

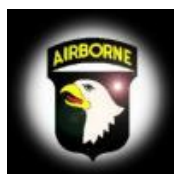
In February 2003, the brigade deployed to the Middle East with the remainder of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) for what became Operation Iraqi Freedom. It returned a year later having led the Division through the key battles of An Najaf, south Al Hillah, Karbala, southern Baghdad, Mahmoudiya and Mosul.

2nd Brigade completed the two longest air assaults in Division history. In Mosul, it was instrumental in forming the City Council by holding the first free elections in the country since the fall of the regime. Over the subsequent 9 months, the Brigade rebuilt the city's hospitals, schools and water system.

2nd Brigade built a regional police force that became the model for the rest of the country to follow. It created the conditions whereby former Iraqi military personnel got paid and where the new Iraqi Dinar was introduced without incident. Above all, the Brigade fostered a secure environment that allowed the citizens of Mosul to live in a free and safe city that became a beacon of hope throughout Iraq.

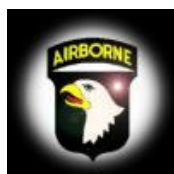
The "STRIKE" Brigade then re-deployed back to Fort Campbell and began transforming from an Infantry Brigade to a modular Brigade Combat Team introducing the 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment; 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion; and the 526th Brigade Support Battalion to complement the 1st Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment.

The new and improved 2nd Brigade Combat Team deployed in September 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 2 BCT was assigned to an operational area south of Baghdad in arguably the most difficult area of operations in Iraq, supporting the strategic goal of stabilizing Baghdad. This area, due to the intensity of the insurgency, was labeled as the "Triangle of Death."



The brigade rapidly initiated combat and counter-insurgency operations in this area to neutralize anti-Iraqi forces, develop Iraqi security force capabilities, secure key terrain, and improve government and economic development. In turn, the "STRIKE" Brigade established and fostered relationships with Iraqi Army leaders, local Sheiks, mayors, and city council members. The unit fought selflessly, disrupting enemy activities and denying terrorist safe-havens. The Brigade returned to Fort Campbell in late September 2006.

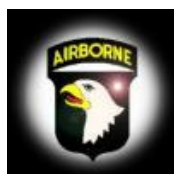
- 01-02 February 1968 1-501 IN had operated out of LZ Jane to relieve the ARVN district chief at his compound at Hai Lang. During the afternoon of 02 February the CG, 1st CAV DIV, MG Tolson, had told COL Cushman that the next day that there BDE would move the BDE's command post to Camp Evans and take command of the 2-501, which was still split between Hue-Phu Bai and Camp Evans, and that they would leave the 1-501 IN at LZ Jane to be OPCON to the CAV's 1st BDE. (By LTG (then COL) John H. Cushman)
- 01 February 1968 A/1-502 and D Co Platoon and the recon platoon, was sweeping the area between LZ Sharon and LZ Betty who were engaged in a four hour fire fight, supported by the CAV's gunships, killing 35 and captured 2 NVA, captured an 82 mm mortar, two .50cal, and one light machine gun and many individual weapons. Four US Soldiers were killed, including A Co's commander, CPT Holland, and there 1SG. 1-502 continued with the sweeps and ambushes. The TET Offense caught the 2-501 with its move to Camp Evan only partially completed and with the rest of the Battalion yet to move due to poor flying weather, intensive enemy anti-aircraft fire, and low C-47 availability.
- 01 February 1968 By noon on 1 February, Quang Tri City had been cleared of the enemy and the 1st Brigade immediately initiated pursuit. A Company of the 1st Battalion, 502d Airborne made a heavy contact just south of Quang Tri killing 76 of the enemy with the help of aerial rocket artillery. Other units of the 1st Brigade made numerous smaller contacts throughout the day as the brigade elements moved out in ever-increasing concentric circles around the city.
- 01 February 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** A/2-502 conducted a recon in force in AO Mary west of SONG BE. At 1230H vic. YU120164 they engaged 3 VC on a trail resulting in 1 VC KA and capturing 1 AK-47 assault rifle. At 1427H vic. YU116055 A Co. engaged approximately 40 VC in fortified positions. The enemy employed B-40 rockets and automatic weapons fire. A Co. maneuvered to the flanks and swept the position with the following results: 16 VC KIA, 4 US WHA, 1 US KHA, 2 Medevac ships shot up, 2 AK-47 assault rifle captured, 24 82mm mortar rounds captured, 1 Chicom grenade and miscellaneous military equipment captured.
- 01 February 1970 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry combat assaulted onto grid YD735035 to search for enemy who fired the mortars and found elephant and water buffalo tracks, Vietnamese novel and human foot prints.
- 01 – 04 February 1971 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry occupied FB Arsenal and conducted operations in the area. Bravo Company provided security for the FB and also conducted nightly ambushes.
- 01 February 2006 **Operation Gallant Eagle** (1-502 IN). 1-502 conducts a sequential Air Assault from two different FOBs to prevent AIF egress to the southeast from Sadr Al Yusufiyah. This Operation played an integral part in preparing and setting the conditions for future operations in AO Strike.
- 01 February 2006 3/B/1-502 was given a mission to conduct a cordon and search at a suspected safe house and to check out a possible cache site to the southwest of the safe house in south Rushdi Mulla. The platoon requested a fire team from 1st platoon



to assist. SFC Blaisdell (PL), SPC Scott (RTO), SSG Whelchel, SPC Strobino, SPC Richardson, SPC Reilly, SSG Arnold, SPC Shockey, SPC Owens from 3/B/1-502 and 1LT Norton, SGT Diaz, SPC Gregory, SPC Doss, and SPC Babineau from 1/B/1-502 moved out. When they were 300 meters from the target house, 1LT Norton and his element broke off to over watch the suspected cache point and ambush anyone who tried to get to the cache site from the house.

At the location of the suspected cache site, 1LT Norton and his element noticed two to three males flee in a blue Kia vehicle to the northwest. They searched the house that was at the given cache location and found anti-Coalition propaganda. Meanwhile, the cordon and search was being completed. When the target house was secure, SSG Arnold along with SPC Shockey and SPC Owens conducted a hasty TCP on the road running north/south approximately 150 meters from the target house. SFC Blaisdell, SPC Scott, SSG Whelchel, SPC Strobino, SPC Richardson, and SPC Reilly continued to search the yard and barn with shovels and metal detectors. SFC Blaisdell, SPC Richardson, and SPC Scott then went to the house next door to ask questions about the target house. While en route back to the target house, they began to receive a barrage of small arms fire from the northwest which was being directed at SSG Arnold's TCP location. SSG Arnold and SPC Shockey were pinned down behind a burm and couldn't get positive identification on the firers. 1LT Norton's element took indirect and automatic fire from the northwest as well. SFC Blaisdell, SPC Richardson, and SPC Scott went to the roof to get better eyes on. SPC Scott reported the small arms contact to TCP 5 for relay to Bulldog Main, then ran up to the roof to join SSG Whelchel. SSG Arnold suppressed fire while SSG Whelchel moved his element (SPC Strobino, SPC Reilly, and SPC Owens) across the road to flank them. SFC Blaisdell, SPC Richardson, and SPC Scott crossed the road behind SSG Arnold's support-by-fire position with SPC Shockey and SPC Owens. SSG Whelchel's element pushed up to the rear of the house where the enemy was located. SPC Strobino jumped the fence and opened fire. SSG Whelchel followed him with SPC Reilly just behind. They engaged and killed three insurgents. The fourth insurgent moved to the front of the house. SSG Whelchel threw a grenade and they moved up to a truck near the insurgents. When they got there, the insurgent was firing on them so they returned fire. SPC Strobino then moved along the side wall of the house and was preparing to throw a grenade around the corner. When SPC Strobino was preparing his grenade, the insurgent shot around the corner and hit him in the leg. SPC Reilly and SSG Whelchel were engaging the insurgent who then threw a grenade which injured the two of them. A firefight ensued between the insurgent and SSG Whelchel while SPC Reilly moved to cover. SSG Whelchel moved to take cover behind the truck. The insurgent shot another burst at SPC Strobino. SSG Whelchel fired at the insurgent's leg under the truck, hitting him several times. SFC Blaisdell and SPC Richardson moved to pull SPC Strobino to safety. When they got him behind the wall, the insurgent threw another grenade and moved into the house. SSG Whelchel and SPC Reilly sustained shrapnel wounds in the firefight. SFC Blaisdell, SPC Reilly and SPC Scott performed first aid on SPC Strobino. SPC Scott called in the MEDEVAC for a litter-urgent SPC Strobino and an ambulatory SPC Reilly. SFC Blaisdell had 1LT Norton pull security until he was called forward. SSG Whelchel was sent to link up with SSG Arnold and push him forward to pull security. SSG Whelchel threw a grenade in the front door of the house. 1LT Norton linked up with them and pulled security on the south side of the house. SFC Blaisdell ran out and marked the PZ with a VS-17 panel and prepared SPC Strobino for extraction. SPC Strobino was carried to the MEDEVAC bird and SFC Blaisdell briefed the crew chief on his injuries. SPC Strobino and SPC Reilly boarded the aircraft.

When the MEDEVAC bird left, SSG Whelchel threw another grenade at the house. He then moved to a wall in front of the house with SGT Diaz who engaged the house with M203 HE rounds and SPC Doss who sprayed the front



of the house with his SAW. They pulled back when Longbow (CAS) came on station, who then made 2 ½ runs with 30mm. All elements returned to the house and SFC Blaisdell ordered all personnel to engage the house until a magazine had been expended. SFC Blaisdell then moved SSG Arnold's element (SPC Owens and SPC Shockey) to the door and they entered the house. 1LT Norton and his men provided support by fire. SSG Arnold, SPC Owens, and SPC Shockey were prepared to move in. The stack entered and SSG Arnold noticed blankets over most of the 5-6 doorways inside the first room. SSG Arnold fired into the doorways in succession. When he fired into the third door, the fourth insurgent began shooting from that location. SPC Owens was hit multiple times and SPC Shockey was hit once by the insurgent. SFC Blaisdell ordered them to get out. SPC Richardson, SPC Shockey, and SFC Blaisdell pulled SPC Owens out of the house and across the street to 1LT Norton's location while SSG Arnold threw a grenade into the house before pulling back. 1LT Norton, SPC Diaz, and SPC Gregory then carried him to the Casualty Collection Point and began first aid. SPC Scott called in another MEDEVAC for SPC Owens and SPC Shockey. Although SPC Shockey appeared unaffected, he had received a flesh wound to his hip area. SPC Owens received chest and leg wounds with entry and exit points, all of which were bandaged by 1LT Norton and his men. SFC Blaisdell ran out and marked the PZ with a phoenix beacon. At this point, SPC Owens was breathing and had a pulse. He was also responsive to SFC Blaisdell talking to him as he was loaded onto the bird. SPC Shockey was also slightly wounded and had to be ordered onto the bird because he wanted to stay and fight.

Longbow was requested to destroy the building. Bulldog 7 was en route with reinforcements from the south. Longbow took several hours to get clearance and could not seem to acquire the target house. The Soldiers to put a strobe on the target house and lazed the house with several PEQ-2 optics. SFC Blaisdell, SPC Richardson, and 1LT Norton ran to the target house and threw a phoenix beacon on the roof. There was a fire at the front of the house and the same target house was acquired earlier, however Longbow still could not acquire. Finally, SFC Blaisdell ran up next to the house and got an eight digit grid to pass to Longbow. By then, Bulldog 7 arrived and clearance was given to shoot the house. Three hellfire were launched and the house was destroyed.

The fourth insurgent was killed. In total, elements of First Strike destroyed an AIF mortar team with four AIF KIA, one Tech vehicle, one 60mm tube, four AK-47's, one PKC, one RPG 7, two sets of Russian night vision equipment, two satchel charges, one pipe bomb, detonation cord, and several rounds of AK, PKC, RPG, grenades, and 60mm ammunition.

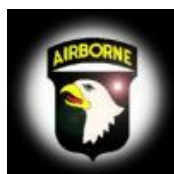
"...My men fought hard that day. All the training came in play and paid off. I lost one of my men that day ... but I don't regret any of the actions I took. We did what our job is, close with the enemy and destroy them." –SFC Philip B. Blaisdell, 3/B/1-502 PL

01 - 09
February 2013

MB 2 redeployment. The last TM STRIKE combat advisor teams redeployed from Logar and Wardak in early FEB 13. 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment (TM WIDOWMAKERS) Soldiers conducted reverse JRSOI through BAF and arrived at Fort Campbell, KY on 9 FEB 13.



5



02 February 1968

2d Battalion (Abn), 501st Infantry was placed under the operational control of the 3d Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division and remained in this status for approximately two weeks. During this period, the Battalion initially provided security for Camp Evans and subsequently conducted limited operations in the rocket belt around Camp Eagle and Camp Evans.



03 February 1968

Operation SAN ANGELO: Mini-Firebase was extracted to SONG BE beginning at 0900H and closing at 1730H. The 2-502 began preparation for deployment to BIEN HOA to assume the mission of 101 ABN DIV IAF.

03 February 1968

PHU BAI - Thirty paratroopers of the 2nd Brigade; survived a helicopter crash landing near here recently and killed two VC as the Screaming Eagles waited for extraction. A "Chinook", ferrying the men of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. took a round in the rear engine and the troopers were alerted for a crash landing. As the cargo aircraft settled toward the ground, Lt. John Rodelli, Chicago, barked instructions to his platoon from A Co. "I told the men to set up a perimeter around the chopper as soon as we set touched the ground," Rodelli said. No sooner had the aircraft landed when enemy sniper fire peppered the area. Rodelli's platoon returned fire and killed two. The enemy firing ceased Taking advantage of the lull, the pilot revved up the empty chopper and flew it to Phu Bai. Gunships arrived on station above the paratrooper platoon and provided covering fire.

04 February 1968

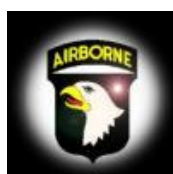
Operation SAN ANGELO: STRIKE Force advance part departed Song Be at 1700h. At 1919h the first C-130 sortie departed Song Be for Bien Hoa, and the battalion fighting forces closed at 050238FEB68 and then assumed the 101st Airborne Division IAF mission. Extensive search and destroy operations during Operation San Angelo were conducted with only sporadic, light contact with local force units. Contact with Main Force VC/NVA units failed to materialize

All missions assigned to the battalion were accomplished. While no significant contact was gained with the Main Force VC/NVA units, the activities of the STRIKE Force succeeded in keeping the local units in the Song Bo AO off balance during phase I and II. The results of the mission were twenty three (23) VC, one (1) NVA KIA, two (2) returnee, and eight (8) AK-47's captured. US losses were 3 x KIA, 25 x WIA.

04 – 10 February 1968

The morning of Feb 3 a supply convoy from Quang Tri to Camp Evans was stopped by enemy north of Hai Lang, and General Tolson ordered the 2d Bde to reopen Highway 1. The 1/501 at-tacked with B Company, followed by D Company, and then A Company. The enemy was well dug in. SFC O'Connor, in Blood Brothers, has written: "During the assault all three companies were turned back. Captain Shive (A Company commander) gave orders for the Third Platoon to attack and for the First and Second Platoons to give them cover fire. As soon as the First Platoon started into the village all hell broke loose. The sky above was loaded with flying lead... We could see that the First Platoon was running into a meat grinder..." From the 1/501 Journal:

"Bn commander advised that the situation was bad. Bde CO told CO 1-501 to pull back and call in artillery... The requested air strikes to support 1-501 were cancelled at 1535 hrs due to rainy misty weather." The 1/501 would attack 4 February with B, C, and D Companies and well-coordinated artillery support.



And so it did, to clean the enemy out of Hai Lang. B Company fought its way into the village and set up a blocking position, while C Company attacked through the village from the south and D Company from the west. By nightfall Hai Lang belonged to the 1/501, which had four men killed and 40 wounded, 20 of whom returned to duty. That day, the Cav division cancelled the move of the 2d Brigade to Camp Evans; we would remain at Jane. The rest of the week the 1/501 completed opening Highway 1 and kept it open. Captain Gordon Mansfield, commanding C Company, received the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions February 4.

The 2/501, which had moved by truck from LZ El Paso to Phu Bai, could not continue to Camp Evans; the roads were cut. Because of marginal weather and a C-47 shortage (one C-47 lifting troops was shot down, no casualties) the 2/501 did not complete its move until February 7.

C/1/502 had been left behind on 24 January protecting the division command post; the night of Tet, it had air assaulted to the rooftop of the US embassy in Saigon. Opcon to the Cav's 1st Brigade and operating with Cav Hueys and gunships, and with artillery and air support, the 1/502 (-) had since Tet been fighting continuous search and destroy missions around Quang Tri with excellent results. On 5 February it reported a B Company ambush of an NVA mortar platoon. The night of February 8-9, the enemy struck back with a rocket and 40 round mortar attack and penetrated the battalion night defensive position, causing 9 KIA, including the A Co forward observer and first sergeant, and 25 WIA, including the company commander. (By LTG (then COL) John H. Cushman)

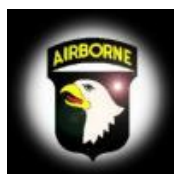
04 February 1971

The 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry moved to FB Tomahawk and FB Los Banos and continued operations with the Battalion CP located on FB Tomahawk, and elements from Alpha Company securing both of the Fire Bases. During this operation the battalion joined forces with the 155th ARVN Co. to search out and attack enemy forces in the area. Alpha Company 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry was OPCON to 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry from 4 February to 9 February.



04 February 1972

Orders were cut directing the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, commanded by LTC John G. Pappageorge, relocate from RVN to Fort Campbell, Ky. The 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry would not, however, deploy as a unit: instead only one officer, one warrant officer, and ten enlisted men would bring the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry back to Fort Campbell. The rest of the "First Strike" troopers would either be reassigned in country, or receive PCS orders (on an individual basis) to various Stateside units. The color bearing detachment was headed by Captain Jack M. Davis, former S5 of the Battalion, and departed Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam (RVN), on 9 February 1972. CPT Davis and his men reported to Fort Campbell on 10 February.



Since only twelve “original” members of the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry returned to Fort Campbell from RVN, the spring and summer months were devoted to putting the “O Duece” back on its feet. Officers and men came in slowly during these months, and it was not uncommon to see a company’s total strength as ten troops. The personnel who were assigned, however, had a mountain of work to do. The unit of choice program was emphasized to the maximum extent possible. Selected 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry troopers were sent in all directions with the mission of getting the word out about the First Strike Battalion and the 101st Airborne Division. Assigned to various regions throughout the United States, they spoke to businessmen of all trades, along with high school and college students. The effectiveness of their efforts are reflected in the fact that today, all of 90% of the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry troopers are volunteers, and this figure increases with every passing month.

Operation Homecoming also received a good amount of emphasis within the unit. Conceived to officially welcome the 101st Airborne Division back to Fort Campbell, displays reflecting the history and traditions of the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry were set up, and the unit participated in the Pass-In-Review ceremonies in behalf of the Vice President Agnew, the Guest of Honor.

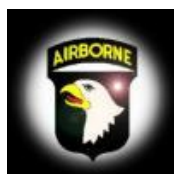
Numerous other commitments kept the small elements of the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry troopers busy. TO&E equipment had to be ordered, and as more and more personnel were assigned, the Battalion was required to move several times in search of more spacious quarters and offices. As spring faded into summer, the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry began to make preparations for the first complement of Advance Individual Training (AIT) students in knew it would receive in the latter part of September. Primary and assistant instructors went through special training of their own, and the utilized their teaching skills ahead of time by assisting the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry in their AIT Schooling. Despite its small assigned strength, the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry also sent a contingent of men to the United States Military Academy at West Point to help support USMA’s summer training program. (1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1972 History)

05 - 06 February 1966

The Battle of My Canh (2) Tuy Hoa Republic of Vietnam: As part of Operation Van Buren (January & February 1966) Co B. 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division was conducting a sweep operation in the Tuy Hoa area of Phu Yen Province. The area we were operating in was primarily rice paddies intersected with a small villages and hamlets. On the evening of 5 February, after a long march and before dusk, CPT Thomas Taylor, our Company Commander, halted the company to prepare our overnight positions. CPT Taylor had selected a small prominent brush covered hill, surrounded by rice paddies for as far as we could see. We dug in and prepared two man defensive positions circling the top of the hill, our Squad Leader Estevan “CHICO” Alvarado, established fields of fire for each of our positions. The ground was very hard and rocky.

During the dark night on 5 February, the enemy crept up the hill thru the brush and probed our position by throwing hand grenades uphill and we responded by throwing hand grenades downhill. Neither side willing to fire their rifles fearing that the muzzle flashes would give away their exact positions in the dark.

Later that evening, CPT Taylor dispatched 2nd Platoon on a recon patrol. Word came back later that night that they were in an unmarked mine field and that SGT Pasquale had stepped on an antipersonnel mine and that his foot had been blown off. They were told to probe their way out of it. On the morning of 6 February, well before daylight, CPT Taylor dispatched 3rd Platoon with orders to stay in the paddies and proceeded to the far side of the village of My Cahn 2, which was 2-3 clicks from our position on the hill, and to enter and sweep the

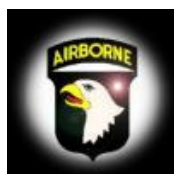


village at the crack of daylight, pushing anyone fleeing in our direction. The village was surrounded by rice paddies.

At the crack of daylight, an intense fight broke out as the 3rd Platoon tried to enter the village, resulting in the platoon being pinned down in the rice paddies for the better part of the day. Upon hearing the ongoing firefight, intense exchanges of fire by both sides, our Platoon Leader, LT Lawrence Cousins, told us to saddle up and prepare to head to the village. We, 1st Platoon, were deployed on line going across the rice paddies, with our squad deployed on the far left side of the line. As we got closer to the village, word was passed to echelon left into a file formation. The end of the village that we were approaching had a solid hedge of cactus with one opening, a path that we had used to pass thru the cactus in a file, with orders to form up on line again from left to right after passing thru this bottleneck. We had not yet been detected by the enemy forces in the village. We were well below full strength that day due to previous casualties.

After echeloning left and forming into a file formation, I was in the lead position becoming the pointman, followed by the two remaining men in my fire team, plus an attached machine gunner and his ammo bearer, then came Alvarado "Chico" and the rest of our squad followed by the remainder of the platoon. After stepping thru the cactus one or two paces, I could see across several paddies, about 120 meters ahead of me. I saw an enemy combatant with a rifle, he appeared to be sitting on the ground facing away from me and in the direction where our 3rd platoon was pinned down at the opposite end of the village. I aimed at the center of his back and fired two aimed shots on semiautomatic and he disappeared. Immediately to my right front another enemy combatant appeared from the waist up holding a rifle and looking around in my direction. I fired two aimed shots at his chest and he disappeared. Immediately hostile fire began to be returned and I bolted to the left followed by the remainder of the squad and platoon. Once on the other side of the cactus, we found ourselves amongst a large number of burial mounds and the first of several dikes behind which we took cover, on line, facing the village about 120 meters to our front. Very quickly we were fully engaged, receiving heavy machine gun and small arms fire from the village, pinning us behind the grave mounds and the first dike. Above the gunfire I could hear an RTO's radio. From several thousand feet above us in a command and control helicopter, I heard our Battalion Commander COL Hank "Gunfighter" Emerson state to whomever he was talking to "GET THOSE PEOPLE UP AND MOVING, I CAN'T SEE WHATS HOLDING YOU UP." (No doubt from that altitude he could not see what was holding us up, he did have the option of landing and finding out for himself-an option he did not exercise, he did land at the end of the day and come amongst us)

Word was passed down to Chico and he told me that we were going to fire and maneuver forward by fire teams and that when the covering fire from our troop reached a crescendo, to advance my fire team forward. Each fireteam was to advance forward randomly each time the covering fire from the combined platoon reached a crescendo. I advanced my fireteam under very heavy enemy fire to the next forward dike, behind which we took cover. I was a fireteam leader and had two men and myself comprising what should have been a 5 man fireteam. Aside from my two men I also had a machine gunner and his ammo bearer attached to my fireteam. The ammo bearer was Timothy Hays, a very good friend of mine. After reaching the closest dike and catching our breath for several minutes, I told my fireteam that when the firing reached the next crescendo, that we were going again and we did. We were running forward in a broken pattern firing as we went, when I heard someone just in back of me get hit. When we gained the next dike, I looked back from where we had come from and saw that Timmy had been hit and was laying out in the open not moving. I also noted that the machine gunner had not moved forward with us as we assaulted and that he had not left from our starting position, he was not even

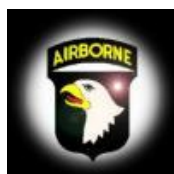


firing his machine gun. I said to the new guy in my fireteam, "Why don't you go out and get him" in reference to Timmy and he replied "Why don't you go get him". I said "I will" and put my rifle down and took off my backpack. I ran back from the direction we had come from and when I reached him I took his backpack off, got hold of him by his LBE harness and dragged him forward towards the enemy to cover of the dike where the rest of the fireteam was putting out covering fire. I sat Timmy up with his back to the dike. He was unconscious and blowing bubbles thru his uniform shirt from several holes in his shirt front, frothy lung shots. He was gone in a minute or two. I reached into Timmy's shirt pocket and took out a 5 pack of Salem cigarettes and was lighting one when the new guy in the fireteam, Wayne Linville asked me how I could do that. I told him that Timmy was a friend of mine and that he would have wanted me to help myself. I told him to take Timmy's clips as I thought that he might need them before the day was over. There was now 3 of us and we continued moving forward when appropriate until we came to and took cover in the enemy fighting trench at the very edge of the village. Lying there dead in the bottom of the trench was the first NVA that I had shot at when coming thru the cactus. He was lying face down with a trickle of blood coming from a small hole in the back of his head. I rolled him over and his skull looked like a hollowed out grapefruit, the shot cleaned everything just leaving his bottom jaw attached. I had aimed at the center of his back.

The trench was very narrow and we had to take off our backpacks in order to be able to turn around in them. The section of the trench that we were in was about 35 feet long with right angles at both ends. Linville was at one end and I was at the other with my third trooper in the middle. I had arrived in the trench with a jammed rifle. There was a palm tree on my end of the trench and a machine gun was steadily firing into it and into the berm formed from excavating the trench. I kept hollering to stop firing that we were Americans but to no avail. After what seemed like a long time, 1 minute maybe, it stopped firing and I peeked up from the trench to see who was firing on us, thinking it was a fellow platoon member. About 30 meters from me I saw 3 enemy combatants sitting upright on the ground behind a very old machine gun, like the water cooled ones, it had a small inverted funnel at the bottom of what I would guess to be the water jacket. My rifle was still jammed, I took a fragment grenade, pulled the pin, let the spoon go and counted 2 before throwing it high in the air. I immediately did this with a second frag. I then moved about 15 feet down the right angle of the trench and peeked over the berm. The machine gun was still there but nobody was visible. It was set up in about a 3 feet high grass area so I would not have been able to see the bodies. Doubt they would flee without taking the machine gun with them.

U.S. fire was now coming from behind the graves and the first dike once again as the assault had failed in the face of withering fire from the enemy. I got a cleaning rod from Linville and was lying back on my pack with the dead guy at my feet, trying to clear my rifle, when a shot entered into the side of the trench about 6" above my chest. It had come from a small hole in the very peak of a hooch about 30 feet from the trench. The hole was to allow smoke to exit the hooch when it cooked inside. It could not have been an aimed shot as one would not have been able to get his head above the barrel to look down it, the hole being in the very peak. Before I got my rifle cleared, there was an explosion and I received shrapnel wounds to the upper right side of my arm, not life threatening. (VA found two pieces of shrapnel in my right ankle in 2005 that I wasn't aware of).

A short while later, I could hear the changing sound of a SPAD (A1-E Skyraider) as it transitioned from level flight into a dive. Its flight path was from in back of the graveyard, overflying our troops behind the graves and the 1st dike and was coming straight at us, 120 meters forward of everybody else and right at the edge of the village. While staying as low as possible, we waved our arms to get the

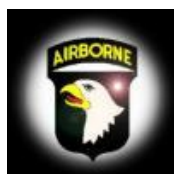


pilots attention, as we were obviously in the target area. He released a canister of napalm well behind our troops in the graveyard and it came straight at us, tumbling end over end, making a sound like "Whoop-whoop-whoop". The SPAD overflew us and wagged his wings as he pulled up out of his bomb run acknowledging our presence, much to our relief. The napalm flew over our heads and hit about 50 meters forward of us, just where we needed it, setting a lot of hooches on our end of the village on fire. They wouldn't be coming across that ground to get us. The new guy, Linville said that he could see some enemy coming down the trench on his side and wanted to know if he could shoot. I suggested he throw a grenade, I didn't want to give our exact location away. He threw a grenade and then wanted to know if he could go down the trench to retrieve weapons. I told him to stay put, I don't think that he fully appreciated the position that the 3 of us were in. This was just before the napalm strike. The SPAD came back for 2 more passes and worked our front with cannon fire. I could see the spent casings coming across the paddies towards us but they caused us no harm.

We spent the best part of the day in that trench, upwards of 7 hours. Later in the afternoon, Linville got my attention and I moved down to his end of the trench. Just on the other side of a very thin bamboo treeline, about 18-20 enemy combatant's appeared out of the nowhere and seemed to be milling around in confusion about 35 meters in front of the 3 of us who were now on line, in the trench facing them. I told the other 2 not to shoot unless I did, as the odds didn't look good and I was undecided as to whether to engage them. Up to the point we had defended ourselves on a need be basis, no longer being the aggressors. I saw an NVA with a radio on his back thru the thin line of bamboo and I took a bead on him, still undecided whether we should engage them. (I was afraid my rifle might jam again). The NVA with the radio on his back was facing away from me, he turned his neck in my direction and made eye contact with me. I shot at that time, aiming dead center at the radio on his back. He went down and we started pumping aimed rounds into them on semiautomatic. We shot until they were all down, I don't believe that a single round was fired back at us as it was over so quickly. We could hear some very distressed sounds coming from the wounded. (I learned many years from my Platoon Leader, LT Cousins, that these were probably what was left of a group of enemy that had been in the paddies and had ambushed our 2nd Platoon when they landed by helicopter in the paddies to our left. They had apparently pulled back from the paddies to the edge of the village right in front of us. This group had killed our 1SG, nearly cutting him half with a .50 Cal machine gun.)

About an hour later, fellow troopers appeared right beside the narrow bamboo treeline where we had engaged the group that had fought our 2nd Platoon in the paddies. We alerted them to let them know that there were enemies about 20 feet on the other side of the bamboo line from where they were. We quickly got out of the trench and joined them, about 12-14 of them, they were what was left of our 2nd Platoon, the ones that had been ambushed in the paddies. We crossed the thin bamboo treeline, and entered among the group that the 3 of us had engaged. We dispatched the wounded. The fighting had quieted down somewhat by this time and we quickly covered the 120 meters to rejoin the rest of our company, or what was left of it. The first person that I came across was my squad leader, "Chico" Alvarado. He had been shot 4 times and had already been attended by the medic. I knelt down beside him, noting the morphine syrettes in his lapel, and spoke to him. He smiled up at me and said something that I didn't understand (Chico recovered fully)

Things quieted down as darkness approached, and what remained of the enemy slipped away into the paddies. After the medevac's got our seriously wounded out shortly before dark, there were a lot fewer of us remaining that had started this day on the hill. Our numbers had been cut by close to 40%. We spent a



rather long uneventful night once again behind the graves and the 1st dike, our original starting position. Our artillery continued to fire into the village all night long as they had throughout the day. The following morning we were deemed to no longer be an effective fighting force and ordered to return to the small hill where we had started from. We were relieved by the 1st Battalion, 327th Airborne Infantry; a sister battalion who continued the battle for several more days through a string of villages. We later learned that we had trapped 4 NVA companies and 1 VC Company (Over 500 enemy) between our 2 understrength platoons, comprising of about 60 paratroopers.

It was my honor to have served with these men who shirked no task and distinguished themselves with such overwhelming courage in the finest tradition of the AIRBORNE. (By George R. Bassett (E-4) Fire Team Leader in 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Airborne Infantry, 101st Airborne Division; Relating to his participation in these events in the best of his memory and with the utmost respect to the men who served alongside of him; 27 January 2014)

05 - 06 February 1966 **The Battle of My Canh (2) Tuy Hoa Republic of Vietnam:** As part of Operation Van Buren (Jan & Feb 1966). B/2-502 ABN was conducting sweep operations in the Tuy Hoa area. The area we were in was primarily rice paddies interspersed with small villages and hamlets. On the evening of 5 Feb, after a long march and before dusk, CPT Thomas Taylor, our Company Commander, halted the company to prepare our overnight positions. CPT Taylor had selected a small prominent brush covered hill, surrounded by rice paddies for as far as we could see. This area was the "rice bowl" of Vietnam. Two man defensive positions were prepared circling the top of the small brush covered hill, and I established fields of fire for each of my squad's positions. I remember helping dig my defensive position with my steel helmet, the ground was very hard and rocky.

During the dark night of 5 February, the enemy crept up the hill thru the brush and probed our positions by throwing hand grenades uphill and we responded by throwing grenade's downhill. Neither side willing to fire their rifles for fear of the muzzle flashes pinpointing their exact position in the dark. Although reported otherwise, I do not believe that we received any mortar fire that night.

CPT Taylor dispatched 2nd Platoon on the patrol later that evening. Word came back later that the patrol leader, SGT Pasquale, had stepped on an antipersonnel mine and that his foot had been blown off. Well before daylight on the morning of 6 February, CPT Taylor dispatched the third platoon with orders to proceed to a village located 2-3 clicks from our location and to enter it from the far side at the crack of daylight. They were to sweep the village from the far side heading towards our location. That village, My Canh 2, was surrounded by rice paddies.

At the crack of daylight, an intense firefight broke out as the 3rd Platoon tried to enter the village, resulting in the platoon being pinned down in the paddies for the better part of the day. Upon hearing the ongoing firefight, our platoon leader, LT Lawrence Cousins, told us to saddle up and prepare to head to the village. He deployed us on line going across the vast rice paddies, with my squad deployed on the far left side of the line. As we got closer to the village, word was passed to echelon left into a file formation. The end of the village that we were approaching had a solid hedge of cactus with one opening, a path that we had to use to pass thru the cactus in file, with orders to form up on line again from left to right after passing thru this bottleneck. We had not been detected by the enemy forces in the village yet, or they were very well disciplined and were waiting for us to come into their killing zone. We were well below full strength that day.

My squad was the first to pass thru the opening in the cactus, led by my pointman, SP4 George Bassett, he was also one of my 2 fireteam leaders. After stepping carefully thru the cactus one or two paces, SP4 Bassett fired two shots



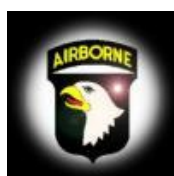
on semi auto, and before I could get up to the front of the squad to see what was happening, he fired two more rounds. I later found out he had dropped two armed, black clad VC. The jig was up at this point and our platoon rushed thru the opening. Once on the other side of the cactus, we found ourselves amongst a larger number of burial mounds and the first of several dikes behind which we took cover, on line, facing the village about 120m to our front. Very quickly we were fully engaged, receiving heavy machine gun and small arms fire from the village, pinning us behind the grave mounds and the first dike. These guys were ready for a fight. From where I was positioned I could see the bunkers and trenches where the NVA were dug in. My utmost concern was to position myself where I could control my squad. It was a very difficult situation as the volume of enemy fire was quite intense.

Orders came down to go forward, firing and maneuvering by fireteam, starting on the left. I told my fireteam leaders to advance their fireteam forward as appropriate, when the covering fire from our platoon reached a crescendo. SP4 Bassett went forward with his 2 man fireteam and an attached machine gunner and ammo bearer – Timothy Hayes. His fireteam was eventually to become entangled with the NVA in their trench system and not to be seen again until late afternoon. The fire and maneuver exercise failed and we were pinned down behind the graves and dikes from where we had started. A fierce volume of fire was still coming from the other end of the village where our third platoon was still engaged with the enemy, and had been since the crack of daylight.

To my immediate right was CPT Taylor, SFC Price, SSG Black, another company officer and their RTO's. Another Sergeant present that I believe to be SGT Victor Scurry, very recently of the 82nd ABN DIV. He wore the 82nd patch on his right shoulder as he had participated in the Dominican Republic conflict.

While exchanging fire with the enemy, I noted one of our troopers laying between our position and the enemy position. It appeared that he had attempted to reach the village edge seeking better cover during the fire and maneuver operation, but instead ran into the entrenched enemy. He was laying out in the middle of the rice paddy, not moving, and presumed dead. I thought I saw him move his arm as if asking for help, it now appeared that he could possibly be alive. I requested covering fire from the others around me. I tapped a Sergeant (whom I believe to be SGT Scurry) and without hesitation we left the protection of the dike in an adrenaline fueled dash to retrieve the trooper (who was laying in the open and exposed to further enemy fire) and got him to protective cover and aid. The other Sergeant took one arm and I took the other arm and dragged him back to the secured dike. PFC Walter Piper Jr. had passed either before we got to him or while we were pulling him back to the secure dike. I had probably witnessed PFC Piper taking his last breath. PFC Walter Piper was a black paratrooper, the only black Soldier to die that day from Bravo Company. (PFC Walter Piper Jr.; Spokane, Washington was very well liked and highly thought of by his fellow troopers).

When we exposed ourselves to go to PFC Pipers aid, the volume of enemy fire intensified. I experienced the pain in my lower right abdominal area. After retrieving PFC Piper, and upon closer examination of myself, I discovered that my ammo pouches had been shredded by bullets and I noted a small trickle of blood present on my shirt. After regaining my composure, I headed to where one of our machine guns was located. That machine gunner and his ammo bearer PFC Timothy Hays, were attached to SP4 Bassett's fireteam and were supposed to have gone forward with him and his fireteam. The machine gunner did not go forward or fire his machine guns. PFC Hayes went forward with the fireteam as he was supposed to and was KIA before the fireteam reached the NVA trench line. With the machine gun not engaged, I told the gunner to move aside and I took over the gun. Positioned behind the machine gun, I observed a khaki

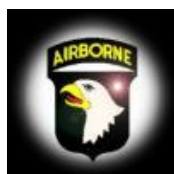


uniformed NVA headed from higher ground towards the edge of the village. I adjusted fire, hitting him several times, he kept going and jumped into a bunker. Quickly, I reached for an available M-79 grenade launcher, adjusted the sight and fired one round. The round landed short with a loud boom. I immediately reloaded, fired, this explosion was muffled, indicating that it found its mark. I maintained my position on the gun waiting for any NVA that might exit the bunker. Very shortly, a khaki uniformed NBA exited the bunker, I immediately engaged him, hitting him several times. He continued on his way and disappeared from sight. Thought crossed my mind that maybe he was drugged up?

I ordered the machine gunner to accompany me and started forward with him. Firing and maneuvering left, I noticed our machine gunner was not with us. I once again maneuvered back, found the machine gunner and headed forward again. I noticed hesitation on his part and I spoke a few words of encouragement to him and calmed him down. I selected a firing position for him to shoot from where he could best provide supporting fire, and explained to him his left firing position limits. I didn't want him shooting into SP4 Bassett's fireteam, as they were well forward from us. I maneuvered to the left attempting to catch up with my squad. As I approached a wooded dike, which connected to the dike that I was on, I was shot in my right femur, the pain was almost unbearable-I let out a loud yell. I rolled myself, rifle in hand, back behind the dike. I could see the NVA and I engaged them until a bullet entered my left index finger and exited under my thumb. At this point I was helpless, I rolled myself back behind the dike, but not before being shot in my left femur, I was shot four times in about 40 minutes. I laid there until a very brave medic arrived and tended to me. I vaguely remember this brave medic that made my pain bearable. I told him to get down as he hovered over me while treating my wounds. He disregarded my warnings and was shot in the collarbone area. When he was hit, I saw his collar bone stand up straight thru his uniform shirt. The morphine he administered to me worked quickly. I was safe behind the dike, but very seriously wounded. I believe it was about 1000-1100 hours. From where I laid, I could hear battle raging on and was very aware when the air support arrived on the scene. I could feel the hot breeze from the napalm. Seems like forever before the medivacs were able to get me and the other wounded out. The area was too hot for them to have any reasonable chance of getting in and out without being shot down. It was almost dark when I arrived at the 8th Field Hospital. I was really hurting by then. They undressed me at the hospital, exposing my abdominal wound, it looked more serious than I had first thought. I felt extremely weak by this time, and thoughts of home and my family occupied my mind. I ask to see a chaplain. I had the most comforting and inspirational moment I could have every hoped for, I felt a flood of relief when my mind finally accepted that I was safe and would no longer walk in harm's way. I thought of my men who were still in a very dangerous situation and hoped that I had fulfilled my duties as their leader.

For me, the war was over, my freedom bird awaited me. It was not the way that I would have wanted to board it, but it was a ride home, medical flight. Once they positioned us-me into the planes makeshift beds (stretchers) I could see many other fellow wounded Soldiers who would be making the return flight to the USA with me.

I remember our Brigade Commander, General Pearson presenting me with the Purple Heart Medal, that's all I remember, not even the flight home. My first awakening memory was of a visit by a chaplain. My hospitalization and journey to recovery would present another set of challenges to be overcome. I went onto full recovery, remaining in the Army until retiring and lead a full and productive life. "GOD BLESS AMERICA" (By Estevan "CHICO" Alvarado MSG (R) Squad Leader, 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Airborne Infantry, 101st Airborne Division; Relating to his participation in these events in



the best of his memory and with the utmost respect to the men who served alongside of him; 27 August 2014)

05 February 1968 During the early morning hours the NPD of A/1-502 IN was heavily engaged by a reinforced NVA company. Heavy contact from 03:26hrs. till 09:30hrs, when enemy broke contact. Patrols were sent out to assess the situation. Contact made with estimated NVA platoon. 5 NVA KIA (BC). Company sized sweeps sent out resulting in heavy contact and 20 more NVA KIA (BC). Alpha and Bravo extracted. Delta made negative contact. Battalion set up NDP's around Quang Tri for the night. Results: Friendly: - 33 WIA, 1 KIA; Enemy: 0 WIA, 25 KIA (BC) 100 KIA (Estimated); Captured: 2 MG's, 2 AK-47, 1-82mm and 1-60mm Mortar.

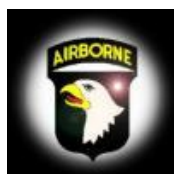
05 February 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** A/2-502 became OPCON to II FFV Fwd for a security mission Vic XS810945.

06 February 1966 Southwest of Tuy Hoa, at Canh Tinh, elements of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry closed with a battalion sized contingent of well trained and highly disciplined North Vietnamese regulars. The enemy was within 100 meters, with clear fields of fire, and defending from highly sophisticated emplacements in and around the village. Bitter fighting continued until late into the night. During the long battle, incidents of hand to hand combat and fire fights at 5 to 10 meters range were frequent. The mission of the paratroopers was to close within and destroy the enemy. The Viet Cong lost 64 KIA (BC), while friendly casualties were light, 8 KIA. Despite the initial advantages of the enemy in number of position, the valor of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry brought the unit a decisive victory in the battle of Canh Tinh.

06 February –
08 February 1966

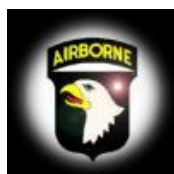
2nd Battalion, 502nd and support forces mission was to continue surveillance over routes of egress and avenues of approach into TAOR GOLD to protect rice harvesters and deny VC access to rice harvest areas; to continue aggressive RECONDO patrolling to detect and fix VC Forces and/or facilities for exploitations using CHECKBOARD concept of operations.

2nd Battalion, 502nd (-) conducted CHECKBOARD Operations in TAOR GOLD with B/2-502 operating in the South Eastern Sector. After suffering 2 WIA casualties from AP mines, B Company's RECONDO Platoon (-) was instructed to wait for daylight and then move to its subsequent location. While conducting this daylight move, RECONDO Platoon (-) became engaged Vic coordination CQ087287 with a VC Force estimated initially to be one (1) VC Platoon, and subsequently estimated to be a VC Company. This engagement developed into a major operation when a second platoon from B/2-502 moved overland to reinforce the RECONDO elements in contact and exploit by hitting the VC Force on its Northern Flank. The third rifle platoon of B/2-502 then conducted a helicopter assault Vic cord CQ087287 to block the Southern and Western flank of the VC Force. Each platoon subsequently became engaged developing the outline of the VC position. During this period the first of thirteen (13) sorties of Tac Air Strikes hit the target area. Although the VC Force was now contained; B/2-502 lacked sufficient combat power to overrun it and C/2-502 (-), consisting of two (2) rifle platoons and Company HQ conducted a helicopter assault to the South, Vic cord CQ87287 with the mission of sweeping North and blocking retreat or reinforcement of the trapped VC Force. The VC Force, solidly entrenched with mutually supporting AW positions, fought tenaciously and professionally throughout the ground action and air strikes. The fierce defense together with the recovery of an apparent PAVN IA body was an indication that the engaged enemy force was, in fact, the 95th PAVN Unit reporting in the area. Later intelligence reports confirmed that PAVN identity. B Co 1/327th was alerted for possible employment, prepared for a heliborne assault and passage of OPCON to 2/502. B Co. and C Co (-), 2-502 linked at 1850 hours effectively



ending further resistance of the trapped PAVN Force. B/1-327 began its helicopter lift, arriving on the LZ secured by B/2-502, at approximately 1845 hours. A Task Force, consisting of B/2-502, C/2-502 (-), and B/1-327, Battalion XO commanding, was organized swept the battlefield and secured a perimeter in the area of engagement at approximately 062000HFEB66. No further action took place during the night. The results of the engagement were 39 VC KIA (BC), 15 VC KIA (EST), and 15 VC WIA (EST). Various types of equipment and several weapons were taken. Most of the bodies found wore uniforms and black leather belts with starts on the buckles, an additional indication that they were PAVN. At 0845 hours on 7 Feb 66 B/2-502 and C/2-502 (-) conducted a sweep to return to Battalion Base Area. B/2-502 returned directly West with no encounters on the way and closed in its base area at 071030HFEB66. C/2-502 (-) swept wide to the South to search an area from which sniper fire was received on 6 Feb 66 and encountered another well entrenched VC Force Vic cord CQ090291 estimated initially to be one (1) Platoon. C/2-502 (-) maneuvered aggressively, developed the action, and closed off three (3) sides of the position, each approximately 150 meters long. 1/327th committed to B Co. and Tiger Force to the flank and rear and C/2-502 (-) passed to OPCON 1/327. A vicious action ensued throughout the remainder of the day. The VC Force, by all indications, was probably a Heavy Weapons Company or a reinforced Rifle Company. The results of the day long engagement were 63 VC KIA (BC) and sixty (60) weapons captured. Of this total C/2-502 (-) accounted for 18 VC KIA (BC) and 30 weapons captured. C/2-502 IN (-) was released from OPCON 1/327 at 1415 hours and returned to its base area Vic cord CQ050309 at 1515 hours. The return of C/2-502 (-) concluded 2-502 Infantry participation in the engagement. The friendly losses in this operation were: 8 KIA, 43 WIA from the 2d Battalion (Abn), 502d Infantry. Enemy losses as a result of 2d Battalion (Abn), 502d Infantry during this operations were: 1CIA, 57 KIA (BC), 15 WIA (EST), 15 KIA (EST), 30 weapons captured including AK 47's and light machine gun, PRC/10, switch board, and a large quantity of LBE. (After Action Report, HQ, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry; 12 February 1966)

- 06 February 1968 1-501, providing security for Seabee's repairing Highway 1, encounter a command-detonated mine. The platoon sent out patrols to look for Sapper who triggered it. Found the detonator wire and battery, but no triggerman.
- 06 February 1968 1-502 IN Battalion continues search and destroy operations southeast of Quang Tri, Very light contact with negative results.
- 06 February 1970 In three contacts west of FB Quick, A/2-502 killed two and captured three weapons. Also southeast of the Citadel, recon troopers of 1/501 engaged three VC in a bunker, killing them and taking weapons.
- 07 February 1968 1-502 IN Battalion continued search and destroy operations SE of Quang Tri with scattered heavy contact throughout the day. Delta reinforced by Recon and Bravo made contact with estimated NVA reinforced companies. Results: 25 NVA KIA (BC); Friendly 6 WIA, 2 KIA; Companies moved to NDP's by dark, estimated 100-150 NVA KIA during the day.
- 07 February 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** B/2-502 became OPCON to MACV HQS for a security mission Vic XS810945. At 1200H 2-502 began road march to AO DAN to the east of Bien Hoa escorted by a platoon of A/2-11 CAV. The move was uneventful and at 1350H 2-502 and G/2-11 CAV rendezvoused to form TF DAN Vic YT133123. At 1630H the C&C ship spotted 1 VC. Recon was deployed resulting in 1 VC Captured. VC was classified as a Chieu Hoi from the 48th VC BN.



07 February 1970

Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Platoon participated in an Air Drop exercise to protect Air Force personnel on the ground and to recover equipment from the test. The test was to see if a new beacon system could direct an accurate air drop of supplies during adverse weather conditions during low visibility, rain, or fog. They dropped 6 loads and the platoon was able to find them, which made the test successful.

During this week, in the span of 72 years since the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941 as the 502nd Parachute Battalion, an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assault, the following awards were awarded to members of 2BCT and the 502nd IN Regiment.

3 x Distinguished Service Cross
27 x Silver Star Medal (9 x Posthumously)
9 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
6 x Bronze Star Medal (5 x Posthumously)
2 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
64 x Purple Heart Medal (36 x Posthumously)
1 x Died of Non-Hostile injury or illness
133 x Combat Infantry Badge

01 February 1968

The following Soldier: PFC John T. Brown (Pictured), PVT Larry E. Wittler (Pictured), and SGT James E. Hamilton (A/1-502nd IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death from small arms fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



01 February 1968



CPT Joseph P. Holland (A/1-502nd IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death from multiple fragmentation wound in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

01 February 2006



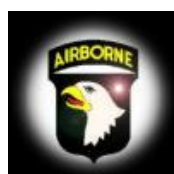
SPC Anthony C. Owens (B/1-502 IN), 21, of Conway, South Carolina; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wounds received which resulted in his death when his unit was attacked by enemy forces using grenades and small-arms fire in Baghdad, Iraq.

01 February 2006

The following Soldiers: SFC Philip Blaisdell and SSG Christopher Arnold (B/1-502 IN) were awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for actions in combat.

01 February 2006

SSG Joseph Whelchel (B/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from shrapnel wounds received on his left hamstring muscle, right gluteus muscle, and an abrasion near his left eye.



01 February 2006

SGT Roman Diaz (C/1-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for actions in combat while as medic serving with 1/B/1-502 IN; SGT Diaz volunteered to go to Rushdi Mulla with 1st Platoon, one of the most volatile areas in all of Iraq. Even after the mission had ended, SGT Diaz volunteered to stay in the town until the area was secure. SGT Diaz performed first aid on the wounded Soldier, carried him 75 meters to a CCP, and then an additional 100 meters to the MEDEVAC LZ.

01 February 2006

SPC Kirk Reilly (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from shrapnel wounds received to his left leg.

01 February 2006

SPC David Shockey (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from gunshot wounds received on his left hip/lower back.

01 February 2006



1LT Garrison C. Avery (1-502 IN) 23, Lincoln, Nebraska; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death while conducting a reconnaissance patrol when an IED detonated near his HMMWV in Baghdad, Iraq.

01 February 2006



SPC Marlon A. Bustamante (1-502 IN) 25, Corona, New York; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death while conducting a reconnaissance patrol when an IED detonated near his HMMWV in Baghdad, Iraq.



01 February 2006



PFC Caesar S. Viglienzone (1-502 IN) 21, Santa Rosa, California; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death while conducting a reconnaissance patrol when an IED detonated near his HMMWV in Baghdad, Iraq.



01 February 2006

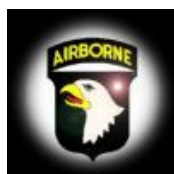
SGT Daniel Carrick (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from shrapnel wounds received on his right hand from an IED blast.

01 February 2006

SPC Lazaro Lopez, (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from a contusion on his right thigh and calf from an IED blast.

01 February 2011

PFC Kevin Bow (G/3-2 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and wounds received when an insurgent attacked his mounted patrol with an IED..



02 February 1966 The following Soldiers: SP4 Sammy Veach and PFC Oвра Pericins (2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in connection with military operation against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8th Field Hospital, Genera Order Number 14; 07 January 1966)

02 February 1966 SGT Jesse T. Bailey Jr. (B/2-502nd IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

02 February 1968

The following Soldiers: SP4 Carl E. Durham, SP4 Gale E. Hunt, SP4 Roosevelt Perkins (HHC 2d BDE); LTC Bertram J. Bishop**, 1LT Timothy B. Jeffrey, 1LT Tilahman R. McLemore, 1LT James W.



Mathews, 2LT Albert C. Mata, 1SG Cecil J. Cash*, SSG Danny Singletary Jr., SSG Valreese C. Chase, SGT Bruce H. Matthews, SGT Fred A. Bowen, SGT Robert P. Jackson, SGT Luis A. Rivera, SGT Roger Schumacher, SGT Donald O. Squires, SP4 Hohn A. Dees, SP4 William M. Eagleson, SP4 Benjamin J. Baynes, SP4 Tai Y. Chiu, SP4 Melvin B. McWhorter, SP4 Rueben M. Phillips, SP4 Milo E. Stasiak, SP4 James F. Shirley, SP4 Phillip P. Matto, PFC Allen E. Tingwald (HHC 1-502 IN); PFC Vincent J. Redmond, PFC Edward A. Rexinger, PFC Miranda A. Rodriguez, PFC William H. Rollins, PFC Edward Scharreneerg, PFC William H. Schenck, PFC Leslie B. Smith, PFC Russell A. Smith, PFC Izeard Sneed, PFC Jerry L. Surveyor, PFC Stephen Thomas, PFC Nestor Vargas Guzman, PFC Nash Q. Verano, PFC Rodolfo Villafranco, PFC Valentine B. Vollmer, PFC Donald S. Waite, PFC Larry J. Weisbarth, PFC James O. West, PV2 Sonnie R. Stephens, SP4 Randall L. Saunders, SP4 Floyd E. Schneider, SP4 Vernon P. Sims, SP4 Raymond L. Soules, SP4 Benjamin J. Terejko, SP4 Mark A. Tyndall Jr., SP4 Richard Vilcek, PFC Larry L. Aldridge, PFC Washington Alexander, PFC Charles Allen, PFC Jerry Anderson, PFC Lawrence Andiorio, PFC Craig A. Arndt, PFC Thomas J. Barrett, PFC Calvin R. Billis, PFC William J. Bowers, PFC Hosea L. Bridgeman, PFC George E. Brown, PFC John T. Brown, PFC Thomas L. Canopy, PFC Tomas Castaneda, PFC Karl R. Cochran, PFC Donald A. Coffin, PFC Larry E. Crissman, PFC Alan L. Darling, PFC Clyde I. De Mello, PFC Matthew Du Rousseau, PFC Clifford Engle, PFC Daniel E. Ewashenko, PFC Linsey P. Ewell, PFC Angel Febres-Mercado, PFC Michael A. Gritman, PFC Claude C. Houser, PFC Samuel B. Hudson, PFC Donald J. Kosnick (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge in the South Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, Special Orders Number 33; 2 February 1968)

02 February 1970 SP4 Donald E. Bartek (C/1-502nd IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from misadventure (friendly fire) in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

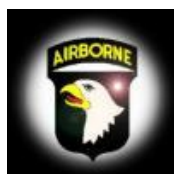
03 February 1966



SGT Richard C. Youngbear (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

03 February 1968

SP4 James B. Brandon (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds received while on a military aircraft on courier mission and hit by hostile small arms gun fire in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. He was admitted to a military hospital where he later died.



03 February 1968



PFC James E. Malone (D/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

04 February 1966



2LT Frankie L. Wallace (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

04 February 1968



The following Soldiers: CPL Ernest L. Jacobs Jr. (B/2-501 IN), SGT Andrew L. Dawson and PFC Val G. Allard (Pictured) (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

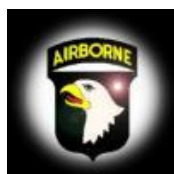
04 February 1968

The following Soldiers: PFC Roy L. Winer (Pictured) (A/1-501 IN), SP4 Richard E. Harner Jr. (Pictured) and SP4 James Dziencilowski (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



04 February 1968

The following Soldiers: PFC John E. Birman, PFC Larry T. Bowden, PFC Raymond Borwin, PFC Thomas L. Callis, PFC Donny G. Calton, PFC Alvin Carr, PFC Franklin A. Cing, PFC Arturo Diaz, PFC Herbert W. Dillion, PFC Ronald L. Eagle, PFC Michael Eldridge Jr. PFC Roger A. Evans, PFC Williams R. Evans, PFC Paul Frazier, PFC Gilbert M. Dohogn, PFC Clifton Garner, PFC Norman R. Giroux, PFC Johnie Gooden, PFC Larry L. Grice, PFC William R. Grun, PFC John J. Hanley, PFC Donald S. Harris, PFC Edward M. Heiser, PFC John R. Herrelson, PFC Gary L. Hobbs, PFC Jerry D. Jones, PFC Ronald W. Kimball, PFC Glen C. Kunde, PFC Richard N. Laplant, PFC Samuel J. Learn, PFC John Lee Jr., PFC Joseph P. Massey, PFC Ronald L. McKnight, PFC James E. McLean, PFC Eugene C. Mellem, PFC Randolph J. Moreno, PFC Miguel Negrete, PFC Joseph A. Negron, PFC Kenneth T. Novel, PFC Edward J. Novorsky, PFC Daniel R. O'Toole, PFC Salvador Perez, PFC Kenneth G. Reed, PFC John E. Ringgold, PFC Gilbert Rosa, PFC Thyрман Rouse, PFC Timothy F. Sandberg, PFC David A. Sexton, PFC Thomas W. Sheridan, PFC Peter W. Smith, PFC Bruce H. Snider, PFC Raymond St. Calir



(D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge. (DA, HQ 101st ABN DIV; Special Orders Number 35; 04 February 1968)

- 04 February 1970 The following Soldiers: SP5 Albert W. Ott and SP4 Robert D. Souder (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.
- 04 February 1971 SSG Alden Bell (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. (1-501st Infantry Unit History)
- 04 February 2006 1LT Joshua Michaels (D/1-22 IN) actions in combat earned him the Purple Heart. 1LT Michaels was wounded by an IED while conducting vehicle recovery operations. He suffered a ruptured left eardrum and a contusion on lower right back.
- 04 February 2008 SGT Aaron Spence (1-75 CAV) actions in combat earned him the Purple Heart. SGT Spence was on a dismounted patrol when he was engaged by an IED. SGT Spence resulted in a perforated ear drum.
- 04 February 2008 PFC Blake Peaty (1-75 CAV) actions in combat earned him the Purple Heart.
- 05 February 1966 The following Soldiers: SP4 Andrew Lewis, SGT John Rasquale and SP4 Willie Calhoun (2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in connection with military operation against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8th Field Hospital, Genera Order Number 14; 07 January 1966)

05 February 1968



SP4 Ronald L. Means (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wound in the Quang Tri, South Vietnam.

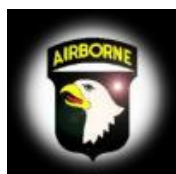
05 February 2006



SPC Sergio A. Mercedez-Saez (2-502 IN), 23, of New York City; was killed when the HMMWV in which he was riding rolled over into a canal in Baghdad.

05 February 2008

SPC Harrison Wooldridge (1-64 AR) actions in combat earned him the Purple Heart. While conducting a route clearance patrol, SPC Wooldridge was operating the Husky, the lead vehicle in the convoy. SPC Wooldridge came under fire when an EFP detonated. Slugs and shrapnel from the blast penetrated his vehicle's hull, wounding his right foot and right thigh, as well as breaking numerous broken bones in his right foot. He was evacuated to Riva Ridge Treatment facility, where he received initial treatment before being moved to the 86th Combat Support Hospital, and ultimately to Landstuhl, Germany.



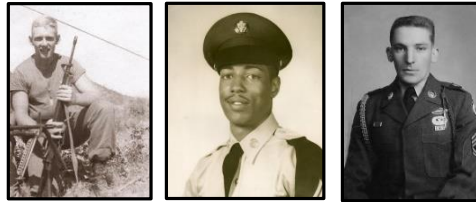
05 February 2011



1LT Daren Hidalgo earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an anti-personnel mine. He is assigned to Troop G, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany.

06 February 1966

The following Soldiers: SGT Roy E. Thomas, PFC Timothy L. Hayes (Pictured), PFC Walter Piper Jr. (Pictured), SP4 Joseph D. Guerrero, and SSG Steven P. Mollohan (B/2-502 IN) and 1SG Alex E. Vaczi (Pictured) (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.



06 February 1966

SP4 George Basset (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, General Order Number 147; 27MAY1966)

06 February 1966

The following Soldiers: PFC James Wilson, PFC Carl Lopez, PFC James Dowling, SP4 Frank Hill, SP4 Michael Buchanan and SP4 Todd Betzer (2-502 IN); SGT Estevan Alvarado (2/327 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in connection with military operation against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8th Field Hospital, General Order Number 14; 07 January 1966)

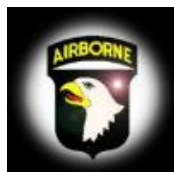
06 February 1966

PFC James Cobb (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. PFC Cobb while on a patrol around 0930 hours in Tuyen, Vietnam was struck in the left hip by machinegun bullet fired by hostile forces. (85th Evac Hospital, General Order Number 14; 19 February 1966)

06 February 1970



CPT James M. Lyon (HHC/2BDE) as a Field Artillery Unit Commander (Pilot) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) military merit and wound received and the POW Medal while on a maintenance mission on 5 February 1970, while flying a UH1H Helicopter from Hue to Phu Bai, South Vietnam. When about 18 miles northwest of Hue City, the helicopter caught fire and crashed (due to a malfunction), in the vicinity of YD494093. CPT Lyon was thrown clear of the aircraft and was burned extensively over most of his body, and a portion of his right leg four inches below the knee was severed. The other crew members CPT John W. Parsels (Co-Pilot), SP4 Tom Kobashigawa (Crew Chief), and SP5 Daniel H. Hefel (Door Gunner) were also injured at the time of the crash and could not take any evasive action. They were captured at 1630 hours by North Vietnamese troops and spent the night near the crash site. CPT Parsels reported during his "Homecoming" debriefing that CPT Lyons yelled and moaned in pain after the crash and during the night. AT 0600 hours the next morning he heard CPT Lyon moan and then he heard a shot fired from CPT Lyon's position about 30 feet from the aircraft wreckage. CPT Parsels heard no further outcry and believes that CPT Lyon was killed by the guards. Two weeks later he was told by 1LT Le Van "MAC" (An NVA Commander at "Camp



Farnsworth”), that CPT Lyon died from his wounds, and was buried at the crash site. 1LT Le Van “MAC” gave CPT Parsels CPT Lyon’s personal effects, which included his identification card and several photos which appeared to be his wife (NFI). In late March, 1973, Parsels, Hefel and Kobashigawa were released from prisons in North Vietnam. In their debriefings, all three concurred on the story that Lyon had apparently been shot. They considered it a mercy killing, because their pilot had been so seriously injured that they doubted that he could survive.

Curiously, the Vietnamese have not returned the body of Capt. James M. Lyon, nor have they been forthcoming with information concerning him. Tragically, Capt. Lyon has been a prisoner of war for nearly 20 years - alive or dead.

Even more tragic are the thousands of reports that continue to flow in indicating that some hundreds of Americans are still prisoner in Indochina. It's long past time we brought our men home. (The same information was provided by SP4 Kobashigawa and by SP5 Hefel during their debriefings).

06 February 1970



1LT Russell A. Shields (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

06 February 2006

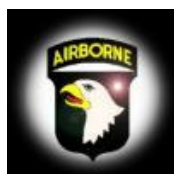
SPC Kenneth Sharp, (EOD Escort) (A/2-101 BTB) actions in combat earned him the Army Commendation with Valor. As a member of EOD Escort, his courage, selfless service, and aggressiveness while engaging the enemy contributed immeasurably to both the success of his unit in combat and the safety of his fellow Soldiers.

06 February 2006

SPC Curtis Sherwood (A/2-101 BTB) actions in combat earned him the Purple Heart. During a route clearance mission to Sadr Al Yusufiyah, SPC Sherwood dismounted with a team to recon the road ahead to see if the buffalo would be able to make it down the road. SPC Sherwood was assigned the western sector in a security perimeter. The enemy ambushed the dismounts with RPG’s and automatic small arms fire. SPC Sherwood’s weapon was shot out of his hands. When the round impacted his weapon, metal fragmentations went into his hand from the enemy round. Two pieces went into his hand and underneath his skin all the way up to his wrist. He required a two hour surgery to remove the shrapnel.

07 February 1966

The following Soldiers: SSG Carlos Betancourt-Mojica and SP4 Sylvester Jackson Jr. (Pictured)(A/2-502 IN); SP4 Duane V. Olson (Pictured) (B/2-502 IN); SGT David B. Garcia and SGT Alexander Montoya (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gunfire wounds during a battle at My Canh 2, in the Phy Yen Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)

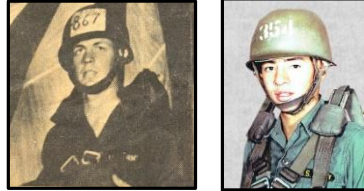


07 February 1966

The following Soldiers: SSG Lloyd Robert (B/2-502 IN), SP4 Phillip Rice (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (85th Evac Hospital, General Order Number 14; 19 February 1966)

07 February 1968

The following Soldiers: SP4 Raymond Brown (D/1-502 IN) and PFC Alfred Urdiales Jr. (Pictured) (E/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.



01 February 1970

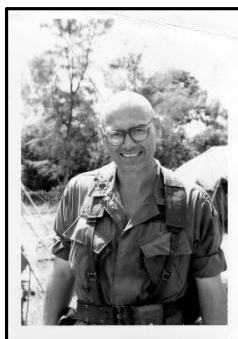
SGT Kenneth R. Lasseter (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

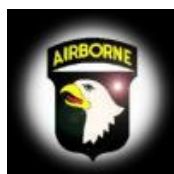
01 February 1967

1LT David A. Remanaric (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. 1LT Remanaric's platoon was conducting a search and destroy operation near Phan Bang when it was suddenly brought under a murderous volume of enemy automatic weapons fire from an estimated reinforced enemy squad in a fortified position. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Remanaric charged through the withering enemy fire to the most forward point of contact. Quickly making an estimate of the situation and reorganizing his platoon, Lieutenant Remanaric placed his platoon on line and assaulted the enemy position. Throughout the assault, Lieutenant Remanaric exposed himself to the enemy fire while moving from man to man giving them encouragement and pointing out enemy targets. After the platoon had overrun the enemy position, it was again brought under a murderous volume of enemy automatic weapons fire. Again with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Remanaric charged the enemy position while firing his weapon and succeeded in routing the enemy. Realizing that his wounded comrades must have needed medical aid, Lieutenant Remanaric called for and adjusted artillery fire in order that the casualties could be evacuated. Lieutenant Remanaric's outstanding gallantry in action and his avid devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

01 February 1968



LTC Howard H. Danford (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 1 February 1968. In response to the treacherous TET offensive, element of the 101st Airborne Division were ordered to react to the enemy attack. Lieutenant Colonel Danford unhesitatingly answered this call with his airborne battalion. At the height of the crisis, he quickly marshaled his forces and, with audacity and daring, led his men in an assault into the Bien Hoa area. Under unrelenting sniper fire and mortar and rocket attacks, Lieutenant Colonel Danford adeptly deployed his forces in coordinated attacks, counterattacks, and classic sweeps in Bien Hoa, at Ton Son Nhut Air Base and around General Westmoreland's MACV Headquarters. These maneuvers were violently executed and contributed immeasurably to turning the tide of the battle by routing the enemy and by affecting the end of the destruction of property and minimizing the casualties to civilians. Lieutenant Colonel Danford seemed to be everywhere, encouraging his men under fire. By his complete disregard for his



personal safety and by seeming to ignore the enemy rocket and mortar fire, he was able to inspire the men in his battalion to victory over the numerically superior and well-armed hostile enemy force. Lieutenant Colonel Danford's sense of duty to his men and mission together with his valorous leadership were decisive in this action. His outstanding display of heroism and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

01 February 2006



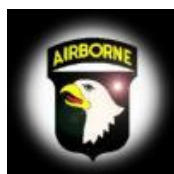
SPC Jay C. Strobino (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for exceptionally meritorious achievement and exemplary service as a Team Leader in 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), attached to the 4th Infantry Division, during combat operations in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, on an mission on 1February 2006 in Rushdi Mulla, Iraq. Specialist Strobino's exceptional dedication to mission accomplishment, tactical and technical competence, and unparalleled ability to perform under fire and while injured, contributed immeasurably to the success of his unit in Rushdi Mulla, Iraq, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the United States Army.

02 February 1966

PFC Juan Sanchez Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. PFC Sanchez was a member of an element consisting of a wire laying team and one squad from the Recondo platoon which had been given the mission of laying a section of wire. As the element approached a small village it was suddenly brought under heavy fire from an enemy ambush. Private Sanchez immediately began to fire his machine gun into the enemy positions only to have it jam after several short bursts. Realizing how precarious the situation was becoming, Private Sanchez charged through the murderous fire and obtained a pistol from his Squad Leader and again with complete disregard for his own personal safety returned through the fire to secure the right flank. Private Sanchez again exposed himself to the intense enemy fire, firing a rocket launcher which he had been carrying into one of the enemy machine gun positions, killing several of the enemy soldiers and knocking out the machine gun. Private Sanchez then returned to his machine gun, broke it down, and corrected the malfunction. When the machine gun was again put into operation condition Private Sanchez began directing suppressive fire into the enemy position. After a short period of time, Private Sanchez was wounded in the leg but refused medical aid and began to secure his equipment so that it would not get into enemy hands. At this time Private Sanchez observed that one of his comrades had been wounded and lay in exposed area. Private Sanchez, disregarding his own safety and wounds, crawled to the side of his wounded comrade and dragged him to an area where he could be evacuated. Private Sanchez's outstanding display of courage and his devotion to duty are within the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

02 February 1967

SFC Camilio Gonzalez (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Star Medal for distinguishing himself while acting as platoon leader on a mission to relieve other friendly elements heavily engaged with the enemy. As he approached the battle area, his platoon suddenly received intense Viet Cong small arms and automatic weapons fire causing several casualties. Realizing that further efforts to advance would result in numerous losses, Sergeant Gonzalez called for reinforcements and an air strike. After directing the air strike, he organized his platoon for an assault. Because of the well-fortified Viet Cong positions, he was forced to stop short of the objective. Observing that two squad leaders had been wounded, Sergeant Gonzalez reorganized his platoon and started forward again. After moving approximately 20 meters, they received intense hostile fire and sustained additional casualties. He then set up an extraction point and supervised the evacuation of the wounded. After the wounded were evacuated, Sergeant



Gonzalez assembled his battle weary platoon, and once again assaulted the enemy fortifications. Sergeant Gonzalez, at the head of his platoon, charged forward and ran 50 meters across the open rice paddy, oblivious of the withering fire that engulfed the battlefield and that tore away his equipment and knocked off his helmet. His men, spirited by this almost unbelievable act of heroism, assaulted behind their platoon sergeant and routed the enemy from its prepared defenses. Sergeant Gonzalez' extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military services and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

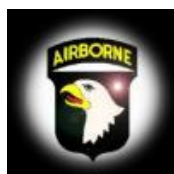
03 February 1966



SGT Richard C. Youngbear (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 3 February 1966 while serving as fire team leader of a reconnaissance patrol in the vicinity of Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours, while on guard on the patrol's perimeter, Sergeant Youngbear detected a hostile patrol that had approached to within ten meters of his position under concealment of darkness. Sergeant Youngbear, realizing that he had no time to alert the whole patrol, immediately engaged the insurgents with a deadly volume of automatic weapons fire. Although wounded in both legs by the Viet Cong fire, he courageously engaged the insurgents. As two of his men were coming to help him he shouted for them to pull back and take cover. Although hit several more times, Sergeant Youngbear continued firing, forcing the now disorganized Viet Cong to concentrate their fire on him. This enabled the rest of the small patrol to get in better firing positions to repel the hostile assault. Inspired by Sergeant Youngbear's fighting spirit against seemingly insurmountable odds, the patrol was able to repulse the attack. After the fierce fight, the patrol found Sergeant Youngbear mortally wounded with six dead Viet Cong around him. Had it not been for his devotion to duty, courage, and willingness to sacrifice his life, the entire patrol might have been taken by surprise and overrun. Sergeant Youngbear's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

03 February 1968

SP4 Lawrence E. Mize (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 February 1968. Specialist Mize distinguished himself while serving as a medic with the 1st platoon of Company A 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry 101st Airborne Division on an operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Mize was with members of the 1st platoon on an airmobile mission south of Hue when the helicopter was hit by automatic weapons fire from the enemy, forcing the ship to crash. The grounded helicopter was soon in flames and was again taken under enemy fire. The aircraft was evacuated, except for one man wounded by enemy fire and bleeding severely while still strapped to his seat. With complete disregard for his own safety, under enemy fire and with full knowledge that the burning aircraft might explode at any moment, Specialist Mize returned to the helicopter and treated the wounded man. Specialist Mize's quick and heroic action saved the wounded man's life. Specialist Mize's exceptional valor is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 383)



03 February 1968



2LT John R. Rodelli (A/ 2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 February 1968. Second Lieutenant John R. Rodelli distinguished himself while serving as Platoon Leader of the 1st Platoon of Alfa Company 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Lieutenant Rodelli was with his platoon on a serial mission in a CH-47 helicopter when the aircraft came under direct fire, severely wounding one of his men and tearing into the starboard engine of the helicopter, thus disabling it. Told by the pilot that the helicopter was going to crash Lieutenant Rodelli quickly organized a perimeter defense to be established immediately upon contact with the ground. His calm manner and precise orders served well to prepare his men in advance and quell the fear that immediately rose with the news of the impending crash. Once on the ground the platoon evacuated the helicopter and formed a perimeter defense to return the enemy fire. With enemy automatic weapons fire coming in, Lieutenant Rodelli calmly placed his men and directed the fire, at the same time calling in a Medevac helicopter, and radioing back for another CH-47 helicopter to come in to pick up his platoon. Then under enemy fire Lieutenant Rodelli rushed back inside the inflamed aircraft along with a medic to help treat the wounded man who was still strapped to his seat and bleeding severely. Provided with excellent covering fire, the Medevac picked up the wounded man, and the requested CH-47 helicopter landed to evacuate the rest of the platoon. With outstanding professional skill and exceptional bravery under fire, Lieutenant Rodelli directed his men aboard the helicopter while keeping the enemy no more than thirty-five meters distant, pinned down. In their defense Lieutenant Rodelli's men killed at least two enemy soldiers while suffering no casualties themselves. The successful defense and evacuation of his platoon as well as his personal conduct is testimony to Lieutenant Rodelli's outstanding heroism and high degree of professional skill under fire. Second Lieutenant Rodelli's extraordinary heroism is in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

04 February 1966



2LT Frankie L. Wallace (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Second Lieutenant Wallace distinguished himself on 4 February 1966 while leading a squad size patrol on a routine search of several villages in the Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1430 hours as Second Lieutenant Wallace's squad approached a village, they were suddenly engaged by small arms and automatic weapons fire by an estimated Viet Cong squad. Exposing himself to the deadly insurgent fire, Second Lieutenant Wallace led an assault on the hostile positions. The assault was so aggressive that the Viet Cong were forced to withdraw. Second Lieutenant Wallace then led his patrol across an open rice paddy, skillfully executing fire and movement in pursuit of the insurgent force. The Viet Cong squad joined an estimated platoon size force who were well entrenched. Second Lieutenant Wallace directed effective artillery fire and air strikes on the hostile positions. When the supporting fires lifted, Second Lieutenant Wallace led his squad in an assault and was met by intense automatic weapons and mortar fire which forced him to withdraw. In the withdrawal, one fire team leader fell wounded.....Without hesitation, Second Lieutenant Wallace ran in to the open rice paddy to aid his wounded comrade and was wounded in the leg before he could reach him. Unmindful of his wound, Second Lieutenant Wallace got up and continued toward the wounded man. As he approached the stricken soldier, he killed two Viet Cong who were also attempting to reach the wounded man. Fully exposed to the intense Viet Cong fire concentrated on him, he aided the wounded soldier. Second Lieutenant Wallace was mortally wounded by hostile



automatic weapons fire while assisting his wounded comrade to safety. Due to his courage, inspiring example, and his leadership, he was instrumental in saving the life of a fellow soldier and accounted for twenty-seven Viet Cong killed. Second Lieutenant Wallace's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division, General Orders No. 3694 (June 12, 1966))

04 February 1966

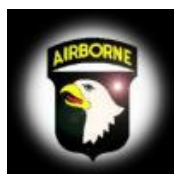
CPT Henrik D. Lunde (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 4 February 1966 while serving as company commander during a mission to reinforce a squad size reconnaissance patrol that had made contact with a well-fortified Viet Cong platoon near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. As the lead elements of Captain Lunde's unit neared the battlefield, they encountered heavy automatic weapons fire from their front and left flank. Captain Lunde immediately ordered his platoons into an assault line. As the platoons were advancing by fire and movement across open rice paddies, it became evident that the reconnaissance patrol would be caught between the heavy fire of the Viet Cong and friendly elements. After an unsuccessful attempt to contact the platoon radio operators, Captain Lunde immediately moved from his position and by short rushes maneuvered through the hostile fire directed at him until he reached the center platoon. Since the platoon had lost several essential leaders, he regrouped the platoon, regained the momentum of the assault, and led the troops forward. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he then ran 200 meters across an open field through another barrage of Viet Cong fire until he reached his right flank platoon. After coordinating his own flank elements with those of another company on his right, the Viet Cong force was finally defeated with 27 casualties. Captain Lunde's extraordinary heroism against a hard core force of Viet Cong was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

04 February 1966 –
04 January 1967

SP4 Charles W. Campbell (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for distinguishing himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period of 04 February 1966 to 04 January 1967. Through his untiring efforts and professional ability, he consistently obtained outstanding results. He was quick to grasp the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever changing situations inherent in a counterinsurgency operation and to find way and means to solve those problems. The energetic application of his extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United States mission to the Republic of Vietnam to assist that country in ridding itself of the communist threat to its freedom. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the United States Army and reflect great credit on him and on the military service.

04 February 1966

PFC Michael Baldinger (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1-OLC) for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. PFC Baldinger distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 4 February 1966, in the Republic of Vietnam. While conducting a combat operation, elements of Private Baldinger's company were heavily engaged with an estimated reinforced company of North



Vietnamese Army regulars southwest of Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. They were met by extremely heavy small arms fire from the entrenched Viet Cong. Unable to move further into the area, they began firing into the enemy's position. Suddenly a cry was heard that a medic was urgently needed. Without hesitation, Private Baldinger left his relatively secure area and ran forward in an effort to reach the wounded men. He ran through an open rice paddy, completely exposed to the withering enemy fire. After reaching the area, he began to administer first aid to the wounded. For one hour Private Baldinger could be seen crawling from one man to the next, even though he himself was completely exposed to the now extremely accurate enemy fire. His actions undoubtedly saved the lives of several Americans that day. Private Baldinger's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ; 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; GO No: 1451; 14 July 1967)

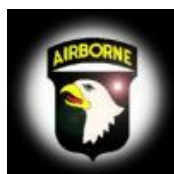
04 February 1968



CPT Gordon H. Mansfield (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Captain Mansfield distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 4 February 1968 as commanding officer of an airborne infantry company on a search and clear operation near Hai Lang. When his company came under devastating enemy fire, he immediately maneuvered his elements into positions for an attack. Receiving word that one platoon had been pinned down by enemy automatic weapons fire; he led a second platoon into position for a frontal assault upon the enemy. When the attack stalled in the face of ravaging fire, he led five men to the enemy's flank. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he led a savage charge upon the enemy position that completely destroyed it. Captain Mansfield repeatedly exposed himself to enemy weapons fire to evacuate his wounded men. While moving the casualties to safety, he was seriously wounded. Refusing aid, he continued to direct the evacuation of the wounded and coordinated with an adjoining company for aid. Only when he was certain that his men were safe did he agree to his own evacuation. Captain Mansfield's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 2945 (June 20, 1968))

04 February 1968

PFC DeForest S. Conner (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Private First Class Conner distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 4 February 1968 as a rifleman of an airmobile infantry company conducting a search and clear operation in the Hai Lang area. His platoon was advancing toward a village believed to be an enemy stronghold when it was suddenly taken under intense hostile automatic weapons fire from the right flank. Private Conner noticed that the fire seemed to be coming from a large enemy bunker adjacent to the concrete house. He jumped up and ran to a position ten meters from the enemy emplacement. He was wounded in the side during this maneuver, but he refused aid and began to fire into the fortification, allowing his platoon time to deploy for the engagement. He next attempted to throw a grenade into the bunker to destroy it. He was shot in the right arm. Disregarding his safety, he switched the grenade to his left hand and made an accurate throw. The explosion stunned the North Vietnamese Army soldiers in the bunker. Private Conner continued to place suppressive fire on the position and was wounded a third time. Realizing that the bunker would have to be completely demolished to eliminate its fire, he dashed forward, exposed to a hail of bullets, and tossed a grenade inside the emplacement which killed all its



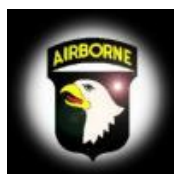
occupants. Unassisted, he then crawled to the rear for medical treatment. Private First Class Conner's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 3645 (July 29, 1968))

05 February 1966

SP4 James C. Bennett (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself from 5 February 1966 to 6 February 1966 while serving as a medical aidman in the Republic of Vietnam. On the night of 5 February 1966, Specialist Bennett's platoon found itself situated in a Viet Cong minefield and had two casualties from detonated mines. Specialist Four Bennett, with complete disregard for his safety, ran through the minefield and administered first aid to the wounded men. On the following morning when his platoon attacked the village of Canh Tinh, they received intense automatic weapons and small arms fire that wounded three men. Again, exposing himself to intense hostile fire, Specialist Four Bennett went to their assistance and administered lifesaving first aid. After treating the wounded men, he pulled one of the men to safety and directed the evacuation of the other two men. When another man was wounded, Specialist Four Bennett again braved the hostile fire by running forty meters directly towards a Viet Cong machine gun position to aid the casualty. Approximately five meters from the wounded man's position, Specialist Four Bennett was wounded three times in the leg. Disregarding his own wounds, he crawled to the side of the wounded man and administered first aid. When the medical evacuation helicopter arrived, Specialist Four Bennett refused to be evacuated and continued with the platoon on the operation. Four hours later the platoon seized the village. While reorganizing the platoon, three men were wounded. Although suffering from pain, he went to the aid of the wounded, and was hit twice by mortar fragments. Disregarding his wounds, he pulled a wounded man across fifty meters of open rice paddies to safety. Despite his protest, he was evacuated for medical treatment. Specialist Four Bennett's courage and devotion to duty saved the lives of seven men within a twenty-four hour period. His in impeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army

05 February 1968

CPT Paul M. Pritchard (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 5 February 1958. Captain Pritchard distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic actions near Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam. Captain Pritchard's company conducted an attack on a well dug-in enemy force of estimated Battalion size. The attack lasted for seven hours and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. During the entire action, Captain Pritchard continuously exposed himself to the heavy fire in order to control his units and direct supporting fire. His personal courage and the example set by him inspired his men and was a key factor in the company's successful attack on a strong enemy position. Captain Pritchard's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



06 February 1966

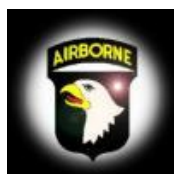


CPT Robert C. Murphy (C/2-502 IN) earned the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while Commanding Company C, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. On 6 February 1966, Captain Murphy, his command group, and one reinforced rifle platoon were deployed by helicopter to complete an encirclement of an entrenched Viet Cong company in the village of Canh-Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. On two occasions en route to their objective, this unit was subjected to intense and accurate sniper fire. Captain Murphy remained exposed to direct airstrikes and artillery fire into the insurgent positions in order to enable his unit to complete their objective. As Captain Murphy and his comrades approached the village, they came under deadly grazing machine gun fire. Upon coordinating with the other unit commander to launch a company attack, he led his troops in an assault through a murderous hail of bullets to storm the insurgent trenches. The Viet Cong fell back upon facing the attacking force. A vicious house-to-house battle followed. The Viet Cong, defending a series of fortified bunkers, pinned down one of the leading elements. Realizing that the momentum of the assault was faltering, Captain Murphy seized the initiative and charged through the intense hail of fire to destroy a bunker and kill two insurgents. Inside the village, a machine gun began firing at Captain Murphy. With great courage, and under the covering fire of another man, he again charged the hostile position, destroying the bunker and killing four more Viet Cong. He then recognized and consolidated his forces. The success of the operation was marked by his professional ability and courage. Captain Murphy's extraordinary heroism and gallantry in action are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. (HQ; U.S. Army, Pacific, G.O. Number 151; July 14, 1966)

06 February 1966



1SG Alex E. Vaczi (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while participating on a search and destroy operation at Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1800 hours, his unit received an intense volume of machine gun fire from well-concealed and heavily fortified Viet Cong positions near the village of Canh Tinh. Realizing the imperative need to locate and eliminate the hostile emplacements as quickly as possible to minimize casualties to his unit, First Sergeant Vaczi moved about the battlefield and placed his troopers in positions from which they could effectively engage the Viet Cong that he was able to locate. In one instance a well-concealed machine gun fired on the left flank of his unit. To locate this hostile machine gun bunker, he braved almost certain death by dangerously exposing himself, and then delivered extremely accurate fire on the hostile emplacement to force the Viet Cong to abandon the position. Despite the protests of all those around him, First Sergeant Vaczi persisted in exposing himself to the hostile fire while locating and directing effective fire on the Viet Cong positions. He continually encouraged and inspired his men to meet the hostile fire with a determined aggressiveness. While moving from one man to another, First Sergeant Vaczi was mortally wounded. Even though he sacrificed his own life, his leadership inspired the platoon to locate and effectively engage the concealed hostile positions. First Sergeant Vaczi's gallant actions on the field of battle were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



06 February 1966

SSG Andrew J. May Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as a platoon sergeant during a reconnaissance operation near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. While moving toward their objective, Staff Sergeant May's squad received intense hostile fire. Staff Sergeant May deployed his men and continued forward. As his squad advanced, two troopers were wounded. Staff Sergeant May immediately threw grenades at the hostile position, killing a Viet Cong. With complete disregard for his safety, he braved hostile fire while assisting a wounded comrade. Carrying the injured man, he moved across open rice paddies to an evacuation point. Undaunted by the Viet Cong fire, he returned to his squad and gave the order to withdraw. He then took one man with him to provide covering fire while he moved to the other wounded trooper and managed to extract him. Later, he led an element into the village of Canh Tinh. While entering the area, his squad was again subjected to hostile fire. During the course of action, Staff Sergeant May assaulted a house occupied by a Viet Cong sniper and killed him with a well-placed grenade. Moving to the rear of the house, he encountered another Viet Cong in a bunker. Unhesitatingly Staff Sergeant May pulled another grenade from his belt and threw it into the bunker, killing the insurgent. Staff Sergeant May's courageous actions inspired his men to successfully complete their mission. His extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 February 1966



MAJ Donald B. Schroeder (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as task force commander of a battalion size force which was engaged with a Viet Cong force defending the well-fortified village of Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. Major Schroeder, while receiving hostile fire, courageously moved about the battlefield with complete disregard for his safety. On one occasion, he moved across seventy-five meters of open area to insure that all of his elements were coordinated. Major Schroeder then contacted the company commander of a reserve company and personally guided him into his sector. Throughout the remainder of the night, Major Schroeder calmly reported the developing situation of his task force. He directed aggressive patrols in pursuit of elements that were trying to break contact and cleared scattered pockets of resistance remaining in the village. His actions during the assault served as an inspiration to all and contributed immeasurably to the overwhelming victory. Major Schroeder's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



06 February 1966



SP4 Duane V. Olson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while participating on a search and destroy operation at Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1000 hours, Specialist Four Olson's unit was dispatched to relieve a friendly element that was pinned down by Viet Cong fire. As the platoon approached the friendly element, they came under intense sniper and machine gun fire and were pinned down. Specialist Four Olson detected a slight movement approximately one hundred meters away. Realizing that he could not place effective fire on the hostile targets from his present position, Specialist Four Olson picked up his machine gun and, without orders, he and his assistant rushed across a small clearing to a better position. He then fired into the hostile position and killed one of the snipers. While advancing on a Viet Cong machine

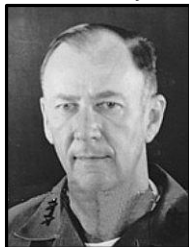


gun position, his comrade was a wounded. Specialist Four Olson quickly rendered first aid to his wounded assistant, and began firing to enable him to crawl to safety. As Specialist Four Olson attempted to reload his machine gun, the Viet Cong concentrated a deadly volume of fire on his position, and mortally wounded him. Because Specialist Four Olson had drawn the hostile fire on himself, the platoon was able to maneuver, eliminate the machine gun position, seize the village, and inflict numerous casualties on the Viet Cong. Specialist Four Olson's valor in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

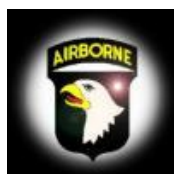
06 February 1966

PFC Fount V. Smith (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. PFC Smith, with his unit, was helilifted to aid in the attack on a heavily fortified village. After ten minutes on the ground Private Smith's unit sustained several casualties and the situation became critical. Private Smith, without orders, began a one hundred meter crawl directly toward the enemy, although he was receiving heavy fire and was in grave danger. Upon reaching a trench, Private Smith began throwing hand grenades into the enemy positions. The Viet Cong spotted him and began throwing grenades back. Undaunted, and with complete disregard for his own life, Private Smith began picking up Viet Cong grenades and throwing them back. Soon Private Smith was out of ammunition and grenades and had no call for more. His comrades, some one hundred meters away, were unable to help him for almost ten minutes. Private Smith then received several grenades that were thrown to him by his comrades in the rear. After again expending all his grenades Private Smith called for more, but was unheard since all friendly forces were heavily engaged. He then rejoined his comrades and urged them to return to his previous location. Private Smith accounted for at least twelve enemy killed and paved the way for the assault which, together with actions of other friendly forces, routed a well-armed enemy force from its prepared defenses. Private Smith's actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the American fighting man and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 February 1966



LTC Henry E. Emerson (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as commander of a battalion which was engaged with a well-trained and heavily armed Viet Cong battalion near Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. After directing the tactical deployment of his elements, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson became airborne in an H-13, a light observation helicopter, to continue the effective control of his maneuvering assault troops. While performing this courageous act, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson's aircraft received intense automatic weapons and small arms ground fire. Despite this, he remained over the battle area, pin-pointed hostile emplacements, and analyzed the developing situations. Late that afternoon, the Viet Cong launched a heavy assault on the friendly force. At this time, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson landed his aircraft on the fire swept battlefield and personally directed the fire of his troops while repeatedly exposed to intense hostile fire. During the course of action, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson, with complete disregard for his personal safety, further exposed himself to Viet Cong fire while directing the medical evacuation of wounded. His outstanding devotion to duty, personal bravery, and leadership contributed immeasurably to the overwhelming defeat of the Viet Cong in that area. Lieutenant Colonel Emerson's gallant actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



06 February 1966

2LT James B. Craig (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as a platoon leader during a search and destroy mission at Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. While approaching a village shortly after midnight, the lead element entered a minefield and a soldier stepped on a min. For the next four hours, Second Lieutenant Craig led his men out of the minefield. Although another man stepped on a mine, he continued to encourage his men until all were safely out of the minefield. In the early morning his platoon suddenly received intense Viet Cong fire and sustained a few casualties. Realizing that further efforts to advance would result in numerous losses, Second Lieutenant Craig called for reinforcements and an air strike. After directing the air strike, he organized his platoon for an assault of the village. Because of the well-fortified Viet Cong positions, he was forced to stop short of the objective. Observing that two squad leaders and the platoon sergeant had been wounded, Second Lieutenant Craig reorganized his platoon and started forward again. After moving approximately 20 meters, they received intense hostile fire and sustained additional casualties. He then set up an extraction point and supervised the evacuation of the wounded. After the wounded were evacuated, Second Lieutenant Craig assembled his battle weary platoon, assaulted the village, and routed the Viet Cong defenders from their prepared defenses, Second Lieutenant Crag's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

06 February 1966



1SG Robert C. Melton (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as a First Sergeant during a company assault on the village of Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1400 hours, as First Sergeant Melton's company moved from a river bed, a Viet Cong force unleashed a devastating volume of automatic weapons fire from well-fortified bunkers. First Sergeant Melton immediately joined the company assault line, exposed himself to the intense Viet Cong fire as he moved from man to man, shouting words of encouragement, and directed fire on the hostile emplacements. First Sergeant Melton's inspiring leadership motivated the men and caused them to keep the assault line moving aggressively. When they neared the village, First Sergeant Melton rejoined the command element and assisted in the control of the unit. As they moved across a clearing, he discovered a seriously wounded soldier. Despite the intense Viet Cong fire, First Sergeant Melton carried the wounded man 35 meters to the safety of a dike. When two companies were pinned down by intense hostile fire from mutually supporting Viet Cong bunkers, First Sergeant Melton moved aggressively to within 10 meters of one bunker, threw a grenade into it, killed four Viet Cong, and destroyed the bunker. He then placed suppressive fire on the other bunkers while the elements of the companies advanced and destroyed the bunkers with hand grenades. Later, First Sergeant Melton organized the two elements into one unit and destroyed a final bunker. First Sergeant Melton's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 February 1966

SP5 Ronald J. Raney (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966, while serving as a member of a company during a combat operation near the village Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Five Raney was moving with the company command element when a radio operator was seriously wounded in an open field. Immediately Specialist Five Raney rushed seventy-five meters across the open field to the casualty. Although he was constantly exposed to intense sniper fire, Specialist Five Raney rendered first aid and carried the man back to safety. Within minutes, two men were seriously wounded. Despite intense hostile fire, he ran across a log bridge, picked up the injured soldiers, and helped them across one hundred



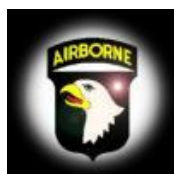
meters of open rice paddies to a medical evacuation site. While directing the approach of a medical helicopter, the insurgents placed intense fire into the intended landing zone. Specialist Five Raney then, with great professional ingenuity, waved the helicopter away, constructed two poncho rafts and, while swimming beside them, floated both casualties down river to a more secure landing zone. During the ensuing assault on the village of Canh Tinh, Specialist Five Raney, though completely exposed to enemy fire, treated three more men and carried them to safety. Later, a man was wounded two hundred meters to his front. Disregarding the hostile fire. Specialist Five Raney ran through the open area, picked up the man, and carried him to a tree line. Through Specialist Five Raney's gallant efforts and devotion to duty, the lives of six men were saved. His unimpeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USAV, General Orders Number 2938; 17 May 1966)

06 February 1966

SSG Steven P. Mollohan (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as weapons squad leader on a search and destroy operation near Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1100 hours, his unit received an intense volume of machine gun fire from well-concealed and heavily fortified Viet Cong positions near the village of Canh Tinh. Staff Sergeant Mollohan unhesitatingly took the squad nearest him and maneuvered toward the insurgents flank. He inspired the troopers to follow his aggressive example as they began to assault the hostile positions. However, the Viet Cong shifted some of their fire to the advancing squad, and the momentum of their assault faltered. Staff Sergeant Mollohan then quickly moved from man to man, while completely exposed to the hostile fire, and established fire superiority over the insurgents. As the battle progressed and the platoon was maneuvering, Staff Sergeant Mollohan again exposed himself to intense hostile fire to direct medical aidman to the wounded. In one instance he ran across fifty meters of open rice paddy and pulled one of his wounded men to protective cover of a paddy dike so medical aidman could administer aid to him. As a new maneuver element advanced toward the Viet Cong trenches, one of Staff Sergeant Mollohan's machine guns jammed with a ruptured cartridge in the chamber. Realizing the importance of the fire power at this critical moment, Staff Sergeant Mollohan ran from man to man to find a cleaning rod to clear the chamber of the jammed machine gun. While exposed to the intense hostile fire that was concentrated on him, he was mortally wounded. His tremendous stamina, exemplary leadership, and personal courage contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Staff Sergeant Mollohan's gallant actions on the field of battle were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 February 1966

PFC Thomas C. Gorham (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while participating on a search and destroy operation near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam, At approximately 1830 hours, Private First Class Gorham's squad was moving along a creek bed carrying wounded personnel to a helicopter extraction site, when suddenly they received intense hostile fire from Viet Cong entrenched positions on both sides of the creek. Reacting immediately to the situation, Private First Class Gorham ran through an open area, braved the hostile fire, hurled grenades, and fired his M-16 furiously. As a result of this action, Private First Class Gorham overran an entrenched machine gun position, and killed two Viet Cong. Later, with complete disregard for his personal safety while receiving intense hostile fire, Private First Class Gorham made a bold frontal assault on a nearby house, and succeeded in destroying the insurgent position and killing three Viet Cong. Private First Class Gorham's actions accounted for five Viet Cong being killed, five weapons being captured, and prevented heavy casualties in his squad. His unimpeachable valor



in close combat against a hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 February 1966

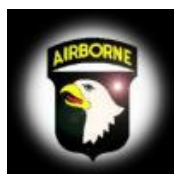
CPT Thomas H. Taylor (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as commander of an airborne rifle company during a search and destroy mission at the village of Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. When elements of his company made contact with a large Viet Cong force, Captain Taylor



immediately dispatched reinforcing elements and skillfully directed them into positions encircling the insurgent force. After assessing the battle from a helicopter over the insurgent position, he rejoined his company. As he made several attempts to move through the open rice paddies to join his most heavily engaged platoon he was met by increasingly heavy fire. Although he was unable to move, he continued to direct his platoon leaders and the deployment of another element to reinforce his encirclement of the village. As Captain Taylor moved forward through intense fire, he personally carried one of his wounded troopers to the casualty collection point. When one of his comrades was fatally hit and fell into a swift running river, Captain Taylor recovered the body of his dead comrade. After rejoining his element, he led an assault on an insurgent position and captured a machine gun. He then directed his scattered elements in the sporadic fighting throughout the night. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the decisive victory over the Viet Cong force. Captain Taylor's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 February 1966

SP4 Gregory Floor (B/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. SP4 Floor distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 6 February 1966 while on a reconnaissance patrol reconnoitering a valley west of the My Canh village. As the patrol was moving through the valley, the point man suddenly triggered a Viet Cong mine, wounding himself. Without regard for his own safety, Specialist Floor moved cautiously toward the wounded trooper. Putting the man on his back, Specialist Floor succeeded in bringing him to safety. Once outside the mined area, he began to administer first aid to the wounded man. While he was working on his comrade, another trooper detonated a mine, and he also lay wounded in the mined area. Again Specialist Floor, without hesitation, placed the life of his comrade above his own as he moved into the mined area and carried the wounded Soldier approximately one hundred meters to safety. Specialist Floor's devotion to duty and personal courage are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division; General Orders Number 583; 3 September 1966)



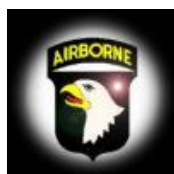
06 Feb 2006

SSG Patrick Reilly, Squad Leader (EOD Escort) (A/2-101 BTB), actions in combat earn him the Army Commendation with Valor. SSG Reilly led his squad onto Route Utah in order to link up with an element from 1-75 CAV that had found an IED placed in a crater formed from the detonation of a previous IED. Upon reaching the link up site, SSG Reilly and his squad immediately began conducting the 5 & 25 drill to clear the immediate vicinity of possible IEDs. SSG Reilly and SrA Acosta, from the EOD Team, located a pressure plate IED consisting of two 120mm rounds approximately seven meters from where the squad had halted next to a 1-75 CAV vehicle. SSG Reilly moved the 1-75 CAV gun truck and his own vehicles east on Route Utah to a safe distance in order to allow EOD to destroy the IED with a controlled detonation. EOD then cleared the IED initially found by 1-75 CAV, determining that it was merely a decoy IED and set about sweeping the dirt area immediately north of Route Utah for the other IEDs believed to be there. Before the EOD Team finished their sweep, SrA Acosta stepped on a pressure plate setting off the two 120mm rounds it was wired to. SSG Reilly, seeing the detonation and the ensuing cloud of sand engulf three of his Soldiers, immediately rushed forward. As SSG Reilly approached the area of the blast he saw that two of his Soldiers were on their feet and moving back to the road but the third, SrA Acosta, was laying 10 meters from the road and severely wounded. SSG Reilly immediately moved off the road and without regard for his own life, crossed the IED seeded area to where SrA Acosta lie wounded. SSG Reilly quickly assessed the various wounds and immediately called for an air MEDEVAC to be requested. As the Eagle First Responder (EFR) Team arrived, SSG Reilly directed the medical treatment of SrA Acosta. SSG Reilly, upon seeing that the medic's tourniquets were not stopping the flow of blood from SrA Acosta's severed left arm, ordered SGT Lowell to retrieve a ratchet strap from his vehicle and use it to tourniquet the severed arm. The ratchet strap successfully cut off the flow of blood which kept SrA Acosta from completely bleeding out and dying before the air MEDEVAC arrived. SSG Reilly's courage, bravery, and professionalism were instrumental in SrA Acosta reaching the 10th CSH in the Baghdad Green Zone alive.

06 February 1966



CPT Robert C. Murphy (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while serving as commanding officer on an assault in the village of Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. While enroute to their objective, Captain Murphy's unit received intense hostile fire from well-fortified Viet Cong positions and was pinned down immediately. Captain Murphy immediately called for air support and artillery fire. He then repeatedly exposed himself to the hostile fire to effectively direct air strikes and artillery fire upon the Viet Cong emplacements. This enabled his force to continue to the objective under the cover of suppressive supporting fire. As Captain Murphy and his force approached the village of Canh Tinh, they received deadly grazing machine gun fire. At this time, Captain Murphy, with complete disregard for his safety, conducted a frontal assault through a hail of Viet Cong fire, breached the hostile perimeter, and stormed the insurgent emplacements. The Viet Cong withdrew and a vicious house to house battle ensued. On one occasion, Captain Murphy's force was pinned down by direct Viet Cong machine gun fire. Dauntlessly, Captain Murphy rushed through the fire, destroyed the bunker with a hand grenade assault, and killed two Viet Cong. Inside the village, another machine gun opened up on Captain Murphy. Again, undaunted by the fire, Captain Murphy assaulted the hostile emplacement and neutralized it with well-placed hand grenades, killing four Viet Cong. Through his fearless example and courageous leadership, the village was seized and the Viet Cong routed. Captain Murphy's unimpeachable valor and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his



unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, U.S. Army Vietnam, General Orders No. 2599 (April 29, 1966))

07 February 1966

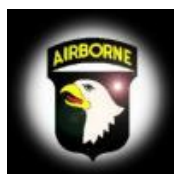
1LT James E. Beitz (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while serving as platoon leader during a combat assault on the village of My Canh, Republic of Vietnam. As his platoon neared the village, it received intense hostile fire from a well-fortified bunker. Unhesitatingly, First Lieutenant Beitz deployed his platoon and directed a maneuver element to flank the hostile bunker. As the squad moved across an open area towards the village, they became pinned down by hostile fire. When a fire team leader was seriously wounded and exposed to the intense Viet Cong fire, several unsuccessful attempts were made to recover the wounded soldier. First Lieutenant Beitz, with complete disregard for his safety, while receiving hostile fire, crawled to the wounded soldier. Although he was seriously wounded while performing this heroic act, First Lieutenant Beitz secured a rope to the wounded man's body and began moving the casualty to safety. As he progressed, a hostile bullet severed the rope and because of the intensity of the Viet Cong fire, First Lieutenant Beitz was forced to abandon his rescue effort. He then withdrew his men and called in artillery fire. As he covered his unit's withdrawal, he was again wounded by hostile fire. First Lieutenant Beitz's unimpeachable valor in the face of a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

07 February 1966

SP4 Monte F. Cox (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while serving as a medical aidman during a combat mission near the village of My Canh, Republic of Vietnam. As Specialist Four Cox's platoon crossed a canal enroute to their objectives, they encountered intense small arms and machine gun fire. During the initial volley of fire, several casualties were sustained. Unmindful of the intense hostile fire, Specialist Four Cox moved across an open rice paddy to render first aid to his wounded comrades who were twenty meters from the entrenched Viet Cong. Having treated one man, he crawled to within five meters of a Viet Cong machine gun position to administer medical treatment to another wounded trooper. Immediately after rendering first aid, he picked up the man and carried him seventy-five meters through intense hostile fire to a covered position. Specialist Four Cox then returned, administered first aid to another wounded man, picked him up, and carried him across the same field through intense hostile fire. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Specialist Four Cox again returned through fifty meters of completely exposed battlefield to reach the wounded, treat their wounds, and direct others to carry them to cover. When all the wounded were evacuated Specialist Four Cox left the battlefield. Through his courage, outstanding professional ability, and devotion to duty, he saved the lives of at least four American soldiers. The heroic actions of Specialist Four Cox were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

07 February 1966

1SG Robert C. Melton (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while participating in a company assault on a Viet Cong village near My Canh, Republic of Vietnam. During the initial attack on the village, First Sergeant Melton courageously moved through intense hostile fire to within fifteen meters of a Viet Cong machine gun bunker to carry a wounded man to a covered position for treatment. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he returned to the scene of the vicious fighting three additional times to evacuate casualties. When reinforcements arrived and began suffering casualties, First Sergeant Melton again moved onto battlefield to within ten meters of a hostile automatic weapons position to carry a seriously wounded man to safety. Throughout the battle, he exposed himself to intense hostile fire while recovering his wounded comrades, and directing the fires of his



men. First Sergeant Melton's actions were instrumental in saving many lives and enabled his company to complete its mission. His unimpeachable valor and devotion to duty in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

07 February 1966



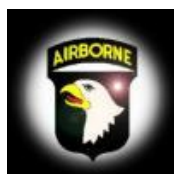
CPT Robert C. Murphy (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while serving as company commander during a search and destroy mission near My Canh, Republic of Vietnam. When the lead elements of his company received sporadic sniper fire on the approach to the village, Captain Murphy immediately deployed his troops and initiated an assault on the Viet Cong positions. As the assault line neared the hostile emplacements the insurgent force unleashed a concentrated volume of automatic weapons fire from well-fortified bunkers. After ordering his troops to withdraw, Captain Murphy exposed himself to the deadly fire, skillfully directed effective air strikes on the Viet Cong positions, and supervised the evacuation of casualties. After nightfall, Captain Murphy personally led a small patrol to a position within five meters of a Viet Cong machine gun to extract the body of a fallen patrol leader. On the following morning, Captain Murphy led a successful assault on the village. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immensely to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. Captain Murphy's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USAV, General Orders Number 2995; 20 May 1966)

07 February 1966

SP5 Ronald J. Raney (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while serving as company senior aidman while participating in an assault on a Viet Cong village near My Canh, Republic of Vietnam. During the initial attack on the village, Specialist Five Raney's company sustained several casualties. Specialist Five Raney without regard for his personal safety, rushed to within five meters of a Viet Cong machine gun bunker to render first aid to two wounded soldiers. Realizing the need for their immediate medical evacuation, Specialist Five Raney again braved the hostile fire, carried one of the men to safety, and directed others to carry the other men to cover. When friendly reinforcements sustained several casualties while overrunning hostile bunkers, Specialist Five Raney again returned to the battlefield. Although completely exposed to hostile fire, he continued to administer first aid to his comrades, and refused to leave the battle area until all casualties were treated and evacuated. Specialist Five Raney's actions accounted for the saving of seven lives. His unimpeachable valor and devotion to duty in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USAV, General Order Number 2001; 1 April 1966)

07 February 1970

SGT Kenneth L. Lasseter (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam of 7 February 1970. Sergeant Lasseter distinguished himself while serving as a team leader in the 2d Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, while conducting an ambush northwest of the city of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Shortly before midnight, Sergeant detected movement to the front of his position and moved to an area of limited cover to observe the situation. Discovering an enemy force rapidly advancing and about to overrun his position, he acted immediately. Engaging the enemy force with small arms fire and shouting instructions to his men, he drew the enemy's attention to his location. He remained at his open site and fired hand illumination to reveal the enemy force. Being unable to gain fire superiority, the enemy force broke contact. As it fled,



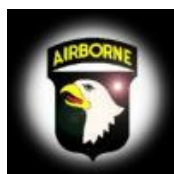
Sergeant Lasseter was stuck down fatally wounded. His gallantry and sacrifice undoubtedly saved the lives of all his men, accounted for the killing of three enemy soldiers and the capture of three enemy weapons, and contributed immeasurably to the accomplishment of his appointed mission. Sergeant Lasseter's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

***STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

A major reorganization took place on 3 February 1964, when the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division was activated at Fort Campbell, replacing the 1st Airborne Battle Group, 501st Infantry Regiment. The reorganization from the battle groups to brigades and battalions placed two battalions of the 502nd in different brigades of the 101st. The 2nd Battalion was in the 1st Brigade with 1-327th and 2-327th Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam 1965, in was most notable commanded by LTC Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson. The new 2nd Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1st and 2d Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry.

December 1967, 2nd Brigade deployed by C-141 aircraft to the Republic of Vietnam. Over the next five years, soldiers of the "Ready to Go" Brigade participated in twelve campaigns, compiling a distinguished combat record as well as an enviable reputation for success in the rehabilitation of a war-torn nation. The President of Vietnam personally decorated the colors of the Brigade three times, twice with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and once with the RVN Civic Action Honor Medal. The Brigade redeployed to Fort Campbell in April, 1972.

In 1984, with the reorganization of the Combat Arms Regimental System, the 2nd Brigade became the parent headquarters for the 1st, 2nd, and 3d Battalions of the 502nd Infantry Regiment. With this reorganization, the Brigade adopted the regimental motto, "Strike."



ACRONYMS

AO: Area of Operations
ARA: Aerial Rocket Artillery
ARCOM: Army Commendation Medal
ARVN: Army of the Republic of Viet Nam (also known as the South Vietnamese Army (SVA))
BDE: Brigade
BN: Battalion
BSM: Bronze Star Medal
BBT: Booby Traps
CA: Combat Assault
CANOPY: Heavily Wooded Terrain
CO: Company
CP: Command Post
DSC: Distinguished Service Cross
DZ: Drop Zone
FSB: Fire Support Base
HQ: Headquarters
IED: Improvised Explosive Device
IN: Infantry
KBA: Killed by Air or Artillery
KHA: Killed by Hostile Action
KIA: Killed in Action
KNHA: Killed by Non-hostile Action
LZ: Helicopter Landing Zone
MI: Military Intelligence
MOH: Medal of Honor
MP: Military Police
NDP: Night Defensive Position
NVA: North Vietnamese Army
OBJ: Objective
OP: Observation Post
PAVN: People Army of Vietnam
POW: Prisoner of War
PT: Popular Forces
PZ: Helicopter Pick-up Zone
Recon Platoon: Reconnaissance Platoon
RIF: Reconnaissance in Force
ROK: Republic of Korea
SA: Situational Awareness
SIGINT: Signal Intelligence
SSM: Silver Star Medal
STRIKE Force: 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry
SVA: South Vietnamese Army
TOC: Tactical Operations Center
WIA: Wounded in Action
WHA: Wounded by Hostile Action
WNHA: Wounded by Non-hostile Action
"V": Valor
VC: Viet Cong

