



STRIKE

Weekly History



Est. 1941

April 5th – April 11th

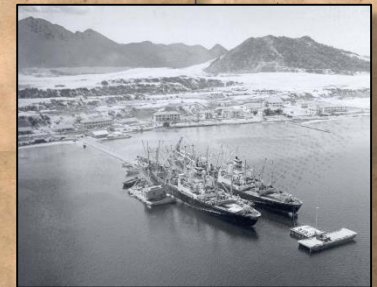
Issue: 2

Brief History of the 502nd and 2nd Brigade

The 502nd, or “five-oh-deuce”, was activated July 1, 1941 at Fort Benning, Georgia as the 502nd parachute infantry battalion, as an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assaults. The 502nd entered combat in World War II on June 6, 1944, by jumping into Normandy, with allied forces landing on D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. Between 1945 and 1964. A major reorganization took place on 3 February 1964, when the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne 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, 502nd Infantry was in the 1st Brigade with 1-327th and 2-327th Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam and arrived at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam on 29 July 1965, they were commanded by the most notable commander LTC Hank “The Gunfighter” Emerson.



The new 2nd Brigade’s original organic battalions were the 1st and 2^d Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry. December 1967 the 501st, 502nd and 2nd Brigade deployed by C-141 aircraft and arrived at Bien Hoa Airbase on 13 December 1967. Over the next five years, Soldiers of the “Ready to Go” Brigade participated in twelve campaigns, compiling of a distinguished combat record as well as an enviable reputation for success in the rehabilitation of a war-torn nation. The Brigade redeployed to Fort Campbell in April 1972.



In September 1980, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry regiment deployed to Sinai as a peacekeeping for Operation BRIGHT STAR. The unit was first U.S. forces in the region since World War II.



In 1982, Task Force 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry deployed to Panama in support of Operation KINDLE LIBERTY to demonstrate U.S. ability and resolve to defend the Panama Canal in the light of spreading pro-Soviet/Cuban influence in Nicaragua and Central America.

1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry deployed to Egypt again in September 1982 to enforce Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel by serving on the Sinai Peninsula as part of the Multinational Force and Observers.



May 1984 through a complex “reflagging” process the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 502nd were placed under the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT). With this reorganization the Brigade adopted the regimental motto, “STRIKE!”

On 5 June 1984, 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry deployed to Sinai, Egypt as part of Multinational Force and Observers from July to December 1985. On December 12, 1985 at 0645 the DC-8-63 charter carrying 248 passengers and a crew of 8 crashed just after takeoff from Gander International Airport, Gander, Newfoundland, Canada. All on board perished as a result of the impact of the post-crash fire.



In the late summer of 1990, the “STRIKE” Brigade moved to Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Desert Shield to deter a possible Iraqi invasion. On February 25, 1991 the “STRIKE” Brigade participated in the largest helicopter air assault in military history to establish FOB Cobra.

During Operation Desert Storm, the 2nd Brigade and 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) cut the enemy’s lines of communications, struck deep into his country, threatened a lethal strike against his capital and shut off his escape. The Brigade redeployed to Fort Campbell in March of 1991.



Between 1993 and 2001 the Brigade participated in multiple peacekeeping mission to include: Operation Safe Passage (Panama), Jungle Operations Training Center (Panama), Bosnia-Herzegovina (QRF) Stabilization Force 6 (SFOR6), Kosovo and Republic of Macedonia as part of NATO’s Kosovo Force.



The STRIKE Brigade deployed to Iraq in support of OIFI (2003), OIF 05-07 (2006) and OIF 07-09 (2007). The Brigade received multiple awards and decoration during these operations. During this period in 2004 the "STRIKE" Brigade went through another transformation. With the inactivation of 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry and reflagged as 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment and also transformed from an Infantry Brigade to a modular Brigade Combat Team with adding 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion and 526th Brigade Support Battalion.



The STRIKE Brigade deployed to Afghanistan in support of OEF X-IX (2009), Security Force Advisor Team (SFAT) (2010), Security Force Advisory Team (2012), OEF XV.



STRIKE Brigade also transformed once again in 2014 with the loss of 1-320th FA which joined 2-320th FA and 3-320th FA to make the up the Division Artillery (DIVARTY) and 1-26th IN joined STRIKE Brigade.



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 are from After Action Reports, Staff Duty Logs, and Personal Accounts.

05 April 1968

2nd Brigade Artillery fires 1400 rounds in support of operations around Hai Lang.

05 April 1968

A platoon of NA were spotted in an open field north of Hue by an FO of the 1-501 IN BN and blasted by the guns of the 1-321 ARTY BN. Twenty-two enemy Soldiers were killed. Airborne infantrymen from C/1-501 engaged the enemy on two successful ambush attempts and fought a two-hour battle north of Hue resulting in 21 enemy killed for the day's action.

05 April 1968

A/1-502 IN provided mine sweep on QL#1 from An Lo to Camp Evans (Pictured). 1 platoon moved by truck to vic. YD6030 to act as a blocking force in support of Bravo Company conducting RIF from vic. YD5829 to vic. YD6127. They engaged only 1 sniper but had 1 US KIA and 3 WIA from BBT. They found BBT's, a sub machine gun, 3 B40 rockets and several other small arms.



05 April 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: For the first week of operations contact was light. On this day the Reconnaissance Platoon engaged one enemy. Once again the Battalion moved its headquarters, this time to FSB Falcon, a new firebase cut out of the triple canopy vegetation by Bravo Company and one platoon from A/326 ENG located at (YC587988), FSB Falcon served as a new forward base of operation from which the STRIKE Force could make further strikes into enemy areas of activity. FSB Falcon was occupied for only four days. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)

05 April 2003

526 FSB moves with the 2nd Brigade 90 miles north of An Najaf to execute Operation Free Karbala, a ground and air assault designed to clear remnants of the Special Republican Guard's Medina Division from the city of Karbala. 526 FSB supported the operations with two separate FLEs – a heavy ground FLE established a forward logistics base five kilometers south of Karbala and a medical-heavy FLE positioned on Landing Zone Robin in Karbala provided combat health support during the operations.

05-07 April 2003

Battle for Karbala. The attack on Karbala would be a combined arms fight, for which the 502nd was supplemented with 2-70 AR, 3-101 Attack Aviation and 2-17 CAV, in addition to artillery support from 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of the 320th FA, C/1-377 FA and a Battery of MLRS from C/2-37 FA. Artillery assets totaled 36 guns, 2 launchers, and 3 radars. In total, 10 Battalions would be under the control of the 502nd. The plan involved a Ground Assault Convoy (GAC) up Highway 9, and an air assault utilizing all three of the Division's assault aviation Battalions moving 731 Soldiers by 23 UH-60s and 5 CH-47s from a series of LZs around Al Kifl, into three LZs to the south, west and north of Karbala. The Main Effort was vested with 3-502 IN which would land first at LZ Sparrow and move into the northwest of the city. 2-502 IN, second in the Air Movement Plan, would land at LZ Robin to the south of its sister Battalion and move into the center of the city, while 1-502 IN would complete the air assault into LZ Finch and proceed to clear the enemy in the south parallel to Highway 9. H Hour was set for 05 1100L April 2003.



With the lead serial landing at LZ Sparrow, the 502nd initiated its attack against an enemy stronghold estimated to be 400-500 strong. Then, in extreme desert conditions, 28 M1 Abrams tanks and 16 M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles entered from the east and northeast along Route Venezuela. The resistance they encountered was heavy. The infantry Battalions soon found themselves engaged in heavy street clearance against an unstructured enemy, armed with a large collection of weapons. 3-502 IN (ME), under the command of LTC Chris Holden, bore the brunt of it. Its Companies had encountered an unexpectedly long approach march towards the city. When they entered the city, they became involved in a series of battles that required each Soldier in the ranks to be leaders at every turn. Further south, 2-502 IN moved in similarly methodical fashion, street-by-street, building-by-building. Stockpiles of arms were found in schools and homes. 1-502 IN, pressing in from the southeast of the city, denied the enemy access to multiple caches. 2-17 CAV provided brave and unquestioning support in destroying targets hindering the infantry's advance by either independent action or by marking targets for artillery and Close Air Support (CAS) to engage. Through sound tactical execution and bold leadership, the 502nd fought its way into the city with undaunted courage, closing with and inflicting heavy casualties upon the fanatical Fedayeen Saddam with a fierce and indomitable fighting spirit. Overhead, Kiowa Warrior pilots from 2-17 CAV displayed phenomenal courage and utter disregard for their own safety while observing and adjusting indirect fires, and placing their own fire on key enemy strong points, facilitating the advance of the task force within the city. Fierce fighting continued throughout the day, along with the treatment and evacuation of friendly casualties. By nightfall, 2BCT had cleared and secured nearly half of their sectors. It had secured a frightening amount of weaponry, including 2 ZPUs, 5 S60s, 14 mortar systems and 36 RPG launchers. It found a possible terrorist training camp, replete with bunkers, obstacle courses and planning tables. 1-320 FA Batteries fired more than 100 smoke canisters to screen infantrymen moving onto the streets. Through the next day 2nd BCT infantry units cleared the remainder of their sectors, at times still encountering resistance. Each and every school system was found to contain some sort of weapons cache, Saddam Hussein propaganda, and evidence of foreign insurgent assistance. Baath Party Headquarters were stocked with "Oil for Food" rice and flour bags, as well as audio/video and Pro-Hussein political paraphernalia. Karbala was considered cleared of any subversive elements and deemed secure by 06 1700 April 2003. At approximately 06 1730 April 2003, the 20 foot steel molded statue of Saddam Hussein was symbolically torn from its pedestal by elements of the 2-70 Armor Battalion and the Iraqi people. Though the Brigade departed Karbala on 07 1600 APR 09, 1-502 IN remained in the city until 10 April to conduct a RIP with the 2nd Brigade from the 82nd Airborne Division. After the continuous high intensity urban combat, the 502nd had accounted for over 200 confirmed Fedayeen Saddam and paramilitary forces killed in action, 80 enemy prisoners of war, the destruction of 22 technical vehicles, untold numbers of mortar tubes, and many tons of weapons and equipment left by fleeing enemy forces in numerous caches. These actions resulted in the death of one Soldier, SPC Larry Brown of C/1-41 IN, who was hit by shrapnel from an RPG, 14 WIA, and the destruction of one M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle and one HMMWV. The actions of the 2nd BCT eliminated Iraqi attacks on V Corps Lines of Communication (LOC) and allowed the attack toward Baghdad to continue unhindered. Karbala was a defining moment in the Regiment's history. It had defeated a pugnacious enemy over 2 protracted days through a combined arms assault using aviation, air assets and massed artillery fires. It involved synchronized attacks with armor and mechanized infantry. It was characterized by bravery, sweat and a determination to free an oppressed city. 2BCT departed from Karbala a different unit than when it had landed on 5 April. It was now ready for anything.



06 April 1968

1-502 IN had a day of light contact throughout the battalion. Delta Company engaged 10 VC vic. YD4840 resulting in 3 VC KIA.



06 April 1968

Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry was in a major clash with a sizable NVA unit 35km northwest of Hue in Quang Tri Province.

06 - 08
April 1968

Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN: At 0705, A/2-502 Vic YD633074 began a two day long contact with a major size NVA force. Initially, 2 NVA were engaged while reconning the well-used trail found the previous evening. At 1337H, vic627077 lead Platoon moving W-SW down a finger came behind an enemy ambush of approximately 20-30 NVA in 2 locations. Engaged enemy with SA while enemy returned fire with AW, SA grenades, and HMG. At 1540H, in same area a Medevac chopper was shot down by enemy rockets while conducting a hoist dust-off for A Co. On the following day at 0655H vic. YD629076 A Co. received SA fire while conducting a movement to expand the perimeter. Throughout this day A Co. continued to receive sniper and AW fire, RPG, and 82mm mortar fire. B Co. departed TAC-CP at 1725H and moved to reinforce A Co. B Co. during this day it had 7 separate contacts on the trails leading into A Co. perimeter. B Co. closed with A Co. late that afternoon and formed a joint perimeter for the night. On 08 April, the two companies expanded the perimeter and completed the Medevac then moved back to the TAC-CP. Results: 2 US KHA, 30 US WHA, 21 NVA KIA and captured 3 AK-47, 2 SKS.

07 April 1967

The 2-502 was re-deployed near Den Dien as a result of LRRP's contacts in the area. No large enemy forces were found, though several sharp contacts took place with local VC forces. As a result of the battalion's wide ranging operations in the area it is felt that these local forces were scattered and badly disrupted. Initially A Company and then C Company left the AO to perform road security on Route 21.



07 April 1968

D/1-502 IN continued searching area vic. YD4864 resulting in 5 VC KIA. The other units conducted search and clear operations and ambushes with negative contact.

07 April 2011

2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment conducts Transfer of Authority (TOA) with 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division at FOB Howz-e-Madad.

08 April 1968

A/1-502 IN found an arms cache while conducting RIF vic. YD5325. They found 3 M1 rifles, 1 SMG, 160 rounds S/A. Company "B" received automatic weapons fire vic. YD6025, suffering 2 WIA. They returned fire with unknown results. Company "C" (-) remained at Camp Evans preparing for future operations and conducting training. (1-502 Unit Annual Historical Supplement)

08 April 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: 2-502 Battalion minus went OPCON to the 2BDE, and A Company went OPCON to the 3BDE occupying FSB Jack. While operating under control of 2BDE, the Battalion conducted screening operations throughout the area south of FSB Arsenal (ZD118014). Contact in the area was light. Upon insertion into the area, D Company encountered booby traps on an LZ at YC165942, wounding one Soldier. The booby traps were old, and there was no evidence of any recent enemy activity. Recon was the first STRIKE Force unit to make enemy contact in the new area. Five enemy were engaged by a reconnaissance sniper team, resulting in one enemy killed. ARA was employed as a follow-up. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)

09 April 1968

A/1-502 IN received their log vic. YD5425. Shortly thereafter they moved approximately 200 meters NE. Early the next morning 50 VC attacked deserted log sight using long cane poles to flip satchel charges. Company "A" made contact with the enemy suffering 2 KIA and 1 WIA. Enemy losses were 2 VC KIA. Company B found 9 122mm rockets (complete). (1-502 Unit Annual Historical Supplement)

09 April 1968

An apparent rocket attack of the 1st Air Cav. Division headquarters at Camp Evans was prevented by MAJ Brad Telshaw, Clovis, New Mexico., an alert FAC pilot attached to the 2nd Brigade. He directed two air strikes on the target which resulted in many secondary explosions. A Platoon from C/1-502 IN was helo



lifted into the area. They found nine 122mm rockets elevated on bamboo logs and pointing in the direction of Camp Evans. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Screaming Eagle Diary; July 1968)

09 April 1970

At first light, B/1/1/2-501 IN was on an ambush assignment a short distance from the rest of 1st Platoon and the Bravo Company CP in an area approximately 25 miles west of Hue known as "Re-Up Hill", coordinates YD362165, when they were surprised and overrun by a squad of NVA Soldiers throwing Chi-Com hand grenades and firing AK-47 assault rifles. The attack resulted in one member of the squad immediately killed in action, and the remaining five members of the squad wounded in action. (PFC Thomas L. Gates of Cincinnati, Ohio, died from his wounds sixteen years later - on 25 November 1986 confirmed by the Virtual Wall.)

09 April 1970

XXIV Corps (Thua Thien Province)-At 0700 an element of the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Divisions (Airmobile), engaged an estimated enemy squad while operating in an area 24 miles WSW of Hue (73 miles WNW of Da Nang). The enemy returned fire with small arms and automatic weapons fire. The troopers were supported by helicopter gunships and contact was lost at an unreported time when the remaining enemy withdrew. Two enemy Soldiers were killed in the action. U.S. casualties were three killed and five wounded.

09 April 1970

XXIV Corps (Thua Thien Province) – At 1625 an element of the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) engaged an estimated enemy platoon while operating 25 miles WSW of Hue (66 miles NW of Da Nang). Small arms and automatic weapons fire was exchanged and contact was lost at about 1745 when the enemy withdrew. Enemy losses are unknown. U.S. casualties were 11 wounded with no fatalities.

09 April 2010

1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, receives orders to deploy to Afghanistan in May 2010 to Kandahar in Regional-Command South.

10 April 1968

PHUOC DIEN: Alpha & Delta Companies 2/501st were sent to verify the reported presence of two enemy companies entrenched in strong defensive position in the village of Phuoc Dien. In short time, both companies were pinned down and in heavy contact. It soon became obvious they would be unable to take the village without suffering heavy casualties and they would need additional reinforcements.

General Barsanti, the Division Commander, ordered the companies to "stay with the enemy" and agreed to send them whatever they needed – which in this case was extra helicopters to bring in reinforcements. LTC Tallman, the Battalion Commander, moved Bravo Company into the fray, and by nightfall had succeeded in completely surrounding the village. American positions were established no more than ten meters apart. LTC Tallman ordered 100% alert during the night as well as continuous illumination by flare ships and artillery.

Between 2000 hours that night and 0730 hours the next morning, the trapped NVA made at least 12 separate attempts to break out of the village. The next morning, 36 NVA Soldiers were found dead within hand-grenade distance of the American positions. Two dazed NVA were captured and taken prisoner. At 0800, companies Bravo and Delta assaulted the village in a coordinated attack that met only moderate resistance. When the smoke and dust had cleared, the 2/501st had killed 70 NVA and captured 13.

10 April 1968

A/1-502 IN NDP vic. YD5325 received satchel charges, RPG rounds, and S/A fire. Negative casualties) they returned fire with unknown results. Company D conducted security of Phong Dien Bridge and local ambushes. One of these ambushes vic. YD4937, engaged 4 VC with negative results. Recon killed 3 VC vic. YD 5231. (1-502 Unit Annual Historical Supplement)

Operation CARENTAN II: Companies A, B, and D/2/501st Airborne, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division encounter an estimated two battalions of the 812th NVA Regiment near the village of Thon Phuoc Dien 12 miles southeast of Quang Tri. Casualties: U.S. 7 KIA and 35 WIA; enemy 66 KIA. (Weider History Group; Vietnam War: The Battle for Vietnam; 40 years today-A Vietnam War Timeline)

10-11 April 1968

2-501 cordons Thon Phuoc Dien, resulting in 70 NVA KIA and 13 PWs and 100 lbs of rice captured.

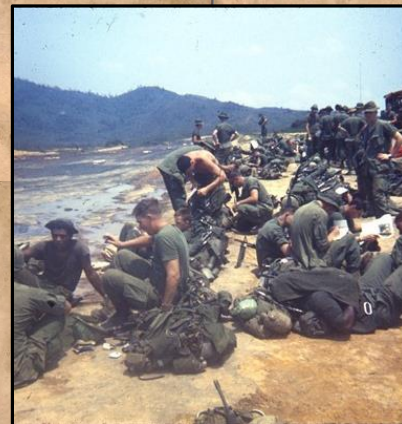


10 April 1968

Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN: At 1015H, C/2-502 vic. YD639098 with the 3-5 Cavalry Platoon on a convoy security mission on Hwy 547, received AW and RPG from an unknown size enemy force in the tree line on the north side. Engaged the enemy with SA, AW, Arty, Mortars, fire power from the Cavalry Platoon and Light Fire Teams. Units continued to receive enemy SA and RPG fire and several rounds of mortars of an unknown size. C Co. with Cav. Plt assaulted and took the tree line and later the enemy tried a counter attack but was beaten back. Results: 3 US WHA, 9 NVA KIA and captured: 1 RPG, 1 RPD, 3 AK-47, 2 SKS.

10 April 1969

Members of the C/2-501 IN waiting on a chopper pad by Fire Support Base Birmingham before going into A Chau Valley. (Pictured provided by Bob Staal)



10 April - July 2008

Operation STRIKE SILVER JETS: Elements of 1-320 FAR clear over 40km of road with EOD in support of 1-502IN, 1-64AR, and 1-75CAV, destroying enemy fighting positions and clearing the way for 2BCT and ISF to engage Special Groups Criminals. As a direct result of the battalion's actions, ISF were able to construct and maintain six new checkpoints across Shulla and Ghazaliyah, greatly contributing to the security of the AO.

11 April 1968

Two days of fighting by A, B, and D Company's, 2nd BN, 501st IN, was conducted as another village full of NVA was cordoned 10 miles northeast of Hue along the "Street without Joy". A sweep of Phong Dien village following a night of constant bombardment resulted in 66 enemy dead and 26 weapons captured. Meanwhile paratroopers of A and C Company's 1st BN 501st IN and A, B, and C Companies of 82nd 1st BN 505th IN ended a week-long search and destroy mission along the Song Bo, three miles northwest of Hue. Army aviation, artillery, tactical air and the airborne troopers combined to kill 200 enemy and capture 44 weapons. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Screaming Eagle Diary; July 1968)

11 April 1968

Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN: At 1045H, B/2-502 vic. YD614080 spotted 2 NVA in green uniforms moving along Hwy 547. They engaged the enemy with SA, AW, and M-79 but with negative results. AT 1155H, B Co. heard digging while B Co. (-) was moving up to contact area they came under mortar fire at 1230H from YD597078. Counter mortar fire was placed on this grid by artillery and mortars. Also an immediate airstrike was called, with two flights put in at this location. At 1340H, the platoon from A/2-5 Cav was dispatched to aid B Co. Contact continued unit 1610H with the enemy in the tree line firing SA, AW, and RPG's. At 1530H, B Co. found 2 fresh grave vic. YD605080, with NVA killed by artillery. Results: 16 US WHA, 3 NVA KEA

11 April 2003

Strike Brigade, on orders from 101st Airborne Division, repositions by air assault and ground movement from Karbala and west of Al Hillah to Southern Baghdad. By noon, the Brigade had searched and secured dozens of separate military facilities, most of which were artillery and air defense artillery. Multiple munitions caches and weapons (ZSU-23-4, D-30s, T62 tanks, ROLAN ADA systems, and military trucks) were located and destroyed. By late afternoon, the Brigade attacked north deeper into Baghdad ahead of schedule encountering sporadic enemy direct fire, capturing 10 EPWs and destroying 17 truckloads of artillery, mortars, RPG rockets, and other stockpiles of ammunition. The Battalion continued to operate in Baghdad for 2 weeks, conducting multiple cordon and search operations within this densely populated area. Over seven areas contaminated by unexploded ordinance were cleared using friendly demolitions. In addition, the Soldiers conducted both mounted and dismounted patrols that maintained law and civil order in the area. 526 FSB FLE moves forward with the Brigade TOC elements to set up operations at a food processing plant at the southern edge of Baghdad. Over the next two weeks, the main body of the FSB



moved operations to the military airfield in Al Iskandariyah while the FLE provided full-spectrum logistics support to the Brigade forces operating in Baghdad.



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 or those assigned to the Brigade during operations.

13 x Silver Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
14 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
6 x Bronze Star Medal (3 x Posthumously)
15 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
88 x Purple Heart Medal (58 x Posthumously)
2 x Died of Non-Hostile wounds or injury

05 April 1968



SGT Gary A. Rhodes (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

05 April 2003



SPC Larry K. Brown (C/1-41 IN), 22, of Jackson, Mississippi; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while in action in Iraq during the Battle for Karbala.

05 April 2006

SPC Kevin Menzer (D/2-502 IN) actions in combat earn him the Purple Heart. During a combat mounted patrol, SPC Menzer's M1114 was struck by an IED. He suffered a perforated ear drum from the blast.

06 April 1968

SP4 Paul F. Newman Jr. (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. Died from wounds on 05 March 1986.

06 April 1968

The following Soldiers: SP4 Frederick E. Love (Pictured), PFC Daniel A. Rocha, PFC James R. Sanford Jr. (Pictured), PFC Lee A. Watson (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 North of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province.



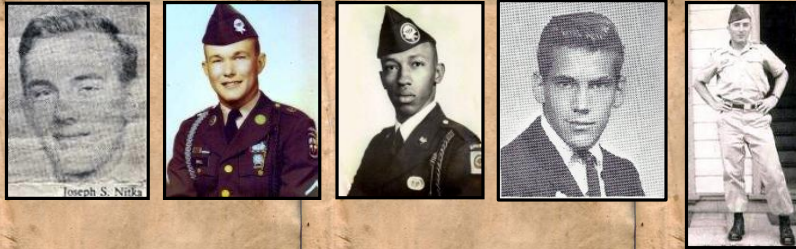
06 April 1968



SGT Benito B. Rodriguez (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds North of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province.

06 April 1968

The following Soldiers: SFC Jose Brenes-Escobar, SSG Joseph S. Nitka (Pictured), SSG Donald L. Wall (Pictured), SGT Lee A. Bowden (Pictured), SP4 Robert E. Cook (Pictured), PFC Paul P. Davis, PFC Alfred D. Smith Jr. (Pictured) (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds when their unit came under hostile mortar and small arms fire, 35KM NW of HUE, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



06 April 1968

PFC Richard M. Bargar (A/2-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds while on a operation when the unit came under hostile mortar attack and small arms fire.

06 April 1968



The following Soldiers: SGT Ivan R. Febo-Betancourt and PFC Daniel R. Twitty (Pictured) (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds when their unit came under hostile mortar and small arms fire, 35KM NW of HUE, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

06 April 1968

PFC James E. Silfee (A/2-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his deaths from small arms gun fire wounds when his unit came under hostile mortar and small arms fire, 35KM NW of HUE, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

06 April 1968



ISG Alan R. Haugen (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation when hit by fragments from a hostile anti-tank round in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

06 April 1968

SGT Mark O. Charette (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from explosive device wounds when hit by the blast from a hostile booby trap in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.



06 April 1969



SP5 Robert P. Lyons (Pappa DOC) (HHC/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty from a Non-crew helicopter crash over land in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

06 April 1970

The following Soldiers: CPT Alvin Hennigan (B/1-502 IN); SP4 Garry L. Kufahl, SP4 Lewis E. Jones, SGT Randy S. Larson, SP4 Lloyd G. Penrose, SGT Charles Reed, SSG Michael W. Riddle, SP4 Johnnie A. Taylor (C/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.

06 April 1970

The following Soldiers: SGT Michael J. Bauschett (1-OLC), 2LT Robert A. Clark (1-OLC), SP4 Melvin C. Goerge (1-OLC), SP4 August A. Janke III, PFC Stephen F. Jeannotte, PFC Joseph W. King, PFC Neal H. Lawhorn, PFC Carrol W. Luker, SP4 Emmitt L. McGee Jr., PVT Warrn Mills, SGT Charles P. Reed Jr., 2LT Dennis L. Stuart (C/1-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam.

06 April 2006

2LT Mark Ivey (A/1-502 IN) actions in combat earned him the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and the Purple Heart. While conducting a mounted patrol in southwest Baghdad, 2LT Ivey's M1151P vehicle struck a catastrophic pressure plate IED. Despite minor injuries to his forehead and right arm and the high risk of secondary IEDs, indirect fire, and small arms fire, he pulled himself from the crash. 2LT Ivey then began to pull his men from the wreck and assisted in lifting the remains of the once six ton vehicle in order to save the life of PFC Standiford who was pinned underneath.

06 April 2006

PFC Alexander R. Foust (A/1-502 IN) actions in combat earned him the Army Commendation with Valor. While conducting a combat patrol in southwest Baghdad, one of the platoon's M1151P vehicles struck a catastrophic pressure plate IED. PFC Foust showed no regard for his personal safety by running towards the crash site despite the high risk of secondary IEDs, indirect fire, and small arms fire. With the aid of his squad members, PFC Foust helped lift the once six ton vehicle in order to save the life of PFC Standiford who was pinned underneath.

06 April 2006

PFC Andrew Standiford (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting a mounted patrol when his vehicle struck a pressure plated IED. He received wounds to his right leg.

06 April 2006

SSG Raymond Lee (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received as a result of enemy or hostile action.

06 April 2006

SSG Walter Wolfe (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when an IED detonated 2 meters away from SSG Wolfe while conducting an IED patrol. He suffered a ruptured ear drum during the attack.

06 April 2006

PFC Joseph Parks (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting a mounted IED patrol, a pressure plated IED detonated under an up-armored M1151P. PFC Parks received wounds to his right elbow and right leg.

06 April 2008



PFC Shane Penley (2-502 IN), 19, of Sauk Village, Illinois; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received while at Patrol Base Copper, Iraq, from wounds sustained while on duty at a guard post.



07 April 1968

SP4 Graham L. Mills (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

07 April 1969



CPL Thomas J. Vassal (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds when area came under rocket attack by hostile force at NDP site 1KM W-SW of FSB Tennessee, 10 KM North of A Sap Village, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 April 1969

SP4 Dennis L. Roads (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien, Republic of Vietnam.

08 April 1969



The following Soldiers: SP4 Tony Palacios (Pictured) and PFC Townser Steele Jr. (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gunfire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 April 1969



PFC Jimmy R. Westmoreland (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien, Republic of Vietnam.

08 April 1968

CPT Nathan N. Miller (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he received shrapnel from an enemy rocket in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 April 1970

SP4 Daniel F. Whybrew (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (General Order Number 4492, 22 April 1970)

08 April 2006

SPC Derek Knight (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from enemy or hostile action.

09 April 1967



The following Soldiers: SGT George Tallman (Pictured), PFC John W. Charlton (HHC/2-502 IN) and PFC Allen W. Porter (B/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service. These Soldiers also died from wounds sustained when hit by fragments from a friendly grenade which accidentally detonated while drawing supplies for a mission in the Khanh Duong Province, South Vietnam.

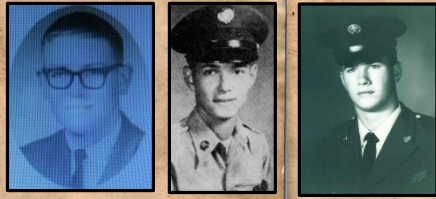
09 April 1968

The following Soldiers: PFC Floyd D. Turnley (A/2-501 IN); PFC John D. Olson (B/1-501 IN); SGT William M. Halliburton SP4 Cecil Nix Jr., SP4 William C. McKinstry, SP4 Stephen L. Havas (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in action. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 6852)



09 April 1968

The following Soldiers: SGT Roland E. Moore (Pictured), SGT Ricky G. Inlow (Pictured) (A/1-501 IN); PFC Douglas G. Thompson (C/1-501 IN); PFC Patrick C. Coughlin (Pictured) (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



09 April 1968



SGT Joseph R. Paulette (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam.

09 April 1968



PFC David F. Wagner (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien, Republic of Vietnam.

09 April 1969

The following Soldiers 1LT Bruce T. King and SP4 Delmar C. Dennis (E/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

09 April 1970

SP4 Lenard D. Blachly (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in combat in the Republic of Vietnam. (Purple Heart Citation)

09 April 1970

PFC Thomas L. Gates (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from small arms gunfire wounds in the A Shau Valley, 24 Miles W-SW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (PFC Gates later died from wounds on 25 November 1986)

09 April 1970



The following Soldiers: SSG James D. Mace, CPL Herman A. Clay Jr., CPL Leroy Nelson, CPL Charles G. Selman (Pictured) (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds from in the A Shau Valley, 24 Miles W-SW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

09 April 1970



SFC John B. Mullis (E/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes (Illness or Disease) as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

09 April 2006

PFC Calvin Williams (B/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in the result of enemy or hostile action.



10 April 1968

The following Soldiers: CPL Wayne A. Slankard, PFC James A. Palenik Jr. (Pictured) and SP4 Clyde C. Collins (Pictured) (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small armed gunfire wounds during a firefight with elements of the 812th NVA REG vic. Thon Phuoc Dien, Thua Thien, Republic of Vietnam.



10 April 1968



The following Soldiers: CPL Jonathan Neal and SP4 Alan R. Gault (Pictured) (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gunfire wounds in the Thua Thien, Republic of Vietnam.

10 April 1968



PFC Ronald Davis (A/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small armed gunfire wounds during a firefight with elements of the 812th NVA REG vic. Thon Phuoc Dien, Thua Thien, Republic of Vietnam.

10 April 1968

The following Soldiers: SGT Douglas B. Keefauver (A/2-501 IN) (1-OLC); PFC Clayton Caldwell (B/2-501 IN); PFC Michael E. Saltis (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in action during combat operations. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 3971)

10 April 1968



PFC Lawrence W. Eller (D/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from burns during a firefight with elements of the 812th NVA REG vic. Thon Phuoc Dien, Thua Thien, Republic of Vietnam.

10 April 1968



PFC Bryan T. Mukai (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds during a firefight with elements of the 812th NVA REG vic. Thon Phuoc Dien, Thua Thien, Republic of Vietnam.

10 April 1969

The following Soldiers: CPL Oliver E. Reynolds Jr., SP4 William F. Baggs Jr., SP4 Thomas G. Manderfeld (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

10 April 1969

SGT Joseph F. Spinnicchia (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



10 April 1970



SSG Donald W. Sistrunk (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds from an NVA Sniper as he approached a helicopter landing zone in the Re-Up Hill Area, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

10 April 1971

SP4 Ralph W. Jones (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds receive which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

10 April 2011

SGT Jamie Jarboe (A/4-4 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire.

11 April 1967

SP4 Kenneth E. James (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire in the Darlac Province, South Vietnam.

11 April 1968

The following Soldiers: PFC John A. Hoggatt (A/2-501 IN); CPL Dellwyn A. Fitch (Pictured) and, PFC William L. Kinnard (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Phuoc Dien 10km NE of Hue, Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



11 April 1970

The following Soldiers: SGT Terry L. Heaton, SGT Jeffrey J. Joseph, SP4 Larry L. Parkhurst, SP4 Jorge L. Perez-Rios, SP4 Alred, D. Rhodus, SP4 Gary E. Cousins, and PFC Robert D. Wigglesworth (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (Headquarters 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile); General Order Number 4492; 22 April 1970)

11 April 1971

PFC Kenneth E. Mims (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds while on a combat operation when a booby trap detonated 8 KM E-SE of Phu Loc, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

11 April 2008

SPC Nathaniel G. Zimdars (B/1-64 AR) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor while assigned as a gunner during OIF; he demonstrated tremendous leadership and personal courage.



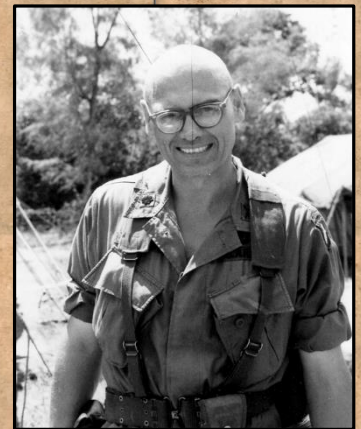
STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

05 April 2003

1LT Stephen A. Thorpe (C/1-41 IN) earned the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself as a Platoon Leader, while attached to the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Widow Maker Battalion. First Lieutenant Thorpe's Platoon led the company attack to destroy enemy forces in zone in the vicinity of Karabala. Upon entering Objective INDIA, his crew was in direct contact with intense small arms and RPG-7s from all sides for more than nine hours. As a result of his aggressiveness his crew engaged and destroyed four enemy RPG pits, one gun truck, one anti-aircraft gun, and 25 enemy soldiers around Objective INDIA. These actions allowed Bravo Company 2-502d to gain a foothold. As First Lieutenant Thorpe's crew and section pushed forward to the next Objective his Bradley Fighting Vehicle was hit by two rocket propelled grenades which penetrated through the left side of the vehicle turret. As a result, First Lieutenant Thorpe was wounded in both legs by several fragments of shrapnel. The vehicle then ignited into flames, which caused the entire crew to evacuate from their vehicle. Although being injured and bleeding from both legs, First Lieutenant Thorpe took charge of the situation on the ground and led from the front, alongside of the other eight injured soldiers in the platoon. Without regard for his own life and injuries, he relentlessly maneuvered his soldiers while still under hostile enemy fire for about 800 meters until they reached the last friendly Infantry Strong Point, sustaining no further injuries to his men. After being treated for shrapnel wounds, First Lieutenant Thorpe jumped track with his gunner and a volunteer driver and immediately rejoined the fight with his platoon. While still in an extreme amount of pain, First Lieutenant Thorpe again braved the gauntlet of fires to get back to his platoon to continue the fight.

06-07 April 1968

LTC Howard H. Danford (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (1-1OLC); Lieutenant Colonel Danford distinguished himself by gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 6 and 7 April 1968, while serving as Battalion commander for the 2nd Battalion (Airborne) 502nd Infantry. During a search and destroy mission Company A became heavily engaged with an estimated two companies of North Vietnamese Army Soldiers lodged in well-concealed bunkers with interlocking fields of fire. Three casualties were taken in Company A in the initial contact. The company commander recoiled from the contact in order to set up a perimeter to get out his wounded and to prep the area with artillery prior to continuing the attack. The perimeter quickly became under intense sniper fire from the surrounding trees. This fire included automatic weapons and occasional RPG rockets. Casualties continued to mount up until approximately ten men were wounded. A Medevac helicopter, on its final approach to the area, received automatic weapons fire and was shot down just outside the perimeter. A recovery force reached it and brought back the three wounded crew members. Company A now had thirteen wounded to care for. The company commander called Lieutenant Colonel Danford to inform him of the situation. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, he alerted Company B to be prepared to move to assist A Company. Word came in to the TAC-CP that A Company was continuing to take casualties and Lieutenant Colonel Danford then ordered Company B to move to A Company's assistance. He personally took charge of the relief force and moved with them on the ground. His presence had an electrifying effect on the troopers on B Company. They increased their alertness and aggressiveness because they realized, because of his presence, how important their mission was. They moved out late in the afternoon, and traveled well into the night. At approximately 1200 hours the following day, contact was made with an estimated squad of NVA Soldiers in bunkers. Lieutenant Colonel Danford was everywhere in the resulting fire fight, shouting encouragement and advice to all his men. He exposed himself to the intense hail of enemy fire with complete disregard for his own personal safety. B Company assaulted and result was two NVA killed and capturing two individual weapons. He then reorganized the relief force and continued on to the beleaguered A Company. At approximately 1500 hours the relief force succeeded in breaking through the NVA forces to relieve A Company. The A Company commander was wounded and Lieutenant Colonel Danford assumed command of the element and immediately initiated sweeps to clear the area, supervised the preparation of an LZ and personally supervised the evacuation of all the wounded. Lieutenant Colonel Danford's presence in the midst of the fire swept battle area calmed the troops and reassured them. He appeared to be everywhere giving encouragement and advice. Lieutenant Colonel Danford's outstanding



display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 April 1970

1LT Donald A. Bailey (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 6 April 1970. Lieutenant Bailey distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer of Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, at Fire Support Base Arsenal, Republic of Vietnam. When the fire base came under an enemy sapper attack, Lieutenant Bailey immediately moved to the area of contact. He engaged the insurgents with hand grenades and led a reaction force against the enemy. Despite hostile grenade fire and satchel charges, he directed the fire of his men and repulsed the enemy attack. His actions contributed immeasurably to the successful defense of the fire base. Lieutenant Bailey'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. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 6042, 29 May 1970)



07 April 1969

SSG Kenneth E. Buesing (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 7 April 1969. Sergeant Buesing distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during an ambush near Ap Phu Bai II in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. An element of Company C came in contact with a squad size element of Viet Cong rice carriers. Quickly gaining fire superiority, the element of Company C drove the insurgents from the area. Sergeant Buesing volunteered to accompany his platoon leader in pursuit of the fleeing insurgents. With utter disregard for his own safety, he subjected himself to the insurgents as he went forward into the darkness. While traveling along a trail near the ambush site, the platoon leader spotted a fleeing hostile soldier. Sergeant Buesing flanked the insurgent and killed him. Sergeant Buesing'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. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 13190)

08 April 1969

CPT Nathan N. Miller (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 6 April 1968. Captain Miller distinguished himself while serving as Company Commander of Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A was engaged in a combat operation just south of the Demilitarized Zone near Quang Tri city, Republic of Vietnam. Several North Vietnamese Army units had been detected massing just to the west of Company A moved to the area as a blocking force. Early in the afternoon, the first platoon, which was on a patrol, came into heavy contact with the enemy. After a prolonged engagement, the platoon leader was wounded and unable to give direction to his platoon. With the situation reaching a serious stage, Captain Miller, who was furnishing security for a fire base with the rest of the company, organized the company to move and started giving instructions to the platoon sergeant of the besieged platoon. While hurriedly moving with the company, Captain Miller continuously directed the first platoon as it attempted to hold out until the rest of the company arrived. Captain Miller's understanding of a situation that he could not see, and his directions, were instrumental in preventing the annihilation of the first platoon. After reaching the battle area, Captain Miller effectively took charge of the situation and was able to pull the first platoon back to safety. In doing this, it was necessary that he expose himself to the enemy fire in order to direct fire on the enemy. In the process, he received a shrapnel wound from an enemy rocket, but determinedly refused to be evacuated until all the wounded had been treated. Despite formidable odds, Captain Miller prevented the destruction of one of his units with incredible insight and courage. Captain Miller's exceptional valor was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army. (DA, HQ, 101st Air Cavalry Division; General Order Number 5188, 29 August 1968)



08 April 1969



SP4 James S. Schmidt (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 8 April 1969. Specialist Schmidt distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman in the First Platoon of Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A was on a search and clear operation in the mountains southeast of Hue, Republic of Vietnam, when the First Platoon came under intense enemy fire. The platoon immediately began to react and moved to a covered position. From his secure position, Specialist Schmidt saw a comrade hit by the heavy fire. Completely disregarding his own safety, he quickly moved through the enemy fire to try and aid the wounded man. The enemy fire was immediately concentrated on him as he worked his way toward the man, but he continued. Having to move the last twenty meters by crawling, he reached the man and was able to give first aid and move him from his unprotected location. Specialist Schmidt'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.

09 April 1970

CPL Herman A. Clay Jr. (B/2-501 IN) (Posthumously) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 9 April 1970. Private Clay distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While set up with his squad in a defensive position on a hill top, Private Clay detected movement to his front and immediately alerted the rest of his squad. Upon investigation he cited a North Vietnamese Army Soldier in the brush preparing to fire at his comrades. Private Clay jumped up into the enemy Soldier's line of fire, engaged him with rifle fire, and sacrificed his own life to save the lives of several of his fellow Soldiers. His actions were an inspiration to his comrades. Private Clay'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.

09 April 1970



SP4 John Marks (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 9 April 1970. Specialist Marks distinguished himself while serving as a medical aid man in Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during combat action in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. When the lead element of his unit was overrun by an enemy force, Specialist Marks immediately volunteered to join a reaction force. After maneuvering to the point of contact, Specialist Marks braved the intense small arms fire to aid the wounded. Moving through the enemy barrage, he administered emergency treatment to severely wounded soldiers and directed his comrades in treating the others. Upon the arrival of medical evacuation helicopters, Specialist Marks moved outside the defensive perimeter to assist in the extraction of wounded personnel. His actions were instrumental in saving many lives. Specialist Marks' 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.

09 April 1970

SP4 Lenard D. Blachly (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1-OLC) for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 09 April 1970. SP4 Blachly distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. Despite severe wounds, he protected five wounded with heavy suppressive fire on an enemy force of unknown size, permitting them to be evacuated. His 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. (Bronze Star Medal Citation)



10 April 1968

1SG Frederick C. Brander (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (1- OLC) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 10 April 1968. First Sergeant Brander distinguished himself while engaged in military operations against an armed, hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 10 April 1968, while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry. Company A was on a series of search and clear operation just south of the Demilitarized Zone and succeeded in trapping a North Vietnamese unit in the village of Phuc Dien, Republic of Vietnam. In order to prevent the enemy from escaping, the company set up a cordon around the village and stood by as artillery fire and air strikes raked the area. The task of ferreting out the entrenched enemy fell to the first platoon as it began a sweep of the enemy infested village. After advancing a distance of not more than one hundred meters, the lead squad of the platoon was hit by a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire from a number of enemy positions. With the forward movement stalled, First Sergeant Brander raced forward from his position with the company command group. After seeing that the enemy fire was coming from a small dike directly in front of the platoon, he moved around to the left flank so that he could come up on the side of the enemy. Completely disregarding his own safety and defying the enemy fire that was being aimed solely at him, First Sergeant Brander crawled behind the same dike with the three snipers. Completely surprising the three enemy Soldiers, First Sergeant Brander immediately opened fire killing them. With platoon free to advance, First Sergeant Brander jumped up and moved with the platoon as it continued toward its objective. First Sergeant Brander'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. (Picture of award presentation)



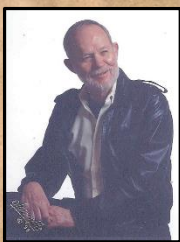
10 April 1968



CPT Cleo C. Hogan Jr. (D1/501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (1-OLC) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 10 April 1968. As part of a combat operation near Quang Tri City, Republic of Vietnam, Captain Hogan led his men in a combat assault on a suspected enemy position. Upon descending into the landing zone, the company began receiving hostile mortar fire. Captain Hogan quickly dispersed his men to lessen the effect of the mortars and then deployed his troops against the enemy force. He halted the advance one hundred and fifty meters from the wood line that contained the enemy positions, and requested gas dispensers to harass the enemy while his company made the attack. As the dispensers were delivered to the company location the enemy opened fire with small arms and automatic weapons. Captain Hogan, completely disregarding the intensity of the fire, moved forward to position the gas dispensers and then led the attack against the fortified positions. The second platoon leader's radio-telephone operator was killed in the heavy fire, causing a lapse in communications. To maintain control of the attack, Captain Hogan started to move forward toward the second platoon's location; as he did so, the enemy directed a large volume of small arms and rocket fire at him as he raced and crawled across the open rice paddy. While crawling, he spotted two of the enemy firing from a nearby house. Captain Hogan crawled to within thirty-five meters of the location and fired a light anti-tank weapon. One enemy was killed and the other was forced out of the house, where Captain Hogan shot him with his M-16 rifle. Crawling farther, Captain Hogan spotted other enemy in bunker and trench lines and decided to move his company back and call in artillery. After the barrage, an attack was launched to recover the body of the radio-operator, but the hail of enemy fire forced Captain Hogan to again withdraw his company. Two additional companies were airlifted to the location and the area was cordoned for the night. The next day, Captain Hogan led his company in an assault on the village, killing sixty of the enemy and capturing eleven. Captain Hogan'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.



10 April 1968



PSG James A. Parr (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 10 April 1968. Platoon Sergeant Parr distinguished himself while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A was on a search and clear operation south of the demilitarized zone and succeeded in trapping a North Vietnamese unit in the village of Phuc Dien, Republic of Vietnam. In order to prevent the enemy from escaping, the company set up a cordon around the village and stood by as artillery fire and air strikes were called in on the area. The task of ferreting out the entrenched enemy fell to the First Platoon as it began a sweep of the enemy held village. After advancing a distance of not more than 100 meters, the lead element of the platoon was hit by automatic weapons fire from a number of sniper positions. The battle was such that it was almost impossible for the men to continue forward. Knowing that to stop at that point would be disastrous; Sergeant Parr left his own safe position and moved forward to rally his men. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Parr exposed himself to the intense enemy fire and led his men on an assault to the edge of the village. His valiant actions greatly aided the platoon in accomplishing its mission. Platoon Sergeant Parr'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.

10-11 April 1968

SP4 Harry P. Longbottom Jr. (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 10 April 1968 through 11 April 1968. Specialist Longbottom distinguished himself while serving as a point man with Company D, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry. Company D was conducting a combat operation in the vicinity of Thon Phuoc Dien, Republic of Vietnam, when Specialist Longbottom's platoon became pinned down by a barrage of enemy grenade, automatic weapons, and machine gun fire. Disregarding his own safety, Specialist Longbottom advanced in the face of a blistering hail of fire, and by using his M-16 rifle and grenade, single-handedly killed three North Vietnamese Soldiers. His courage in the face of grave danger was an inspiration for the other members of his platoon and made it possible for them to reorganize and press the attack further. He therefore played a great part in helping his company to accomplish its mission. Throughout the night and the following morning, the North Vietnamese attempted to break through the friendly forces and again Specialist Longbottom displayed his skills by killing two more enemy Soldiers with a burst of fire from his M-16 rifle. As his platoon advanced the next day, Specialist Longbottom killed one North Vietnamese Soldier within an instant of sighting him and captured another. Specialist Longbottom's devotion to duty and extraordinary heroism over the two day period is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (General Order No. Unknown; 27 October 1968)

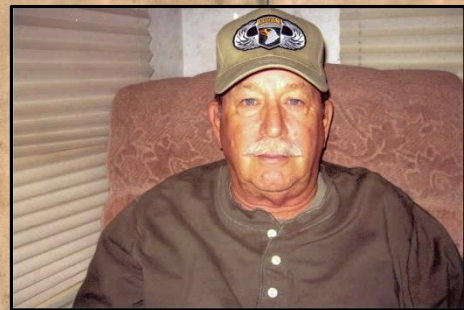
10 April 1969

SP4 John J. Colna (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 10 April 1969. Specialist Colna distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman in the Third Platoon of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, on a combat operation in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. The Third Platoon had just reached the crest of a hill when it came under heavy automatic weapons, small arms, and rocket propelled grenade fire from an estimated platoon of North Vietnamese Army Soldiers. In the first moments of contact, many men of the lead elements were wounded and required immediate first aid. With the element still receiving heavy volume of enemy fire, and with utter disregard for his own safety, Specialist Colna ran from his rear position to his wounded comrades. Completely ignoring the heavy volume of enemy fire he was attracting, he continued to administer emergency first aid to the fallen men. He moved from man to man encouraging them and giving aid, and he remained in his position until the enemy resistance was overcome and he could personally assist in the evacuation of the Soldiers. Specialist Colna'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. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 8552, 10 July 1969)



10 April 1969

1LT Valentine J. Zapert (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 10 April 1969. Lieutenant Zapert distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company E, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry during the conduct of a search and clear mission approximately twelve kilometers southwest of the village of Phu Loc, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, the Reconnaissance Platoon of Company E observed a platoon size enemy force moving in its direction. Setting up a hasty ambush, Lieutenant Zapert deployed his men in a strategic fighting position. In the ensuing battle, with complete disregard for his own safety, he openly moved through the intense fire to his men as he pointed out targets. His actions were most instrumental in routing the enemy force and contributed immeasurably to the death of two enemy Soldiers and the capture of another. Lieutenant Zapert'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.

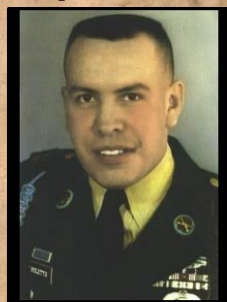


11 April 1967



SP4 Kenneth James (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously). Specialist Four James' element, while moving along a jungle trail which had dense vegetation on both sides, suddenly began receiving a tremendous volume of automatic weapons fire from two platoons of well entrenched enemy soldiers. Specialist James immediately returned fire and deployed his fire team, but the enemy fire was so suppressive that his men could not maneuver against the entrenched enemy. Having had two men wounded by an enemy machine gun and realizing the danger his comrades were in, Specialist James, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, unhesitatingly rushed forward, exposing himself immediately to the intense hostile fire, and charged the entrenched machine gun position which had his unit pinned down. As specialist James was conducting his courageous assault on the machine gun position, he was mortally wounded. Specialist James' daring charge gave his men the needed inspiration and courage to sweep forward. In doing so they succeeded in routing the enemy soldiers, causing them to leave their packs and one machine gun behind, Specialist James' heroic action and avid 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.

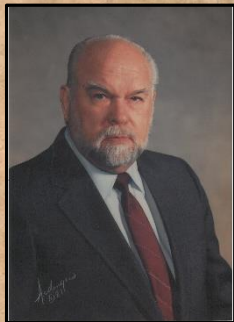
11 April 1967



SSG Ray Archuletta (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while on a search and destroy mission the point element of the First Platoon, B Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, suddenly became engaged in a fire fight with an estimated enemy squad reinforced with a light machine gun. As the intensity of the enemy fire increased, Staff Sergeant Archuletta quickly determined the precarious situation of the point element. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Archuletta jumped to his feet and charged through the withering enemy automatic weapons fire to within approximately twenty feet of the enemy machine gun position and threw a hand grenade into the emplacement, knocking it out. Sergeant Archuletta continued to advance on the enemy position and captured the enemy automatic weapon that had been abandoned by the wounded enemy soldier. Sergeant Archuletta quickly returned to his squad and continued to expose himself to the withering enemy fire while deploying his squad and personally directing their fire. Sergeant Archuletta on several occasions moved through the tremendous volume of enemy fire and personally pulled some of his wounded comrades to covered positions. His actions saved the lives of several of his wounded comrades and enabled the platoon to successfully assault and overrun the determined enemy force. Sergeant Archuletta's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, I Field Force Vietnam; General Order Number 611; 1 August 1967)



11 April 1968



1SG Frederick C. Brander (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1-OLC) for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 11 April 1968. First Sergeant Brander distinguished himself while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry. Company A was involved in a combat operation around Phuc Dien, Republic of Vietnam and was able to trap the enemy force in the village and place a cordon around it. The trapped enemy Soldiers were trying desperately to break out of the snare and maintain close contact with the friendly troops so that airstrikes and artillery fire could not be called in. First Sergeant Brander, with utter disregard for his own personal safety, raced back and forth along the edge of the line, encouraging his men and giving directions for preventing the enemy's escape. Because of the lack of a secondary force, it was necessary that every man know how to react instantly. As numerous men were wounded, First Sergeant Brander again exposed himself to the intense automatic weapons fire to treat the men and pull them back from the area of contact. When it became obvious to him that some of the men would have to be evacuated, he prepared a medical evacuation landing zone and personally carried a number of the more seriously wounded to the medical evacuation helicopter. First Sergeant Brander'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; General Order Number 9432)



11 April 2008

SSG Christopher Hoerschelman, (C/1-64 AR) Earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor. SSG Hoerschelman and his B section were conducting a mounted patrol in Hayy Ur, Iraq in order to disrupt enemy freedom of maneuver throughout the sector. SSG Hoerschelman's section was conducting over watch of checkpoint operations on Route Gold 150 meters West of Route Grizzlies. The sections primary task was to over watch the traffic circle facing East into Sadr City as Coalition Forces were conducting route clearance operations from South to North on Route Grizzlies while simultaneously conducting a Corps level barrier emplacement on Route Gold in the southern portion of Sadr City. While traveling North on Route Grizzlies, the Route Clearance Team was struck by an IED. SSG Hoerschelman's vehicle immediately moved East to the Company's limit of advance on Route Gold to provide over watch and security for the element in contact. While maneuvering his Bradley onto Route Grizzlies to provide security, his vehicle received small arms fire from the East buildings and from the South side of Route Grizzlies. During the engagement, SSG Hoerschelman quickly identified and destroyed two enemy insurgents. After the enemy was neutralized, the Route Clearance Team was able to self-recover their vehicle. Moments later, a separate Route Clearance Team along with a barrier emplacement team began operations from East to West on Route Gold in Sadr City. The Route Clearance Team was struck by over five EFPs, engaged by multiple RPG teams and SAF before reaching their objective. As SSG Hoerschelman began to maneuver his vehicle to provide over watch and suppressive fires to the East, he was engaged by two RPGs and SAF from the traffic circle at the Route Gold/Route Grizzlies intersection. His gunner identified the enemy but due to SSG Hoerschelman's innate sense of situational awareness, did not engage due to restricted fire lines and the fact that he knew there were Friendly Forces directly to the East. SSG Hoerschelman then maneuvered his vehicle to allow his gunner the ability to engage and destroy the enemy without any chance of fratricide. SSG Hoerschelman proved his ability to multi-task while engaged on the battlefield by coordinating with the AWT and positioning the section of Bradley's to establish fire superiority over the enemy while leading his vehicle in destroying the enemy RPG teams that had pinned down the barrier emplacement team. During the contact, his wingman's 25mm cannon failed and the vehicle had to retrograde to cover and correct the failure. SSG Hoerschelman held his position with no flank support in an immensely hostile and forward position to provide covering fires to the East for the unit in contact. While fighting without a wingman, the vehicle was left in a vulnerable position with little support. Nevertheless, SSG Hoerschelman continued to engage and destroy the enemy to the East and North. Utilizing his vast knowledge of adjacent unit coordination, he walked the AWT onto hidden enemy positions across Route Grizzlies. As a result of his actions, over 15 insurgents were KIA and the checkpoint was maintained in IA and CF control.



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

