



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) “STRIKE HISTORY” 05 October – 11 October 2014



05 October 1944

The 502nd is ordered out of its defensive positions around St. Oedenrode north of Nijmegen between the Rhine and Waal Rivers to defensive positions within the British line known as ‘The Island’.

05 October 1967

Operation WHEELER (2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry): When we saddled up to begin our move back to our previous position on the hill, I was confronted by the only experienced “point man” that we had remaining in the company. He was very frightened and did not want to walk point. I talked with him for about ten minutes and convinced him that we needed his skill that day and that we would be close by to back him up. He courageously agreed to walk point once again. We were essentially only a reinforced platoon of about 45 people. I moved forward far enough to be able to watch the point man and make sure he could see me.

We retraced our approximate route from a few days before, crossing the dangerous stream area with the same technique used going west. From the battalion duty log, I note that we had three air strikes on the hill: two in the morning and one in the late afternoon just before we ascended the hill from the north. We arrived to find no enemy and set about organizing the position. I thanked the point man for his courage and for leading us again.

After we had been on the hill for maybe an hour, there was a loud explosion within the perimeter. We had two men down. Doc Pugh rushed in to begin first aid as we called for a medevac. A booby trapped slack wire hand grenade (M26) had gone off on the trail and seriously wounded two men. Our point man had been hit hard in both legs. One of our sergeants had sustained chest wounds by at least two fragments. Doc Pugh tried valiantly to administer first aid to the stricken sergeant but could not clear his airway. The sergeant died by the time the medevac arrived. A terrible end to what had been a fairly routine day. (Charles P. Otstott, Alpha Company CO Sep-Nov 1967)

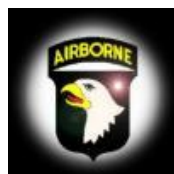
05 October 1968

A/1-502 conducted RIF and ambushes, vic. YD6730 with negative contact. B/1-502 found 1 SKS, ammo and other equipment, vic. YD6538. At vic. YD 6130, B/1-502 engaged 1 VC with negative assessment. D/1-502 was at Phu Vang.

06 October 1967

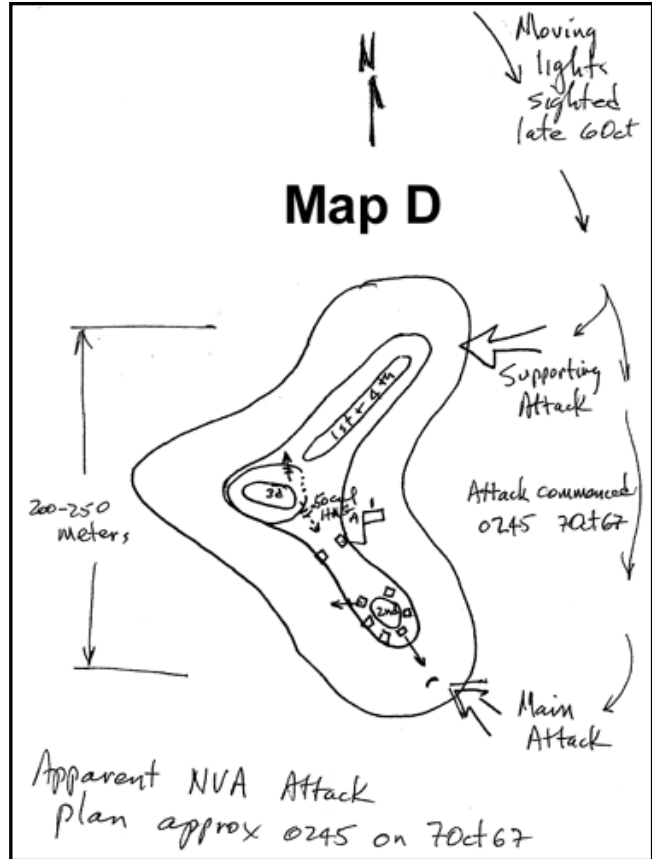
Operation WHEELER (2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry): We received 40 or 50 replacements throughout the morning. 1st Sergeant Frank Creed handled the assignments with the platoon sergeants. Among the replacements we received was 1LT G. Rod Tillman who was assigned to 4th Platoon to fill the vacancy left with the wounding of 1LT Peake on the 28th of September. [1LT Tillman was destined to have an unforgettable first 24 hours in the field with A Company, but he performed superbly under fire.] My instructions to the platoon leaders were to get the new troops into squads, get them into defensive fighting positions within the perimeter and then get them out on short patrols, clover leafing out from the NDP. Each platoon had an assigned sector to work in and the intent was to get the new troops as comfortable as possible with our SOPs in a relatively benign environment.

We expected to be in this position for about 48-72 hours working this way before returning to the line. I requested and received a 106 mm recoilless rifle and an M2 fifty caliber machine gun to stiffen our defenses. The 106 came with three “beehive rounds” which contained flechettes that would decimate any ground



attackers. I knew about the beehive rounds from my days as a weapons platoon leader in the 101st, but had never employed them.

The ground we were on was shaped like a pork chop. It consisted of a small knoll on the south, a slightly taller knoll in the center and a ridge running slightly downhill to the east northeast from the center knoll. (See Sketch Map D.) I organized the ground with 2nd Platoon on the southern knoll, 3rd Platoon in the center, and 1st and 4th Platoons occupying the ridge to the east. I positioned the heavy machine gun and the 106 mm RR in Jack Rogers' 3rd Platoon sector with a Principal Direction of Fire to the north and northwest where they could support B Company, if needed. I also had an alternate position prepared for the fifty which could bring fire to the south and southeast to support 2nd Platoon. We had 800 rounds of ammo for the fifty. The day proceeded uneventfully, and by nightfall we had established a strong defensive position with claymores out, defensive targets registered in 3 or 4 places, and knowledge from our short patrols that there was no enemy presence within 2 or 3 kilometers of our position. My CP position was in a small saddle between 2nd and 3rd Platoons and included an outcropping of large boulders where 1SGT Creed and the artillery FO were positioned.

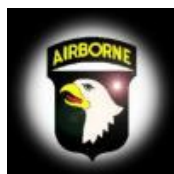


Not long after dark, observers within the 1st and 4th Platoon areas reported "moving lights" at some distance from our position to the north. We cranked up a fire mission from the 105 DS Battery at the fire base and fired for effect in the general area. The lights disappeared. I made at least one tour of the perimeter before midnight to check on the troops and make sure that someone was alert on each position. (Charles P. Otsott, Alpha Company CO Sep-Nov 1967)

06 October 1968

1-502 (-) (with the exception of "D", at Phu Vang; continued normal operations with negative contact. They provided 4 EM to NP on a check point to look for VC and draft dodgers. The EM worked with elements from Pistol Pete, from vic. YD7529 to vic. YD8332. They detained 183 people who were classified as follows.

IC	131
VCS	9
ARVN deserters	1
Military age males	41
VC	1



Operation Eagle Claw: In early October, CTF Top Guns developed a plan to complete the clearance of Western Arghandab and remove the remnants of Taliban in the Area of Operations. The Task Force created Operation Eagle Claw to deny the enemy sanctuary in the Arghandab River Valley and prevent the area from being used by the Taliban to launch future attacks on Kandahar City.

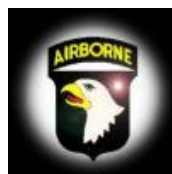
CTF Top Guns conducted Operation Eagle Claw from 6 to 25 October 2010 in combined action with 1/1/205, United States Special Operations Forces, Afghan National Army Commando forces, and Afghan Border Police. The plan called for the isolation of villages in the gardens South of Jelawur



to permit clearance of insurgent sanctuaries by over 400 Afghan Border Police (ABP), combat advised by US Special Forces Detachments. To accomplish this operation, CTF Top Guns attacked to seize Objective Tarok Kalache, Khosrow Sofla, and Charqolba Sofla to deny enemy sanctuary, also removing known Taliban command and control nodes, and set conditions for the resettlement of the Arghandab River Valley by the displaced Afghan population.

To achieve decisive effects, CTF Top Guns targeted abandoned villages used by the insurgents to produce thousands of pounds of HME. Prior to commencement of ANSF clearing operations, the CTF Top Guns coordinated for an elite infantry company from Task Force South to conduct an air assault to confirm or deny the presence of HME in the village of Tarok Kalache and Khosrow Olya. Similarly, ANA Commandos would conduct an air assault to confirm or deny HME production in the abandoned village of Lower Babur. Upon confirmation of HME production and assessment of these villages, CTF Top Guns requested dynamic reduction of the abandoned compounds to prevent the movement of new HME from the area and to deny the insurgents use of the compounds for future HME production. These pre-assault fires set the conditions for the rapid reduction of improvised explosive device minefields and seizure of footholds in the villages of Tarok Kalache, Khosrow Sofla, and Charqolba Sofla. Special Operations Command Forces conducted the air assaults into Tarok Kalache and Khosrow Olya on the evening of 6 October and confirmed the enemy situational template. On the evening of 6 Oct and the early morning of 7 Oct, USAF assets and HIMARS rocket systems delivered over 49,200 pounds of ordnance on the Taliban sanctuary of Tarok Kalache and eliminated the threat.

The Taliban emplaced IEDs in most compounds protecting their fighting positions and former patrol bases in Tarok Kalache, and CTF Top Guns approved the reduction of house-borne IEDs in the villages. With the reduction of house-borne IEDs complete, the Combined Task Force isolated the operations area to the North, South, West, and conducted a deliberate breach of



IED minefields along Route Highlife from Combat Outpost Stout to the Arghandab River. The breach was critical to the establishment of blocking positions and screen lines to isolate the operations area and prevent the repositioning of insurgent forces to the East.

Following these kinetic strikes, on 7 October, HHB/1-320, in combined action with Afghan National Army Forces, employed M58 Mine Clearing Line Charges (MCLICs) and MK 7 Anti-Personnel Obstacle Breaching Systems (APOBS) explosive line charges to establish breach lanes through IED minefields to Tarok Kalache and Khosrow Sofla. CTF Top Guns integrated Engineer Sappers, military working dogs, dismounted RCP with Doking Mini-flail, and engineer construction dozers to clear and proof a 1200 meter lane to Tarok Kalache and Khosrow Sofla, uncovering or causing sympathetic detonation of 31 IEDs.

At the conclusion of breaching operations on 7 October, CTF Top Guns had established eastern blocking positions. Upon establishing the eastern blocking positions and screen lines, General Raziq Khan and 400 Afghan Border Police rapidly cleared the villages of Noor Mohammad



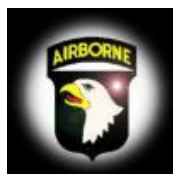
Khan Kalache, Charqolba Sofla, and Don Kalache. Stymied in their westerly approach to Khosrow Sofla by IED minefields, the ABP culminated in the clearance of Arghandab, but they provided Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment the freedom of movement to secure the village of Charqolba Sofla. With the establishment of Combined Combat Outpost Durham in Charqolba Sofla, Strongpoint Weaver in Tarok Kalache, and Strongpoint Simmons in Khosrow Sofla, the three former insurgent command and control nodes were effectively under the control of ISAF and Afghan Security Forces by 14 October 2010. The operation was extremely successful and resulted in the displacement of Taliban fighters from the district and an early cessation of the 2010 fighting season in Arghandab. The prudent control measures, employment of line charges and breaches, and the effective use of fires prevented civilian casualties and limited Afghan Security Force casualties to an Afghan Border Policemen and 2 American Soldiers wounded by IED strikes. The operation interdicted insurgent movement in the Khosrows; reduced HME production facilities in Babur, Khosrow Olya, Khosrow Sofla and Tarok Kalache; destroyed insurgent strongpoint's and disrupted Taliban tactical command and control nodes; and denied insurgent freedom of movement to support zones, patrol bases, and access to 6 large, tactical caches in the area of operations.

07 October 1967

Operation WHEELER (2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry):

What happened next is from my own personal recollections except as indicated as being from the battalion duty log. The NVA attack on our position began about 0200 according to the battalion duty log. Things happened very rapidly. Others may have their own recollection which I welcome as additions to the story.

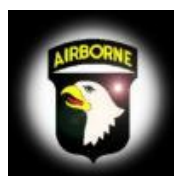
Two or three nearby explosions woke me and sent me straight into the foxhole which was prepared for me and the two RTOs. I yelled "mortars" two or three times at the top of my lungs, thinking we were being mortared from across the



stream. I was joined in the hole by Woody and La Mar, my RTOs with their radios. None of us grabbed his weapon which lay beside our sleeping areas within a few feet. We immediately heard automatic weapons fire, saw green tracers and realized we were under ground attack. What I had thought were mortar rounds were really hand grenades thrown at close quarters by the enemy assault elements as they initiated their attack. Initial fire from the enemy was heavy and the return fire from our side built up quickly as both 2nd and 3rd Platoon took up the fire at the close-in threat. I called across to the FO to get flares up and began to try to assess what we were up against. It was pitch black with no moon or stars.

Green tracers began to bounce off the ground all around my hole. Suddenly a form appeared running past us from 2nd Platoon. It was an E6 we had welcomed as a replacement just that day. He shouted as he passed, "There are a million gooks up there!" and disappeared in the direction of 3rd Platoon. Next came 1LT George Anderson who knelt beside my position and reported that his 2nd Platoon had been overrun and that he did not believe there were any more of his people alive on the position. Just as he uttered those words, he was struck by a bullet which shattered his rifle and lightly wounded him with bullet fragments. I told him to seek cover with 3rd Platoon and he left on his own power. The fire was heavy from 2nd Platoon's former position into the rest of the A Company position. All three of the other platoons were firing back as I informed the leaders by radio of the fact that 2nd Platoon had been overrun and there were no more Americans alive on the southern knoll. I called Jack Rogers and directed him to move the fifty caliber to the alternate position and start to hose the 2nd Platoon position. After some communications difficulty, we were able to get the artillery battery firing in our support. Soon the fifty caliber machine gun opened fire and I directed the fire through 1LT Rogers. I told him to lower the fire twice until it was bouncing off the ground and the boulders among the 2nd Platoon position. I then told him to traverse continuously. At some point early in the engagement, I directed PFC Harold La Mar to get my weapon which was the closest. He bravely did so and then I told him to fire one or two shots periodically to keep the enemy's heads down. At this time the NVA were no more than 50 meters away and I could clearly hear their voices as they talked among themselves. Our heavy machine gun fired for about 20 minutes and broke the back of the enemy attack. We continued to receive fire from the position formerly occupied by Anderson's men, but the momentum of the attack was broken by the 800 rounds that poured from the fifty caliber MG. I considered using the beehive rounds, but I was concerned that some of the 2nd Platoon soldiers might still be alive on the position. I kept the beehive rounds on hold as a last resort. At some point, CPT Dick Boyd came up on the battalion radio net and told the BN CDR that he heard the NVA employing a HMG against us and offered to come to our aide. I intervened to let him know the HMG was ours and that I felt we could stop the enemy without his assistance. I thanked him profusely for the offer. At some point another of our soldiers SP4 Luis Gomez from 2nd Platoon appeared beside my foxhole and inquired where he could get more M60 machine gun ammunition. It seems he had held his position on the 2nd Platoon hill throughout the attack and had expended all his ammo in the fight at point blank range. I told him to take cover with 1SGT Creed next door and he did so.

I am not sure when we got artillery and Spooky up and working for us, but we worked their fires to the south and southeast in areas where I felt the enemy would have reinforcement or temporary base set ups in support of his attack. The NVA were too close to employ either of the fire support means against the enemy in contact, and I was still concerned about any other survivors of 2nd Platoon.



As the night wore on, the enemy fire diminished and I alerted everyone that we would counterattack at first light to retake the hill. I ordered 1st and 4th Platoons to "thin the line" and send half their troops in skirmish line toward the company CP on my signal. George Anderson would bring the survivors he had collected and Jack Rogers 3rd Platoon would provide a base of fire from our right flank as we moved south. I had said during the fight that if I had a grenade, I could take out the enemies that were close enough that I could hear talking. At first light, SSG Jurinski came forward from 3rd Platoon and said, "Where do you want the grenade?" It was only then that I realized the enemy fire had stopped completely.

Shortly thereafter, we formed up on line about 20 strong and walked in a skirmish line up the knoll to retake the hill. We found six of our own dead on their positions and a total of 18 dead NVA soldiers in green fatigues with new web gear and helmets. Each soldier had a weapon, mostly AK-47s but at least one RPD and one or two RPGs. One of the dead soldiers had a Russian made flame thrower on his back. He had been shot once in each of his arms and legs and the four wounds had been dressed with field bandages much like our own. We were all very thankful he had not been able to use his weapon. None of us had heard of flame throwers being employed by the NVA, so this was quite a surprise! As we consolidated the position, I continued to direct the employment of the Spooky gunship and artillery on likely avenues of withdrawal, especially in the direction where we had seen the moving lights the night before.

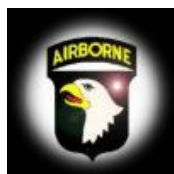
I soon learned for the first time that the 1st and 4th Platoons had also sustained a ground assault at the eastern end of their ridge and had beaten it off with close combat in which white phosphorous grenades had been decisive. Throughout the entire two or three hour battle, I had been unaware of that engagement. They had no troopers killed and only a couple of lightly wounded, but they had driven back a very strong attacking force at the point of contact about 75 meters from my CP.

As soon as we could get ourselves organized, we sent patrols out to the south, east and northeast to try to pick up blood trails and locate any wounded enemy that had been abandoned. One of the patrols found a dead NVA soldier on the trail that led north on the east side of our position. We assumed they had departed to the north, probably back along the way where we had seen their approach with the "moving lights" the night before.

We spent the day reestablishing the coherence of our position and accepting more replacements and conducting short training patrols. We received ammunition resupply to include several boxes of grenades. At one point, either Iron Duke or Cottonmouth flew in for a tour and briefing about the battle. I believe it was Iron Duke (BG Matheson). We also hosted a Time Magazine reporter who intended to feature the fight in the next issue of the magazine. As I recall, his name was Don Sider. He came in the afternoon and talked with a number of troops. By the time he was to get extracted, the weather had turned bad again and he could not get a helicopter. He spent a very tense night with us on the hill in the rain. He and I sat on the edge of my foxhole for several hours talking about the war and the battle and A Company. My troops were on full alert and expecting another attack. They threw about 100 hand grenades during the night for reassurance and to prevent the enemy from crawling close as he had done the night before. With the rain, the grenades, and the blackness of the night, it was another very long night for all of us. (Charles P. Otstott, Alpha Company CO Sep-Nov 1967)

07 - 22
October 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: 2/502 Battalion inserted into the area north of FSB Bastogne to conduct search and clear operations. Search and Clear



mission continued until 22 October with no enemy contact. The Battalion returned for a stand down at Camp Eagle for the remainder of the month. Contact during the month was extremely light, although evidence was surface that the enemy was present in the AO. The weather affected operation as two typhoons interrupted both field and training operations.

07 - 13
September 2012

ANSF mission command of independent operations. On 9 Sep, the 3/201 ANA Brigade S3 briefed the Corps Commander on their phased plan to clear Alah Say Valley. MG Waziri approved phase I--clearance RTE Vermont from FOB Naglu to FOB Tagab, but directed the S3 to adjust the last two phases. He stated that phase II must be a clearance/hold of the area east of FOB Tagab to gain some space and to protect the LOC into Alasay Valley. Phase III will be the clearance of the valley. The first phase of the operation will begin 16-19 Sep. The 3/201 will then assess resources/time to conduct a Tagab clearing operation.

Cross-border incident management. On 10 Sep, LTG Akram, Deputy to GEN Karimi, and 3 Afghan parliamentarians conduct an engagement with Kunar provincial/district officials, MG Waziri, COL Wali Khan, PCOP/DCOPs, and elders from Dangam, Shegal, and Asmar tomorrow. The purpose of the visit is to discuss IDF along AF-PAK border and security concerns in Kunar Province. Based upon MG Waziri's conversation with the PoA on 9 Sep, President Karzai is interested in the national/international assistance required to relocate displaced civilian personnel from the border region.

Countering insider threats. MG Waziri visits the 4/201 ANA Brigade on 11 Sep. The purpose of the visit was to receive an O&I update for upcoming operations in Nangarhar, review personnel and equipment challenges, and discuss ANA actions to eradicate insider threat. BG Lawang, the Brigade Commander, and his staff did an excellent job laying out the upcoming operations and discussing their challenges. Following the briefing, MG Waziri directed the Brigade command and staff to report to FOB Gamberi to conduct staff-to-staff coordination with the 201 Corps. MG Waziri had the Brigade staff brief the Corps staff on their current shortfalls. After each Brigade staff officer outlined the issues for the group, MG Waziri assigned tasks and directed suspense's to his staff to address the Brigade issues. MG Waziri's method of direct leadership endeared him to the 4/201 ANA officers, and it served as a contract between the 201 Corps & 4/201 ANA Brigade to address current challenges.

ANSF enabler training and capacity building. 764 EOD Team conducted partnered training with 2/201 RCC at JBAD Garrison. The training consisted of two 20m lanes with pressure plates and battery packs buried at random intervals. The task for the RCC EOD teams was to use their metal detectors and mine probes to find buried IEDs. Soldiers that had previously completed the EOD IMT course were fully proficient with their equipment and found all IEDs on the lane. Following the training, ANA and CF leaders discussed future partnered training, a train-the-trainer IED proficiency course, and identified candidates for the upcoming EOD IMT course.

08 October 1967

Operation WHEELER (2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry): Don Sider left early the next morning promising to tell our story in the next issue of Time Magazine. He called me a few days later to tell me that the Marines' engagement at Khe Sanh had trumped our engagement, and replaced his report about A/2/502 in the magazine. He was very apologetic.

We were extracted either this day or the next and flown to a safe area to refit and relax for a day or so. I visited our wounded at Chu Lai or Tam Ky during this period. We had several that had not yet been evacuated to Japan or the Philippines. (Charles P. Otstott, Alpha Company CO Sep-Nov 1967)



09 October 1969

Operation PHU VANG kicks off. The 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division sent elements from the 1/501st Airborne and the 2/17th Cavalry to work with the 2/54th ARVN Regiment while conducting this search and destroy - cordon and search operation of the Phu Vang District, eight miles southeast of Hue. Casualties: US not reported; enemy 96 KIA, 174 POW.

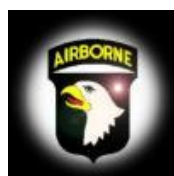


09 October 1971 –
26 January 1971

Operation MONSOON DYNAMIC DEFENSE: The 2-502 IN Battalion ended Operation Jefferson Glen and began the 1st Brigade Monsoon plan on 9 October. The change in operation orders was simultaneous with the change in AO's for the 2-502nd IN. The STRIKE Force Battalion had the mission of securing the southern portion of the 1st Brigade AO, preventing enemy infiltration to the lowlands through our AO and disrupting enemy attempts to attack Camp Eagle by fire and maintaining OP Apollo. Though the construction of the hill defenses had been initiated in July by STRIKE Force Troopers, there was an enormous amount of work yet to be done. The Battalion returned to Camp Eagle for a week of refitting and training 14-31 October.

On 20 October while conducting a sweep operation outside the perimeter of Camp Eagle, A Company made contact with three VC which resulted in three VC KIA and the capture of three AK-47 automatic rifles, 50 lbs of rice, one stove, a bag of documents and a diary. On 21 October, the battalion again assumed responsibility of OP Apollo and its surrounding area.

The weather conditions began to worsen the day the battalion assumed the AO. Typhoon Hester struck the AO on 24 October and by 25 October the winds had reached 90 mph. Nevertheless, the companies in the field patrolled their areas very aggressively as exemplified by Charlie Company. On 25 October, a patrol from C Company while moving in to check three grass huts, observed and engaged on NVA. Three other NVA fled from one of the huts and were engaged by the patrol which resulted in an unknown number of casualties. The company followed the blood trails in an attempt to locate the enemy but had to give up the chase because of heavy rain and wind from Typhoon Hester. The following day the 2nd Platoon of Charlie Company received fire from an unknown size enemy force resulting in negative casualties. On 28 October, 1st Platoon, A Company observed and engaged 6 NVA Soldiers who apparently were searching for food in and old US NDP. The same day during the evening, Recon team 1 and 3 observed and directed artillery on a sampan from which lights were blinking believed to be signaling the enemy elements in the lowlands. No trace of the sampan was found the next morning. On 30 October, Recon teams 1 and 3 received a suspected RPG round from an unknown size enemy force resulting in the team's medic receiving a slight fragmentation wound. The battalion continued to discover and destroy numerous grass huts, bunkers, and booby traps throughout the month. Constant surveillance of enemy high speed trails prevented the enemy from infiltrating to the lowlands to acquire their basic needs. The many bunkers and tunnel complexes destroyed by "STRIKE Force" personnel denied the enemy their much needed shelter for the monsoon season. The "STRIKE Force", by aggressive and continuous patrolling, was successful in



denying the enemy the time required to employ their rockets against the cities of Hue and Phu Bai and Camp Eagle.

During the month of November, the battalion continued to provide security and prevent infiltration into the southern portion of the 1st Brigade AO. Enemy activity remained on a low level with only four contacts, two enemy initiated and two friendly initiated.

On 6 November, the Reconnaissance Platoon observed and engaged with unknown results, one NVA walking along a trail on the ridgeline of Hill 500. On 11 November the Command and Control helicopter received small arms fire from and unknown size enemy force. On 20 November, 2nd Platoon, B Company engaged with automatic and small arms fire on an unknown size of enemy force. The platoon leaders utilized close in ambush training and directed his platoon to assault the ambush. The platoon quickly gained fire superiority and routed the enemy. ARA and Artillery were employed on the suspected enemy location with unknown results. The last contact of November occurred on the 28th in which the 2nd Platoon, A Company observed and engaged with unknown results, 1 NVA Soldier moving along a ridgeline east of Hill 500. In addition to the contacts, STRIKE Force personnel continued to observe and monitor numerous indications of enemy presence in the battalion AO such as freshly made footprints on trails and streambeds, bunker complexes, light shining at night, and numerous activations.

One highlight of the month was the formation of a security honor guard for OP Apollo. STRIKE Force troopers with a minimum of six months in the field were allowed to volunteer for the privilege of serving in the Honor Guard Platoon.

On 19 November, OP Apollo was defended completely by the Honor Guard. This event enabled LTC Snodgrass to employ all frontline companies in the field without the necessity of employing one as security for OP Apollo. This action provided an additional threat to the enemy's movement and infiltration through STRIKE Force's AO.

On 1 December, the Battalion Commander, LTC John C. Snodgrass received official notification that the 1st Brigade less the 2-327th Infantry was going to stand down. The battalion's stand-down period was to begin on 28 December and end on 17 January. The battalion was to be reduced to an equipment escort detachment of up to 20% of authorized strength to be deployed with equipment to Fort Campbell, for retention in the active army. The outstanding combat record of the "STRIKE Force" was to end with the passing of the year.

Even with the stand-down of the battalion so close, STRIKE Force personnel continued their search for the elusive enemy in the battalions AO. On 5 December, 2nd Platoon, A Company observed and engaged with unknown results one NVA Soldier near Hill 500. Two days later on the night of the 7th, a mechanical ambush set up by 2nd Platoon, A Company detonated, killing one NVA Soldier. Equipment found on or near the body was on an AK-47 rifle in poor condition, two AK-47 magazines, one satchel/back pack, one hand made Bowie type knife with sheath, one Chicom compass and Chicom web gear.

During the same period, a tragic CH-47 crash claimed 34 101st Airborne Division Troopers. D/2-502 IN was placed under Brigade control and was given the mission of securing the crash site located near FB Roy. The company also had the task of recovering the bodies of the dead troopers. Enroute to the crash site one STRIKE Force trooper detonated an old VC booby trap and was wounded. Upon arrival at the crash site, D Company accomplished their mission with efficiency and great dignity.



The last contact between STRIKE Force troopers and the enemy occurred on 17 December when 1st Platoon, A Company observed and engaged one NVA with unknown results in the Valley south of Nui Khe.

The Battalion continued reconnaissance in force operations with all four lettered companies and the Recon Platoon up to the 26th, the last day of operation in the field for STRIKE Force. Thus, the day after Christmas, the STRIKE Force Battalion airlifted out of the OP Apollo Area of Operations and began stand-down operation in preparation for its first trip to the United State since 8 July 1965. (2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry; Unit History, Approved by LTC John C. Snodgrass, IN, Commanding)

09 October 2007

COL William Hickman and CSM Scott Schroeder case the Brigade Colors at a ceremony held October 9, 2007, as they prepared to deploy to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09.



11 October 1968

A/1-502 is at Phu Vang, they have security for one/S on highway 551 and occupied strong points along POL pipeline, security of pumping station, Hue Bridge and LCU ramp. B/1-502 was RIF, vic. YD6929 and night ambushes. C/1-502 conducted security of An Lo and local patrols and ambushes. D/1-502 was RIF, vic. YD6629, killing 1 NVA in a bunker and captured 1 VCS. Recon/1-502 had negative contact.

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.

12 x Silver Star (6 x Posthumously)
4 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
4 x Bronze Star Medal (3 x Posthumously)
6 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
32 x Purple Hearts (18 x Posthumously)
4 x Non-Hostile Illness or Injury

05 October 1944

CPL Jerry Sevier (I/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during WW II in Holland.



05 October 1967

SGT Holbert E. Davis (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 Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam.

05 October 2008

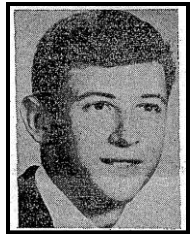
The following Soldiers: SPC Bryant Bearfield, SPC James Sinay, and SPC Vuong Dihn (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds receive when they were wounded lightly when their MRAP vehicles were struck by a 5-array EFP. The EFP narrowly misses the gunner of the vehicle, with one of the discs shearing off the barrel of the M240B machine gun mounted on top. For wounds sustained in combat against an enemy force, all three receive the Purple Heart.

06 October 1944



The following Soldiers: PVT Walter A. Shandis (A/502nd PIR) and 1LT George A. Larish (Pictured)0324030 (I/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during WWII.

06 October 1967



CPL Ernie J. Elfenbein (C/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 Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam.

06 October 2010

The following Soldiers: PFC James Thorne (A/2-502 IN) and SGT Joshua Strickland (A/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

07 October 1966



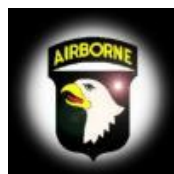
PFC Vincent F. Garvey (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death in a Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

07 October 1967

The following Soldiers: PFC William A. Jateff, PFC Hugh R. Flemister, and CPL Robert J. Padgett (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quang Ham Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 October 1967

PFC Rodney D. Hill (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 Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.



07 October 1967



The following Solders: CPL Michael Grimes (HHC2-502 IN); CPL Aldwin A. Ellis Jr. (Pictured) (A/2-502 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 Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 October 1968



PFC James R. Sherwood (B/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 Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 October 1944

PFC Herman L. Johnson (G/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during WW II.

08 October 1945



MAJ Cleveland R. Fitzgerald (HQ1/B/502nd PIR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously). MAJ Fitzgerald died from wounds sustained.

09 October 1970

SGT William E. Johnston (E/2-502 IN) died of other Non-hostile causes from other causes at FSB Checkmate (Pictured), 15K SW of Hue, in a Province not reported, South Vietnam.

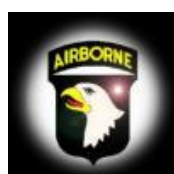


09 October 2010

The following Soldiers: SGT Jack Williams (HHC/1-502 IN); SGT Victor Lapierre, SPC Joshua Peters, PVT Alec Romine, and PFC Mitchell Comer (A/2-502 IN); PFC Shawn Urban (595th ENG) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

10 October 1971

PFC Franklin R. Silos (HHC/1-501 IN) died of other Non-hostile causes from other causes in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



10 October 2010



SSG David Weigle (HHT1/75 CAV), 29, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

10 October 2010



PFC David Hess (D/1-75 CAV), 25, of Ruskin, Florida; was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

10 October 2010

The following Soldiers: SGT Rodriogo Santos, SPC Jeffrey Springer and PFC Terry Heise (HHT/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

11 October 1944

PFC Jessie W. Bisbee (E/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during WWII.

11 October 1965



SGT James T. Faulkner (C/2-502 IN) died of other Non-hostile causes from vehicle loss or crash in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.

11 October 1968

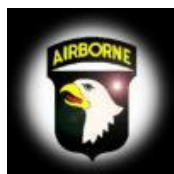


PVT Willie S. Davis (A/2-501 IN) died from Non-hostile injury from an Accidental homicide in the Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam.

STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

05 October 1967

SGT Holbert E. Davis (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 5 October 1967 near Chu Lai in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Davis distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic actions on that date when his squad, while on a search and destroy mission, was suddenly brought under heavy enemy automatic weapons and mortar fire and pinned down. Without regard for his own safety,



Sergeant Davis rushed through the hostile fire giving his men encouragement and pointing out enemy positions while remaining fully exposed to the intense fire. Although wounded himself, he rushed out onto the battlefield on several occasions and pulled wounded men to safe areas where medical aid could be administered. Later Sergeant Davis observed a small enemy element attempting to overrun a machinegun position and, again without regard for his own safety, charged the enemy and succeeded in forcing them to withdraw. As the enemy pulled back, Sergeant Davis was struck by hostile fire and fatally wounded. Sergeant Davis's outstanding display of gallantry and his intense devotion to duty even at the cost of his life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

05 October 1967

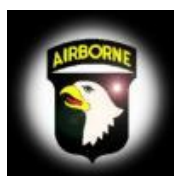
1LT Cecil P. Kimberling (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 5 October 1967 near Chu Lai in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, First Lieutenant Kimberling's platoon was moving along a jungle trail when the point man suddenly detected enemy activity. Lieutenant Kimberling moved forward to make a reconnaissance of the suspected enemy positions and located twenty North Vietnamese Army soldiers preparing positions. Lieutenant Kimberling immediately deployed his platoon to within twenty meters of the enemy position. He initiated the assault and valiantly led his men forward. As they charged forward, placing a tremendous volume of fire into the enemy positions, Lieutenant Kimberling was struck in the leg and wounded. Utterly disregarding his painful wound, and shouting words of encouragement, he continued and directed the assault. As a result of Lieutenant Kimberling's heroic actions and inspiring leadership, thirteen enemy soldiers were killed and seven enemy weapons were captured. First Lieutenant Kimberling's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

06 October 1967

CPT Cordell S. Godboldte (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 6 October 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, suddenly became heavily engaged with an enemy element in well-fortified positions. Captain Godboldte, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, rushed forward through heavy enemy fire to the most forward point of contact. Quickly evaluating the situation, Captain Godboldte then began to maneuver the third platoon to the rear of the enemy element. Captain Godboldte immediately called for an air strike and then maneuvered the second platoon to the flank of the enemy positions as a blocking force. When the air strike was made, Captain Godboldte exposed himself to the enemy fire to direct the jet aircraft's fire effectively onto the enemy targets. When the air strike was terminated, Captain Godboldte directed his third platoon to initiate an assault on the enemy fortifications from the rear, while the second platoon was utilized as a blocking force. Captain Godboldte observed one of his platoon leaders who lay wounded in an exposed area. Again with complete disregard for his own safety, Captain Godboldte rushed through the bullet-swept area, picked up his wounded comrade and carried him to a safe position where he could be given medical aid. As the enemy element attempted to escape by the only route available, Captain Godboldte called for and directed fire from artillery and gunships into the ranks of the fleeing enemy. Captain Godboldte's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

06 October 1967

PFC David French (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action, Private First Class French distinguished himself on 6 October 1967



while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, While serving with company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. While on a search and destroy mission, Private French's platoon was pinned down by an extremely heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire from a well-entrenched and concealed enemy bunker. Realizing the need for immediate action, Private French, with complete disregard for his own safety, began to maneuver through the vicious enemy fire to within hand grenade range of the enemy bunker. As Private French neared the enemy position, a volley of hand grenades was thrown at him in an attempt to stop his progress. Instantly, Private French picked up the grenades nearest him, tossing them back at the enemy bunker in an effort to knock it out. As he neared the enemy bunker, a grenade exploded within five feet of him, knocking him to the ground with fragment wounds on the face, neck, and chest. Although bleeding profusely from his painful and serious wounds, he once again, with complete disregard for his own safety, charged through the murderous enemy fire, and succeeded in destroying the enemy bunker with a series of hand grenades. Private French's outstanding display of gallantry in action 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.

06 October 1968

CPT James M. Hayes (HHC/2-502) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 6 October 1968. Captain Hays distinguished himself while searching for a downed helicopter near the city of Phu Loc, Republic of Vietnam. Captain Hayes' lead element suddenly came under intensive enemy automatic weapon fire from well-fortified positions. Captain Hayes moved through the heavy fire to personally take command of the lead element. He then directed the retaliatory fire of his men, moving throughout the area giving words of encouragement to them. Because of his leadership, he and his men finally overran the enemy positions. Captain Hayes then established a defensive perimeter to evacuate the dead and wounded and replenished the exhausted ammunition supply. At this time, the enemy unleashed a barrage of rocket, small arms, and mortar fire on his company's position. While under attack, Captain Hayes, with complete disregard for his own safety, ran through incoming enemy fire to direct the evacuation of the wounded. On several occasions, he moved the wounded personnel to safety. During the attack, he adjusted helicopter gunship and artillery fire, which eventually silenced the enemy positions. He then personally directed the evacuation of the wounded, giving those words of encouragement and assisting medical personnel in the treatment of the seriously wounded. Captain Hayes' 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.

07 October 1944

CPL Francis W. Sheridan (502nd PIR) earned the Silver Star Medal while serving with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself by heroic achievement in action. On 7 October 1944 while in a defensive position in the vicinity of Driel, Holland, he noticed a member of a burning American bomber crew land by parachute approximately two hundred yards in front of enemy lines. Corporal Sheridan immediately ran forward in the face of heavy and intense enemy fire three hundred yards to where the airman had landed. Finding the soldier unable to walk due to his injuries sustained in the jump, Corporal Sheridan, completely disregarding his personal safety, carried the wounded man back through withering enemy fire to the safety of his own lines. His display of heroic courage saved the life of this allied airman.



07 October 1967



PFC Aldwin A. Ellis Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 7 October 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Private First Class Ellis distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action when his platoon came under fierce enemy ground attack which resulted in him being wounded in the initial assault. Unable to get a clear field of fire, Private Ellis, completely disregarding the intense fire and his own wounds, left his covered position and ran through the hostile fire to a machinegun position which was about to be overrun. Placing himself between the machine gunner and the onrushing enemy, he began placing effective fire into the ranks of the enemy which killed three and wounded several more of the enemy. Private Ellis was unrelenting in his efforts to resist the enemy and defended the position until mortally wounded. Private First Class Ellis' outstanding display of courage and devotion were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

07 October 1967

1LT Leonard G. Anderson (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action; First Lieutenant Anderson distinguished himself on 7 October 1967 while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. While set up in a night perimeter, Lieutenant Anderson's platoon was attacked by two company size North Vietnamese Army units. Lieutenant Anderson, with complete disregard for his own safety, exposed himself continually to the vicious hail of enemy automatic weapons fire in order to position his men, direct their fire and call in artillery support. Lieutenant Anderson, realizing he was outnumbered and in danger of being overrun, broke contact and withdrew. After withdrawing to a fairly safe area, he immediately reorganized his platoon for a counterattack. Lieutenant Anderson, again with a complete disregard for his own safety, personally led the assault against the enemy. In the early phases of the counterattack he was wounded. Although bleeding profusely and in great pain, he continued to expose himself and lead his men throughout the assault. Lieutenant Anderson did not allow himself to be evacuated until all of his wounded men were extracted and their position secure. Lieutenant Anderson's successful counterattack accounted for twenty confirmed North Vietnamese Army soldiers dead, fourteen automatic weapons, two rocket launchers, and one flame thrower captured. Lieutenant Anderson's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are within the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

07 October 1967

PFC Hugh R. Flemister (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 7 October 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. During the early morning hours a large enemy force initiated a heavy attack against Private First Class Flemister's platoon in an attempt to overrun it. The other men at Private Flemister's position were killed in the early stages of the battle, leaving him alone to defend the platoon's left flank. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Flemister remained at this post and placed accurate suppressive fire on the enemy that allowed friendly casualties to be evacuated to safe positions. After the evacuation of casualties, Private Flemister continued his accurate fire and succeeded in killing five enemy soldiers before being mortally wounded. Private First Class Flemister's outstanding display of gallantry and his devotion to duty even at the cost of his life were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

07 October 1967

PFC Robert J. Padgett (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 7 October 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. Private First Class Padgett displayed



exceptional courage and personal dedication when his platoon was attacked by an estimated reinforced insurgent company. Private Padgett, serving as a grenadier, realized that in his present position he could not place effective fire upon the enemy. Moving through the intense fire to a more suitable location, he noticed a machine gunner had been wounded and, as he moved to the machine gunner's post, he was wounded also. Disregarding his personal safety, he continued on until reaching the weapon. Picking it up, he placed extremely accurate fire into the ranks of the on-rushing enemy. As the assault force continued toward him, Private Padgett stood up, fully exposing himself to the hostile fire, and maintained his resistance with the machinegun. He killed four enemy soldiers and wounded several more before being mortally wounded. As a result of Private Padgett's valiant actions and undaunted courage, the enemy attack was broken. Private First Class Padgett's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

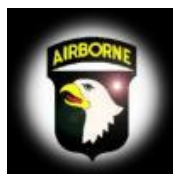
07 October 1967



PFC Rodney D. Hill (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for Gallantry in action against a hostile force on 7 October 1967 in the vicinity of Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. During the early morning hours on that date, Private First Class Hill's platoon was brought under heavy enemy ground assault. Although wounded, Private Hill, without regard for his own personal safety, rushed through intense volumes of enemy fire and began pulling his wounded comrades to safe positions. While placing one of the wounded in a sheltered position, Private Hill detected a small enemy element attempting to remove weapons from friendly casualties. Once again disregarding his own well-being, Private Hill charged the enemy element, killing two enemy soldiers and forcing the remaining enemy to pull back. As he returned to again aid to the wounded, he was struck by enemy fire and fatally wounded. Private Hill's heroic actions not only saved several lives, but prevented the enemy from capturing friendly weapons. Private First Class Hill's concern for his fellow soldiers were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

07 October 1967

PFC William A. Jateff (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for Gallantry in action against a hostile force on 7 October 1967 in the vicinity of Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. During the early morning hours on that date, Private First Class Jateff's platoon was hit by a massive enemy ground attack and he was wounded. As the intensity of the battle increased, Private Jateff observed an enemy assault element attempting to flank his position. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Jateff moved from his covered position and charged through the heavy hostile fire directly at the assault element and killed three enemy soldiers. Realizing that he was the only man left alive in the flank position, Private Jateff maintained his position and continued to place extremely effective fire into the ranks of the oncoming enemy. He succeeded in killing five more enemy soldiers before being fatally wounded. Private Jateff's unrelenting courage and valiant efforts greatly aided in repulsing the enemy attack. Private First Class Jateff's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.



07 October 1970



1LT Joseph L. Guerra (E/2-501 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Guerra distinguished himself while serving as leader of a reconnaissance team during combat operations near Fire Support Base Brick, Republic of Vietnam. While on a reconnaissance mission, Lieutenant Guerra observed numerous enemy Soldiers conducting a river crossing and immediately called for artillery support. While moving through high grass, the lead man came in contact and successfully engaged three enemy Soldiers. Lieutenant Guerra moved forward, confiscated their weapons and searched them for documents. After the team moved out, Lieutenant Guerra remained to observe enemy activity and called for continued aerial rocket artillery support. Lieutenant Guerra'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 (Airmobile), General Order Number 14208; 6 December 1970)

08 October 2010



SGT Jesse Hattesoehl (C/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor when he distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy during clearance of Zendanon as a member of 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment. His heroic actions facilitated killing the Squadron high value target, Kaka Abdul Hadi, and led to a decisive defeat of a Taliban element conducting an ambush of Coalition Forces.

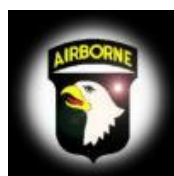
CTF Warrior, partnered with 4th Company 2/3/205 Corps ANA conducted an intelligence driven clearance of two compounds of interest in Pashmul, Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. While maneuvering to the objective, 1st platoon received sustained and effective fire from three separate locations to the south, east, and north of their position. Identifying that the platoon was directly in a Taliban ambush intended for response elements to a hoax IED emplaced the day prior, SGT Hattesoehl, the Alpha Team Leader in 2nd squad, led his team to gain the initiative on the enemy ambush element. With most of the platoon pinned down in a wadi under sustained enemy fire, SGT Hattesoehl maneuvered his team to an advantageous position farther along the line. Once reaching this dominant position, he directed the fire of his team's small arms, grenadiers, and machine guns to suppress the enemy element and provide his platoon maneuver space.

As his team suppressed the enemy, SGT Hattesoehl realized the platoon was also receiving fire from the east and north of their position. Under intense enemy fire, SGT Hattesoehl then took the initiative to leave his covered position and maneuvered his element to the north side of the wadi to suppress the enemy location. He then realigned other elements from within his squad to continue suppressing additional enemy south of the platoon's position.

With rounds impacting all around him, SGT Hattesoehl continued to give fire commands to the M240B machine gun crew, direct the fires of the squad designated marksman, and utilize organic high explosive grenades to allow the rest of the platoon to concentrate fire on the enemy's main element. Throughout this engagement, SGT Hattesoehl was completely exposed to enemy fire on two sides.



Once rotary wing close air support arrived on station, SGT Hattesoehl continued to move back and forth across the wadi to mark enemy locations with 40mm smoke until enemy contact stopped. His bravery and leadership that day were unparalleled and defeated an enemy ambush while preventing friendly losses.



SGT Hattesoehl's courage and selfless actions during a complex ambush from three separate locations enabled the platoon to kill a Squadron HVT, Kaka Abdul Hadi, without friendly losses. His initiative to maneuver and employ his element prevented the platoon from sustaining casualties and remaining pinned down in a wadi line under intense enemy fire. During this event, SGT Hattesoehl's actions, courage, and decisions set him apart from his peers.

09 October 2010



SPC Brandon Saxman was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor when he distinguished himself with valor and dedication to duty as the medic for the scout platoon (Mohawk), Combined Task Force First STRIKE on 9 October 2010.

While on a combined dismounted patrol in the volatile village of Makuan in the Zharay District of Kandahar Province, SPC Saxman's patrol came under attack from small arms fire (SAF) and a victim operated improvised explosive device (VOIED).

Immediately upon receiving word that his comrade had been severely wounded as a result of activating the VOIED, SPC Saxman had to be physically restrained from rushing to his aid while Mohawk established local security and suppressed the insurgent direct fire ambush that ensued after the detonation of the VOIED.

SPC Saxman ran 25 meters along the trail while exposed to possible secondary VOIEDs, through sporadic hostile fire as the insurgents broke contact, to recover Mohawk's wounded from the blast site before conducting an assessment and starting treatment. SPC Saxman directed the other first responder where to assist and provide treatment while quickly controlling the bleeding of all three missing extremities, stabilizing, and preparing the wounded for air-evacuation to a higher level medical facility.



SPC Saxman never left his wounded comrade and continued to offer comfort until a helicopter arrived on scene twenty minutes after the activation of the VOIED to evacuate the casualty to higher level treatment facilities at Kandahar Airfield. Once the aircraft landed, SPC Saxman assisted in the transport of the casualty and provided the crew chief with a status on the casualty before returning to provide security for the aircraft as it departed the landing zone.

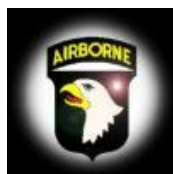
SPC Saxman's actions on 9 October 2010 ultimately contributed to the survival and well-being of his comrade. His dedication to duty and to his comrades in the face of hostile fire, with complete disregard for his personal safety, demonstrate the highest levels of valor and professionalism for a young medic attached to an infantry platoon in a combat zone.

09 October 2010



SGT Nicholas Graham (1-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor when he distinguished himself with valor and dedication to duty as a team leader for the Scout platoon (Mohawk), with 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment. While on a combined dismounted patrol in the volatile village of Makuan in the Zharay District of Kandahar Province, SGT Graham's patrol came under attack from small arms fire (SAF) and a victim operated improvised explosive device (VOIED).

SGT Graham was 25 meters behind the lead element when it encountered a



VOIED which initiated an insurgent direct fire ambush. SGT Graham immediately established local security with his Soldiers and ANP counterparts and began to suppress the enemy. Once the dust and debris had cleared, SGT Graham identified his squad leader as a casualty as a result of the VOIED. SGT Graham ran 25 meters along the trail with possible secondary VOIEDs, through sporadic hostile fire as the insurgents broke contact, to recover Mohawk's wounded from the blast site. SGT Graham assisted the medic in controlling the bleeding of all three missing extremities of the wounded Soldier.

SGT Graham had the resourcefulness to secure a wheel barrow from a nearby compound and use it as a CASEVAC platform to decrease the transport time of his comrade. SGT Graham established 360 degree security around the site and the helicopter arrived twenty minutes after the activation of the VOIED to evacuate the casualty to higher level treatment facilities at Kandahar Airfield. Once the aircraft landed, SGT Graham assisted in transport of the casualty before returning to provide security for the aircraft as it departed the landing zone.



SGT Graham's action ultimately contributed to the survival and well-being of his comrade. His dedication to duty and to his comrades in the face of hostile fire, with complete disregard for his personal safety, demonstrated the highest levels of valor and professionalism for a junior non-commissioned officer of a scout platoon in a combat zone.

09 October 2010

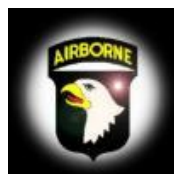


SGT Dustin Hennigar (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor while conducting a dismounted patrol on Objective Ozark at the corner of Route Ottawa and Route Parker in order to facilitate the clearance of a ground line of communication during Operation Edmonton STRIKE, 1st platoon, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, was struck by a house borne IED inside a compound. Two IEDs were initiated within a span of five minutes resulting in 12 wounded.

Though SGT Hennigar was three meters from the 2nd IED blast, he instantly gained situational awareness and sprinted to the aid of PFC Comer who was within a meter of the blast. SGT Hennigar ignored any threat of further IEDs and rushed through the smoke and debris to the site of PFC Comer. He immediately threw the wounded Soldier over his shoulders and began evacuating him out of the immediate threat area to the casualty collection point (CCP).



SGT Hennigar single handedly carried PFC Comer all the way to the CCP and began assessing and treating the wounded. His disregard for his own safety in order to save the life of a fellow Soldier resulted in PFC Comer immediately receiving medical attention. He assisted PFC Comer and other wounded to the HLZ, ignoring the risk to his own personal safety. This display of heroism



expedited the MEDEVAC and resulted in the wounded being quickly transported to further medical treatment. He acted above and beyond the call of duty for a team leader; SGT Hennigar's tireless efforts directly led to all of 1st platoon safely exfilling Objective Ozark.

09 October 2010



The following Soldiers: SPC William Blair was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and LTC David Easty (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor when they valorously distinguished themselves while assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment.

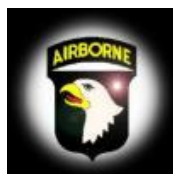
On 9 October 2010, 1st platoon was clearing compounds in order to deny terrain to insurgents, as the company main effort platoon during Operation Edmonton Blitz. Following an initial recon of a temporary strong point 1st platoon began to occupy the building. The first squad entered the building and established security. As the second squad was entering the building, a directionally focused charge (DFC) IED detonated one meter to the right of the doorway. The IED caused four serious casualties and numerous MTBI injuries.



LTC Easty, the battalion surgeon, was attached to 1st platoon for this mission. He had just entered the building before the IED detonated. The blast from the IED knocked LTC Easty to the ground, in addition to propelling SGT Lapierre down on top of him. LTC Easty immediately got up and began assessing SGT Lapierre and moving him out of the zone of smoke and falling debris to the center of the compound. Although still feeling the effects of the first blast, he began detailed trauma treatment while directing other seriously injured Soldiers to the center of the courtyard.

SPC Blair, the platoon medic, was located just outside of the entrance of the compound when the IED exploded. Despite the large possibility of a secondary IED he raced forward, with complete disregard for his own safety, through a cloud of dust and debris into the main court yard. Once inside SPC Blair immediately established a casualty collection point in order to assess and treat casualties. Disregarding his own physical condition, suffering from the concussion of the IED blast, he moved with deliberate efficiency and calmed the platoon. SPC Blair attended to SGT Urban who sustained multiple lacerations to his body and face, and lost part of a finger.

Approximately three minutes after the initial IED detonation, a second DFC IED located on the same wall exploded resulting in five additional casualties. LTC Easty, working on SGT Urban, tried to protect Urban from falling chunks of rock and other debris while completing his treatment and packaging him for MEDEVAC. SPC Blair again feeling the effects from the blast and now a possible MTBI casualty maintained his alertness and composure, directing multiple NCOs and Eagle First Responders to consolidate the new casualties. SPC Blair assessed and treated all five Soldiers, including PFC Comer who was standing mere feet from the IED. LTC Easty continued to maintain calm, methodical control over the assessment and treatment of the four initially injured Soldiers plus the five additional casualties despite the continuing risk of more IED explosions and the cumulative effects on himself from two close-range IED blasts.



Simultaneous to attending to casualties SPC Blair ensured the information required for the 13-line MEDEVAC was reported accurately. SPC Blair collected the aid and litter teams and then assisted moving all nine casualties to the HLZ located 100 meters north. The platoon exfiltrated the compound and moved to an adjacent grapefield. During this time a significant number of members of the platoon were becoming ill and disoriented from the two IED concussions. LTC Easty and his medic continued to treat and physically move patients from the grape rows onto the LZ as the helicopters landed.

LTC Easty and SPC Blair's actions during the house borne IED attack directly resulted in no loss of life for the nine casualties. Their disregard for their own safety in order to save the lives of Soldiers resulted in them receiving immediate care. LTC Easty's courage, expertise and willingness to accompany Soldiers into combat are a credit to his profession. SPC Blair's ability to handle such an immense mass casualty event is a credit to his own courage and dedication to his platoon.

09 October 2010



CPT David Forsha (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, and elements of Company A air assaulted into Objective Clarksville as the main effort company of Operation Edmonton Blitz. Following an initial recon of a proposed platoon strongpoint, elements from 1st platoon began to secure the building when an IED detonated wounding several Soldiers and causing several severe MTBI injuries.

Reacting quickly and without hesitation CPT Forsha moved into the IED laced building to assess the situation, reestablish security and coordinate for the evacuation of the wounded. While en-route to the initial casualty collection point in the building, a second IED detonated wounding more Soldiers and causing more MTBI injuries. CPT Forsha, who was in close proximity to the blast and despite being significantly impaired by the blast, assisted in the treatment and triage of the mass-casualty situation, reestablishing security in the compound and began to maneuver additional units outside the compound to head off a pending enemy direct fire attack.

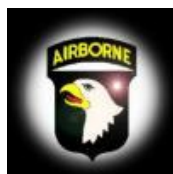


After finding additional IEDs in the building, CPT Forsha, who had already refused medical evacuation, remained on site to synchronize the evacuation of the houseborne IED to ensure security was maintained and the enemy was unable to inflict further casualties on the company. CPT Forsha's personal courage and leadership under fire prevented the enemy from causing further casualties and ensured that all seriously wounded Soldiers were quickly MEDEVAC'd preventing any loss of life.

10 October 2010



The following Soldiers: SPC Stephen Barnard were awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and SFC Tyrone Antley (C/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while they distinguished themselves through exceptionally valorous action in the face of the enemy while deployed with Company C, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment. During a complex ambush against the Squadron Command Sergeant Major's Personal Security Detachment (PSD), they provided an immediate response at the point of crisis. SFC Antley and SPC Barnard's heroic actions, professionalism, and valor prevented further loss of life and allowed the recovery of two fallen Soldiers and three wounded Soldiers from a catastrophic IED attack.





That morning the Squadron CSM and his PSD conducted a visit to the Company C patrol base along Route Victoria. While they were at the patrol base, the southwest and northwest battle positions spotted insurgents with AK-47s moving from between covered and concealed positions. The base was put on alert of an attack and Soldiers moved to their force protection positions. Soon after the threat level was decreased, the Squadron CSM returned to his vehicle and the PSD departed the patrol base. Minutes after the PSD element left the patrol base, an explosion was heard along Route Victoria in the vicinity of the PSD. SFC Antley immediately ordered all available Soldiers to grab their equipment and move to their vehicles to secure the IED strike site. His actions allowed the company quick reaction force (QRF) to respond to the incident quickly and effectively.

SFC Antley, SPC Barnard and five other Soldiers were the first ones to leave the patrol base and move to the IED strike site. Despite the fact that only his vehicle was ready to leave the patrol base, SFC Antley realized every second they waited further endangered the lives of other Soldiers. He made the decision to move to the IED strike site and secure it.



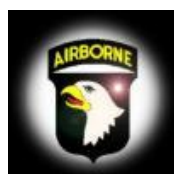
SPC Barnard immediately grabbed his rifle and equipment and ran to the first available vehicle. As his vehicle approached the PSD convoy, SFC Antley stopped short, dismounted his crew and proceeded to secure the site. With complete disregard for their own safety, SFC Antley and SPC Barnard moved along the PSD line of vehicles to link up with the convoy commander.

While moving towards his objective, Soldiers in the rear truck of the PSD alerted him to sporadic weapons fire from a concealed insurgent position to their east. Despite receiving these warnings, SFC Antley did not hesitate to take charge of the situation as he sent Soldiers, medical supplies and equipment up to the IED strike site to assist with the security and recovery efforts.

While passing two vehicles on his way to the lead vehicle, SPC Barnard was alerted by a Soldier to small arms fire from the east as well as the potential for secondary IEDs. SPC Barnard acknowledged the warning and continued unhindered to the damaged vehicle. He immediately identified a wounded Soldier on the ground,



moved to his location and applied a tourniquet to his leg. As a result, SPC Barnard undoubtedly saved the Soldier's life by providing critical care and stopping the bleeding. Shortly after the tourniquet was applied, a medic arrived and took over the treatment. SPC Barnard then moved to assist a fellow Eagle First Responder who was treating another wounded Soldier. He quickly realized that the medics lacked additional aid bags and took the initiative and returned to the PSD trucks where he secured two aid and litter kits. The additional litter kits



allowed the Soldiers to move the wounded to the casualty collection point in order to prepare them for MEDEVAC. His leadership ensured that all urgently wounded Soldiers received proper medical care.

After directing his Soldiers to secure the area and assess the wounded, SFC Antley consolidated critical information and prepared the 13-Line MEDEVAC report. As medical personnel treated the wounded Soldiers at the casualty collection point, SFC Antley established and secured a hasty HLZ. After the evacuation of the wounded, he led and coordinated all security efforts on the ground and searched for sensitive items and equipment. In the end, two fallen Warriors and all their equipment were accounted for and recovered.

SFC Antley's immediate actions in leading an element to secure the IED strike site, coordinating for the evacuation of wounded Soldiers, and supervising the recovery efforts resulted in saving three wounded Soldiers' lives. In addition he ensured the complete recovery of two fallen Warriors and their equipment. SFC Antley's ability to remain calm under pressure, and take charge of a chaotic situation greatly aided in the management of the mass casualty event.

With complete disregard for his own safety, SPC Bernard's immediate actions during a catastrophic IED strike enabled the first responders to establish security and regain situational awareness. His urgency and proactive measures allowed him to personally provide medical aid to three Soldiers which ultimately saved their lives.

***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 2nd 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 3rd Battalions of the 502nd Infantry Regiment. With this reorganization, the Brigade adopted the regimental motto, "Strike."

