



STRIKE

Weekly History



Est. 1941

April 12th – April 18th

Issue: 3

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.

12 April 1967

Task Force Oregon is formed in the South Vietnam in response to MACV's need for reinforcements in I Corps. The task force is stationed at Chu Lai (Quang Tin Province) and is made up of the following units: 25th Infantry Divisions; 3d Brigade (1-14th IN, 1-35th IN, 2-35 IN); 101st Airborne Division 1st BDE: 1-327th ABN, 2-327th ABN, 2-502 ABN); 19th Light Infantry Brigade (2-1st IN, 3-21st IN, 4-31st IN); 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (2nd SQDN)

12 April 1968

B/1-502 IN had the only contact. They engaged 5 VC vic. YD5830 with negative results. (1-502 Unit Annual Historical Supplement)

12 April 1968

While investigating digging sounds in action 20 miles southwest of Hue, airborne infantrymen from B/2-502 IN detected six NVA and took them under fire. Elements of the 9th Division's 3rd BN 5th CAV swept the suspected enemy area with the paratroopers. B Company riflemen engaged the NVA Company, using organic weapons, and swept over the enemy bunker positions. The NVA force broke contact, leaving 20 dead behind. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Screaming Eagle Diary; July 1968)

12 April 2006

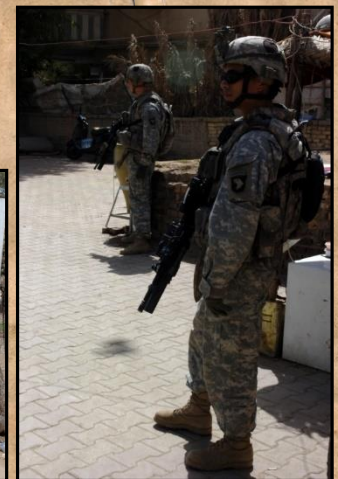
Operation Vision Quest. D/1-502 conducts a Cordon and knock and successfully detains the 5 AIF believed to be involved in a catastrophic IED attack.

12-24 April 2006

Operation Desert Scorpion. B/1-502 and SCTS/1-502 conduct multiple Air Assaults and Search and Attacks to gain intelligence on the AIF responsible for the downing of an AH-64 aircraft in vicinity of Rusdi Mulla.

12 April 2008

Operation Strike Hawkeye Strike Brigade disrupts indirect fire in Kadhimiya Security District in order to prevent attacks on CF and ISF. Key tasks of this operation include area reconnaissance to disrupt historical POO sites, ISR support of NAI's to prevent IDF attacks and provide early warning, and coordinate responsive AWT coverage to interdict IDF. End state of this operation is that IDF and rocket attacks are disrupted, CF and ISF freedom of maneuver is sustained, and Shulla and Hurriya are free of SG IDF teams.



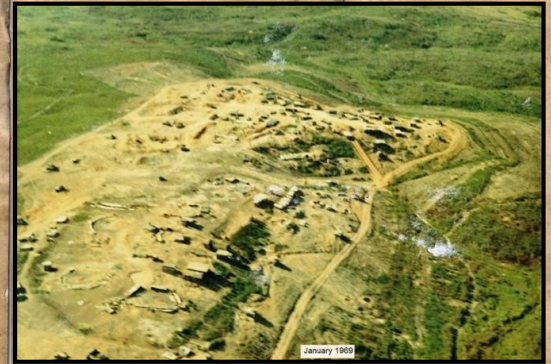
13 April 1968

1/502 IN Battalion on this day was released from the mission of security of Camp Evans. The CP moved from Camp Evans to LZ Sally. (1-502 Unit Annual Historical Supplement)



13 April 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: Once again the 2-502 IN STRIKE Force Battalion moved its area of operations. The Battalion was released from the control of the 2BDE and came under the operational control of the 3BDE. The Battalion headquarters was established at FSB Jack, and the battalion's maneuver companies operated in the mountains west of the fire base, screening and interdicting enemy units massing to strike against Camp Evans. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)



13 April 2003

In order to destroy enemy remnants that could interdict the Corps ground LOCs, 101st Airborne Division orders 3-502 IN, led by MAJ Brian Pearl, to clear the city of Al Mahmudiyah, a small town to the south of Baghdad. During the operation, Iraqi citizens gathered around U.S. forces cheering the fall of Saddam Hussein. Paramilitary forces took advantage of this by setting up an ambush that they initiated with a fragmentary grenade and automatic weapon fire, causing multiple casualties. With Kiowa's running black on fuel and the Strike HQ 25 miles north of the area and despite the chaos of the violent opening moments of the ambush, the training of the Soldiers quickly took over and they acquitted themselves heroically in eliminating the threat and evacuating their casualties. 18 Soldiers were wounded during this mission while SPC Turner received the Silver Star.

14 April 1968

1/502 IN Battalion had a day of relaxation for the battle weary troops of the Battalion as they had stood down at Wunder Beach. (1-502 Unit Annual Historical Supplement)

14 April 2003

A clearance mission was executed by 3-502 in Al Mahmudiyah to root out any remaining paramilitary forces, while 2-502 conducted an out of sector mission in Al Iskandariyah to destroy military and paramilitary forces that might disrupt the corps main supply route. The one-day mission succeeded in destroying over 30 tanks, armored personnel carriers, anti-aircraft guns, and missiles.

15 April 1967

Operation SUMMERALL: The 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry was extracted to Khanh Duong to prepare for Phase III of Operation SUMMERALL. Numerous SPAR's reports and Hoi Chan informers indicated that the 7th and 8th Battalion, 18-B Regiment (NVA) and a company-sized VC Province Unit were based on Hon Ba Mountain. 18-B was an old foe of the STRIKE FORCE, and was reportedly once again operational as a result of replacements from NVN.

15 April 1968

1-502 IN BN spend the day completing the move to LZ Sally. The units took re-supply and prepared for future operations. (1-502 Unit Annual Historical Supplement)

15 April 1969

Elements of the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry from the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) find a munitions cache 17km southwest of A Shau in Thua Thien Province. Cache is estimated at 9.5 tons and includes over 2,000 mortar rounds.

15 April 1971 –
July 1971

Operation LAM SON 720: In early April it became obvious that the NVA was making extensive use of the A Shau Valley to move troops, equipment, and supplies. The 1st Brigade was assigned to overall mission of disrupting the enemies' logistic system and impeding his use of the A Shau Valley Area. The Brigade Commander elected to employ airmobile raid tactics with rapid operations of a short duration. For five days the companies patrolled the area around FB Jack and took turns refining rappelling techniques at FB Jack. On 22 April, A/2-502 IN took the initiative with a night combat patrol north of A Loui Airfield and south of the Razorback. Echo Company followed with a reconnaissance assault and mortar raid on Eagle Nest where they established a patrol base for Alpha's raid on the Valley floor. These operations were conducted professionally and reflected the extensive training conducted in the staging area. The result that the company created was the illusion that the entire STRIKE Force was employed in the A Shau



Valley, thus delaying and restricting the enemy's use of the area. Bravo Company was directed to assist the 17th CAV in an aircraft rescue mission in the southern portion of the A Shau Valley. In typical STRIKE Force fashion, Bravo Company, minus one platoon, with one platoon of Charlie Company attached combat assaulted into the valley late one evening and moved to secure the high ground. The next morning they attacked south against heavy resistance and secured the downed helicopters. B and C Companies, 2d platoon then returned to FB Jack. Due to unflyable weather over the planned area of operation, the battalion spent four days at FB Jack receiving additional training.

One April 30th, the weather cleared allowing a small element of the battalion to be inserted on Co Pung Mountain. One thousand fifteen meters in height, Co Pung commands the eastern approach to the upper A Shau Valley. To enjoy any success in the upper valley Co Pung had to be held. It was to be a 1st Brigade support base for future raids in and around Tiger Mountain. STRIKE Force was called upon to seize and hold Co Pung Mountain. Following B-52 strikes, fighter bomber attacks, and extensive artillery fire, the battalion landed on Co Pung fighting bad weather and a determined enemy. On (15 April 1971) the initial sortie onto the mountain two of the lift ships crashed on the LZ resulting in 5 STRIKE Force Troopers KIA (SSG Pacheco, SGT Wilson, SGT Cowley, SGT Gettelfinger, CPL Dutkiewicz) and 10 WIA. Recon and Bravo quickly seized the high ground and the engineers expanded the LZ's. Charlie and Delta Companies took the southern and eastern sides respectively. On 2 May the enemy in the surrounding areas launched the first of many mortar attacks against Co Pung. On 5 May the Command and Control aircraft for the battalion spotted thirty NVA approximately 1000 meters from Co Pung and engaged them with gunships with unknown results. Because the battalion was the first allied force to assault that area on the fringe of the A Shau Valley, an enormous amount of enemy activity was discovered and an endless collection of intelligence data was collected. During a nine day stay on Co Pung the battalion received eleven 60/81mm mortar attacks and seven 57/75mm recoilless rifle attacks without one single injury to a STRIKE Force Soldier. This was credited to effective counter mortar programming using air, artillery, and mortars; radio discipline (the enemy was never told where his rounds were impacting); sound combat patrolling (both day and night) and outstanding soldiering by individuals and fighting units. Some 101st troopers made the ultimate sacrifice on Co Pung and some STRIKE Force troops suffered injuries.

Most STRIKE Force troopers will remember Co Pung for the hardship created by unusually bad weather and the numerous enemy attacks but the capture of Co Pung opened the gate for the 1st ARVN Division in the upper A Shau Valley. Major General Tarpley, Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), told many troopers on the day of the battalions return from Co Pung that they STRIKE Force troopers were the first Americans to set foot on the mountain. On May 8th an ARVN unit located at Co Pung and the STRIKE Force battalion was extracted back to FB Jack (YD 4928) to prepare for insertion on the following day into the area west of OP Checkmate and north of FB Veghel.

The return to OP Checkmate and the surrounding AO on 9 May lasted only ten days. During the period of 9-18 May the battalion patrolled the area surrounding FB Veghel. On 17 May one team of the Recon Platoon air assaulted into FB Shock (Vic 5105). Also on that day, 3rd Platoon, C Company observed and engaged three NVA's. The following day A Company discovered an old bunker complex and approximately 300 pounds of printing type. On the 18th, Delta and Echo (-) combat assaulted into an area in the vicinity of FB Veghel. D Company moved onto and secured FB Veghel while the remaining elements of the battalion conducted "Search and Clear" missions three to five kilometers south of FB Veghel. Prior to our battalion's assault into this AO, a unit of Vietnamese Marines had been operating in this area and had numerous enemy contacts. From the sum of intelligence collected, it was concluded that the NVA had a major base of operations located east of the Song Bo River. The battalion's mission was to move into the area forcing this base west of the Song Bo, at which time B-52 strikes, FAC airstrikes, and artillery would be dropped on their suspected location. While the 3rd ARVN Regiment was heavily engaged with the 6th NVA Regiment west of the Song Bo River and south of route 547, the "Always First" Brigade moved to secure their eastern flank. Echo Company, 2-502d Infantry secured Dong A Vo mountain while Alpha and Bravo attacked south with extensive fire support. Charlie joined in the final assault on Hill 608. The operation turned out to be a true infantry ground attack.



The combat assault of the Vietnamese Marines and elements of the 1st ARVN Division into the known location of the 6th ARVN Regiment around FB Veghel was heartening to the STRIKE Force troopers. While the battalion of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division was deployed along a line north and east of FB Veghel, the South Vietnamese Marines and Army units struck deep into the 6th NVA territory. This operation vividly demonstrated that the combat effectiveness of our Vietnamese counterparts. This was the first time that American units had been passed by Vietnamese units in pursuit of the enemy. The combined operation with the 3rd ARVN Regiment at FB Veghel was a perfect example of this. While the battalion was securing their artillery and headquarters at FB Veghel, the 3d ARVN Regiment attacked the 6th NVA Regiment at Dong A Tay Mountain.

Having completed the operation south of FB Veghel (Vic 5503); A, B, D, and E (-) Companies CA'd into the AO north of FB Veghel while B Company continued to secure firebases.

On 6 June the battalion CA'd into the AO north of FB Bastogne (Vic YD 6209), companies moving onto OP Lion (A Co.), OP Viber (B Co.), FB Bastogne (C Co.), OP King (E Co.), and D Company securing route 547. The mission was to interdict any enemy activity such as food agents or tax collectors traveling back and forth from Hue to the Song Bo River area. Alpha and Bravo Companies closed OP's Lion and Viper and moved off them to patrol the AO.

The AO the battalion was assigned to patrol was one of considerable enemy activity. Through the 1-327th Infantry and the ARVN had patrolled this area for the past 2 years, the battalion found innumerable enemy bunker complexes, high speed trails and sleeping positions. The STRIKE Force Battalion took charge and on 21 June the sniper platoon spotted and engaged 5 NVA, wounding one and capturing him a short time later. This POW was a food carrier/agent for the NVA and was carrying rice and supplies out to the area NW of FB Bastogne where he was to link up with a NVA Sapper unit. The POW related that because of increased presence (2-502 IN) in the area the enemy units were critically short of food. The following day the Sniper Platoon found several sets of fresh footprints and a satchel charge.

During the month all the units were able to get two days at Eagle Beach for a short R&R period. However, E Company spent more time there than most because of their outstanding performance. To add to the Snipers capture on 21 June, Recon Team 1, on 25 June observed, engaged, and killed 1 NVA. SGT Rathert was leading the patrol when he spotted the NVA walking toward him on the same trail. Reacting instantly, SGT Rathert killed this NVA and began to take necessary precautions for other NVA being in the same area. However, there were no others. One AK-47 and some documents were captured. On 24 June, Alpha Company 3rd Platoon conducted a combined operation with Regional Force companies from Nam Hoa District. Several Days later, on 28 June, the battalion moved to FB Tennessee (Vic YC 5596) to conduct operations in that area. B Company and a forward TOC were located on FB Tennessee. On 29 June the other companies of STRIKE Force CA'd into the area surrounding FB Tennessee. From the onset of this operation there were numerous signs of enemy activity. D Company found fresh footprints, bunkers, and a tunnel. C Company found some bamboo hootches; A Company discovered very fresh footprints of 1 NVA and tracks of one dog. These operations were not without price. On 17 June, the Platoon Leader, pointman and Kit Carson Scout of 2d Platoon, A Company were wounded when a booby trap detonated. The next day the platoon observed and engaged and unknown size enemy force resulting in one STRIKE Force Trooper WIA. Later that day, one RPG round from an unknown enemy force killed one STRIKE Force Trooper and wounded another.

July saw the STRIKE Force Battalion still in Operation Lam Son 720. The mission of the battalion was to fix the position of the K-2 NVA Battalion, believed to be operating near FB Tennessee and to interdict enemy traffic. At all times, the basic mission of the battalion was to deny the enemy food, freedom of movement and flexibility of operations. This was accomplished by conducting preplanned air strikes and artillery fires.



On 2 July, the point element of A Company detonated a booby trap resulting in one STRIKE Force Trooper KIA and three other WIA. Personnel operating in the FB Tennessee area became wary when approaching suspected enemy locations. On one occasion, elements of D Company received two rounds of incoming mortar near their location without suffering any casualties. Sweep operations continued in the AO and members of the battalion found numerous trails, huts, and bunkers. The operation on and around FB Tennessee revealed there was substantial enemy activity in that area. Increased air strikes, flame drops, and artillery fires were placed on the suspected enemy locations. In mid-month, the battalions moved off FB Tennessee and established FB Spear. This move was to provide support for operations in that area and to provide screening elements for the southern area of operations. During this period, the battalion TOC was located at FB Normandy, with the unit continuing its operations in the AO without any significant contact with the enemy. The STRIKE Force Battalion continued its successful interdiction of enemy infiltration routes and denied the enemy its basic needs. The end of July brought to a close of Operation Lam Son 720 and ushered in the renewal of Operations Jefferson Glen. (2d Battalion, 502d Infantry; Unit History, Approved by LTC John C. Snodgrass, IN, Commanding)

15 April 2011

2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion conducts Transfer of Authority (TOA) with 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division at FOB Pasab.

16 April 1968

1-502 IN BN went OPCON to the 1st Brigade until 30 April 1968. During this operation the records were destroyed in a rocket attack. (1-502 Unit Annual Historical Supplement)

16 April 1968

Eighteen miles north of Hue, elements of 2nd BN (Abn), 501st IN discovered an enemy base camp containing 20 underground tunnels and bunkers. Stored in the tunnels were 1,000 AK-47 rounds, 20 rounds of 60mm mortars and various medical supplies. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary; July 1968)

16 April 1968

Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN: 2-502 effectively accomplished its mission. It secured the rock crusher site and made significant contacts with the enemy forcing him to sustain significant losses in personnel, and weapons. He was forced to move his base area to avoid contact. 2-502 managed to establish heavy FSB Bastogne, in the desired time limit.

Results of Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>WHA</u>
US	11	113

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VC KIA</u>	<u>Wpns Ind.</u>	<u>Rice Dest.</u>
ENEMY 74 (C)	47	250lbs	

The Battalion personnel strength at the conclusion of Operation was as follows:

Authorized:	778
Assigned:	689
Present for Duty:	643
Not present for duty:	45

Casualties for Operations were as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>INRHA</u>
HHC	5	0	0	21	0	0
A Co.	2	0	0	49	0	0
B Co.	3	0	0	38	0	1
C Co.	1	1	0	25	0	0
Total	11	1	0	133	0	1



16 April 1968

Operation DELAWARE: Operation Began (2-502 IN); Locations: Thua Thien Province, RVN. Task Organization: A/2-502, B/2-502, C/2-502, Recondos. Battalion Control: HHC (-), 4.2 & 82mm Mortar Platoon, 3(-)/A/326 ENG, IPW, 101MI Detachment. The following changes were made in the task organization during Operation DELAWARE. (1) 2-327 assumed OPCON C/2-502 effective 181300H and released effective 191425H. (2) 2-502 released OPCON B/1-502 effective 201400H. (3) 1/327 assumed OPCON Recondos 2-502 effective 291800H and released effective 301830H.

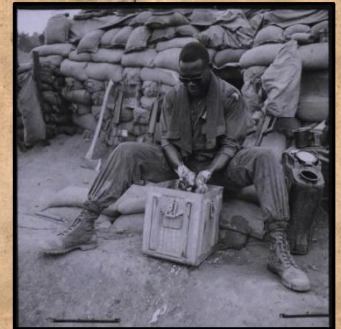
Mission: Phase I: 2-502 establishes and secures firebase vic. of YD5402 and block Hwy 547 and 547A in assigned AO. Phase II: 2-502 establishes firebase, conducts reconnaissance enforce operations into New Base Area 114, interdicts enemy routes of egress along Song Bo River.

The Battalion personnel strength at the beginning of Operation was as follows:

Authorized:	920
Assigned:	677
Present for Duty:	638
Not present for duty:	39

16 April 1968

FIRE SUPPORT BASE "BASTONGE". SP5 Charles Bledford (Quincy, Florida), radio-telephone operator, HRC, 502nd Infantry, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, washes his laundry in front of his bunker.



16 April 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: At first light an unknown enemy force struck D/2-502 2nd Platoon. The enemy engaged the Platoon with RPG's and small arms fire before they were driven off. One Soldier was KIA. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)

17 April –
01 May 1967

Operation SUMMERALL: 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry was deployed along the north and east sided of Hon Ba following air assaults onto 6 separate LZ's. The initial plan sent two units directly against the assumed enemy position and two other units came in on the flanks. Contact was made immediately with what appeared to be delaying elements, as friendly units moved into the AO.

In the next 14days, the battalion searched the rugged north and eastern faces of the mountain from its base to its cloud shrouded crest, learning the trail system and driving the enemy from his hiding places. Except for one sharp encounter in a rocky cul de sac between the Recondo Force and a platoon from the 8th Battalion, 18-B Regiment, contacts were meeting engagements with individuals and small groups. It appeared that the enemy in moving from one area to another to avoid contact was becoming critically short of food and several successful ambushes were conducted on sump areas. Contacts during this phase accounted for 15 VC/NVA KIA and 11 weapons captured. The type of weapons captured substantiated other intelligence that an NVA unit was operating in the area.

17-18 April 1968

1-501 cordons Ap Ny Xa and Ap Dong Xuyen resulting in 48 NVA KIA and 4000 lbs of rice captured.

17 April 1968

A battalion-size cordon was conducted by paratroopers of the 1-501 IN and A/2-501 IN around the fortified village of Dong Xuyen three miles north of Hue. Following Army aviation, artillery, and tactical air strikes, the "Geronimo" troopers entered the village killing 52 enemy in three days. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary; July 1968)



17 April 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: D/2-502 2d Platoon reversed tables, ambushing small enemy forces, killing one and wounding several others. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)

17 April 1971

Operation Lam Son: On 17 April 1971, the 2-502 IN BN moved to a staging area at Fire Base Jack where they prepared for Airmobile raids in the A Shau Valley. In early April it became obvious that the NVA was making extensive use of the A Shau Valley to move troops, equipment, and supplies. The 1st Brigade was assigned the overall mission of disrupting the enemy's logistic system and impeding his use of the A Shau Valley area. The Brigade Commander elected to employ Airmobile raid tactics with rapid operations of a short duration.

A/2-502 lead off with a night combat patrol north of A Loui Airfield and south of the Razorback with Echo/2-502 IN following up with a reconnaissance assault and a mortar raid on Eagles Nest where they established a patrol base for Alpha's raid on the Valley floor. These operations were conducted professionally and reflected the extensive training in the staging area. The result was success in that we created the deception that the STRIKE Force was employed in the A Shau Valley. Thus, delaying and restricting the enemy's use of the area.

B/2-502 was directed to assist the Cav in an aircraft rescue mission in the southern A Shau Valley. In typical STRIKE Force fashion Bravo Company, minus one platoon, with one platoon of Charlie Company attached combat assaulted into the Valley late one evening and moved to secure the high ground. The next morning they attacked south against heavy resistance and secured the downed helicopters. The wounded crew members will be forever indebted to Bravo's success in this operation.

Next came Co Pung Mountain. At 1615 meters Co Pung commands the eastern approach to the upper A Shau Valley. To enjoy any success in the upper valley Co Pugh had to be held. It was to be a 1st Brigade support base for future raids in and around Tiger Mountain. STRIKE Force was called upon to seize and hold CO Pung Mountain. Following B-52 strikes, fighter bomber attacks and extensive artillery fire that battalion landed on Co Pung fighting bad weather and a determined enemy. Recon and Bravo quickly seized the high ground and the engineers expanded the LZ's. Delta and Charlie took the southern and eastern sides respectively. During our nine (9) day stay on Co Pung the battalion received eleven (11) 60/81mm Mortar attacks and seven (7) 57/75mm Recoilless Rifle attacks without one single injury to a STRIKE Force Soldiers. LTC Lloyd Cosby credits this to the effective counter mortar programming using the air, artillery, and mortars; radio discipline (we never told the enemy where his rounds were impacting); sound combat patrolling (both day and night) and outstanding Soldiering by individuals and fighting by units. Some 101st troopers made the ultimate sacrifice on Co Pung and some STRIKE Force troopers suffered injuries. They all fought well and they deserve our honor now. Most of us will remember Co Pung for the hardship created by unusually bad weather and the numerous enemy attacks but it can be reported that our capture of Co Pung opened the gate for the 1st ARVN Division in the upper A Shau Valley. MG Tarpley, Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), told many of you on the day of our returned from Co Pung that "the STRIKE Force troopers were the first Americans to put foot on the mountains."

Our return to observation Post Checkmate and our well worked AO lasted only 10 days. While the 3d ARVN Regiment was heavily engaged with the 6th NVA Regiment west of the Song Bo River and south of Route 547, the "Always First Brigade" moved to secure their eastern flank. Echo secured Dong A Vo Mountain while Alpha and Bravo attacked south with extensive fire support. Charlie joined in the final assault on hill 608. This operation turned out to be a true infantry ground attack.

The combat assaults of the Vietnamese Marines and elements of the 1st ARVN Division into the known location of the 6th NVA Regiment around FB Veghel are heartening to me. While the battalions of the 1st Brigade, 101st were deployed along a line north and east of FB Veghel, the Vietnamese Marines and Army units jumped over the American units and struck deep into the 6th NVA. In my view, this is Vietnamization at its best. It was also vividly demonstrated the combat effectiveness of our Vietnamese counterpart. This is the first time in my memory that American



units have been over-jumped by the Vietnamese units in pursuit of the enemy. In my opinion these are good signs. Our combined operation with the 3rd Regiment at Veghel was perfect example of this. While we were securing their artillery and headquarters at Veghel the 3^d Regiment attacked the 6th NVA Regiment on Dong A Tay Mountain. Our Friends paid a high price for the defeat of the 6th NVA Regiment but they accomplished it with professional skill. In short, I say "hats off" to their aggressive fighting spirit.

I am extremely proud of the STRIKE Force Battalion's accomplishments during the past two months and I fully realize that our success is to the credit of you, the Infantry trooper. Without your dedicated professionalism these difficult missions could not have been accomplished. (Operation Lam Son 720 letter from LTC Lloyd Cosby, Commanding, 30 May 1971)

17 April 2009

1-75 CAV holds a Remembrance Ceremony to honor the fallen Strike Soldiers from OIF I, OIF 05-07, and OIF 07-09. Fallen Soldiers include SSG Richard A. Burdick (3-502 IN), SGT Leonard D. Simmons (3-502 IN), and PFC Jerrick M. Petty (3-502 IN) from OIF I, SSG Metodido A. Bandonill and SGT Steve M. Sakoda from OIF 05-07, and SSG Clay A. Craig, SGT John D. Aragon, and CPL David P. McCormick from OIF 07-09.

17 April 2011

1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment conducts Transfer of Authority (TOA) with 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, and 3rd Brigade 10th Mountain Division at FOB Pasab.

18 April 1971

Medics from the 1-502 IN saved the lives of three Vietnamese civilians while on a MEDCAP mission near Hue. Two of the victims were involved in a motorcycle accident, and the third was injured by a VC mine minutes before the MEDCAP team arrived. The 'First Strike' medics administered emergency first aid treatment and called in a "dustoff" to transport the wounded Vietnamese to the 85th Evacuation Hospital in Phu Bai. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary; July 1971)

18 April 2003

Lt. Gen. William Wallace speaks to the Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, exhorting them to stay vigilant as Operation Iraqi Freedom transitions into a peacekeeping and humanitarian stage. "Don't let your guard down," Wallace said. "Show the people of this country the proper respect, but be careful. There's still a bunch of knuckleheads running around." He went on to praise the troops for giving "back to the Iraqi people the society and culture that is rightfully theirs." U.S. Army photo by SPC Robert Woodward, 101st Airborne Division.



18 April 2011

Combined Task Force STRIKE conducts Transfer of Authority (TOA) with 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division at FOB Pasab.



18 April -
28 May 2011

Operation Spartan Strike: 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, Combined Action Strike Force (CASF), remained in Afghanistan under the Operational Control of 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division from 18 April to 28 May 2011. During this time, CASF conducted Operation Spartan STRIKE to continue disruption of insurgent command and control, finance, and logistics operations in western Zharay District, Kandahar Province.



In April 2011, STRIKE Force attacked to clear Objectives Macarthur, Eisenhower, and Caldwell in the areas of Nalgham and Charharshaka, Zharay District, Kandahar Province. During the initial operation to clear Objective Macarthur on 21 April 2011, A/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN discovered and reduced multiple fighting positions and caches including weapons and IED making materials. The people appeared indigenous to the area and expressed interests of local concern. The rapid infiltration, population-centric clearance of the area, and air exfiltration from Objective Macarthur prevented the enemy from fixing Combined Action Strike Force (CASF), and the operation was a success. The subsequent clearance of Objective Eisenhower on 24 April 2011 in the Central Zharay Siah Choy area successfully interdicted \$5.15 million of drugs used to fuel the insurgency.



The air assault vertical envelopment permitted HHC/2-502 IN and D/2-502 IN to land behind the insurgent defensive IED belts to discover and reduce multiple IED and weapons caches. The Task Force encountered multiple small arms fire engagements with the Taliban that resulted in several Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) detainees. CASF conducted its final operation in the month of April to clear the Charharshaka area believed to be an insurgent support zone. On 27 April 2011, C/2-502 IN and Scouts from HHC/2-502 IN conducted an air assault to clear Objective Caldwell. During the clearance, Combined Action Strike Force assessed the population largely supportive of ISAF, ANSF, and GIROA. The local national population facilitated the identification and reduction of weapons caches, IED making materials, and \$500,000 worth of narcotics.



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.

8 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
2 x Bronze Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
1 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
73 x Purple Heart Medal (31 x Posthumously)
3 x Died of Non-Hostile wounds or injury

12 April 1968



The following Soldiers: SP4 Byron N. Jones and PFC Jones E. Tomlinson (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 gunfire wounds in the Thuan Thien Province, South Vietnam.

12 April 1968

The following Soldiers: PFC Michael W. Miller (C/1-501 IN); PFC Donald J. Boaz (B/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 Thuan Thien Province, South Vietnam.

12 April 1971



SSG John V. Wentworth (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 wound while at an aircraft landing zone when the area came under attack by a hostile force 4 KM SE of LZ Veghel, in the Thua Hien Province, South Vietnam.

12 April 2008



SGT William Allmon (1-64 AR) 25, of Ardmore, Oklahoma; earned the Purple heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device in Baghdad.

12 April 2011

SPC Curtis Brunk (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.

13 April 1971

PFC Lamar L. Williams (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wound in the vicinity of LZ Veghel, 30 KM SW of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 April 2003

CPL Christopher Hausler (3-502 IN) actions in combat during the grenade and small arms attack earn him the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and the Purple Heart.



13 April 2003

SPC Dwayne Turner (HHC/3-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during combat in action against a hostile force.

13 April 2006



SPC Andrew K. Waits (1-502 IN) 23, of Waterford, Michigan; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations, in Baghdad.

13 April 2006

SGT David Etherington (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in actions in combat. At 1130 while conducting a mounted patrol, SGT Etherington's HMMWV was struck by an IED. He suffered shrapnel wounds to his hip and two broken toes.

14 April 1968

PFC George D. Stone (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.

14 April 1969



PFC Charles D. Crosby (HHC/1-501 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.

14 April 1970

PFC Thomas A. Peters (HHC/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)

14 April 2003



SPC Thomas Arthur Foley III (2-44 ADA), 23, of Dresden, Tennessee; earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when a grenade exploded in his HMMWV in Iraq.

15 April 1966

PFC Luster C. Friel (C/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes (Drowned or suffocated) as a ground casualty during a river crossing in the Province unknown, South Vietnam.

15 April 1968



CPL Homer H. Haws (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 in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



15 April 1968



SP4 Patrick F. Scharosch (C/1-501 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.

15 April 1968

PFC Robert J. Pratt (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1528; 15 June 1968)

15 April 1969

The following Soldiers: SGT Albert E. Creamer and CPL John E. McDonald (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 in the Thuan Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



15 April 1970

The following Soldiers: 2LT Prentice E. Joye Jr., SP4 James L. Thompson, PFC Leander Jones, PFC Chris Ross Jr. (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)

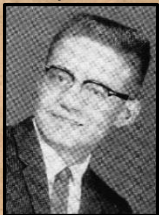
15 April 1970

SGT Walter C. Bartley Jr. (A/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was mistaken for a hostile force and fired upon by friendly force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

15 April 2011

The following Soldiers: PFC Matthew Courter and PV2 Alan Raggio (B/4-4 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with small arms fire. They are assigned to Troop B, 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment.

16 April 1966



PFC Galen D. Grethen (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 wounds in the province unknown, South Vietnam.

16 April 1968

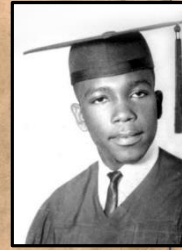


SGT Thomas R. Gdovin (D/1-502 IN) action in combat earned him the Purple Heart. For wounds received in action. (Citation awarded on 04 Oct 2005)



16 April 1968

The following Soldiers: SGT Sammy R. Smith (D/1-501 IN); SP4 Reginald C. Bell, PFC Gary P. Meringa (D/1-502 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 Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



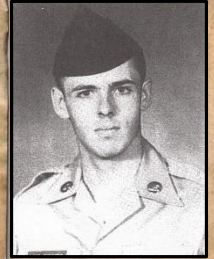
16 April 1968



PFC Stephen E. Seiferth (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation when hit by fragments from a hostile booby trap in the Quang Tri, South Vietnam.

16 April 1971

The following Soldiers: CPL Rex M. Daniels, PFC Charles D. McGinnes (D/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from misadventure (friendly fire; apparent short round) at Nam Hoa, 4 KM E-SE of LZ Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



16 April 2008

PFC James Williams (1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while he was conducting Route Vernon denial. The MRAP in the convoy took a direct hit by RPG fire. The RPG round went through the glass in the gunners shield impacting the M2 and exploding about 12 inches from PFC Williams' face. He suffered shrapnel wounds to the neck area and flash burns to the face. The medic on the ground treated him on site and requested a ground MEDEVAC.

17 April 1968

PFC Jerry Mosby (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on a combat operation when came under hostile mortar attack in the Long Khanh Province, South Vietnam.

17 April 1969



1LT John C. Driver (B/2-501 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 Province, South Vietnam.

17 April 1970



CPL Norman D. Peery (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 at NDP site 23 Miles W-SW of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



18 April 1968

SGT Donald E. Smrtnik (D/1-501 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.

18 April 1968



PFC Robert J. Hess (D/1-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty when he drowned while on a combat operation while wading across a stream in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

18 April 1968

PFC Reginald Williams Jr. (D/1-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty when he drowned while crossing a stream on a combat operation when he was attempting to save another individual in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

18 April 1969

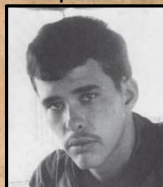


SP4 Lloyd W. Jones (A/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

18 April 1970

PFC Lawrence J. Witherow (A/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)

18 April 1970



SGT Timothy E. Sullivan (A/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when the area came under grenade attack by a hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

18 April 1970

The following Soldiers: SSG Michael J. Vagnone and SGT Robert L. Dangberg (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.

18 April 1970



CPL Robert A. Wall (D/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 when mistaken for enemy & fired on by friendly forces during a combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



18 April 2003



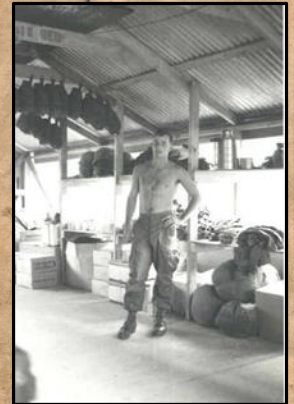
PFC Chris Bagwell earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received due to shrapnel to the face from an exploding grenade during the Battle of Al Mahmudiya. Along with PFC Bagwell 25 other Soldiers were awarded the Purple Heart from 2nd Brigade, 101st.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

12 April 1968

SGT Thomas G. Pitts (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 12 April 1968. Sergeant Pitts distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader with Company C, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, during an ambush patrol near the village of Ap Duc Trong, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. The ambush patrol, consisting of two squads, had just set up its ambush site when both the company night defensive position and the ambush patrol came under an intense barrage of hostile automatic weapons, rocket propelled grenade, and hand grenade fire. The initial bursts of fire delivered upon the ambush site critically wounded the platoon leader and seriously wounded Sergeant Pitts. Refusing medical treatment for himself, Sergeant Pitts immediately assumed command of the ambush element and skillfully organized the defense of the completely encircled position. With utter disregard to his personal safety and the pain he suffered, he courageously exposed himself to the devastating enemy fire as he moved from man to man pointing out targets and lending encouragement to his beleaguered troopers. Withdrawal was impossible without abandoning the many wounded and the dead. When the hostile force had terminated its attack on the patrol all but three men had been wounded. At such time that a relief element could be dispatched it was Sergeant Pitts who directed the element to the patrol's position. Not until the relief element leader had reached his location did Sergeant Pitts relinquish his command and allow himself to receive treatment. Sergeant Pitt's extraordinarily heroic actions and indomitable courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military Service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



12 April 1971

SP4 Robert J. Ivy (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Ivy distinguished himself on 12 April 1971 while serving as a squad leader during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. After being inserted into a landing zone, Specialist Ivy's squad came under intense small arms, rocket propelled grenade and automatic weapons fire. Organizing his men, he delivered accurate suppressive fire on the well-fortified enemy position. Observing his platoon leader seriously wounded and lying in an open area, Specialist Ivy maneuvered through the enemy fire and carried his wounded comrade to a relatively safe area where he administered emergency first aid. Specialist Ivy assumed the duties of platoon leader and directed the accurate and devastating suppressive fire on the enemy. When the enemy had been silenced, he assisted the wounded back to the landing zone and called for an evacuation helicopter. His actions were instrumental in saving the life of a fellow soldier. Specialist Four Ivy's gallantry in action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military and military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

13 April 2003



SPC Dwayne Turner (HHC/3-502 IN), a combat medic received the Silver Star after providing life-saving medical care to 16 fellow Soldiers when his unit came under a grenade and small arms attack 30 miles South of Baghdad. Specialist Turner was a part of a work detail that came under attack as they unloaded supplies in a makeshift operations center. When a grenade was thrown over the wall by insurgents, the blast threw SPC Turner into the vehicle, and wounded him with shrapnel. Ignoring his own injuries, SPC Turner ran to the front of his vehicle and observed a Soldier with eye injuries. He evacuated his comrade to a more sheltered position and with another two medics established a triage system under the cover of a building. SPC Turner then ran back outside to bring more Soldiers into the makeshift clinic. He explains, "After I got the first patient inside the building, I sort of slumped down in the corner. I didn't think there was any way we were going to get out of there, and it would have been really easy to just stay in that corner. Then I heard (the wounded) calling for medics, and I realized I could let them continue to get hurt-and possibly die-and not come home to their families, or I could do something about it." While providing first aid to other wounded Soldiers, SPC Turner was shot at least twice including one bullet wound that broke his right arm and another in his left leg. "A couple of times, I heard



bullets going by, but I thought they were just kicking up rocks on me.” Nevertheless, he continued to give first aid and to bring Soldiers in from the barrage of gunfire outside the compound until he finally collapsed against a wall from loss of blood. On being informed that he was bleeding by his fellow medics, SPC Turner states, “Someone told me, ‘Doc Turner, Doc Turner, you’re bleeding.’ I looked down at my leg and saw I was bleeding, and kind of said, ‘Oh hell, if I’m not dead yet, I guess I’m not dying.’” Doc Turner’s perseverance and diligence preserved the lives of every Soldier he treated until the MEDEVAC could arrive. The Army believes that at least two of the 16 Soldiers he treated would have died had he not helped them during the attack. SGT Neil Mulvaney, of HHC, 3-502 IN has said of him, “He risked his life for 16 other men without noticing his own injuries-that’s heroism in my book.” As far as SPC Turner’s response, he has said “I was just doing my job. As far as the values of the Army, it’s not to ‘earn’ a Silver Star; it’s to uphold what you signed on for. Other people may see me as a hero; I see myself as doing my job. No one is going to die on my watch.”

13 April 2003

SGT Neil A. Mulvaney III (HHC/3-502 IN) earned Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroic actions during combat operations against Iraqi enemy forces. Sergeant Mulvaney provided accurate suppressive fire which resulted in several Soldiers’ lives being saved. His physical courage and self-sacrifice is in keeping with the history of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the United States Army. (Permanent Orders #219-615 (August 7, 2003))

15 April 1968



1LT Ronald E. Phillips (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (1-OLC) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 April 1968. Lieutenant Phillips distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company D, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, on a search and clear operation on twenty-five kilometers northwest of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Phillips’ platoon received intense enemy small arms fire and automatic weapons fire from concealed enemy positions in a nearby wood line. Three of the lead men were wounded in the initial contact, and because of their proximity to the enemy lines, several rescue attempts failed. Lieutenant Phillips immediately crawled to the injured troopers. In order to reach them, he was forced to run across an open rice paddy under increased enemy fire. Reaching the first man, he placed himself between his wounded comrade and the enemy fire and immediately administered first aid. He then crawled toward the other men. By this time, several others from his platoon had joined him, and he organized his small element into teams to remove the wounded from their hazardous positions. As the men moved back to the friendly position, a sniper began to fire at them from a tree top. Once again, Lieutenant Phillips risked his life as he maneuvered against the sniper and prevented the hostile force from advancing on the rescue party by continuously firing his weapon and throwing hand grenades. Returning to his platoon, he made certain that the injured had been properly evacuated, and then maneuvered his platoon against the enemy troops. In the fighting that followed, he personally confronted and captured an armed North Vietnamese Soldier. Lieutenant Phillips’ 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.

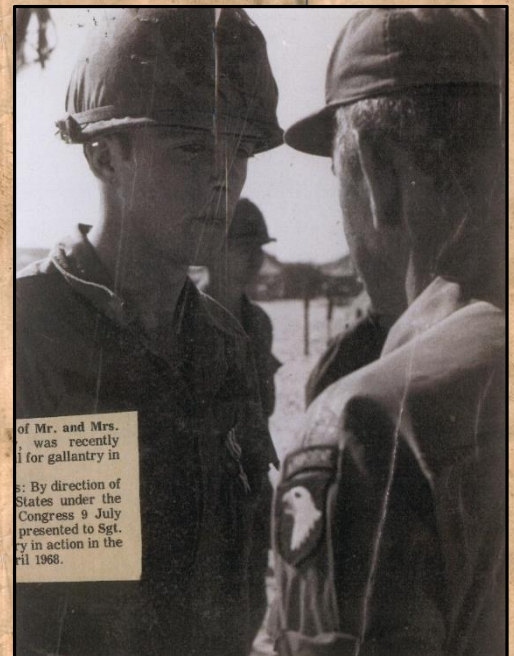
15 April 1969

SP4 Fletcher J. Nowlin (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operation involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 April 1969. Specialist Nowlin distinguished himself while serving as a platoon medical aidman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, on a combat operation in Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam. In the early morning hours on the cited date, the Third Platoon of Company C received intense enemy sniper fire that instantly killed two men and wounded others. Specialist Nowlin ignored the hostile fire as he went from position to position checking for and treating the wounded. On one occasion he low-crawled thirty-five meters outside the perimeter, while under enemy fire, to render medical aid to a fallen comrade. Then disregarding his own safety, he shielded the wounded man with his own body as he helped him back inside the perimeter. His courageous actions directly resulted in the saving of many lives. Specialist Nowlin’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.



16 April 1967

PFC Michael J. Uhden (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 16 April 1968, Private First Class Uhden distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman with Company D, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, during combat operations near the village of Thon Bat-Vong Tay, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While crossing an open rice paddy the point element of the company was taken under an intense volume of hostile automatic weapons fire from a well concealed and fortified enemy bunker. Seeing a comrade fall seriously wounded, and next to the bunker, Private First Class Uhden unhesitatingly braved the murderous hail of enemy fire to extract the trooper by routing the enemy fire from the bunker, killing two occupants with hand grenades. Private First Class Uhden's indomitable courage and valorous actions enabled the wounded to be successfully and safely evacuated from the combat area. Private First Class Uhden's valor reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



17 April 1970



CPL Norman D. Peery (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 17 April 1970. Private Peery distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner in Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during combat operations near the Coc A Bo Mountain, Republic of Vietnam. While set up in a night defensive position, Private Peery's unit came under an enemy ground attack. Private Peery successfully engaged an insurgent with an anti-personnel mine and warned the rest of the company of the attack. Despite intense enemy fire, Private Peery returned a heavy volume of suppressive machine gun fire on the insurgents. Although the enemy fire was concentrated on his position, Private Peery remained with his machine gun until he was mortally wounded by hostile fire. Private Peery'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.

18 April 2003

LTC Jeff Ingram (2-70 AR) received the Silver Star awarded by LTG William S. Wallace for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Commanding Officer of 2-70 AR, attached to 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, during combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, on 31 March 2003, in Iraq. During the battle to secure Al Hillah, Iraq, on 31 March 2003, Lieutenant Colonel Ingram's unit was moving on the city to divert the enemy's attention from the 3rd Infantry Division so they could move forward to Karbala. LTC Ingram's unit encountered dismounted forces and artillery and rocket propelled grenades from a Republican Guard Battalion. LTC Ingram calmly and skillfully directed the efforts of a combined arms task force in destroying the Iraqi Battalion as multiple rocket propelled grenades bounced off his tank, massed artillery fire exploded all around and intense small arms fire was directed at him.



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

