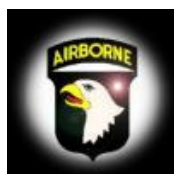




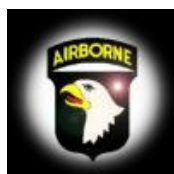
## 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AASLT) “STRIKE HISTORY” 15 February – 21 February 2015



- 15 February 1967      **Operation GATTLING I & II:** No significant contact were made, and the 2-502d were extracted by helicopter to Phan Thiet. Final results of the operation were 7 VC KHA, 50 detainees, and 3 weapons captured. US losses amounted to 7 US WHA, mostly due to booby traps.
- Although the results of the operation seem negligible, the mere presence of Allied Troops in this area (known as Military Region Six) served to let the VC know that they could not consider any area secure from invasion. MR 6 had unchallenged VC control for several years. During Gattling II, other elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade captured a large amount of signal equipment, indicating that a headquarters of some importance had been operating there prior to Allied penetration of the area.
- 15 February 1968      1-502 Battalion continues search and destroy operations with moderate contact made. Combat assault by Bravo received S/A and A/W fire during 2nd lift. Negative contact made after that. Alfa and Charlie made contact while sweeping. Results: 1 WIA, Enemy: 14 KIA.
- 15 February 1968      D Co. 2/501 Infantry (Delta Raiders) 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was conducting a search and destroy mission while proceeding toward Hue. The Platoon encountered an unknown number of NVA receiving heavy fire (machine guns, automatic weapons and motors). (A six hour fire fight ensued. Results: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon suffered a total of 6 KIAs (2LT Robert Brulte, SGT David Cash, PFC Ernest P Holmes, CPL Wade E. Thackrey, CPL Emanuel F. Burroughs and PFC Henry Tabet). 17 MIAs (Michael Kopay, Billy Barnett, Bernard Hacker, William Heinz, Julio Medina, Robert Rainwater, Eugene Robertson, Kurtland Waker, Joe Dunlap, Ronald Hendrix, David McKieghan, Alex “Doc” Spivey, John Wheat, Dennis Simmons, Barry Rainey, Glen Pechacek, and Robert Gould) with NVA KIAs 56. (From D/2-501 IN incident reports)
- 15 February 1969      Scattered contact with squad-size or smaller enemy forces resulted in 11 enemy killed, two prisoners and 16 weapons captured. 2/502 found seven enemy dead, later discovered five weapons in a tunnel during patrols north and east of FB Brick. In two brief contacts in the rocket belt, 1/502 killed one enemy, captured another and took an AK and an RPG launcher. Rakkasans of Company A engaged a squad, killing one enemy, taking a prisoner and four AK-47s, two machine guns and two RPG launchers northwest of FB Katy.
- 15 February 1970      **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** 2-502 (STRIKE Force) Battalion Command Post was moved from FSB Rifle to Camp Eagle and FSB Rifle was closed. Operations continued in the area north of FSB Rifle with E Company occupying FSB Arsenal (YD812082). There was no enemy contact for the next three weeks. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)
- 15 February 1971      1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry moved to FB Thunderbird with Charlie Company manning the perimeter.



- 15 February 2010 A Pre-Deployment Site Survey team of 15 senior leaders deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan in order to gain situational awareness of 2nd Brigade's future area of responsibility.
- 16 February 1968 1-502 IN Battalion search and destroy operations with 2 Combat assaults by Alfa and Charlie. Heavy contact results in 1 KIA, 13 WIA, 1 MIA; Enemy 18 KIA (BC).
- 16 February 1969 Screaming Eagles moved into defensive positions in the evening for a 24-hour Tet holiday ceasefire. Earlier encounters with small enemy groups resulted in six killed and nine weapons captured. B/2/502 found seven hooches with bunkers and five weapons. First Strike troopers killed two enemy and captured their weapons.
- 16 February 1970 Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry combat assaulted onto a closed FB Normandy YD 690017 in order to reopen it in support of FB Spear and an operation in the AO. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons were tasked to stay on the hill as security for the 105's and 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was tasked to patrol and set up nightly ambushes at the base of the mountain.
- 17 – 22  
February 1967 **Operation FARRAGUT IV:** After spending 2 days on maintenance and training at the Phan Thiet Base Camp the STRIKE FORCE initiated Operation FARRAGUT IV with an air assault into 3 LZ's to the northeast of Phan Thiet in Binh Thuan Province. The area under attack permitted the enemy to dominate Highway 1 from Phan Thiet to Song Mao and allowed them free access to a long portion of coast line. Platoons of CIDG from Long Son were attached to both A and B Companies. The artillery moved overland behind a major road opening operation to the new TAC CP, located at Long Son.
- As the maneuver elements began Search and Destroy operations to the south, rice and water caches were discovered in the vicinity of small VC campsites. C Company conducted a successful night ambush on a carrying party of 12 VC on 19 February, killing 4 and capturing 1 AK-47. During the period of 17-22 February, several other small contacts were made, generally involving carrying parties. These parties consisted of 2 to 4 armed VC escorting male and female bearers; they moved at night along major and secondary trails.
- This AO was a low, rolling sandy, brush covered area characterized by extreme dryness, and for the first time units had to be resupplied with water every other day. Since LZ's had to be cut with machetes, (this requiring several hours) movement was seriously curtailed. The CIDG were under a very severe handicap, as they carried only 2 canteens, instead of 4 as the GI's did. To make matters worse, Soldiers began to suffer from vomiting and stomach cramps. This was attributed to impure water being used to resupply the troops.
- 17 February 1968 2-501<sup>st</sup> was assigned to mission of providing security for the An Lo Bridge located northwest of Hue. While enroute to the An Lo Bridge, the Battalion received a change in mission and proceeded to LZ Sally where it marshaled with the 3d Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> ACD in preparation for Operation Jeb Stuart.
- 17 February 1968 1-502 Battalion continues search and destroy operations southeast of Quang Tri and conducted one combat assault with Alfa Company into the same area as contact on 16 February. Heavy contact resulted in 1 KIA and 11 WIA with negative enemy assessment.



17 – 18

February 1970

Charlie Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry found five booby traps made from 60mm mortar rounds scattered along a well-used trail. The next day, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon Charlie Company found another booby trap on an LZ. During this time, the O-Deuce was selected as the 101<sup>st</sup> Division's IRF (immediate reaction force). Charlie Company was appointed the Battalion IRF with 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon designated to be the first to respond to a situation. (Mighty Men of Valor: With Charley Company on Hill 714-Vietnam 1970, by John G. Roberts)

18 February 1969

Screaming Eagles joined with the people of Thua Thien Province in celebrating the Tet holidays. The 501<sup>st</sup> Signal threw a party at Tay Loc orphanage, inside the Hue Citadel. The orphanage had been destroyed in last year's Tet Offensive but rebuilt with the 101<sup>st</sup>'s aid. Support Command and Division Artillery also gave parties at orphanages, and the three brigades gave a total of 15 parties at schools and orphanages. The Division band played at three locations, and Screaming Eagles were provided with newly minted coins and specifically printed holiday greetings to give to the people of the province. The Division also extended the helping hand to the widows and orphans of 1<sup>st</sup> ARVN Division soldiers who died defending their homeland.

18 February 1968

1-502<sup>nd</sup> IN Battalion continues search and destroy operations southeast of Quang Tri with light contact and negative results. (B/1-502 Unit Annual Historical Supplement)

18 February 1968

**Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** Operation Began (2-502 IN); Locations: Da Nang Province, RVN. Task Organization: A/2-502, B/2-502, C/2-502, Recondos. Battalion Control: 3(-) 2-326 Eng, C/2-320 Arty (DS), Mortar Platoon (DS), IPW, 181 MI Detach. The following changes were made in the task organization during Operation SAN ANGELO. (1) During the course of the operation on 280001Feb, control headquarters was changed from 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Div to 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment. (AAR 20MAR1968)

At 0730H, 2-502 deployed to AO by foot, motor march, and helicopter closing AO at 1220H. Insertion was unopposed.

18 February 1971

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry terminated operations in the area and returned to Phu Bai Combat Base by truck for refresher training. Training was orientated toward marksmanship, maintenance, contact teams, and commander's time.

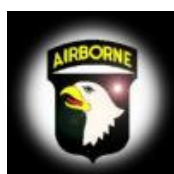
19 February 1968

1-502 IN Battalion continues search and destroy operations with mission of security of QL #1 in A.O. During this time period 3 VC KIA (BC) by ambush and 1 US WIA later KIA by mine on QL #1.

19 February 1968

2-501<sup>st</sup> lead elements initiated their phase of Operation Jeb Stuart by moving South toward Hue with the mission of clearing all approaches into Hue from the northwest in conjunction with the 5-7 and 2-12 Cavalry. During this move to Hue, elements of the Battalion were continuously harassed by snipers and squad and platoon sized delaying forces.

Upon closing to the northern portion of the wall around Hue, the Battalion established defensive positions and conducted search and destroy operations in the immediate vicinity. Results of the operation were: 95 enemy killed, 29 captured and 42 weapons seized.



19 February 1968

S3, 2d BN (Abn), 501<sup>st</sup> INF (Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log  
"Declassified") (0010-2400);

0010: From B Co: Rear receiving sniper fire from 90° approximately 20 rounds – no casualties.  
0025: From B Co: Reference message No 2. (0010) only 10 rounds Semi-automatic – from 65° AZ.  
0026: From B Co: Lot of movement on west and southwest of compound, don't know if they occupant is VC.  
0805: From Recon: Moving at this time.  
0805: From S3 Air: Air Strike req 1100hrs, NLT tot 1130 will have to be sky spot, therefore no real heavy stuff. Lift of A & C Co. is still schedule for 0830, however very bad weather may delay it.  
0812: From D Co to 3d Bde: LZ now secure.  
0855: From Recon: Have linked up with D Co.  
0900: From D Co: Have a plat on sally, 1 evac, will depart with Redon in 10 Min.  
0920: From S3: B Co 1ACD; You will have friendly operating in your AO. Headed for the following coordinates 612 280, 618 260, 630 270. They will be impossible to tell from VC, D Co. will get from 3d Bde S3. Give to S3 Air for A & C. by telephone.  
0943: 1<sup>st</sup> lift 81mm off.  
1012: 2 Chinooks on ground at LZ Sally A Co.  
1025: 2 Chinooks load departed Camp Evan for LZ Sally  
1031: 2 Chinooks landed at LZ Sally that closes out A Co.  
1040: From S3 Air: 2 Chinooks of C Co. departed  
1058: Last 2 Chinooks landed at Charlie departed now.  
1105: B Co. send platoon to VIC YD 625308 to investigate possible landing site.  
1150: FO with platoon form B Co. report 2 VC moving north vic. 624323  
1225: B Co. has picked up 1 detainee to be brought to this location.  
1235: 1/6 trench found leading to open field. Coordinates 625314, detainee states that there are mortar positions located 638305.  
1425: From C Co. have objective in sight  
1445: From C Co. On OBJ 2 negative contact, A Co on OBJ 1.  
1530: Recon sees some NVA off to the right at C Co  
1530: From D Co: Still have a friendly down, cannot get CO evacuated. 630255 D Co. wounded by SA fire.  
1535: A Co: Have two LMG to direct front, one of them is 15m in front of 3<sup>rd</sup> Plt, have them pinned down.  
1540: From D Co: Receiving heavy fire now.  
1545: From C Co: Shifting to the right Alpha is advising have seen some NVA here equipped.  
1540: From A Co: Fire slacked up when ARA fire went over. When ARA left, NVA opened up again.  
1538: From D Co: CO was only slightly wounded, does not require Medevac, bleeding has stopped.  
1559: Bn CO: Believe there is a sniper between A & D.  
A Co: Have 2 casualties, think need evac, one is 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt, hit him in the elbow. Still have some wounded, can't get them out.  
1615: From A Co: 2 KIA – 6 WIA, which I know of trying to work out to the north to secure LZ. Just east of OBJ 1, have personnel between C and my position.  
1618: C Co: Have 1 Killed and 4 wounded, that I heard of. Request ship is in good position for now.  
1620: From C Co: Are on your left, receiving fire.



1624: From A Co. to C Co: Have overrun our bunker, receiving fire from you, cut it out.  
 1630: From A Co: Believe we are engaged with Arty again.  
 1640: From A to CO: Still firing over my troops; some NVA there, if you stop firing we can get them.  
 - C Co: 2d Platoon tied in with A Co. 3d Platoon moved up from the rear, hear mortar fire landing on the enemy.  
 - Sniper has got about 3 of 36 elements, some of the Mortar rounds hit close to me, need Medevac.  
 1655: A Co. Medevac is prepared. 1<sup>st</sup> Lift still here, 3 WIA's and 4 KIA's.  
 - To A Co from 6: You are on the edge of Blue.  
 - C Co's 3d Platoon has a Platoon CP pinned down w/4 slightly wounded around them.  
 - C Co will need 1 Medevac when can I get my wounded out.  
 - From C Co: Your perimeter for tonight will be NW of our present location.  
 - C Co needs a Dust off. Need more than thought, have to secure an LZ.  
 1815: C Co. requires Medevac 2 Soldiers – ship on station.  
 1835: Medevac completed for all elements  
 2020: To Bde from Bn Co: Recap of today's actions: A and C got to OBJ 1 and 2 w/o any indication of enemy activity after a good prep was fired A passed three 1 into black (edge of Black) C Co. moved three 2 to just south of boundary between Blue and Black w/ D and CP group following D Co. NVA let A & C pass thru 1 and 2, probably as a result of the prep at the time I was engaged heavily immediately following A and C were heavily engaged. Terrain consists of Island. Wooded rising up out of the rice paddies, each one being heavily fortified. Results: Friendly CAS 5 KIA, 18 WIA (evaced) 1 WIA (not evaced) minor.  
 2140: From B Co: Received 3 incoming rounds of M-79. Hit the Berm, believed they were fired form about 60m down the underbrush on North side of river.  
 2157: D Co. instructed to call H & I on grid 643255 with 4.2 Mort Platoon.  
 2157: Kilo 6 said most person perimeter has one Squad ready to shoot Illumination.  
 2310: B Co reports receiving sporadic sniper fire also one trip flare set off and personnel engaged possible hits – unable to confirm.

19 February 1968

**Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** A/2-502 received AW fire form AT916910, results: 1 US WHA. At 0900 B Co. detonated an AP mine, results: 2 US WHA, coordinates AT902956. Two additional command detonated mines were found at the same coordinates and destroyed in place. At 1200H C Co. vic. AT903936 spotted 13 VC eating, engaged with small arms, results 2 VC KIA, 1 AK-47, 1 SKS, 1 60mm Mortar complete captured. At 1445H A Co. found enemy base camp with a large quantity of ammunition, explosive, and other sapper materials.

19 February –  
05 March 1968

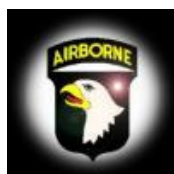
**Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** Extensive Search and Destroy and saturation ambushing was conducted by the “STRIKE Force” with only sporadic local force units. No contact was made with Main Force VC/NVA units.

19 February 1969

Nine enemy were killed and 10 weapons captured in the AO. 2/501, while patrolling the Nui Ke rocket belt, killed four enemy and captured five weapons. Gunships supporting sniffer aircraft killed three enemy in two contacts southeast of FB Tennessee.

19 February 1971

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** 3/B/2-502 IN was credited with the only enemy contact during February. They spotted two NVA in a rest area, engaged them with small arms fire, and employed ARA and artillery on the site. Though they



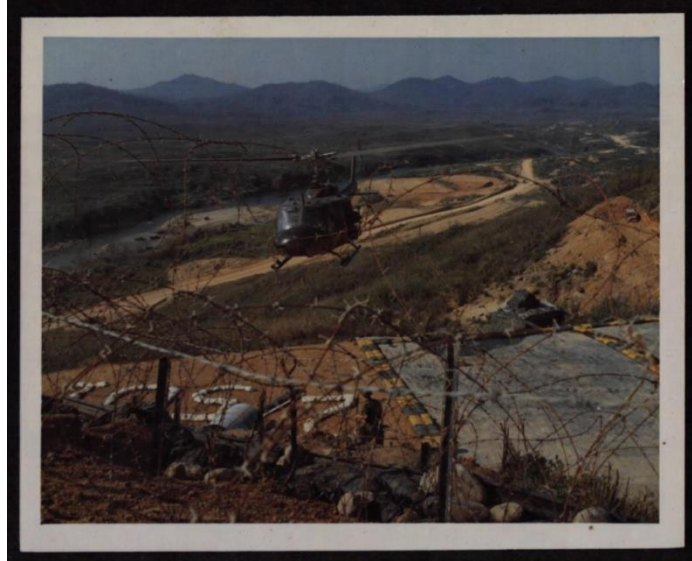
failed to find any enemy dead, the platoon captured numerous miscellaneous equipment and several items of value.

- 19 February 2010 Deployed General Cargo 1 to Afghanistan in support of OEF.
- 20 February 1968 1-502 IN Battalion continued with S&D and security mission. Light contact during the day with 1 NVA KIA (BC) by ambush.
- 20 February 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** At 1345, C/2-502 found vic. AT903936 additional sapper equipment, 60mm bipod, and 4 – B40 Rockets. At 1655, A Co had three VC walk into their perimeter vic. AT926909, results 1 VC KIA, 1 AK-47 captured.

20 February –  
03 March 1969

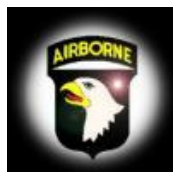
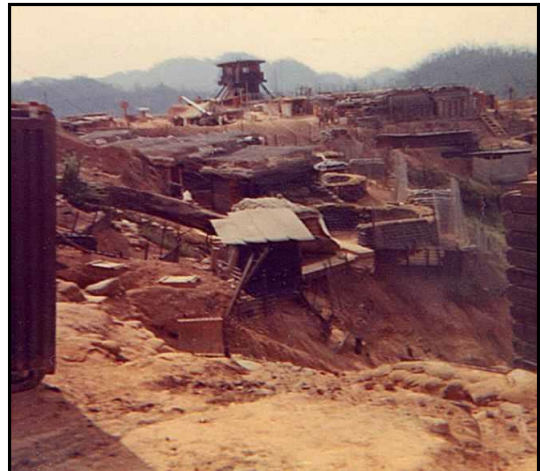
**Operation SPOKAN**

**RAPID:** Operation Began (2-502 IN); Locations: Ham Hoa District, RVN. Task Organization: A/2-502, B/2-502, C/2-502, D/2-502, Recondos, 106mm RR Section, 81MM Mortar Platoon. Supporting Forces: C/2-320 ARTY (DS), A/326 ENG (-) (DS), 1 Plt B/326 ENG, Team from 20 Chemical Detachment (DS), Army Aviation (1<sup>st</sup> BDE AVN PLT, 160<sup>th</sup> AVN GRP), 7<sup>th</sup> USAF (TAC AIR)



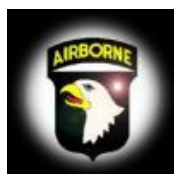
Mission: The 2d BN (ABN) will secure FSB Normandy, construct and secure FSB Spear using accelerated fire support base construction plan, conduct RIF operations in assigned AO to locate and destroy enemy base areas and caches, locate and interdict enemy lines of communication, and fix and destroy enemy troop concentrations. (AAR 15MAR1969)

Execution: On 20 Feb, in preparation for the operation, A Co. was combat assaulted onto FSB Normandy while B, C, D Co. and Recon Plt were airlifted to FSB Birmingham. E Co. (-) with mortars radar and the Battalion forward CP were lifted to FSB Normandy after A Co. had secured the area. Adverse weather conditions began during the early morning hours on 21 February and continued until 24 February. During this time A Co., E Co. (-), and the Battalion Forward CP remained at FSB Normandy. The BN (-) (Command Group), C Co. and D Co. remained at FSB Birmingham. A slight weather break on 23 February allowed resupply of FSB Normandy but the weather again closed in before any additional moves could be made. On 24 February, the weather lifted allowing B Co.



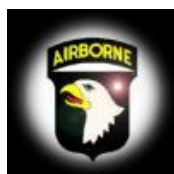
and Recon Plt to be airlifted to FSB Spear. The weather break continued on 25 February and C Co. and D Co. conducted combat assaults onto LZ Red (YC636946) and started RIF operations. During the combat assault the gunship flying cover observed movement and bunker complexes to the North of the LZ. D Co. diverted operations; C Co. conducted operations to vic. YC6494 and D Co. to vic. YC6196. The Recon Plt began RIF operations to the South of FSB Spear and conducted the operation to vic. YC6992. There was negative enemy contact during the operation. On 27 February C Co. located one hut at YC647947 and one bunker at YC646942. On 1 March C Co. closed on PZ Green (YC645946) and was extracted to FSB Birmingham. D Co. was extracted from PZ Yellow (YC645946) to FSB Birmingham, and the Recon Plt returned to FSB Spear and was extracted to FSB Birmingham. C Co., E Co. (-) and the Battalion CP remained at FSB Normandy; B Co. remained at FSB Spear. On 2 March C Co. moved by truck and assumed security of FSB Boyd. D Co. and Recon Plt remained at FSB Birmingham to secure a staging area for 2-501. On 3 March the Battalion CP was airlifted to Camp Eagle, A Co. and E Co. (-) secured FSB Normandy, and D Co. with the Recon Plt secured the staging area at FSB Birmingham. Operation SPOKAN RAPIDS terminated on 3 March at 2400hrs with no Enemy or Friendly losses or casualties.

- 20 February 1969 The 1st Brigade initiated a new offensive operation with assaults south of FB Normandy for probes into the 5th NVA Regiment base area. In search and clear operations northwest of Bastogne, A/1/502 killed one enemy and captured one weapon when they spotted a VC installing a booby trap. B/3/506 Currahees found 1200 pounds of rice in an area surrounded by 105 booby traps; the next day, the paratroopers discovered 1500 pounds of rice.
- 20 February 1970 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Charlie Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was combat assaulted from Firebase Arsenal to designated LZs in the area.
- 21 February 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** At 1155, A/2-502 engaged a small size enemy force, results: 1 VC KIA, 1 AK-47 captured.
- 21 February 1968 1-502 IN Battalion continued with operations and had scattered light to moderate contact by Bravo. Results: 1 KIA, 1 WIA, and 4 NVA KIA (BC)
- 21 February 1968 D Co. 2/501 Infantry continued search and destroy operations southeast of LZ Sally while moving toward Hue from the northwest. It was this day that 2 Delta Raiders (SSgt. Joe R. Hooper and SSgt. Clifford C. Sims) earned the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2 separate actions for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty". SSgt Joe Ronnie Hooper was the **MOST DECORATED SOLDIER OF THE VIET NAM WAR**. Joe earned 37 medals including the Congressional Medal of Honor, 2 Silver Stars, 6 Bronze Stars, and 8 Purple Hearts)
- Results of engagement- 1 Delta Raider killed in action - (Clifford Sims Congressional Medal of Honor – posthumously.) 22 Delta Raiders wounded in action - ( Hubert L. Davis, James B. Bowman, John B. Gingerly, James L. Martin, James Calhoun, Jody Gravette, Tex W. Gray, David R. Leaf, Alfred M. Mount, James C. Rachell, Thomas Hopkins, Ava A. James, Thomas Miles, Noah N. Rockel, Davis Wallace, Frankie Gaines, Victor A. Holmes, Joe R. Hooper, Lonnie Thomas, Ernest McManus, Samuel Ayala, Henrie L. Delaney.) 24 NVA killed. (From D/2-501 IN incident report)
- 21 February 1968 Eyewitness Account of the Battle (By PSG George Parker D/2-501 IN) The Delta Raiders were assaulting a strong enemy position near Hue on the 21st of February when heavy enemy rocket, machine gun and automatic weapons fire halted the advance in front of a stream about 20 feet wide. Sgt. Hooper, a squad leader, got a few men together and dashed across the stream and up into the



face of the enemy fire even though the enemy was firing from bunkers just on the opposite bank. Those bunkers were overrun, and soon the rest of the company got moving following Sgt. Hooper's example. A couple men were hit and left exposed to enemy fire, but Sgt. Hooper braved the fire and went out after him. He brought one man back, and then went after the second man. He got to him but was wounded in the process. Still he brought the man back to safety and then went out again even though he was wounded himself. He found SSG Thomas pinned down and tried to find where the fire was coming from. SP4 Mount was up in front of them so Sgt. Hooper called out to him to see if he could move between two small houses to locate the fire. Mount took one step between the houses and was hit in the leg. Because of his wound he couldn't move and the enemy fire was getting closer and closer. Sgt. Hooper took drastic action to prevent Mount from being killed. He moved around the left of the houses even though the enemy had manned bunkers not more than fifteen meters away from the side of the house. Somehow he got past these bunkers and behind the houses where he saw three bunkers connected by a trench. Sgt. Hooper got up and charged the first bunker (they were no more than 10 meters apart), throwing a grenade inside and then spraying it with rifle fire. This killed everyone inside and from behind this bunker he started firing into the second bunker, and this fire eliminated everyone in there. He got up and ran toward the third bunker just as an NVA radioman came out, and Sgt. Hooper shot him dead. Those bunkers had had rockets, automatic weapons, and a large radio complex in them. Sgt. Hooper then returned to the river bank where a lot of men were hesitant about going forward. But after seeing Sgt. Hooper they all got up to follow him; Just as they had deployed at the top of the bank three NVA jumped out of the bamboo and started firing their AK-47's, but the Chaplain was the only man hit. Still, everyone just froze except Sgt. Hooper who fired away, dropping two of the enemy while the other managed to escape. Sgt. Hooper then bandaged the Chaplain's wound and helped him back to safety. When he returned he led the men in a swamp up to the three bunkers he had just eliminated. In this sweep the other bunkers on the flank were overrun.

Sgt. Hooper moved ahead of his men at this point to analyse the situation and while forward saw three snipers running from a bunker in an effort to get to a house. Only two of them made it as Sgt. Hooper shot the third one down. Then taking a LAW, he hit the house they had just entered dead center and killed both men while setting the house ablaze. Over on the right the squad was getting heavy fire from two more houses and Sgt. Hooper proceeded to knock those out too. Still fire came from the right, and soon it was determined it was coming from a shrine in that area. Sgt. Hooper crawled forward with two other men and opened fire on it. The enemy fire soon ceased. Returning to his men, Sgt. Hooper led them in another sweep which overran a few more bunkers. Here they halted again and Sgt. Hooper climbed on top of the bunkers to fire on the enemy. While he was on top of it an NVA officer climbed out and pointed his rifle at Sgt. Hooper's head. Sgt. Hooper swung around but the NVA pulled the trigger first. However his weapon jammed and Sgt. Hooper found he was out of ammunition. The NVA started running, but Sgt. Hooper caught him and killed him with his bayonet. When he got back to his men he found they were under heavy automatic weapons from a house in front. Everyone was taking cover, but Sgt. Hooper moved out alone and maneuvered around behind the house. He kicked in the back door and was fired on instantly, but the bullets missed by about an inch or less, and the NVA didn't have a second chance. Sgt. Hooper opened up with a fierce blast and then threw in two grenades as he left, the total affect killing all the defenders. As his men moved up they encountered stiff resistance. This was coming from the last line of defense where enemy bunkers were positioned in an inverted "U" with heavy fire coming from the row of bunkers on the left running perpendicular to the line of advance. There was a trench running in front of the bunkers and Sgt. Hooper dashed down this trench with SP4 Urban following. As he passed each one he tossed a grenade into it and Urban made





sure the job was done by pouring rifle fire into each one after the explosion. This killed all but two defenders who staggered out of one of the bunkers, shaken and bloody, they were taken prisoner. When they got to the last bunker they turned right and fired on two NVA behind the next bunker down the line. The NVA ducked down and Sgt. Hooper rushed up to the bunker from where he started firing on two more bunkers down the line, one housing a machine gun. He found out that the two NVA whom he had shot at were inside the bunker he was on and he dropped an incendiary grenade inside which was awfully affective. He kept on firing on the two bunkers, finally silencing the other one. Just then he saw that SP4 Gray was wounded in a trench near the bunkers he had just been firing on. Enemy fire was still sweeping the field, but Sgt. Hooper rushed over to Gray because Gray couldn't get out of the trench and the enemy was firing on him. When Sgt. Hooper got there he sat his rifle down since he was out of ammunition and got into the trench to help Gray. Then SSG. Thomas threw Sgt. Hooper a .45 cal. pistol in case he needed it. Sgt. Hooper set the pistol down so that he could lift Gray with both hands, but just when he got him up he saw an NVA come out of nowhere and point his rifle at Sgt. Hooper's head. Before the NVA could pull the trigger though Sgt. Hooper had picked up the pistol and blasted him Then he took Gray back to a secure area and came back to reorganize his men. We were setting up a line just beyond the final bunker lines and enemy fire was still coming in. But Sgt. Hooper and SP4 Urban spotted it and started firing. Then Sgt. Hooper crawled forward to check the damage and found three NVA lieutenants with their heads riddled with bullets. After that we moved out into the field and pretty well cleaned up the area. Sgt. Hooper spent a lot of time taking care of the wounded and finally looked after his own wounds only after he had his men settled down.

Sgt. Joe R. Hooper in one day accomplished more than I previously believed could have been done in a month by one man. And he did it all while wounded. It wasn't just the actual count of positions overran and enemy killed which was important, but far more so was the fantastic inspiration he gave every man in the company. It was his personal courage on any number of occasions that kept everyone going against some of the heaviest fire I have ever encountered.

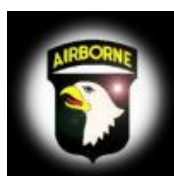
21 February 1969

Combined forces in the 2nd Brigade AO killed four enemy and took two weapons, and the allies in the 3rd Brigade AO captured two prisoners and one weapon.

21 – 28  
February 1970

Alpha Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry found seven graves containing the bodies of enemy Soldiers killed in combat. Since the usual policy was to open the graves to try and determine what NVA unit the dead had come from, the poor guys assigned to this detail must have had a very bad time.

During this time the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Charlie Company continued to patrol in the rain soaked jungles. One overcast, drizzly day, word came over the radio that Recon had encountered some gooks and had killed one. We were told to be extra cautious because NVA were in the area. Walking along a wide jungle trail, we came upon the dead gook. He had been stripped of his uniform for intelligence purposes and I was able to see the wounds that killed him. It appeared that the bullet had entered his upper torso from the side and had traveled under the skin and muscle across his chest, exiting on the opposite side and raising big welts. (Mighty Men of Valor: With Charley Company on Hill 714-Vietnam 1970, by John G. Roberts)



**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 502<sup>nd</sup> IN Regiment.**

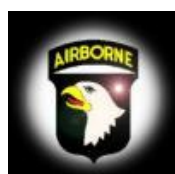
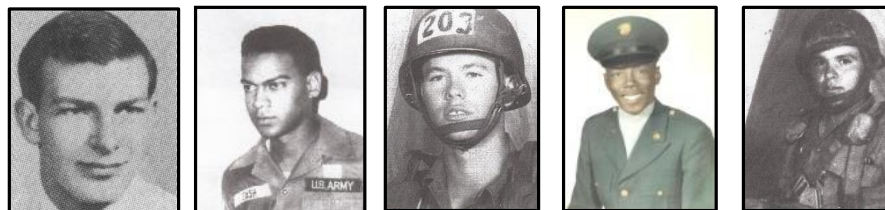
- 2 x Medal of Honor (1 x Posthumously)
- 1 x Distinguished Service Cross (1 x Posthumously)
- 8 x Silver Star Medal
- 3 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
- 2 x Bronze Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
- 1 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 40 x Air Medal
- 66 x Purple Heart Medal (34 x Posthumously)
- 1 x Died of Non-Hostile wounds or injury

15 February 1968      The following Soldiers: SGT William R. Bellow, Amos F. Christian, Raymond Crawford, Scotty C. Davidson, Albert L. Edwards, David L. Ferguson, Harold D. Gearhardt, David W. Goodman, Diego M. Hammett, SP4 John C. Hayden Jr., Larry G. Hock, SGT Robby J. Hughes, Patrick L. Hurley, 1SG Lee F. Jones, SGT Peter C. King, Darrell D. Magneson, SGT Robert N. Malanders, LT Terry A. Mills, Napoleon R. Nochez, Eliseo A. Ortiz, Molina D. Ramos, Dennis P. Rose, David R. Sablan, John R. Schmitt Jr., Thomas J. Schwarzman, Steven L. Scott, Ellis J. Sherrick, SSG Dennis G. Williams (B/1-502 IN) earned the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Republic of Vietnam (General Order Number 10527)

15 February 1968      PFC Melvin H. Sanders (D/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

15 February 1968      The following Soldiers: CPT Paul M. Pritchard, 1LT David B. Land, 1LT David B. Reider, SP4 Rodney Hall, SP4 Paul W. Nolan, SP4 Gary L. Stouffer, PFC Davis E. Derricho, PFC Harris D. Lee, PFC Larry S. Lloyd, PFC Robert A. Gibbs, PFC Donald E. Copeland (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight. (HQ; 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Order No: 1094; 31 January 1969)

15 February 1968      The following Soldiers: 2LT Robert F. Brulte Jr., SGT David M. Cash, CPL Wade E. Thackrey Jr., CPL Emanuel F. Burroughs, PFC Earnest P. Holmes Jr. (Not Pictured), and PFC Henry M. Tabet (D/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



15 February 2006 SSG Aleksandr Moroshy (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while his platoon was escorting the BN TAC to FOB Mahmudiyah. At approximately 2030 on Route Temple, D141 took a direct hit on the drivers' side from a trip wire IED. Shrapnel shattered SSG Moroshy's left forearm.

15 February 2006 SPC Rubin Anderson (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while 4/D/1-502 IN was escorting the BN TAC to FOB Mahmudiyah. At approximately 2030 on Route Temple, D141 took a direct hit on the drivers' side from a trip wire IED. SPC Anderson sustained facial lacerations and lost 7 teeth.

15 February 2006 PFC Salvadore Bertolone (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while 4/D/1-502 IN was escorting the BN TAC to FOB Mahmudiyah. At approximately 2030 on Route Temple, D141 took a direct hit on the drivers' side from a trip wire IED. PFC Bertolone sustained lacerations to his face and hands.

16 February 1945 The following Soldiers: PVT Herbert A. Robbins Jr. (B/502nd PIR); SGT Peter N. Zembycki (502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during WWII in Belgium, Germany.

16 February 1968 SSG Jorge Otero-Barreto (A/1-502 IN) (3-OLC) actions in combat earned him the Purple Heart. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, Para. 1 General Order Number 235, 31 Mar 69; Amended General Order Number 3276, 12 April 69)



16 February 1968 SP4 Randal L. Saunders (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

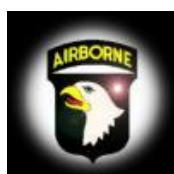


16 February 1968 SP4 Valentine B. Vollmer (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. (SP4 Body was not originally recovered and was later found and body returned to US Soil on 09 August 1974)



16 February 1970 SSG Pastor F. Ruiz (E/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

16 February 1971 SFC Evelyn F. Lankford (A/2-502 IN) died of Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty while on a mission crossing a river when he was swept away by the current, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



16 February 2011

1LT Cameron Kerr (HHT/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

17 February 1968

SGT David W. Fravel (E/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

17 February 1968

2LT Richard W. Pershing (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. 2LT Pershing was on a combat mission when his unit came under hostile small-arms and rocket attack while searching for remains of a missing member of his unit. He is the grandson of General of the Armies John J. Pershing.



17 February 1968



The following Soldiers: PFC Henry Gregory and PFC Frank L. Hodge (Pictured) (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

18 February 1966

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

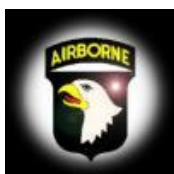
18 February 1968

The following Soldiers: SGT William R. Seibert (Pictured), SP4 Timothy L. Collier (Pictured), SP4 John Pass III (Pictured), PFC Jerry D. Sisco Jr. (A/2-501 IN), SSG Robert L. Mosley, CPL James C. Foster (Pictured), SP4 Enrique L. Soliz (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



19 February 1968

PFC Ronnie Harrell (A/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other causes (undefined) while missing in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. PFC Harrell's body was recovered and returned to US soil on 01 March 1968.



19 February 1968



1SG Frederick C. Brander (A/2-501 IN) (1-OLC) actions in combat earned him the Purple Heart. For gunshot wounds in left arm sustained as a result of enemy or hostile actions. (Pictured is from March 1968; when General Abrams is on left awarding the Purple Heart to 1SG Brander with MG Barsanti and Col Cushman in Photo.)

19 February 1970

SP4 Jimmie R. Marshall (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

19 February 2008

SGT Harold Butler (2-101 BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for actions in combat. While traveling southbound on Route Vernon in AO Strike, the lead truck that SGT Butler was TC in was struck by an IED. Upon detonation the convoy came to a stop. SGT Butler was injured.

19 February 2008

PFC Joseph Devan (2-101 BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for actions in combat. While traveling southbound on route Vernon in AO Strike, PFC Devan's truck was struck by an IED. PFC Devan lost his left leg in the attack.

19 February 2008

PFC Travis Wilds (2-101 BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for actions in combat. While traveling southbound, the M1151 that PFC Travis Wilds was driving was struck by an IED. Shortly after, the vehicle caught fire and all personnel were evacuated from the vehicle. The platoon immediately began medical evacuation to the 86th Combat Support Hospital. PFC Wilds was wounded in the explosion.

19 February 2008



SGT Conrad Alvarez (1-502 IN) 22, of Big Spring, Texas; earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. SGT Alvarez died Feb. 20 in Baghdad, Iraq.

19 February 2008

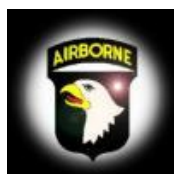


CPL Albert Bitton (1-502 IN) 20, of Chicago, Illinois; earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. CPL Bitton died Feb. 20 in Baghdad, Iraq.

19 February 2008



SPC Micheal Matlock Jr. (1-502 IN) 21, of Glen Burnie, Maryland; earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. SPC Matlock died Feb. 20 in Baghdad, Iraq.



20 February 1970



SGT Victor Zaragoza (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

20 February 1970



1LT David A. Hockett (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

20 February 2011



1LT Daren Hidalgo (3-2 CAV), 24, of Waukesha, Wisconsin; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device.

21 February 1968



SSG Clifford C. Sims (D/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 February 1968



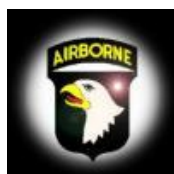
PFC Florentino Cantu (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

21 February 1968

PFC James E. Lanning (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 239)

21 February 1968

SP4 Mark Marcus (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 239)



21 February 1968

The following Soldiers: SSG John B. Gingery (Pictured), SSG Hubert L. Davis, SSG James L. Martin, SGT James E. Calhoun, CPL Joe R. Hooper (Pictured), SP4 James C. Rachell, SP4 Alfred M. Mount, SP4 Lawrence E. Mize (Pictured), SP4 Victor I. Starks, SP4 James B. Bowman, SP4 Clarence J. Straten, SP4 Ava G. James, PFC Gary L. Hobbs, PFC Stephen L. Taylor, PFC Thomas L. Miles, PFC Martin E. Driffil, and PVT Robert P. Wasley (D/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 239)



21 February 1969



SP4 Dale E. Rauber (D/1-501 IN) earned Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 February 2006

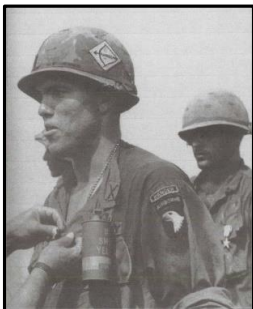
**PFC Bryce Banks** (B/1-75 CAV) actions in combat earn him the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he sustained wounds as a result of enemy or hostile action.

21 February 2006

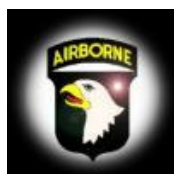
**PFC Marcus Landers** (B/1-75 CAV) actions in combat earn him the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he sustained wounds as a result of enemy or hostile action.

## STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

15 February 1968



1LT William F. Aronow (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 February 1968. First Lieutenant Aronow distinguished himself while serving as Executive Officer of Company D, 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry. Company D was on a combat patrol eight kilometers northwest of Hue, Republic of Vietnam, in search of enemy mortar positions when the lead element came under a withering hail of automatic weapons and small arms fire. Many men in the lead platoon were killed or wounded in the initial blast, and the forward elements were pinned down by a murderous fire. The company was operating with only two platoons and these were under strength. Thus there was only one platoon in reserve to relieve the pressure on the point platoon, and the enemy fire, coming from an estimated North Vietnamese company well entrenched and dug in, was seriously retarding the efforts to extricate these men from their exposed position. Attempts were also being made to evacuate the wounded, but a number of injured men were so close to the enemy lines that this seemed virtually impossible. At this time First Lieutenant Aronow arrived with a handful of reinforcements and, fully exposing himself to the deadly enemy fire, skillfully deployed these men in an effort to stabilize the situation. The platoon leader of the lead platoon had been killed, and First lieutenant Aronow quickly seized control of the action in front, bringing up what reserves was left and distributing ammunition resupply. Still the heavy enemy fire was unabated, and men continued to fall, many of these in efforts to evacuate the dead and wounded. One man had been shot down almost directly



beneath the enemy guns, and his body had lain there for a number of hours as any would be attempt to reach him appeared suicidal. However the platoon sergeant was about to make the effort when First Lieutenant Aronow ordered him to remain in position so as not to expose the senior man in the platoon to such excessive danger. Instead First Lieutenant Aronow went out himself, leading three volunteers, to reach the man. Immediately much enemy fire was concentrated on First Lieutenant Aronow as he moved across the open field in complete disregard for his own personal safety. On reaching the man he was found to be dead, and First Lieutenant Aronow ordered the men to put his body on a stretcher which had been brought out while he covered them. First Lieutenant Aronow then proceeded to shield the men with his own body and took a corner of the stretcher with one hand and, firing his rifle with the other, returned to the company lines. First Lieutenant Aronow then remained exposed while directing the evacuation of the remaining casualties, and once every wounded man had been moved to the rear the company began its withdrawal. First Lieutenant Aronow remained with the rear guard, firing as he moved and covering the withdrawal. Groups of enemy soldiers tried to turn the flank of the rear detachment and isolate it, but First Lieutenant fired on them and drove them back. The enemy repeated this action a number of times, but First Lieutenant Aronow, skillfully directed the security element, inflicted heavy casualties on the North Vietnamese in their vain efforts, and thus affected a safe withdrawal. In doing so he was not hesitant in exposing himself to the enemy fire in order to control his men. Without the calm, courageous leadership of First Lieutenant Aronow at a critical moment, the company very well might have suffered devastating results. His dedication to duty in the face of galling enemy fire was a lasting inspiration to every man in the company as well as a telling factor in the successful withdrawal of the company from a totally untenable position. First Lieutenant Aronow's exceptional and constant gallantry are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

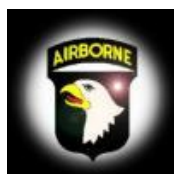
15 February 1968

SP4 Ronald Ymbras (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Air Medal for distinguishing himself by meritorious achievement while participating in a aerial combat assault into hostile territory in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 February 1968. During this operation he displayed the highest order of air discipline and acted in accordance with the best traditions of the service. By his determination to accomplish his mission in spite of the hazards inherent in a heliborne combat assault into hostile territory and by his outstanding degree of professionalism and devotion to duty, he has brought credit upon himself, his organization, and the military service. (HQ; 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Order No: 1094; 31 January 1969)



17 February 1968

SSG Jorge Otero-Barreto (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 17 February 1968. Staff Sergeant Otero distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant on a combat operation near Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Otero's platoon was moving through rice paddies and wood lines on an overcast and partially rainy day when the point made contact with enemy positions concealed in a hedgerow. The enemy was firing rocket propelled grenades and machine guns and the point





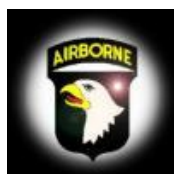
element had taken several casualties when staff Sergeant Otero took over the machine gun. With no assistance, as the machine gunner had been wounded and his assistance killed, Staff Sergeant Otero began returning the enemy fire so that the point could break contact with the numerically superior and well-concealed enemy force. With completed disregard for his own personal safety, Staff Sergeant Otero remained exposed to the intense enemy fire while the point began to withdraw. Because of the heavy volume of fire he was placing on them, the enemy ceased firing on the rest of the point element and concentrated on Staff Sergeant Otero. Although he was wounded by a rocket propelled grenade, Staff Sergeant Otero remained exposed to the enemy fire until the rest of his element had moved to a defilade position. Having expended all the ammunition for the machine gun, Staff Sergeant Otero began firing his rifle and crawled back to rejoin the rest of the point. He then led them in an orderly withdrawal to safety. Staff Sergeant Otero's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

18 February 1968

SGT Coulbourn Dykes (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 18 February 1968. Sergeant Dykes distinguished himself while serving as a fire team leader with Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, during a combat helicopter assault into the village of Xom Trung Hoa, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. The third platoon moved into a position to assault a company-sized enemy force with the first platoon providing supporting fires. As the platoon moved forward on a prearranged signal, they began receiving heavy automatic weapons fire from four enemy bunkers. Sergeant Dykes ordered his fire team to lay down a base of fire. He charged through the hail of enemy fire, assaulting one enemy bunker. He tossed a grenade in the bunker aperture, killing its occupant and capturing one weapon. Sergeant Dykes then laid down a base of fire while his fellow platoon members rushed forward and destroyed two other enemy positions. Sergeant Dykes' actions resulted in two enemy dead and two weapons captured. Sergeant Dykes' 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.

19 February 1968

1SG Frederick C. Brander (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 February 1968. First Sergeant Brander distinguished himself while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry. Company A was on combat operation near the village of Thon Thuan, Republic of Vietnam. First Sergeant Brander was with the point platoon on the sweep, when two men in khaki uniforms were spotted running into a hut, and the platoon moved on line and began to take them under fire. The platoon advanced approximately twenty meters when a tremendous volume of automatic weapons and machine gun fire from a hedgerow fifty meters to the front halted the advance. The volume of fire was so heavy that it was practically impossible to maneuver. One man was killed with the initial burst of fire, and in order to give cover to a medic that rushed to his aid, First Sergeant Brander exposed himself to the brutal fire. Moving first from the right flank to the left flank, First Sergeant Brander, continuing to give covering fire for the medic, placed a heavy volume of fire on the enemy, constantly braving the enemy fire to give encouragement to his men and direct their fire and movement. Moving out in front of the slowly advancing line of men, First Sergeant Brander threw smoke grenades in order to



cover his movements and to permit a faster advance on the enemy positions. Still moving back and forth along the line of advance, First Sergeant Brander was helping to evacuate the wounded and men killed in the action when he was wounded by a burst of machine gun fire. His extraordinary courage and physical stamina were an inspiration to all those in the unit. First Sergeant Brander's exceptional valor at the risk of his own life and dedication to his men is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

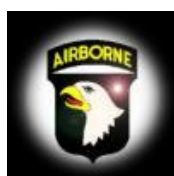
19 February 1968



1LT Robert H. Adams Jr. (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 February 1968. First Lieutenant Adams distinguished himself while serving as platoon leader with Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A was conducting combat operations eight kilometers west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam, and was advancing upon a wooded area over open rice paddies when the second platoon, under First Lieutenant Adams, broke contact with the company and veered to the left. Shortly the remainder of the company came under a withering hail of enemy rocket propelled grenade, machine gun, and automatic weapons fire from well-fortified bunker positions in trenches to the company's front. First Lieutenant Adams' platoon was advancing obliquely from the left and initially avoided the fire thus providing them with an opportunity to flank the enemy bunkers. But as they approached they were taken under heavy machine gun fire from a bunker to their front. First Lieutenant Adams, with utter disregard for his own safety, rallied his men and led them in a fierce attack, First Lieutenant Adams himself charging the bunker with a pistol and grenades, knocking out the machine gun. Fire from other enemy positions now engulfed the platoon, yet First Lieutenant Adams, undaunted by the severity of the fire, personally led his men forward and overran a second position, silencing all the direct fire on the remainder of the company, while inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and capturing a number of weapons and documents. First Lieutenants Adams' fierce offensive spirit and unreserved courage in the face of devastating enemy fire was an inspiration to his men and was greatly responsible for the total success of the ensuing assault. His initiative and devotion to duty were surpassed only by his personal valor. First Lieutenant Adams' exceptional gallantry is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

19 February 2008

PFC Jason L. Whitehorse (A/1-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and the Purple Heart for actions in combat. PFC Whitehorse's platoon was conducting a mounted patrol in Hurriya, Iraq. PFC Whitehorse was the driver of the rear vehicle in the patrol when the vehicle was struck by a multi-array EFP. Although PFC Whitehorse had sustained wounds from the blast, he ignored the flames of his burning M1151 caused by the EFP to conduct buddy-aid on his wounded gunner. PFC Whitehorse's courage and quick thinking kept his gunner alive until an aid team could reach them and extract the casualties from the burning vehicle. Although the gunner eventually succumbed to his wounds, PFC Whitehorse's bravery and dedication to his fellow Soldier gave him a fighting chance. He demonstrated extreme courage, loyalty, and valor. PFC Whitehorse was evacuated to Riva Ridge Medical Facility where he was diagnosed and treated for multiple small fragment wounds to the back and left and upper right extremities, second degree burns on back of thigh, and two perforated ear drums resulting from the intensity of the explosion.



20 February 1968



1LT Robert H. Adams Jr. (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 February 1968. First Lieutenant Adams (Then Second Lieutenant) distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A and Company C was engaged in a multi-unit search and clear operation in the vicinity of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The entire unit was proceeding through a vast expanse of rice paddies toward a graveyard which was somewhat raised above the level of the paddies. Because it was a strategic position, the area was to be cleared before the companies set up for the night. Suddenly sniper fire erupted from the high ground, wounding three men with initial burst fire. Lieutenant Adams, the second platoon leader, quickly saw that because of the sniper's positions, the command groups of both companies were in extreme danger. Lieutenant Adams rallied his men together to form an assault line and with complete disregard for his own safety, led the charge on the enemy that resulted in killing several North Vietnamese Soldiers while sustaining no further casualties among his platoon. Due to Lieutenant Adams quick reactions and refusal to panic in the face of deadly enemy fire, the enemy force was annihilated and the loss of friendly personnel was kept to a minimum. Lieutenant Adams' 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.

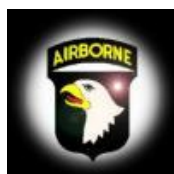
20 February 1968

2LT Gary C. Bridges (C/2-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 February 1968. Second Lieutenant Bridges distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader for Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry, on a combat operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0930 hours, Company C was engaged in a sweep operation designed to drive the insurgents from any fortified positions. The company was on line with Lieutenant Bridges' platoon to the left side. As the assault line advanced, the right side of the line came under intense sniper fire. In a maneuver designed to give maximum fire power against the enemy and still maintain the advance of the company, Lieutenant Bridges' platoon was stretched out to two thirds of the company front with the other two platoons concentrated on the snipers. During the tricky change in the formation, Lieutenant Bridges was constantly moving along the extended line of his platoon despite the sporadic sniper fire, and occasional grenade barrages hitting his platoon. During the entire period, Lieutenant Bridges moved coolly about his platoon, checking his area, encouraging his men, and keeping the company commander informed with reports as to the status of the advance. As a direct result of his leadership and courageous actions, Lieutenant Bridges' platoon killed two Viet Cong and suffered no casualties. Second Lieutenant Bridges' 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, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division; General Order Number 4501; 11 August 1968)

21 February 1967



SP4 Francis J. Gentile (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 February 1968. Specialist Gentile distinguished himself while serving as medical corpsman with Company C, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during heavy fighting with a large enemy force several kilometers west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. At the beginning of the battle Company C had three medical corpsman attached to it including Specialist Gentile. However early in the day the two other corpsmen were wounded and put out of action, leaving only Specialist gentile to care for the wounded of the entire company. The intensity of the fire which wounded his two comrades necessarily incurred even greater than normal casualties throughout the company, thus making his task all the more arduous and dangerous. But with the amazing energy, surpassed only by his unparalleled courage, he continually moved along the company front under constant and severe fire by the enemy.



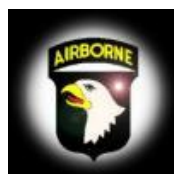
The company was hit by a veritable fusillade of rifle and machine gun fire from the enemy lines, this coupled with the barrage of grenades, both rifled and from M-79 grenade launchers. Even under the barrage Specialist Gentile continued to expose himself to the deadly enemy fire during the entire battle until all the wounded had been cared for. His outstanding heroism not only saved a number of lives but served to inspire those around him to greater efforts as well. Specialist Gentile's exceptional gallantry is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

21 February 1968

SGT Dale A. Urban (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company D, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. Sergeant Urban distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 21 February 1968 as a team leader during an assault by his company against a strongly entrenched enemy force near Hue. As his unit drew near a stream fronting the communists' strongholds, it was met by rocket and machine gun fire from a series of bunkers lining the opposite shore. The barrage caused the company to halt and take cover, but Sergeant Urban and his squad leader rushed forward in a daring assault through the chest-deep water silencing several positions. When the company advanced deeper into the dense woods, the hostile fire increased from the strategically placed bunkers and fortified villages. The deadly cross fires again caused men to falter and take cover as the casualties mounted. Ignoring the devastating fusillade, Sergeant Urban and his squad leader sprang forward and assaulted several more bunkers with hand grenades, eliminating all resistance. Ahead of them, however, lay a line of four fortifications which were placing fire into the flanks of their unit, effectively halting further advance. Sergeant Urban and his squad leader, in total disregard for their safety, rushed forward and ran along a trench line fronting the bunkers, throwing hand grenades inside and raking the positions with rifle fire as they passed. They killed all the occupants, except for two who staggered out and were captured. Sergeant Urban then rushed another bunker totally destroying it with an incendiary grenade, and began to deliver heavy fire into two more emplacements, one harboring a machine gun. Both of these were soon silenced by his accurate fire. The enemy's final line of resistance had all but disintegrated, except for sporadic fire which continued from an undetermined location. Sergeant Urban and his squad leader, though unable to spot any movement, quickly estimated the source of the fire to be in some high brush just thirty meters to their front. Putting their rifles on full automatic, the two men sprayed the suspected area and waited for a response. There was no return fire. Suspecting a possible trap, Sergeant Urban courageously crawled forward and found three North Vietnamese officers, killed by rifle fire behind the concealing underbrush. Sergeant Urban's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 502 (February 13, 1969))



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21 February 1968



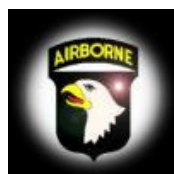
SSG Clifford Sims (D/2-501 IN) (Posthumously) was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a squad leader with Company D, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy aggressor forces at Hue, Republic of Vietnam, on 21 February 1968. Company D was assaulting a heavily fortified enemy position concealed within a dense wooded area when it encountered strong enemy defensive fire. Once within the wood line, Staff Sergeant Sims led his squad in a furious attack against an enemy force which had pinned down the 1st Platoon and threatened to overrun it. His skillful leadership provided the platoon with freedom of movement and enabled it to regain the initiative. Staff Sergeant Sims was then ordered to move his squad to a position where he could provide covering fire for the company command group and to link up with the 3d Platoon, which was under heavy enemy pressure. After moving no more than 30 meters Staff Sergeant Sims noticed that a brick structure in which ammunition was stocked was on fire. Realizing the danger, Staff Sergeant Sims took immediate action to move his squad from this position. Though in the process of leaving the area two members of his squad were injured by the subsequent explosion of the ammunition, Staff Sergeant Sims' prompt actions undoubtedly prevented more serious casualties from occurring. While continuing through the dense woods amidst heavy enemy fire, Staff Sergeant Sims and his squad were approaching a bunker when they heard the unmistakable noise of a concealed booby trap being triggered immediately to their front. Staff Sergeant Sims warned his comrades of the danger and unhesitatingly hurled himself upon the device as it exploded, taking the full impact of the blast. In so protecting his fellow soldiers, he willingly sacrificed his life. Staff Sergeant Sims' extraordinary heroism at the cost of his life is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself and the United States Army. (General Orders No. 83, December 12, 1969)



21 February 1968



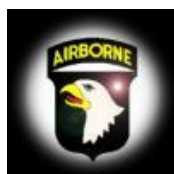
SSG Joe R. Hooper (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), in action against enemy aggressor forces at Hue, Republic of Vietnam, on 21 February 1968. Staff Sergeant Hooper, U.S. Army, distinguished himself while serving as squad leader with Company D. Company D was assaulting a heavily defended enemy position along a river bank when it encountered a withering hail of fire from rockets, machineguns and automatic weapons. Staff Sergeant Hooper rallied several men and stormed across the river, overrunning several bunkers on the opposite shore. Thus inspired, the rest of the company moved to the attack. With utter disregard for his own safety, he moved out under the intense fire again and pulled back the wounded, moving them to safety. During this act Staff Sergeant Hooper was seriously wounded, but he refused medical aid and returned to his men. With the relentless enemy fire disrupting the attack, he single-handedly stormed three enemy bunkers, destroying them with



hand grenade and rifle fire, and shot two enemy soldiers who had attacked and wounded the Chaplain. Leading his men forward in a sweep of the area, Staff Sergeant Hooper destroyed three buildings housing enemy riflemen. At this point he was attacked by a North Vietnamese officer whom he fatally wounded with his bayonet. Finding his men under heavy fire from a house to the front, he proceeded alone to the building, killing its occupants with rifle fire and grenades. By now his initial body wound had been compounded by grenade fragments, yet despite the multiple wounds and loss of blood, he continued to lead his men against the intense enemy fire. As his squad reached the final line of enemy resistance, it received devastating fire from four bunkers in line on its left flank. Staff Sergeant Hooper gathered several hand grenades and raced down a small trench which ran the length of the bunker line, tossing grenades into each bunker as he passed by, killing all but two of the occupants. With these positions destroyed, he concentrated on the last bunkers facing his men, destroying the first with an incendiary grenade and neutralizing two more by rifle fire. He then raced across an open field, still under enemy fire, to rescue a wounded man who was trapped in a trench. Upon reaching the man, he was faced by an armed enemy soldier whom he killed with a pistol. Moving his comrade to safety and returning to his men, he neutralized the final pocket of enemy resistance by fatally wounding three North Vietnamese officers with rifle fire. Staff Sergeant Hooper then established a final line and reorganized his men, not accepting treatment until this was accomplished and not consenting to evacuation until the following morning. His supreme valor, inspiring leadership and heroic self-sacrifice were directly responsible for the company's success and provided a lasting example in personal courage for every man on the field. Staff Sergeant Hooper's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army. (General Orders No. 24, April 17, 1969)

21 February 1968

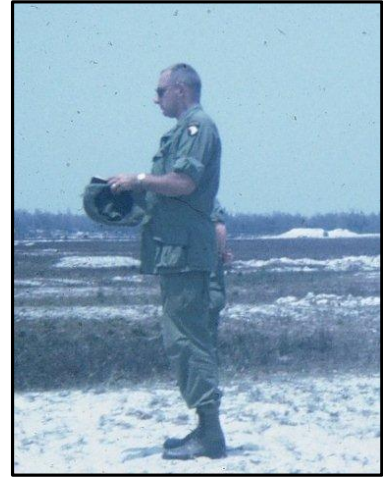
SFC George Parker Jr. (D/ 2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 February 1968. Platoon Sergeant Parker distinguished himself while serving with Company D, the Delta Raiders of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry. Company D was conducting a coordinated assault on a strongly fortified and tenaciously held enemy position in a dense wood near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. As the Delta Raiders moved to the assault across a wide, deep stream heavy enemy automatic weapons fire engaged the attacking force, and a rockets added to the crescendo the company slowed and many men took cover as their comrades fell under the enemy onslaught. Yet Platoon Sergeant Parker stood amidst this terrible storm of fire coming from heavy bunkers on the opposite shore and rallied his men by personal courage, leading them in a fierce assault across the stream, overrunning the first line of bunkers where an enemy flag which had flauntingly flown was captured. Moving into the dense and nearly impenetrable wood the fighting became savage, at times involving hand to hand combat. As men fell Platoon Sergeant Parker rushed up under torrents of lead to treat the men and carry them back. After evacuating several men Platoon Sergeant Parker, in reorganizing his men, found that two of his squad leaders had been wounded and that his platoon leader's radio had been destroyed by enemy fire, thus severing communications. Quickly assuming total command of the situation, Platoon Sergeant Parker organized the rest of his men into two squads and then led them forward in a driving attack on the enemy positions, a series of strong bunkers interlinked by an intricate trench system. Personally destroying two enemy bunkers with hand grenades, Platoon Sergeant Parker remained in the van of the attacking force as the situation called for more inspired leadership than tactical control. Moving forward against undiminished enemy fire, Platoon Sergeant Parker led his platoon in an overwhelming advance, relentlessly, driving the enemy, and destroying them in place where they refused to flee. By his personal courage and inspiring example the platoon was able to totally destroy a most formidable enemy stronghold which might otherwise have



destroyed the platoon in place, so great was the enemy firepower. Platoon Sergeant Parker'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.

21 February 1968

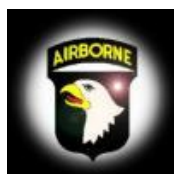
CPT William W. Erbach (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 February 1968. Chaplain Erbach distinguished himself while serving as chaplain with the 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The Battalion was making an assault on a North Vietnamese Regimental base camp and was encountering severe enemy fire from a strong, well-entrenched bunker system. Fighting became very intense and drew to close quarters as casualties began to mount. Company D was making the main assault, and this is where Chaplain Erbach went in an effort to inspire the men. He continually moved



along the line encouraging the men, but as the casualties increased Chaplain Erbach, unarmed and in complete disregard for his own safety, moved out across the bullet swept field to help care for an evacuate the wounded. Time and again he crossed the field, aiding the wounded and materially helping in every way possible. While assisting one of the fallen Soldiers, Chaplain Erbach was himself seriously wounded after he had been repeatedly advised to leave the forward area. After receiving first aid and being taken to the rear, he refused medical evacuation and remained on the field caring for further wounded Soldiers as they were brought to his position for evacuation. Only after all the wounded had been evacuated, five full hours after being grievously wounded himself, did Chaplain Erbach consent to being evacuated. His courage and inspiration were of great significance in contributing to the success of the battalion's assault. Chaplain Erbach'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.

21 February 1970

2LT Robert L. Worrall (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 February 1970. Lieutenant Worrall distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company B, 2d Battalion, (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, on a reconnaissance patrol near the Song Bo River, Republic of Vietnam. When the lead man in the patrol observed a possible enemy position, Lieutenant Worrall deployed his men and directed them to conduct reconnaissance by fire. Immediately, his platoon received intense automatic weapons fire from a small force of North Vietnamese Army Soldiers. Lieutenant Worrall repeatedly subjected himself to hostile fire to direct the return fire of his men, expedite the medical evacuation of the wounded, and direct artillery strikes. His actions under fire were an inspiration to his unit. Lieutenant Worrall'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. (General Orders Number 7090)

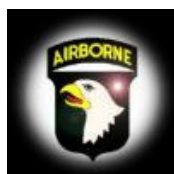


**\*STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

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 502<sup>nd</sup> in different brigades of the 101<sup>st</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade with 1-327<sup>th</sup> and 2-327<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam 1965, in was most notable commanded by LTC Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson. The new 2nd Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1st and 2d Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry.

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

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





## ACRONYMS

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

