



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) "STRIKE HISTORY" 18 January – 24 January 2015



- 18 January 1945 The 502nd moves to the Alsace region to take up part of the 7th Army's defensive line along the Moder River while other American units continue to eliminate the German Bulge.
- 18 January 1968 Flame throwers were used on tunnels as 1-502 IN Battalion continued its search and destroy operations. (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)
- 18 January 1969 C/1-501st IN Geronimo's sank four sampans on an unauthorized water way, killing two VC and capturing their AKs. Paratroopers of 2/501 completed air assaults into landing zones north of the Khe Lo Moi Valley. (Rendezvous with Destiny, Screaming Eagles Vietnam Diary: Spring 1969)
- 18 January 1970 Alpha Company, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry engage and enemy force of unknown size about 20 miles south-southwest of Hue. ARA was called in and three NVA soldiers were killed. (Screaming Eagle, 1970)
- 18 January 1971 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry 3/A Vic YD504220 sighted one enemy and employed small arms fire. Results one blood trail.

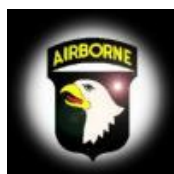
19 January –
21 February 1966

Operation Van Buren begins in Phu Yen Province where the recently relocated 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne (1/327, 2/502), ROK 2nd Marine Brigade and ARVN 47th Regiment were to locate and destroy the NVA Regiment 95 (believed to be in the Tuy Hoa Valley) and to protect the rice harvest in the coastal region. The 1st Bde was still moving from Phan Rang. As they arrived at Tuy Hoa, they moved into operational areas.



The joint operation claimed 679 known enemy casualties. The USA results were 282 enemy KIA plus 66 KBA, 33 captured and 238 suspects detained, over 100 weapons, and several caches of ammo and supplies were taken. The 1st BDE's casualties were 55 KIA and 221 WIA.

- 19 January 1968 1-502 IN Battalion returned to Cu Chi and had light contact during the period. Results: 5 WIA (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)
- 19 January 1969 As the 2-501st IN Battalion invaded enemy areas, B/2-501st IN killed three and captured two weapons. (Rendezvous with Destiny, Screaming Eagles Vietnam Diary: Spring 1969)
- 19 January 1970 The 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry discovered 275mm recoilless rifle rounds, 4 60mm mortar rounds and 8 82mm mortar rounds, about 13 miles southwest of Hue. Near the cache site the "STRIKE Force" troopers found 75 to 100 fighting positions. (Screaming Eagle, Feb. 1970)



19 January 1971 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry 2/A Vic YD501221 found a large network of trails oriented along the ridgeline. Alpha Company Vic YD508231 found one RPG round. 3/A Vic YD504216 found one set of footprints orientated southeast. There were three punji pits on the trail. Alpha Company Vic YD508213 detonated one booby trap. Results one US WIA.

20 January 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** B/2-502 at 1310H Vic YU081079 received SA fire. Fire was returned with negative results.

20 – 26 January 1968 2nd Brigade Task Force of the 101st Airborne Division, usually consisted of:

HQ and HQ CO, 2d Bde
1-501 Abn Inf Bn
2-501 Abn Inf Bn
1-502 Abn Inf Bn
1-321 Abn FA Bn 2d Plat,
A Btry 1-11 FA Bn, 2nd Plat
C Co, 326 Engr Bn
B Co, 326 Med Bn 2d FASC Plat, 501 Sig Bn
2d Plat, 101 MP Co
Team, 101 MI Co
265 Radio Research Co
34th Photo Interpretation Team
Support Units, 101 Div Spt Cmd
2d Plat, A Co, 801 Maint Co

...had been in its base camp near Cu Chi, west of Saigon, for about a month.

Arriving in mid-December by airlift from Fort Campbell, KY, its battalions had been conducting "in country orientation and training" operations in areas near its base camp, where there was a fair amount of enemy but not much in the way of results considering the casualties we suffered. The battalions had completed Operation Normandy, which consisted of "search and destroy" operations run by brigade from its Cu Chi command post.

Orders from division had then sent the 2d Bde TF to operate under division control in mechanized/airborne infantry operations with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in the Michelin rubber plantation near An Loc to the north. After four days beating the bushes with little contact, on 22 January we learned that General Westmoreland had ordered the brigade task force to move hundreds of miles north to come under the operational control of the 1st Cavalry Division.

That morning, while part of the 1/501 was helicopter-borne in a combat assault, we were told to cancel that operation and to assemble the entire 1/501 at Cu Chi, to move by C-130 aircraft the next day from its airstrip and that the rest of the brigade would follow.

The brigade journal, 23 January: "1-501 Inf and A-1-321 departed Cu Chi with all essential fighting equipment for Phu Bai, RVN, as the initial element of the 2d Brigade... A total of 21 C-130 sorties lifted 806 personnel, 51 vehicles, and 7 equipment pallets... The first chalk departed 0835 hours and the last chalk departed 1916 hours. Rear detachment of 1-321 Arty and communications for the Bde HHC will depart Cu Chi on 24 January for Phu Bai."

At 0733 on the morning of 26 January, with the brigade tactical command post, I left Cu Chi. The 1st Cavalry Division had decided that the 1/502, our last battalion to depart Cu Chi, with an artillery battery would fly directly to Quang Tri where it would be opcon to the Cav's 1st Brigade. By the evening of the 26th the



bulk of the 2d Brigade task force that was scheduled for Phu Bai had arrived, and the 1/502 would close into Quang Tri on 27 January.

From the brigade situation report of 1500 January 26, to the CG, 101st Airborne Division: "2d Bde Tac CP group arrived Hue approximately 261000 Jan. CO and party moved to 1st Air Cav Div CP. CO reported to CG, 1 ACD, at 261130 Jan. 2d Bde CP opened at 1200. J H Cushman, Col. Inf, Commanding. (By LTG (then COL) John H. Cushman)

The adventures of the Second Brigade Task Force were about to begin.

20 January –
04 February 1968

1-502 IN Battalion conducted recon in force operations in new AO with light contact. Results: 1 WIA Captured, and 1 AK-47 captured. (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)

20 January 1970

Operation RANDOLPH GLEN: 2/502 IN BN came under the operational control of 2BDE. A joint US/ARVN sweep operation was conducted west of FSB Bastogne (YD620095). The Battalion CP was established in the field and moved with one of the maneuver companies through the operation. One enemy was killed by Bravo Company during the operation. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)

21 January 1968

2nd Brigade takes part in operations within AO Attala around Minh Thanh in the Michelin rubber plantation. 12th Aviation Group provided 75 CH-47 sorties to move the brigade, combined with a four serial ground convoy.

21 – 30 January 1968

The 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, the 1st and 2nd Squadrons, 11th ACR begin Operation ATTALA/CASEY, conducted a reconnaissance in force operation against the 165th PAVN Regiment in Binh Duong Province.

21 January 1968

Operation SAN ANGELO: A/2-502 was found escorted by the 2/17 CAV, mortar marching to their new AO. The move was uneventful as were search and destroy operations in their new AO. B Company foot marched from their AO to Song Be. Twenty women and children were questioned enroute with negative results. C Company killed 2 VC on the perimeter of the TAC CP, capturing two AK-47 assault rifles.

21 January 1970

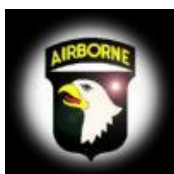
In a major civil affairs project for the 2nd BN (Ambl), 501st IN, villagers completed a gymnasium for Huong Tra District High School in Huong Can village with material provided by the 101st. The gym was required because a large percentage of the students came to the school from great distances and needed a place to eat and get some exercise during the lunch hour. (Rendezvous with Destiny, Screaming Eagles Vietnam Diary: Spring 1970)

21 January 1971

1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Recon Vic YD439245 found one trail orientated west to east. Estimated usage 12 days. Alpha Company Vic YD517209 discovered a bunker complex.

22 January 1968

Operation JEB STUART: This operation covered the initial move of major elements of the 1st Cavalry Division into northern I Corps following PERSHING. It was launched as a search and destroy operation aimed at enemy Base Areas 101 and 114. It had another goal of reinforcing the Marines in I Corps. The battles associated with TET of '68 would quickly over shadow the search and destroy nature of this operation which claimed 3,268 known enemy casualties and 119 POWS versus US loses of 291 KIAs and 1,735 WIAs. As a result of JEB STUART, the 1st Bde was near Quang Tri City just in time for TET. The 1st Cav



contributed three battalions: 2/8th, 5/7th and 2/12th Cav and the 101st Abn contributed two battalions: 1/501st and 2/501st Abn.

22 January 1968

Operation SAN ANGELO: A, C, Recondo and the TAC-CP extracted from assigned AO beginning at 0845H and closed SONG BE at 1545H. 2-502 assumed BDE IAF upon closing. B Co. air lifted to cold LZ Vic TAC-CP 2-327 and became OPCON effective 1029H for a security mission. 2-502 provided security for mini-firebase Vic YU182238 and established a forward TAC-CP. A and C Co. provided security at SONG BE and conducted S&D operations in assigned AO's on a rotating basis.

22-25 January 1968

2nd Brigade conducts OPERATION CASEY, a combined mechanized/ airmobile infantry operation in conjunction with 11th ACR in the Michelin rubber plantation. 2nd Brigade is supplemented with supporting units, and renamed the 2nd Brigade Task Force. At the end of the operation, 2nd Brigade is sent north to Hue.

1-501 Abn Inf.	2nd FASC Plt, 501 Sig. Bn.
2-501 Abn Inf.	2/101st MP Co.
1-502 Abn Inf.	Team/101st MI Co.
1-321 Abn Arty.	2/265 Radio Research Co.
A/1-11 Arty.	34th Photo Interpretation Team
C/326 Eng.	Support Units, 101st Div. Support Command
B/326 Med.	2/A/801st Maint. Co.

22 January 2004

Operation Strike Fury. 2nd Brigade and TF 121 conducts two simultaneous cordon and search operations onto OBJ Manhattan (2-502 IN) OBJ Memphis (3-502 IN), to detain Fimi Fakri Hamid Al'Ta'I Iraqi, the facilitator for a terrorist group. The primary target was detained along with two other suspected terrorist cell members.



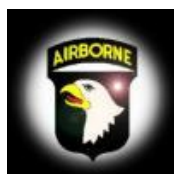
22 January 2011

Major supplies essential for the fight were brought to key FOBs in Kandahar by STRIKE's 526th Brigade Support Battalion. Soldiers of Company A, 526th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), delivered supplies to Forward Operating Base Howz-e-madad and FOB Azzizulah, Jan. 22.

The supplies were loaded at 526th BSB's headquarters at FOB Wilson, STRIKE Brigade's base of operations in the Kandahar Province. From there, supplies were distributed by trucks throughout STRIKE's area of operations.

"All supplies come from [Kandahar Air Field] and arrive here first," said Sgt. Marcus McGriff, a native of Hawkinsville, Ga., and driver with the company. "Wilson is like a central distribution hub. From here, we transport everything to battalion bases so they can send it to their smaller bases."

Everything from ammunition, food, vehicle repair items and more were delivered throughout the region by the 526th, said McGriff.



The modern combat environment required many different supplies. While FOB Howz-e-madad received an armored vehicle and ammunition, FOB Azzizulah received metal stakes and Hesco barriers for protection. The FOBs receive different supplies regularly as their needs changed.



Being able to move large amounts of supplies requires planning, organization and proper execution. The drivers of Co. A did everything they could to get the materials where they needed to go.

“There’s a lot more to our job than just driving,” said McGriff. “We do vehicle maintenance, loading and unloading, security and paperwork; if it needs to be done, we do it.” The modern combat environment required many different supplies. While FOB Howz-e-madad received an armored vehicle and ammunition, FOB Azzizulah received metal stakes and Hesco barriers for protection. The FOBs received different supplies regularly as their needs changed. “It’s a lot of hard work to move all these things,” said Sgt. Jose Guerra, a native of Brownsville, Texas, and truck commander with the company. “It takes a lot of team work and patience to get things done, but it’s worth it. We help make sure everyone gets what they need.”

24 January 2007

A/2-502 IN awarded Valorous Unit Award for extraordinary heroism in military operations against an armed enemy from Jan. 1 – April 7, 2004. (Under 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery)

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.

- 2 x Silver Star Medal
- 1 x Bronze Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
- 7 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 20 x Purple Heart Medal (10 x Posthumously)
- 3 x Died on Non-Hostile injury or illness

18 January 2004

SPC Leopold Pedraza assigned to A/1-320 FA; received the Purple Heart for wounds sustained during an IED explosion. SPC Pedraza was conducting a route clearance mission in Mosul, Iraq, when his vehicle was struck by an anti-tank mine. SPC Pedraza lost his left arm.

19 January 1968



CPL Donald A. Coffin (A/1-502) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other causes as a ground casualty in the Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam.



19 January 1968



The following Soldiers: SGT Joseph Gerwatowski (Pictured) and PFC James R. Moore (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from artillery, rocket, or mortar wounds in the Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam.

19 January 1969

PFC Alan D. Ela (E/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

19 January 2011



SPC Joshua Lancaster, 22, of Millbrook, Alabama; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from injuries sustained when insurgents attacked Kandahar Airfield with indirect fire. He was assigned to 723rd EOD Company, 184th Ordnance Battalion, 52nd Ordnance Group.

19 January 2011

The following Soldiers: CPT Justin Ryberg and SSG Dennis Wells (HHC/526 BSB) earned the Purple Heart for wounds sustained when insurgents attacked Kandahar airfield with indirect fire.

19 January 2011

SGT Kevin Tucker (A/526 BSB) earned the Purple Heart for wounds sustained when insurgents attacked Kandahar airfield with indirect fire. He was assigned to Company A, 526th Brigade Support Battalion.

21 January 2011

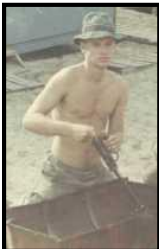
PFC Michael Barrera (C/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to Company C, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment.

20 January 1966



PFC Anthony Skodmin (C/2-502 IN) died of Non-hostile causes from a gunshot wound in the head when he was dismounting from a truck and the weapon of an individual in the truck accidentally discharged, in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.

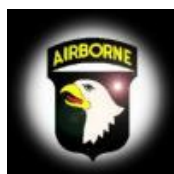
20 January 1969



SPC Jimmy L. Green (B/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 in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 January 2011

PFC Michael Barrera (C/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.



21 January 2004

SGT Theodore Lawrence (A/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart for wounds sustained during an IED explosion. SGT Lawrence was conducting a route clearance mission in Mosul, Iraq, when his vehicle was struck.

21 January 2006

1LT David Cochrane (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for actions in combat. At approximately 1430, 1/4/6 IA MiTT (1-502 IN) elements conducting TCP inspection traveling east on ASR Temple was hit by an IED disguised as a dead dog. Identified IED consisted of a 155mm round and possible LRC initiator. Shrapnel from the IED penetrated the TC door armor and shrapnel entered the TC's left foot. Convoy returned to FOB Latafiyah where ground evacuation occurred to take the Soldier to FOB Mahmudiyah.

21 January 2006

SSG David Jenkins (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for actions in combat. MiTT 1 elements were conducting a TCP inspection while traveling east on ASR Temple and were hit by an IED camouflaged in a dog carcass. Identified IED consisted of a 155mm round and possible LRC initiated. Shrapnel from the IED penetrated vehicle and the blast caused ear damage to SSG Jenkins, who was serving as the gunner.

22 January 1968



PFC Jerry D. Wells (B/1-501 IN) died of Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty (drowned or suffocated) in the Province not reported, South Vietnam

22 January 2006

SGT Justin G. Earnest, A/2-502 IN actions in combat earned him the Army Commendation with Valor.

22 January 2011

SSG Charles Allen (1-75 CAV) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart, and SPC Michael Litterell and PFC Michael Barrera (1-75 CAV) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while distinguishing themselves through valorous actions that prevented further injury.

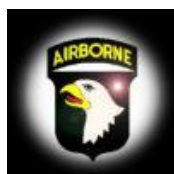
23 January 1969



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

23 January 1970

SGT William E. Semple (A/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



23 January 2006



SGT Matthew D. Hunter (HHC1-502 IN), 31, of Valley Grove, West Virginia; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) SGT Hunter was assigned to HHC/1-502 IN; while serving as a medic on 1/4/6 IA MiTT, was killed during a dismounted patrol on Route Temple in Latafiyah, Iraq. SGT Hunter identified disturbed earth just off the road and as he indicated to his comrades to push back, the IED exploded. SSG Eric Jones, the ground commander for the mission, immediately began coordination for a MEDEVAC on the radio, calling in the 9-line. SGT Jeffrey Schoonover and SGT Justin Black began setting security along with approximately 25 IA Soldiers while returning fire which was coming from the north/northwest. When security was established, SGT Schoonover and SGT Black returned to SGT Hunter and applied tourniquets to all four limbs. Shortly thereafter, a QRF team arrived with elements from C/1-502 IN and 1/4/6 IA MiTT and began searching for the triggerman, which was never found. The actions of SSG Eric Jones, SGT Jeffrey Schoonover, and SGT Justin Black earned each of them the Army Commendation with Valor.

23 January 2006

The following Soldiers: SSG Eric Jones, SGT Jeffrey Schoonover, and SGT Justin Black (HHC/1-502 IN) earned each of them the Army Commendation with Valor for action during a dismounted patrol on Route Temple in Latafiyah, Iraq.

24 January 1966



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

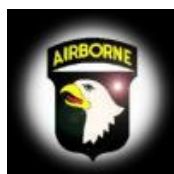
24 January 1971

SP4 Calvin E. Milam (A/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when a booby trap detonated. He was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired.

STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

20 January 1969

CPL Brian S. Williams (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 January 1969. Corporal Williams distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company B, 2nd Battalion, and 501st Infantry. Company B was on a reconnaissance in force operation in the mountainous jungle near Hue, Republic of Vietnam, when Corporal Williams' platoon was ambushed by an enemy force of undetermined size, employing automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire. In the initial exchange of fire, one man was killed and three were wounded. With his squad pinned down and disorganized, Corporal Williams realized that it would suffer even more serious casualties unless the enemy firepower was neutralized. With completed disregard for his own safety, Corporal Williams rallied his men and personally directed their fire toward the concealed enemy positions. Under intense enemy fire he then brought his squad on line and assaulted the North Vietnamese by fire. A sweep of the area later revealed numerous blood trails left by the fleeing North Vietnamese. Corporal Williams' 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.



22 January 2011



SSG Charles Allen, (ARCOM w/V, PH) SPC Michael Litterell and PFC Michael Barrera (ARCOM w/V) (1-75 CAV) distinguished themselves through valorous actions that prevented further injury.

SSG Allen's squad left Combat Outpost Kolk and conducted a dismounted patrol to establish a SIGINT observation point in vicinity of the village of Ghariban. The patrol moved to its OP location where they picked up VHF transmissions referencing an ISAF patrol in the area. SSG Allen placed the patrol on alert in anticipation of a potential ambush from the village.

After establishing the SIGINT OP, the patrol received intermittent radio communications on the command net and PFC Barrera used his radio on the fires net to ensure the command post maintained situational awareness of the patrol. SSG Allen maintained his position and tried to troubleshoot the communications issue. After one hour of being at that location and still having radio difficulties, the patrol began its movement back to COP Kolk.

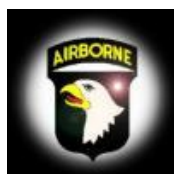
As SSG Allen gave guidance to consolidate and begin movement back west, he stepped on a pressure plate IED. In preparation for the movement back to COP Kolk, PFC Barrera was coordinating with close combat aviation to cover the element, and was less than five feet from the squad leader's location and the site of the explosion. SPC Litterell was pulling security to the west of his squad leader when the explosion occurred approximately 7-10 meters from his position.

The explosion engulfed SPC Litterell and the headquarters personnel near the squad leader. The blast threw PFC Barrera more than ten feet from his original location and temporarily rendered him unconscious. Upon regaining consciousness he realized his squad leader stepped on a pressure plate IED and was injured. The explosion from the IED amputated both of SSG Allen's legs and severely lacerated one arm. SPC Litterell, as the senior medic, immediately assessed the medical situation and realized his squad leader received severe injuries. With complete disregard for his own safety, SPC Litterell moved to the blast site prior to it being cleared of potential secondary devices and pulled SSG Allen to a safe area.

With complete disregard for his own safety, PFC Barrera immediately moved to the vicinity of the blast site to assess the injuries sustained by his squad leader. PFC Barrera immediately sent a situational report on the fires net, due to the Company command net still having intermittent communications with the command post. Despite sustaining life threatening injuries, SSG Allen



attempted to send an update on the command net. Not realizing his radio was damaged in the explosion, he continued to try to establish communications with higher. When the platoon medic arrived at the blast site, SSG Allen was more concerned about the possibility of other Soldiers being injured than the status of his own injuries. PFC Barrera immediately developed the 9-line MEDEVAC request and transmitted it back to the command post. During this crucial time PFC Barrera requested the MIST report from SPC Litterell, and transmitted it to complete the MEDEVAC request. Once cleared of the danger zone, SPC Litterell administered first aid. The injuries sustained were life threatening and without quick and effective treatment, SSG Allen would have gone into shock.



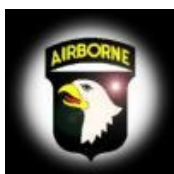
Remaining calm and focused, SPC Litterell placed tourniquets on SSG Allen's amputated left leg, on SSG Allen's right arm which sustained a severe laceration, and instructed another Soldier to apply pressure to the other leg. PFC Barrera's quick thinking and accurate initial reports resulted in the MEDEVAC aircraft landing at the HLZ seven minutes after the initial request was made. SSG Allen continued to lead his Soldiers by encouraging them and supporting their decisions. He directed his Bravo Team Leader to establish a hasty HLZ and to focus on outer security. During the transport to the HLZ, SPC Litterell administered morphine to regulate the pain and continued to provide comfort to SSG Allen.

SSG Allen's ability to stay calm and composed helped keep his squad focused with the mission at hand and aided in the quick evacuation from the point of injury. Upon completion of the evacuation, SPC Litterell treated the other Soldiers that were in the blast radius and helped secure the site until QRF and EOD elements arrived. Despite suffering a concussion, PFC Barrera maintained his composure and continued to give guidance until the Alpha Team Leader arrived at the scene and took over the squad. After the aircraft departed, PFC Barrera refused medical aid until all reports were sent up and CCA was effectively integrated into the patrol to provide overwatch of the area.

SSG Allen, SPC Litterell and PFC Barrera's valorous actions after the IED strike prevented further injury of Soldiers. SPC Litterell's urgency and professionalism during the situation are testaments of his leadership and ability to remain calm in high stress situations. The medical staff at Kandahar Airfield later stated that without SPC Litterell's direct involvement, the patient would not have survived the short flight from the point of injury to Role III.

24 January 1966

SFC Robert R. Wightman (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. SFC Wightman distinguished himself on 24 January 1966 while serving as acting platoon leader during a mission to relieve an element of an ambushed patrol near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. On this date, Platoon Sergeant Wightman's platoon was moving to join its parent unit when his rear security squad was ambushed. He immediately led his men through flooded rice paddies back toward the beleaguered squad. As he and his men neared the pinned down element, the Viet Cong fire became more intense. After skillfully deploying his platoon to give him fire support, Platoon Sergeant Wightman, with complete disregard for his personal safety, moved aggressively through heavy Viet Cong fire and directed the evacuation of the wounded to a nearby landing zone. When heavy Viet Cong fire forced away the incoming medical evacuation helicopter, Platoon Sergeant Wightman immediately called for tactical air support. As the aircraft approached the battle area, Platoon Sergeant Wightman skillfully directed effective air strikes and maneuvered his force against the insurgent troops. Promptly after the air strikes, he led his men in an aggressive attack, destroyed the insurgent positions, and routed the Viet Cong. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, fire superiority was regained over the insurgent troops and the casualties of the beleaguered squad were successfully evacuated. Platoon Sergeant Wightman's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

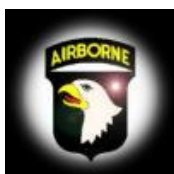


***STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

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

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

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



ACRONYMS

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

