



2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AASLT)  
"STRIKE HISTORY"  
25 May – 31 May 2014



25 May 1967

**Operation MALHEUR:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry had two significant contacts with enemy forces. One company contacted an estimated 50 man VC force in well-fortified positions with automatic weapons and M-79's resulting in 1 US KHA, 11 US WHA, 1 CIDG KHA, 1 CIDG WHA and 11 VC KIA (C). Another company contacted an unknown size VC force in well-fortified positions resulting in 8 US KHA and 10 US WHA. The results of four other light contacts were 4 VC KIA (C) and 3 individual weapons captured. Company A, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry conducted a non-illuminated, airmobile assault at 0445H into LZ's in the southeastern portion of NORMANDY AO from CARENTAN Base. Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry commenced operational control of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division at 1200H. Two light contacts by the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry (minus) resulted in 2 VC KIA. (C) and 1 individual weapon captured. Five light contacts by the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry resulted in 2 US WHA, 5 VC KIA (C) and 2 radios captured.

25 May 1968

The Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division continued their pursuit of the enemy in Operation Carentan II, killing 72 enemy and capturing seven weapons in scattered action. The largest action took place near Pha Tam Giang Bay five miles north of Hue. A/1/502 Inf surprised a reinforced NVA platoon. The paratroopers forced the enemy to withdraw to positions on the bay. Small arms fire and supporting artillery drove the enemy from his position and contact was lost. Forty-one NVA soldiers were killed in the battle. Thirty-one additional enemy were killed in widely scattered actions the same day.

25 May 1969

All units continued RIF operations in their respective AO as the enemy increased ground-to-air fire and continued to resist in the face of increasing pressure. At 0945H, A/1-502, vic. BT153117, suffered 2 US WIA by small arms fire from an unknown enemy force. At 1120H, a logistics aircraft for B/1-501, vic. BT155118, had 1 US WIA from ground fire. At 1309H, Recon/1-502, vic. BT125045, found the remains of 2 NVA killed by an earlier airstrike. At 1620H, A/1-501, vic. BT165098, engaged an enemy force with small arms. The alert soldier quickly maneuvered and over-ran an enemy 82mm mortar position, killing 6 NVA and capturing 1 NVA who was identified as the squad leader. Additionally, the aggressive company claimed 3 WC and the complete 82MM mortar. At 1825H, B/1-501, vic. BT153117, had 2 US WIA from small arms fire; the element returned fire but the enemy broke contact with negative assessment. At 1850H, Recon/1-502, vic. BT136045, engaged and killed 1 NVA and, at 1915H, C/1-501, vic. BT164115, closed out the day's activities when it discovered 1 VC KIA from an earlier clash. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)

26 May 1968

1-502 IN BN continued operations in the AO, Charlie Company suffered 6 WIA from a BBT, 105mm round and Delta made heavy contact vic. 691312. They returned fire and called in artillery and estimated the enemy element as an NVA company (-). Results: Friendly: 20 WIA

26 May 1968

Troop B 2-17th Cav. Observed movement while on a listening post, and engaged with 106RR. First light check 11 NVA KIA, 3 NVA POW, 3 AK-47, 3 RPGs, 22 RPG rounds, and 30 lbs explosives captured.

26 May 1969

Sporadic contact continued as a series of small clashes against small bands of the determined enemy force. Operations LAMAR PLAIN was supported by two B-52 raids



during the daylight hours against the suspected location of the 2nd NVA Division Headquarters. At 0800H, A/1-501, vic. BT165098, received an enemy hand grenade within the perimeter leaving 2 US WIA; the element returned fire but the enemy fled the area. At 0808H, B/1-502, vic. BT131078, received heavy small arms, automatic weapons and RPG fire from a hidden enemy force, suffering 5 US WIA; the unit returned fire with negative assessment. At, 0925, B/1-501, vic. BT155117, received heavy and accurate small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well concealed enemy fore, resulting in 2 US KIA; the unit returned fire, but the enemy broke contact fleeing in an unknown direction. At 1725, B/1-501 vic. BT153114 received sniper fire resulting in 1 UA KIA. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)

26 – 30 May 2012

**OPERATION HUNTING SPEAR VII** in Kapisa with 3/201 ANA Brigade, AUP, ALP, and ANCOP in combined action with enablers from TF LAFAYETTE from 26-30 MAY 12. The purpose of the operation is to clear 1500 meters of contested area east of FOB TAGAB IOT establish 2 strongpoint's over watching the Tagab Bridge to provide freedom of maneuver into the Alasay and Bedrou vallies. The Brigade accomplished their tasks, but routinely failed to inform their higher headquarters resulting in Corps leadership attempting to fight tactical level situations. AAF Mi-17 conducts aerial resupply operations at Kamdesh OPs in Nuristan.

AAF aerial resupply of remote Nuristan outposts. 201<sup>st</sup> ANA Corps successfully coordinates for Afghan Air Force (AAF) Mi-17s to conduct aerial resupply of ANSF at Bargee Matal and Kamdesh on 26-27 MAY 12. Coalition forces provide rotary-wing attack aviation support and assist ANSF with planning, preparation, and execution of the Air Mission Request (AMR) process for the Afghan resupply of remote locations in Nuristan.

**CBS2 transition to ALP community policing.** On 27 MAY 12, 202<sup>nd</sup> AUP Zone Commander discusses plan to transition community-based security solution (CBS2) to Afghan Local Police (ALP) forces in Laghman, Nangahar, and Kunar.

**ANA leadership.** 1/1/201 ANA Kandak Commander is KIA during an insurgent indirect fire attack at FOB Kalagush on 30 MAY 12. The Kandak Commander is the brother of MG Waziri, 201st ANA Corps Commander. The loss of the 1/1 Kandak Commander precipitates a significant degradation of the Kandaks ability to perform COIN operations in Kalagush, Laghman and south-western Nuristan. As in many ANSF formations, great commanders often lead great units. The loss of this commander is felt until LTC Hokum Khan, a former ANA Commando Kandak S3, assumes command of the unit in SEP 12.

27 May 1967

**Operation MALHEUR:** three light contacts by the 1st Battalion (Airborne) 327th Infantry resulted in 3 VC KIA (C). A light contact by the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 4 VC KIA (C). Two light contacts by the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry resulted in 2 VC KIA (C).

27-28 May 1968

1-501 cordons Thon Xuan Hoa resulting in 4 NVA/ VC KIA, 3 NVA/ VC POWs, and 750 lbs of rice captured.

27 May 1968

1-502 made light contact during the day's operations. Result: Friendly: 1 WIA BBT, 1KIA BBT; Enemy: 1 VC KIA (BC), 1 VC POW

27 May 1969

Activity was relatively light in the AO as a battle damage assessment (BDA) was conducted in the area of the B-52 strikes and all units continued RIF operations in the area. At 1005H, D/1-502, vic. BT130081 found the remains of 4 NVA KIA. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)



- 27 May 2009 1-320 FA awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation in support of military operations from Nov. 16, 2007 – Nov. 14, 2008. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, and its subordinate units displayed exceptionally meritorious service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit provided vigilant security for Camp Liberty and established a highly effective, in-depth defense involving actions across several lines of operation which greatly enhanced the safety and quality of life for both local citizens and the tenants of Victory Base Complex. The unit forged a strong partnership with numerous Iraqi Security Force elements and local tribal leaders in order to develop sustainable systems for the next generation of Iraqi's. The unit's efforts to build a bright future for citizens of Radwaniyah as well as maintain a stable base of operation for more than 16,000 Coalition Forces demonstrates the utmost devotion to duty and to mission success.
- 28 May 1968 OPERATION NEVADA EAGLE ends for 2nd Brigade. Enemy assessment was 183 NVA/ VC KIA, 14 NVA/ VC POWs, and 82 weapons captured.
- 28 May 1968 In response to the intelligence reported indicating increased enemy activity 20km east of Hue (YD923208); A/1-501 conducted a combat assault to engage a suspected enemy company area. A/1-501 engaged an estimated enemy platoon immediately upon landing. The Aero Rifle platoon (ARP) 2-17 Cav and B/2-17 maneuvered to A/1-501 area and, while A/1-501 established a blocking position vic. YD923215, they attacked southeast over the enemy's position. Enemy losses for the battle were: 34 KIA, 1 VC POW, and 5 IWC. Friendly losses were: 1 US KIA, 8 US WIA (8 Evac) and 1 PC damaged. (Operation Report, Lessons Learned, HQ 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM); 26 December 1968)
- 28-31 May 1968 1-502 continued RIF operations in the AO and security mission of An Lo Bridge and QL #1. During this period contact was very light and resulted in 7 VC Captured with weapons.
- 28 May 1969 All units continued RIF operations and activity was minimal throughout the AO. At 1250H, D/1-501 vic. BT119067, engaged and enemy soldier attempting to cross a river, resulting in 1 NVA KIA and 1 IWO. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)
- 29 May 1967 **Operation MALHUER:** 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry contacted an unknown sized enemy force in fortified positions resulting in 8 US KHA, 14 US WHA, 6 VC KIA (C), 2 VC KIA (P) and 4 individual weapons and 1 machine gun captured. Ten other light contacts resulted in 3 US KHA, 5 US WHA, 2 VC KIA (C), 3 VC KIA (P), 31 detainees and 3 individual weapons, 1 rocket launcher, 1 telephone and 1500 NVA uniforms captured. One light contact by the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 1 VC KIA (C) and 1 individual Weapon captured. Four light contacts by the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry resulted in 1 US WHA, 12 VC KIA (C), and 3 individual weapons captured. Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry terminated operational control to the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and returned to CARENTAN Base to prepare for future employment in NORMANDY AO.
- 29 May 1969 The Brigade continued to press the search in the AO as the enemy apparently chose to avoid contact. At 1135H, D/1-501, vic. BT164117, found 2 NVA KBAS. At 1700H, A/1-501 vic. BT183113, found 1 NVA KIA by napalm. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)
- 29 May 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** The 2-502 IN Battalion continued to operate in the new AO with negative contact the morning of this day. The second Platoon of D Company, while still in their NDP, YD599102, was engaged by enemy RPG's and small arms. D Company took one US KIA, four WIA, and one scout dog killed. A Sniper team was left behind and later in the day killed one NVA Soldier.



29 May 2010

1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), officially took control of operations in the Zharay District within the Kandahar Province during a Transfer of Authority ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Wilson.



A Transfer of Authority ceremony, or TOA, occurs when an existing unit hands over its control and responsibilities of the area of operations to an incoming unit. On this day, the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, relinquished its control and responsibility of the Zharay district.

“The men and women of the First STRIKE on this historic day assume responsibility to protect the people, strengthen the local government and help build a stronger economic environment in East Zharay,” said LTC Johnny Davis, commander of First STRIKE, while addressing the audience of US and Canadian Soldiers, Afghan National Security Forces and the local leaders of the Zharay district. “We stand ready to assume the mission.”

First STRIKE is deliberate with its intentions in Zharay, putting emphasis on their partnership with their Afghan counterparts, while looking to improve the overall quality of life within the district.

“Our goals here in Kandahar are to join forces and to fight shoulder to shoulder with the [Afghan National Army] and the [Afghan National Police] to make the government of Afghanistan better than what it is right now,” said CSM Brandon Haywood. “Some of the things we are doing now that the TOA is complete, is improving on our footprint force protection and ensuring our Soldiers are protected.”

The battalion did not hesitate in pursuing its end-state goal and has already carried out operations with Afghan forces. “They’re already working with us and we’ve already conducted two missions with the ANA and the ANP in the area of Zharay,” said Haywood. “That’s our priority, join forces and work with them in everything we do.”

30 May 1967

**Operation MALHUER:** Two light contacts by the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry resulted in 3 VC KIA (C) and 1 individual weapon captured.

30-31 May 1968

2-17 Cav. cordons Thon Le and Xa Dong resulting in 163 NVA/ VC KIA, 41 NVA/ VC POWs, and 75 individual and crew served weapons captured.

30 May 1968

As part of Operation NEVADA EAGLE, the 2/17 Cav, two companies from the 1/501 Airborne, plus the 3/3 ARVN Regiment working for the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division made contact during a cordon and search of Le Xa Dong, seven miles east of Hue. Casualties: US 6 WIA; enemy 142 KIA and 46 POW.

30 May 1968

Because of intelligence reports indicating that rice was being stored in the area north of the village of Phuong Quan Cua, 8km north of Hue (YD6532), D/1-502 conducted RIF operations into the area and captured 36.5 tons of rice. The rice was evacuated and delivered to the district chief of Quang Dien. (Operation Report, Lessons Learned, HQ 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM); 26 December 1968)

30 – 31 May 1968

At 1430 B/1-501 was alerted to conduct a combat assault into the eastern side of the hamlet, and at 1523 B Co. established a blocking position Vic YD880230. The 2-17 attacked again, as LFT gunships flew over and covered likely avenues of escape to the



west. As nightfall came, 2-17 was not able to attack through the hamlet, so C/1-502 was lifted into the western side of the hamlet and a tight cordon was formed around the enemy's positions. Throughout the night continuous illumination and artillery was provided to prevent the enemy's escape. At daybreak, 2-17 elements and 1/C/1-501 swept through the village and destroyed the remnants of the enemy forces and resistance. The enemy losses during the combined operation were as follows: 142 NVA KIA, 46 PW, 69 weapons captured. Of these enemy losses, ARVN forces were responsible for 51 NVA KIA, 27 PW, and 35 IWO. Friendly losses were: 6 US WIA, 2 PF KIA, 2 PF WIA. (Operation Report, Lessons Learned, HQ 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM); 26 December 1968)

30 May 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** C/2-502 IN 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon combat assaulted into a hot LZ at YD643060. Although a heavy volume of fire was received there were no casualties.

30 May 2010

TALON 6 and TALON 7 met with MAJ Mir Agha and SGM Mir Weis from the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police, Operational Mentor and Liaison Team and toured the COP manned by Company B/1-502nd. SFC Stone (B/1-502nd) identified enemy avenues of approach and the security problem sets faced by COP Fitzpatrick. Numerous abandoned compounds and grape huts allow the enemy firing positions supported by avenues of approach concealed in tree and wadi lines. Two likely staging locations were identified within 600 meters of Fitzpatrick where Taliban cache weapons used to attack the COP.



31 May 1969

Action flared briefly in the AO as the units continued to search for the enemy and 1-502 staged in the field for the combat assaults on the following day. At 1025H, D/1-501 vic. BT163115 received small arms fire from an unknown size of enemy force. The element returned fire and maneuvered against the determined enemy force. The enemy resistance was overcome and 6 NVA KIA were found with D/1-501 suffering 2 US KIA and 3 US WIA (E). (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)

31 May 1968

1-502 results from 19 December 1967 to 1 June 1968: Friendly: 59 KIA, 393 WIA; Enemy 852 KIA (BC), 250 KIA (EST), 129 WIA/POW

31 May 2003

B/2-502 air-assaults into Al Fallujah, Iraq and joins the 2nd Squadron, 3rd ACR as they struggled to secure the most violent city in the Sunni Triangle, which had recently suffered from a string of attacks on multiple convoys which left several U.S. Soldiers dead. Within days of arriving, Bravo Company suffered their only KIA, PFC Brandon Oberleitner, as a nighttime patrol came under combined RPG and small arms fire. Five other Soldiers were wounded as Bravo Company Soldiers reacted bravely, subduing the enemy and evacuating their casualties to safety. The Company returns to Brigade control on 07 Jul 03.

May 2001

3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment deployed to Kosovo and Macedonia and received the mission to interdict NLA rebel supply lines from Kosovo to Macedonia. Throughout the summer, soldiers from the 502nd disrupted and practically brought to a halt the resupply operations of Muslim rebels fighting in Macedonia.



**During this week, in the span of 72 years since the 502<sup>nd</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941 as the 502<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

6 x Silver Star Medal (3 x Posthumously)  
 1 x Bronze Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
 41 x Purple Heart (22 x Posthumously)  
 30 x Air Medal

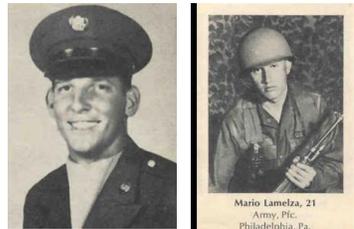
25 May 1968 The following Soldiers: SSG Thomas L. Partin, SP4 Glenn A. Gentile, SP4 Michael J. Jercens (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st Air CAV DIV; General Order Number 4616)

25 May 1968 CPT Jackie P. Justice (D/1-502 IN) (1-OLC) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st Air CAV DIV; General Order Number 4616)(Amendment Order No. 5578)



25 May 1968 SGT Jessie C. Alba (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from hostile mortar attack in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

25 May 1969 The following Soldiers: SP4 Ralph A. Vitch and PFC Mario Lamelza (A/1-501 IN) was awarded 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 Tin Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



25 May 1969 The following Soldiers: SGT Timothy D. Ward (1-OLC), SGT Gary L. Vaneteen, SGT Brian S. Williams, SP4 Michael B. Altizer, PFC Walter Marshal Jr. (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 85th Evac, Hospital, (SMBL); General Order Number 54, 26 May 1969)

25 May 1969 The following Soldiers: 1LT Bohdan G. Kopystianskyj, SGT Brian S. Williams (1-OLC), SP4 Michael B. Altizer (1-OLC), SP4 Paul S. Pawlak, PFC Walter Marshal Jr. (1-OLC) PFC Garry A. Crocker, PFC Monte W. Haugland, PFC Billy J. Stracener, PFC Milton J. Royal (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 6546, 9 June 1969)



26 May 1969



SP4 Eric D. Nadeau (B/1-501 IN) was awarded 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 Tin Province, South Vietnam.

26 May 1969



PFC Euan J. E. Parker (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

27 May 1968

The following Soldiers: SSG Albert Forster, SSG Bruce E. Hitt, SSG Paul J. Brown, SGT George W. Blyman, SGT Carlos B. Cepeda, SGT Arturo Diaz, SGT Gilbert M. Dohogn, SGT William M. Eagleson, SGT Paul F. Faris, SGT Leandrew Gary Jr., SGT Larry L. Grice, SGT Paul R. Hickman, SGT Patrick L. Jozwiak, SGT Fred T. Jordan, SGT Richard N. Laplant, SP5 John Lee Jr., SGT Ronald E. Long (Pictured), SGT Arthur R. Leyvas, SGT Michael J. Jargons, SGT Eugene C. Mellem, SGT Charles R. Murray, SGT Peter W. Smith, SGT Miguel Negrete, SGT Joseph M. Peterson, SGT John W. Ringold, SGT Gilbert Rosa, SGT John W. Richards, SGT Boyd L. Smith, SGT Timothy F. Sandberg, and SGT Juan Terlaje (D/1-502 IN) were awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in Aerial Flight. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; G.O. Number 10541, 30 November 1968)



27 May 1968

The following Soldiers: PFC Kenneth R. Hellman (A/1-501 IN); PFC Vernell H. Miller Jr. (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from othe explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

27 May 1968



SP4 Francis J. Hefner (B/2-502 IN) was awarded 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

28 May 1968

SGT Alan G. Carter (B/2-502 IN) was awarded 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.

29 May 1968

PFC Obbie Johnson (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



29 May 1970

SSG Lawrence A. Bierbaum (D/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

29 May 1971



CPT Thomas G. Blair (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Ta Trang River Valley 10 KM North of Ruong Ruong, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

29 May 2010

SPC Jeffrey Argrave (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire.

30 May 1969



The following Soldiers: SGT Edwin E. Dotter (Pictured), SP4 Louis Johnson, PFC Robert L. Watt (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

30 May 1969



PFC Craig M. Simeone (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.

30 May 2006

SPC Bobby R. West (D/1-22 IN), 23, of Beebe, Arkansas; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when an improvised explosive device detonated during dismounted patrol operations in Baghdad.

30 May 2010

SPC Martin Torres (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his unit with a rocket propelled grenade.

31 May 1968



The following Soldiers: CPL Donald R. Miller and CPL Jeff Mulkey (Pictured) (B/2-502 IN) was awarded 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.



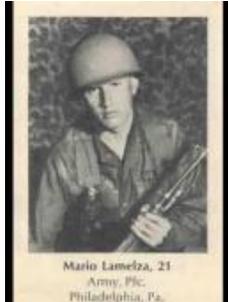
31 May 1969



The following Soldiers: CPL Johnny M. Pilsner (Pictured) and SP4 Philip A. Pratt (D/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

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

25 May 1969



PFC Mario Lamelza (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 25 May 1969. Private Lamelza distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman with Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry, during a combat mission in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, the lead platoon of Company A came under an intense volume of small arms and automatic weapons fire from well-fortified enemy bunker complexes. Private Lamelza maneuvered across the rice paddy to within fifteen meters of an enemy machine gun position. After eliminating this bunker with a hand grenade, he moved through the brush to the next enemy position. Then, with complete disregard for his own safety, he stood up and killed the occupants of the second bunker with rifle fire. While attempting to maneuver on the third enemy position, he suffered fatal gunshot wounds. Private Lamelza'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.

25 May 1969

SP4 Ralph A. Vitch (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 25 May 1969. Specialist Vitch distinguished himself while serving as a team leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, during a combat mission in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, the lead platoon of Company A came under an intense volume of small arms and automatic fire from well-fortified enemy bunker complexes. When Specialist Vitch saw a fellow Soldier wounded, he immediately rushed to his aid. Braving intense enemy fire, Specialist Vitch found that he was unable to save the fatally wounded Soldier. Without regard for his own safety, Specialist Vitch maneuvered on one of the bunker positions. On reaching grenade distance, he repeatedly threw grenades into the bunker, but the enemy Soldiers held and continued to fire at him. He then charged the position and killed its occupants with rifle fire. He then directed his attention to the second enemy position, but before he could maneuver within grenade range he was mortally wounded by gunshot fire. His conspicuous gallantry contributed to the killing of six North Vietnamese Soldiers and the capture of another. Specialist Vitch'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.

29 May 1967

PFC Donald C. Pryor (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. Private First Class Pryor distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. On this date, Private Pryor was serving as a rifleman with Company A, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry. While on a patrol, Private Pryor and his squad were taken under a tremendous volume of hostile fire from an enemy force of undetermined size. Private Pryor was hit and knocked to the ground in the initial burst of fire, sustaining a painful wound. As the intensity of the hostile fire increased, Private Pryor realized that the tactical situation of his squad was deteriorating. Though dazed and bleeding, he quickly bandaged himself and stopped the bleeding. Then, with complete disregard for his personal safety, Private Pryor singlehandedly assaulted the enemy position, unmindful of the increased hostile fire being directed at his movements. He successfully overran the enemy position, killing



two soldiers, wounding several others and capturing two enemy weapons. By his exceptionally valorous actions, outstanding display of aggressiveness and profound dedication, Private First Class Pryor has distinguished himself and has reflected great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army.

29 May 1967

SSG James H. Carpenter (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 29 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Carpenter distinguished himself while leading his squad down a trail in dense jungle foliage. An estimated enemy squad pinned down his squad with intense fire. Realizing his need for decisive action, Sergeant Carpenter, with complete disregard for his own safety, exposed himself to the murderous fire and assaulted the enemy positions. In the ensuing assault, Sergeant Carpenter killed one enemy soldier and, while still exposed to the hostile fire, pursued and captured another. His squad, inspired by his courage and daring, followed suit and assaulted the remaining positions routing the enemy who left behind three dead, three weapons, and one prisoner. Staff Sergeant Carpenter's unquestionable valor, resoluteness, and dauntless determination in close combat are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army.

30 May 1968



Colonel John H. Cushman (2<sup>nd</sup> BDE CDR) earned the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself on 30 May 1968 while serving as Brigade Commander, Second Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, on a combat operation with 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry in the village of Thon Le Xa Dong, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. The Second Squadron, 17th Cavalry, which was under the operational control of the Second Brigade, made contact with an enemy force in the western end of the village. By noon it was evident that a strong enemy force was occupying the village. Colonel Cushman was over the battle area in a light observation helicopter, and sensing an opportunity to encircle and destroy the enemy force, he ordered a rifle company from a nearby battalion to be combat assaulted into a position north of the village. He then persuaded Army of the Republic of Vietnam authorities to order an infantry battalion to a cordon and blocking position west and northwest of the village. Despite hostile fire throughout the battle area, he remained aloft personally directing devastating air strikes and artillery fire, and on many occasions joined United States and Army of the Republic of Vietnam commanders on the ground to determine the situation, give them counsel, and arrange for their support. Disregarding the hazards of night flight in the light observation helicopter, Colonel Cushman stayed aloft for several hours after darkness, counseling his commanders, adjusting cordon positions, and insuring flare ship and artillery support. During the night the trapped enemy attempted in vain to break out of the ring of troops. The following morning the systematic destruction of the enemy force was completed. Included among the enemy losses were the command groups of a battalion and regiment. These losses coupled with the large number of enemy casualties and prisoners rendered the enemy battalion and its regimental headquarters ineffective as remnants of the force fled to the mountains. This action, which was the tenth in a series of successful cordon operations conducted by the brigade under Colonel Cushman, brought the total enemy losses in these ten operations to eight hundred and twenty killed and two hundred captured, with remarkably light casualties. Colonel Cushman's 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.

30 May 1969

SP4 Louis Johnson (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in actions while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 30 May 1969. Specialist Johnson distinguished himself while serving as an automatic rifleman for Company B, 2nd Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry. On the night of the cited date, Company B was conducting ambush patrols near Dong Ap Bia Mountain on the western border of the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Johnson's Platoon moved into an ambush site along a trail and began its wait. At approximately 2215 hours, several North Vietnamese troops were spotted moving toward their position. When the enemy troops were within range, the element's claymore mines were detonated, killing four of the North Vietnamese.



Several troopers were sent out to check the results of the ambush and were immediately taken under fire by other enemy troops. Under automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire, the ambush platoon was pulled back to the main company night defensive position. Upon arriving at the night defensive positions, it was determined that several troopers had been left behind during the ambush withdrawal. Without regard for his own safety, Specialist Johnson volunteered to lead a relief force back in an attempt to locate the missing men. The relief element quickly moved out with Specialist Johnson in the lead. Several minutes later they made heavy contact with the enemy force which was attempting to prevent the rescue of the missing men. Specialist Johnson immediately began to lead the maneuver elements in an effort to knock out the enemy machine gun fire which was severely endangering the members of his fire team. While moving to an advantageous position, he was struck in the chest by shrapnel from an enemy rocket propelled grenade and mortally wounded. Specialist Johnson'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.

**\*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 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade became the parent headquarters for the 1st, 2nd, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions of the 502nd Infantry Regiment. With this reorganization, the Brigade adopted the regimental motto, "Strike."

