



STRIKE

Weekly History



Est. 1941

March 29th – April 4th

Issue: 1

Brief History of the 502nd and 2nd Brigade

The 502nd, or “five-oh-deuce”, was activated July 1, 1941 at Fort Benning, Georgia as the 502nd parachute infantry battalion, as an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assaults. The 502nd entered combat in World War II on June 6, 1944, by jumping into Normandy, with allied forces landing on D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. Between 1945 and 1964. A major reorganization took place on 3 February 1964, when the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne was activated at Fort Campbell, replacing the 1st Airborne Battle Group, 501st Infantry Regiment. The reorganization from the battle groups to brigades and battalions placed two battalions of the 502nd in different brigades of the 101st.



The 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry was in the 1st Brigade with 1-327th and 2-327th Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam and arrived at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam on 29 July 1965, they were commanded by the most notable commander LTC Hank “The Gunfighter” Emerson.



The new 2nd Brigade’s original organic battalions were the 1st and 2^d Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry. December 1967 the 501st, 502nd and 2nd Brigade deployed by C-141 aircraft and arrived at Bien Hoa Airbase on 13 December 1967. Over the next five years, Soldiers of the “Ready to Go” Brigade participated in twelve campaigns, compiling of a distinguished combat record as well as an enviable reputation for success in the rehabilitation of a war-torn nation. The Brigade redeployed to Fort Campbell in April 1972.



In September 1980, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry regiment deployed to Sinai as a peacekeeping for Operation BRIGHT STAR. The unit was first U.S. forces in the region since World War II.



In 1982, Task Force 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry deployed to Panama in support of Operation KINDLE LIBERTY to demonstrate U.S. ability and resolve to defend the Panama Canal in the light of spreading pro-Soviet/Cuban influence in Nicaragua and Central America.

1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry deployed to Egypt again in September 1982 to enforce Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel by serving on the Sinai Peninsula as part of the Multinational Force and Observers.



May 1984 through a complex “reflagging” process the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 502nd were placed under the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT). With this reorganization the Brigade adopted the regimental motto, “STRIKE!”

On 5 June 1984, 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry deployed to Sinai, Egypt as part of Multinational Force and Observers from July to December 1985. On December 12, 1985 at 0645 the DC-8-63 charter carrying 248 passengers and a crew of 8 crashed just after takeoff from Gander International Airport, Gander, Newfoundland, Canada. All on board perished as a result of the impact of the post-crash fire.



In the late summer of 1990, the “STRIKE” Brigade moved to Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Desert Shield to deter a possible Iraqi invasion. On February 25, 1991 the “STRIKE” Brigade participated in the largest helicopter air assault in military history to establish FOB Cobra.

During Operation Desert Storm, the 2nd Brigade and 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) cut the enemy’s lines of communications, struck deep into his country, threatened a lethal strike against his capital and shut off his escape. The Brigade redeployed to Fort Campbell in March of 1991.



Between 1993 and 2001 the Brigade participated in multiple peacekeeping missions to include: Operation Safe Passage (Panama), Jungle Operations Training Center (Panama), Bosnia-Herzegovina (QRF) Stabilization Force 6 (SFOR6), Kosovo and Republic of Macedonia as part of NATO’s Kosovo Force.



The STRIKE Brigade deployed to Iraq in support of OIFI (2003), OIF 05-07 (2006) and OIF 07-09 (2007). The Brigade received multiple awards and decoration during these operations. During this period in 2004 the "STRIKE" Brigade went through another transformation. With the inactivation of 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry and reflagged as 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment and also transformed from an Infantry Brigade to a modular Brigade Combat Team with adding 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion and 526th Brigade Support Battalion.



The STRIKE Brigade deployed to Afghanistan in support of OEF X-IX (2009), Security Force Advisor Team (SFAT) (2010), Security Force Advisory Team (2012), OEF XV.



STRIKE Brigade also transformed once again in 2014 with the loss of 1-320th FA which joined 2-320th FA and 3-320th FA to make the up the Division Artillery (DIVARTY) and 1-26th IN joined STRIKE Brigade.



During this week, in the span of 72 years since the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941 as the 502nd Parachute Battalion, an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assault, the following are from After Action Reports, Staff Duty Logs, and Personal Accounts.

29 March –
29 April 1967

The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (1/327, 2/327, 2/502, A/2/17) begins **Operation SUMMERALL**, a search and destroy mission in the highlands of Darlac, Khanh Hoa and Phu Yen Provinces, between Buon Ea Yang and Khanh Duong. US losses are 7 killed and 43 wounded, enemy losses are 72 killed and 11 POWs.

29 March 1968

The 1-501 IN Battalion conducted a cordon operation four and on-half miles northwest of Hue. When an NVA platoon located in the village began to fire on them, air strikes and supporting artillery fire were called in. By early afternoon, the NVA broke contact and the paratroopers began a sweep of the village. Thirty-three bodies were found as well as 20 weapons.

29-31 March 1968

1-502 IN Battalion continued search and destroy operations in Quang Dien District and defense of An Lo Bridge and LZ Sally. Very light contact was made with negative results.

29 March 1969

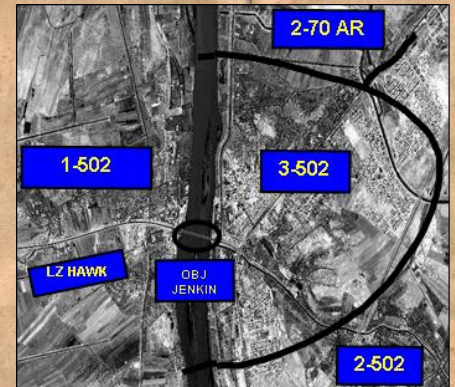
At 2015H at coordinates YD526227 (9K Northeast of Hue City) CPA 3-1-8 while proceeding to ambush site, via check points, leading element point man observed movement at coordinates YD831229 moving towards enroute ambush unit and immediately set up a hasty ambush site at coordinates YD826227. Spurge ambush with small arms and M-79 fire the ambushed unit illuminated the area with M-79 alum and a green star cluster, while 3-1-8 called for artillery alum, During the waiting period, 3-1-8 received small arms fire but did not return small arms because their actual ordered a cease fire, possibility of ambushed unit being USA. After established identification with green star cluster, 3-1-8 moved in to assist with Medevac and LZ landing. 3-1-8 the returned to harbor site. Results: One (1) USA/KIA, two (2) USA/WIA. (From 3rd Combined Action Group CMD Chronology)

29 March 2003

Battle for Al Kifl. After conducting a relief in place with 2-69 AR under incoming 122mm artillery fire, a rapid planning process was initiated to seize the key bridgehead at Al Kifl (Objective Jenkins) and clear enemy forces from the town in order to secure the vital Main Supply Route (MSR) heading north. The bridge was one of several critical crossing points over the Euphrates River, and the destruction of the bridge was believed to be part of the Regime's defensive plan to slow the Coalition's advance toward Baghdad. Two companies (B/3-502 and C/1-502) were given the order to travel from Camp Udairi directly to Al Kifl as part of a 412 km air assault in order to



seize the bridge, with the rest of the 502nd still in Kuwait air assaulting to TAA Strike for follow on operations in and around Al Kifl and An Najaf. After air assaulting into LZ Falcon (approximately 1 kilometer west of the bridge), B/1-502 conducted a link-up with their Battalion Commander and TAC, and quickly secured the bridge, which was near collapse due to the weight of numerous M1s crossing it. C/1-502 landed soon afterwards and crossed the river to link up with two Companies



and the Battalion TAC from 2-70 AR, which had by this time been attached to the 502nd. Additional companies arrive soon after to reinforce the situation, while 1-320 FA provided the necessary indirect fire support. After relieving 3 ID (M) and significant contact with enemy para-military forces, the bridge, and other routes into An Najaf from the North are blocked and by 2200 the town was secured.

30 March 1968

Seven and one-half miles east of Hue, D/2-501 IN found 31 NVA killed in a previous day's action in their area of operation (AO).

30 - 31 March 1968

D/1-501 IN first new objective was to clear out and eliminate a large NVA unit entrenched in a small farming village located about three miles northeast of Hai Lang and just north of the boundary between Quan Tri and Tua Tien Provinces. D Company (consisting of its Headquarters element of about 6 and three Platoons of about 25 each) arrived near the outskirts of the village late in the afternoon on the 30th. The village stood out clearly; it was surrounded by a vast expanse of rice paddies. The NVA, dug in and fortified, were certainly prepared to defend the village and its nearby cemetery. Since they were surrounded, they had no choice.

A short time after arrival at the village outskirts, D Company Commanding Officer decided to conduct small-unit probing attacks to ascertain the strength and strong points of the NVA. The several probing attacks in the late afternoon and early evening proved one sure thing for the CO and the D Company paratroopers; the NVA were ready to fight and to fight hard since there was little hope for most of them to sneak away and escape.

The CO established the plan of attack which called for an assault by two Platoons at first light the next morning. The attack plan was direct and simple (there were few, if any, options considering the fact that the village was isolated out in the rice paddies) with two Platoons comprising the initial attack element. The remaining Platoon, as standard procedure, was to stand by in reserve. In D Company, the CO established the reserve Platoon on a daily rotational basis between the three Platoons. As such, the 1st Platoon's turn as reserve was on March 31st. The 2nd and 3rd Platoon would then comprise the initial "first light" assault elements with the 2nd Platoon on the right and the 3rd on the left.

The village, as noted previously, was isolated out in a vast rice paddy area. The village was typical Vietnamese farming enclave with its adjacent and traditional Vietnamese cemetery above 50 yards from its outskirts.

Off to one corner of the village and along the left side (the left side being from the direction of the attack) of the cemetery was a shallow drainage ditch with scrub bamboo and other brush growing in it. As planned, the vegetated ditch was to serve as the dividing line between the two attacking Platoons.

On March 31st, at first light soon arrived for the paratroopers of Delta Company and the attack by the 2nd and 3rd Platoon on the village would commenced. The NVA were quick to respond to the assault on their positions. The paratroopers faced intense rifle, machine gun and rocket propelled grenade fire from the entrenched NVA. In spite of the heavy enemy fire facing the (which resulted in several wounded-in-action casualties to their ranks), the 2nd and 3rd Platoons made slow but steady progress toward their objectives. The 3rd Platoon initially cleared out several enemy positions firing at them from the drainage ditch. Alternatively taking cover where available and laying down suppressing fire the Platoon began maneuvering toward the small farm structures at the village edge. Upon receiving instructions from the CO, the 3rd Platoon temporarily held its position while the 2nd Platoon dealt with an unexpected strong enemy resistance at the cemetery. The 3rd Platoon maintained its position and exchanged concentrated fire on the enemy at their defensive positions within the village. This action drew the village bound NVA's total attention. They were unable to provide support to the NVA that was stiffly engaging the 2nd Platoon as it approached the cemetery. The grave sites were ideal for defensive fighting positions and on the morning of March 31st, the NVA put them to good use.



30 – 31 March 1968

With courageous and skilled leadership, the 2nd Platoon Leader maneuvered his paratroopers who placed withering fire on the enemy at their grave site fortifications. The accurate and concentrated fire from their rifles, machine guns and grenade launchers kept the enemy down allowing effective use of hand grenades and more careful maneuvering. After more than two hours of this tactic, the 2nd Platoon eliminated several enemy grave site positions along the edge of the cemetery and closest to its line of attack. Finally, the tables of the battle for the cemetery had slowly started to turn in the 2nd Platoon favor. From the beginning of the attack at first light and throughout the period leading up to the taking the first few grave site enemy positions there was no question that the 2nd Platoon was a “well-oiled” fighting machine as it engaged NVA with each paratrooper doing his job in a first-class resolute manner.

By this time the battle for the village had moved well into mid-morning. With the few initial grave site positions now in the 2nd Platoon’s control and with the limited protection they provided, it was able to engage the stubborn NVA in fire and maneuver actions going from one grave site to another adjacent grave site eliminating the NVA in each as progress was achieved.

2nd Platoon, D Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division; During the last week of March 1968, D Company moved to the north of the town of Hai Lang which was located at the northern edge of Thua-Tien Province and about ten miles south of the city of Quan Tri. Hai Lang, situated on the coastal plain about five miles inland from the South China Sea, served as a regional and inter-provincial traffic hub (Route I – A major north/south highway passed through) for distribution of agricultural products (mainly rice) grown in the area and for products from the nearby ocean fishing boats.

From the beginning of the TET Offensive that started in the dark early in the morning of January 31, 1968, D Company, along with its sister companies of the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, was engaged in continuous day and night combat with regular North Vietnamese Soldiers (NVA) in and around Hai Lang. By the end of March, the NVA in Hai Lang and the area surrounding it were eliminated. It was time for the Battalion to move out to new areas where enemy forces were concentrated and to engage them in combat. Experience from the initial TET battles and the battles throughout the months of February and March, taught the D Company paratroopers well. D Company, with first-class leaders, was battle hardened. D Company was skilled in combat discipline, teamwork and tactics; it was eager to engage the NVA in the battle at any time.

A short time after arrival at the village outskirts, the D Company Officer (CO) decided to conduct small-unit probing attacks to ascertain the strength and strong points of the NVA. The several probing attacks in the late afternoon and early evening proved one sure thing for the CO and the D Company paratroopers; the NVA were ready to fight and to fight hard since there was little hope for most of them to sneak away and escape.

The CO established the plan to attack which called for an assault by two Platoons at first light the next morning. The attack plan was direct and simple (there were few, if any, options considering the fact that the village was isolated out in the rice paddies) with two Platoons comprising the initial attack element. The remaining Platoon, as standard procedure, was to stand by in reserve. In D Company, the CO established the reserve Platoon on a daily rotational basis between the three Platoons. As such, the First Platoon’s turn as reserve was March 31st. The Second and Third Platoons would then comprise the initial “first light” assault elements with the Second Platoon on the right and the Third on the left.

The village, as noted previously, was isolated out in a vast rice paddy area. The village was a typical Vietnamese farming enclave with its adjacent and traditional Vietnamese cemetery about 50 yards from its outskirts.

Off to one corner of the village and along the left side (the left side being from the direction of the attack) of the cemetery was a shallow drainage ditch with scrub bamboo and other brush growing in it. As planned, the vegetated ditch was to serve as the dividing line between the two attacking Platoons.



On March 31st, the first light soon arrived for the paratroopers of D Company and the attack by the Second and Third Platoon on the village commenced. The NVA were quick to respond to the assault on their positions. The paratrooper's faces intense rifle, machine gun and rocket propelled grenade fire from the entrenched NVA. In spite of the heavy enemy fire facing them (which resulted in several wounded-in-action (WIA) casualties to their ranks), the Second and Third Platoons made slow but steady progress toward their objectives. The Third Platoon initially cleared out several enemy positions firing at them from the drainage ditch. Alternatively taking cover where available and laying down suppressing fire it began maneuvering toward the small farm structures at the village edge. Upon receiving instructions from the CO, the Third Platoon temporarily held its position while the Second Platoon dealt with an unexpected strong enemy resistance at the cemetery. The Third Platoon maintained its position and exchanged concentrated fire on the enemy at their defensive positions with the village. This action drew the village bound NVA's total attention. They were unable to provide support to the NVA that was stiffly engaging the Second Platoon as it approached the cemetery.

A Vietnamese cemetery consists of numerous gravesites that are at ground level. A grave is covered with a durable concrete seal and is set on a thick concrete slab. Each grave is further surrounded by a low (about 3 feet high) decorative masonry railing supported by numerous decorative masonry posts and religious symbols. The grave sites were ideal for defensive fighting positions and on the morning of March 31st, the NVA put them to good use.

With courageous and skilled leadership, the Second Platoon Leader maneuvered his paratroopers who placed withering fire on the enemy at their grave site fortifications. The accurate and concentrated fire from their rifles, machine guns and grenades launchers kept the enemy down allowing effective use of hand grenades and more careful maneuvering. After more than two hours of this tactics, the Second Platoon eliminated several enemy grave site positions along the edge of the cemetery and closest to its line of attack. Finally, the tables of the battle for the cemetery had slowly started to turn in the Second Platoon's favor. From the beginning of the attack at first light and throughout the period leading up to the taking of the first few grave site enemy positions, PFC Danny Stephens, along with his Second Platoon comrades, performed his duty as a rifleman with determination, skill and courage. There is no question that on the morning, the Second Platoon was a 'well-oiled' fighting machine as it engaged the NVA with each paratrooper doing his job in a first-class and resolute manner.

By this time the battle for the village had moved well into mid-morning. With the few initial grave site positions now in the Second Platoon's control and with the limited protection they provided, it was able to engage the stubborn NVA in fire and maneuver actions going from one grave site to another adjacent grave site eliminating the NVA in each as progress was achieved.

It was during the mid-morning period of the battle among the cemetery's masonry structures that PFC Danny Stephens, while providing intense suppressing fire on the NVA, received an instantly fatal single shot to his upper chest.

PFC Stephens had taken cover in one of the grave site positions. Lying prone, he was covered on most sides by the stone posts and railing of the low enclosures that defined the borders of this particular grave site. Enemy forces were within 30 to 50 yards of the Second Platoon line. As the squad on his right engaged the enemy by throwing hand grenades at the enemy positions to their front, PFC Stephens provided effective suppressive fire on the enemy while his comrades were throwing the grenades. He was doing everything correctly; one, not exposing himself unnecessarily, shielding himself behind available cover and firing at the enemy. Unfortunately, an enemy rifleman was able to engage his position through a very narrow field of fire and by firing only inches above the ground.

After driving the enemy from the cemetery by late morning, D Company's attack halted to regroup and re-arm. During this lull the enemy engaged the cemetery area with what were estimated to be 60-mm mortars. The Second Platoon Leader and his Radio Telephone Operator (RTO) and several other members from the Platoon were wounded. The NVA mortar attack essentially blunted the



attack on the village. The CO then decided to pull the two assault Platoons back and to establish a cordon around the village.

After the cordon was established, the CO called for artillery fire to pound the village and the NVA in it. The artillery fire softened the area for the remainder of the day and throughout the night. That night, a squad from the First Platoon successfully set-up and ambush at a trail along a dike leading out of the village. They made contact and early the next morning, while policing the ambush site, they found, among other fallen NVA, one wounded enemy who was taken prisoner.

As was often the case, the few NVA that remained in the village and who survived the battle and the artillery exfiltrated during the night.

Early the next day, D Company was able to enter the village without any enemy resistance. (After Action Report written by: David A. Lamenzo (former 1LT and former D Company XO and Third Platoon Leader))

31 March 1968

The last day of Operation Carentan saw no let-up in the relentless search for enemy Soldiers and local Viet Cong in the Hue area. Fifteen miles northwest of the imperial city, airborne artillerymen from the 1-321 ARTY were called by an aerial observer and immediately trapped 85-100 NVA Soldiers in an open field with accurate fire. Thirty of the NVA were killed. Six and one-half miles west of Hue, members of the 1-501 IN BN encountered a well-positioned enemy company. They called in air strikes that resulted in several secondary explosions. A quick search of the area uncovered 18 enemy dead. During the operation, 861 enemy were killed. The total weapons and munitions captured included 186 individual and crew-served weapons, while 1,027 rocket, mortar, and artillery rounds were kept from the enemy. More than 41,000 rounds of small arms ammunition and 45 hand grenades were captured, along with nearly 17 tons of rice and grain.

31 March 1968

Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN: At 0905H, C/2-502 vic. YD607086, 3rd Platoon engaged squad sized enemy force. Results: 4 US WHA, 7 NVA KIA Captured: 1 RPG, 2 AK-47, 2 SKS and documents.

31 March 1970

Operation RANDOLPH GLEN: Operation Randolph Glen drew to a close. It proved to be a fitting operation with which to initiate the New Year. Success of the operation is attested to by the impressive statistics compiled by the battalion during the period. Sixty-three enemy were killed, fifty-two individual weapons were captured, along with nine crew-served weapons. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)

31 March 1991

Easter Sunday. 1/320th FA departs KFIA at 0600 local time by PAN AM 747. Layovers were in Rome and New York's JFK arriving at Ft. Campbell Army Airfield, 1750 hrs local time.

31 March 2003

Battle for South Al Hillah. 2BCT was ordered to seize the objective of enemy bunkers and trenches south of Al Hillah, a city approximately 30km north of Al Kifl. Crossing the line of departure at 0600, two Companies from 2-70 AR and C/1-502 began to move north on Highway 8, with air units coming on station shortly thereafter. At 0630, an AH-64 from C/3-101 came under fire, and less than ten minutes later, the ground unit became decisively engaged as well. What had begun as a demonstration with only minimum contact expected quickly grew into the largest and fiercest fight that any unit in the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) was to face during the entire war, as well as the only time that the enemy employed the Republican Guard as a coherent, combined arms team.



Although already having been in a running gun battle for over fifteen minutes, upon halting at the limit of advance alongside the campus of the Babylon City College, the ground unit found themselves in the midst of two dug-in infantry Battalions of the Republican Guard supported by a Company of armor, two Batteries



of artillery that had recently registered their guns, and an extensive air defense system. For the next five hours they were to experience fighting that at times was so fierce and close at hand that the coaxial machineguns on the M1A1 Abrams couldn't be traversed low enough to engage the enemy. Throughout the day, multiple flights of Apaches continued to rotate through the battle, with an entire Battalion of attack aviation thrown into the fray instead of just the initial Company. As the Apaches returned to base after expending both their ordnance and fuel, crew chiefs were in some cases pulling unexploded RPG rounds from the skin of the aircraft, and staring up at rotors that had been riddled with holes from the intense ground fire. In all, a total of 8 Apaches returned to base damaged, with one pilot receiving a purple heart for wounds sustained in the battle. Supporting the battle on the ground with almost constant fire missions, 1-320 FA fired over 400 rounds throughout the day, being forced at one point to shut down due to the breeches on their 105mm artillery pieces overheating. At 1730, after vastly exceeding the expectations of the demonstration, COL Anderson ordered the task force to return to Al Kifl. All told, the 502nd had accounted for the total destruction of 1 dug-in Infantry Battalion of the Republican Guard, 1 Armor Company, 2 Field Artillery Batteries, and 1 Air Defense Artillery Battery. The 502nd lost one Soldier. The demonstration had turned into a vicious fight, but in the end it was hugely successful due to the exemplary performance of so many finely trained Soldiers both on the ground and in the air.

April 1971

Operation LAM SON 720: In the early April it became obvious that the NVA was making extensive use of the A Shau Valley to move troops, equipment, and supplies. The 1st Brigade was assigned the overall mission of disrupting the enemy's logistic system and impeding his use of the A Shau Valley area. The Brigade Commander elected to employ airmobile raid tactics with rapid operations of a short duration. For five days the companies patrolled the area around FB Jack and took turns refining rappelling techniques at FB Jack. (2-502 Unit History, 1971)

01 April 1968

A/1-502 IN OPCON to 3d Marine Division. The other units conducted normal operations with negative results.

01 April 1968

2-501st BN deployed to Utah Beach North of Hue and subsequently established Firebase Hardcore southwest of this area. During the operations in this area over 60 NVA were killed.

01 April 1970

Operation TEXA STAR commenced with renewed efforts in the Vietnamization of combat operations in northern Military Region 1.

01 April 2003

In Al Kifl, Strike Brigade continued to expand its control in the area through continuous combat operations aimed at known or suspected enemy locations. One such location was the An Najaf University campus, a site believed to be used as a Fedayeen training camp. 2-502 confirmed those suspicions when they attacked and cleared the site, finding a land mine production facility with over 1200 AP mines and 400 AT mines.

01 - 04 April 2006

AH-64 is shot down in 1-502 IN sector. 1-502 IN spends three days recovering the downed aircraft. 1-502 IN and elements of 2-502 IN, 2-101 BTB, and 526 BSB clear more than 23 IEDs along five kilometers of road in just over thirty-six hours, in order to secure and recover the downed aircraft and crew. Excepting the aircrew, no Soldiers were wounded or injured during the operation, which was conducted in the heart of AQI's protection zone along the Euphrates River Valley.

At 1725 on 01Apr, 1-502 IN Executive Officer (MAJ Fred Wintrich) and S3 (MAJ Rob Salome) are informed that MND-B has declared a "Fallen Angel" for an AH-64 shot down in area 309. Talon 6 (LTC Tom Kunk) directs MAJ Salome to move immediately with the BN PSD to PB Yusufiyah and lead the B/1-502 security element to the crash site and establish C2. At 1730 B/1-502 TOC reports one platoon is REDCON 1 and will begin movement from PB Yusufiyah to the crash site within 15 minutes. 2nd Brigade coordinated for aircraft to move to PB Lions Den, in order to life SCT/1-502IN directly to the crash site. Additional resources include AWT from 1-3 AVN OPCON to 1-502 IN, Strike Iron Claw, and a recovery team from 526 BSB. Talon 3 departs with the BN TAC (+) for PB Yusufiyah to link up with the company commander and security element. They depart PB Yusufiyah at approximately 1810 and insert to the crash site using farm and canal roads. This route selection prevents the initial security element from being disrupted by insurgent IED obstacle efforts. At 1816, SCT/2-502 IN is wheels down at the crash site and reports no survivors in the vicinity, with a blood trail leading southwest towards an adjacent road. The 2-502 IN Scouts secure the immediate vicinity of the crash and conduct a limited search of the area for signs of life and additional equipment. At 2026 Talon 3 reports that there is one crewman confirmed Killed in



Action, with another Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown – the wreckage has completely destroyed the crew compartment and the only way to confirm the second crewman is to lift the damaged fuselage off of the crash site. The aircraft has come to rest in a bean field, and the engine and some smaller debris are still on fire. The weapons racks and some of the missiles are strewn across the field; in total the debris field covers an area approximately 80m by 40m. At 2036 Talon 3 reports that they have recovered one crewman's remains and some ALSE gear. Elements of B/1-502 IN begin limited recovery by hand and with pioneer tools from their combat vehicles. The ground security element uses hand tools and litters to move debris from the crash site to an adjacent farm road in order to prepare for recovery assets. Concurrently, 2nd BCT reallocates key resources including route clearance assets, engineer assets and EOD to FOB Yusufiyah; the scheme of maneuver is to conduct route clearance at first light along the Mullah Fayyad Hwy to the crash site in the vicinity of Rushdi Mullah. Throughout the night of 1-2 April, 2nd BCT and 1-502 IN continue to coordinate the delivery and synchronization of recovery resources which now include a DART from the Aviation Brigade moving by air to the crash site to support the recovery. The 1-502 IN Commander, LTC Tom Kunk, conducts a series of key leader engagements with the sheiks who lead tribes in the crash area to garner their support for security and recovery operations.

On 02 April at 0130, Strike Iron Claw and 526 BSB recovery assets arrive at PB Yusufiyah with a lowboy with front end loader, two S&P trailers, a PLS flat rack, and HMMT wrecker – all assets are under the control of LT Mike VanDyke, A/2-101 BTB. At 0726, Strike Iron Claw and supporting recovery assets depart PB Yusufiyah to link up with Talon 3 and B/1-502 IN (-) who continue to secure the crash site. IPB for the operation includes extensive IED emplacement along the primary (and only viable) avenue of approach, as well as severe weather predicted for mid-morning. At 0805 Strike Iron Claw reports their first IED discovered along Mullah Fayyad Hwy. This is the first of more than 20 IED's cleared into and out of the crash site over the next three days. The Aviation Brigade DART arrives at the crash site at 0835; the team is led by the Aviation Brigade Commander. At 1300, Talon 3 reports from the crash site: weather and difficulty of recovery has reduced effectiveness of unit on ground, requests replacement of two Infantry platoons and BN C2. He also recommends, based on weather effects, possible additional shelter and warming area for exposed Soldiers. The Aviation Brigade Commander has reported that the search for remains is complete and they are coordinating to extract remains of both pilots via Hero Flight. The 1-502 IN Commander reallocates A/1-502 IN (-) and a platoon from D/1-502 IN, along with the BN XO, to relieve Talon 3 and B/1-502 IN (-). The element departs FOB Mahmudiyah at 1430 and moves along the Mullah Fayyad Hwy and links up with the rear of the recovery element that is still clearing the primary route. At approximately 1600, Talon 3 and Talon 5 link up vicinity of the crash site. The DART is conducting sling load recovery of the engine and main fuselage. The commanders of B Company and A Company conduct battle handover of the perimeter security positions and C2 of the AWT overhead. During the relief in place, insurgents engaged one of the blocking positions and the AWT with small arms fire and RPG fire. At 1700, Talon 3 and B/1-502 IN (-) depart the crash site. B/1-502 IN (-) leaves one M1114 on site. A/1-502 IN secures the crash site while the engineers use on hand bucket loader and trucks to prepare the debris for ground movement. The unit also uses the remaining daylight to begin hand clearing the entire field of debris. The Aviation Brigade DART and commander depart by helicopter prior to sunset and A/1-502 IN (-) secures the site for the night.

On 03 April, the Battalion XO and A/1-502 IN (-) remain and the crash site, sterilizing the site and then attempting to recover the M1114 and M88 that also became stuck as part of the recovery. D/1-502 IN is tasked to re-clear Mullah Fayyad Hwy along with another M88 – an operation that takes all day and night into the early morning of 4 April. E/526 BSB provides the recovery team, led by SSG Charles Sherwood – who recovers both the M1114 and M88 in less than 90 minutes. The combined A/1-502 IN and D/1-502 IN patrol re-clears the route back out to Mullah Fayyad and Yusufiyah; an operation that finally culminates at 1700 that afternoon.

02 April 1968

A/1-502 IN OPCON to 3d Marine Division. Company "B" captured 2 tax collectors in village. vic. YD5731. They also destroyed 3 bunkers and 3 VC KIA. Company "D" had 1 man injured by BBT.

02 April 1968

Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN: At 1115, Recon/2-502 engaged unknown sized enemy force in bunkers. Also received sporadic SA fire from SW, reinforced Recon/2-502 was with 3-5 Cav. Platoon and a Platoon from B Co. These elements maneuvered up the hill against the enemy bunkers positions, overrunning the bunker. Results: 6 US WHA, 2 NVA KIA, and captured 1 AK-47.



02-04 April 2003

Battle for An Najaf. The battle for An Najaf was a synchronized operation involving 2 Infantry Brigades, along with assets from the Division's Attack and Assault Aviation Brigades. The town was reported to contain enemy forces from Al Hillah, Karbala, and Baghdad who intended to disrupt the Coalition's advance. The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, as the Division Main Effort, would spearhead the attack of the city from the north, while 1st Brigade Combat Team would attack from the south once the 502nd established a foothold. At 0900Z a synchronized three-pronged attack was launched into the north and east of the city by the 502nd. 1-502 IN, along with C/1-41 IN (M) and A/2-502, attacked into the northwest area of the city as the Brigade Main Effort. At the same time, 3-502 IN attacked south along the west bank of the Euphrates, while 2-502 IN attacked over the Al Kufa Bridge into the eastern suburbs. The remainder of 2-70 AR, as 'Task Force Tank' remained in blocking positions to the north of Al Kifl preventing any movement of enemy forces south from Al Hillah.

On 2 April, the assault was initiated by a smoke screen being fired into the central corridor of the northern suburbs. Despite encountering a minefield and one AH-64 being hit by small arms fire, the attack into the heart of the city ran at a steady pace with 1-502 and 3-502, supported by C/1-41 MECH in the west and 2-101 AVN in the east, methodically sweeping forward to their respective limits of advance. 2-502's movement across the Al Kufa Bridge (OBJ Panther) was delayed by the discovery of mines on the bridge, requiring engineers to clear a lane while snipers and mortars placed suppressive fire onto key enemy defensive positions. Eventually they pushed across, allowing the rapid build-up of combat power and the swift clearance of their assigned sector. Throughout the operation, 2-101 AVN and 2-17 CAV flew continuously over the city. In its direct support role, 1-320 FAR destroyed enemy fighting positions with responsive artillery fire. According to the FA Journal, 1-320 FAR artillerymen were able to fire with extraordinary precision "in close proximity to friendly forces. In at least one instance, friendly troops were clearing the lower floors of a building when HE/ VT swept the roof of enemy Soldiers. (This was confirmed by the infantrymen who looked out the windows to see the dead and wounded foe fall past them)."

As the day drew to a close, the entire northern portion of the city was cleared, and defensive positions were established in Company and Battalion Areas of Responsibility. The 502nd felt a strong sense of gratification with the highly disciplined and professional conduct of the Soldiers and officers who had enabled the Brigade to move rapidly through the city, surgically clearing the area of enemy forces, while maintaining situational awareness of innocent civilians and sites of historical and religious significance. Seven enemy Soldiers were killed, and over 40 enemy Soldiers were taken prisoner. Each of the 24 schools in the AO had arms caches hidden within that were moved out of town and destroyed.

The following day, 2BCT continued to push south and consolidate its position in the northern half of the city while it waited for 1BCT to finalize its plans for a relief in place. It encountered Fedayeen members firing from behind crowds. The Battalions continued to discover and destroy weapons caches. C/1-41's Executive Officer's vehicle hit a mine on Highway 8 as it drove into the city. By 1600Z the Brigade linked up with 1BCT and continued planning for the subsequent relief in place that was completed by 1200Z the following day.

02 April 2011

STRIKE's Main Body 1 arrived at Fort Campbell Army Airfield. Throughout the month of April, 11 Main Body and 6 Strat-Air flights brought the majority of Combined Task Force STRIKE Soldiers home.

03 April 1967

Operation SUMMERALL: The 2-502 IN was deployed southwest of Khanh Duong in the eastern tip of Darlac Province to determine if VC forces were hiding in the area or using it as infiltration route. No intelligence was available concerning this area, and no signs of enemy activity were discovered. The area was rugged and beautiful and heavily populated with elephant, tiger and very large deer. A CIDG Company from Loc Thien was attached to the battalion and remained with it throughout Operation SUMMERALL.

03 April 1968

A/1-502 IN returned to the battalion from 3d Marine Division. There was negative enemy contact in the Battalion.

03 April 1970

Operation TEXA STAR: at 0033 at FSB Arsenal (YD812080), C/1-502 IN received RPG fire followed by the attack of approximately 50 enemy Sappers from the south. A Flare ship and ARA



were on station in ten minutes. Artillery fires were employed on suspected escape routes while the defenders repulsed the attack. A search revealed six NVA KIA and two POW's. US casualties were four WIA.

04 April 1968

A day of light contact with B/1-502 IN receiving sniper fire vic. YD5927. Negative friendly or enemy casualties. Delta Company had a grenade thrown in their perimeter. They engaged with small arms resulting in 1 VC KIA.

04 April 2003

Objective Murray. In the early morning hours, after being relieved by 1 BCT, the Brigade moved back into Al Kifl for the planning of two missions under an extremely compressed timeframe: One reinforced Company team would depart later in the day to seize the town of Al Hindiyah, while the Brigade itself, once again the Division Main Effort, was ordered to attack the city of Karbala the following morning instead of Al Hillah as planned. Select members of the Brigade staff and the Assistant Division Commander for Operations flew to and conducted a battle handover briefing for the mission to Karbala with the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. Upon return, 2nd BCT executed a hasty mission planning sequence as the 101st Division Main Effort and issued a Fragmentary Order (FRAGO) at 041800L April 2003. That evening at 2100L, the Brigade TAC departed the Al Kifl base of operations and linked-up with 1-320 FA TOP GUNS in preparation for the next morning's attack. After linking up with all of the units involved and issuing the order, "Team Hutch" departed by ground and attacked to seize Al Hindiyah, a small city on the Euphrates River between Al Hillah and Karbala. Decisive to the success of this operation was securing a critical bridge spanning the Euphrates River that was rigged with explosives, up to 20 AT mines placed around the bridge near fighting positions. The Engineers and Infantrymen cleared the bridge by 0600. Following the seizure of the bridge, Team Hutch continued to clear the town. Key discoveries during the clearance included a deserted Ba'ath House and a Palestinian Liberation Training Camp with 55 gallon oil drums inside. The discovery of several camps that contained toxic chemicals suspected to be materials for field expedient weapons of mass destruction made the mission inherently more dangerous. Several Soldiers tested positive for non-persistent nerve agent inhalation and were subsequently decontaminated. These critical sites were secured until the Division chemical units were able to analyze their contents.



During this week, in the span of 72 years since the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941 as the 502nd Parachute Battalion, an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assault, the following awards were awarded to members of 2BCT and the 502nd IN Regiment or those assigned to the Brigade during operations.

- 2 x Distinguished Service Cross (1 x Posthumously)
- 5 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
- 5 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
- 124 x Bronze Star Medal (3 x Posthumously)
- 3 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 45 x Purple Heart Medal (39 x Posthumously)
- 4 x Died of Non-Hostile wounds or injury
- 1 x Gallantry Palm with Cross (1 x Posthumously)

29 March 1968

The following Soldiers: 2LT Gary A. Scott (Pictured) (A/1-501 IN); CPL Aniello C. Nunziato, PFC Jose Medrano Jr. (Pictured); 2LT Michael L. Gandy (Pictured) (C/1-501 IN); SGT Marvin E. Penry (E/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 while crossing a river 4.5km NW of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



29 March 1968



The following Soldiers: 2LT Frank L. Rodriguez (Pictured) and Manuel Ruiz (A/1-501 IN); PFC Harold E. Penson (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds while crossing a river 4.5km NW of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

29 March 1969



CPL Glenn T. Shibata (C/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 a bunker complex on Bloody Ridge (Dong A Tay) 9KM SW of FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



29 March 1969



SP4 Roy B. Boyd (C/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 a bunker complex on Bloody Ridge (Dong A Tay) 9KM SW of FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

29 March 1969



SSG John J. Clark (D/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from misadventure (friendly fire) when unit entered CAP 3-1-8 ambush 7KM East of Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

29 March 1971



SSG Terrel O. Kimber (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from misadventure (friendly fire) in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

29 March 2006

SSG Perry Thorington (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat. SSG Thorington was with EOD while conducting post blast analysis after a controlled detonation when a secondary explosion went off. He took shrapnel to his face and was considered urgent surgical.

29 March 2006

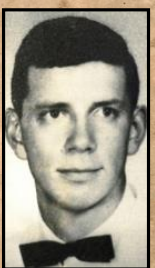
TSgt Walter M. Moss (447 EOD, USAF) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat was killed along Route Dodge during combat operations when his patrol encountered an IED.

30 March 1968



SP4 William P. Murphy (HHC/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.

30 March 1968



PFC James E. Mc Pherson (D/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

30 March 1968

1LT Ronald E. Burdette (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for wounds received in action in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV. G.O. No. 9394)



30 March 1969



The following Soldiers: PFC Lawson D. Nelson (C/1-502 IN); SP4 Nelson L. Horchem Jr. (Pictured) (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

30 March 1970

CPL George M. Anaya (B/1-501 IN) died while at an artillery firing position when artillery fire from a friendly force landed in his area, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

30 March 1970

SGT Floyd S. Franklin (A/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in their deaths while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

30 March 1970



The following Soldiers: SSG David W. Barrus (Pictured) (A/1-501 IN); SGT Gleason C. Helton (E/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

30 March 1970



SGT Russell C. Hibler (A/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

30 March 1971



PFC Robert J. Skewes (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

30 March 2011

SSG Anthony Feaster (A/4-4 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire. He is assigned to Troop A, 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment.

31 March 1968



SP4 Don J. Yelverton (B/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 Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



31 March 1968



The following Soldiers: SP5 Jerry L. Patrick (Pictured) (HHC/2-502 IN) and SGT Leslie A. Ball (A/2-502 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 Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

31 March 1968



SGT Ezekiel Paige (B/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds 6.5km NW of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

31 March 1968



PFC Danny L. Stephens (D/1-501 IN) earned the Military Merit Medal and the Gallantry Cross with Palm (Posthumously). (Letter to Parents; 14 Feb 1969, Signed MG Kenneth G. Wickham, The Adjutant General)

31 March 1968



PFC Danny L. Stephens (D/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds 6.5 km NW of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

31 March 1968

PFC James O. West (A/1-502 IN) died in the result of apparent drowning which occurred in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

31 March 1969

The following Soldiers: CPL Charlie Hill III and SP4 Edward J. Frenling (D/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 Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



31 March 1970



SGT Daniel K. Kohl (A/2-501 IN) died while at an artillery firing position when artillery fire from a friendly force landed in his area, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



31 March 2003



SPC Brandon J. Rowe (C/1-501 IN), 20, of Roscoe, Illinois; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed in action after receiving a gunshot wound to the abdomen while serving as his vehicles SAW gunner on an M1A1 in Al Kifl, Iraq.

01 April –
30 November 1968

The following Soldiers: PFC Spencer Coleman, SP4 Kenneth Cooley, SP4 Donnie C. Cooper, SP4 James C. Conell, PVT James W. Culberson, 1LT Pierce T. Graney, SP4 John A. Gray, SGT Ronald Groothoff, SP4 Juan A. Ibarra, SGT Bruce L. Johnson, FC Johnny Jones, PFC William S. Kear III, SGT Charles K. Mants, SP4 Jeffrey Miller, SP4 GERAL E. O'Leary, SP4 Conrad Olson, PFC Johnny L. Parker, PFC Donald Payne, PFC Robert L. Peebles, SP4 Thomas Quicksall, SP4 Robert E. Rehder, SP4 John C. Rieck, SP4 Leonard Schroeder, SP4 John Sharatz, SP4 Willie A. Stone, PFC Eugene Suber, SGT Bobby E. Taylor, 1LT Clifton Whittaker, SGT Jimmy C. York, PFC Joe A. Ysias was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with military operations against a hostile force. (HQ, 101st Airborne Division, Special Orders Number 123; 7 January 1969)

01 April –
30 November 1968

The following Soldiers: SP4 Harold E. Ross, PFC James L. Johnston, PFC Eldrew Jones Jr., SP4 Leon J. Kubin, PFC Terry L Markham, PFC Lanny R. Martin, PFC Robert L. Mason, PFC James H. McLain, SP4 Perez Pedro Oliver, SGT James D. Poindexter, PFC Roy A. Rowlette, PFC GERAL D. Russell, SP4 Daniel A. Warren, PFC Arthur J. Watis, PFC Timothy Youghblood (C/2-501 IN); SGT Roy L Barber II, SP4 Salvator Bongiorno, PFC David J. Brown, PFC Dominick Donatone, SGT Robert T. Dunn, SP4 Robert W. Duquette, SP4 Sheldon Eccleston, SP4 David C. Eckrote, SP4 Perfecio Escubedo, SP4 Willard E. Ferrell, CPT Michael H. Feurer, SGT John M. Findley, SP4 James M Fitzgerald, SP4 Frankie D. Gaines, 1LT Edward L. Hogenauer, SGT Tommy R. Lawley, SP4 Wallace J. Leon, PFC Thoams J. Meeks, SP4 Charles E. Morrow, 1LT Ronald E. Phillips, SP4 Donald P. Pickett, SP4 Henry L. Powers, PFC Curtis D. Rhoton, SGT Samuel P. Royer, PFC Leroy R. Seib, SP4 Leroy L. Sheldon, SP4 Fancis T. Sykes, SP4 David P. Thomas, SP4 Arthru Williams Jr., SP4 Scott Wilson (D/2-501 IN); SP4 Douglas Anderson (E.2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection to military operations against a hostile force. (HQ, 101 ABN DIV; General Order Number 125; 7 January 1969)

01 April -
30 November 1968

The following Soldiers: SP4 Marshall L. Moore, SP4 Noah R. Purtee, PFC Ronald Rigo, SP4 Ralph D. Schroeter, SP4 Alexander Vigil, SP4 William Ward Jr., PFC James R. White (E/1-502nd IN); SP4 Larry Aldridge, SP5 Edwin H. Barbour, CPT Terrell D. Bridges, CPT James C. Britton, SGM Cecil Cash, SGT Hector Colon-Rios, SP5 Solomon Dezelle, CPT Ivan R. Farris, SP4 William C. Foreman, 1LT Allen D. Gibbs, SP4 Dennis D. Gibson, SFC James Gibson, SP5 David Hopper, SGT Jeffery D. Howe, SGT Victor Hyatt, CPT Timothy B. Jeffrey, PFC Alvin Kellog Jr., SP4 John R. Lazomby, CPT David Leeper, SFC Triveit Lloyd, SGT Ronald E. Long (Pictured), SGT James P. Mason, SP4 Phillip Matio, SGT Floyd P. McNeill, SP4 Melvin B. McWorter, SP4 Joe E. Mikles, SP4 Jerome Newman, SFC Javier S. Nunez, SP4 Dean W. Ohl, SP5 Richard J. Oliva, SP4 Kenneth A. Osmoe, SP4 Pedro Ramirez Jr. SSG Stephen S. Rivera, SP5 Jorge R. Sanchez, SP4 Craig Sanguinetti, 1LT Gooffrey L. Scanlon, CPT Terran Spiegelberg, and SP4 Francisco Vasquez (HHC/1-502nd IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; G.O. Number 130; 7 January 1969)

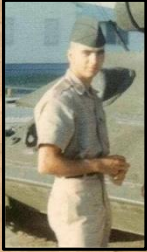


01 April 1968



PFC Gerard A. Lavigne (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds while setting up mine in base camp after hostile attack on camp when mine detonated in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

01 April 1969



PFC Robert E. Van Dusen (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 Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

01 April 1971

CPL Peter L. Winter (A/2-501) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from misadventure (friendly fire) while at a landing zone on a military mission when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force 17KM East of Luoi in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

01-21 April 2008

CPT Daniel B. Cannon (C/1-64 AR) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for his actions while serving as an Armor Company Commander in Sadr City, Iraq. CPT Cannon's valor and leadership ensured his unit cut off enemy logistical supply lines and contained the enemy in the area of operation.

02 April 1968



PFC Jewel L. Rainwater (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

02 April 1969

SGT William H. Brown Jr. (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

02 April 1970

SSG Robert J. Wrobel (D/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while enroute to a night defensive position when a booby trap detonated in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

04 April 1968

PFC Roger G. Anderson (C/1-501 IN) for wounds received in action earned him the Purple Heart. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 1625)

04 April 1968

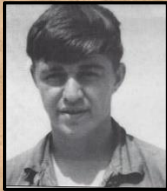
SGT Coulbourn M. Dykes (A/1-501 IN) for wounds received in action earned him the Purple Heart. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 1625)

04 April 1968

The following Soldiers: SP4 Charles L. King (C/1-501 IN); SGT Mark G. Stickels (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gunfire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



04 April 1970



PFC Daniel K. Welin (E/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty from burns received while at an artillery firing position when a white phosphorous round he was handling accidentally detonated in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

04 April 1971



CPL Michael E. Giese (D/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 10 KM N-NW of Ca Lu Air Field in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

04 April 2006

SPC Duanallen Niemeyer (E/4 FSB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when wounded in action by an IED while conducting vehicle recovery operations. He suffered a ruptured left eardrum and a contusion on lower right back.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

29 March 1968

2LT Michael L. Gandy (B/1-501 IN) earned the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Second Lieutenant Gandy distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 March 1968 as a platoon leader during a search and clear mission on the west bank of the Song Bo River. A three-man scout team was crossing the river in a sampan when it came under an intense barrage of enemy fire, killing one man instantly. The other two men were wounded and sought protection in a bamboo thicket on the river bank. Lieutenant Gandy moved from squad to squad, encouraging his men and directing their fire against the communists. Six of his troops attempted to cross the river to rescue the two casualties by pushing a sampan before them for protection, but were carried downstream by the strong current. Despite the vicious enemy fire, Lieutenant Gandy dropped his equipment, made his way to the river's edge, and swam the seventy-five meters to the other side. Upon reaching the river bank, he found that only one of the scouts was alive. Grabbing hold of him, he began the hazardous swim back through intense hostile small arms and automatic weapons fire. As he approached mid-stream, the scout was hit and disappeared beneath the water. A few seconds later, Lieutenant Gandy was mortally wounded by the enemy fusillade. Second Lieutenant Gandy's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, and the cost of his life, 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. 436 (February 7, 1969))



29 March 1968

PFC Stephen W. York (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 March 1968. Private First Class York distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner of Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry during a combat operation along the Song Bo River, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. Before attempting to cross the river, a three man point team was sent across in advance to secure the far bank. Upon reaching the opposite side of the river, the point team came under intense automatic and small arms fire wounding all three men. Cries for help from the wounded men could be heard from across the river. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Private First Class York volunteered to assist in an attempt to rescue the wounded men. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, and carrying his machine gun, he, along with the other members of the rescue team, began to make their way across the river using a sampan for cover. They proceeded to the center of the river under a hail of enemy fire. Then the strong current caused the sampan to turn around, thereby exposing the rescue team to the heavy volume of fire being directed at them. Supporting his machine gun on the sampan, Private First Class York managed to place effective fire on the enemy positions while exposing himself to their fire, thereby allowing the remainder of the rescue team to effect a withdrawal back to the near bank of the river. Although the rescue attempt did not succeed, in their heroic effort to save their comrades, Private First Class York'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 March 2008

CPL Randall Yates (B/1-64 AR) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while distinguishing himself while serving as a tank gunner. As a part of an attachment to B/1-502 IN, B/1/B/1-64 AR was set in a defensive position facing west at CP 20. C13 (M1A1 Abrams) was oriented west down Route Illinois and C14 was facing west on Shitcreek Road. At approximately 1230, a call came from Bulldog 26, the on the ground commander, advising CPL Yates section that there was enemy activity coming from the north on RPG Alley. CPL Yates' section began bounding north toward the enemy activity, clearing the north and south running streets as they moved. C14 tank cleared the last south side street as C13 was pointing its gun tube down RPG Alley and investigating the reported activity. As C13 rolled to a stop and cleared RPG Alley, two explosions occurred simultaneously. It was later assessed that an HME IED and an EFP had been detonated on the left side of the tank. SGT Liedman, the tank commander, took shrapnel to his face,



several large pieces of shrapnel to his arms, and he was rendered incapacitated by the blasts. CPL Yates immediately assumed responsibility as the tank commander and maneuvered the tank safely out of the blast area. Having sent up an initial situation report, he ensured that his security was set and then began treatment on SGT Liedman's wounds, reassuring him that he was okay, ultimately preventing shock from setting in. CPL Yates stopped SGT Liedman's bleeding and quickly maneuvered the tank to the CCP, delivering SGT Liedman to the medics for further treatment. CPL Yates returned to the tank and checked the remainder of the crew for any injuries. After evaluating his crew, he found SPC Arredondo, the loader, had taken shrapnel to his hand. CPL Yates had SPC Arredondo taken to the medics for treatment, and was later released as Return To Duty. Following SGT Liedman's CASEVAC, CPL Yates used his knowledge and technical prowess of the tank and was able to quickly send his battle damage assessment to higher. CPL Yates prepped his tank for three man crew operations and moved back to the defensive position they had been set in earlier. He and his crew held their position until a battle handover could be conducted with another tank section. CPL Yates placed the mission and his men before himself, leading from the front. His professionalism and enthusiasm for the job inspired the men around him.

30 March 2011



SPC James Lechusz (D/2-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous service with 2nd platoon, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during Operation Enduring Freedom.

SPC Lechusz distinguished himself by exhibiting exceptional courage under fire while serving as a junior team leader during a dismounted patrol in the Zharay District, Afghanistan. Due to the battalion relocating to FOB Ramrod, SPC Lechusz's team leader had already arrived to the FOB as part of the ADVON party. SPC Lechusz was appointed as a team leader for the rest of RIP/TOA with 1-32 IN.

The platoon was conducting a Relief in Place patrol with 14 leaders of the incoming unit in AO Sartak, the toughest kinetic fight in the battalion's area of operations. While the platoon leader was showing the D/1-32 IN replacements previous enemy fighting positions and likely infill/exfil routes, the platoon came under heavy contact from 3-5 insurgent fighters from the northeast. At the time of contact, the platoon was receiving immediate effective small arms fire from approximately 70 meters away. The terrain was heavily vegetated with low visibility, making it hard to determine exactly where the insurgents were firing from.

SPC Lechusz was located in the northeast corner of the platoon's security position, nearest to the insurgent's location. Immediately following the initial contact, all members of the incoming unit immediately took cover. Instead of taking immediate cover and in complete disregard to his own personal safety, SPC Lechusz returned fire directly at the insurgent fighting position. The insurgents continued to accurately fire at SPC Lechusz while he kept the insurgents fixed in their location. Having eyes on the objective, SPC Lechusz then called out the distance and direction to the entire platoon to include the leaders of the incoming unit, allowing more fires to be oriented towards the insurgents.

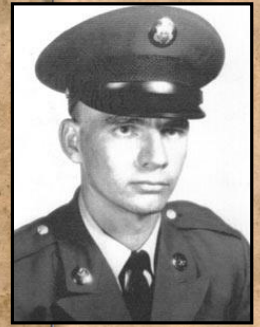
As a result of SPC Lechusz fixing the enemy and directing the platoon's fires, he allowed the platoon to directly engage the enemy with high explosive weapons to include LAWs, SMAW-Ds, and 40mm HEDP. This caused the enemy to egress rather than maneuver to the platoon's flanks, the TTP of the insurgents.

SPC Lechusz's valor, heroism, and courage under fire pinned the enemy down, preventing them from further engaging coalition forces. Without SPC Lechusz's actions, the insurgents would have had freedom to maneuver within hand grenade range as well as engaging the platoon's flanks.



31 March 1968

PFC Danny L. Stephens (D/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period of 5 January 1968 to 31 March 1968. Through his untiring efforts and professional ability, he consistently obtained outstanding results of the every changing situation inherent in the counterinsurgency operation and to find ways and means to solve those problems. The energetic application of his extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United States mission to the Republic of Vietnam to assist that country in ridding itself of the communist threat to its freedom. PFC Stephens's initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon him and on the military service. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 394; 15 April 1968)



31 March 1969

1LT Timothy P. McCollum (D/1-502 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, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. First Lieutenant McCollum distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 31 March 1969 while leading his platoon in the hills south of the A Shau Valley. His company was engaged in a fierce firefight with a North Vietnamese force holding ridge from well-fortified positions. A ravine separating the two opposing forces obviated a direct assault on the enemy's positions. Undertaking an intricate flanking maneuver, Lieutenant McCollum infiltrated his men across the open ravine under heavy crossfire and ascended the heights behind the enemy as the company's main force continued firing on the hostile element's front. After overtly signaling friendly fire away from his position, he initiated a systematic sweep down through the enemy's hillside emplacements. He attacked an enemy bunker and overcame its unsuspecting occupant. An alerted North Vietnamese then turned and fired from his spider hole, seriously wounding an American. Realizing that the wounded man's recovery hinged on immediate evacuation, Lieutenant McCollum enlisted another soldier's aid and together they carried the casualty down the ridge through enemy positions. Their descent was obstructed by harassing fire from a nearby bunker. Lieutenant McCollum destroyed the fortification with grenades. When the wounded soldier had been delivered to safety, he made his way back to his men by the same treacherous route under a storm of machine gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire. First Lieutenant McCollum'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. 3418 (September 7, 1969))

31 March 1971

PFC Robert C. Saal (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM) with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Private First Class Saal distinguished himself on 31 March 1971 while serving as a rifleman during combat operations near Fire Base Veghel, Republic of Vietnam. Upon being inserted into a landing zone that was under hostile fire, Private Saal immediately began to deliver accurate and devastating suppressive fire on the enemy. He assaulted the enemy bunkers and threw hand grenades, forcing them to withdraw. Pursuing the enemy, he engaged them with a continuing burst of suppressive fire. His actions were instrumental in routing the enemy from the area. Private First Class Saal's heroic actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, G.O. No. 2980 (11 April 1971))

31 March –
01 April 1971

SP4 Robert J. Ivy (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with ground operations in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Ivy distinguished himself on 31 March 1971 and 1 April 1971 while serving as a squad leader during combat operations in Quan Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. Coming under an enemy mortar and small arms attack, Specialist Ivy delivered suppressive fire while his squad set up a defensive perimeter from which to better engage the enemy. He continued to engage the enemy until the hostiles were routed from the area. On the following day, his squad again came in contact with the enemy. Quickly organizing his squad, he delivered accurate and devastating suppressive fire which silenced the enemy positions. Specialist Four Ivy's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great



credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, G.O. No. 2927 (09 April 1971))

31 March 2003

SSG Walter E. Wolfe (C/1-502 IN) earned the Silver Star for gallantry and intrepidity against the enemy. SSG Wolfe's platoon was ambushed by enemy fire from all directions. During the battle that ensued, SSG Wolfe eliminated two enemy Soldiers at short range while running from position to position. He then proceeded to move toward an enemy bunker which he cleared with small arms fire. Then he exposed himself to a second bunker, prepared a fragmentation grenade and threw it with great precision into the spot in the bunker where sniper fire was believed to have been coming from, without regard for his own safety. In doing so, he single handedly destroyed a bunker that had pinned down roughly half of his platoon. SSG Wolfe displayed bravery above and beyond the call of duty. His courage, leadership, and initiative were essential to the platoon's destruction of the ambushing forces and the survival of the platoon. Altogether, the platoon inflicted more than forty casualties on the enemy.

01 April –
30 November 1968



SGT William P. Hudek (D/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal for distinguishing himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Through his untiring efforts and professional ability, he consistently obtained outstanding results. He was quick to grasp the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever changing situations inherent in a counterinsurgency operation and to find ways and means to solve those problems. The energetic application of his extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United States Mission to the Republic of Vietnam to assist that country in ridding itself of communist threat to its freedom. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the United States Army and reflect great credit on him and on the military service.

03 April 1969

1LT David F. Kornegay (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 April 1969. Lieutenant Kornegay distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader of the Second Platoon of Company C, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, on a combat operation in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, the Second Platoon was given the mission of reinforcing the Third Platoon which was in contact with an enemy platoon. Upon reaching the beleaguered element, Lieutenant Kornegay began to position his men in the most advantageous positions to place effective fire upon the enemy. He repeatedly moved through the intense enemy fire in order to better place his men. Upon receiving word that two members of the Third Platoon had been seriously wounded, he crawled through the heavy enemy fire to administer emergency aid and to carry the two wounded men to safe position for medical evacuation. His leadership and personal direction were an inspiration to his men and rallied confidence in their abilities. Lieutenant Kornegay's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military, and the United States Army.

03 April 1969



SP4 Tony Placios (A/2-501 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 3 April 1969. Specialist Four Placios distinguished himself while serving as rifleman in Company A, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, during a reconnaissance in force operation in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Placios volunteered to walk in the lead position. While negotiating a particularly dense area of thick brush, he spotted several enemy soldiers crouching on the jungle floor just ahead of his advancing platoon. He then passed a hand warning to his platoon, alerting it of the impending danger, and then proceeded to steal the initiative from the enemy. He assaulted into the enemy position, personally killing two North Vietnamese and forcing the others to retreat. Late in the afternoon, heavy rainfall accompanied by a thick fog reduced visibility to near zero, and the platoon was subjected to sniper fire. Specialist Placios, from his lead position, was first to spot the source of fire. He directed his M-16 rifle fire into a clump of thickly foliated trees to his right flank, and the sniper fire stopped. He found a blood trail and an abandoned AK-47 rifle. He personally accounted for at least three enemy casualties and one captured weapon. Specialist Placios' 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.



04 April 1968

CPT Russell J. Stoewe (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 4 April 1968. Captain Stoewe distinguished himself during the conduct of combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. The company was heavily engaged with a well-entrenched enemy battalion. Captain Stoewe was well to the front directing the movement of his elements. Throughout the battle he personally directed the retaliatory fire of his men while repeatedly exposing him to the intense hostile small arms, rocket propelled grenade, and machine gun fire. On several occasions he personally directed the withdrawal of his platoons in contact and coordinated for close air support. Only when he was certain the company had withdrawn completely would he withdraw, thus allowing close air support aircraft to unload their ordnance. Several times Captain Stoewe formed rescue teams to evacuate the wounded under hostile fire while he himself returned fire, covering the extraction of the wounded and dead. His courage and outstanding leadership contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Captain Stoewe'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.



04 April 1968

SGT Coulbourn M Dykes (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Dykes distinguished himself with exceptionally valorous actions on 4 April 1968, while serving as fire team leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, during the conduct of a search and clear operation in the village of Thon Lu'on'ng Co, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. During an initial sweep of the village, Company A confronted slight enemy resistance from a platoon size enemy force of North Vietnamese Regulars and Viet Cong who were in the village, well concealed in bunkers and spider holes. Sergeant Dykes had captured a Viet Cong when he noticed a well concealed bunker to his immediate front. He cautiously approached the bunker and called for its occupants to come out. Three Viet Cong surrendered and one remaining North Vietnamese Non-Commissioned Officer threw a grenade and opened fire from the bunker. Despite being wounded by the grenade fragments, Sergeant Dykes immediately placed small arms fire on the bunker, rushed it, and threw in a grenade. The determined North Vietnamese Non-Commissioned Officer threw the grenade back out, narrowly missing Sergeant Dykes, who dove for cover. Unhesitatingly Sergeant Dykes again threw a grenade into the bunker and the North Vietnamese Soldier threw it out, wounding Sergeant Dykes with more fragments. Again Sergeant Dykes, with the help of a member of his squad laying down a base of fire, rushed the bunker, threw in another grenade and this time killed the enemy. Sergeant Dykes unhesitatingly and valorous actions resulted in four enemy Soldiers captured, one killed and the seizure of a cache of enemy weapons. 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.

04 April 1969

2LT Donald A. Bailey (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 04 April 1969. Lieutenant Bailey distinguished himself while serving as platoon leader of the First Platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, near the A Shau Valley, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. Early in the morning on the cited date, his night defensive position was hit with accurate rocket propelled grenade and automatic weapons fire, and satchel charges. As the enemy attack on the company perimeter continued, the machine gun position was hit with a satchel charge, wounding the gunner. Lieutenant Bailey resolutely moved forward and helped extract the wounded man from further immediate danger. He then had the machine gun moved to a position from which it could bring effective suppressive fire on the enemy. His quick reactions motivated his men in the defense of the perimeter. Lieutenant Bailey's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 7186)



04 April 1969

SP4 Charles H. Willison (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 4 April 1969. Specialist Willison distinguished himself while serving as a fire team leader in the Third Platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, during combat operations near the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. The company had set up a night defensive perimeter, and Specialist Willison was in charge of the listening post. Movement was heard throughout the night, and early the next morning, the North Vietnamese hit the listening post and company perimeter with rocket propelled grenades and automatic weapons fire. He returned the fire against the enemy and then moved his fire team back into the company perimeter. When there was enough light, a check of the area revealed two mortally wounded North Vietnamese Soldiers lying in front of his position. Specialist Willison's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM), General Order Number 5176; 23 May 1969)



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

