



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) “STRIKE HISTORY” 02 November – 08 November 2014



02 November 1968

The 1-502nd units continued operations in the same vic., except that D/1-502 returned to An Lo and B/1-502 went OPCON to 1/501. There was negative contact.

02 November 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A, C, and D 502nd were moved out of the canopy by six “slicks” provided by DIV Aviation. The CP was moved back to FSB Anzio by truck, and A/2-502 took responsibility for Bridges 1, 2, 3, and 4 along QL 1. E/2-502 was returned from OPCON.

02 November –
26 December 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: Phase IV was conducted. At the beginning of Phase IV, the 2-502 IN did not have much to work with. A CO secured Bridges 1, 2, 3, and 4, while B, C, and D CO were all OPCON to 1-327. E (-) CO provided mortar support from FSB Anzio while Recon conducted search (Vic. YD915095).

04 November 1968

A/1-502 RIF, vic. YD6630, B/1-502 was OPCON to 1/501, C/1-502 was at Phu Vang, D/1-502 conducting security of An Lo Bridge, and Recon/1-502 was conducting security of FSB T-Bone (Pictured). There was negative contact.

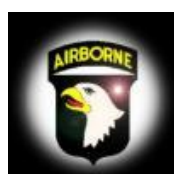


04 November 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: Acting on an intelligence report the local VC had been seen (Vic. YD9610) at 0415, Recon conducted CA into the area and killed 4 VC and captured 7 weapons plus miscellaneous equipment.

04 November 2005

During a mounted combat patrol from FOB Mahmudiyah to PB Latafiyah, a C/1-502 IN combat patrol was mistakenly attacked by friendly forces with accurate .50 caliber fire using armor piercing rounds. The attack occurred along ASR Jackson in Mahmudiyah, Iraq. The weather was clear; visibility was limited due to nighttime conditions and vehicle bright lights on the road. The M2 .50 caliber gunner opened fire on the lead vehicle at a distance of approximately 180 meters, with the intent to destroy what the gunner perceived to be a vehicle borne improvised explosive device. The Soldiers in the combat patrol receiving fire perceived themselves to be under attack. SPC Smith, as the gunner of the front vehicle in the patrol, was exposed to .50 caliber fire and was severely wounded. SPC Smith's wounds prevented him from returning fire. SGT Hernandez, initially seated in the driver's side rear passenger seat, pulled the wounded gunner out of the turret and then took the exposed gunner position to return fire on what appeared to be an enemy ambush. Soon after returning fire, SGT Hernandez suffered severe gunshot wounds to the right hand and left arm.



PFC Meyer sustained significant injuries to his legs during the incident. Though wounded, PFC Meyer provided the only security for the vehicle crew while his squad leader conducted first aid and his patrol leader re-established radio communications and gathered IA personnel from a nearby checkpoint to assist. Upon establishment of a perimeter by IA Soldiers, PFC Meyer immediately began to assist SSG Dodd in providing first aid. After an IA vehicle was procured to evacuate US casualties, PFC Meyer volunteered to secure his more seriously wounded comrades. PFC Meyer secured the two casualties in an un-armored Iraqi Army vehicle to his BN HQ. Upon arrival at his BN HQ, PFC Meyer refused medical treatment until the more seriously wounded casualties had been stabilized. PFC Meyer then offered to return to his stranded patrol and only allowed himself to remain behind at the command of his Battalion Command Sergeant Major.

04 November 2008

Operation Strike Mustangs. Strike Brigade conducts precision targeted SI raids to detain Rasul Jumah al Zobai and Abu Gaz in order to neutralize counterfeiting operations supporting AQI networks and facilitating foreign fighter movement through the Strike AO. Isolation of Objectives, thorough TSE collection by DOMEX teams, immediate TQ of detainees, and quick transport of SSE material to exploitation site are decisive to this operation.

05 November 1968

A/1-502 was lifted by "hook" to FSB T-Bone. Their mission was to provide security and conduct local patrols and ambushes. B/1-502 was OPCON to 1/501. C/1-502(-) was at Phu Vang, and D/1-502 conducted security of An Lo, mine sweep and local patrols and ambushes. No contact.

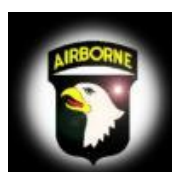


05 November 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: C/2-502 returned from OPCON and assumed security of bridges 3 and 4. This addition of troops allowed the BN to conduct a more extensive local patrolling and ambushing program in the Company's assigned AO.

05 - 30
November 2012

Relief in Place. Elements of 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division and 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (AASLT) arrive in Afghanistan, conduct JRSOI, and begin relief in place of TM STRIKE and TF MOUNTAIN WARRIOR units. 4/1 CD, TF LONGKNIFE, assume responsibility as the Coalition Battle space Integrator (BSI) in Kapisa and Laghman province. 1/101 ABN DIV (AASLT), TF BASTOGNE, begin transitioning as the Coalition BSI in Nangahar and Kunar Province. The first combat advisors of TM STRIKE conduct RIP with TF LONGKNIFE and commence redeployment to Fort Campbell, KY.



06 November 1944

Pathfinders from the 502nd PIR during the invasion of Normandy in aircraft flew bearing the numbers #1, #2, and #19. A total of 20 teams in the invasion were used as Pathfinders



Airplane #1 Consisting of:

CPT Frank L. Lillyman
2LT Reed Pelfrey
PFC Delbert A. Jones
PVT James J. Bement
PVT John H. Funk
PVT John G. Ott (S-2)
PVT Bluford R. Williams

1LT Robert S. Dickson (S-2)
T/5 Thomas C. Walton
PFC Phillip Sangenario
PVT James C. Clark (S-2)
PVT John S. McFalen
PVT Francis A. Rocca
PVT John A. Wilson

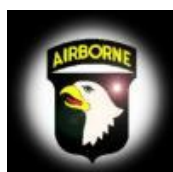
1LT Samuel McCarter
T/5 Owen R. Council
PFC Fred A. Wilhelm
PVT Paul D. Davis
PVT August M. Mangoni
PVT Raymond D. Smith (Medic)
PVT John S. Zamanakos

Airplane #2 Consisting of:

CPT Henry G. Plitt
PFC Clifford C. Gorton
PFC William B. Mench
PVT Ernest E. Stene
PVT Wilfred DesLauriers
PVT Bernard L. Ormsbee

2LT Napoleon T. Lavallee
PFC William F. Haas
PFC Roy B. Stephens
PVT Louis F. Banft
PVT Gilbert T. Driscoll
PVT Francis A. Rocca

T/5 Glenn B. Braddock
PFC John D. Kleinfelder
PFC Vincent C. Wallace
PVT George C. Dages
PVT James E. Elliott
PVT Philip A. Sangenario





Airplane #2 Consisting of:

1LT Don S. Driver
 T/5 Clifford J. McDowell
 PFC Troy S. Estes
 PVT Henry J. Bohleke
 PVT Joseph Hatcher
 PVT David C. Parks

2LT James W. Tolar
 T/5 Hugh W. Selby
 PFC Cleo G. Reed
 PVT Dominick Cherico
 PVT Harold D. Locke
 PVT James H. Perkins

T/5 Richard R. Lisk
 PFC William G. Casey
 PFC Howard Stiles
 PVT Lawrence F. Hall
 PVT William G. Netterwold
 PVT Max S. Trujillo

06 – 07
 November 1968

1-502 continued normal operations with negative contact. B/1-502 returned to LZ Sally. C/1-502 returned from Phu Vang and lifted to vic. YD5815 for RIF operations.

06 November 2005

“Second Platoon, A Battery, 1-320th FAR was conducting a route recon mission in Taji, Iraq in order to find routes within their area which could be used during limited visibility. The route they were traveling on had many washed out areas and portions of the road had bridges that would not support a HMMWV so their mission consisted of identifying those areas. The platoon was traveling down a road beset by canals when the fourth vehicle was struck by a deep-buried IED. My truck was hit directly underneath the engine compartment and flipped end over end, landing upside down. The M240B gunner (PFC Barreiro) was thrown from the gunner’s hatch and landed about twenty meters behind the vehicle and broke his back. The driver (PFC Griffin) broke his jaw on the radio mount, lost four teeth, and received minor shrapnel wounds. He also broke his femur and was knocked unconscious. The Platoon Sergeant, MSG Hayes, was hit the hardest from shrapnel from the engine compartment and under the vehicle. He died instantly from a piece of shrapnel that penetrated his skull. I was hit with very small shrapnel from under the vehicle in his legs and received a concussion.

SSG Porter was the first to arrive to the vehicle as he was the commander of the third vehicle. His driver, PV2 Marques (now SGT Marques), called up the 9-line MEDEVAC request. Our Platoon Leader, 1LT Cummings (now CPT Cummings), controlled the defense of our position and also the recovery effort.

The Platoon later learned that the IED that struck the convoy was a deep-buried IED consisting of 3 or 4 152mm artillery rounds. The initiation system was a hard



wire about the size of small speaker cable run out into a field about 75m from the road.”

07 November 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: Recon/2-502 was moved by log ship into FSB Anzio for resupply and then moved to YD899033 for local patrols and ambushes.



08 November 1968

1-502 had an AO extension into the sands area referred to as "the street". B/1-502 and 4 platoons of PF's, conducted a CA, vic. YD5840 and YD6040 and set up cordon with 1 platoon of tanks from which saturation patrols could be run. Naval river patrol boats were used as a blocking force, vic. YD6041 and YD5942. The C&C, drew SA fire and returned fire on suspected enemy locations with negative results. B/1-502 hit a 105 BBT injuring 2. Patrol boats detained 5 VCS but they were later classified as IC and released.

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.

- 1 x Silver Star Medal
- 1 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
- 1 x Bronze Star Medal Posthumously
- 6 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 25 x Purple Hearts (12 x Posthumously)
- 5 x Non-Hostile Illness or Injury

02 November 1944

The following Soldiers: PFC Lawrence P. Lee Jr. (HQ/1-502nd PIR); SGT Joseph B. Davis (A/502nd PIR); PFC James J. Slaysman (C/502nd PIR); PFC Archie F. Fiero (502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths in Holland, France.

02 November 1968

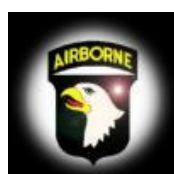


The following Soldiers: SGT James A. Singleton (Pictured) and SP4 Jacob McKie (C/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as ground casualties in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

02 November 2005



SPC Benjamin A. Smith (1-502 IN), 21, of Hudson, Wisconsin; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed during a PSD convoy when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV near Baghdad.



02 November 2005



SPC Joshua J. Munger (1-502 IN), 22, of Maysville, Missouri; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed during a PSD patrol when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV near Baghdad.

02 November 2005



PFC Tyler R. MacKenzie (1-520 IN), 20, of Evans, Colorado; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed during a PSD patrol when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV near Baghdad.

04 November 1968

SP4 Herbert Williams (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

04 November 2003

SSG Russell Taylor (HHB, 1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while a coordinated attack was launched by AIF on 1-320 FA HQ in Mosul, Iraq using small arms, RPGs, and mortars to attack the command compound. An RPG comes through the wall and then soars between his legs. He receives shrapnel in both legs. HHB successfully repulsed the attack and SSG Taylor received treatment for his wounds.

04 November 2005



SSG Jason A. Fegler (C/1-502 IN), 24, of Virginia Beach, Virginia; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed during combat operations in Mahmudiyah, Iraq, from shrapnel after his convoy came under direct friendly fire.

04 November 2005

PFC Charles Meyer (C/1-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation with Valor for valorous action in combat. PFC Meyer also earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from shrapnel wounds sustained to both legs. PFC Meyer's vehicle was destroyed by friendly fire. The vehicle's driver, SSG Jason Fegler, was mortally wounded and all but one crew member was injured. PFC Meyer himself sustained significant injuries to his legs during the incident. PFC Meyer's exceptionally brave and decisive actions prevented further friendly casualties and allowed for successful recovery of all personnel and equipment.

04 November 2005

SGT Juan R. Hernandez (C/1-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation with Valor for valorous action in combat when he could have remained in his protected rear seat position but he chose personal, physical, and moral courage in the face of overwhelming and accurate heavy machine gun fire.

04 November 2005

1LT Matthew Shoaf (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds receive when at approximately 2030, 1LT Shoaf's convoy came under direct friendly fire. He received shrapnel wounds to his face and left arm.

04 November 2010

SGT Juan Carrion (B/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire.



05 November 1944

SGT Benjamin C. Shaub (F/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death in Holland, France.

05 November 1971



SGT Leroy White Jr. (E/1-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

05 November 2003

SPC Steven Clark (B/311 MI BN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in Mosul, Iraq. This would be the third of four Purple Hearts SPC Clark receives while assigned to 2BCT, the final Purple Heart for OIF I. SPC Clark was conducting intelligence gathering operations in the market area of Mosul, Iraq with two other Tactical HUMINT Teams (THTs). After completing his questioning he mounted the back bed of his M998 and took position behind his M249. An insurgent stepped from around the corner and threw a grenade encased in a box filled with shrapnel. The handheld IED landed and detonated just eight feet behind SPC Clark. The blast peppered his body with over two pounds worth of shrapnel. Despite his life-threatening injuries, SPC Clark was able to render self-aid and relay a description of the insurgent to the RTO in his vehicle. SPC Clark was then taken to the Brigade Aid Station where he received initial treatment before being MEDEVACd to the 68th CSH. SPC Clark would later undergo two major surgeries. One was to remove his left kidney which was peppered with shrapnel and the second was to remove a large piece of shrapnel from his spinal canal. In all, SPC Clark had more than one pound of shrapnel removed from his body.

05 November 2010

SSG Michael Spaeth (A/2BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

06 November 2005



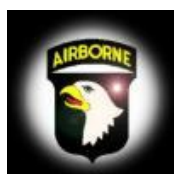
MSG James F. Hayes (A/1-320 FA), 48, of Barstow, California; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed while conducting a route reconnaissance mission when an improvised explosive device detonated underneath his HMMWV causing the truck to flip in Taji, Iraq.

06 November 2005

The following Soldiers from A/1-320 FA earned the Purple Hearts for military merit and for wounds received: SPC Joshua Griffin, who broke both his leg and jaw and lost several teeth; SPC Jonathan Barreiro-Gallardo, who was thrown from the vehicle and broke his back; SGT Nicholas Stroncsek, who sustained a concussion and minor leg injuries; PFC Stephen Gray, who received a concussion and a wound to his knee.

06 November 2008

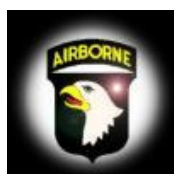
SPC William McClellan (HHC/1-502 IN) died at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. from wounds sustained when his vehicle encountered a roadside bomb in Jan 2008. According to his wife, Heather McClellan, "When they were taking care of him on the field he had told his guys to hold his place because he'd be back in two weeks." But his injuries, which she described as shrapnel damage to the head, hand, and foot, were more serious than he realized.



- 07 November 2005 SPC Demetrius Gregory (I/3-3 ACR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when at approximately 1700 while conducting a snap TCP, a VBIED detonated inside of the search area. There were five Soldiers mortally wounded or killed in the blast. SPC Gregory was in the passenger seat of the M1114 nearest to the VBIED when it detonated. The blast pushed him forward and to the right which injured his back. SPC Gregory dismounted from the vehicle and began to treat the Soldiers that were mortally wounded. An air MEDEVAC was called in and SPC Gregory and SPC Pope, later died from wounds.
- 07 November 2005 PFC Christopher Johnson (I/3-3ACR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received when at approximately 1700 while conducting a snap TCP, a VBIED detonated inside of the search area. There were five Soldiers mortally wounded or killed in the blast. PFC Johnson was about 10 meters from the blast of the VBIED and behind the M1114 nearest the blast pulling security. He sustained head trauma and minor cuts and scratches and his ears were severely ringing. PFC Johnson aided in the search and recovery of the injured and dead Soldiers. PFC Johnson continued mission and was later ground evacuated to FOB Falcon TMC.
- 08 November 1966 PFC Matherew D. Renfroe (C/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty as a result of multiple metal fragment wounds to the body received when a grenade belonging to another individual detonated while preparing for a combat operation during OP Geronimo in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.
- 08 November 1966 PFC William L. Cyr (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Phu Yen, South Vietnam.
- 08 November 2005 SPC Daniel Sparks (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was on a foot patrol, an RPG was fired at the patrol's location and the blast perforated his eardrum.

STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

- 02 November 2005 1SG Lonny L. Hayes (C/1-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for distinguished actions in combat while performing another mission, 1SG Hayes responded promptly and without hesitation to a catastrophic IED strike of CSM Edwards' PSD. He was instrumental in providing security and assisted with three MEDEVACs. He personally recovered two U.S. KIA's from a canal by diving in the water with all of his gear on to pull them out along with sensitive items lost from the blast. 1SG Hayes, while establishing security, discovered the trigger point site and detained four AIF suspected of being responsible for the blast. The trigger device, a sand table, and several hundreds of meters of copper wire were recovered. When an IED detonated 10 meters from his position, underneath a HEMMT, 1SG Hayes received wounds to his legs and the AIF then engaged from two different directions with small arms fire. While under fire with enemy rounds impacting all around him, 1SG Hayes, without regard for his own life, maneuvered out from cover to check the drivers of the HEMMT. Still under fire, 1SG Hayes moved out from cover to direct PSD to engage one target then moved back to his platoon vehicles 200 meters away to engage the other. Through 45 minutes of sustained combat, 1SG Hayes continued to direct 240B and .50 caliber MG fire on the AIF. While under fire, he maneuvered one squad to move in on the enemy, directed the safeguard of four AIF detainees, and continued to direct fire moving out from cover on at least three occasions.



03 November 2010



SSG Shane Sapp (I/3-2 CAV) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor while during a two-day breach operation by Company I, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment into a Taliban stronghold, displayed extraordinary valor and initiative that allowed his company to break through the defensive belt surrounding the enemy's support zone. This enabled the company to gain a foothold and begin offensive operations against enemy forces.

On 3 November 2010 a route clearance package (RCP) struck the first of eleven IEDs on Route Edmonton and incurred one Soldier wounded and one Soldier killed in action. SSG Sapp quickly without concern for personal welfare dismounted with his infantry squad in support of the medical evacuation. SSG Sapp's leadership on the ground allowed for his squad to successfully negotiate a heavily defended breach lane essential to evacuating a wounded Soldier and a Fallen Hero.

By the evening of 3 November 2010, Company I was fixed on Route Edmonton and could not continue movement until the following day. The following morning the RCP that was attached to Company I attempted to egress Route Edmonton back to Highway 1 and struck two more IEDs. Another RCP attempted to clear down to its other element and struck more IEDs between Highway 1 and the original RCP's location. Third platoon had to move in the breach lane to the RCP's location. SSG Sapp quickly led the platoon off-road despite the restrictive terrain and high IED threat level.

SSG Sapp was solely responsible for 3rd platoon reaching the RCP's location, resulting in the RCP being able to safely move back to Highway 1 after 48 hours and multiple IED strikes. SSG Sapp then safely led his element to Company G's location and obtained the MICLIC that was required for Company I to complete the two day breach and move from its fixed position. SSG Sapp valiantly led the platoon down an un-cleared section of Route Edmonton in order to bring the MICLIC to the front of the breach. Upon reaching the front, SSG Sapp's squad secured the area while the MICLIC was employed. SSG Sapp immediately regained the lead and took Company I the remaining way through the breach to the fort. Upon reaching the fort, SSG Sapp put himself in extreme danger and cleared the inside of the fort for the rest of Company I with his Stryker vehicle's mine roller. SSG Sapp reduced two of ten IEDs inside Fort Iron undoubtedly saving the lives of Company I Soldiers.

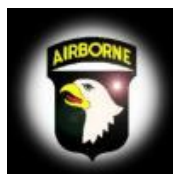
SSG Sapp's fearless leadership and constant disregard for his own life was essential to Company I's success in reaching the fort without incurring further casualties. SSG Sapp effectively breached deep into enemy territory and gained a foothold for Company I, regaining the initiative after a 48-hour standstill. His outstanding levels of proficiency, ability to adapt in combat and fearless leadership are indicative of the best of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps.

04 November 2010



SPC Brian Baker (B/1-75 CAV) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor when he distinguished himself through exceptionally valorous action while deployed as a platoon medic in Troop B, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment.

SPC Baker was part of a dismounted patrol in Haji Rahmuddin, Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan when his section came under accurate and sustained fire from an enemy PKM team. The patrol leader instructed SPC Baker and his team to assault the enemy position. As the team maneuvered into place, they received fire from a second enemy force. Under the sustained fire from two enemy elements, SGT Juan Carrion received a life-threatening gunshot wound.



With complete disregard for his own personal safety, SPC Baker immediately moved out of his covered and concealed position and ran across open terrain to where SGT Carrion lay wounded. He quickly assessed the situation and then proceeded to drag SGT Carrion out of the engagement area and towards cover. As SPC Baker moved SGT Carrion out of the kill zone, they continued to receive accurate and sustained fire from one PKM and several AK-47s. Despite the incoming fire, he safely moved SGT Carrion to a covered and concealed position. SPC Baker's quick response ultimately saved SGT Carrion's life.

As the patrol continued to receive sustained and accurate fire for 30 minutes, SPC Baker administered life-saving medical care to SGT Carrion. He applied a pressure dressing, administered three needle decompressions, and supplied intravenous medications. In order to successfully administer these medications, SPC Baker held the intravenous bag above the level of the wall, exposing most of his arm to enemy fire.

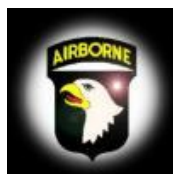


Due to SPC Baker's selfless actions, SGT Carrion maintained sufficient blood volume and consciousness. Once his condition stabilized, SPC Baker organized the defense around their position by tactically emplacing two other Soldiers. Furthermore, when the MEDEVAC aircraft arrived, he directed the transport of the casualty off the objective. After securing SGT Carrion on the litter, SPC Baker assisted his section during the movement to the evacuation site and onto the medical helicopter.

With complete disregard for his own safety, SPC Baker's immediate actions in the kill zone enabled him to maneuver through insurgent small arms fire to recover a wounded Soldier. His actions ensured the Soldier was moved to cover where he received medical care. SPC Baker continued to disregard his own safety in order to provide effective medical care to SGT Carrion. His skilled, selfless, and heroic efforts ensured that a Soldier ultimately survived his wounds.

06 November 1966

1LT David S. Bodgett (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself against an armed hostile enemy on 6 November 1966 to 9 November 1966, near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. When the Third Platoon of his company was brought under fire, Lieutenant Blodgett was given the mission of taking his platoon to reinforce the engaged platoon. Lieutenant Blodgett was aggressively pursuing the withdrawing enemy when his platoon was suddenly brought under a heavy volume of enemy fire from several enemy positions. Lieutenant Blodgett personally led the maneuver element in an attempt to outflank the enemy position, thus exposing himself to intense enemy fire on numerous occasions while directing fire. Lieutenant Blodgett continued to lead his platoon and aggressively pursued the enemy by maintaining close contact with the delaying forces. As darkness moved in, Lieutenant Blodgett placed his platoon into an ambush position until the following morning. When daylight hours arrived, Lieutenant Blodgett moved his platoon down a jungle trail approximately three hundred meters when they were again brought under intense enemy fire. When the platoon maneuvered in an attempt to outflank the enemy positions, one of the men stepped on a mine and was seriously wounded. With total disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Blodgett dashed across the minefield to his wounded comrade and personally began to administer the needed medical aid until a medic could arrive. Lieutenant Blodgett then conducted a personal search of the minefield and located several more mines which he destroyed. As Lieutenant Blodgett began to reorganize his platoon, he received word from his



company commander to move to a new position. Realizing that his platoon was exhausted, Lieutenant Blodgett set a positive example by personally taking the point man position and leading his men to the new position. His unflinching courage and dauntless leadership ability brings great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 November 2010



SSG Patrick Smith Jr. earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor when he distinguished himself through exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as a combat engineer platoon sergeant attached to 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment. His heroic actions prevented the loss of life of Coalition Forces during a patrol in vicinity of Haji Rhamdi, Afghanistan. SSG Smith ensured mission success, despite taking fire from enemy forces while placing explosives.

On a dismounted patrol, 1st platoon, Troop B partnered with Afghan National Army (ANA) Soldiers headed to the southwest of Haji Rhamdi. The patrol included a military working dog (MWD) team and a Sapper team led by SSG Smith. While on the patrol, the lead ANA element spotted two suspicious individuals on a motorcycle. When told to stop, the local nationals jumped off of the motorcycle and ran toward a neighboring tree line. The ANA engaged the individuals with small arms fire, injuring one. Elements from Troop B and ANA moved west to pursue the other individual while SSG Smith and four sappers secured an intersection. SSG Smith set up local security and placed the military working dog team within the perimeter.

Approximately three minutes after the sappers established local security, the Troop B and ANA element received small arms fire from a grape hut approximately 75-100 meters south of their position. With complete disregard for his own safety, SSG Smith repositioned his team



approximately 15-20 meters west in order to suppress the enemy location and allow maneuver space for the element in the enemy engagement zone. From this position, he engaged the enemy with suppressive fires that allowed the Troop B and ANA element to bound back closer to the safety of the intersection.

While the enemy continued to engage Coalition Forces, SSG Smith moved from his position back to the intersection twice to obtain additional magazines. Each time he moved through the enemy's engagement area, distributing the magazines to those who required them while under sustained fire from small arms and RPGs. As a result, SSG Smith ensured that his Soldiers were able to effectively engage the enemy and allow another element to move to a covered position.

SSG Smith stayed within the enemy's engagement area until all friendly elements were behind cover at the intersection and then he was instructed to destroy the enemy motorcycle in place. Despite taking fire in the intersection, SSG Smith finished placing the demolitions. He then instructed the patrol to fall back to the last rally point approximately 200 meters east while he stayed in the intersection to provide covering fires. At that time SSG Smith initiated the time fuse on the charge and moved to rejoin the patrol element.

The actions of SSG Smith guaranteed that the enemy vehicle was destroyed and that the Soldiers under his command were able to effectively engage the enemy.



His selfless disregard for his own health and welfare prevented the loss of friendly life. SSG Smith's suppressive fire ensured that the enemy was unsuccessful in attacking Coalition Forces.

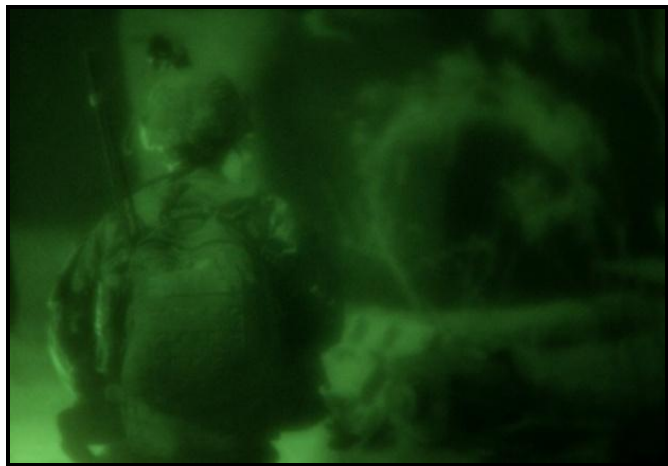
07 November -
22 November 2010



SSG Christopher Espindola earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor when he distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct during the Squadron operation "Operation New Den."

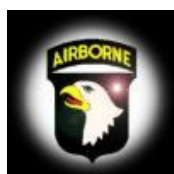
Following Company I's two day breach operation along Route Edmonton spanning from the morning of 3 November through the night of 4 November into a Taliban enemy stronghold in Zharay, Afghanistan, the company seized an old British fort, later named Fort Iron by Company I. The fort the company seized was the foothold that allowed the company to establish itself within its new area of operations. While under persistent direct and indirect fire attacks from the enemy, the company continued its offensive operations. Vital to this effort was SSG Espindola, who cleared on five different occasions, five improvised explosive devices and two pieces of unexploded ordnance, while conducting dismounted patrols. His efforts allowed the Soldiers of Company I and those of 2nd Coy, 6th Kandak, Afghan National Army the ability to maneuver freely throughout the battlefield.

SSG Espindola took it upon himself to clear key routes and areas of canalization of improvised explosive devices that were emplaced as part of the enemy's defensive perimeter. On 7 November 2010, SSG Espindola cleared the first of what was a series of improvised explosive devices.



The device was within 100 meters of the fort and along a main avenue of approach for dismounted personnel. On 16 November 2010, he reduced an unexploded rocket propelled grenade while dismounted in vicinity of a small arms fire site. On 17 November 2010, after a directional focused remote control improvised explosive device partially exploded on SSG Espindola's platoon during a dismounted patrol, he reduced a secondary improvised explosive device and cleared the partially exploded device.

SSG Espindola recovered the initiation device and antenna for the remote control improvised explosive device. Through proper tactical site exploitation, he was able to move his platoon to safety.



***STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

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

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

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

