



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT)
“STRIKE HISTORY”
08 December – 14 December 2013



08 – 09

December 1967

Operation KLAMATH FALLS: A/2-502 was air assaulted into an AO in the SE portion of the BN AO. The TAC CP was relocated by air on A Co. LZ on 09DEC. The southern boundary was extended in coordination with 1-327 IN. A Co. was detached and 1-327 IN assumed OPCON. All landings were unopposed and no contact was made.

08 December 1968

Although Recon/1-502 was the only unit to make contact (they engaged 1 VC at their NDP with negative results), the Battalion conducted several unit moves by "hook". C/1-502 moved from An Lo to vic. YD6922. D/1-502 moved from vic. YD6139 to An Lo. Recon moved to vic. YD6139 from LZ Sally.

08 December 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70: Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry 3rd Platoon, 1st Squad at location YD773056 found two bunkers six to eight months old and four fighting positions, all facing east. There was no recent activity and the bunkers and fighting positions were then destroyed the squadron.

08 December 2010

The Secretary of Defense awarded medals to Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), during a visit to Forward Operating Base Howz-e-Madad, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, Dec. 8.

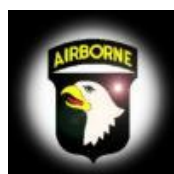


The Honorable Dr. Robert Gates, the Secretary of Defense, pinned eight Purple Hearts, 11 Army Commendation Medals with Valor and two Bronze Star Medals with Valor on Combined Action Strike Force Soldiers for exceptional meritorious and valorous actions while operating in southern Afghanistan. The Soldiers who received the awards from the Secretary of Defense were honored by the ceremony.

“It was an honor to meet the Secretary of Defense today,” said SPC Adam J. Lipski, a native of Savannah, Georgia and a combat medic with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) who was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor for his efforts to save another Soldier in the face of enemy fire, Sept. 16. “You don’t get to meet a man in that high of a position everyday and it was definitely intense.” Gates spoke to the STRIKE Soldiers about their missions and operations while in Afghanistan.

“You guys here are at the tip of the spear of the campaign of the last seven months of which you have taken new territory, cleared it, secured and held it,” said Gates. “Your time together in the battle spaces in southeastern and southwestern Afghanistan is a critical part of our strategy and the current campaign.”

The day’s events included the awards ceremony, a showcase of some of today’s weapons used by the STRIKE Brigade in the Afghan theater and a lunch and photo shoot for the Soldiers with Gates, where he shared his gratitude for the deployed men and woman.

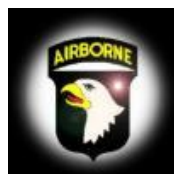


“I just want to express my appreciation for what you are doing,” said Gates. “I want to thank you for signing up and serving with the military in a time you knew you would be at war.”

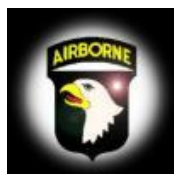
Gates also spoke to the Soldiers about being away from loved ones during the holiday season and to pass a message from him to the families back home.

“At this holiday time it’s tough to be away from your families,” said Gates. “The next time when you’re in touch with your families I hope you let them know whether it’s email or a phone call, just pass along to them my personal thanks to them for their support to you and their patience with all of us. What they do makes your service possible and we recognize that.”

- 08 - 15 December 2012 Joint intelligence shura. 4/203 ANA BDE and 173rd ABCT held their first of three joint Intelligence Shuras at FOB SHANK on 11 DEC 12. All ANA KDK S2s (with their advisors) and US BN S2s attended. The discussions centered around the insurgent threats as well as civilian, political, and military relations within each district in both Wardak and Logar Provinces.
- 09 December 1968 Recon/1-502 was the only platoon to have contact. They sprung an ambush on 1 VC at vic. YD6139, resulting in 1 VC KIA. Another ambush at vic. YD5939 killed 2 VC with small arms.
- 09 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Platoon, 2nd Squadron found a well used trail, two feet wide about three weeks old at grid YD791047. The trail runs west to a stream. There were no signs of recent activity.
- 10 December 1967 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** Beginning 100830DEC1967, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry air assaulted into multiple LZ’s and conducted operations to search for and destroy enemy installations and forces, initially in the SW portion of the assigned AO. Emphasis was placed on careful search of all likely sites, particularly draws. Initial air assaults were preceded only by TAC Ai and gunship preps. The TAC CP locations was changed after initial CP elements were on the ground because of unsuitability of terrain for Arty. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation KLAMATH FALLS (U), 1968)
- 10 December 1968 On this day we lost the "Street" section of our AO to the 3/5 Cav., for an 8 day operation. Recon/1-502 and C/1-502, 26 element, went OPCON to 3/5 Cav. For 4 days (10-13). D/1-502 was the only company that had contact when they engaged 3 VC, vic. YD6124, with negative results.
- 10 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Platoon, 1st Squad at grid YD792046 found on dud 155mm round and don’t have any explosive to blow it. It was along a trail running south to north. They also found a Bandelier of M-16 ammo in the same vicinity. Bravo Company, 3rd Platoon, 1st Squad observed smoke coming from a densely covered ravine at grid YD786068. No friendlies were in the area and it was fired up with fifty 105mm HE rounds. Sweep of the area will be made in the morning of the 11th.
- 10-12 December 2003 **Operation Reindeer Games.** A Fedayeen Officer and individuals suspected to be involved in attacks on Coalition Forces were identified and a combined operation involving units from five separate Battalions, to include 1-502 IN, 2-502 IN, 3-502 IN, and 3-327 IN, was conducted. The result of Operation Reindeer Games was the detention of 54 total individuals, 20 of which were from the initial 34 targets identified prior to the Operation, and one target killed. A total of three Brigade High Value Individuals were detained.



- 10 December 2007 **Operation Black Feet Norse** 1-502 IN secures MSR Tampa in order to permit CF freedom of maneuver. This Operation runs through Mar 08.
- 11 December 1967 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** A/2-502 returned to BN's control in the morning and the afternoon was again released to 1-327 IN OPCON.
- 11 December 1968 **Operation PHU VANG IV** begins. It is the continuation of the PHU VANG series where the 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division returned the 1/501st Airborne to team with the 54th ARVN Regiment to conduct further cordon and search operations aimed at preventing the main force and local VC units from regrouping in the area east and southeast of Hue. Casualties: US 2 KIA, 12 WIA; enemy 75 KIA, 99 POW.
- 11 - 12 December 1968 A/1-502 secured T-Bone. B/1-502 conducted RIF operations, vic. YD6118. They engaged 5 VC while operating in this area, but the VC fled with negative assessment. C/1-502(-) is OPCON to 1/501. C/1-502, 26 element, is OPCON to 3/5 Cav. C/1-502 secured An Lo Bridge. Recon/1-502 is OPCON to 3/5 Cav.
- 11 December 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** PF's took control of Bridge 3 from B/2-502, two squads of E/2-502 were air lifted into FSB Quick as security for an Arty raid by C/2-320 Arty from 0750-1410h.
- 11 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 3rd Platoon, 1st Squad made a sweep of the area fired up on the night of the 10th and found a VC.NVA campsite at the location YD786068. The camp had been occupied when the artillery was fired. All indications point to a hasty flight from the area by the enemy. They fled north and in a number of six to eight men. The unit found in the area eight RPG rounds, eight 60mm mortar rounds, a cooking pot with five pounds of cooked rice in it, on US map sheet number 6442, a pistol belt with on M-26 grenade, two AK47 magazine with ammo, some clothes, two cans of non-electric blasting caps, and assorted other items such as bags and cans. All of the items were lying around in the open, supporting the belief the enemy fled the artillery fire. Bravo Company, 3rd Platoon, 1st Squad observed two men at grid YD778056 and called in artillery with unknown results. Bravo Company, 1st Platoon at 1915 hours saw a light at grid YD778056 and called in artillery fire which resulted in four secondary explosions. At 1955 they heard loud noises and movement at YD786046 and again called in the artillery. They will sweep the area in the morning. Bravo Company, 1st Platoon at 2330 hours received mortar fire from the west hitting NW of their NDP. They are adjusting artillery fire from their DT's. Bravo Company, 3rd Platoon heard were the rounds hit about 300 meters away coming from the SE. IN all, ten to twelve round were counted. Prior to the mortar rounds, 1st Platoon heard small arms fire from the approximate impact area of the mortar rounds.
- 12 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 3rd Platoon at grid YD784065 found seven M-16 magazines all loaded. Bravo Company, 1st Platoon sweep the area of the area where the secondary explosions were heard had negative results. Charlie Company returned OPCON to the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry at 1530 hours.



12 December 1985

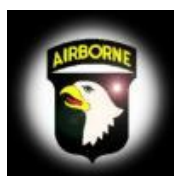
A chartered flight carrying U.S. troops from Cairo, Egypt, to their home base in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, via Cologne, Germany and Gander, Newfoundland. On the morning of December 12, 1985, shortly after takeoff from Gander en route to Fort Campbell, the aircraft stalled, crashed, and burned about half a mile from the runway, killing all 256 passengers and crew on board. Of the 248 servicemen, all but 12 were members of 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), most members were from the 3d Battalion, 502nd Infantry; eleven were from other Forces Command units; and one was an agent from the Criminal Investigations Command (CID). 3-502 Soldiers were on a Multination Forces and Observers (MFO) peace keeping mission in the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt.



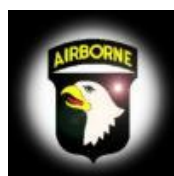
On, 16 December 1985 members of the 101st Airborne Division carried caskets containing the remains of the members of the 3rd Battalion, 502d Infantry into the hanger at Dover AFB for a memorial service.



On, 16 December 1985 President Reagan addresses a memorial service at Fort Campbell, KY, to honor the Soldiers killed in the plane crash at Gander, Newfoundland, Canada.



- 13 December 1967 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** The battalion was air assaulted into the new AO to the NE. Four LZ's were used. Recondos received several rounds of automatic weapons fire on their initial insertion but no casualties were taken and no subsequent contact was made. A/2-502 began working from the high ground west into the valley area. B Co. moved east towards the valley and C Co. maintained the initial LZ with patrols working out from a base.
- 13 December 1967 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division deploys to the Republic of Vietnam from Campbell Army Airfield.
- 13 December 1968 A/1-502 secured T-Bone with platoon RIF, vic. YD6222. This RIF utilized 2 scout dog teams. A "hook" was utilized to move one 4.2 and one 81mm mortar and crew to Apache for practice firing and was then lifted via "hook" to T-Bone. B/1-502 RIF operations with day and night ambushes, vic. YD6218. C/1-502 (-) is OPCON to 1/501. D/1-502 secured An Lo Bridge. Recon/1-502 is OPCON to 3/5 Cav.
- 13 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON
GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:**
Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 3rd Platoon, 3rd Squad at grid YD786068 found on Russian 7.62mm pistol with eight rounds in the magazine, one AK47 with two full magazines, 27 loose pistol rounds in a plastic bag, 58 AK47 rounds in a sand bag, one NVA ruck sack, one NVA poncho, two ½ lbs explosive blocks with pull type fuses, six ½ lb explosive blocks without fuses, three RPG boosters, two 60mm mortar rounds, and one flashlight. The cache was above ground and in good condition. Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Platoon, 1st Squad found a trail 1 ½ feet wide running north south at grid YD7859044 about fifty feet from a stream. There were three sets of shoe prints made in the last 48 hours. Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 3rd Platoon, 1st Squad found an M79 HE round and a piece of black shirt in a manmade cave one to two months old at grid YD788063. There were no signs of recent activity. Delta Company made a combat assault from FSB Arsenal to three LZ's at grids YD7889006, 772018, and 798118. Charlie Company took over security of FSB Arsenal. Delta Company, 3rd Platoon, 1st Squad checked out and cleared areas around their LZ's at grid YD798119 where bunkers had been reported. The open area looked like an old rice paddy and the platoon's KOS said there were three men in the area up to three hours before because of sandal prints on the trail. The trail ran north-south and the prints went north.
- 14 December 1942 508th PIR reaches full strength after activation (Mostly ex-502nd PIR and ex 29th ID)
- 14 December 1968 A/1-502 secured T-Bone with 1 platoon on local RIF operations. The unit concentrated on rebuilding and improving fortifications of T-Bone and unit training. Unit training is being stressed in all units as the turbulence of personnel has been a point of concern for the Battalion Commander. B/1-502 conducted RIF, vic. YD6188. They found a bunker complex (negative signs of recent use), vic. YD6117 and destroyed it. C/1-502 (-) released from 3/5 Cav. and returned via "hook" to LZ Sally. D/1-502 secured An Lo Bridge. Recon/1-502 released from OPCON to 3/5 Cav. and returned to LZ Sally, via "hook" to be RRF.



14 December 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70: Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Platoon found a trail one and half feet wide. NVA/VC type trail, at YD784044. The trail runs NW-SE and lead into a ravine. There are definite signs of activity only hours old.

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.

- 4 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
- 1 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
- 5 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 16 x Bronze Star Medal (15 x Posthumously)
- 42 x Purple Hearts (23 x Posthumously)
- 252 x Died of Non-Hostile Injuries or Illness

08 December 1967

PFC Victor A. Mazitis Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted which resulted in his death from the result of metal fragment wounded when he was mistakenly hit by fragments from a friendly mine while on combat operations in the Lam Dong Province, South Vietnam.

08 December 1967

SGT David A. Tanner (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from the result of metal fragment wounded when he was mistakenly hit by fragments from a friendly mine while on combat operations in the Lam Dong Province, South Vietnam.

08 December 1969

PFC Joseph E. Hardee (D/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile Burns as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 December 2003



PFC Jason G. Wright (1-502 IN), 19, of Luzerne, Michigan; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on security duty when his vehicle comes under fire from a passing vehicle in Mosul, Iraq.

8 December 2010

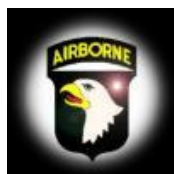


SGT James Ayube (H/3-2 CAV), 25, from Salem, Massachusetts; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when an insurgent attacked his dismounted patrol with a suicide vest explosive.

8 December 2010



SPC Kelly Mixon (H/3-2 CAV), 23, from Yulee, Florida; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when an insurgent attacked his dismounted patrol with a suicide vest explosive.



08 December 2010

The following Soldiers: CPT David Cochrane, SGT Luis Arroyo, PFC Travis Allen and PFC Michael Guerra (H/3-2 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when an insurgent attacked their dismounted patrol with a suicide vest explosive.

09 December 2005

SGT Kevin Pantojalaboy (HHT/3-3 ACR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received while participating in combat operations, he sustained a shrapnel injury during a mortar attack at Firm Base 2.

10 December 1965



SP4 Rudy M. Sagon (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received as a result of metal fragment wounds in the chest during a hostile ground action.

10 December 1965



The following Soldiers: SGT James H. Lewis, SP4 Charles E. Boston (Pictured), and SP4 Robert R. Bohler (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.

10 December 2003



SSG Richard A. Burdick (C/3-502 IN), 24, of National City, California; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while riding in a convoy when his vehicle is hit by an improvised explosive device in Mosul, Iraq.

10 December 2003



PFC Jerrick M. Petty (B/3-502 IN), 25, of Idaho Falls, Idaho; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while guarding a gas station when his position is attacked by enemy forces in Mosul, Iraq.

10 December 2005



SSG Travis L. Nelson (1-502 IN), 41, of Anniston, Alabama; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of enemy small arms fire in Baghdad.



10 December 2005



SGT Kenith Casica (1-502 IN), 32, 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 as a result of enemy small arms fire in Baghdad. Also killed was SSG Travis L. Nelson.

10 December 2005



SGT Clarence L. Floyd Jr. (1-320 FA), 28, of Newark, New Jersey; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when his unit was attacked at a checkpoint by a sniper during combat operations in Taji, Iraq.

11 December 1971

1LT Philip S. Gallagher III (E/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile illness or disease as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

11 December 2010

SPC Luis Jaime-Ponce (A/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when an insurgent attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire.

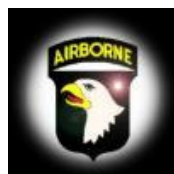
12 December 1944

S/SGT Claude Bryant Jr. (502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during WWII in France.

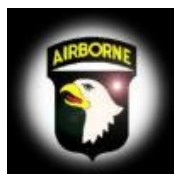
12 December 1985

The following Soldiers died during takeoff from Gander, Newfoundland en route to Fort Campbell, Kentucky; returning from MFO peace keeping Mission in the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. Not all were assigned to 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, but most of them were.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| PFC Mark E. Abrams | PFC David A. Bury | CPT Kyle L. Edmonds |
| SP4 Herbert D. Alexander | PFC Trevor Campbell | SP4 Christopher Engelbert |
| SSG Steven A. Andrehoff | PFC Gregory T. Carter | SGT James A. Ferguson |
| SP4 Darnell Andrews | SGT Mark E. Carter | SP4 Mark W. Ferguson |
| SP4 Ivan Aponte | CH (CPT) Troy G. Carter | PFC Kevin F. Fink |
| PFC Stuart N. Arrowood | PV2 Dennis Cartwright | SP4 David Fitch |
| SP4 Roger D. Arvin | PFC Phillip R. Caudill | CPL Thomas J. Foskey |
| 1LT Luis A. Avillan | PFC Garett R. Chaddock | CPL Paul K. Fuller |
| SP4 Bobby L. Banks | SP4 Stephen R. Colby | SGT Kevin A. Gantzer |
| SP4 Daniel M. Barber | SP4 Bobby L. Coleman | SP4 Anthony L. Gayton |
| SP4 Eric J. Baumann | SGT Miguel A. Cordero | SP4 Scott W. Gerdes |
| PFC Edward M. Beer | PFC Orlando F. Council | SGT Gary L. Givens |
| SP4 Wyatt D. Benson | PVT Michael E. Craig | SFC David L. Godsey |
| SP4 Sammy D. Bittle | SP4 Paul M. Crawford | SP4 Michael J. Gonzales |
| CSM Haslund O. Black | SSG Francisco Cruzalgado | PFC Roberto Gonzalez |
| SP4 Paul J. Bostwick | PVT Troy R. Cupples | PVT Joseph W. Goree |
| SGT John P. Bowen | SP4 Walter G. Daniels | PFC Kelly S. Graham |
| CW3 Robert A. Bowen | SP4 Thomas E. Danielsen | SP4 Thomas L. Graham |
| SP4 John T. Bradley | SGT James A. Davis | SSG Douglas F. Grala |
| SP4 Steven J. Bradshaw | SGT Jimmy D. Davis | PFC Christopher T. Gray |
| PFC Darrin P. Brady | SSG Thomas E. Davis | PFC Ricardo Guerra |
| SGT Charles F. Brancato | SP4 Herbert R. Deckman | CPT Brian D. Haller |
| SP4 Tony L. Brasfield | CPL Joseph L. Diventura | PFC William W. Hansen |
| PFC William R. Brilya | SP4 Thomas D. Dixon | PVT Chester D. Hardeman |
| SP4 George A. Britt | SSG James F. Duckworth | CW3 Benny J. Hardin |
| SP4 Johnny L. Brown | SGT Brian L. Dumpert | PFC Brian D. Harris |
| PFC Gregory A. Buchanan | SGT Brian E. Easley | 1LT Robert B. Hart |



CPL James D. Burdette	CPT Michael C. Eastman	PV2 Mark S. Hassing
SP4 R. Van Haugsdahl	PFC Bruce E. Kiser	SSG Samuel T. Moore
PFC David W. Heidecker	1LT John K. Kosh	PFC Lindale Morgan
SGT Paul C. Hemmingway	SSG Mark R. Kubic	SP4 Steven W. Mullins
PV2 Joe W. Highfill	SP4 John M. Kuehn	SGT Michael Murry
PFC Thomas T. Hileman	SP4 Randall A. Lane	SP4 Michael A. Napier
SP4 Donald E. Hobbs	MAJ Michael R. Lawrence	SFC Joseph A. Nartia
PFC Kevin S. Hobbs	SGT Donald G. Lineberry	SFC Donald C. Nelson
SSG Jerry W. Holliman	SP4 William M. Lloyd	PV2 Kenneth J. Nelson
SP4 Robert S. Hoyer	1LT Paul D. Long	SSG Steven R. Nelson
SP4 Charles W. Hughes	SP4 David C. Lundgren	SGT Richard S. Nichols
SSG Frank J. Hughes	SP4 Benjamin R. Lynch	PFC Michael T. Nolan
PFC Jeffrey D. Hull	SSG Jerry W. Malone	SGT Francisco Ocasio
CPL Herbert G. Ivy	CPT Edward J. Manion	PVT Robert L. Olson
PVT Adrian D. Jackson	PV2 Thomas L. Martin	SP4 Gregory A. Owens
LTC Marvin A. Jeffcoat	PV2 Donald L. Mathis	SGT Gary W. Padgett
SSG Donnie K. Jennings	SGT Ronald G. Mayhew	PFC Theodore L. Pafford
SP4 Todd M. Jennings	SGT Paul A. Mcardle	SGT Jeffrey R. Palmisano
PV2 Jerrin A. Johnson	1LT Joey McCarty	CW3 Ruby Parris
SSG Rayvon L. Johnson	SP4 Christine M. McCleery	SGT Thomas F. Parsons
SGT Joseph A. Jones	1SG Robert McCook	PV2 Vickie S. Perry
PFC David A. Jordan	1LT Scott McCormick	SP4 Terry R. Pevey
SP4 Robert S. Kaplin	SP4 Calvin McWhite	PVT Alvin M. Phillips
SGT Ibrahim F. Karadsheh	CW2 Dirk A. Miller	SGT James D. Phillips
SP4 Jeffrey S. Kee	SGT Larry G. Miller	1LT Barry C. Powell
SGT Timothy L. Kidd	SSG Richard D. Miller	SP4 Raimo K. Puntanen
SP4 Jerry J. King	SP4 Timothy E. Miller	SP4 Michael R. Rahr
CPT Robert M. King	SGT John M. Millett	CPT Terry L. Rains
SSG Thomas J. Kirby	SGT James A. Mollett	SP4 David L. Rawls
SP4 Patrick S. Reasbeck	SFC Rex Smith	PV2 Mark E. Wallace
PVT Melvin W. Reed	SP4 Scott J. Smith	SFC Abraham Ward
SSG Jesse T. Reynolds	SP4 Thomas V. Smith	SFC Thomas E. West
PFC Gregory Richardson	PFC Mark Spearman	PFC John C. Wester
PFC Richard D. Rimiller	SP4 James M. Spears	SP4 Frank C. Wheeler
SP4 Bobby E. Roberts	PVT Michael S. Stack	SSG Emery S. White
SSG Wilbur D. Roberts	PFC David C. Staten	SP4 Michael L. Whiteman
SGT Virgil L. Robertson	PFC Alexander W. Stearn	SSG Darnell L. Wilburn
SGT Thomas E. Robinson, Jr.	SP4 Dame Stephens	PFC Franklin R. Wilkins
SP4 Ronald C. Russell	2LT Kip L. Stevens	SP4 James H. Williamson
SP4 Ray A. Ruth	SGT Randy Stewart	SGT Richard Willingham
SP4 Ricky A. Schmoyer	CW2 Earl C. Stone	SP4 Rodger L. Wilson
SGT Peter E. Schremp	SP4 Gary L. Straub	SSG James A. Winston
PFC Keith M. Schultz	SP4 Richard Stringer	SP4 Theodore M. Wisson
SP4 Gary L. Scott	PV2 Scott A. Stritch	2LT John B. Witmer
SP4 Blanchard T. Searcy	SGT Randall K. Thomas	SGT Kevin M. Witt
SSG Ronald W. Sears	SP4 Robert F. Thomas	SGT Robert N. Wolford
PFC Frederic O. Seitz	SGT Danny C. Thompson	SSG Lawrence A. Wood
SSG Timothy D. Sellner	SP4 Scott B. Thompson	SGT William L. Wooliver
PFC Ernest W. Serna	SGT Christopher Thornton	SP4 Virginia R. Word
SP4 Michael D. Shipley	SGT Theodore Travis	SP4 John R. Wright
PFC James E. Shook	PV2 Thomas N. Tucker	SP4 Robert Wyn
PFC Robert D. Schultz	SSG Vincent L. Turner	SP4 Cary T. Yeargan
SP4 Carl N. Simmons	SP4 Steven C. Venneri	SP4 Cathleen M. Ziegler
SP4 George H. Simmons	PFC Wayne Vinson	
SGT Earl Singleton	SP4 Gregory Walker	
SP4 Matthew S. Sloan	SP4 Guy W. Walker	
PV2 Clinton D. Smith	SP4 Brian E. V. Wallace	



12 December 2007

The following Soldiers: SPC Erick Rodriguez-Zigala was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart; CPL Justin Wishenhunt, PFC Randall McMinn, and PFC Brandon Taylor (2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received, during and operation when an M113 track vehicle traveling as part of a convoy with 3/B/2-502 IN strikes a pressure-button IED consisting of approximately 100 lbs. of HME. Four soldiers – PFC Randall McMinn, CPL Justin Wishenhunt, PFC Brandon Taylor, and SPC Erick Rodriguez-Zigala are wounded in the blast as the M113 catches fire and ammunition inside the vehicle begins cooking off. SPC Rodriguez-Zigala, the PLT medic, begins pulling the other three Soldiers to safety and administering aid to them, despite being wounded himself. All four men are MEDEVACd, but Rodriguez-Zigala refuses to get on the UH-60 aircraft and only relents after a direct order from his platoon leader. His bravery, dedication under dire circumstances, and quick action earn him a Bronze Star with Valor, the only Bronze Star with Valor to be awarded in 2-502 for the entire rotation.

12 December 2010



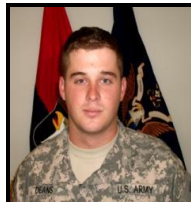
SGT Sean Collins (B/2-502 IN), 25, of Ewa Beach, Hawaii; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked his unit's strong point with a vehicle borne improvised explosive device.

12 December 2010



SGT Willie McLawhorn Jr. (B/2-502 IN), 23, of Conway, North Carolina; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked his unit's strong point with a vehicle borne improvised explosive device.

12 December 2010



CPL Patrick Deans (B/2-502 IN), 22 of Orlando, Florida; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked his unit's strong point with a vehicle borne improvised explosive device.

12 December 2010

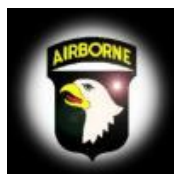


CPL Kenneth Necochea Jr. (B/2-502 IN), 21, of San Diego, California; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked his unit's strong point with a vehicle borne improvised explosive device.

12 December 2010



CPL Derek Simonetta (B/2-502 IN), 21, of Redwood City, California; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked his unit's strong point with a vehicle borne improvised explosive device.



12 December 2010



CPL Jorge Villacis (B/2-502 IN), 24, of Sunrise, Florida; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked his unit's strong point with a vehicle borne improvised explosive device.

12 December 2010

The following Soldiers: SSG Shane Hayfee, SPC Andrew Wright, SPC Scott Eberhardt, PFC Daniel Morneault, PFC Christopher Sullivan and PFC Chanceton Wilson (B/2-502 IN) received the Purple Heart from wounds received when insurgents attacked their unit's strong point with a vehicle borne improvised explosive device.

13 December 1968



PFC Salvatore A. Rowe (B/1-502 IN) died from other Non-hostile causes while as a passenger on a military air cushioned vehicle on a reconnaissance patrol when he left his forward position to inspect the rear of the craft and was struck by the craft's propeller in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

14 December 1965

SSG Pete A. Valasquez (B/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 Province not reported, South Vietnam.

14 December 1970

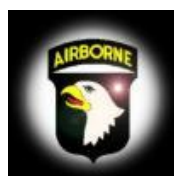


PFC Richard L. Maynard Jr. (D/2-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

14 December 1970



SP4 William J. Odstrcil (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received resulting in his death from hostile injury while missing as a passenger aboard a "Dust Off" helicopter out of Camp Eagle and one of five men who died when the UH-1 Huey was lost. Four of the men were from the Air Ambulance Platoon, 326th Medical Battalion, 101st Airborne.



14 December 2005

PFC Christopher Frew (A/2-101BTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received. A/2-101BTB sent a convoy on a mission to drop off the engineer company's earthmoving assets to JS Bridge. The convoy leadership assigned PFC Frew as the gunner for the convoy's trail vehicle, an M1114. PFC Frew was responsible for the convoy's rear security, thus he had his turret oriented to the convoy's rear. The convoy was traveling southwesterly on Route Sportster when the rear vehicle was hit by an IED of unknown size on the left side of the vehicle towards the vehicle's rear. During the explosion, PFC Frew was wounded in his lip and cheek. Once he was evacuated to FOB Yusufiyah, the medics removed a one centimeter piece of shrapnel from his cheek and also noticed that the blast had chipped one on his teeth and knocked another tooth out of his mouth.

14 December 2005

SSG Francisco J. Garcia (A/2-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation with Valor from for valorous action in combat against a hostile force.

STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

08 December 1968

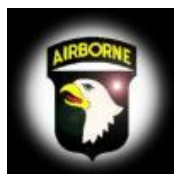


SSG Jorge B. Otero (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor (2-OLC) for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 8 December 1968. Platoon Sergeant Otero distinguished himself while serving as the Reconnaissance Platoon Sergeant of Company E, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, in Quang Dien District, Republic of Vietnam. While on a night operation, an ambush was sprung by the First Squad approximately two hundred meters form the platoon command position. While the Command Group was controlling the action and directing artillery support, it received heavy enemy sniper fire. With complete disregard for his own safety, Platoon Sergeant Otero moved through the enemy fire, a distance of approximately one hundred and fifty meters, in a successful attempt to flank the enemy. From this position, Platoon Sergeant Otero routed the enemy by placing a heavy, accurate volume of fire on the enemy position. Through his courage, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission, which resulted in two enemy killed and no friendly losses. Platoon Sergeant Otero'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, General Order Number 1710, 21 Feb 1969; Amended General Order Number 3316, 25 March 1970)

08 December 1968



1LT John F. Hay (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 8 December 1968. First Lieutenant Hay distinguished himself while serving as the Reconnaissance Platoon leader of Company E, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, in Quang Dien District, Republic of Vietnam. While on a night operation, the first squad of the reconnaissance platoon initiated an ambush approximately two hundred meters form the Command position. Lieutenant Hay immediately began directing illumination and tried to establish radio contact with the first squad leader in order to take command of the situation. Finding that his radio was not operating, Lieutenant Hay moved into the open and began shouting orders and directing the action. The brightness of the illumination and his shouting orders clearly marked his position and snipers fire was directed toward him. With complete disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Hay remained in this position for five minutes, directing his platoon until the action was completed. Through his courage, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission, which resulted in two enemy killed and no friendly losses. Lieutenant Hay'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.



09 December 1965

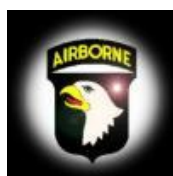
SGT Gene Hawthorne (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself from 9 December 1965 to 10 December 1965 while serving as patrol leader of a squad size element during a reconnaissance mission in “War Zone D”, Republic of Vietnam. After successfully infiltrating into Viet Cong territory, Sergeant Hawthorne’s patrol was to remain in place until they were covered by the forward movement of friendly troops. Despite the skill and experience of the patrol, they were discovered after several hours and engaged by a Viet Cong platoon. Sergeant Hawthorne and his patrol immediately switched their M-16 rifles to automatic and repelled the attack. After two more encounters with the insurgent troops, Sergeant Hawthorne was seriously wounded in both arms by fragments from a booby trap that killed one of his men. After unsuccessfully persuading his men to leave him behind, he directed his assistant in the formation of a defensive perimeter. Sergeant Hawthorne continued to direct his assistant through two more vicious attempts to destroy the patrol. Realizing that his patrol had been out down to three effective fighting men, Sergeant Hawthorne demanded that he be placed in a firing position. Although he was only semi-conscious and could only see a few meters ahead, Sergeant Hawthorne, with complete disregard for his personal safety, held his positions throughout the last assault and delivered deadly fire into the attacking Viet Cong. Summoning the last of his strength, he pinpointed the patrol’s position for an artillery battery and helped his assistant adjust the incoming rounds by the sounds of the bursts. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, the insurgents were forced to withdraw, and a Viet Cong regimental base camp was discovered and subsequently destroyed. Sergeant Hawthorne’s extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

09 December 1965

SGT Robert E. Drake (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself from 9 December 1965 to 10 December 1965 while serving as assistant patrol leader of a squad size element during a reconnaissance mission in “War Zone D”, Republic of Vietnam. After successfully infiltrating into Viet Cong territory, Sergeant Drake’s patrol was to remain in place until they were covered by the forward movement of friendly troops. Despite the skill and experience of the patrol, they were discovered after several hours and engaged by a Viet Cong Platoon. While moving to a more tenable position, the patrol leader was wounded and became too weak to effectively direct the patrol. Sergeant Drake immediately assumed command and formed a defensive perimeter. On the following morning, as he was preparing to extricate his patrol with two wounded and two dead, the Viet Cong launched another assault. Sergeant Drake immediately set up another defensive perimeter and personally prevented a breakthrough on the left flank. When the forward observer was killed, Sergeant Drake, with complete disregard for his personal safety, crawled 30 meters to the radio and called for suppressive artillery fire. At least six times during the course of action, Sergeant Drake exposed himself to direct fire as he maneuvered around the perimeter to distribute ammunition and treat casualties. Through his courage, determination, and outstanding leadership, the insurgents were forced to withdraw, and a Viet Cong regimental base camp was discovered and subsequently destroyed. Sergeant Drake’s extraordinary heroism against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

12 December 1965

SSG Pete A. Valasquez (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself on 12 December 1965 while serving as a squad leader in an airborne infantry battalion on a search and destroy operation in Ben Cat, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Valasquez was assigned to the lead platoon of the battalion. At approximately 0915 hours while advancing through dense jungle terrain, one squad in the platoon came under fire from an estimated Viet Cong squad. Hearing the initial burst of fire, Sergeant Valasquez quickly moved his squad to the front to assist the squad under fire. Upon reaching the area, the insurgent squad had slipped back into the jungle leaving several trails of blood. Without hesitation, Sergeant Valasquez led four of his men along the trail of blood in relentless pursuit of the insurgents. As they stopped off the small



trail, six Viet Cong opened fire from concealed positions with automatic weapons and hand grenades. Sergeant Valasquez was wounded four times, but he quickly turned to his men and directed their fire on the insurgents. As the fire fight progressed, a grenade wounded him for the fifth time and he fell to the ground unconscious and shortly afterwards died from his wounds. Throughout the brief but ferocious battle, Sergeant Valasquez placed the welfare of his men and the accomplishment of the mission above his personal safety. His leadership, devotion to duty, and gallantry were an inspiration to his men. Sergeant Valasquez's gallant 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.

12 December 2010



The following Soldiers: 1LT Cory Kastl and SFC Stanford Pottruff (B/2-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart while they distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service with 2nd platoon, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

In the weeks leading up to the attack, insurgent forces had staged multiple attacks directed at Strong Point Diwar. They possessed freedom of maneuver due to the cover and concealment gained through multiple ditch lines. The majority of the attacks were aimed at CF/ANA in an attempt to disrupt friendly activity. At approximately 0850, insurgents attacked SP Diwar with a VBIED.

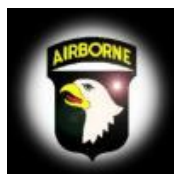
SFC Pottruff was in the northeastern room planning the upcoming mission with our ANA brothers when the VBIED detonated and the rubble began falling from the roof. Despite being buried from the blast, which caused injuries and suffering from disorientation, SFC Pottruff quickly pulled himself from the rubble, regained his composure and gained control of the chaos. The blast and concussion from the VBIED caved in the northeastern roof and the northern wall. Underneath the rubble, there were multiple people trapped. 1LT Kastl, who was in the southeastern room, was woken up by the VBIED and the rubble falling from the roof. He was buried under a caved in roof, but was quickly pulled from the rubble.



SFC Pottruff reestablished security in order to mitigate the effectiveness of a possible complex attack while 1LT Kastl immediately attempted to regain communication with company headquarters. The Company Command Post was located at COP Sangsar 900 meters east of SP Diwar. SFC Pottruff called for a quick reaction force, and even though 1LT Kastl was injured, he continued to maintain communication with the Company Command Post, checked security in order to protect the remaining members in his platoon, and SFC Pottruff and 1LT Kastl aided in the recovery of the fallen.

SFC Pottruff resuscitated CPL Wright after he was uncovered and was present as each Soldier was recovered from the ruins. Despite his injuries, and recognizing his Soldiers' need for a ground commander, 1LT Kastl and SFC Pottruff refused to board the MEDEVAC. For over an hour, 1LT Kastl demonstrated steadfast composure and established command and control on the chaotic battlefield. SFC Pottruff continued to check on security, manage the recovery efforts and send accurate reports to both his platoon leader and 1SG. During this time, 1LT Kastl coordinated and directed rotary wing overwatch assets, a Battalion QRF, and multiple MEDEVAC helicopters.

1LT Kastl and SFC Pottruff's valorous actions after a catastrophic event resulted in the successful defense of SP Diwar and saved the lives of their Soldiers.



13 December 1967 –
20 November 1968

SGT Ronald J. Ymbras (1/502d IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for 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 this extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United State Mission to the Republic of Vietnam to assist that country in ridding itself of the 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. (HQ; 101st ABN DIV; General Order No: 9860; 26 November 1968)



***STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

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

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

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

