



# 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AASLT) “STRIKE HISTORY” 08 February – 14 February 2015



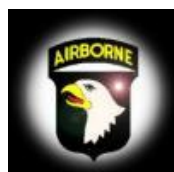
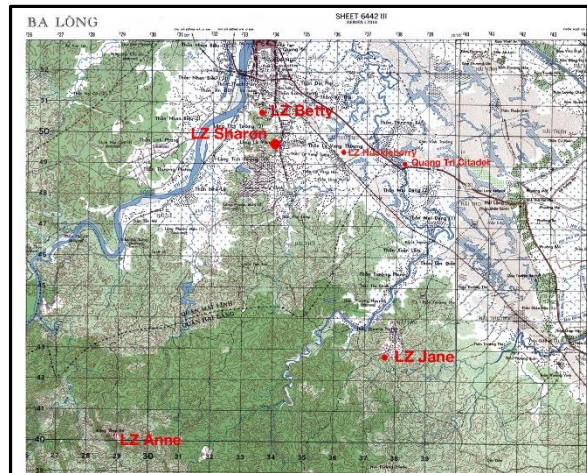
08 February 1968 1-502 IN Battalion continued search and destroy operations southeast of Quang Tri, light contact was made during the day. Battalion received message from Brigade “Aerial observation and other sources gave 1/502 credit for 250 KIA (BC) for period 04 thru 08 February 1968.” Results: Friendly 82 WIA 12 KIA; Enemy 6 WIA/POW 305 KIA (BC) 100 KIA (Estimated)

08 February 1968 During the night, Alpha and Bravo 1/502 IN; NDP site was infiltrated by sappers. Attacks were very heavy. Results: Friendly: 8 KIA, 19 WIA; Enemy: 11 NVA KIA (BC).

08 February 1969 FB Veghel closed as the 2nd Brigade began to phase out its operations against enemy supply routes out of the A Shau. The 1st Brigade’s O-Deuce continued to RIF deeper into the 4th NVA Regiment base area southeast of Phu Loc.



09 February 1968 1/502 was helilifted to LZ Sharon; its foxhole strengths (A -91, B -104, D-136 and E-107) were evidence of its days of heavy fighting. C Company would join it from the south the next day. By nightfall February 10 the 1/502 would move by CH-47 to LZ Jane and we would be a two battalion brigade. (By LTG (then COL) John H. Cushman)



09 – 10 February 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** Recon/2-502 picked up on VC from a church where he was hiding in hopes of surrendering to a US unit. Man was classified as a local VC Chieu Hoi. B/2-502 was released from OPCON MACV HQ and closed Bien Hoa. A/2-502 released from OPCON II FFV CP Fwd and closed Bien Hoa on 10Feb.



09 February 1970 On this morning FB Birmingham received 3 mortar rounds.

09 February 1970 Combined forces in the 1st Brigade AO engaged two enemy, killing five and capturing the other five. 2/502 paratroopers with 1st ARVN Soldiers killed two and captured two weapons. The Ready To Go 2nd Brigade terminated operation. FB Bastogne, near the A Chau, was closed.

10 February 1967 **Operation GATTLING I & II:** POW camp was found and 16 indigenous prisoners were liberated. It appeared that the camp had held more than 100 people, including VC jailers and staff; the bulk of whom had been removed. The brief action involved in taking the camp resulted in 1 VC KHA and 2 weapons captured.

During the remainder of the operation units were extracted from the AO one at a time to return to Phan Rang and bring their gear to Phan Thiet, which became the 2-502d forward base camp. Having moved their baggage, the companies returned to the field.

10 February 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** 2-502 had conducted extensive search and destroy operations and was conducted with only sporadic light contact with local force units. Contact with main force VC/NVA units failed to materialize.

Results of Operation KLAMATH FALLS:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>WIA</u>
US	3	23	2

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VC KIA</u>	<u>NVA KIA</u>	<u>Wpns Ind.</u>	<u>Returnee</u>
ENEMY	23	1	8 AK-47's	2

The Battalion personnel strength at the conclusion of Operation was as follows:

Authorized:	778
Assigned:	696
Present for Duty:	620
Not present for duty:	78

10 February 1968 COL Cushman directs 2nd Brigade to concentrate on combined operations with ARVN and Province forces within the brigade's AO.

10 February 1969 Penetration into enemy base areas and extensive operations on the plains resulted in occasional contacts with squad to platoon sized elements. As 2/501 pursued the 5th NVA Regiment near Nui Ke, A Company killed two enemy. The 3rd Brigade initiated a new phase of its operation. Camp Evans received two 122mm rockets, one landing inside the perimeter. In a 20-minute firefight, B/3/506 killed four of 10 enemy and took four weapons and documents.

10 February 1970 Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Platoon discovered an enemy mortar site. The platoon was able to recover 11 mortar rounds, 30 firing caps in



2



a can, and numerous firing caps on the ground. Apparently duds as they appeared to have been pried out of the tail section of the rounds that didn't set off. The firing caps have the appearance of 12 gauge shot gun shells. The Platoon called in a disposal unit who flew in by helicopter and removed the ordinance.

10 February 2006

Howitzer platoon assigned to B/1-320 FA, firing out of FOB Mahmudiyah North, received a call for fire from a 1-75CAV element caught in an ambush. The CAV element had made contact with dug-in, well-armed AIF, and was pinned down by crew served weapons fire, unable to maneuver. Fixed wing assets could not properly locate the target or safe friendly troops.

In the firefight with the CAV element, AIF had fallen back from their prepared trenches to two buildings close by. 1-75 CAV's initial call for fire requested HE/DELAY, in an attempt to punch through the roofs of the buildings. A two round adjust was fired, and repeated with a point detonation setting. Once the observer on the ground observed effects on target, he called for a four round fire for effect. Subsequent maneuver and site exploitation found 14 AIF KIA in the rubble of both houses.

11 - 16  
February 1968

**Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry moved to Danang from Bien Hoa. This was conducted in two phases.

11 - 16  
10 February 1968

**Operation Unnamed:** Operation Began (2-502 IN); Locations: Bien Hoa Province, RVN; Saigon, RVN; South China Sea; Danang, RVN; Task Organization: (TF Danford): 2-502 IN, 1/A/326 ENG, C/2-320 ARTY, IPW, 181 MI Detachment.

Mission: The 2d BN (Abn), 502d INF moved by motor march from Bien Hoa to Newport, Saigon, and LST to Danang, RVN. (AAR 17FEB1968)

The Battalion personnel strength at the beginning of Operation was as follows:

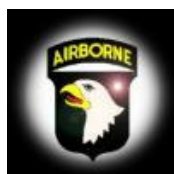
Authorized:	778
Assigned:	681
Present for Duty:	588
Not present for duty:	93

Execution:

Phase I – This phase included the prepositioning of cargo and personnel at the Newport docks for further deployment by ship. At 111345H Feb the cargo was carried by motor convoy for boarding at Newport. At 120815H Feb, the 1<sup>st</sup> of 2 March units departed Bien Hoa for Newport. The second march unit departed Bien Hoa 120830H.



3





Phase II – At 121210H Feb, the 1<sup>st</sup> LST departed Newport for Danang with A/2-502, C/2-320 Arty, and the command element abroad. At 121130H Feb, the second LST departed Newport with remainder of the TF.



Results: At 161600H Feb, the last elements of TF Danford closed Danang, RVN.

11 February 1970

**Operation RANDLOPH GLEN:** 2-502 (STRIKE Force) Battalion receives approximately fifty 60mm mortar rounds at Fire Base Rifle. The ground mortar attack is followed by an attack by an unknown number of enemy sappers. The attack lasted for approximately 45 min. The Strike Force troopers successfully repel the attack but not until nine Strike Force Soldiers gave their lives in defense of the firebase, killing 12 NVA. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)



12 February 1968

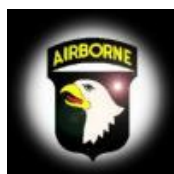
1-502 IN Battalion continues search and destroy operations east of Quang Tri and security of LZ Jane. Contact light with 1 WIA by booby-trap.

12 February 1969

The Screaming Eagle Division's "orphan" battalion in II Corps, the 3/506 Currahees, was in heavy contact. Charlie Company combat assaulted into a hot LZ in support of RFs and was immediately engaged by the NVA. In a seven-hour firefight, the paratroopers killed 20 enemy while D/2/320 Arty killed five. Other elements of I Field Force's Task Force South accounted for another 28 enemy killed. Back in I Corps, the 1st Brigade opened a new offensive operation with a combat assault by 2/502 north and east of FB Brick. The 2nd Brigade's 1/501 established a new cordon southwest of FB Sandy. Elsewhere, Screaming Eagles deployed to complement the disposition of ARVN troops for the Tet holidays..

12 February 2009

2BSTB holds a Remembrance Ceremony to honor the fallen STRIKE Soldiers from OIFs 05- 07 and 07-09. Fallen Soldiers include SSG Stephen Seale, SGT Carlton Clark, and CPL Jose Zamora from OIF 05-07 and CPL Jessica Ellis from OIF 07-09.



12 February 2009

2-502 IN holds a Remembrance Ceremony to honor the fallen STRIKE Soldiers from OIF 07- 09. Fallen Soldiers include SSG Shaun J. Whitehead and SPC William J. McClellan.



12 February 2009

STRIKE holds a Remembrance Ceremony to honor the fallen STRIKE Soldiers from OIF 05-07. The following is the symbolism of the monument: The OIF 07-09 Monument honors the fallen comrades of 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division.



The black granite with an outline of a heart in the center is the symbol that represents the 502nd Infantry Regiment. The symbol was attained during WWII. Inside of the heart is a map of the 502nd IN Regiment's Operational Environment in Baghdad, the districts of Al Mansour, Kadhimiya and Karkh. The Iraq map to the bottom left shows the 2-502nd Operational Area. A Bald Eagle is superimposed in the heart; this represents our enduring presence in North West Baghdad, Iraq. The Area of Responsibility map and the map of Iraq to the bottom left of the black heart are embellished with 16 gold stars representing the locations where 502nd IN Regiment Soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice. On the upper left corner is the 101st Division Patch. On the upper right corner is the 502nd Infantry Regiment "STRIKE" unit crest. The casualties from each Battalion in our BCT are listed by name, rank and task force of each Fallen Eagle. The unit crests for all Battalions that comprised the 502nd BCT during OIF 07-09 are listed across the memorial base.

12 February 2010

STRIKE Brigade conducts a Combined Arms Rehearsal at Fort Campbell in preparation for deployment to its JRTC mission rehearsal exercise in Fort Polk, La.

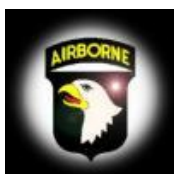


13 February 1968

1-502 IN Battalion continues search and destroy operations southeast of Quang Tri and security of LZ Jane. Negative contact made.

13 February 1969

The new Leech Island operation continued as 2/502 searched for an enemy sapper battalion. 2/501 continued to recon in the Nui Ke area, killing three enemy. 2/17 Cav gunships, while supporting the 9th Marines' Operation Dewey Canyon north of the A Shau, killed five enemy. 3/506 Currahees discovered 22-1/2 tons of rice.



- 14 February 1968      During the reporting period the 1-502 IN Battalion continued S&D (Search and Destroy) operations to the southeast of Quang Tri and continued to furnish security along QL #10 northwest to Hai Lang
- 14 February 1969      The 3rd Brigade initiated a new phase of its operation against the 6th NVA Regiment with 1/506 completing an air assault and beginning a RIF toward FB Sword. Screaming Eagles conducted extensive patrol and RIF operations aimed at thwarting enemy attempts to position for a repetition's of 1968's Tet Offensive. Four enemy were killed and 16 weapons captured during the day. The largest haul, of 12 weapons, was found in a hut near Leech Island by Strike Force troopers. Included in the find were nine M-2 carbines, two Chicom SMGs and an Russian SMG. Near Nui Ke, paratroopers of 2/501 killed two VC and captured an RPG launcher and an AK-47.
- 14 February 1971      The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry moved to field location YD934078 just to the south of Anzio, with Alpha Company providing security. The elements of Charlie Company were taken to Phu Bai Combat Base to conduct nightly ambushes to aid in the defense of the installation.

**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 502<sup>nd</sup> IN Regiment.**

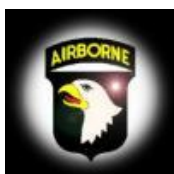
- 1 x Distinguished Service Cross (1 x Posthumously)
- 7 x Silver Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
- 2 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
- 3 x Bronze Star Medal (3 x Posthumously)
- 3 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 58 x Purple Heart Medal (42 x Posthumously)

08 February 1966      SP4 Clarence Galloway (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

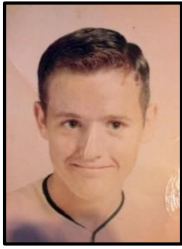
08 February 1969      SP4 Donald L. Kipp (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



08 February 1969      PFC Robert D. DeBoard (D/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operations when he was hit by fragments from a short friendly artillery round directed at a hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



08 February 1969



SP4 Joseph O. Strickland (D/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operations when he was hit by fragments from a short friendly artillery round directed at a hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 February 2006

SPC Ian Brinson (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for actions in combat. During a dismounted patrol, SPC Brinson took rocket propelled gun fire, the round hit the M1114 that the Soldier was standing next to. He took shrapnel to the left shoulder and received ear damage.

08 February 2006

SPC Christopher McDaniel (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for actions in combat. During a dismounted patrol, SPC McDaniel took rocket propelled gun fire, the round hit the M1114 that the Soldier was standing next to. He sustained open wounds to the right hand and right thigh.

08 February 2006

SPC Raymond Perry (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for actions in combat. During a dismounted patrol, SPC Perry took rocket propelled gun fire, the round hit the M1114 that the Soldier was standing next to. He sustained a perforated left ear drum.

08 February 2011

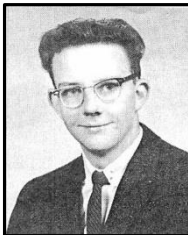


SPC Nathan Carse (2-595 ENG, 176<sup>th</sup> BDE), 32, of Harrod, Ohio, earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received. SPC Carse died of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol using an improvised explosive device.

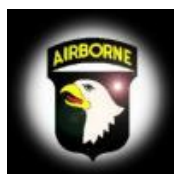
09 February 1966

1LT William D. Settlemire (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from a gunshot wound to the head while engaged in hostile ground action when the platoon was ambushed southwest of Tuy Hoa, Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

09 February 1966



SGT John D. Bowman III (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from a gunshot wound to the neck and head while engaged in hostile ground action when the platoon was ambushed southwest of Tuy Hoa, Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.





09 February 1966



SGT William Cooley (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple gunshot wounds in the abdomen while engaged in hostile ground action when the platoon was ambushed southwest of Tuy Hoa, Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

09 February 1966



PFC Johnny P. Price (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in death from gunshot wounds to the stomach and back while engaged in hostile ground action when the platoon was ambushed southwest of Tuy Hoa, Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

09 February 1966

PFC John H. Mincey (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from a gunshot wound to the head while engaged in hostile ground action when the platoon was ambushed southwest of Tuy Hoa, Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

09 February 1966

CPT Hendrik O. Lunde (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, General Order Number 147; 27MAY1966)

09 February 1968

The following Soldier: 1SG Joseph W. Rounseville (Pictured), SSG Bernard J. Caron, CPL Clyde L. De Mello, and SP4 Donald S. Waite (Pictured) (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from fragment wounds while in a night defensive position when the area came under hostile attack in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



09 February 1968

SP4 Charles E. Novel (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when a hostile satchel charge detonated while on night perimeter defense when the area came under hostile attack in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

09 February 1968

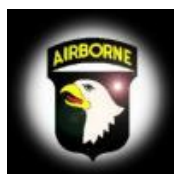
SP6 Charles J. Crawford Jr. (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received while in a night defensive position when the area came under hostile attack in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

09 February 1968

SP4 Benjamin J. Terejko Jr. (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.

09 February 1968

SP4 Thomas Norton (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot





wounds when he engaged hostile forces in a firefight while on a night defensive position in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

10 February 1945

T/4 Clarence J. Kell (C/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during WWII in Belgium, Germany.

11 February 1970

The following Soldiers: PFC Timothy C. Farrell and SP4 Vincent M. La Rocca (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and from wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms fire wounds at FSB Rifle, 16k WSW of Phu Bai, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



11 February 1970

The following Soldiers: SP4 Raymond R. Moon (Pictured) (HHC/2-502 IN), PFC Morgan L. Cahoon (Pictured), SP4 John J. Burns Jr., and PFC Harold W. Shuler (E/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and from wounds received their deaths from artillery, rocket, mortar fire wounds at FSB Rifle, 16k WSW of Phu Bai, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



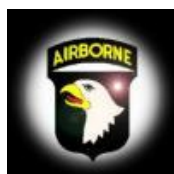
11 February 1970

The following Soldiers: SGT Robert R. Davis and PFC Marlin T. Peterson (E/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and from wounds received their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds at FSB Rifle, 16k WSW of Phu Bai, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



11 February 1970

SGT Danny E. Chavez (HHC 2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, General Order Number 6936; 19 June 1970)



12 February 1969



SP4 Antonino Ruggeri (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operations when engaged hostile force in a firefight. SP4 Ruggeri was admitted to a military hospital, placed on the VSI list and later expired in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

12 February 2006

PFC James Young (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart fo actions in combat for shrapnel received on his left bicep from a VCIED.

13 February 1968



CPT Felix Sosa-Camejo (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

13 February 1968

SGT Franklin Delano R. Hatton (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds when he was hit by hostile automatic weapons fire while on combat operations on January 25th in the Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam.

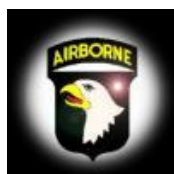
13 February 1969

The following Soldiers: 1LT Robert C. Wilkins, SGT Darryl F. Dilger, SP4 Joe A. Ysais (Pictured), PFC Salvadore O. Ricardo Jr. (A/2-501 IN); 1LT Donald C. Murnock (Pictured), SP4 George H. Keathley, PFC Santiago Nunez (B/1-502 IN); SP4 Floyd J. White Jr., PFC Winston L. Bower, PFC David B. Newell (E/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received during action against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (General Orders Number 2072; 9 March 1969) (Pictures L-R)



13 February 1969

The following Soldiers: CPL Philip R. Frankiewicz and CPL Dennis E. Dawson (A/2-501 IN); SGT John W. Mendez (B/2-501 IN); SP4 Bedford M. Morris Jr. (B/1-502 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. (Pictures L-R)



13 February 1970



SSG Ronald L. Haug (E/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 while at an artillery firing position when the area came under attack by a hostile force at FSB Rifle. He was admitted to a military medical facility and alter expired on February 13<sup>th</sup>, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



13 February 1970



PFC Richard J. Gorges (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

13 February 2006

SGT David Rudnick (D/1-22 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during combat by an IED while conducting combat operations. He suffered a minor concussion and laceration to the chin.

13 February 2008

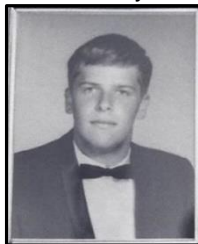
SPC Antonio Johnson (1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during combat by an enemy force.

14 February 1968



SP4 Harold L. Begody (D/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

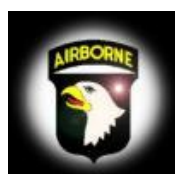
14 February 1968



PFC William Blakely (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 while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

14 February 1968

PFC Rodolfo De Leon (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.



14 February 1969

CPL Salvador O. Ricardo (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

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

08 February 2011



1LT Patrick Lavin and SSG Patrick Smith Jr. (2-595 ENG) earned the ARCOM with Valor when he distinguished himself by his exceptionally valorous conduct during combat operations as a Sapper Executive Officer and Sapper Platoon Sergeant in 1st platoon, 595th Sapper Company, 2nd Engineer Battalion in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



1LT Lavin and his team, consisting of SPC Carse, PFC Kitterman and SSG Smith were providing dismounted Sapper support to 1st platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment during an operation to destroy multiple enemy bunkers south of the village of Mollyan. While maneuvering to the location of the first bunker, PFC Kitterman, using a Vallons metal detector, identified a possible improvised explosive device (IED).

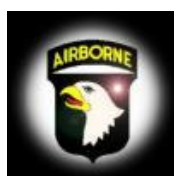
SSG Smith moved PFC Kitterman to cover and manually probed to locate the IED. After locating the IED SSG Smith placed a demolition charge on it in order to blow it in place and allow the mission to continue safely. After reducing the IED, SSG Smith led his team to complete the clearance and demolition of the targeted bunker. Upon completion of the demolition, 1LT Kerr, the 1st platoon leader for HHT, 1-75 CAV, notified SSG Smith via radio that his platoon had located another bunker to the east. At that time SSG Smith began to lead the team toward the next bunker.

While en-route to the bunker the last man in the formation, SPC Carse, triggered a victim operated IED (VOIED). SSG Smith, hearing the explosion, immediately checked his Soldiers and identified that the last man in the patrol had been struck. He identified SPC Carse down in the grape field and heard 1LT Lavin call "IED strike." Despite knowing that there were likely further IEDs within his immediate vicinity, 1LT Lavin and SSG Smith immediately ran to SPC Carse while calling the patrol leader on the radio to request the medic and initiate the 9-line MEDEVAC request.

Upon reaching SPC Carse, 1LT Lavin immediately assessed the extent of the injuries and lifted SPC Carse's gear from his face to allow him to breathe. 1LT Lavin reassured SPC Carse that he would be alright in order to calm him and help him control his breathing. 1LT Lavin then applied a tourniquet to SPC Carse's left leg, which was amputated in the blast. As SSG Smith and other members of the patrol arrived at the site to help, 1LT Lavin, remaining calm and focused, directed them to assist with treating the multiple injuries. SSG Smith immediately began applying a tourniquet to SPC Carse's left arm, which was amputated in the blast.



After the medic arrived on scene, SSG Smith continued to assist the treatment while reassuring SPC Carse that he was going to be alright.





As the medic attempted to stabilize SPC Carse, SSG Smith directed the other Soldiers to help load him onto the litter. Despite the certain risk of further IEDs in the same vicinity, SSG Smith carried the litter to the helicopter landing zone, about 150 meters across a wadi from the blast site. 1LT Lavin secured a smoke grenade from SSG Smith to mark the landing zone. When the helicopter landed 1LT Lavin and SSG Smith used their bodies to shield SPC Carse and then loaded him onto the helicopter. After the helicopter departed SSG Smith rallied his team to recover SPC Carse's equipment and continue clearance of the area to protect the rest of the patrol from secondary IEDs.

As the platoon moved back toward the vehicle dismount point from the IED strike site, two local boys approached the patrol and offered to identify two IEDs. SSG Smith, maintaining his focus despite the traumatic events, destroyed both IEDs in place prior to continuing back to the vehicle drop off point.

1LT Lavin's calm and professional demeanor, as well as his instantaneous and selfless reaction following the blast, allowed SPC Carse to receive care rapidly and helped protect the rest of the patrol from secondary IEDs.

SSG Smith's composure, selfless service and warrior ethos enabled his team to continue their mission even after a catastrophic IED strike and his skill and leadership certainly saved the lives of his team and those around him several times during the mission.

08 February 2011



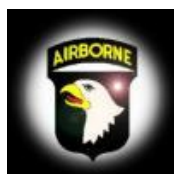
PFC Keith Garcia earned the ARCOM with Valor when he distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct at the risk of personal injury during a bunker clearance mission and subsequent IED strike in Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

CTF Warrior, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment and the 595th Engineer Company partnered with 4/2/3/205 Corps ANA conducted a mission to clear and destroy known enemy bunkers. The clearance was conducted in order to disrupt Taliban influence and IED production in the area of operations and deny the enemy use of several reinforced bunkers. PFC Garcia accompanied the patrol as the combat medic and remained with the platoon sergeant while one bunker was reduced. Following the reduction of the first bunker, a second bunker was discovered. As the attached engineer squad moved towards the new bunker to prepare it for reduction, a pressure plate IED detonated resulting in the serious injury of a Soldier.

With complete disregard for his personal safety, PFC Garcia immediately ran through 250 meters of uncleared grape orchards in order to reach the wounded Soldier. Upon reaching the triple amputee, PFC Garcia took over medical treatment and began administering first aid. While performing initial care, PFC Garcia simultaneously kept his platoon sergeant and platoon leader informed of the situation so that they could transmit the 9-line MEDEVAC request and MIST report. PFC Garcia provided guidance for the other Soldiers who were helping to treat and move the casualty, allowing for a maximum amount of help for the severely wounded Soldier.



PFC Garcia skillfully applied three tourniquets and administered an IV drip to the Soldier, then directed the other Soldiers as they fastened him into a compact



SKEDCO and prepared to move him to the MEDEVAC LZ. At the HLZ, PFC Garcia performed one last carotid pulse check and discovered that the casualty lost his pulse due to the initial loss of blood and immediately began administering CPR. As a direct result, PFC Garcia successfully revived the casualty's pulse in the middle of an HLZ



while exposed to possible direct enemy fire. He continued monitoring the casualty with disregard for his own personal safety until the MEDEVAC helicopters successfully evacuated the Soldier from the site.

PFC Garcia's actions that day further distinguished himself in both maturity and bravery among his peers. As a junior enlisted Soldier, he personally directed six other Soldiers while treating the casualty at the blast site. He remained calm following a catastrophic IED blast, provided effective first aid to a critically wounded Soldier, and led the physical evacuation of the casualty. PFC Garcia's immediate actions in an IED saturated area enabled him to care for an injured comrade. His actions were decisive, professional, and undeniably selfless which set an example for all Soldiers to follow.

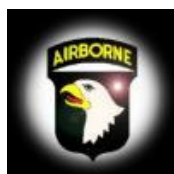
09 February 1966

CPT Henrik O. Lunde (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 9 February 1966 while serving as a company commander on a search and destroy mission near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. When the lead elements of the company approached the end of a narrow valley, they were engaged by an estimated Viet Cong company. During a lull in the action at dusk, Captain Lunde reorganized his forces and was leading them to a secured landing zone to evacuate casualties when the lead platoon was viciously attacked by a Viet Cong force. Although Captain Lunde and his command group were pinned down in the open by a murderous crossfire from two machine guns, Captain Lunde skillfully directed his executive officer in the defense of the remainder of the company. When the small group received intense grenade and mortar fire, Captain Lunde fearlessly led a bold frontal assault on the Viet Cong positions. Inspired by his courage, the small force overran the hostile emplacements. When their new position received a crossfire from two Viet Cong machine guns, he detected movement in the bushes. Captain Lunde, having used all of his grenades and not wanting to give away the exact location of his small perimeter, jumped up from his concealed position, and killed a Viet Cong with a burst of accurate fire. Captain Lunde's alertness and courageous action saved the small group from certain disaster. Throughout the course of the battle, Captain Lunde displayed aggressiveness, outstanding leadership, and inspired his men by his example. His unimpeachable valor 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 February 1966



SGT John D. Bowman III (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 9 February 1966 while serving as a member of a company whose mission was to relieve the pressure on friendly elements that were pinned down by a numerically superior Viet Cong force in the vicinity of Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1700 hours, while his platoon was maneuvering along a tree line, they were attacked by an entrenched and well camouflaged Viet Cong force. As the platoon advanced, it came upon an open area. Realizing that his men must cross the hazardous area to assist the other elements and unite the company, Sergeant Bowman rallied his man and personally led them across the open area. While leading his men, Sergeant Bowman was mortally wounded. His courageous actions, which had forced the Viet Cong to concentrate their fire on him, enabled the platoon leader to



maneuver a squad to the flank and overrun the insurgent position. As a result three Viet Cong were killed and a machine gun was captured. His inspiring leadership while receiving intense hostile fire, and devotion to duty at the cost of his life, contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Sergeant Bowman's 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.

09 February 1966

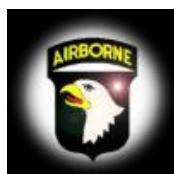
SSG Jose S. Laguana (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 9 February 1966 while serving as a platoon leader in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date, elements of the second platoon were engaged in a vicious fire fight with an entrenched Viet Cong force armed with automatic weapons and machine guns. As the hostile fire grew in intensity, the second platoon and the command element were pinned down. The first platoon was called to maneuver to the right along a creek bank and destroy a hostile position. Viet Cong machine gun fire pinned down the first platoon also. At this time, Staff Sergeant Laguana located the hostile machine gun and, with complete disregard for his safety, moved courageously around the Viet Cong machine gun position. After approaching to within 20 meters of the hostile position, Staff Sergeant Laguana braved almost certain death by charging through intense machine gun fire as he assaulted the hostile emplacement. Staff Sergeant Laguana's courage resulted in the death of two Viet Cong, the capture of a machine gun, an automatic rifle, and a rocket launcher. Because of his heroic actions the pinned down elements were able to advance, rout the insurgents, and continue their mission. Staff Sergeant Laguana's unimpeachable valor 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 February 1966

1LT William D. Settlemire (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 9 February 1966 while serving as platoon leader on a reconnaissance mission to secure a landing zone for a medical evacuation southwest of Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 2000 hours, while nearing the intended landing zone, his platoon received intense automatic weapons fire from close range on three sides. Although wounded in the initial engagement, First Lieutenant Settlemire refused medical aid, valiantly rallied his men, and moved them into a hasty perimeter. While exposed to the hostile fire, he continued to brave almost certain death as he moved from man to man to locate the wounded, direct their evacuation, encourage his men, and point out targets to them. While First Lieutenant Settlemire was moving to rally his men in a counterattack, he was hit again and mortally wounded. Though their leader had fallen, the momentum of the counterattack enabled his men to rout the Viet Cong force. First Lieutenant Settlemire's 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.

10 February 1967

CPT Charles G. Belan (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for action in combat. The forward elements of Captain Belan's company, while on a search and destroy mission, located an enemy base camp. Immediately, Captain Belan maneuvered his company so as to effectively surround the base camp. As Captain Belan's company began to converge on the base camp, the forward elements were suddenly brought under a murderous volume of enemy fire. Realizing the precarious situation that the lead element was in, Captain Belan quickly began to press the remainder of the company into the assault. When another element of the company was brought under an equally withering volume of enemy fire, Captain Belan, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, charged through the enemy fire and personally led the assault against an



estimated Viet Cong Platoon and successfully routed the enemy force. As the reminder of the company continued to move forward in the assault, another element of the company began to receive heavy enemy fire from a different direction. Again Captain Belan charged through the withering enemy fire and personally led the element against an estimated Viet Cong squad. Once again, an element was brought under fire from an estimated Viet Cong squad and again Captain Belan moved through the enemy fire and led his troops on a successful assault which overran the enemy position. Captain Belan's heroic actions were an inspiration to his men and a direct contribution to the destruction of the enemy base camp. As a result of his exemplary bravery, several enemy soldiers were killed, various weapons captured and sixteen prisoners of the Viet Cong were released, Captain Belan's outstanding gallantry in action and his avid devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

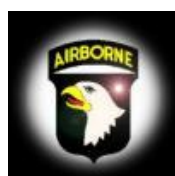
10 February 1967

SGT Fred A. Hendricks (B/2-502) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for action in combat. While on a search and destroy mission, Sergeant Hendricks was moving his squad along a stream when they discovered a rice and salt cache. Realizing the possibility of the enemy being near, Sergeant Hendricks left half of his squad to destroy the cache and with the remainder, he began to establish security on high ground overlooking the stream. Suddenly they were brought under fire by two Viet Cong. Sergeant Hendricks quickly returned the enemy fire and personally killed one enemy soldier and wounded the other. As Sergeant Hendricks maneuvered his element through the enemy position, he suddenly discovered a cleverly concealed complex of approximately twenty buildings and numerous bunkers with people running in apparent confusion. Realizing that he and his squad were up against an estimated reinforced platoon and that the element of surprise was important, Sergeant Hendricks charged forward with complete disregard for his own personal safety and began throwing grenades into the bunkers and dwellings. Sergeant Hendricks' squad quickly followed their inspirational leader without hesitation. Entering one of the dwellings, Sergeant Hendricks come face to face with an enemy soldier pointing a submachine gun directly at him. Dropping to the floor, Sergeant Hendricks fired a burst from his weapon and killed the enemy soldier. It was later discovered that the enemy soldier was identified as a North Vietnamese lieutenant who was the camp commander. Sergeant Hendricks continued to lead his men in the lightning assault on the enemy, forcing the numerically superior element to withdraw from the battle area. As a result of Sergeant Hendricks' actions, an enemy base camp was captured and numerous prisoners of the Viet Cong were liberated. His superior leadership and courageous actions inspired his men to such a degree that the small fire team element routed an estimated reinforced platoon-size enemy element. Sergeant Hendricks' outstanding display of gallantry in section and his avid devotion to duty are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

13 February 1968



CPT Felix Sosa-Camejo (C/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period of 14 November 1967 – 13 February 1968. 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 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 of Army and reflect great credit on him and on the military service. (Bronze Star Citation)





13 February 1969

1LT Donald C. Murnock (B/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 13 February 1969.

Lieutenant Murnock distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry, on a combat operation about twelve miles north of Hue, Republic of Vietnam.

Lieutenant Murnock was leading two squads of the First Platoon during a reconnaissance of a trail in the thick jungle terrain when the First Platoon was engaged by heavy fire from well-

concealed ambush positions. In the course of the firefight, the lead man was struck by an enemy mine fragment and mortally wounded. Three other members of the platoon were seriously wounded, including Lieutenant Murnock, and one of the more seriously wounded was pinned down by the intense volume of fire.

Although Lieutenant Murnock suffered ruptured ear drums from the initial contact, he reorganized the platoon and took the appropriate counter measures.

Realizing that the seriously wounded individual was rapidly losing blood, Lieutenant Murnock, with the aid of his wounded platoon sergeant, directed the assault against the enemy in an attempt to retrieve his wounded and dead. He encouraged the wounded individuals to crawl to safety while he instructed the members of the platoon to provide a base of fire and again assault the enemy position.

He remained in his unprotected position, directing the assault, until the enemy was repelled. Although his condition was serious, he thought of his men's welfare before his own safety and insisted that his men be evacuated first.

Lieutenant Murnock'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. (General Order Number 3782; 25 April 1969)



13 February 1969

SGT Roger J. Barski (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 February 1969.

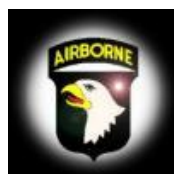
Sergeant Barski distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company A, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, in the mountains southwest of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, Company A made contact with a large North Vietnamese force.

During the ensuing firefight, the platoon leader of the second platoon was wounded by enemy fire and was unable to continue at his post.

Sergeant Barski quickly assumed command and began to direct his men in suppressing the enemy fire. He moved from position to position, often completely unprotected from the intense enemy fire.

After directing his men in providing an effective base of fire, he crawled forward to assist his wounded platoon leader and another wounded man. While under direct enemy fire, he administered emergency first aid to both men and then dragged them back to the company perimeter.

After assuring their safety, Sergeant Barski led the platoon in an assault on the enemy positions, and succeeded in silencing them in close quarter fighting. Sergeant Barski'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. (SGT Barski middle individual in picture)

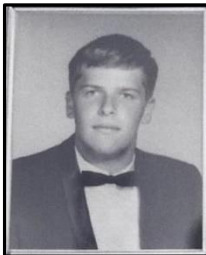
13 February 1969

SP4 Ethen D. Smith (B/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 February 1969. Specialist Smith distinguished himself while serving with Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry, as a radio operator on a combat operation about twelve miles southwest of Hue, Republic of

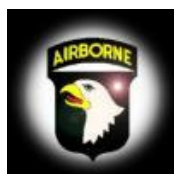


Vietnam. Company B, headquarters, and two squads of the first platoon were conducting a reconnaissance of a trail in thick jungle terrain. The lead squad suddenly received intense fire from the front. The lead man was immediately killed by a mine, and three other personnel were seriously wounded by the initial contact. One of the more seriously wounded individuals was pinned down by the intense volume of fire, and was unable to crawl to safety. Specialist Smith, with complete disregard for his own life, crawled through the heavy volume of fire. On the third attempt he successfully reached his wounded comrade. Du to his display of courage, the wounded man was able to receive immediate medical care. Specialist Smith'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, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division; General Order Number 3587; 20 April 1969)

14 February 1968



PFC William Blakely (D/1-501 IN) was awarded 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 D, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Private First Class Blakely distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 14 February 1968 during a search and clear operation in the Hai Lang Area of Quang Tri Province. He was acting as point man for his platoon as it swept through a village. He discovered a line of bunkers manned by North Vietnamese Army Regulars, and the platoon was immediately hit with hostile automatic weapons fire and command detonated mines. Although wounded by the initial barrage, Private Blakely began hurling hand grenades onto the enemy positions, killing two North Vietnamese soldiers. He then sought cover behind a haystack to his platoon's front, and from there he saw his squad leader lying wounded and unconscious fifteen meters from the enemy bunkers. With complete disregard for his safety, Private Blakely crawled forward under intense fire to rescue the man and brought him back to the shelter of the haystack. Ignoring the pain of his injuries, he then continued to engage the enemy with rifle fire and hand grenades. While in an act of throwing a grenade, he was seriously wounded by an exploding enemy rocket round. He clutched the activated grenade and fell forward on it, saving the lives of his squad leader and a medic, and preventing injuries to other members of his squad who were close by. Private First Class Blakely'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. (G.O. Number 4316; 11 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."



## 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

