



## 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AASLT) "STRIKE HISTORY" 08 June – 14 June 2014



08 June 1967

**Operation MALHEUR:** The 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry remained at CARENTAN Base and assumed the mission of Brigade Reserve. Troop A, 2nd Squadron (Airborne), 17th Cavalry continued to provide security for the beach logistical site, to operate OP's from the high ground in the vicinity of CARENTAN Base and to assist the Military Police Platoon, 1st Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in providing route security and convoy escort for logistical convoys moving between the beach and the airfield complex along the MSR.

08 June 1968

1-502 had heavy activity with all units reporting at least light contact. The BN killed 4 VC, captured 4 VC and 2 M-16, 1 AK-47, 1 Czech MG and ammo. US Troops had three slightly wounded by shrapnel. Two of the VC captured was in a sampan hauling rice down the river. They said that VC used this method quite often.

08 June 1969

Fighting continued into the fifth day in the area of HILL 376 as the 1-501 again met determined enemy resistance while elsewhere in the AO contact was light. At 0345H, A/501, vic. BT206124, detected movement outside the unit NDP, and engaged with claymores; the enemy returned RPG fire. A first light sweep confirmed 1 NVA KIA and 1 IWC. At 1210H, a and D/1-501, vic. BT202123, received small arms, light machinegun and grenade fire from an unknown size enemy force; the element returned fire and employed air and artillery against the enemy. The fighting continued until 1840H with the units accounting for 2 NVA KIA and 1 IWC, while suffering 1 US MIA and 9 US WIA.

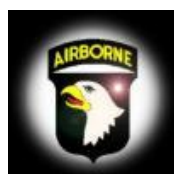
08 June 1969

**Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** On the morning of July 8, Alpha Company, 1/502nd Infantry made a grueling march to a location about 3 km northeast of Hau Duc. There, in a fallow rice paddy, they were supposed to rendezvous with a resupply helicopter. CPT Chuck Scribner ordered his third platoon to move forward and recon the area before putting out two squads as perimeter security. As those two squads advanced, the lead squad discovered a line of comms wire. When they reported their finding, they were ordered to follow the wire, which led to a small hootch. With a man on each flank, the squad leader stepped forward and fired into the hootch, killing three NVA soldiers.

The lead squad then turned around and moved back down the trail. Suddenly they heard intense rifle and machine-gun fire. The second squad was caught in an ambush with the enemy positioned on the right side of the trail, and a pair of machine guns, one located on each side, firing directly down the trail. Enemy mortars located on higher ground supported the ambush.

Under intense fire, the ambushed squad maneuvered to form a small defensive position, and desperately fought amid a hail of mortar and RPG fire. Meanwhile, the enemy flanked the lead squad under cover of mortar fire. A fierce firefight ensued. During the confusion of battle, some of the men became separated from the squad while others fell wounded or dead. Late in the afternoon, Alpha's three dead and five wounded were evacuated by helicopter to Chu Lai. The enemy finally broke off the fighting at around 8:00 p.m. There was no radio contact with the two cut-off platoons. Thirteen men were declared missing in action.

During the night, the enemy searched some of the bodies of the missing Alpha Company soldiers; some were still alive and feigned death. Toward morning the enemy recovered



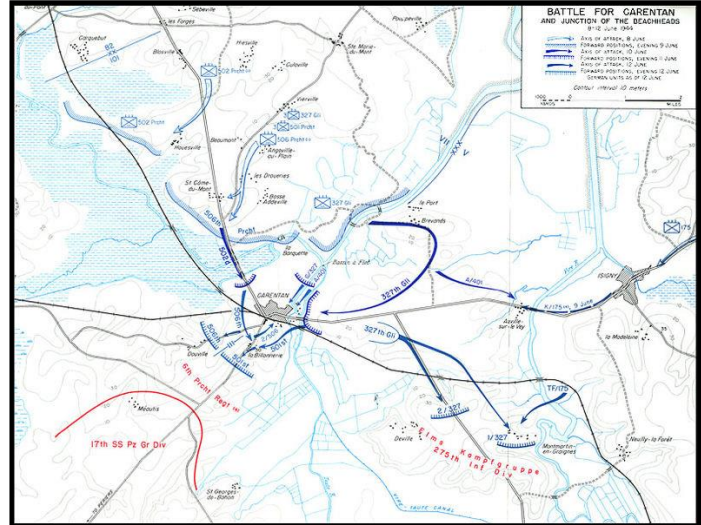
and buried their dead, and began to move out of the area. They left behind some snipers and a small harassment force. (Bitter Fighting In Quang Tin, Roger Ables)

08 June 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** D/2-502 returned to the STRIKE Force, while the CP, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon of B Company became OPCON to the 1-327<sup>th</sup> Infantry. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon of A Company found three graves with NVA/VA killed by air strikes. Also a cache was found with an RPD machine gun, AK-50's, 9mm pistol, ammunition and satchel charges plus 150 pounds of rice.

09 June 1944

On 9 June the 101st finished consolidating, with the 502nd PIR guarding the right flank along the upper Douve River, the 506th PIR deployed across the Carentan highway, and the 327th GIR on the left in positions along the Douve River opposite Brévands. The 501st PIR was the division's reserve. Patrols and aerial reconnaissance of Carentan indicated that the town might be lightly defended, and a plan to capture the city by a double envelopment was

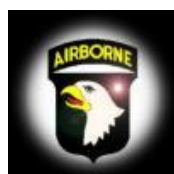


contrived, using the 502nd PIR on the right and the 327th GIR on the left, scheduled to jump off just after midnight 10 June. Then 502nd's mission was to force the bridges and capture high ground southwest of the town along the Périers highway (Hill 30) to block withdrawal. The 327th was to cross the Douve at Brévands, circle a mile to the east, and come in on the road west from Isigny to take the town.

09 June 1966

**Operation HAWTHORNE:** Around the clock air strikes were conducted at night and in poor weather through the use of "Sky Spot" radar bombing system. Ground commanders were highly appreciative of the outstanding air support received during HAWTHORNE, particularly CPT Bill Carpenter, Commander Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, who on this date requested and received an air strike on his enemy-overrun position. Bravo Company moved to assist Charlie Company who was engaged with another NVA Battalion at 1710 hours near ZB 144422, Alpha Company lined up with Charlie Company at 2135 hours and Alpha Company of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry who was attached to the 502nd, and moved to Charlie Company's assistance, engaging an estimated reinforced NVA company at 2150 near ZB 125395.

The USAF FAC with the 1/327, CPT Burton Miller, first heard of "C" Company's situation when he visited Brigade Headquarters at Dak To around 1500 hours. Told that CPT Carpenter was in solid contact, Miller got airborne and radioed Carpenter, who told him he was in a valley bowl with enemy troops on three sides of him with only one egress, a narrow gully where he had entered the valley. Miller called for the first flight, which took 15 minutes to arrive. By the time the flight of two F-4C aircraft arrived, the ground situation had become critical. After the first pass by the F-4C's, about 100 meters away Carpenter radioed that he was being overrun. "Lay it right on top of us", he called. "They are overrunning us, we might as well take some of them too." CPT Miller later said that he realized Carpenter was in a difficult position because he was very excited and apparently nervous. Miller explained the mission to the F-4C pilots. He indicated the smoke which Carpenter had used to mark his position and told the fighters to hit at that point. The lead F-4C came in from the northeast, dropping his napalm about 40 meters short of the smoke but inside the company's perimeter. The second man dropped about 50 meters long, bracketing Carpenter's position but falling right on the edge of Carpenter's



perimeter. Carpenter radioed, "That's good, okay, back it out" and it appeared that the napalm had stopped the enemy attack. CPT Miller felt that the drops on the edge of the perimeter did as much good as those inside. There were seven friendly casualties from the short round.

By this time the air was filled with F-4C's and flights were stacked three and four deep. There were nine flights in all, led in by Miller who said: "F-4's were calling other F-4's, which they knew were in the air, to contact Peacock (radio control in II Corps) and get permission to strike." "I was getting airplanes from everywhere," Miller said, "We got some birds back from TIGER HOUND, Marine birds, Navy birds, and some from Pleiku." A Navy flight with 2000 pound bombs aboard expended on the hills above Carpenter, about 500 meters away.

Around 1710 hours, "B" Company of the 2/502 Regiment engaged another Viet Cong battalion west of Carpenter and about 500 meters away as it was going to Carpenter's aid. "A" Company of 1/327 was also engaged by the enemy about 300 meters south of Carpenter's position. The Battalion Commander dropped the idea of linking Carpenter's "C" Company with "A" Company as he did not want Carpenter to abandon his position as long as the Viet Cong could carry off U.S. dead or wounded. Carpenter agreed.

CPT Miller, the 1/327 FAC, ran two strikes, one in support of both "B" Company and "A" Company, before he ran low on fuel and had to relinquish FAC control to CPT Thomas S. Hoff, the Brigade FAC. Hoff ran four more flights, in support of the two units under heavy contact, before darkness set in. During the 9th, 25 immediate and 16 preplanned TAC strikes were flown, 29 in close air support and 12 in direct air support.

The last flights were flown just after darkness, when Carpenter's position was again attacked and the F-4C's, with only ten minutes loiter time left, expended on Carpenter's perimeter. Asked by the FAC if he wanted the strikes brought in closer, Carpenter replied, "That did it fine, I believe". At 2135 hours, "A" Company of the 2/502 linked up with Carpenter's "C" Company, which had heavy casualties. The enemy force pulled back from contact with all units. (Project CHECO Southeast Asia Report; Operation Hawthorne, HQ PACAF; 8 Sept 1966)

09 June 1967

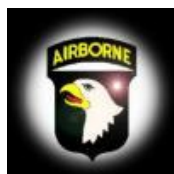
**Operation MALHEUR:** the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry was released as The Brigades reserve, conducted airmobile assaults from CARENTAN Base into the western portion of BASTOGNE AO and commenced search and destroy operations to the south. Two light contacts resulted in 1 US KHA, 1 US WHA; 3 VC KIA (C), 2 detainees and 1 small arm captured.

09 June 1968

1-502 Alpha and Charlie Companies combined for a cordon search of an area vic. YD7030. The cordon resulted in 2 VC KIA and a large cache containing weapons, ammo, clothing, and food. There were 23 bunkers in the area, 15 had been used recently and all destroyed. In vic. YD7133 numerous punji pits were encountered. Charlie Company found 5 tons of rice. Delta Company and PF's continued operating with Rome plow. Their progress report show, 200 meters of hedgerow and 45 bunkers destroyed. During the day, 8 VC KIA, 6 VC POW, and 1 of the VC was a messenger who had a document from his commander stating, his men could not fight due to lack of food, weapons, and ammo. There were 5 friendly WIA from BBT.

09 June 1969

Heavy fighting broke out in the area of HILL 376 as the 1-501 clashed with determined enemy forces throughout the day; elsewhere in the AO, the tempo of activity increased as all units were engaged during the day. At 1155H, D/1-502, vic. BT202123 engaged one enemy in a tunnel with hand grenades, killing the 1 NVA and capturing his weapon. At 1155H, Recon/1-502, vic. BT271075, found 1 VC sleeping in a hammock; when confronted, the VC surrendered and was evacuated. At 1300H, A/1-501, vic. BT206121, received 82mm mortar and small arms fire from an unknown size enemy force, resulting in 1 US KIA and 4 US WIA; the element returned fire with negative enemy assessment. At 1410H, D/1-501, vic. BT208133, received small arms and mortar fire from a well-



hidden enemy force; the element returned fire and maneuvered against the enemy force employing air and artillery in support. D/1-501 recorded 7 NVA KIA while suffering 1 U.S. KIA and 3 U.S. WIA in the fighting. At 1445H, C/1-501, vic. BT202123, after having air moved into the area some five hours earlier, came under heavy small arms, automatic weapons and RPG fire from an unknown size enemy force resulting in 2 US KIA and 5 US WIA; the element returned fire, but the enemy was able to break contact without apparent casualties. At 1520H, Recon/1-501, vic. BT202131, received a heavy volume of accurate small arms, automatic weapons and RPG fire that effectively pinned the platoon down; fighting from an untenable position, the element suffered 2 US KIA and 3 US WIA, but continued to return fire and employed air and artillery against the dug-in enemy. Contact was broken with negative enemy assessment. At 1830H, A/1-501, vic. BT204120, found a small arms cache containing 4 AK47, 1 Mauser rifle and 1 RPG launcher.

09 June 1969

**Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** Early on the morning of July 9, Bravo Company, 1/502 arrived to secure the area while members of Alpha Company began a search for their missing men. An air cavalry Loach pilot spotted Ted Brenner, Duane Scott, and John Hanie, three of the missing men. The pilot, Luther Lassiter, landed his chopper. Scott and Hanie crawled inside the cockpit while Brenner hopped onto a skid. The overloaded chopper labored to lift off, but Lassiter managed to gain altitude and fly the soldiers to Hau Duc. When Lassiter returned to the area, he rescued a fourth soldier, Julius Bray.

Troops searching on the ground found two men, Kenneth Walker and Nelson Lucas, alive but wounded. By late morning, the bodies of six soldiers were recovered. The body of the thirteenth missing man, Sgt. James Manning, was not found until the following day. (Bitter Fighting In Quang Tin, Roger Ables)

09 June 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** in the vicinity of YD572113, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoons of 2/502 engaged an enemy squad at close range. The results were one NVA/VC killed and one US WIA. A sweep found 1100lbs of rice, mortar rounds, small arms munitions and medical supplies.

10 June 1967

**Operation MALHEUR:** One company of the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd infantry discovered 14 VC KIA (C) and one individual weapon as a result of one of the enemy contacts on 9 June. In addition, 4 detainees were apprehended from a cave where they had been hiding. A second company contacted an estimated VC Company size force armed with at least one heavy machine gun. The unit pulled back and called in heavy artillery fire and gunships. Results of the contact were 4 US KHA, 32 US WHA; 1 US MHA and loss of 1 M-60 machine gun and 1 M-79. Two other light contacts resulted in 1 VC KIA (C) and 1 detainee apprehended.

10 June 1968

Division forces seized two rice caches totaling more than 37,000 pounds in two locations. The first was captured by B/2-17 CAV, 12 Miles southeast of Hue. The nine tons of rice were bagged and evacuated to Phu Tu District Headquarters. Paratroopers from C/1-501 IN took a second cache of 9 ½ tons from area 6 ½ Miles northwest of Hue.

10 June 1968

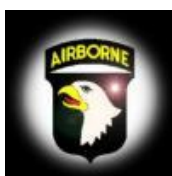
1-502 Alpha and Charlie Companies continued sweep of cordon established 9 June while Delta Company continued Rome plow operations. Delta requested and received an air strike vic. YD6931. Alpha and Charlie had light contact, capturing 7 VC, 5 tons of rice while they had 1 Friendly KIA and 4 WIA. The Rome plow destroyed another 36 bunkers. The PSYOPS plane flew over the AO making leaflet drops and loud speaker broadcasts.

10 June 1968

**Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** One company at a time of STRIKE Force was extracted to the rear for a 4 day stand down.

10 June 1969

Activity slackened around HILL 376 as the 1-501 continued to search the battlefield while the 1-46 continued to move north in the direction of HILL 376 to block any enemy forces attempting to withdraw from or reinforce the contact area. At 0620H, Recon/1-



502, vic. BT272071, engaged and 3 NVA. At 0900H, A/1-501, vic. BT205121, found 1 NVA KIA by artillery. At 1000H, A/1-501, Vic BT204119, found two AK47 and another NVA KIA by artillery. At 1053H, C/1-502, vic. BT222093, found a grave containing the remains of 1 VC KIA. At 1620H, D/1-501, vic. BT202124, received 4-5 rounds of sniper fire, lightly wounding 1 US; the element employed artillery accounting for 1 NVA KIA. At 1825H, B/1-502 and C/20320 Arty received 8 rounds of 82mm RR fire resulting in 8 US WIA; the element returned fire to the suspected enemy locations with negative assessment.

11 June 1944

(LTC Cole's Charge) During the night German fire subsided. Company H crept through the opening in the obstacle, and when it did not suffer any casualties, at 04:00 Company G and the Headquarters Company followed, taking cover on both sides of the highway. Scouts in the point nearly reached the main farmhouse in the morning twilight when they were cut down by



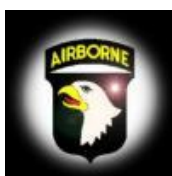
German fire. LTC Cole immediately called for artillery support, but the German fire did not cease. At 06:15, using a smoke screen for concealment, LTC Cole ordered his executive officer, Major John P. Stopka, to pass word to the battalion that it would have to charge the German positions to eliminate them.

Using a whistle to signal the attack, Cole led a bayonet charge that overwhelmed the defenders in savage close combat, for which Cole was later awarded the Medal of Honor. At first only a small portion of the battalion, approximately 20 men, charged, but Stopka quickly followed with 50 more. The attack picked up impetus as the other paratroopers observed it in progress and joined it, crossing a ditch. Overrunning the empty farmhouse, men of Company H found many German fallschirmjäger dug in along the hedgerow behind it. Companies H and G killed them with hand grenades and bayonets but at severe cost to themselves.

The survivors of 3rd/502nd PIR set up defensive positions and requested 1st Battalion 502nd PIR continue the attack LTC Patrick F. Cassidy's battalion, however, also took serious casualties from mortar fire and could only strengthen LTC Cole's defensive line, taking up positions from the 3rd Battalion command post in the farmhouse to the highway. During a 2-hour truce at mid-day in which U.S. forces attempted to negotiate for removal of casualties, Company C 502nd moved forward from Bridge No. 4 into a cabbage patch between the second and third hedgerows. Company A 502nd moved up just behind Company C and extended its line across the highway. Fighting at the cabbage patch during the afternoon often took place at extremely close range with the contending forces on opposite sides of the same hedgerow.

Except for the noon truce, which FJR6 also used to resupply and reorganize, the American forces repelled repeated attacks. The final one nearly succeeded in overwhelming the 3rd/502nd PIR at 1830, gaining all but the final hedgerow between it and the Douve River. However, LTC Cole's artillery officer, able to overcome jamming of his radio, called down a concentration of VII Corps Artillery so close that several Americans were also killed. The overwhelming violence of the 5-minute barrage rolled back the last German counterattack.

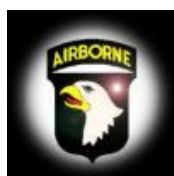
Patrols from the 327th had discovered a partially destroyed footbridge over the Vire-Taute Canal at the point where it connected with the Douve, northeast of the city. The bridge was repaired by 10:00, and a company each of the 2nd (Company G) and 3rd



battalions (Company A 401) crossed and attacked down the forested banks of the boat basin (Bassin à Flot), but like the 502nd, were stopped a half mile (1 km) short of Carentan by machine gun and mortar fires that artillery could not suppress.

FJR6, nearly out of ammunition, withdrew during the night, leaving only a small rear guard. A Luftwaffe parachute resupply drop that night seven miles (11 km) to the southwest arrived too late to help. The 17th SS Panzergrenadier Division (General major der Waffen-SS Werner Ostendorff), on the road toward Carentan since D-Day, had been delayed by air attack and lack of fuel. By nightfall on 11 June only a few advanced elements had reached the division's assembly areas. (Picture is painting of "Strike Attack; LTC Coles Charge" from Mr. James Dietz; The Art of James Dietz

- 11 June 1966 The U.S. forces reported that the whole valley seemed to have enemy units in it and started moving back to allow air strikes and artillery to break the enemy's "bear hug" tactic which made air strikes difficult. The three companies in the valley moved up the slopes of a mountain plateau, moving through dense jungle with litters of wounded and dead. Air strikes were flown in support of "A" and "B" Companies of the 2/502nd and the Provisional Company from Phan Rang, which command terrain on the high grounds above the withdrawing companies. "A" and "C" Companies of the 2/502nd were extracted to Dak To. (Project CHECO Southeast Asia Report; Operation Hawthorne, HQ PACAF; 8 Sept 1966)
- 11 June 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** Seven light contacts by the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry resulted in 1 US KHA; 2 VC KIA (C), capture of 1 individual weapon and apprehension of 152 detainees (refugees).
- 11 June 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** at 0900H, B Company 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry encountered an unknown size enemy force in fortified positions along a steep ridge line vicinity coordinates BS609460. At 111000H June 1967 the enemy was attacked with CS gas grenades. The initial drop at 1000 hours showed lapse conditions which caused the CS cloud to rise. Subsequent passes were made further down the sides of the ridge to allow the CS cloud to drift up to the ridge. The target was covered and the enemy abandoned their positions. Total amount of M7A3 CS grenades used were 400.
- 11 June 1968 1-502 cordon operations was completed with 6 VC KIA, 1 Hoi Chanh, 9 ½ tons of rice were discovered. Also a directive came out on this day from Brigade that said all elements operating independently would have a compass, map, radio, and strobe light. Alpha had 1 Friendly WIA.
- 11 June 1969 Activity decreased in the LAMAR PLAIN AO as the 1-501 continued to search in the area of HILL 376 while 1-46 continued RIF south of the area to interdict any enemy movement to and from the area. At 0340H, C/1-501, vic. BT203118, observed one enemy soldier moving along a trail; the element engaged the enemy accounting for 1 NVA KIA. At 1305H, C/1-501, vic. BT203112, engaged two enemy with small arms, resulting in 2 NVA KIA. At 2010H, B/1-501, vic. BT207106, engaged two enemy soldiers with small arms, killing one.
- 11 June 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** A/2-502 found one enemy killed by artillery. At YD572112 the Company found a hand crank generator, Chinese aiming pole lights, a tool kit for 82mm mortars and AK-47 ammunition.
- 11 June 1971 Troopers from C Co, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 502<sup>nd</sup> INF, while on a routine patrol in the jungles near FB Veghel, discovered two large enemy huts with adjoining underground bunkers containing 20 B-40 rockets and one 60mm mortar aiming sight. Nearby the infantrymen found six freshly dug enemy graves.
- 12 June 1944 Carentan falls to American forces primarily due to 3/502 opening the N13 road into the city.



12 June 1966

**Operation HAWTHORNE:** General William C. Westmoreland visited the battle area on the 12<sup>th</sup> and was told by CPT Carpenter that the napalm air strikes on and near his position on 9 June had saved his company and burned away communist attackers long enough to give the American time to throw up a defense perimeter. (Project CHECO Southeast Asia Report; Operation Hawthorne, HQ PACAF; 8 Sept 1966)



12 June 1967

**Operation MALHEUR:** Four light contacts by the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry resulted in 1 VC KIA (C), capture of 3 detainees and 1 small arm.



12 June 1968

Four rice caches totally 55,500 pounds were found throughout the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade's AO. All of the rice was given to various district chiefs throughout Thua Thien province.

12 June 1968

1-502 had very light contact; 2 VC KIA. Charlie Company found 19 tons of rice. 1 PF was WIA by a BBT.

12 June 1969

Sporadic activity continued in the AO as 1-501 was extracted from the AO after 9 days of continuous fighting and given security missions within the AO; the 1-46 continued RIF operations toward the 1-501 AO and reported sporadic contact while the 1-502 continued RIF in the eastern portion of the AO in conjunction with the 5th ARVN operations in the area. At 1800H, B/1-502, vic. BT211069, tripped an unknown type booby-trap resulting in 2 US WIA.

12 June 1970

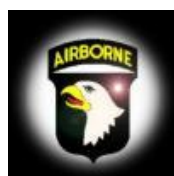
**Operation TEXAS STAR:** A/2-502 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon found a cache containing 600lbs of rice, four sets of NVA clothes, two books, a 60mm mortar, 12 AK-47's and RPD machine gun with ammo and two RPG rounds.

12 June 2003

**Operation Scorpion** (attack on Objective Snake) Participating in Operation DESERT SCORPION, a large-scale cordon and search operation to clear the extremely dangerous neighborhoods of Al Fallujah, B/2-502 IN and 2-3 ACR detains 35 Fedayeen, some of whom had been responsible for the earlier execution of 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Soldiers in Fallujah.

12 June 2003

With the fall of the former regime, over 30,000 members of the Former Iraqi Military (FIM) assimilated back into Mosul civilian life, unemployed. The addition of 30,000 unemployed Soldiers caused civil unrest, resulting in a formal protest in front of the Mosul Government building where hundreds of protestors gathered, voicing their complaints. Former Regime Loyalists captured this opportunity to instigate violence in the city, turning the relatively peaceful protest into a violent demonstration involving the use of weapons, hand-grenades, and Molotov cocktails. 2-502 IN was first on sight as they provided initial containment and over watch of the riot. As the riot progressed, four 2-502 IN Soldiers were injured on separate occasions as Iraqi's within the crowd hurled rocks and hand-grenades at the Soldiers. 2-502 IN remained steadfast and contained the riot until late afternoon, thus preventing the riot from becoming out of control. By the evening, 2-502 IN, with elements from 2BCT, dispersed the crowd and followed up the evening with an aggressive Traffic Control Point and patrol plan that restored order to the city.



12 June 2010

1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, conducted a joint patrol with the Kandalay ANP in order to visit the village of Kandalay. When members of the platoon spoke with villagers in southern Kandalay, they were very reluctant to talk to them, due to insurgent's information operation messages telling villagers not to speak to US Soldiers; they refused to talk to anyone after revealing this.



Though north Kandalay Market is moderately friendly the locals warned the patrol to avoid the south because "bad people" were there. At the southern Market the people were very surprised to encounter ANP and US Forces. The platoon members stated that they were a new unit and wanted to help the people.

13 June 1944

2-502 is sent south of Carentan to reinforce the 501<sup>st</sup> against the German 6<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regiment's counterattack.

13 June 1966

**Operation HAWTHORNE:** B-52 strike was launched precisely on target. Following the strike, enemy resistance crumbled and the 1-327 INF, 2-502 INF, 1-5 CAV, 1-42 Inf Regt (ARVN) and CIDG elements immediately exploited the objective area by helicopter and overland movement. Thirty minutes following the B-52 strike, one rifle company from 2-502 IN had been heli-lifted into the B-52 target area. Large numbers of VC KIA's, weapons and equipment were found in the area. The 2-502 IN located and captured 15 dazed NVA personnel. (Operation After Action Report, Operation HAWTHORNE; 22 July 1966)

13 June 1966

**Operation HAWTHORNE:** Two targeted areas were selected with an overlap in the area where the bulk of the enemy was known to be located. Twenty four B-52's dropped 432 tons of 500 and 1000 pound bombs at 0800 hours with "extraordinary precision", according to the commander of the 2-502nd who watched the strike from the hillside. He added: "...The strike devastated the area. The damage, in places, resembled that which could be expected from a low yield nuclear weapon. The blow down and cratering effect were enhanced by the use of 1000 pound bombs which seemed to have significantly greater effect than the 750 pound bombs.

This strike is considered the most effective strike ever exploited by this battalion. It is felt that the strike contributed significantly to the annihilation of the better part of an NVA battalion... Of special significance is the fact that the 2nd Battalion (Airborne) 502nd Infantry suffered no friendly casualties subsequent to, and in the area of the strike, during the period 13-18 June (when the operation was closing up)...." (Project CHECO Southeast Asia Report; Operation Hawthorne, HQ PACAF; 8 Sept 1966)

13 June 1967

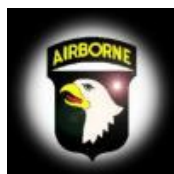
**Operation MALHEUR:** The 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry for 4 VC KIA (C), 2 detainees and 2 individual weapons in four light contacts.

13 June 1968

1-502 PF's joined Alpha and Bravo Company in a joint operation resulting in 5 VC KIA, 5 VC captured, VC Hoi Chanh, 2 AK -47's, 1 M-16, and 1 B40 were captured. 1 PF and 1 US were WIA. Delta Company continued to support Rome plow which destroyed 5 acres of village, 75 bunkers, and 300 meters of hedgerow.

13 June 1969

The enemy resorted to attacks by fire as the 1-46 continued RIF operations to the north toward HILL 270 (BT19614) and the 1-502 conducted combat assaults into multiple LZ in the SONG TRAM Valley. At 1135H, A/1-502, vic. BT102024, engaged one enemy





with small arms resulting in 1 NVA KIA and 2 IWC. At 2130H, A/1-502, vic. BT106026, captured 1 NVA who walked into the unit NDP.

- 14 June 1967      **Operation MALHEUR:** The 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry had three light contacts resulting in 1 VC KIA (C) and apprehension of 8 detainees.
- 14 June 1968      1-502 continued search and clear operations in AO and security of An Lo Bridge. Light contact with 1 VC KIA, 8 VC's and 1 NVA captured and 1 VC CPT. The VC KIA was an LT. The Rome plow continued operations, destroying 100 meters of hedgerow and 20 bunkers. Alpha destroyed 20 bunkers and a small cache.
- 14 June 1969      Activity decreased in OP LAMAR PLAIN as 1-46 and 1-502 continued RIF operations in the AO. At 1730H, A/1-502, vic. BT165093, found two SKS rifles. At 1750H, B/1-502, vic. BT147005, engaged 10-15 enemy with small arms, resulting in the capture of 1 NVA. At 2105H, LZ PROFESSIONAL received 5 rounds of 82mm mortar fire, resulting in 1 US KIA and 8 US WIA.

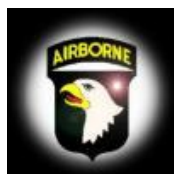
**During this week, in the span of 72 years since the 502<sup>nd</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941 as the 502<sup>nd</sup> Parachute Battalion, an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assault, the following awards were awarded to members of 2BCT and the 502<sup>nd</sup> IN Regiment.**

- 1 x Medal of Honor
- 8 x Distinguished Service Cross
- 35 x Silver Star Medal (16 x Posthumously)
- 3 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
- 13 x Bronze Star Medal (10 x Posthumously)
- 174 x Purple Heart (148 x Posthumously)
- 3 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 1 x Non-Hostile Illness or Injury

- 08 June 1971      SP4 Hiawatha H. Williams (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (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.
- 08 June 2006      SPC Valtito Samuel (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during combat actions.
- 08 June 2006      2LT Scott Cassidy (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when an IED struck his vehicle. It is the first of three purple hearts he will earn in 3 months.
- 08 June 2006      SPC Vincent Flores (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during combat actions.
- 08 June 2006      **SFC Clarence D. McSwain (2-502 IN)**, 31, of Meridian, Mississippi; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his convoy vehicle during combat operations in Baghdad.



- 09 June 1944      1LT Le Roy Bone (HQ/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed by a German Soldier near St. Martin de Varreville, France after stalking him up a hedge row on D-Day.



09 June 1944

T/4 Andrew Kalonsky (HQ/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed on D-Day by the German enemy after having broken his leg on the jump.

09 June 1944



The following Soldiers: PFC Sewell W. Crouch (Pictured) (HQ/2-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT Arthur D. Mueller (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death when they were killed during the invasion of German Occupied France.

09 June 1966



The following Soldiers: PFC Will P. Barton II (Pictured) (B/2-502 IN); PFC Walter William Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds on NGOK Run Ridge, in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1966

The Following Soldiers: PFC James E. Shuyler (HHC/2-502 IN); PFC Melvin Reeder, PFC Lawrence J. Deisher (A/2-502 IN); PFC Joseph R. Ellman, PFC Edward T. D. Frodsham (C/2-502 IN) were awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds on NGOK Run Ridge, in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1966

1LT James H. Baker (C/2-502 IN) was awarded was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds on NGOK Run Ridge, in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1966

PFC Edward Garcia (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from napalm from friendly air strike on NGOK Run Ridge, in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1966

The following Soldiers: SGT George A. Morningstar (A/2-502 IN); SFC Robert Hanna (C/2-502 IN) were awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from reasons not reported in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1967

SP4 James C. Martin Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

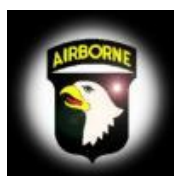
09 June 1968



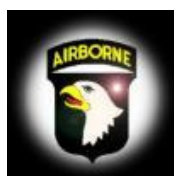
SP4 Nathaniel Cummings (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously). SP4 Szawaluk died from Artillery, Mortar, and Rocket wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

09 June 1969

The following Soldiers: SGT Daniel T. Thurston, SP4 Gary J. Winkler (HHC/1-501 IN); 1LT Waldemar J. Geiger (A/1-501 IN) were awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds on Hill 376 SW of Tam Ky, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.



- 09 June 1969 The following Soldiers: SP4 Christopher J. Bean (HHC/1-501 IN); PFC Donald O. Hartman (C/1-501 IN); SGT Terry G. Rada (D/1-501 IN) were awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds on Hill 376 SW of Tam Ky, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.
- 09 June 1969 The following Soldiers: PFC Larry R. Gilbertson, SGT William D. Bushard and SGT Willaim D. Sparks (B/1-501 IN) were awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from friendly fire, 105mm Airburst by supporting artillery fire directed at enemy while at NDP 10 KM E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.
- 09 June 2003 SPC Steven Clark (B/311 MI BN) receives the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in Mosul, Iraq. This would be the first of four Purple Hearts SPC Clark receives while assigned to 2BCT. SPC Clark's convoy was ambushed by 6 to 10 Iraqi insurgents using AK-47's and PK belt fed machineguns. More than 20 rounds found their mark on SPC Clark's M998 HMMWV, one striking SPC Clark's ITRT Toughbook Panasonic Computer and another striking SPC Clark in the left shoulder. Despite his injuries, SPC Clark drove the remaining 2 miles to the nearest Forward Operating Base to receive medical treatment. Several of the insurgents were later captured by elements of 2-502 IN.
- 09 June 2010 The following Soldiers: SGT Jonathan Jackson, SGT Rafael Machuca and PFC Kevin Murphy (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their unit with a rocket propelled grenade.
- 10 June 1944 The following Soldiers: CPL Nick F. Sherman (HQ/1-502 PIR); PVT James W. Heacock (HQ/3-502nd PIR); T/4 Louis P. Perko (A/502nd PIR); PVT Robert G. Hester, PVT Robert W. Hickson (B/502nd PIR); T/5 Nicholas J. Neises, PFC Joseph D. Toscano (F/502nd PIR); T/5 Willard Morss (G/502nd PIR); PFC David R. Killian, PFC George M. Fatzer, PFC Alfred C. Hatcher, PVT Hobart J. Eaton, PVT Joseph Goldberg, T/5 James O. Brune, T/4 Walter F. Hoppe, T/5 Roy R. Land, PFC William K. Peden Jr., PFC Joseph S. Rakas, PFC Paul P. Raupach (H/502nd PIR); SGT Jerry A. Boffo, SGT Jerry A. Hoffo, PVT Eugene O. Gaukel, SGT Joseph A. Miller, PFC Emmitt T. Nix, PFC Stanley W. Tkaczyk, 1LT Benny J. Klemantovich, 1LT John P. Painschab (I/502nd PIR); CPL Robert L. MacDonald (502nd PIR) were awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death in Normandy, France.
- 10 June 1944 PFC Rudolph L. Stalzer (E/502nd PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed as his Battalion was advancing on enemy gun emplacement near Carentan, France.
- 10 June 1966 PFC Michael T. Murphy (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds not reported causes on NGOK Run Ridge, in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.
- 10 June 1966 SGT Elmer F. Johnson (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in connection with military operations against a hostile force. (HQ; 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Order No. 391; 13 Aug 66)
- 10 June 1967 SGT Henry J. Wilhelmi Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.
- 10 June 1968 PFC Larry T. Miller (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, or mortar wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



11 June 1944



The following Soldiers: PVT Jerome T. Nowak (RHQ/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); T/5 Robert L. Dawson, PVT Hugo Bibry, PVT James Nilo, T/5 Robert L. Dowson, PVT DeWitt Harris, PFC Allan Johnson, CPL George R. Adams, PVT Abarham L. Axlerod (HQ/1-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); CPL Earl H. Butz, PVT William S. O'Quinn, PVT Paul S. Edmondson, PFC Peter J. Kalasausky, CPL William B. Evans, PVT James R. Pace (HQ/3-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT William J. Darcy (G/3-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); SGT Johnny R. Flores, SGT Charles J. DeRose, PFC Donald E. Cary (A/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); CPL William J. Burt, PVT Ralph C. Cavalier, PVT Clarence E. Black Jr., PVT Anthony Foglia, PVT J. T. Morris, PFC Thomas J. Milewski (B/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PFC Harry T. Dandorf, PVT Herman C. Jones, T/5 Frank A. Willard, PFC Willie F. Craig, CPL John E. Whitlock, PFC Anthony E. Marcozzi, PVT John L. Davis, PFC Harry T. Dandorf (C/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT Carl A. Deyak, PFC Joseph Bobb, PVT Douglas H. Gorman (G/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PFC John H. Kaufman (Pictured), PFC Frank J. Kocyon, PFC Nathan E. Loving, T/5 Robert J. Marois, T/5 James A. Middleton, PVT Smith J. Etling, PFC Lawrence T. Riley, PVT John H. Funk, PFC Frank J. Kocyan (H/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT John C. Norton, CPL Cornelius W. Owens (Pictured), PVT Edward R. Sowder (Picture) (I/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) were awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths when they were killed during the Battle for Carentan, France. (Pictured from T – B)

11 June 1944

CPL Arthur L. McDaniel (RHQ/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was with the advancing element of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion on the advance to Carentan, when he was killed by the burst of a German 88mm Shell.

11 June 1944



1LT Homer J. Combs (B/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while his Battalion was advancing across the Causeway into Carentan, France under terrific enemy Artillery and Machine Gun Fire.

11 June 1944

SGT Robert E. Jourdan (RHQ/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death when he was killed by enemy fire on the Causeway at Carentan, France while carrying ammo to the front lines.

11 June 1944



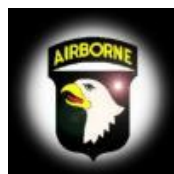
2LT Ralph S. Magri (E/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed during the Battle for Carentan, France while leading his Platoon in a Battalion attack on a German Machine Gun emplacement.

11 June 1944

CPL James V. Dalto (HQ/1-502 PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed on the Causeway into Carentan, France by German 88mm Shrapnel.

11 June 1944

The following Soldiers: 1LT Ernest O. Harris, PFC Jack N. Mershonne, PVT James A. Dodson, PVT Abner R. Cole, PVT Albert J. Kushmerick (HQ/3-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT



William A. Cooper (C/502nd PIR); PFC Sidney L. Howard (H/502nd PIR) were awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death when they were killed at Carentan, France while their companies were attacking Enemy Machine Gun emplacements.

11 June 1944

SGT John P. Durka (HQ/2-502 PIR) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed at Carentan, France while the aid station in which he was working on the front line was under very heavy enemy fire. (Further research and accounts show that SGT Durka was killed by a Mortar Shell while picking up a wounded Soldier near Bridge 4.)

11 June 1944



The following Soldiers: SGT Robert E. Jourdan (RHQ/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); S/SGT John P. Durka (HQ/2-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT Paul S. Edmondson, PFC Peter J. Kalasausky (HQ/3-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) 1LT Homer J. Combs (Pictured) (B/502n PIR) were awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for action during the Battle of Carentan, France.

11 June 1944



The following Soldiers: CPL Albert J. Kushmerick, PVT Abner R. Cole (Pictured), PVT William S. O'Quinn (HQ/3-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); 1LT Homer J. Combs (B/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PVT William A. Cooper (C/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) were awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for action during combat during the Battle of Carentan, France.

11 June 1967



SSG Darrel F. Gaskins (Pictured) (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

11 June 1967



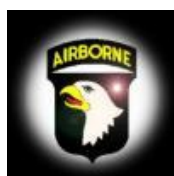
The following Soldiers: SGT James R. Hicks (Pictured), CPL Robin P. Milovich, CPL Joseph L. Park (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths while on a combat operation when hit by fragments from a friendly short artillery round directed at a hostile force in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

11 June 1968

The following Soldiers: PFC George W. Large (C/1-501 IN); SP4 Herbert N. Stehle (B/1-502 IN) were awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

11 June 1968

PFC Toby E. Collins (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when hit by fragments from a hostile booby trap in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



11 June 1969 SP4 Joseph J. Saitta (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in action in South Vietnam.

11 June 1970 CPL John L. Davis (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when a booby trap detonated in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

11 June 2006 1LT Paul Fisher (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from shrapnel lacerations to the right hand, left elbow, and head when a VBIED detonated.

11 June 2006 SSG Jason Zimmerman, (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from a laceration to the neck caused by shrapnel from a VBIED detonation.

11 June 2006 SGT Jerrod Osborne (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from shrapnel lacerations and a burn to the right elbow from a VBIED detonation.

11 June 2006 SGT Matthew Vanderveer (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from shrapnel laceration to the right elbow and small puncture wounds to the face from a VBIED detonation.

11 June 2006 SPC Stephen Smith (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from a superficial one inch long laceration and smaller lacerations with puncture wounds to the left arm when a VBIED detonated.

11 June 2006 The following Soldiers: SGT Bryan Guzman (HHC/2-502 IN); SGT Leslie Toussaint (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in result of action in combat against a hostile force.

12 June 1944 The following Soldiers: T/5 Albert V. Irving (HQ/1-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); CPL Roy Bogan (A/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PFC Archie P. Botzis (B/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) were awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths when they were killed while their Battalion was advancing on Carentan, France.

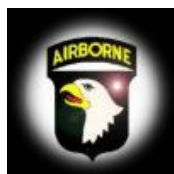
12 June 1944 PFC Archie P. Botzis (B/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for action during the Battle for Carentan, France.



12 June 1969 CPT Kurt W. Franzinger Jr. (B/2-501<sup>st</sup> IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously). CPT Franzinger died from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



12 June 1969 SGT Carl M. Sneed (HHC/2-501<sup>st</sup> IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



12 June 1971

1LT Ralph L. Church (D/2-501IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

12 June 2008



SGT John Aragon (1-75 CAV), 22, of Antioch, California; was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device in Balad, Iraq.

12 June 2008

PFC David Schappacher (1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he sustained a left thigh laceration when his platoon was struck by an IED resulting in two WS WIA and one disabled M1151.

13 June 1944

SGT Frank Guisti (F/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed in France while posting guns on the Out Post position.

13 June 1944

PVT Billy C. Campbell (G/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed while taking part in the Invasion of a German occupied France.

13 June 1944

1LT Donald C. Alexander (F/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed by a German Sniper while checking his forward Out Post positions near Meautis, France.

13 June 1944

The following Soldiers: PFC Robert A. Lantow (HQ/1-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); T/5 William H. Taylor (HQ/3-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); PFC Louis J. Kennick, PVT George W. Ballard (D/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); CPL James N. Barba, SGT Carroll F. Shealy (G/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths when they were killed in Normandy, France.

13 June 1968



PFC Joe A. Snitko (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when a hostile booby trap detonated in area, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 June 1969

SSG Donald Christie (B/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for meritorious service in ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, General Order Number 8948; 16 July 1969)

13 June 1969

SSG Donald Christie (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

13 June 1970

SGT Michael A. Gross (D/1-502 IN) died from other non-hostile wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 June 2010

The following Soldiers: SGT Charlie Smith, SPC Joshua Peters, PFC Clayton Swanson and PFC Nicholas Sylve (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their unit's convoy with a rocket propelled grenade.



13 June 2010



The following Soldiers: LTC Johnny Davis and CSM Brandon Haywood (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their unit's convoy with a rocket propelled grenade.



13 June 2010



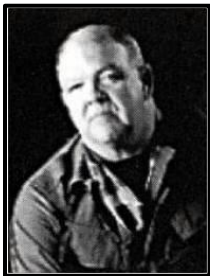
CSM Alonzo Smith (HHC/2BCT) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his unit's convoy with a rocket propelled grenade.

14 June 1944

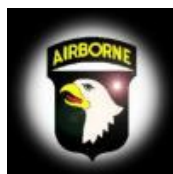
SGT Timothy J. Hayes (D/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he died from wounds in Normandy, France.

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

09 June 1966



CPT Walter R. Brown (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company A, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. During the period 9 June 1966 to 11 June 1966, CPT Brown, the company commander of Company A, had the mission of reinforcing a company that was surrounded by a Viet Cong battalion near Dak To. Upon receiving the mission, CPT Brown immediately assembled his company and began the 3,000 meter move through darkness and treacherous terrain to the battle area. As his company reached the top of the mountain overlooking the beleaguered company, it received intense hostile fire. With complete disregard for his safety, CPT Brown led a squad to the flank of the insurgent positions and initiated an assault that killed nine Viet Cong and forced the remainder of the insurgents to flee. During the assault, CPT Brown charged a machine gun emplacement and personally killed three Viet Cong. Although the situation was extremely tense, CPT Brown positioned himself with the lead element and continued to advance toward the stricken company. Upon entering a valley, the lead element again received Viet Cong fire from the surrounding high ground. While the rest of the company continued forward, CPT Brown maneuvered his machine guns into a position where they placed suppressive fire on the insurgents. As his unit reached the perimeter of the beleaguered company, the rear element was attacked by a determined Viet Cong force and one trooper fell seriously wounded. CPT Brown immediately raced 30 meters down the slope to the wounded trooper and carried him to safety. He then assumed command of the perimeter and positioned his men to repel the repeated Viet Cong attacks. Throughout the next 30 hours, CPT Brown continuously



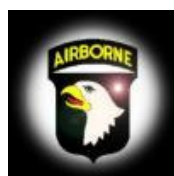


exposed himself to carry ammunition, call in air strikes, and adjust artillery fire. During a mortar attack on 10 June 1966, CPT Brown moved about the battlefield helping move wounded soldiers from exposed positions. Working against superior odds, he organized his company and rallied his men to successfully fight their way through the Viet Cong encirclement. Although confronted with the arduous task of transporting 45 litter casualties over rough terrain to an evacuation point 1,000 meters away, he never relented from his determined efforts to accomplish his mission. While moving toward the landing zone, they were again hit by a Viet Cong element. Despite the fact that he was wounded by a grenade explosion, CPT Brown ordered a charge that overran the insurgent position. After reaching the landing zone, he returned down the mountain to help his comrades carry the litter patients to the extraction point. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. CPT Brown's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 5896 (October 3, 1966))

09 June 1966

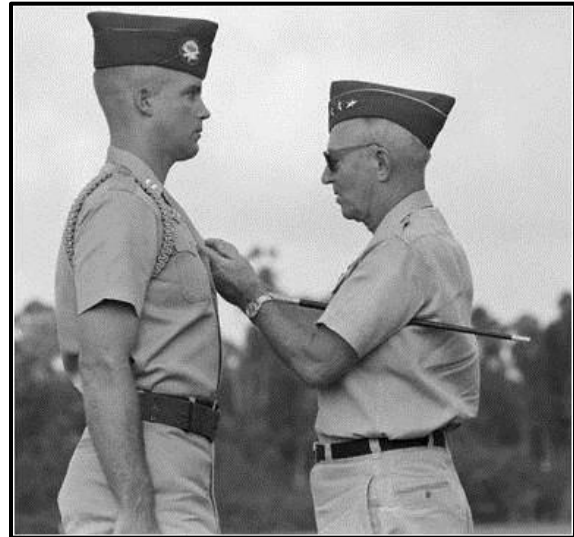


1SG Walter J. Sabalauski (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. First Sergeant Sabalauski distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions during the period 9 to 11 June 1966 while participating in a blocking operation near Dak To. When the Viet Cong occupied jungle suddenly erupted with intense hostile fire from three directions, First Sergeant Sabalauski, realizing that the company commander could not possibly control all the elements in the thick bamboo growth and 50 foot canopies, rallied and directed the beleaguered troops in an attempt to gain fire superiority. With complete disregard for his safety, First Sergeant Sabalauski dashed from position to position and repeatedly exposed himself to muster his unit and quell the hostile fire. As the Viet Cong assaulted the perimeter, First Sergeant Sabalauski quickly organized an assault line and delivered suppressive fire onto the fanatical Viet Cong. After dashing to the rear of the perimeter and observing that the insurgents were surrounding his company, he exposed himself and screamed orders to form a tight defensive perimeter. Although artillery was called in as close as 25 meters from the friendly force and air strikes devastated the jungle around the perimeter, the determined Viet Cong continued to advance. When the company commander called in air strikes on his own position as a last resort, First Sergeant Sabalauski remained on his feet to control the beleaguered paratroopers. For 30 hours, he continued to dash from one side of the perimeter to the other to direct and encourage his men. Although he was wounded himself, First Sergeant Sabalauski aided his wounded comrades, comforted the dying, and continued to direct his men. When reinforcements arrived and a hasty perimeter was again set up, he fearlessly moved forward of the perimeter and retrieved a dead comrade. After a 1,000 meter move to an evacuation point, First Sergeant Sabalauski personally supervised the extraction of the wounded and dead. Through his courage and outstanding leadership throughout the long and perilous battle, he contributed immeasurable to the defeat of the determined Viet Cong. First Sergeant Sabalauski'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. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 5821 (September 27, 1966))



09 June 1966

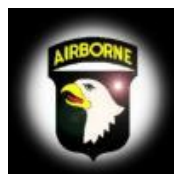
CPT William S. Carpenter Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. CPT Carpenter distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions during the period 9 June 1966 to 11 June 1966 while serving as Commanding Officer of an infantry company engaged in a



blocking mission near Tou Morong Outpost. As CPT Carpenter's company advanced, the lead platoon suddenly received intense fire from an estimated two companies of Viet Cong. CPT Carpenter immediately deployed the company to continue its forward progress, but it soon became pinned down by extremely heavy hostile fire from three directions. After CPT Carpenter organized a hasty defense, it became apparent that the insurgent force was at least of battalion size. The insurgents launched a determined frontal attack and were successful in overrunning one platoon. Realizing the severe consequences if the enemy forces were able to penetrate the entire company area, CPT Carpenter ordered supporting jet aircraft to drop napalm directly on the company's position. The napalm bombs hit the top of the trees in the center of the company position and detonated 25 feet above ground. As a result, the fiery napalm carried directly into the charging insurgents and passed over most of the friendly troops. The skillfully directed air strike completely subdued the Viet Cong attempt to overrun the company. As the insurgents withdrew, CPT Carpenter repeatedly exposed himself to the hostile fire to reorganize his command and direct supporting artillery fire. Throughout the remainder of the three-day battle and in the face of almost overwhelming odds, CPT Carpenter continued to direct and inspire the company to repulse three additional determined assaults by the enemy battalion. Through CPT Carpenter's heroic actions and courageous tenacity, his company was spared numerous casualties and was able to withstand the repeated attacks of the Viet Cong battalion until reinforcements arrived. CPT Carpenter's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 4125 (August 14, 1967))

09 June 1966

MAJ Arthur E. Taylor Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as aircraft commander of a helicopter on a reconnaissance mission in support of a friendly ground force conducting a combat operation near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. Major Taylor voluntarily accepted the hazardous mission of flying directly into a Viet Cong infested area at low level to locate and pinpoint hostile emplacements. Immediately upon entering the operational area, Major Taylor's pilot began evasive flight maneuvers. Major Taylor then began communicating with his ground elements, issuing orders and relaying emergency requests to his command post. Suddenly, four hostile .50 caliber machine guns opened up on the aircraft. Undaunted by the hostile fire which engulfed the helicopter, Major Taylor, with complete disregard for his safety, spotted the Viet Cong machine gun emplacements and radioed their locations to ground elements. He instructed the friendly force in the vicinity on recommended routes of advance to the insurgent positions. His professionalism and courage, under intense hostile fire while flying in adverse weather conditions were instrumental in defeating the Viet Cong force. Major Taylor's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a 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 June 1966

SGT George A. Morningstar (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as a squad leader during a search and destroy mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. When his platoon suddenly received intense hostile fire from a well-entrenched Viet Cong force, Sergeant Morningstar exposed himself to estimate the situation. Since an insurgent machine gun was greatly endangering his platoon, Sergeant Morningstar singlehandedly assaulted the position. With complete disregard for his safety while receiving hostile fire, he ran forward, killed two Viet Cong and destroyed the emplacement. When another machine gun placed intense fire on his platoon, Sergeant Morningstar ran to a position within fifteen meters of the Viet Cong and killed two more insurgents. As he assaulted this position, he was mortally wounded. Through his courage, he contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. Sergeant Morningstar'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. (HQ, U.S. Army, General Order Number 5278; 9 August 1966)

09 June 1966



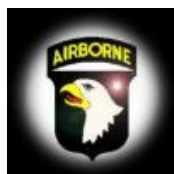
LTC Henry E. Emerson (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Silver Star medal while serving as a battalion commanding officer during a combat mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. While LTC Emerson was communicating with his ground elements from his command and control aircraft, he suddenly received intense hostile fire. After the source of fire was located, he immediately relayed their positions to his ground elements. Although his aircraft was constantly receiving intense ground fire, he continued to advise and direct his element leaders for eight hours until the Viet Cong force was defeated. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. LTC Emerson's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a 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 June 1966

PFC James E. Shuyler (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while serving as a medic during a combat mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. When his company received intense hostile fire from a large Viet Cong force, PFC Shuyler immediately exposed himself and rushed to the aid of a wounded comrade. As more soldiers were wounded, he moved from man to man and administered first aid. While caring for one of the stricken soldiers, PFC Shuyler was wounded in the leg by the Viet Cong fire. Although profusely bleeding, he gave himself an injection of morphine and carried out his mission. When he was wounded a second time, he continued to render medical advice as he lay on the battlefield. PFC Shuyler later died from his wounds. PFC Shuyler'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 June 1966

PFC Joseph R. Ellman (C/2-502 IN) earned the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as a radio-telephone operator for the company commander during a search and destroy mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. When his company received intense hostile fire from well-fortified Viet Cong positions, PFC Ellman exposed himself to better his communications with higher echelons and subordinate leaders. Although he was critically wounded during the ensuing battle, PFC Ellman continued to operate his radio for ten hours. When the Viet Cong launched another attack, PFC Ellman maintained radio contact and remained with his company commander until he was mortally wounded. Through his courage, he contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. PFC Ellman'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 June 1966

1LT James Baker (C/2-502 IN) earned the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as a platoon leader during a search and destroy mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. When his platoon suddenly received intense hostile fire from a well-entrenched Viet Cong force, 1LT Baker ran to the head of the column and calmly issued instructions to his men. Observing that a Viet Cong machine gun was greatly endangering his platoon, 1LT Baker personally directed suppressive fire on the insurgent bunker. Although completely exposed to the hostile fire, he led an assault and inspired his platoon to defeat the Viet Cong force. As 1LT Baker was preparing to assault another position, he was mortally wounded. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. 1LT Baker'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 June 1966



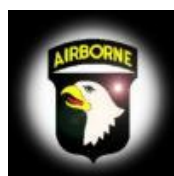
MAJ Jerome A. Bruschette (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 9 June 1969. MAJ Bruschette distinguished himself while serving as Operations Officer for the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. During the early morning hours on the cited date, Viet Cong soldiers launched a massive mortar attack against Fire Support Base Currahee, Republic of Vietnam. The accuracy of the enemy fire forced all personnel in the vicinity to take cover, leaving many of the wounded laying in the open. MAJ Bruschette resolutely left the Battalion Tactical Operation Center and moved through the intense mortar fire to carry the wounded soldiers to safety. The barrage, which consisted of more than 50 rounds, continued for approximately two hours and during the entire time MAJ Bruschette risked his life moving from bunker to bunker to pull out the wounded and assist them to the aid station or to the safety of the operations bunker. As he pulled the wounded in, he used his body as a shield until such time as he was able to get the man to a safe area. In one instance, he moved through the barrage to the artillery fire center which had taken a direct hit, pulled out the wounded, and then directed medical aid men to the position. He reestablished the artillery unit's chain of command and organized the evacuation procedures. MAJ Bruschette'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 June 1966

PFC Lawrence J. Deisher (A/2-502 IN) earned the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as a member of a squad on a combat operation near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. When his squad was engaged by a large Viet Cong force, PFC Deisher while exposed to the hostile fire killed two Viet Cong. He continued to place suppressive fire on the insurgents to enable his squad to move to good defensive positions. Because of the numerical superiority of the Viet Cong force and intense hostile machine gun fire, the squad was pinned down. PFC Deisher, with complete disregard for his safety, moved forward under the supporting fire of his squad and assaulted to within fifteen meters of the hostile machine gun emplacement. He killed two Viet Cong with a well-placed hand grenade before he was mortally wounded by a burst of hostile fire. PFC Deisher's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong 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 June 1966

1LT Louis F. Sill Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as commanding officer during a company search and destroy operation near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. In an attempt to locate freshly used trails, the company was moving along three principle routes in Viet Cong infested jungle. During the movement, it received intense hostile small arms fire from several camouflaged positions. Upon being informed by a second element that they too were subjected to intense hostile fire, 1LT Sill immediately moved with the remaining elements to their location. He then skillfully directed artillery and air strikes on the Viet Cong emplacements. After moving through the bullet swept area to a good



vantage point, First Lieutenant Sill personally maneuvered his remaining platoon to better positions on a hill. During the course of action, the Viet Cong began to increase their fire. At this time, 1LT Sill again called for artillery fire to within distances of less than one hundred meters from his position. He then moved from the maneuver element to the heavily engaged platoon, directed sub-elements to fire and maneuver and assisted in the evacuation of casualties. With complete disregard for his safety, he continued to move about the battlefield directing supporting fire and leading his men in several assaults against the Viet Cong positions. He also directed and supervised the clearing of a landing zone from which his wounded troops could be evacuated. 1LT Sill's calm and exceptionally cool demeanor under hostile fire was an inspiring example to his men and contributed immeasurably to the successful operation which resulted in the death of nine Viet Cong and the capture of six weapons. His extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong 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 June 1966

SP4 Michael Baldinger (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal when his company had been surrounded by a North Vietnamese Army battalion and was in danger of being overrun. The company had suffered heavy casualties and many of the wounded were in extremely serious condition. Specialist Baldinger, the medic, kept up with a tireless struggle to save the lives of his comrades. When the water was exhausted and none was immediately available, Specialist Baldinger ran forward, undaunted by the withering fire that engulfed the battlefield, and secured two canteens from a dead Viet Cong. While he was returning with the water, a grenade exploded near him and threw him violently to the ground. With complete disregard for his own life, he jumped up and continued his mission. Specialist Baldinger's gallant actions saved the lives of at least 25 men and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, reflecting great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

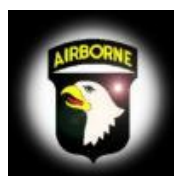


09 June 1966

SFC Robert Hanna (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) while distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 during a search and destroy mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. After evacuating a severe heat casualty through dense jungle terrain, Platoon Sergeant (PSG) Hanna returned to the battalion command post. Without stopping for rest, he volunteered to return to his platoon which was located two kilometers away. Shortly after joining his unit, the platoon suddenly received intense hostile fire from a well-entrenched Viet Cong force. Although he was fully exposed to the Viet Cong fire, PSG Hanna fearlessly moved to the head of the column in an effort to ascertain the situation. Observing that the Viet Cong had excellent fortified positions and fields of fire, he immediately organized his platoon and directed fire and maneuver movements. When PSG Hanna personally led an assault to within fifteen meters of a Viet Cong emplacement, his platoon leader was mortally wounded. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, PSG Hanna delivered suppressive fire onto the insurgent positions, killing one and wounding several others. While moving to the aid of a wounded comrade, Platoon Sergeant Hanna was mortally wounded by Viet Cong fire. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the eventual defeat of the Viet Cong force. PSG Hanna'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 June 1966

SGT Thomas M. Delamater (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action while serving with Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. SGT Delamater distinguished himself



on 9 June 1966 while serving as a Squad Leader during a search and destroy mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. When a Viet Cong soldier was observed moving along a trail toward his squad, SGT Delamater killed him. While exchanging fire, two hand grenades exploded in his position. Although shaken up by the exploding grenades, SGT Delamater placed effective fire on the insurgents and aided his comrades to form a tight defensive perimeter. As the battle raged, SGT Delamater repeatedly exposed himself outside of the perimeter, carried his wounded comrades to safety, helped the medics administer first aid and made litters to carry the wounded. When the main body withdrew, SGT Delamater and the rest of his platoon remained in position for approximately two hours to protect the perimeter before withdrawing to a landing zone 800 meters away. Through his courage, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. SGT Delamater's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

09 June 1966

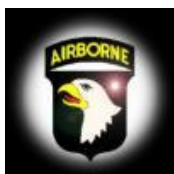
PFC Walter Bray (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while on a search and destroy mission, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry was moving down a jungle trail when they suddenly became engaged with an estimated enemy squad to their direct front. Two men were wounded in the initial burst. At about the same time, an enemy squad in the rear of the friendly platoon began firing upon them. PFC Bray observed that his two wounded comrades were in an area exposed to crossfire. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Bray rushed through the withering hail of enemy fire to his wounded comrades and pulled one of the men to a covered position. Upon the arrival of the medical aidman, Private Bray unhesitatingly moved back through the bullet swept area in an attempt to retrieve the second wounded man. As Private Bray neared his wounded comrade, he was fired on from a nearby enemy position. Quickly, he grabbed a grenade and charged forward throwing the grenade into the enemy position, destroying it. Private Bray then continued forward to his wounded comrade, and as he started to pull him to safety, he was struck by fragments from a grenade. Disregarding his wounds, he pulled his comrade to safety. Refusing medical aid, Private Bray returned to his position in the perimeter and continued to fight until the enemy was forced to withdraw and flee the battle area. His actions resulted in the saving of two wounded comrades, the killing of two enemy soldiers, and the capture of one weapon. Private Bray's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

09 June 1966

2LT William D. Jordan (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 9 June 1966 while serving as a platoon leader during a combat mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. During a vicious battle with elements of an insurgent regiment, 2LT Jordan repeatedly exposed himself to intense hostile fire as he moved about the battlefield rallying his troops. 2LT Jordan led an assault in an attempt to dislodge the Viet Cong force from their entrenched positions, but was unsuccessful because of the large number of insurgent troops. However, this assault disrupted the Viet Cong long enough to allow the remainder of this company to maneuver against the hostile force. Later that day, his company received intense hostile fire from a large Viet Cong force. With complete disregard for his safety, 2LT Jordan maneuvered his men, pointed out targets, and assisted his wounded comrades. When air strikes were called in, 2LT Jordan fearlessly exposed himself while establishing a hasty defensive perimeter. Through his courage and outstanding leadership throughout the fierce battle, he inspired his men to fight with determined aggressiveness and contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. 2LT Jordan'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 June 1967

SP4 James C. Martin (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 9 June 1967 near Duc Pho in the Republic of Vietnam. Serving as a platoon point man, Specialist Martin was moving

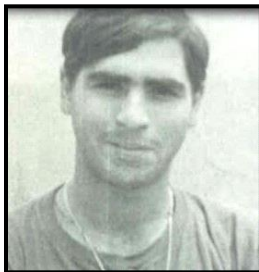


down a jungle trail when he detected voices to his front. Quickly alerting the platoon, he moved forward with his squad in an attempt to pinpoint the location of the voices. Approaching the suspected enemy position, he was spotted by four enemy soldiers who fired upon the squad with automatic weapons wounding one member. Realizing the precarious situation that could develop, Specialist Martin, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, charged forward through the enemy fire; throwing grenades and firing his weapon, he assaulted the position. Specialist Martin, by his courageous action, destroyed the position killing all four enemy soldiers and capturing four automatic weapons before being mortally wounded. Specialist Martin's unquestionable valor in close combat against numerically superior hostile forces, his determination, and intense devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force OREGON, and the United States Army.

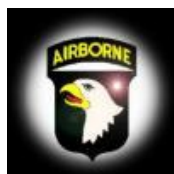
09 June 1969

PFC Christopher J. Bean (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operation involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 9 June 1969. Private Bean distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman with Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during a search and clear operation in the vicinity of Tam Ky, Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, Company C was suddenly subjected to intense enemy machine gun fire from North Vietnamese Army regulars. Immediately an element of Company C began employing fire and movement tactics in an attempt at neutralizing the enemy position, but the insurgents retaliated with intense rocket propelled grenade and machine gun fire. When one man was wounded by shrapnel from an exploding grenade, Private Bean began to maneuver toward him. He then came under intense machine gun fire and was forced to seek cover. Meanwhile, the main maneuvering element of Company C initiated another assault on the insurgent positions. Behind the suppressive machine guns fire of the main maneuvering element Private Bean crawled forward into the open to his wounded comrades. Disregarding his own safety, he subjected himself to the enemy fire as he remained in the open administering first aid to the wounded man. When the insurgent position gained fire superiority, he attempted to drag the wounded man to safety. Cognizant to the fact that his life was in jeopardy, he refused to leave the wounded man behind. A short distance from his objective, Private Bean was again subjected to intense machine gun fire and was mortally wounded. His dauntless courage and self-sacrificing spirit were an inspiration to all the men of his platoon. Private Bean's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, General Order Number 12470; 27 September 1969)

09 June 1969



SP4 Joseph J. Saitta (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 9 June 1969. Specialist Saitta distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, at Fire Support Base Currahee, in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. The fire base came under an intense mortar attack Specialist Saitta was in the aid station when he received word that an allied unit had received injuries from a direct hit on a bunker. He assembled some first aid material and in the middle of the attack, ran across the entire fire base to recover the wounded men. After bringing the casualties to the aid station, he again moved through the intense mortar fire to attempt to find other injured personnel. While running across open ground, he was seriously wounded by an exploding mortar round, but after hasty self-first aid, he continued to treat other wounded individuals and refused to be evacuated. After the cessation of incoming rounds, he again refused to be evacuated and assisted in the treatment and evacuation of others at the aid station. He remained at the aid station throughout the night and finally consented to be evacuated in the morning when he was assured that no other wounded personnel remained to be treated. Specialist Saitta'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 June 2010



SGT Christopher Kenzel (B/1-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for unequivocally distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy of the United States, as a team leader for 1st squad, 3rd platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, JCOF Fitzpatrick, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. On this date at approximately 0715 his platoon conducted a reconnaissance of a known enemy fighting position in Pashmul, Afghanistan.

SGT Kenzel's squad was conducting a reconnaissance in vicinity of target reference point 25. SGT Kenzel was on point leading the patrol south on Route Summit. As SGT Kenzel and his team neared target reference point 25, two enemy gun positions located approximately 35 meters to their west erupted in a near ambush initiated by PKM machine gun fire from two prepared, covered, and concealed firing positions. With rounds impacting and passing within inches of him, SGT Kenzel, completely exposed to the enemies' machine gun positions, advanced across 35 meters of broken ground through a hail of withering machine gun fire.

His three man team, observing the immediate and unflinching actions of SGT Kenzel, began an assault on the two prepared machine gun positions. SGT Kenzel, leading the assault, approximately 25 meters ahead of the nearest friendly element, reached the prepared positions the enemy combatants were using. SGT Kenzel immediately jumped over a low wall used by the enemy and continued to engage and pursue the enemy.

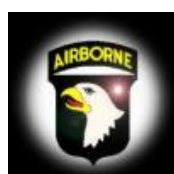
SGT Kenzel, continuously exposed, maneuvered and engaged the enemy combatants from within five meters before overrunning their positions, displacing them from their two prepared machine gun positions and forcing them to break contact to grape fields to the west. The team's immediate violence of action was led by SGT Kenzel under a hail of heavy machine gun fire, and the resulting assault through two prepared enemy ambush positions undoubtedly saved the lives of his men and demonstrated the unmatched heroism and valor of a combat leader.



His unmatched courage under fire, inspirational leadership, selfless service, and dedication to duty are unquestionable and an embodiment of the warrior ethos. The immediate unflinching actions of SGT Kenzel faced with seemingly insurmountable odds inspired his men and resulted in the defeat of a determined, prepared enemy executing a text book near ambush.

10 June 1944

Technician Fifth Grade (T/5) Jack Rudd (502nd PIR) earned The Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving as a Medical Aidman with the 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces in France. T/5 Rudd advanced with the leading riflemen on every occasion during the attack on the [UNK]. He continually exposed himself to heavy enemy machine gun, mortar and artillery fire to administer first aid and to evacuate wounded personnel. On a number of occasions, with complete disregard for his own safety, he moved through intense artillery barrages to carry away wounded comrades. The gallantry, fortitude and devotion to duty displayed by T/5 Rudd exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army.





10-11 June 1944

1LT Ralph Gehauf (3/502 S-2) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. On 10-11 June 1944 in the vicinity of Carentan, France, LT Gehauf volunteered to reconnoiter a forward route through enemy positions across the Douve River. During the night he succeeded in crossing four bridges along the route under enemy fire. After crossing the fourth bridge he and his patrol were pinned down by enemy fire. Sending three messengers back to the battalion with information as to the location and strength of the enemy in the locality, LT Gehauf and the remaining men in the patrol continued to collect information regarding enemy machine gun positions and other enemy emplacements. The following day when his battalion was ordered to attack, LT Gehauf led the battalion column in the assault and, despite heavy enemy fire, was able to cross the bridges. Although pinned down a second time, he directed artillery fire on enemy installations which he had spotted the previous night. By directing effective artillery fire, LT Gehauf enabled his battalion to infiltrate across the river and successfully attack with the bayonet the following morning. During this attack, LT Gehauf was wounded and forced to be evacuated. His outstanding courage, initiative, and inspiring leadership were in accordance with the highest standards of military service.

10-11 June 1944



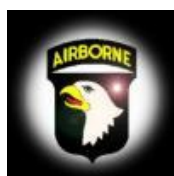
PFC Everett A. Brown (A/502nd PIR) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while he participated in actions clearing St. Martine de Varreville as well as the battle for the village of Carentan. For his actions PFC. Brown was also awarded a Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action in France. PFC Brown, with complete disregard for his personal safety, charged across open terrain exposed to enemy fire in order to bring flanking fire to bear on the enemy. After reaching a position from which he could effectively fire his weapon against the enemy, he expended all his ammunition in an attempt to repulse the attack. When he found that he could not be resupplied, he crawled over open terrain under continuous and intense enemy fire and secured ammunition from his fallen comrades. He then returned to his position, and again delivered effective fire on the enemy. Despite the danger involved, he moved to a new position and delivered flanking fire thereby confusing the enemy and helping to break up the counterattack. He displayed outstanding courage and initiative throughout the attack. His conduct was in accordance with the highest standards of the military service.”

10 June 1966

SGT Elmo A. Tacuban (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself on 10 June 1966 while serving as a squad leader during a search and destroy mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. While maneuvering through the dense jungle terrain, Sergeant Tacuban’s squad received intense Viet Cong fire. SGT Tacuban immediately deployed his men and, with complete disregard for his safety, led them forward in a daring assault which killed one Viet Cong and captured on machine gun. He then reorganized his squad and continued toward the objective. Suddenly, the Viet Cong opened fire and severely wounded SGT Tacuban and four of his comrades. Nevertheless, he continued to direct his squad and deliver suppressive fire onto the insurgent troops. Only after all of his wounded comrades were evacuated did Sergeant Tacuban move to the rear. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. SGT Tacuban’s extraordinary heroism in close combat against a 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.

10 June 1966

CPT Walter B. Wesley (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself on 10 June 1966 while leading a provisional company to reinforce two companies near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. When the lead element received intense Viet Cong fire, CPT Wesley immediately exposed himself and deployed two squads to assault the insurgents from the flanks. As they continued to move, they again received intense fire from well-concealed Viet Cong positions. Observing that most of the leaders of one platoon had been wounded, CPT Wesley, with complete disregard for his safety, moved forward through the hostile fire to reorganize his elements. He then skillfully adjusted suppressive artillery fire and air strikes on the insurgent positions. Later that day, CPT Wesley remained exposed to the intense Viet Cong fire and directed the evacuation of the battle casualties. Through his courage and outstanding leadership,



he undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades and contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. CPT Wesley's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a 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.

10 June 1967



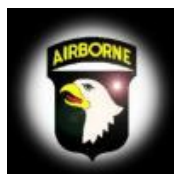
SP4 Henry J. Wilhelmi Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against an armed hostile enemy on 10 June 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam, Specialist Wilhelmi, along with an eight man reconnaissance element of the 3rd Platoon, Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry came under fire from entrenched enemy soldiers. As the intensity of the enemy fire increased, several members of the reconnaissance element were wounded. Specialist Wilhelmi seeing his wounded comrades laying in an exposed area rushed through the withering fire with complete disregard for his own personal safety, and dragged the wounded comrade for thirty meters through the bullet swept area to safety. Though wounded now himself and bleeding profusely, Specialist Wilhelmi returned through the murderous enemy fire and moved another wounded man, approximately twenty meters to safety. As he returned through the devastating enemy fire for yet a third wounded comrade, Specialist Wilhelmi was struck down by the enemy fire and killed. Specialist Wilhelmi was instrumental in saving the lives of the two men he carried to safety and because the enemy fire was concentrated on him, the rest of his element was able to maneuver to a safe defensive position. Specialist Wilhelmi's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

10 June 1967

SSG Mines Elmore Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 10 June 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. While on a reconnaissance patrol on a jungle trail, SSG Elmore detected an enemy ambush. He quickly alerted his men and at the same instant, the ambush was triggered. The volume of fire indicated that the small patrol was faced with a numerically superior enemy element. SSG Elmore directed his men to pull back and regroup. In the initial burst of fire seven men were wounded, including SSG Elmore. Disregarding his painful wound, Sergeant Elmore crawled through the vicious enemy fire and began to extract the more seriously wounded personnel to safety. As he moved back into the bullet swept area, he was hit in the side and wounded a second time, though dazed and bleeding, he directed his group to pull further back, while he provided the covering fire. Not until the last man in his squad reached safety, did SSG Elmore pull back with the remainder of the group. Though weak from loss of blood, SSG Elmore struggled valiantly and re-organized his squad into a perimeter, all the while, exposing himself to hostile fire. Certain that all of his men were safe and the wounded had been given proper medical treatment, SSG Elmore then allowed himself to be treated. As a result of SSG Elmore's actions, two enemy soldiers were killed and the lives of several members of his squad were saved. His truly heroic actions were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

10 June 1967

SSG John P. Wetherwax (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. SSG Wetherwax distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 10 June 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, SSG Wetherwax's platoon became engaged with an estimated fifty man enemy element. In the initial stages of the fire fight, heavy casualties were inflicted on his element. With complete disregard for his own safety, SSG Wetherwax moved through the withering enemy fire to pull his wounded comrades to safety and administer medical aid to them. During the heavy fire fight SSG Wetherwax continually exposed himself to the vicious enemy fire while directing the fire of his platoon. When the platoon medic was wounded, he immediately began treating the wounded and prepared a landing zone so they could be safely evacuated. SSG Wetherwax's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit upon himself,



his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 1735)

11 June 1944



LTC Robert G. Cole (3-502nd IN) was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty on 11 June 1944, in France. LTC Cole was personally leading his battalion in forcing the last 4 bridges on the road to Carentan when his entire unit was suddenly pinned to the ground by intense and withering enemy rifle, machinegun, mortar, and artillery fire placed upon them from well-prepared and heavily fortified positions within 150 yards of the foremost elements. After the devastating and unceasing enemy fire had for over 1 hour prevented any move and inflicted numerous casualties, LTC Cole, observing this almost hopeless situation, courageously issued orders to assault the enemy positions with fixed bayonets. With utter disregard for his own safety and completely ignoring the enemy fire, he rose to his feet in front of his battalion and withdrawn pistol shouted to his men to follow him in the assault. Catching up a fallen man's rifle and bayonet, he charged on and led the remnants of his battalion across the bullet-swept open ground and into the enemy position. His heroic and valiant action in so inspiring his men resulted in the complete establishment of our bridgehead across the Douve River. The cool fearlessness, personal bravery, and outstanding leadership displayed by Lieutenant Colonel Cole reflect great credit upon himself and are worthy of the highest praise in the military service. LTC Cole was later killed in action on 19 September 1944 in Holland.

11 June 1944

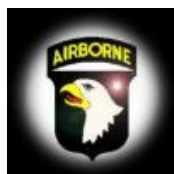


MAJ John P. Stopka (3-502 IN) earned The Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in combat on 11 June 1944, near Carentan, France. MAJ Stopka's battalion was engaged in a fierce battle with a numerically superior enemy force for the possession of a causeway leading into Carentan. During the night, the battalion had infiltrated across the last four hotly contested bridges. At about 0530 the battalion came under heavy enemy automatic weapons, mortar and artillery fire, causing casualties at an alarming rate and making the battalion position extremely precarious. Rather than withdraw, the battalion commander issued an order to assault the enemy position with fixed bayonets. MAJ Stopka, from his position across the road from the battalion commander, was able to coordinate the efforts of the two companies in the assault, but only by exposing himself continuously to the heavy enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, MAJ Stopka disseminated the order to the two companies under his control. When the signal for the assault was given, he was the first man to get to his feet and move forward across the road into the open field in front of the enemy positions. MAJ Stopka's actions in the face of the enemy and his complete devotion to duty exemplify leadership of the highest order and his conduct set an example to the officers and men under him, inspiring them with the aggressiveness and determination necessary to rout the enemy from their strongly held positions. His actions reflect great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States.

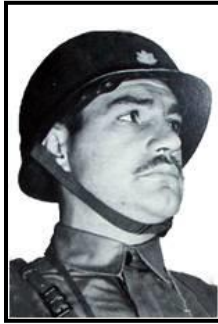
11 June 1944



1SG Kenneth Ned Sprecher (H/3-502 IN) earned The Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company H, 3rd Battalion, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 11 June 1944, in France. While his company was pinned down by intense enemy machine gun fire, 1SG Sprecher's Company Commander was knocked unconscious from a mortar shell. Under the heavy enemy fire, 1SG Sprecher reorganized the company and personally led a bayonet charge upon the enemy thereby gaining the objective. 1SG Sprecher's fearless leadership, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, First U.S. Army, General Orders No. 31 (July 1, 1944))



11 June 1944



LTC Patrick F. Cassidy (1-502 IN) earned the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 11 June 1944, in France. LTC Cassidy's battalion was committed to the assault of Carentan. To accomplish the mission it was necessary to cross a narrow bridge. When the battalion was held up at the bridge, LTC Cassidy came up to the bridge and despite intense machine gun and mortar fire directed a movement across. He then led his battalion in an assault up a narrow causeway, continually exposing himself to heavy enemy fire. When his artillery liaison officer became a casualty, he, through his command radio net, directed artillery fire upon a German machine gun nest that was holding up the advance. LTC Cassidy's outstanding leadership, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, First U.S. Army, General Orders No. 31 (July 1, 1944))

11 June 1944

1SG Hubert Odom (G/3-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company G, 3rd Battalion, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 11 June 1944, in France. Under intense enemy machine gun fire, 1SG Odom led four men in an attack on an enemy machine gun position, personally silencing the gun which was greatly endangering the flank of the assault wave and covering the only entrance across a bridge to the objective. 1SG Odom's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, First U.S. Army, General Orders No. 31 (July 1, 1944))

11 June 1944

1SG William Odom (B/502nd PIR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action on 11 June 1944, 1SG Odom's battalion was committed to the support of a bridgehead in an assault against Carentan, France. Although wounded by an enemy rifle grenade, he refused to be evacuated and began the reorganization of men to close gaps in the line through which the enemy was attempting to infiltrate. 1SG Odom made his way through open terrain, covered by enemy fire, to the supporting unit, requesting help in closing a large gap on the left flank of his battalion. The bravery displayed by 1SG Odom added materially to the success of his unit and is in keeping with the highest standards of the military service.

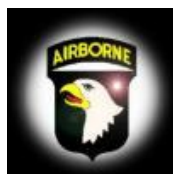
11 June 1944



CPT Fred A. Hancock (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for action during a battle for Carentan, France. CPT Hancock led his company against a strong enemy force across open terrain to take up positions about 75 yards from enemy prepared positions. CPT Hancock moved about placing his platoon in position to establish a line enabling them to repulse any possible enemy counterattack. He continually exposed himself to intense enemy fire, disregarding his own safety to establish this position and refused to pull back. Wounded by an enemy grenade, he refused medical attention and continued to hold his line against the enemy counterattack, inflicting heavy casualties upon the enemy. CPT Hancock's display of leadership, courage and disregard for his own safety were in accordance with the highest standards of the military service.

11 June 1966

PFC Melvin Reeder (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) distinguished himself on 11 June 1966 while serving as a member of a company extracting wounded to a landing zone near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. While moving toward the landing zone, PFC Reeder, with keen alertness, detected a well concealed Viet Cong ambush consisting of a reinforced Viet Cong squad. Realizing that his company was carrying many litter patients and was unaware of the ambush, PFC Reeder, although completely exposed, shouted a warning to his comrades and immediately concentrated a heavy volume of fire on the insurgents. His extremely effective fire forced the Viet Cong to concentrate all their fire power on him. This enabled his fellow soldiers to seek cover. With complete disregard for his safety, PFC Reeder engaged and neutralized two hostile



emplacements and killed four Viet Cong before he was mortally wounded by a burst of hostile fire. Through his heroic actions, PFC Reeder was directly responsible for saving the lives of his comrades and the wounded personnel. His unimpeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong 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.

11 June 1967

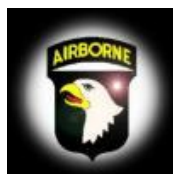
CPT Ward L. Jones (HHC 2/502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. CPT Jones distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic action and personal bravery while engaged in operations against a hostile force on 11 June 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam while serving as battalion medical platoon leader. That morning, Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, having been engaged with hostile forces for an extended period of time and with ten casualties, pulled back on a hill as an artillery preparation was being planned to soften up the dug-in North Vietnamese soldiers. Shortly after the company perimeter had been established, they were brought under a hostile barrage of approximately twenty rounds from indirect fire weapons which inflicted an additional twenty-two wounded and killed three. Upon hearing of this, CPT Jones volunteered to go to the aid of the wounded. Seeing that no landing zone was available for the helicopter and that small arms fire was taking place in close proximity to the wounded, CPT Jones, unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his own safety, dropped a nylon rope from the helicopter and without aid of a snap link or gloves climbed down the rope, fully exposed to the enemy fire, for a distance of eighty feet to the ground. CPT Jones worked feverishly over his comrades for a period of two hours administering professional medical attention to the wounded and comforting the dying. CPT Jones' heroic and decisive actions undoubtedly saved the lives of many wounded soldiers. CPT Jones' outstanding display of courage, profound dedication and devotion to duty while exposed to hostile fire are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army.

12 June 1967

SP4 Gordon Davis (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: Specialist Davis distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 12 June 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, Specialist Davis' platoon became heavily engaged with a numerically superior enemy element and numerous casualties were sustained. Specialist Davis, serving as radio telephone operator, immediately requested supporting artillery fire and began to effectively adjust the fire. He then observed a wounded comrade lying in an exposed area. With complete disregard for his own safety, Specialist Davis crawled through the treacherous enemy fire and pulled the wounded man to safety. He again exposed himself to the heavy enemy fire while collecting ammunition and distributing it to his comrades. While distributing the ammunition he observed an enemy Soldier attempting to approach the friendly position. Specialist Davis jumped from his covered position and killed the enemy Soldier. He then moved among the friendly positions and reorganized some by moving them to better cover and fields of fire. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 1731)

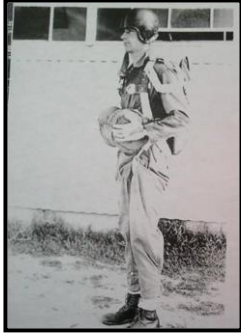
13 June 1944

1LT Donald C. Alexander (502nd PIR) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while serving with the army of the United States, distinguished himself by gallantry in action. On 13 June 1944, 1LT Alexander's platoon was base platoon for his company in an attack on well prepared enemy positions on commanding ground. Due largely to the aggressive leadership of 1LT Alexander, his platoon pushed rapidly ahead despite heavy enemy fire. A strong enemy counterattack developed on the left flank of the platoon. Heavy enemy automatic weapons and mortar fire pinned the entire company to the ground. A friendly tank in support to the company appeared on the left of the position, and, not realizing the situation of the company, continued toward the front. 1LT Alexander, with completed disregard for his personal safety, left his covered position and ran thirty-five yards to the aide of the tank, through heavy machine gun fire coming from the enemy seventy-five yard away. In an effort to contact the personnel inside the tank he ran alongside of the tank for about three minutes, hunting on the hull with his weapon



to attract the attention of the tank crew. During this entire time enemy small arms fire was ricocheting off the tank. 1LT Alexander succeeded in contacting the tank commander, advising him of the situation [unknown] by the tank, his company was able to repel the counterattack and continue on with the mission. In subsequent action 1LT Alexander was killed while leading his platoon. His actions were in accordance with the highest standards of the military service.

13 June 1944



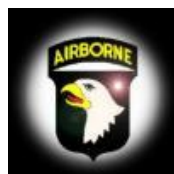
1LT LeGrand K. "Legs" Johnson (502nd PIR) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself by gallantry in action. ON 13 June 1944, in the area west of Carentan, France, "F" Company, 1LT Johnson commanding was the base company of a battalion attack. During the attack, the leading platoon was pinned to the ground in a purposed position by a position by an extremely heavy and accurate concentration of enemy mortar fire. 1LT Johnson, with complete disregard for his own safety, moved to a forward position exposed to heave machine gun and machine pistol fire from an enemy position about 100 yard distant, took personal command of the platoon and [unk] [unk] lead it to a more covered position. In the meantime, an enemy counter attack [unk] [unk] around the left flank and his platoon was cut off by heavy machine gun fire. Friendly tanks coming into the area came under this heavy enemy fire. 1LT Johnson realizing that this tank commander was not cognizant of the situation left cover and with utter disregard for his own safety went to the tanks under aimed machine pistol fire from an enemy position some 75 yards distant, and personally directed the tanks in a successful attack on the position. His conduct was in accordance with the highest standards of military service. Entered military service form North Carolina.

13 June 1969

SGT Donald Christie (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 June 1969. SGT Christie distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader with the First Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, on a combat in the Hau Duc District, Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. The First Platoon had stopped for a break during a reconnaissance in force operation when one of SGT Christie's positions detected movement to its front. SGT Christie and several men went out to investigate the movement. A search of the area revealed nothing, and they returned to their position. A few moments later, they receive a heavy volume of automatic fire and several hand grenades. Disregarding his own safety, he used his own body as a shield to protect his men and absorb the fragments from the exploding grenades around his position. His valiant effort cost him his life, and his extraordinary courage was an inspiration to his men, who then repelled the enemy force. His personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit up on himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, General Order Number 9233; 21 July 1969)

13 June 1969

PFC Robert E. King (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 June 1969. Private King distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman with the Third Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, during a combat operation in the Tien Phuoc District, Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. Private King's platoon had been ordered to reinforce the First Platoon which had encountered an unknown size enemy force. As soon as he reached the area of contact, he began maneuvering through the heavy volley of enemy fire to aid of his wounded comrades. Upon reaching two wounded men, he continued moving between them administering first aid until the wounds of both men were treated. He then took one man and started to move him back out of the enemy's fire, telling the other man to lay still and not move until he came back for him. He moved the first man to safety through the enemy fire and then returned to the second wounded man. After satisfying himself that the man wounds were bandaged properly, he set out with the second wounded man to a place of safety. Having removed the second individual to safety, he rejoined his platoon in the rout of the enemy. Private King'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> ABN DIV, General Order Number 10298; 8 August 1969)

13 June 2010



The following Soldiers: SPC Stephen Hochstetler was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart and PFC Andrew Maxfield was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor when they distinguished themselves with valor and dedication to duty while serving on the Personal Security Detachment (PSD). Returning to FOB Wilson along Highway 1 in the volatile Zharay District of Kandahar Province, their convoy came under attack from rocket propelled grenades (RPGs), small arms fire (SAF) and victim operated improvised explosive devices (VOIED). Immediately upon receiving word that his comrades had been wounded in the initial volley of RPG fire which struck two trucks in the PSD convoy, PFC Maxfield had to be physically restrained from rushing to their aid while the PSD established local security and suppressed insurgent firing positions.



SPC Hochstetler's vehicle received a direct strike from an enemy RPG which disabled his vehicle and penetrated the side armor, sending shrapnel fragments through his legs and leaving him seriously concussed. Immediately upon being injured, SPC Hochstetler sliced open his pant leg, identified the extent of his injuries and applied a tourniquet on himself to stop his bleeding.

Despite his wounds, SPC Hochstetler returned to his primary duty of manning the truck's .50 caliber machine gun to suppress enemy SAF from the south of Highway 1. The vehicle commander of SPC Hochstetler's truck was rendered completely combat ineffective by the RPG's concussive effect and he maintained security on the site until first responders could rush to his aid. Once released, PFC Maxfield ran across 50 meters of open terrain, through sporadic hostile fire as the insurgents broke contact, to conduct assessment and treatment of the wounded. PFC Maxfield quickly controlled the bleeding of three wounded and stabilized them for air-evacuation to a higher level medical facility.

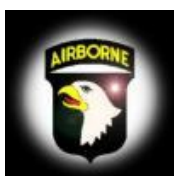
Only after the PSD had secured the site of SPC Hochstetler's downed vehicle and provided local security did he remove himself from his position in the turret for further treatment from the medic on the ground. Once evacuated from his vehicle, SPC Hochstetler reported the disposition of further casualties in his truck to his medic and platoon sergeant and remained calm and collected as he was air-evacuated to Kandahar Airfield for further treatment.

PFC Maxfield remained with his wounded comrades to offer comfort and shield their bodies until a helicopter arrived on scene to evacuate the casualties to higher level treatment facilities. Once the aircraft landed, PFC Maxfield assisted in the transport of the casualties, and then returned to his position to secure the site as destroyed vehicles were hooked up for recovery to FOB Wilson.

14 June 1966



MAJ Jerome A. Bruschette (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 June 1969. MAJ Bruschette distinguished himself while serving as Battalion Operations Officer, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, in the Republic of Vietnam. In the early morning hours on the cited date, a North Vietnamese Army sapper company launched an attack against First Support Base Currahee. The initial contact seriously wounded the perimeter defense officer and his platoon leader. MAJ Bruschette immediately carried the wounded platoon leader through rocket propelled grenade and small arms fire to the aid station 200 meters away. Upon returning to the bunker line, he discovered two enemy soldiers attempting to penetrate the perimeter. He assaulted their position and silenced them. For the remainder of the attack, he moved from position to position reorganizing the troops and directing the redistribution of ammunition and the utilization of the reaction force. In the morning after the attack, he led a small team on a sweep of the perimeter when five insurgents, hiding in a depression, fired a rocket propelled grenade which wounded MAJ Bruschette. Assaulting and firing as he advanced, he single-handedly silenced all five enemy soldiers.



As a result of his actions, only six friendly troops were wounded during the five hour defense of the fire base. MAJ Bruschette's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

**\*STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

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

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

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

