



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) “STRIKE HISTORY” 11 August – 17 August 2013

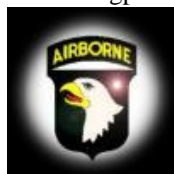


- 11 – 16 August 1969 1-502 IN continued RIF, security of An Lo Bridge, and Rome plow operations with very light contact. A/1-502 was taken off of An Lo security and B/1-502 replaced them. D/1-502 was at FSB Georgia.
- 11 August 1969 Operation LAMAR PLAIN continued as the first elements of the Brigade departed from TAM KY South to return to the OPCON of the 101st Airborne Division. The last element of the 1-501 INF departed TAM KY S by C130 at 1340H. In other activities, the 1-502 INF released two companies to the OPCON of the 1-46 and extracted two others to FSSE, CAMP PAPE. In the only action reported at 1220H, vic. BT128059, an Air Force FAC observed and engaged with ARA several VC in black pajamas, killing one.
- 12 August 1969 The 1-501 returned OPCON to the 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, upon arrival at CAMP EVANS. In the only contact of the day, at 1015H, vic. BT181046, an element of B/1-46 engaged 4 enemy dressed in black pajamas and captured 1 AK47.
- 12-13 August 1967 Operation BENTON: 2/502d Inf with 1 Co MIKE Force DS made airmobile assault from Veghel AO into area NW of Chu Lai. Lift started at 1157H complete 1724H. A Co. made airmobile assault from BS444778 to LZ BT204125. First lift began 1350H completed 1426H. B Co. made airmobile assault from PZ BS420796 to LZ BT210088. First lift 1513H completed 1545H. At 1700H BT210088 received automatic and small arms fire; results 1 US WIA SRS 2-13. C Co. made airmobile assault from PZ BS468797 to LZ BT238142. First lift 1510H completed 1645H. Tac CP located BS468813 with Heavy Mortar platoon made airmobile assault to LZ BT238142, First lift 1157H completed 1724H. At 1600H BT238147 saw 3 VC wearing khaki's moving South carrying wpns; fired up with neg. results, enemy fled North, SRS 1-13. RCN made airmobile assault from PZ BS436797 to LZ BT238142. First lift 1157H completed 1245H. MIKE Force made airmobile assault from PZ BS480793 to LZ BT250102. First lift 1642H completed 1709H. (SITREP REPORT NO: 224, MAJ David P. Perrine, S-3)
- 12 August 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** 2/502 Battalion returned to Camp Eagle to be refitted for a new mission.
- 13 August 1967 **Operation BENTON:** At 1700 hours near BT210088 Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry was engaged by an unknown size enemy force. The enemy employed rockets, rifle grenades, machine guns, and small arms fire. Company B returned fire and called for artillery. As the company attempted to maneuver, it was met with intense enemy fire and the company consolidated their position and requested Air Force C-47 aircraft with minguins (“Spooky”). The enemy continued to attack with small arms until 2350 hours. He then employed 60mm mortars, 40mm rocket launcher fire and rifle grenades and two companies attacked the perimeter. Company B countered with small arms, machine guns, gunships and “Spooky.” The fire fight continued until 0155 hours, 14 August 1967, when the enemy broke contact were 35 enemy killed (Confirmed); 11 AK-47's, 5 SKS, 2 RPD machine guns and several Chicom grenades captured; 5 US Killed and 15 wounded. (Operation BETNTON After Action Report, 28 September 1967)
- 13-14 August 1967 **Operation BENTON:** 2/502d Inf with 1 Co MIKE Force DS continues search and destroy operations in assigned AO. At 1015H BT212113 C&C A/C spotted 1VC; results 1VC (BC) SRS 4-14. A Co. continues to search and destroy in assigned AO. At 1845H BT209129 found hootch complex; results destroyed SRS3-13. At 1105H BT201120 contact with 2VC; result 1 VC (BC), 1 AK47, 1 Mauser SRS 5-14. At 1530 BT201117 contact with 1VC; results 1VC (BC), 1 Carbine SRS 6-14. B Co. continues to search and



destroy in assigned AO. Continuation of SRS 2-13; results 19US WIA, 2 US KIA, - enemy losses, 35NVA (BC), 11 AK47, 5 SKS, 2 RPD's, 3 Chicom grenades, assorted ammo, and clothing (SRS 2-13). At 0605H BT203094 received sniper fire called Artillery; results negative, SRS 1-14. At 1330H BT208090 found 1 body; results 1VC (BC) (By Arty) (SRS-6-14). C Co. continues to search and destroy in assigned AO. At 0900H BT231133 received sniper fire; results 1VC (BC), picked up 1 old man 2 children SRS 2-14. At 0936H BT221137 contact 2VC; results 1 VC (BC) SRS 3-14. TAC CP at BT238142, with Heavy Mortar Platoon continues to provide close supporting fires for TAC CP, and C Battery 2/320th Arty, and run patrols in the vicinity of same, MIKE force continues to search and destroy in assigned area. (SITREP NO: 225, MAJ David P. Perrine, S-3)

- 13 August 1968 The 1-502 moved two companies to FSSE, TAM KY to assume a security mission.
- 13 August 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** 2/502 IN Battalion moved from Camp Eagle to FSB Barnett. Upon arrival at their LZ, A Company found two dead NVA, and shortly afterward received incoming 60mm mortar fire. Recon Platoon also found action, killing four NVA and having one US KHA along with 3 US WIA.
- 13 August 1970 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry (Airborne) begins Operation COMEBACK RIDGE in the Khe TA Laou Valley, Quang Tri Province.
- 13 Aug 06 HHC/2BDE awarded Meritorious Unit Commendation in support of military operations from March 19 – Oct. 1, 2003. HHC provided the command, control, and support that enabled the brigade to heroically fight a diversified enemy, ranging from Republican Guard regulars to Fedayeen forces to small terrorist groups. The regiment maintained an exemplary record during repeated combat actions against the enemy. The officers and men of the regiment exhibited exceptional courage, proficiency, and patience while upholding the sterling combat reputation of the regiment during operations in Iraq. The operations were directly responsible for the destruction of one republican guard infantry battalion, one armor company, one air defense and two field artillery batteries, more than 200 confirmed Fedayeen Saddam and paramilitary forces, 80 enemy prisoners of war, 22 technical vehicles, and thousands of pieces of enemy equipment and weapons. Throughout their undaunted perseverance and great personal sacrifice, the Soldiers of the regiment liberated five cities and assisted in the liberation of Baghdad. Their effective teamwork, aggressive fighting spirit, determination, and individual acts of courage positioned them to quickly transition into stability and support operations. In addition to their superb performance in combat, their actions after combat operations contributed substantially to the United States efforts in the war on terrorism.
- 14 August 1969 The 1st Brigade terminated Op LAMAR PLAIN as the 1-502 and last elements of the Brigade Headquarters departed TAM KY Airstrip by C130. All elements returned to OPCON of the 101st Airborne Division upon arrival at CAMP EAGLE. Operation LAMAR PLAIN officially terminated at 141200H Aug 69.
- 14 August 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** A/2-502 found a bunker complex with one dead NVA and equipment including a typewriter and a mimeograph machine.
- 14 August 2012 **ANSF intelligence-driven operations.** On 14 AUG 12, 201st ANA Corps made an arrest of a Pakistan Taliban member conducting surveillance on the front gate of Jalalabad Garrison. Corps G2 Confirmed it with the 2/201 and NDS officers and turned the Pakistan Taliban member over to NDS custody for questioning. Subsequently, a red alta car VBIED was found 1100hrs in front of the JBAD NDS HQ, 3-61 CAV and the 2/201 ANA Brigade RCC established cordon and Coalition Force EOD neutralized the VBIED.
- Road to Kamdesh.** MOD officially relieved the engineers' responsibility to secure the Kamdesh road. 4/2/201 ANA engineer assets returned to FOB Bostick from Bari Kot. The unit is staged to conduct retrograde to FOB Fortress in the next several days IOT to refit and prepare to conduct strongpoint construction in the PRV beginning o/a 5 SEP.



- 15 August 1942 Shortly after the order calling for two active Airborne Divisions, it was decided that the 502d would become the first original Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division. At the time, the 502d was a battalion assigned to the 82d Airborne Division. The regiment split off and was transferred to the 101st. The regiment was formed under the command of LTC George Van Horn Moseley. It remains to this day the only American airborne unit to retain its personnel and unit number when it was increased in size to a full regiment. The 502d was activated in Ft. Benning, GA but later transferred to Ft. Bragg, NC where it gained the 377th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion (the only Airborne Field Artillery battalion in the division).
- 15 August 1968 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, begins Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE along Route 1 in Thua Thien Province. (Weider History Group: Vietnam War The Battle for Vietnam, 40 years today – A Vietnam War Timeline)
- 15 August 1969 The 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, begins Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE along Route 1 in Thua Thien Province.
- 15 August 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** Heavy contact began early in the morning and lasted throughout the night and the next day. At 0715 a white team received small arms fire, resulting in one US Air Crewman wounded. At 1245 hours B/2-502 sighted eight enemy at a distance. At 1443, the 3rd Platoon of B/2-502 received mortars and small arms fire. A sweep revealed 1 NVA KIA and miscellaneous ordnance. At 1855 FSB Barnett received 12 rounds of mortar fire with six rounds impacting within the perimeter. At 1930 hours B/2-502 3rd Platoon with D Company's 3rd Platoon received mortar fire resulting in 3 US WIA from B Company and 2 US WIA and 1 KCS WIA from D Company.
- 15 August 2012 **ANSF mission command of independent operations.** During the aerial resupply on 15 AUG 12, the 201st ANA Corps TOC received an update that ANA and arbakai were in a TIC at Kamdesh resulting in 4 x WIA. The ANA BTL MAJ elected to pursue having the AAF Mi-17s MEDEVAC the wounded. The Corps G3 air immediately requested MOD approval to dynamically re-tasked AAF Mi-17s. MOD granted the request, and the G3 air coordinated with 3/2 KDK at Bostick to relay instructions to the pilots. The MI-17s completed the BeM resupply and landed at Kamdesh to evacuate the 4 casualties to Bostick for treatment. The success of this operation is proof of the Corps staff's improved situational awareness, and the results will have a positive psychological effect on the ANA in Kamdesh—as they witnessed Mi-17s conducting immediate MEDEVAC of WIAs for the first time.
- 16 August 1942 The activation of the two full airborne divisions the 82nd and 101st was ordered and the 502nd was assigned as a permanent unit of the 101st Airborne Division and became the division's first organic parachute infantry regiment. Shortly after they became part of the 101st the 502nd PIR moved from Fort Benning, Georgia to join the rest of the division, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.
- 16 August 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** In the morning while still in darkness, the 2nd and 3rd Platoons of B Company and D Company's 3rd Platoon repulsed three ground attacks resulting in one US Soldier killed, 11 US Wounded, 13 enemy killed and 20 enemy killed by artillery. Numerous weapons and ordnance were captured. Later the same morning, the Recon Platoon was engaged by an unknown size enemy force resulting in one Kit Carson Scout wounded. At 1100 hours, C Company combat assaulted into a hot LZ, receiving RPG and small arms fire, grenades and satchel charges. The results were two STRIKE Force trooper wounded, one NVA killed and one captured, along with numerous ordnance and weapons. At 1700 hours the 1st Platoon of B Company found six bunkers with one RPD machine gun, 2 AK-47's, 1 telephone, 1 enemy body and several documents including a map. Total for the day were 1 US KIA, 13 US WIA, 1 KCS WIA, 15 NVA KIA, 20 NVA KBA, and 1 NVA POW.



17 August 1968 A/1-502 received 60mm mortar fire, vic. YD6133. They called for artillery but first light check proved negative assessment. B/1-502 secured An LO Bridge and worked with Rome plow.

17 August 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** B/2-502 1st Platoon while on a search and clear operation near FSB Barnett, searched a bunker complex which had been the target of heavy artillery and aerial rocket artillery bombardment on the precious day and found hospital facilities, a .30 caliber machine gun, ammunition, clothes, equipment, documents and a map and discovered 34 NVA dead. At 1400 hours B Company was in contact with no results. The Recon Platoon received incoming 60mm rounds with no casualties.

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

1 x Distinguished Service Cross
22 x Silver Star (4 x Posthumously)
1 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1 x Posthumously)
1 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
1 x Bronze Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
40 x Purple Hearts (22 x Posthumously)
35 x Air Medal
2 x Non-Hostile Injury or Illness

11 August 1969 The Following Soldiers: CPT David T. Gibson, 1LT Donald F. Gourley Jr., 1LT Daniel L. O'Neill, 1LT Kim E. Scharmen, SFC Issac Weyward Jr., SFC Lester E. Tarkington Jr., SSG Walter L. Jensen, SSG Kenneth E. Buesing, SSG Thomas G. Silva Jr. SGT Frane M. Clark, SGT Vester R. Green, SGT Dale S. Hardman, SGT Willie D. Hill Jr., SGT Wallace H. Kruesi, SGT Terry P. Kuhlenbege, SGT Richard C. Laraway, SGT Donald G. Lewis, SGT Elmer O. Neises, SGT John O. Perkins, SGT David Ratliff, SGT Raymond L. Searcy, SFC Dempsey W. Grice, SP4 James C. Baugh, SP4 Arliss E. Buell, SP4 James M. Cannon, SP4 Leonard D. Cole, SP4 Jack W. Cumiskey, SP4 David E. Cutright, SP4 George H. Drape Jr., SP4 Erwin A. Dunstatter, SP4 Santiago J. Erevia, SP4 James S. Garr, SP4 James P. Glemser, SP4 Robert C. Goodpaster, and SP4 David A. Johnson (C/1-501st IN) was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight operations.

11 August 1969 1SG Philip R. Rush (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from Multiple fragmentation wounds, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

11 August 1969 SGT Roy V. Rawlin (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



11 August 2008 SPC Matthew Tonkovich (1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was on a mounted patrol when he received a grenade attack. He suffered a concussion.



11 August 2010



SGT Christopher Karch (A/2-508 PIR), 23, of Indianapolis, Indiana; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire.

11 August 2010

SPC Daniel Lojewski (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

12 August 1966

PFC Robert O. Davis (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Long Khanh Province, Vietnam.

12 August 2003



PFC Daniel R. Parker (B/2-44 ADA), 18, of Lake Elsinore, California; was killed when he was thrown from his vehicle as the driver swerved to avoid an oncoming vehicle in another lane in Mosul, Iraq.

12 August 2010

PFC Walter Cheely (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

12 August 2010

SGT Carlos Vargas (A/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

13 August 1967

The following Soldiers: SGT Johnnie H. Patterson, CPL Danny L. Ingles (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds near LZ White, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

13 August 1968

1SG Philip R. Fink (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 August 1968

CPL Michael W. Sinibaldi (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, Vietnam.

13 August 1969

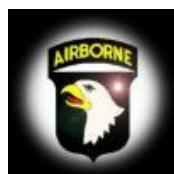
PFC Michael J. Holloway (C/1-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 August 1970

CPL Russell L. Bahrke Jr. (E/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, Vietnam.

13 August 2010

PFC Justin Mouser (B/1-66 AR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.



13 August 2010

The following Soldiers: SGT Christopher Pimetel and PFC Christopher Myers (A/2-502 PIR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

13 August 2010



The following Soldiers: 1SG Nathan Bryant and SPC Luis Lugo (A/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.



14 August 1966

1LT Robert B. Hadden (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

14 August 1967

SGT Alexander Jackson (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from small arms gun fire wounds near LZ White, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

14 August 1968

CPL Richard M. Samoray (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the province of Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

14 August 1969



PFC Michael H. Deragon (A/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

14 August 2006

2LT Scott Cassidy (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when an IED strikes his vehicle. Fragmentation bullets attached to the artillery round to target dismounts hit 2LT Cassidy and he is MEDEVACd with a bullet wound in his arm. It is the third of three purple hearts he will earn within three months.

14 August 2010

SPC Travis Wilds (A/2BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his unit with a grenade.

14 August 2010

SGT Joseph Perez (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

15 August 1966

The following Soldiers: SGT Derrell K. Sharp, PFC Fred D. Smith Jr. (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

15 August 1967

SSG James L. Coachman Jr. (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the province of Quang Tin, Vietnam.

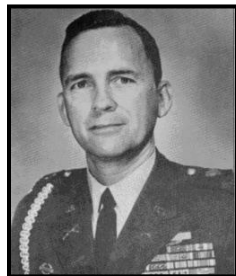


- 15 August 1968 SGT Phillip J. Essig (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds in the province of Thua Thien, Vietnam.
- 15 August 1970 SP4 David L. Williams (B/2-502 IN) action in combat earned him the Purple Heart. By virtue of wounds received due to enemy action, near Camp Evan, Republic of Vietnam. (Naval Hospital, USS Sanctuary AH-17; 1650 31-70; 3 Sept 70)
- 15 August 1970 SSG Frederick E. Huttie III (D/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the province of Quang Tri, Vietnam.
- 15 August 2010 CPT James Thomasson (A/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his unit with a rocket propelled grenade.
- 15 August 2010 PFC Steve Bravo (F/2-508 PIR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.
- 16 August 1968 CPL Crawford Jackson Jr. (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds in the province of Thua Thien, Vietnam.
- 16 August 1969 The following Soldiers: CPL Rodney D. Little, CPL Thomas D. Jones, PFC Charles L. Troxel (A/1-501 IN); SSG Samuel H. Pierce Jr. (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action, these Soldiers died from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.
- 17 August 2010 The following Soldiers: SFC Michael Calderaro and PFC Rexton Christenson (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.
- 17 August 2010 The following Soldiers: SPC Derrick Harris and PFC Dale Lamer (D/1-66 AR) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

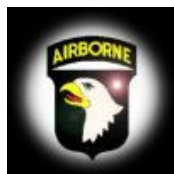
STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

12 -

13 August 1967



LTC Ralph Puckett Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (1-OLC) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Lieutenant Colonel Puckett distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 13 August 1967 while serving as Commanding Officer of an airborne infantry battalion on combat operations near Duc Pho. Shortly after elements of his unit were heavily engaged by a hostile battalion, Colonel Puckett landed in the battle zone to coordinate defenses and to assess the battlefield situation. Disregarding his own safety, he moved across a heavily mined area to the point of the most ferocious fighting to direct and inspire his men against the hostile force. Other elements were savagely attacked with intense mortar fire, so he decentralized the command post to reduce the chance of entire command element being hit. To do this, he personally occupied a foxhole position. He exposed himself to withering fire throughout the night to visit the men in their positions and to encourage and inspire them with his personal bravery and firm determination to overcome the overwhelming onslaught of the fanatical force. He heard cries for help during an intense mortar barrage later that night and dashed through a hail of flying shrapnel to give aid. He personally carried the two wounded soldiers back to safety and used his skill and experience as a truly professional soldier to treat their wounds. When



rescue helicopters came in, he repeatedly refused extraction for himself and directed that the casualties be evacuated. With bullets striking all around him, he remained in the open to rally his fatigued men through the long night by sharing every phase of the battle with them. His fearless leadership and aggressive, determined actions in the face of grave danger inspired his men to fight furiously throughout the night and obtain a decisive victory over the numerically superior Viet Cong attackers. Lieutenant Colonel Puckett'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. 6075 (November 24, 1967))

13 August 1967

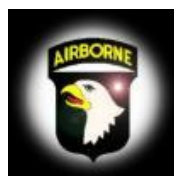


SP4 Ronnie D. Beets (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 August 1967, while serving as a member of Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Specialist Four Beets was serving as a machine gunner with his platoon when it came under extremely heavy attack while moving from Landing Zone White near Chu Lai. He manned a position on the perimeter, putting effective fire upon the enemy. During the night, the numerically superior North Vietnamese Army force mounted a full scale attack with mortars, rockets, grenades, automatic and small arms fire. Specialist Beets' position became a prime target, and he was seriously wounded in both legs by grenades and rockets. When the medic came forward to treat him, he refused treatment and told the medic to roll him over to this gun. Once in position, although in great pain, he again began to fire upon the enemy. He remained in position under the withering hail of enemy fire with complete disregard for his safety and injuries, until the enemy had been beaten back. Only then did he allow himself medical treatment. In the morning, six enemy bodies were found with twenty meters of his position. Specialist Beets' outstanding display of heroism in action and his devotion to duty were in the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, I Field Force, Vietnam, General Orders No. 983 (December 23, 1967))



13 August 1967

SGT Alexander Jackson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Jackson distinguished himself by exceptional valor and personal sacrifice when his company was brought under a determined attack by an estimated reinforced North Vietnamese battalion. The enemy rapidly attempted to overrun the company by hurling themselves at the perimeter. Sergeant Jackson's position was brought under the initial burst of fire and he was wounded in the chest by rocket fire. Realizing that the perimeter was about to be penetrated, Sergeant Jackson, disregarding his wounds and exposing himself to the enemy fire, maneuvered his squad into a position where they could place effective fire on the enemy. Noticing three insurgents, one carrying a rocket launcher, approaching his squad's flank and realizing the precarious situation developing, Sergeant Jackson, with utter disregard for his own safety, charged forward through the murderous fire and killed the three enemy soldiers with a hand grenade before the rocket launcher could be used. Seeing a member of his squad lying wounded outside the perimeter, he once again exposed himself to the vicious fire and rushed to the wounded man's aid. As Sergeant Jackson pulled the man to safety, he was mortally wounded. Sergeant Jackson's outstanding display of valor and dedication to duty in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflected the greatest of credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army.



13 August 1967

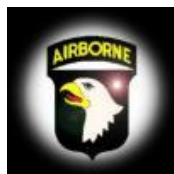
PFC Benjamin F. Kemp (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967, near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. After conducting an airmobile assault into a mined landing zone, 2nd platoon of Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, moved through the open to a tree-line. Approximately thirty meters from the trees, they came under intense automatic weapons fire from a North Vietnamese Army Platoon. The point man was wounded from the initial burst of fire. Observing his platoon sergeant having trouble moving the man, Private First Class Kemp, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, jumped from his concealed position and ran through the intense enemy fire to aid his fallen comrade. He then carried the man through the withering fire and through a minefield to a Medevac helicopter. Upon his return to the battle area, Private Kemp was wounded by an enemy grenade. Disregarding his wound and the heavy enemy fire, Private Kemp again aided a wounded man and carried him through the enemy fire and minefield to be evacuated. Private Kemp's coolness and undaunted courage on the battlefield was instrumental in inspiring his platoon to route a superior enemy force which left behind 35 dead and numerous weapons. Private First Class Kemp's outstanding display of gallantry in action and aggressive devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

13 August 1967

1LT Donald Nemetz (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Nemetz was attached to Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry when the company was brought under vicious and repeated attacks by a North Vietnamese Army battalion. On three separate occasions, during three determined attacks by the enemy, Lieutenant Nemetz moved through devastating hostile fire to exposed positions to call in effective artillery support. To accurately call in support, Lieutenant Nemetz remained exposed to concentrated automatic weapons fire being directed at him and, on another occasion, he braved enemy rocket and mortar fire on his position to call in close artillery support. Due to Lieutenant Nemetz' fearless personal courage and his superb ability, the enemy was driven off in each instance. Lieutenant Nemetz called in a total of 835 direct support artillery rounds into the enemy positions; 35 enemy dead were found within five feet of the perimeter. First Lieutenant Nemetz's unquestionable valor was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

13 August 1967

1SG Hugh M. Smith (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. Shortly after the last elements of Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry had reached a landing zone, the point platoon was brought under a tremendous volume of enemy automatic weapons, rocket, and rifle grenade fire. As the intensity of the battle increased it was necessary for the artillery forward observer to call for artillery fire around the perimeter. Realizing that the forward observer would be unable to effectively adjust the artillery fire by himself, First Sergeant Smith, with complete disregard for his own safety, rushed through the intense enemy fire to an exposed position where he could assist in adjusting fire. Almost immediately, First Sergeant Smith was brought under sniper and grenade fire and wounded. Disregarding his wounds and his safety, First Sergeant Smith remained in his exposed position and returned the enemy fire, killing three enemy soldiers while he continued to relay information to the forward observer and adjust artillery fire. During the later stages of the battle it was necessary to get three emergency ammunition resupplies for the company. First Sergeant Smith immediately took charge of the distribution of the ammunition to some of the positions. When the medical evacuation helicopter was able to land, he personally directed the evacuation of all the casualties. First Sergeant Smith's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his intense devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.



13 August 1967



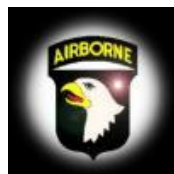
SGT Johnnie H. Patterson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Patterson distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action and personal sacrifice as he was leading his squad down a jungle trail and was ambushed by an enemy element of undetermined size. Sergeant Patterson immediately maneuvered his squad into a position to gain fire superiority. While directing the effective fire into the ranks of the onrushing Viet Cong, he detected several enemy soldiers moving forward to his immediate front, two of them were carrying a rocket launcher, the insurgents quickly set up a defilade position. Realizing that any maneuver he might make against the enemy was ineffective, Sergeant Patterson courageously exposed himself to the intense enemy small arms fire in an attempt to hurl a grenade into their stronghold. Seeing his grenade fall short, Sergeant Patterson, with complete disregard for his own safety, leaped from his covered position and charged the enemy through a hail of fire; he tossed a grenade into the enemy positions which killed two of them and caused the others to flee. While making his way back to his squad, he was mortally wounded. Sergeant Patterson's display of unquestionable valor and his extreme dedication to duty while engaged in close combat were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflected the utmost credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army.

13 August 1967

SP4 John E. Ross (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. On that night, an estimated enemy battalion launched a heavy attack on Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry and unleashed a tremendous volume of automatic weapons, grenades, and rocket fire into the friendly positions. In the initial stages of the attack, one of the friendly machinegun positions received three direct hits from rockets. Specialist Four Ross, upon hearing the wounded men calling for a medic, immediately, and with complete disregard for his own safety, charged through the intense enemy fire to the disable machinegun position where five men lay wounded. Disregarding the heavy concentrated fire the enemy was playing on the machinegun position, Specialist Ross began to administer the needed medical aid and pulled the men, one by one, to covered positions, during the night-long battle, Specialist Ross constantly moved through the heavy enemy fire, treating the wounded and giving his comrades encouragement. When the platoon started running low on ammunition, Specialist Ross began to resupply the positions with the needed ammunition, all the while he continued to treat the wounded and keep a constant vigil on those who had already been wounded. Specialist Four Ross' outstanding display of gallantry in action and his intense devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

13 August 1967

SP4 Louis A. Simmons (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Simmons distinguished himself by gallant action when his platoon came under heavy enemy attack and received numerous casualties. Observing a wounded comrade who lay in an area exposed to the enemy fire, Specialist Simmons immediately, and with complete disregard for his own safety, rushed through the withering hostile fire to the aid of the man. Upon reaching the wounded man, Specialist Simmons discovered that he had stopped breathing. Immediately, he started to administer mouth to mouth resuscitation when an enemy grenade exploded and wounded him. Disregarding his own wounds and the fire being directed at him, Specialist Simmons displayed unparalleled courage as he continued in his life saving task until he had revived the man. Still refusing medical aid, Specialist Simmons continued to move through the vicious fire to give aid to the wounded; each time placing himself between the wounded and the enemy's position to shield the wounded from further injury. Specialist Four Simmons' unquestionable valor, fortitude, and complete unconcern for his own life in the saving of others were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.



13 August 1967

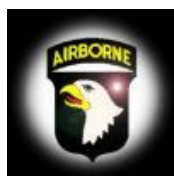
PV2 Lyle B. Wahlberg (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967, near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Private Wahlberg distinguished himself when his platoon came under intense enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own safety, Private Wahlberg moved through murderous enemy fire to within ten feet of the enemy's position to retrieve the wounded point man. When his fire team leader was wounded and evacuated, Private Wahlberg immediately displayed exceptional ability as he took command of the beleaguered force and reorganized and rallied the fire team. When one of his men broke under the strain of the fierce combat, Private Wahlberg moved through intense enemy fire to the man's position. He quieted the man, reassured him, and restored the man's confidence and fighting ability. Through-out the engagement Private Wahlberg displayed a fierce determination as he relentlessly resisted the enemy's attack. Private Wahlberg's leadership, personal courage, and ferocity on the battlefield were an inspiration to his men and greatly assisted his platoon in defeating a numerically superior North Vietnamese Army force. Private Wahlberg's unquestionable valor, aggressive determination and devotion to duty while engaged in close combat are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

13 August 1967

PFC Martin Guillen (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 August 1967, while serving as a member of Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Private Guillen, a machine gunner, was with his platoon when it was attacked by a North Vietnamese Army Force. He placed steady, accurate fire upon the enemy, and his position soon became a prime target. He steadfastly remained at his gun in spite of the numerous assaults launched upon his individual position. He succeeded in killing several of the enemy during these assaults but received several wounds from grenades in the legs, arms, and face. His gun was badly damaged by the grenade explosions as well. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he exposed himself to the withering hail of enemy fire and put his gun back into action. He refused medical aid, resumed his vicious fire upon the enemy, and for four hours succeeded in driving back enemy assaults. In the morning after the enemy had withdrawn, twenty-two enemy dead were found within thirty-five meters of his position. Private Guillen's outstanding display of personal courage and devotion to duty has been in the highest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

13 August 1967

1LT Robert H. Berry (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Berry, a platoon leader, was inserted with the rest of the company by airborne assault onto a completely bare and mined hilltop. The company was met by a North Vietnamese Army battalion which immediately attacked with automatic weapons, heavy machine guns, and mortars. Lieutenant Berry, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, exposed himself to the withering hail of enemy fire as he recovered wounded and personally positioned his men in the perimeter. During the remainder of the day and throughout the night, Lieutenant Berry's platoon bore the brunt of numerous enemy attacks. Lieutenant Berry remained cool and calm throughout the battle, directing fire, adjusting artillery, and pinpointing targets. During the assaults, he moved from his position to positions on the perimeter supplementing his platoon's fire with his rifle and hand grenades. When a particularly heavy mortar attack and a following assault were launched, he adjusted artillery to within thirty meters of his position. Lieutenant Berry's daring bravery, sound judgment, and active participation in the battle was instrumental in his company's ultimate victory over a numerically superior force. First Lieutenant Berry's outstanding display of gallantry and his devotion to duty were in the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



13 August 1967

SGT Richard H. Fouse (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. As the last elements of Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry reached a landing zone, the first platoon moved out as point platoon. A short distance down a hill the platoon was suddenly brought under a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons and rocket fire. The platoon leader was injured in the initial stage of the battle and was unable to retain command of the platoon. Without hesitation, Sergeant Fouse took command and positioned the machineguns and established a defensive perimeter. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Fouse exposed himself to the hostile fire while directing artillery fire and moving throughout the perimeter giving his men encouragement and directing their fire. Sergeant Fouse personally supplied covering fire which killed two enemy soldiers while his men pulled the wounded platoon leader to a safe area. Sergeant Fouse's heroic actions, dedication and devotion to duty are keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

13 August 1967

SP4 Ronald Jackson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. When the last elements of Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry had reached a landing zone, the point platoon started moving down a hill when they triggered a squad-size enemy ambush. Several casualties were inflicted, one of these being the platoon leader who was seriously wounded. Specialist Jackson, serving as platoon medic, rushed forward with complete disregard for his own personal safety, and began to administer much-needed medical aid. Specialist Jackson, although completely exposed to the vicious enemy fire, began to move the casualties to covered positions. Numerous times Specialist Jackson returned to the battle area to pull wounded men to safety and give them medical aid. On one occasion, as Specialist Jackson moved through the bullet swept battle area, he observed an enemy soldier preparing to shoot a friendly casualty. Again with complete disregard for his own safety, Specialist Jackson charged the enemy soldier and killed him before he could shoot the wounded man. Specialist Jackson then gave the wounded man medical aid and carried him to safety. For the remainder of the night's long battle, Specialist Jackson continued to give aid to his wounded comrades and undoubtedly saved many lives. Specialist Four Jackson's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his intense devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflected the greatest of credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army.

13 August 1967

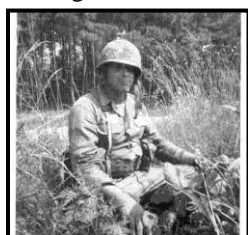
SFC Robert E. Jones (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967, near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. After making an airmobile assault into a mined landing zone, the second platoon of Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry moved across an open area towards a tree line. When they were approximately thirty meters from the tree line, the platoon came under intense automatic weapons fire from a North Vietnamese Army platoon. After assisting the platoon leader in deploying his troops, Platoon Sergeant Jones, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, moved through the murderous enemy fire to the point-man who had been wounded and laid in an exposed area. As Sergeant Jones reached the wounded man, the enemy directed their fire at him. Remaining in his exposed position, Sergeant Jones threw a hand grenade which knocked out an enemy machinegun and killed the gun crew. After moving the wounded man to cover, Sergeant Jones moved throughout the platoon pointing out enemy targets, throwing grenades and shouting encouragement. While doing this, Sergeant Jones was wounded by an enemy grenade. Undaunted, he continued to encourage his men. Because of his outstanding display of courage, Sergeant Jones' platoon was able to route a superior enemy force that left behind twenty-two dead and numerous weapons. Platoon Sergeant Jones' outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflected the greatest of credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army.



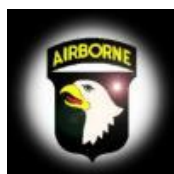
13-14 August 1967

CPT Ronald G. Odom (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile enemy of 13 and 14 August 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1700 hours on 13 August 1967, Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, conducted a helicopter assault into an area north west of Chu Lai. Shortly after the last elements of the company had landed, a platoon moving down the hill from the landing zone was suddenly taken under heavy enemy automatic weapons fire. Captain Odom immediately directed the platoon to pull back to the landing zone where he quickly organized a company perimeter defense. Shortly after, an estimated insurgent Battalion initiated a full scale attack on the friendly positions. As the enemy element began to place a tremendous volume of automatic weapons, mortar, rocket, and rifle grenade fire into the friendly positions, Captain Odom exposed himself to the heavy enemy fire while moving among his men's positions giving them encouragement and directing their fire by pointing out enemy positions. For over thirteen hours the battle raged and Captain Odom directed extremely effective supporting fire from artillery, gunships, and flare ships. The determined enemy element continued to assault the friendly positions with human wave assault teams time and time again. Numerous times Captain Odom with complete disregard for his own personal safety, dashed through the bullet swept area and pulled wounded men to safety and gave them medical aid. During the entire battle Captain Odom displayed such a high degree of heroism that his men became so inspired by his action that they were able to successfully defend their positions from the determined enemy force. When the battle ended and the enemy element withdrew, thirty five enemy dead were counted, eighteen automatic weapons were captured, and also two machine guns and two rocket launchers. Captain Odom's outstanding display of gallantry in the face of insurmountable odds is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

13 August 1967



1LT Theodore S. Orvold (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile enemy of 13 August 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Orvold, a platoon leader, was participating in an airmobile assault made by his company. The landing zone was mined, and as the platoons began to move away from it, they were brought under murderous small arms, automatic weapons, and machine-gun fire from a North Vietnamese Army battalion. One of the platoons was pinned down by the initial burst of fire, and suffered several casualties. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Orvold personally led his platoon into the intense enemy fire, relieved the pressure and allowed the platoon to recover its wounded and withdraw to a covered area. Lieutenant Orvold moved to within ten meters of the enemy's position, personally assaulting the positions with hand grenades and bursts from his rifle. His individual aggressiveness and personal courage resulted in the death of four of the enemy, and the silencing of a machinegun and several other automatic weapons. As the platoon began to move back to the perimeter, Lieutenant Orvold observed one of the wounded to his front who was under fire from other enemy positions. Again, without regard for his own safety, he moved through the heavy sniper fire and recovered the wounded man. Once in the perimeter, Lieutenant Orvold moved among his positions, directing fire and maintaining fire discipline. Throughout the night, which was filled with enemy attempts to overrun the perimeter, Lieutenant Orvold constantly exposed himself to fire while he rallied his men, directed fire, and adjusted artillery. His personal aggressiveness in battle and his superb leadership were instrumental in the ultimate victory won by his company. Lieutenant Orvold's unquestionable valor was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.



13 August 1967

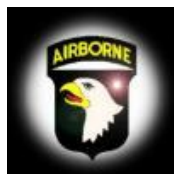
2LT Thomas Petramalo (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Second Lieutenant Petramalo distinguished himself by his unparalleled determination and person sacrifice. During a heliborne assault Lieutenant Petramalo's platoon encountered an enemy minefield in the landing zone. The platoon began to probe the minefield and cautiously maneuver through it when they were brought under extremely heavy automatic weapons fire. The enemy fired from three directions and pinned the squad down. With complete disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Petramalo rushed forward through the hail of hostile fire to the front elements of his platoon and led them through the minefield to a covered position. Still exposed to the enemy fire, he moved from position to position directing covering fire for the remainder of the platoon as they crossed the open minefield. Realizing that he was engaging with a numerically superior force, Lieutenant Petramalo once again braved the intense fire to reach his radio telephone operator and call in effective artillery supporting fire. Seeing that one of his men lay wounded in an area exposed to enemy fire, ran forward to the aid of the wounded man. At this time Lieutenant Petramalo was mortally wounded. Lieutenant Petramalo's unquestionable display of valor and his devotion to duty while engaging a numerically superior hostile force in close combat were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army.

13-14 August 1967

1LT Thomas J. Courtney (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 and 14 August 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. As First Lieutenant Courtney's company prepared to move from a landing zone after an airmobile assault, it was attacked by a North Vietnamese Army Battalion armed with grenades, mortars, heavy machineguns and automatic weapons. Lieutenant Courtney was instructed to maneuver his platoon to another portion of the hastily constructed perimeter to assist a platoon who had borne the brunt of the initial attack. After Lieutenant Courtney stood up, exposing himself to the withering enemy fire, and calmly threw two grenades into the machine gun position which badly damaged the gun and killed two enemy soldiers. The enemy element then commenced a flanking maneuver. Observing this, Lieutenant Courtney, again with no regard for his own safety, picked up a machine gun and moved through the devastating fire completely exposed. He engaged the flanking enemy from a position well forward of the perimeter and his effective fire forced the hostile force to withdraw, leaving several dead and wounded. His aggressive spirit and courageous deeds rallied the men in both platoons and were instrumental in the ultimate victory over a numerically superior North Vietnamese Army force. First Lieutenant Courtney's unquestionable valor was in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

13 August 1967

SP4 Danny L. Ingles (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (Posthumously) for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Specialist Ingles distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Ingles was walking point for his platoon when they were suddenly brought under attack by and estimated reinforced North Vietnamese army battalion. Seeing one of his comrades wounded in the initial burst of fire, he immediately left his covered position and with complete disregard for his own safety, charged through the enemy's intense hail of fire to aid his badly wounded comrade. After administering medical aid to him, Specialist Ingles picked him up and started toward a landing zone with him. The enemy immediately concentrated their fire on Specialist Ingles. As he was approaching the landing zone, the intense enemy fire increased to such a degree that Specialist Ingles was pinned down and mortally wounded while shielding his wounded comrade from the incoming mortar and small arms fire. Specialist Ingles' 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, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 1753)



13 August 1970

SGT Michael T. Riddle (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 August 1970. Sergeant Riddle distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant in Company C, 1st Battalion [Airmobile], 502d Infantry, during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While leading a reconnaissance patrol, Sergeant Riddle's unit came under intense hostile fire from an unknown enemy position. Unable to detect the exact location of the enemy, Sergeant Riddle deliberately drew enemy fire toward himself so that his squad could spot the source. Spotting the cave from which the hostile fire was coming, Sergeant Riddle maneuvered forward, directing suppressive fire and throwing grenades at the aggressors. His actions were instrumental in silencing the enemy position and routing the enemy force. Sergeant Riddle'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.

15 August 1966

PFC Wayne Leathers (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force. Private First Class Leathers distinguished himself on 15 August 1966 during a search and destroy mission near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. As his unit was maneuvering through the dense jungle terrain, it suddenly received intense Viet Cong fire from a cave. During the initial engagement, two soldiers were mortally wounded. When he attempted to pull the casualties to cover, the Viet Cong began to deliver fire directly at him. Nevertheless, he continued until he was wounded by Viet Cong grenade fragments. Although he was wounded and in great pain, Private First Class Leathers, with complete disregard for his safety, jumped to his feet, charged the insurgent position, and killed one Viet Cong. He then approached the cave and pointed his weapon through an aperture and fired. As a result, he killed two more Viet Cong and silenced the insurgent emplacement. Through his courage, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Private First Class Leathers' 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.

15 August 1967

SP5 James L. Coachman Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 15 August 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Five Coachman distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions and personal sacrifice. While moving his squad down a jungle trail, they were assaulted by a North Vietnamese platoon. Specialist Coachman's squad received heavy fire from both flanks and was pinned down. As the fire fight raged, the two closest positions to him were attacked by a human wave assault of a North Vietnamese squad. Realizing that his two positions were greatly outnumbered, he courageously burst from his covered position and, exposing himself to the hostile fire with utter disregard for his own safety, personally assaulted the on-rushing enemy soldiers. Specialist Coachman physically made contact with three of the enemy and subdued them. Continuing forward, he aggressively engaged the enemy with suppressive fire and grenades. Before he fell mortally wounded, he successfully overran the position and killed four of the enemy. Specialist Five Coachman's undaunted courage and outstanding display of gallantry in close combat against a numerically superior force has distinguished him and reflected the utmost credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army.

15 August 2007

SPC William J. Kelso (C/1-64 AR) was awarded the Army Commendation with Valor for actions in combat as a line Platoon Medic. SPC Kelso was on a mission in western Baghdad to inspect a crew of local national workers repairing a broken water main from an IED blast. The patrol was ambushed with machine gun fire from south of the Platoon's position, which masked a sniper fire position from an unknown location. The gunfire killed one local national and wounded the Platoon's interpreter. While under fire, SPC Kelso moved through heavy machine gun fire to the wounded interpreter and moved him to a more covered position so he could be treated. SPC Kelso stopped the bleeding from a gunshot wound to the face and then assisted in his movement to the HMMWV for a CASEVAC. En route to Riva Ridge Medical Facility, SPC Kelso continued his work by talking to the interpreter, keeping him calm to prevent him from going into shock. He



found a second gunshot wound to the interpreter's hip, which was crucial information that he passed along to the medical personnel at the facility before mounting into his HMMWV and returning to the objective to find the attackers. Due to SPC Kelso's selfless adherence to his duties as the Platoon medic, the interpreter made a complete recovery and continued to operate with C Company.

17 August 1970

LT James L. Sanders (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 August 1970, in the Republic of Vietnam; Lieutenant Sanders distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 502nd Infantry, during combat operations in Quang Tri Province. While assaulting an enemy bunker complex, Lieutenant Sanders crawled to the lead element and directed artillery and air support on the enemy emplacements. Subjecting himself to intense hostile fire, he maneuvered among his men, directing their suppressive fire. His actions were instrumental in directing accurate artillery and air support which aided in silencing the enemy positions. Lieutenant Sanders' 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 502nd in different brigades of the 101st. The 2nd Battalion was in the 1st Brigade with 1-327th and 2-327th Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam 1965, in was most notable commanded by LTC Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson. The new 2nd Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1st and 2d Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry.

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

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

