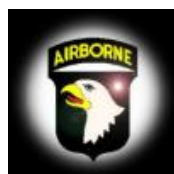




2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) “STRIKE HISTORY” 16 March – 22 March 2014



- 16-17 March 1968 The 1-502nd Infantry Battalion conducted limited operations and made negative contact. (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)
- 16 March 2009 STRIKE Companies, Troops and Batteries begin team and squad level training exercises, such as Military Operations on Urban Terrain, to hone their warrior skills.
- 
- 18 March 1945 The 502nd, as part of the 101st Airborne Division, is awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for its part in the defense of Bastogne in December, 1944. This was the first time an entire division was cited.
- 18 March 1968 The 1-502nd Infantry Battalion conducted full operations but made little contact until Delta Company spotted 10 VC around a fire at 2130hrs vic. (575287). With PF's, the Delta element surrounded and opened fire on the VC. Results: Enemy: 6-KIA (BC), 1-KIA (EST), 3 WIA/POW. (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)
- 18 March 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** B/2-502 was engaged by trail watchers on two separate occasions. One US Soldier was killed during the day. Although a heavy blood trail and AK-47 were found at the enemy location, the body had been dragged away by his comrades. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)
- 18-24 March 2003 The 502nd Infantry Regiment facilitates the 101st Airborne Division's movement across the Iraqi border by securing the Division's tactical assembly area along with multiple attack positions, thereby facilitating the rapid passage of the 3rd BCT into Iraq.
- 18 March 2003 526 FSB Forward Logistics Element moves forward from Camp New York (Kuwait) as part of Task Force Sinclair to Tactical Assembly Area Carla on the Western Iraqi border. There, the FLE established a logistics release point in order to support the 2nd Brigade, 101st ABN DIV as it moved into enemy territory. The FLE provided critical sustenance to forces that were staging in attack positions before crossing through breach lanes along the border. Within 48 hours, over 2,700 vehicles had processed through the logistics release point en route to their attack positions. During that time, the FLE issued more than 27,000 gallons of fuel, nearly 5,000 cases of MREs, and 5,700 cases of bottled water to replenish unit basic loads, repaired 127 vehicles, and provided level-I medical treatment to forces passing through the tactical assembly area.
- 18 March 2009 1-502 IN awarded Meritorious Unit Commendation for outstanding service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq, from Oct. 15, 2007 – Nov. 15, 2008. 1-502 Infantry Regiment's professionalism and dedication to the mission went beyond the call of duty and greatly contributed to the success of the “STRIKE” Brigade and MND-B. Through intense partnership with Iraqi Security Forces while operating in northwest Baghdad, the “First Strike” Battalion conducted full



spectrum counter-insurgency operations, using both lethal and non-lethal precision targeting to disrupt the enemy.

19 March 1968 Alfa, Bravo, and Delta 1-502nd Infantry remained at Sally. Charlie moved to (615235) and began preparing FSB STRIKE. No contact. (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)

19 March 1969 On this morning, American Commanders called in Air Force fire power to blast NVA troops out of their labyrinth of bunkers on Dong A Tay. 1st Lt. Ed Donaldson, who commanded 2nd Plt., A Co., recalls an Air Force jet dropping a 10,000 pound “daisy cutter” bomb (used to clear landing zones) on the hilltop. Immediately thereafter, 2nd and 3rd Platoon 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry led the attack. “We were running into delaying contacts as we moved toward the hill,” “Every so often we would get contact from two or three NVA. But we kept getting pressured by division to get to the top, so we didn’t chase them.” Lt. John Sorge, who commanded 3rd Platoon, recalled that his unit suffered the first casualties. “My platoon sergeant Sandy Muhlengraft was the first one wounded and my RTO Lawrence Olive was the first KIA,” Lt John Sorge said. Lt. Donaldson says his platoon saw “bunker everywhere” as they moved forward. Upon reaching the top of Dong A Tay, “we noticed commo wire and there were clothes and other debris up in the trees,” that he surmised was caused by the huge daisy cutter explosion. “Just then a couple of NVA went running down a ridge, and my guys, who were real aggressive, went after them,” Lt. Donaldson said. “I yelled at them to return but it was too late.” An NVA ambush lay in wait. “The whole jungle erupted,” Lt Donaldson recalls. “We got pinned down on a little saddle on a very narrow ridge.”

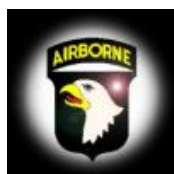
Lt. Donaldson called in artillery fire, estimating that 1,700 rounds – some landing only 25 yards from 2nd Platoon’s positions – blasted the hilltop for the next three hours. “They laid down a wall of steel,” he said. “We would’ve been in a lot worse shape if not for the artillerymen.”

Freddy Baker, a rifleman with A Company who was awaiting a helicopter for a planned R&R leave, says he was ordered back to his platoon when the shooting started. “The noise was ungodly,” Baker said. “Arty, machine guns, rifle fire, RPG’s, as well as gunships and jets. I remember the Phantoms releasing their ordnance and you could see it tumbling right toward you.” SP4 Dave Nesbitt serving with 1st Platoon say he and another Soldier were digging foxholes when they heard small-arms fire erupt down the ridge from them. “He (the other Soldier) jumped up, grabbed his M-16 with only one magazine and ran down toward the firing,” Nesbitt said. “It was a very bad mistake. I helped retrieve his body the next day.” SP4 Nesbitt was wounded the following day on March 20th, when “a big ball of fire from a mortar or command-detonated artillery round” exploded as he manned an M-60 machine gun behind a tree. He remembers a couple of his fellow troopers pulling him up the hill and out of firing range where A Company’s 1st Platoon medic, James “Doc” Feliciano, could apply first aid. “I had a hole in my knee big enough to put in a grapefruit,” said Nesbitt, who later had his knee fused together instead of amputating his leg. Feliciano recalls Nesbitt as the last casualty he treated that day.

“Wally Morrow gave me cover fire as I worked on Dave,” said Feliciano “Besides an ambush in Tam Ky in July 1969, this operation was the worst for me. We were making contact daily and it was pretty hectic.” (VFW Article (March 2008)

20 March 1968 The 1-502nd Infantry Battalion had conducted limited search and destroy operations around Sally. Fortifications of FSB STRIKE continued. (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)

20 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN:** At 1130H, C/2-502 engaged an estimated squad sized force with 2 Platoons, maneuvered elements and then engaged an estimated



Platoon size force in bunkers. Line of bunkers extended from YD683122 – 682132 – 677125. Results: 7 US WHA, 1 NVA KIA, 1 RPD Captured. B Co. patrolled in vic. YD668130 sighted 4-5 NVA, B Co. maneuvered to contact vi YD671126 where it ran into a complex and came under intense AW & SA fire, company received approximately 30 82mm mortar rounds plus RPG and rifle grenades. B Co. continued to maneuver on enemy but had to break contact at 1615H for preparation of night defense position. Results: 1 US KHA, 15 US WHA, 11 VC KIA.

20 March 1970

Operation RANDOLPH GLEN: Enemy showed the first offensive action since 2-502 (STRIKE Force) Battalion moved into the area. At first light, B Company began receiving enemy 60mm mortar rounds in their position. No friendly casualties were incurred during the mortar attack. A brigade white team was employed to scout out the suspected enemy mortar site. At YC789954 the low bird began receiving hostile small arms fire. The 1st Platoon of B Company moved to search the area. The Platoon engages three enemy killing one and wounding the others. That night just after dark, a reinforced sapper squad attacked the night defensive position of B Company's third platoon. One Soldier was killed before the enemy was driven off. At 0200 hours on the 21st, the night defensive position of A Company's third platoon was hit by an enemy sapper unit. Employing the same tactics as those employed against B Company the previous day, the enemy killed another STRIKE Force trooper. A Sweep of the area revealed tow AK-47's and several blood trails, but once again all enemy bodies had been dragged away. During this period the Battalion's air mobility was put to the ultimate test. No firebase was to be occupied for a period longer than ten days. Frequent move required close coordination among all units. The Strike Force proved itself equal to the task. All moves were made efficiently and on time. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)

20 March 1970

B/2-502 IN 3rd Platoon & CP between 1915 to 2015 hrs had an estimated size enemy element approached night location and fired RPG, 2 magazines AK47, and machine gun fire. Enemy approached from southeast along ridge line. Friendly's returned fire with small arms; enemy fled southeast, element swept area under illumination. Negative Results. A Company 2d Platoon reported hearing moans from what sounded like a wounded enemy, 300 meters to the north, B Company 3rd Platoon has returned to night location. Artillery was employed by A & B Company; ARA called but was restricted because of weather. Friendly losses were one US KIA and One US WHA. (Spot Report & messages from the Journal of 20 March 1970)

21 March 1968

The 1-502nd Infantry Battalion continued limited search and destroy operations. Alfa ambushed 10 VC and later found a small tunnel complex. Results: 5 VC KIA (BC), 2 VC WIA/POW. (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)

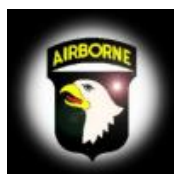
21 March 1968

Late in the evening, the North Vietnamese made a daring attack on the night defensive perimeter of the 2nd BN (Abn.), 501st IN, using B-40 rockets as covering fire. Using small arms, automatic weapons and direct artillery fire the paratroopers drove the enemy force off, killing 22.

21-22 March 1969

It was particularly bad for B/1-502 IN during these two day when it lost seven KIAs. On March 21st, 1LT William Dent, who commanded 3rd Platoon, was wounded in an ambush and later died.

"I put him on a chopper alive," said B Company 1SG Royce Burkett, "He had three bullet holes in him. I guess he must have lost too much blood. I remember him asking me to secure his Ranger Knife." 1SG Burkett, also a Korean War Veteran, was wounded on March 22nd when fragments from the RPG hit him in the head, leg, and arm. "It knocked me back into a bomb crater, 1SG said. "I had blood sloshing around in my boots, but I didn't think my condition was bad enough to be evacuated then. I spent that night on the hill and was Medevaced out the next day. I spent 45 days in the hospital with an infection."



Casualties were taking such a heavy toll on B Company Platoons that SP4 Dean Smith, an RTO with the 1st Platoon, remembers a fellow RTO, SP4 Robert E. McAferty, walking point for a squad because all other point man had been wounded. “He walked past me and down a trail,” said Smith “All of a sudden I heard him screaming, “They’re all around us,” and then hell broke loose. It sounded horrible.” SP4 Smith says his unit later found McAferty’s lifeless body tied to a tree.

1LT Donaldson says A Company secured the hilltop on March 24th. He was then ordered to take command of Recon Platoon. “It was the most intense time of my year in Vietnam,” said Donaldson. “It also was the best thing I ever did in my life.” The next day, B Company would make the final push to move the NVA off Dong A Tay. (VFW Article (March 2008))

21 March 1969

A Co and B Co 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry occupied the LZ at Dong A Tay and searched the surrounding area. A Co captured 1 IW and B Co discovered a bunker and tunnel complex vic YC500977. The base area appeared large enough to accommodate a Bn (-) and contained a quantity of documents identifying the 816 Bn, 5th NVA Regt. At 1230 the security element of B Co at the LZ engaged and killed 1 NVA sniper. At 1310 vic YC502975 B Co encountered an estimated NVA Co in bunkers on a narrow, thickly vegetated ridge. Contact continued until 1810 and resulted in 4 US KIA, 9 US WIA. C Co and Recon conducted RIF to FSB Veghel and assisted D Co in security.

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.

2 x Distinguished Service Cross (1 x Distinguished Service Cross)
 11 x Silver Star Medal
 3 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
 1 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
 5 x Bronze Star Medal (5 x Posthumously)
 59 x Purple Heart (46 x Posthumously)
 2 x Non-Hostile Injury or Illness

16 March 1968

SGT Gary P. Hadley (A/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

16 March 1968

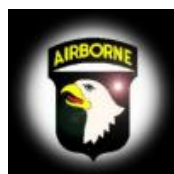


SSG Bogard L. Floyd (A/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

16 April 1968



PFC Christopher H. Bell (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



16 March 2006

SGT Jacob Proebstel (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in combat when he was in a building when a single shot was fired through the window and grazed his left shoulder.

17 March 1968



The following Soldiers: SP4 Roger E. Duncan (Pictured) and SP4 Wendell G. Taylor (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

17 March 1971

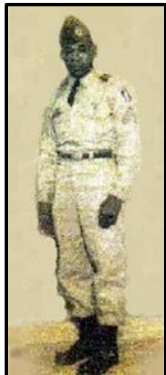


The following Soldiers: SP4 Thomas E. Testorff (Pictured) and SP4 Harry C. King (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from artillery, rocket, and mortar wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

17 March 2006

SPC Kenneth England (HHC/1-22 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received actions in combat earn when he suffered a moderate concussion.

18 March 1970



SGT McArthur Johnson (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

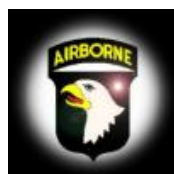
19 March 1969

The following Soldiers: SP4 Jesus Encarnacion-Betencourt (HHC/1-502 IN); SP4 Mervin R. Richter (Pictured), PFC Donald L. Olive (Pictured) (A/1-502 IN); PFC Glenn L. Sparks (C/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 a bunker complex 9k SW of FSB Veghel in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



19 March – 1 May 2003

SFC Larry G. Clark (B/2-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for actions in combat.



19 March 2006 1LT Samuel Fitzpatrick (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received during actions in combat earn Shortly after leaving Patrol Base Lion's Den, the vehicle that the Soldier was riding in was struck by an IED at or around 0110hrs.

19 March 2006 PFC Johnny Kim (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat shortly after leaving Patrol Base Lion's Den, PFC Kim's vehicle was struck by an IED. PFC Kim would be struck again during OIF 07-09, earning another Purple Heart.

19 March 2008 SGT Kenneth Christian (1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds receive during actions in combat while his platoon was conducting Route Vernon over watch in AO Regulator. SGT Christian's truck was struck by one LAW round which penetrated the HMMWV and exploded in the HMMWV while on Route Vernon. He was diagnosed and treated for R tympanic membrane perforations, multiple shrapnel puncture wounds, shrapnel puncture through cartilaginous region of external ear and minor scalp lacerations and abrasions from the explosion.

19 March 2011 SGT Joseph Maden (B/4-4 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire.

20 March 1966 The following Soldiers: SSG Hubert R. Smith (Pictured), SSG Clifford A. McKennan (Pictured), SGT David Flores (Pictured), and PFC Thomas L. McFarland, (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Province not reported, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



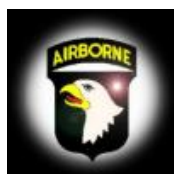
20 March 1968 The following Soldiers: SGT Douglas B. Keefauver (A/2-501 IN) (1-OLC); PFC Clayton Caldwell (B/2-501 IN); PFC Michael E. Saltis (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in action during combat operations. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 3971)

20 March 1968 CPL Dennis R. Cantler (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



20 March 1968 CPL David A. Maddux (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

20 March 1969 CPL Max A. Johnson (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



20 March 1970

SP4 Edward Vogel (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (Spot Report & messages from the Journal of 20 March 1970)

20 March 1970

CPL Philip G. Knieper Jr. (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Spot Report & messages from the Journal of 20 March 1970)

20 March 2008

SPC Seth Stephen (1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat against a hostile force.

21 March 1966

PFC Bobby G. Gadie (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.

21 March 1968

The following Soldiers: CPL Raymond L. Mason, SP4 Daniel F. Bettencourt Jr., and PFC Joseph E. Robinson (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received from metal fragment wounds when their base was attacked while in their NDP 5km west of Hue, by hostile mortar attacks in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



21 March 1969

SSG Mark W. Dugger (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (Purple Heart Citations; 12 April 1969)

21 March 1969



The following Soldiers: SP4 Johnny L. Edwards, CPL Ronnie R. White (Pictured) (B/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in bunkers SW of LZ Veghel, 12 KM E of A Luoi Village, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 March 1969

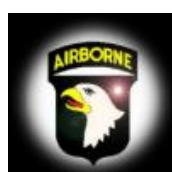


The following Soldiers: 1LT William L. Dent (Pictured), SP4 Miguel A. Rivera (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in bunkers SW of LZ Veghel, 12 KM E of A Luoi Village the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 March 1969



PFC Walter T. Bryant (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in bunkers SW of LZ Veghel, 12 KM E of A Luoi Village the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



21 March 1970



SGT Stephen A. Golsh (A/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds during a probe of their NDP 19 miles E-NE of A Chau, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 March 1970



SGT Louis J. Barbaria (C/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes while at an artillery firing position when a grenade which he was handling accidentally detonated in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 March 1970



SGT John T. Gutekunst (A/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Tien Province, South Vietnam.

21 March 2011

The following Soldiers: SGT Brock Huber and PFC Cody Cheng (B/1-320 FAR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

21 March 2006

PFC Derrick Cooper (B/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat when sustained wounds as a result of enemy or hostile action.

21 March 2006

PV2 Marcos Luevanos (B/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat.

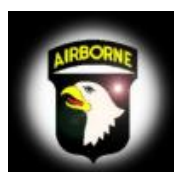
21 March 2006

PFC Korey Harris (A/2-101 BTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat while conducting route clearance. PFC Harris was the gunner in the lead vehicle of the convoy. The vehicle was struck broadside by an IED. The led was 2 meters to the front of the vehicle. PFC Harris was standing in the turret at the time of detonation, facing forward as the blast was to his left side. He suffered hearing damage and a concussion as a result of the blast.

22 March 1967



PFC Earle C. Hamilton Jr. (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Lam Dong Province, South Vietnam.



22 March 1968

The following Soldier: SP4 Charles R. Pyle (Pictured) (E/1-501 IN); 2LT Frederick Y. Holjes (Pictured), SGT C W R. Williams, SP5 Bill W. Gant, SP4 Thomas J. Ptak (Pictured), SP4 Manfred W. Krause, PFC Gary L. Barnum (C/2-501 IN); SP4 Walter H. Anslow (D/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



22 March 1968

The following Soldiers: PFC Fred C. H. Frapiea Jr. (Pictured) (C/2-501 IN); SP4 Donald E. Green (E/2-501 IN); SP4 Benjamin A. Jones (Pictured) (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from artillery, rocket or mortar wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



22 March 1968



SP4 James E. Blaauw (E/2-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and 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.

22 March 1969

The following Soldiers: CPL Ralph N. Bickford and PFC David D. Ouellette (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 bunkers 9 KM SW LZ Veghel, 12 KM E of A Luoi Village, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)

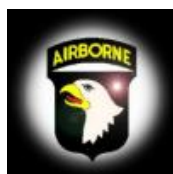


22 March 1969

SP4 Robert E. McAferty (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in bunkers 9 KM SW LZ Veghel, 12 KM E of A Luoi Village, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

22 March 2008

SGT Matthew Engel (A/2-101 BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat. Beast Iron Claw came under attack by RPG fire and small arms fire. An RPG struck the gunner's turret that SGT Engel was in. He received injuries to the face and right arm.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

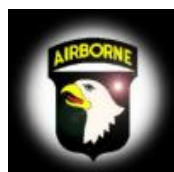
16 March 1966

1LT James D. Hart (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 16 March 1966 while serving as platoon leader on a combat operation near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. As First Lieutenant Hart was leading a patrol deep in a Viet Cong infested area, his unit received intense hostile fire. First Lieutenant Hart immediately moved forward through the intense fire and quickly made an estimate of the situation. Although repeatedly exposed to the Viet Cong fire, First Lieutenant Hart skillfully deployed his men and effectively directed their return fire. As the battle continued, the patrol sustained several casualties. Unhesitatingly, First Lieutenant Hart called for supporting artillery fire. With complete disregard for his safety, First Lieutenant Hart repeatedly exposed himself to the hostile enemy fire as he skillfully adjusted the artillery fire onto the Viet Cong emplacements. He then personally led an assault on the hostile positions. Inspired by their leader, the patrol eagerly and aggressively joined him in the assault. During the course of action, First Lieutenant Hart wounded three Viet Cong and neutralized their emplacement with well-placed hand grenades. His courageous efforts enabled the patrol to continue their mission which resulted in the capture of six rifles and one machine gun. First Lieutenant Hart'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.

16 March 1968



PFC Christopher Hiawatha Bell (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Private First Class Bell distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions during a search and destroy mission in enemy territory. Realizing the danger of the mission, Private Bell volunteered to be point man in place of his less experienced comrades. He came upon a fork in the trail, stopped the platoon and moved forward alone. He suddenly opened fire, killing an enemy soldier on the trail. The platoon was immediately pinned down by a vicious hail of enemy automatic weapons fire from at least three positions. Private Bell, trapped in front of the platoon, began placing a heavy volume of effective counter fire on the insurgents, allowing his platoon leader to deploy the lead squad. The enemy fire became so intense that the squad was soon immobilized as it tried to maneuver against the insurgents. Realizing the precarious situation that was rapidly developing, Private Bell quickly went into action. He secured hand grenades from his rucksack, and began to crawl through the murderous barrage toward the enemy bunker putting out the heaviest volume of firepower. As he neared the position, he exposed himself to the fusillade to throw a grenade which destroyed the bunker and killed its occupants. The platoon was still receiving heavy automatic weapons fire, so he moved toward a second bunker and destroyed it with hand grenades. The platoon then began receiving fire from a position to its left flank, and Private Bell began moving towards the source. Once in range, he rose to throw a grenade and was struck by a burst of automatic weapons fire which knocked him to the ground. Ignoring his wound and completely disregarding his safety, he got to his feet and rushed forward. He was struck twice more by a burst from the enemy machine gun, but he continued to charge until he was close enough to throw a grenade into the bunker, destroying it. Private First Class Bell's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, 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. 3762 (August 2, 1968))



16 March 1968



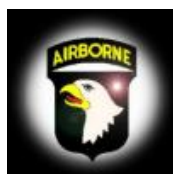
COL John H. Cushman (2nd BDE CDR) earned the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 16 March 1968. Colonel Cushman distinguished himself on 16 March 1968 while serving as Brigade Commander, Second Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, on a combat operation with Company A 1st Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry. On 16 March the 1st Platoon, attacking north, had been stopped by intense rocket and automatic weapons fire from concealed bunker positions 200 meters inside the village. The 2nd platoon was engaged with the enemy in a flanking position 300 meters to the northwest. Movement of the company was halted. Colonel Cushman, Brigade Commander, was airborne over the battle area in an unarmed light observation helicopter, OH-23. Realizing that effective and early resumption of the attack required his personal intervention, Colonel Cushman landed in his OH-23 100 meters from the 2nd platoon and with his radio operator moved forward into the fire-swept area to the platoon leader and platoon sergeant where he determined the situation. Returning to his landing area, he called in his helicopter and moved to the location of the company commander. With his radio operator he accompanied the company commander and artillery forward observer to where the 1st platoon was in contact. Here he determined that the point elements of the 1st platoon had been cut down by machine gun fire from a concealed enemy bunker, and that platoon lead elements continued under intense enemy fire. Colonel Cushman then moved forward to join lead riflemen of the platoon. Exposing himself to hostile fire at close range, he determined that the primary fire support needed by Company A was aerial rocket artillery fire to disengage the 1st platoon, recover its wounded, and destroy the enemy positions. Colonel Cushman so informed the battalion commander, and remained with the artillery forward observer near the enemy positions until the rocket attack was successfully completed. Returning to the company command post, and determining that lack of ammunition was holding up a flanking attack by the 2nd platoon, Colonel Cushman once again called in his OH-23, boarded it, loaded it with ammunition, and once more entered the fire-swept 2nd platoon area where he delivered the ammunition and evacuated a wounded soldier. Company A then executed a flanking attack by the 2nd platoon, enveloping the enemy positions.

16 March 1968

CPT Allen D. Gezelman (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 16 March 1968. Captain Gezelman distinguished himself with extraordinary gallantry in action while serving as Company Commander of Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Company A had been given the mission of searching and clearing the village of Ap Co Thap, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. As the elements of the company maneuvered into attack positions around the village, the 1st platoon received intense enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire. Captain Gezelman, realizing the seriousness of the contact, immediately moved forward to the 1st platoon's position in order to better evaluate the situation. Captain Gezelman skillfully directed the 2d and 3d platoons to maneuver to the right flank of the 1st platoon, where they could render support to the 1st platoon. Captain Gezelman, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, remained with the forward elements in order to better direct the battle. Under Captain Gezelman's precise directions and outstanding leadership, the company swiftly and successfully suppressed the enemy fire and forced the enemy to flee the village. As a result of the battle, 15 enemy were killed while Company A sustained only a few casualties. Captain Gezelman's gallant actions and devotion to duty while engaged in close combat with an armed enemy 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

17 March 1969

ISG Alexander Maka (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for an action during a night reconnaissance mission near Hai Lang, which saw the veteran infantryman assume command of a patrol when the platoon leader was wounded his company commander killed. His company had been engaged in search and destroy, sweeps during the day and consolidated their forces for the night. Elements of the company were given a reconnaissance mission and had moved about 300 meters from their position when they received fire from machine-gun and grenades. Attempts to dislodge the enemy from his bunkers proved unsuccessful and when the platoon leader and company commander became casualties, Maka assumed command. He set up a 90mm recoilless rifle and



destroyed the bunker and enemy machine guns which had pinned down the platoon. Repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire, Maka completed several ammunition resupply missions and controlled the evacuation of the wounded. Sgt. Maka, now serving his third tour in Vietnam, fought previously with the 1st Air Cav. Div. and was an advisor to an ARVN airborne division.

19 March 1969

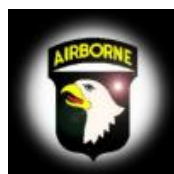
1LT John F. Hay (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 March 1969. Lieutenant Hay distinguished himself while serving as Reconnaissance Platoon Leader of Company E, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, during a combat operation in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While on a reconnaissance mission on a mountain side, the Reconnaissance Platoon came under heavy automatic weapons, rocket propelled grenade, and small arms fire from well-fortified enemy bunkers located near the mountain top. With the lead element under heavy enemy fire, Lieutenant Hay maneuvered his two remaining squads around the flank of the enemy position, thus enabling his men to place heavy and accurate fire on the enemy bunker, destroying it.



Advancing up the mountain side, the platoon came under heavy automatic weapons fire, forcing it to retreat. Lieutenant Hay directed mortar and helicopter gunship fire on the mountain top, allowing the platoon to once again maneuver up the mountain side. While advancing up the mountain for the second time, the platoon again came under heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire. Lieutenant Hay directed the platoon's fire against the enemy, enabling the platoon to advance within one hundred fifty meters of the enemy positions, only to be pinned down by the heavy enemy fire. Unprotected from the enemy fire, he directed his platoon into a hasty defensive perimeter. He then directed aerial rocket artillery and artillery fire on the entrenched enemy. The enemy returned automatic weapons and small arms fire on his positions, forcing the platoon to dig in along the side of the mountain. During the night, the entire platoon, placed on one hundred percent alert by Lieutenant Hay, watched for enemy movement. Several times during the night the enemy probed the perimeter, only to be repelled by the platoon's accurate return fire. During the early morning hours, four enemy soldiers attempted to go around the perimeter. Lieutenant Hay directed his men's fire against the insurgents, mortally wounding one and wounding two others. While still in the defensive position, the platoon came under heavy enemy mortar fire. For a third time, he directed aerial rocket artillery against the suspected enemy mortar position. A search of the hilltop revealed bunkers, trenches and a mortar pit which was to be used in the near future by the enemy against installations in the area. Lieutenant Hay's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

19 March 1969

SSG Jesse E. Seiffert (A/1-502 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 19 March 1969. Sergeant Seiffert distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant in Company A, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, on a combat operation near the A Shau Valley, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. As platoon sergeant of the First Platoon, Sergeant Seiffert was moving his platoon down a narrow mountain ridge when two platoons of North Vietnamese Soldiers, entrenched in bunkers over-looking the Third Platoon, opened fire with machine guns,



small arms, and rocket propelled grenades. Pinned down and highly vulnerable to the enemy gunners above, the Third Platoon was suffering numerous casualties and in desperate need of relief. With complete disregard for his own safety, he voluntarily made his way under fire to the Third Platoon's location across the narrow ridge. Attempts were being made to evacuate the wounded, but to no avail, as automatic weapons fire from an enemy bunker raked the position. Sergeant Seiffert moved through the direct fire to outflank and then personally assault the bunker without supporting fire. Mortally wounding two North Vietnamese Soldiers with hand grenades and rifle fire, his courageous actions allowed the expeditious evacuation of the wounded and turned the tide of the battle against the enemy. Sergeant Seiffert'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.

19 March 1969

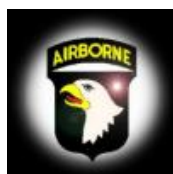
1LT John D. Sorge (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 March 1969. Lieutenant Sorge distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader on a reconnaissance in force operation near the A Shau Valley, Thua Thien Province, and Republic of Vietnam. Company A, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, was conducting a reconnaissance in force along a narrow mountain ridge when a North Vietnamese Army Force, entrenched in



bunkers overlooking the company, opened fire with automatic weapons, machine guns and rocket propelled grenades. His platoon was in the lead and pinned down by a numerically superior enemy force in a well concealed bunker complex. Lieutenant Sorge immediately deployed his forces and provided a base of fire. After assessing the situation, he directed a heavy volume of fire on the key enemy bunkers and maneuvered other elements within twenty meters of the enemy positions. When he realized that his element was not strong enough to overrun the prepared positions, he directed artillery and mortar fire and called for a resupply of ammunition. Disregarding his own safety, he moved his men forward so that the wounded could be safely evacuated, and for five consecutive hours held his ground immediately outside the enemy bunkers, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy forces. Lieutenant Sorge'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.

20 March 1966

SGT Elmo A. Tacuban (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 20 March 1966 while serving as a squad leader near My Dien, Republic of Vietnam. After one squad on a reconnaissance mission became engaged in a vicious battle and sustained several casualties, Sergeant Tacuban led the remainder of the platoon through the dense jungle to relieve the beleaguered squad. As the relief force approached the battle area, they encountered a heavy volume of fire from well-entrenched Viet Cong positions. Realizing that the casualties who were in the fire swept field to his front were in need of immediate medical attention, Sergeant Tacuban initiated fire and movement maneuvers in a determined effort to reach the casualties. With complete disregard for his safety while exposed to the intense hostile fire, he led his men across the open field. After reaching the casualties, Sergeant Tacuban administered lifesaving medical treatment and supervised the evacuation of the wounded while receiving weapons and grenade fire. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the relief of the beleaguered squad and saved the lives of the wounded casualties. Sergeant Tacuban'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.

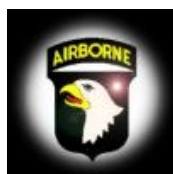


20 March 1968

SP4 Harry P. Longbottom (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 March 1968. Specialist Longbottom distinguished himself while serving as an automatic rifleman in Company D, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company D was engaged in a search and clear operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam, and was positioned in a night defensive perimeter. Specialist Longbottom was a member of a twelve-man patrol that departed the company position at dusk to establish an ambush along a trail leading out of the mountains. Moments after the ambush was in place, an unknown-size enemy unit was sighted moving down the trail. The ambush was initiated by detonating claymore mines, after which Specialist Longbottom, without regard for his own safety, jumped up and began throwing hand grenades. It soon became apparent that the enemy was numerically superior as the intensity of small arms and automatic weapons fire increased. Realizing that survival hinged on keeping the enemy on the defensive, Specialist Longbottom again endangered his life by moving forward to effectively engage the enemy with a heavy concentration of rifle fire. He remained at his dangerous location until the order was given to withdraw. Specialist Longbottom's courageous actions, in the face of grave personal danger, contributed to the success of the ambush, which accounted for fifteen enemy killed. Specialist Longbottom's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 1050; 31 Jan 69)

21 March 1968

SSG Freddie E. Westerman (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 March 1968. Staff Sergeant Westerman distinguished himself while serving as an acting platoon leader during a village clearing mission in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. Upon receiving a heavy volume of sniper fire, Staff Sergeant Westerman moved under the heavy enemy fire to receive a situation report from the point element. After making a quick and decisive estimation of the contact, he began to assign areas of responsibility to each of his elements by moving, with complete disregard to his personal safety, through the murderous hail of hostile fire, which continued to rake the ground, from element to element and from man to man. Staff Sergeant Westerman's movement was observed by the large enemy force in the village which immediately opened fire with automatic weapons. One man was hit as he was exposed to direct fire. Staff Sergeant Westerman dauntlessly exposed himself to the enemy fire in order to place effective fire on the enemy until the wounded man was successfully recovered from the open area. Staff Sergeant Westerman then skillfully directed two squads to lay down a base of fire while another squad maneuvered towards the village. While maneuvering towards the village, one man of the squad was hit and became pinned down in an open rice paddy. Immediately, Staff Sergeant Westerman again braved the murderous hail of enemy fire to direct and encourage his men to provide an accurate base of fire so as to permit the successful recovery of the wounded trooper. Under Staff Sergeant Westerman's astute direction, the wounded man was swiftly and safely recovered. Realizing that the enemy force was too large for his platoon to engage, Staff Sergeant Westerman regrouped his men, posted security, and directed an uninterrupted barrage of friendly artillery and air strike upon the enemy positions. Through Staff Sergeant Westerman's precise and timely directions and devastating attack was delivered upon the enemy force. Staff Sergeant Westerman's indomitable courage and extraordinarily valorous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



21 March 1969



1LT William L. Dent (B/1-502 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 B, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). First Lieutenant Dent distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 21 March 1969 while conducting a reconnaissance-in-force mission near the A Shau Valley in the province of Thua Thien. As his company moved along a mountain ridge, the point element encountered hostile sniper fire. He at once set up a defensive formation, ordering two machine guns to be brought forward. Suddenly the enemy opened fire with automatic weapons, rocket-propelled grenades, and small arms. Lieutenant Dent moved out under the intense fusillade to retrieve several casualties. When a machine gunner fell wounded, he manned the weapon, providing suppressive fire as he directed his men to move back. He operated the machine gun until it malfunctioned. Then he grabbed his M-16 rifle and continued to deliver lethal volleys on the enemy, until he was wounded in the head. Having supervised the withdrawal of his men to safety, he followed but was wounded again. Only after all of his men had reached a secure position, he relinquished command and later succumbed to his wounds. First Lieutenant Dent's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

21 March 1969

SGT Larry E. Proper (47th IN PLT) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 March 1969. Sergeant Proper distinguished himself by valorous actions while serving as a dog handler with the 47th Infantry Platoon in support of the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry. Following two days of repeated engagements with North Vietnamese Army front, Sergeant Proper was leading the Third Platoon of Company B into a suspected enemy battalion base camp when enemy gunners opened fire from concealed bunkers. The platoon immediately returned fire and maneuvered to flank the enemy, but not before suffering several casualties. Without regard for his own safety, he crawled from his protected position to aid the wounded in the direct line of the hostile fire. Meanwhile, the enemy maneuvered to prevent extraction of the wounded. Under increasingly accurate machine gun and rocket propelled grenade fire, Sergeant Proper began to carry the wounded to an evacuation helicopter as North Vietnamese Soldiers approached to within seventy-five meters of the extraction point. His quick actions were largely responsible for the successful evacuation of the wounded. Sergeant Proper's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 6983; 17 June 1969)

21 March 1969



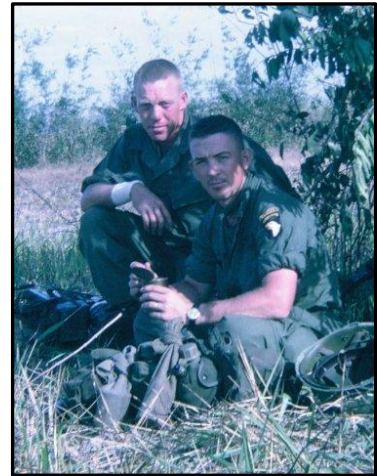
SSG Mark W. Dugger (B/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 March 1969. Sergeant Dugger distinguished himself while serving as Platoon Sergeant of the Third Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, on a combat operation southwest of the city of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The Third Platoon was moving up a mountain on a narrow trail when the lead element came under sniper fire. While attempting to maneuver into position to counter the enemy fire, the platoon became pinned down by automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire. Sergeant Dugger left his position in the rear of the element and moved forward under the continuous sniper fire. Once he reached the area of contact, he went immediately to the aid of an individual who had been wounded in the initial contact and who was still in an open area. Under direct enemy fire, and with complete disregard for his own safety, he moved to the wounded man's position and helped him back to safety. He then returned to the platoon since the platoon leader had been seriously wounded. While assisting his wounded platoon leader in directing the platoon, he was also wounded. He then refused medical aid until after his platoon's more seriously wounded were moved to safety and treated. Sergeant Dugger's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit,



and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 5324; 24 May 1969)

22 March 1968

1LT Cleo C. Hogan Jr. (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 March 1968. First Lieutenant Hogan distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer of Company D, 2d Battalion, 501st. Company D was assaulting a heavily fortified dual bunker system atop a high hill just west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The bunkers were extremely formidable, constructed with rock and natural materials, dried and hardened, and were able to support each other by direct fire. As the company closed on the enemy stronghold, First Lieutenant Hogan advanced to the front of his unit in order to determine the extent of the enemy's defenses and the overall strength of the foe's position. As soon as he came within view, a fusillade of enemy automatic weapons and machine gun fire opened up on him, churning up the earth within inches of his position. First Lieutenant Hogan immediately realized that no men could



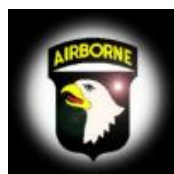
SGT Joe Hooper with 1LT Cleo Hogan

successfully storm this position without supporting fires. And so, fully exposing himself to the fierce enemy onslaught in order to be certain of the positions he was recording, First Lieutenant Hogan called in tactical air strikes and artillery fires. As these fires came raining, only a short distance from First Lieutenant Hogan's position, the officer bravely stayed at his post so that he could determine the effectiveness of the friendly firepower. Then, the artillery and air strikes having subsided, he directed one of his platoons to storm the position. However, the enemy still held their ground tenaciously as a withering hail of bullets tore into the advancing platoon's rank allowing it to go no further than First Lieutenant Hogan's forward position, although some individuals advanced to within ten meters of the enemy bunkers before being forced to withdraw. Once, again, First Lieutenant Hogan called in supporting fires from artillery units and fighter jets and this time he crawled even closer to the enemy in an effort to assure the effectiveness of this fire. As the lethal weapons pounded the bunker positions, debris showered First Lieutenant Hogan and shrapnel flew over his head, as they lifted, called for two more platoons to storm the challenging citadel. As the paratroopers rushed up the hillside, the enemy opened fire once again with terrifying accuracy, and as they swarmed past First Lieutenant Hogan's position, the officer stood bolt upright amidst the carnage about him in a gallant effort to encourage the men onward. Despite intensified enemy fire from the bunkers, further machine gun fire from the reverse slope, and enemy mortar fire, the combination of heavy artillery and air power along with the tenacity and courage of First Lieutenant Hogan's men were able to overcome all resistance. Greatly inspired by the sheer audacity and calm courage of their commander, the infantrymen overran enemy's position, killing all the defenders. First Lieutenant Hogan'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.

22 March 1968



SPC Francis J. Gentile (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 March 1968. Specialist Gentile distinguished himself while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The company had set up a night operations position on a ridgeline when it was hit by heavy hostile mortar fire. Although wounded by shrapnel during the initial bursts of mortar fire, Specialist Gentile refused to accept any medical attention. Ignoring the imminent danger of further wounds, he moved through the intense enemy fire to treat other wounded men. When the pain of his wounds forced him to discontinue moving about, he directed the wounded to be brought to him for treatment. Only after he was certain that he had given first aid to each wounded man,



did Specialist Gentile consent to his own evacuation. His determined selflessness saved the lives of many of his comrades. Specialist Gentile's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, unit, and the United States Army.

22 March 1968

2LT Gary C. Bridges (C/2-501 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor (1-OLC) for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 March 1968. Lieutenant Bridges distinguished himself while serving as platoon leader with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Airborne Infantry, on a search and clear operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Company C was setting up a night operation position along a ridgeline when they came under an intense enemy mortar attack. Fifty mortar rounds exploded within the perimeter itself. Totally ignoring his own safety, Lieutenant Bridges moved among his men calmly reorganizing their positions, directing their fire, and aiding the wounded. When one enemy blast rendered the company communications net inoperative, Lieutenant Bridges moved quickly to the hardest hit part of the perimeter, the eastern sector, and defying the lethal shrapnel, he quickly reestablished the sector's defensive positions. Consequently, when the company sustained an enemy ground attack the charge was repulsed and Lieutenant Bridges's sector of the perimeter did not sustain a single casualty. Lieutenant Bridges's courageous actions and astute leadership are in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself his unit and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile); General Order Number 6441; 23 September 1968)

***STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

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

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

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

