



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) “STRIKE HISTORY” 19 January – 25 January 2014



19 January –
21 February 1966

Operation Van Buren begins in Phu Yen Province where the recently relocated 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne (1/327, 2/502), ROK 2nd Marine Brigade and ARVN 47th Regiment are to locate and destroy the NVA Regiment 95 (believed to be in the Tuy Hoa Valley) and to protect the rice harvest in the coastal region. The 1st Bde was still moving from Phan Rang. As they arrived at Tuy Hoa, they moved into operational areas. The joint operation claimed 679 known enemy casualties. The USA results were 282 enemy KIA plus 66 KBA, 33 captured and 238 suspects detained, over 100 weapons, and several caches of ammo and supplies were taken. The 1st Brigades casualties were 55 KIA and 221 WIA.



19 January 1968

1-502 IN Battalion returned to Cu Chi and had light contact during the period. Results: 5 WIA (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)

19 January 1969

As the 2-501st IN Battalion invaded enemy areas, B/2-501st IN killed three and captured two weapons. (Rendezvous with Destiny, Screaming Eagles Vietnam Diary: Spring 1969)

19 January 1970

The 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry discovered 275mm recoilless rifle rounds, 4 60mm mortar rounds and 8 82mm mortar rounds, about 13 miles southwest of Hue. Near the cache site the “STRIKE Force” troopers found 75 to 100 fighting positions. (Screaming Eagle, Feb. 1970)

20 January 1968

Operation SAN ANGELO: B/2-502 at 1310H vic. YU081079 received SA fire. Fire was returned with negative results.

20 January –
04 February 1968

1-502 IN Battalion conducted recon in force operations in new AO with light contact. Results: 1 WIA Captured, and 1 AK-47 captured. (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)

20 January 1970

Operation RANDOLPH GLEN: 2/502 IN BN came under the operational control of 2BDE. A joint US/ARVN sweep operation was conducted west of FSB Bastogne (YD620095). The Battalion CP was established in the field and moved with one of the maneuver companies through the operation. One enemy was killed by Bravo Company during the operation. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)

21 January 1968

2nd Brigade takes part in operations within AO Attala around Minh Thanh in the Michelin rubber plantation. 12th Aviation Group provided 75 CH-47 sorties to move the brigade, combined with a four serial ground convoy.

21 – 30 January 1968

The 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, the 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, the 1st and 2d Squadrons, 11th ACR begin Operation ATTALA/CASEY, a reconnaissance in force operation against the 165th PAVN Regiment in Binh Duong Province.



21 January 1968

Operation SAN ANGELO: A/2-502 was found escorted by the 2/17 CAV, mortar marching to their new AO. The move was uneventful as were search and destroy operations in their new AO. B Company foot marched from their AO to Song Be. Twenty women and children were questioned enroute with negative results. C Company killed 2 VC on the perimeter of the TAC CP, capturing two AK-47 assault rifles.

21 January 1970

In a major civil affairs project for the 2nd Bn (Ambl), 501st Inf., villagers complete a gymnasium for Huong Tra District High School in Huong Can village with material provided by the 101st. The gym was required because a large percentage of the students come to the school from great distances and needed a place to eat and get some exercise during the lunch hour. (Rendezvous with Destiny, Screaming Eagles Vietnam Diary: Spring 1970)

22 January 1968

Operation JEB STUART: This operation covered the initial move of major elements of the 1st Cavalry Division into northern I Corps following PERSHING. It was launched as a search and destroy operation aimed at enemy Base Areas 101 and 114. It had another goal of reinforcing the Marines in I Corps. The battles associated with Tet of '68 would quickly over shadow the search and destroy nature of this operation which claimed 3,268 known enemy casualties and 119 POWS versus US loses of 291 KIAs and 1,735 WIAs. As a result of JEB STUART, the 1st Bde was near Quang Tri City just in time for Tet. The 1st Cav contributed three battalions: 2/8th, 5/7th and 2/12th Cav and the 101st Abn contributed two battalions: 1/501st and 2/501st Abn.

22 January 1968

Operation SAN ANGELO: A, C, Recondo and the TAC-CP extracted from assigned AO beginning at 0845H and closed SONG BE at 1545H. 2-502 assumed BDE IAF upon closing. B Co. air lifted to cold LZ vic. TAC-CP 2-327 and became OPCON effective 1029H for a security mission. 2-502 provided security for mini-firebase vic. YU182238 and established a forward TAC-CP. A and C Co. provided security at SONG BE and conducted S&D operations in assigned AO's on a rotating basis.

22-25 January 1968

2nd Brigade conducts OPERATION CASEY, a combined mechanized/ airmobile infantry operation in conjunction with 11th ACR in the Michelin rubber plantation. 2nd Brigade is supplemented with supporting units, and renamed the 2nd Brigade Task Force. At the end of the operation, 2nd Brigade is sent north to Hue.

1-501 Abn Inf.	2d FASC Platoon, 501st Signal Battalion.
2-501 Abn Inf.	2/101st MP Co.
1-502 Abn Inf.	Team/101st MI Co.
1-321 Abn Arty.	2/265 Radio Research Co.
A/1-11 Arty.	34th Photo Interpretation Team
C/326 Eng.	Support Units, 101st Div. Support Command
B/326 Med.	2/A/801st Maint. Co.

22 January 2004

Operation Strike Fury. 2nd Brigade and TF 121 conducts two simultaneous cordon and search operations onto OBJ Manhattan (2-502 IN) OBJ Memphis (3-502 IN), to detain Fimi Fakri Hamid Al'Ta'I Iraqi, the facilitator for a terrorist group. The primary target was detained along with two other suspected terrorist cell members.



22 January 2011

Major supplies essential for the fight were brought to key FOBs in Kandahar by STRIKE's 526th Brigade Support Battalion. Soldiers of Company A, 526th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), delivered supplies to Forward Operating Base Howz-e-madad and FOB Azzizulah, Jan. 22.

The supplies were loaded at 526th BSB's headquarters at FOB Wilson, STRIKE Brigade's base of operations in the Kandahar Province. From there, supplies were distributed by trucks throughout STRIKE's area of operations.

"All supplies come from [Kandahar Air Field] and arrive here first," said Sgt. Marcus McGriff, a native of Hawkinsville, Ga., and driver with the company. "Wilson is like a central distribution hub. From here, we transport everything to battalion bases so they can send it to their smaller bases."

Everything from ammunition, food, vehicle repair items and more were delivered throughout the region by the 526th, said McGriff.

The modern combat environment required many different supplies. While FOB Howz-e-madad received an armored vehicle and ammunition, FOB Azzizulah received metal stakes and Hesco barriers for protection. The FOBs receive different supplies regularly as their needs changed.



Being able to move large amounts of supplies requires planning, organization and proper execution. The drivers of Co. A did everything they could to get the materials where they needed to go.

"There's a lot more to our job than just driving," said McGriff. "We do vehicle maintenance, loading and unloading, security and paperwork; if it needs to be done, we do it"

"It's a lot of hard work to move all these things," said Sgt. Jose Guerra, a native of Brownsville, Texas, and truck commander with the company. "It takes a lot of team work and patience to get things done, but it's worth it. We help make sure everyone gets what they need."

24 January 2007

A/2-502 IN awarded Valorous Unit Award for extraordinary heroism in military operations against an armed enemy from Jan. 1 – April 7, 2004. (Under 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery)

25 January 1969

The 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd ARVN Regiment begin a spoiling operation named SHERMAN PEAK and centered of FSB Veghel on Route 547, Thua Thien Province. The operation is designed to prevent any possible enemy offensive directed at Hue for Tet.

25 January 1969

Continuing a new Screaming Eagle series of offensives in enemy base areas, elements of the 2nd Brigade initiated an operation aimed at cutting off enemy movement out of the A Shau along Highway 547A. Air assaults were conducted into FB Bastogne. Elsewhere in the AO, 101st Paratroopers accounted for 18 enemy dead, one prisoner, one Hoi Chanh and four captured weapons. A/2-501st discovered a sizeable grave complex containing 16 enemy bodies in the Leech Island area. Part of Delta Company of 3/506 Currahee's encountered two VC on the paymaster team. They killed one of them and captured 45,000 local piasters (local money). (Rendezvous with Destiny, Screaming Eagles Vietnam Diary: Spring 1969)



25 January 2005

526 CSB awarded Meritorious Unit Commendation in support of military operations from March 19 – Sept. 19, 2003. The battalion provided focused, echeloned combat service and combat health support during successive urban and stability operations, enabling the 2d Brigade to maintain critical combat power forward in zone against a determined enemy force.

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.

3 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
7 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
2 x Bronze Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
27 x Purple Hearts (18 x Posthumously)
32 x Air Medals
26 x Combat Infantry Badges
3 x Died of Non-Hostile Injuries or Illness

19 January 1968

CPL Donald A. Coffin (A/1-502) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other causes as a ground casualty in the Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam.

19 January 1968

The following Soldiers: SGT Joseph Gerwatowski and PFC James R. Moore (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, or mortar wounds in the Hau Nghia Province, South Vietnam.

19 January 1969

PFC Alan D. Ela (E/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

19 January 2011



SPC Joshua Lancaster (723rd EOD), 22, of Millbrook, Alabama; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked Kandahar Airfield with indirect fire. He was assigned to 723rd EOD Company, 184th Ordnance Battalion, 52nd Ordnance Group.

19 January 2011

The following Soldiers: CPT Justin Ryberg and SSG Dennis Wells (HHC/526 BSB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked Kandahar airfield with indirect fire.

19 January 2011

SGT Kevin Tucker (A/526 BSB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked Kandahar airfield with indirect fire.

20 January 1966



PFC Anthony Skodmin (C/2-502 IN) died of Non-hostile causes from a gunshot wound in the head when he was dismounting from a truck when the weapon of an individual in the truck accidentally discharged, in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.



20 January 1969



SPC Jimmy L. Green (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 January 2004

SGT Theodore Lawrence (A/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during an IED explosion. SGT Lawrence was conducting a route clearance mission in Mosul, Iraq, when his vehicle was struck.

21 January 2006

1LT David Cochran (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when at approximately 1430, 1/4/6 IA MiTT (1-502 IN) elements conducting TCP inspection traveling east on ASR Temple were hit by an IED disguised as a dead dog. Identified IED consisted of a 155mm round and possible LRC initiator. Shrapnel from the IED penetrated the TC door armor and shrapnel entered the TC's left foot. Convoy returned to FOB Latafiyah where ground evacuation occurred to take Soldier to FOB Mahmudiyah.

21 January 2006

SSG David Jenkins (HC/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received. MiTT 1 elements were conducting a TCP inspection while traveling east on ASR Temple and were hit by an IED camouflaged in a dog carcass. Identified IED consisted of a 155mm round and possible LRC initiated. Shrapnel from the IED penetrated vehicle and the blast caused ear damage to SSG Jenkins, who was serving as the gunner.

21 January 2011

PFC Michael Barrera (C/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

22 January 1968



PFC Jerry D. Wells (B/1-501 IN) died of Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty (drowned or suffocated) in the Province not reported, South Vietnam

22 January 2006

SGT Justin G. Earnest (A/2-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for actions in combat.

23 January 1969

SP4 Bruce H. Rawling (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

23 January 1970

SGT William E. Semple (A/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



24 January 1966



PFC Richard A. Sullivan (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

25 January 1968

SSG James B. Anderson (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 Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam.

25 January 1969

The following Soldiers: SGT David A. Edwards, SP4 George H. Keathley, SP4 Willie King, PFC Robert L. Carter, PFC Michael L. Malin, 1LT Donald C. Murnock, SP4 Ethen D. Smith, SP4 Terry L. Chinn, PFC Thomas W. Coss, PFC Earl J. Perry Jr., SSG Charles B. Payne Jr., SGT Cleodis Smith, PFC Santiago Numez, PFC Joseph C. Addision, PFC Guy E. Daugherty, SP4 John W. Mandez, SP4 David L. Pryse, SP4 Dennis H. McGill, PFC Richard M. Sam, PFC Darrell K. Johnson, SSG Clifton H. Cathcart, SP4 Robert E. McAferty, SP4 David L. Reese, SP4 Thomas D. Shobe, SGT Mark W. Dugger, SGT Thomas R. Hancock, PFC Edward L. Resavy, SP4 Francis L. Grue, SGT Willie C. Dozier, SGT Larry E. Johnson, PFC Vincent P. Fenequito, 1LT Peter A. Fekete (B/1-502 IN) earned the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st Airborne Division, General Order Number 1423; 9 February 1969)

25 January 1969

SP4 Michael J. White (E/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

25 January 1969

The following Soldiers: CPL Alvin R. Narcisse, SP4 Ralph E. Johnson, SP4 Fernando L. Lozano, PFC Frank D. Smitherman (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds during and assault 13k south of Phu Bai, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

25 January 1969



SGT Tracy T. Kiel (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds during and assault 13k south of Phu Bai, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

25 January 1969



The following Soldiers: SP4 Anderson D. Bolton (Pictured), and SP4 Ralph L. Glover (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from artillery, rocket, or mortar wounds during and assault 13k south of Phu Bai, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



25 January 1970

The following Soldier: PFC Ryamond Armstrong, PFC Robert C. Banwart, PFC Murl D. Boston, SP4 Scott A. Brindley, PFC Glen A. Brown, PFC Holly E. Dickerson, PFC Hector Dominguez, PFC James F. Dowling, PFC Donald W. Garey, SP4 Lideran C. Garrett, PFC Roy D. Garrett, PFC Darwin A. Grow, PFC Embritch Harris, 1LT David A. Hockett, PFC Coy J. Hubbard, PFC Celester Jones, PFC Ronald J. King, PFC Marchall T. Morgan, SP4 Joseph Nester, PFC Samuel Niemann, PFC John R. Overton, PFC David R. Schmidli, PFC Joseph Stevens, PFC Richard A. Takos, SGT John E. Upton, PFC Alan L. Wentworth (A/2-501st IN) was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. (HQ, 101s ABN DIV; Specials Order Number 27, 27 January 1970)

STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

20 January 1969

CPL Brian S. Williams (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 20 January 1969. Corporal Williams distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company B, 2d Battalion, and 501st Infantry. Company B was on a reconnaissance in force operation in the mountainous jungle near Hue, Republic of Vietnam, when Corporal Williams' platoon was ambushed by an enemy force of undetermined size, employing automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire. In the initial exchange of fire, one man was killed and three were wounded. With his squad pinned down and disorganized, Corporal Williams realized that it would suffer even more serious casualties unless the enemy firepower was neutralized. With completed disregard for his own safety, Corporal Williams rallied his men and personally directed their fire toward the concealed enemy positions. Under intense enemy fire he then brought his squad on line and assaulted the North Vietnamese by fire. A sweep of the area later revealed numerous blood trails left by the fleeing North Vietnamese. Corporal Williams' 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 January 2011



The following Soldiers: SSG Charles Allen earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor Purple Heart and (2 ARCOM w/V) SPC Michael Litterell and PFC Michael Barrera earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for distinguishing themselves while assigned to 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment through valorous actions that prevented further injury.

SSG Allen's squad left Combat Outpost Kolk and conducted a dismounted patrol to establish a SIGINT observation point in vicinity of the village of Ghariban. The patrol moved to its OP location where they picked up VHF transmissions referencing an ISAF patrol in the area. SSG Allen placed the patrol on alert in anticipation of a potential ambush from the village.

After establishing the SIGINT OP, the patrol received intermittent radio communications on the command net and PFC Barrera used his radio on the fires net to ensure the command post maintained situational awareness of the patrol. SSG Allen maintained his position and tried to troubleshoot the communications issue. After one hour of being at that location and still having radio difficulties, the patrol began its movement back to COP Kolk.

As SSG Allen gave guidance to consolidate and begin movement back west, he stepped on a pressure plate IED. In preparation for the movement back to COP Kolk, PFC Barrera was coordinating with close combat aviation to cover the element, and was less than five feet from the squad leader's location and the site of the explosion. SPC Litterell was pulling security to the west of his squad leader when the explosion occurred approximately 7-10 meters from his position the explosion engulfed SPC Litterell and the headquarters personnel near the squad leader. The blast threw PFC Barrera more than ten feet from his original location and temporarily rendered him unconscious. Upon regaining consciousness he realized his squad leader stepped on a pressure plate IED and



was injured. The explosion from the IED amputated both of SSG Allen's legs and severely lacerated one arm. SPC Litterell, as the senior medic, immediately assessed the medical situation and realized his squad leader received severe injuries. With complete disregard for his own safety, SPC Litterell moved to the blast site prior to it being cleared of potential secondary devices and pulled SSG Allen to a safe area.

With complete disregard for his own safety, PFC Barrera immediately moved to the vicinity of the blast site to assess the injuries sustained by his squad leader. PFC Barrera immediately sent a situational report on the fires net, due to the Company command net still having intermittent communications with the command post. Despite sustaining life threatening injuries, SSG Allen attempted to send an update on the command net. Not realizing his radio was damaged in the explosion, he continued to try to establish communications with higher. When the platoon medic arrived at the blast site, SSG Allen was more concerned about the possibility of other Soldiers being injured than the status of his own injuries.



PFC Barrera immediately developed the 9-line MEDEVAC request and transmitted it back to the command post. During this crucial time PFC Barrera requested the MIST report from SPC Litterell, and transmitted it to complete the MEDEVAC request. Once cleared of the danger zone, SPC Litterell administered first aid. The injuries sustained were life threatening and without quick and effective treatment, SSG Allen would have gone into shock.

Remaining calm and focused, SPC Litterell placed tourniquets on SSG Allen's amputated left leg, on SSG Allen's right arm which sustained a severe laceration, and instructed another Soldier to apply pressure to the other leg. PFC Barrera's quick thinking and accurate initial reports resulted in the MEDEVAC aircraft landing at the HLZ seven minutes after the initial request was made. SSG Allen continued to lead his Soldiers by encouraging them and supporting their decisions. He directed his Bravo Team Leader to establish a hasty HLZ and to focus on outer security. During the transport to the HLZ, SPC Litterell administered morphine to regulate the pain and continued to provide comfort to SSG Allen.

SSG Allen's ability to stay calm and composed helped keep his squad focused with the mission at hand and aided in the quick evacuation from the point of injury. Upon completion of the evacuation, SPC Litterell treated the other Soldiers that were in the blast radius and helped secure the site until QRF and EOD elements arrived. Despite suffering a concussion, PFC Barrera maintained his composure and continued to give guidance until the Alpha Team Leader arrived at the scene and took over the squad. After the aircraft departed, PFC Barrera refused medical aid until all reports were sent up and CCA was effectively integrated into the patrol to provide over watch of the area.

SSG Allen, SPC Litterell and PFC Barrera's valorous actions after the IE strike prevented further injury of Soldiers. SPC Litterell's urgency and professionalism during the situation are testaments of his leadership and ability to remain calm in high stress situations. The medical staff at Kandahar Airfield later stated that without SPC Litterell's direct involvement, the patient would not have survived the short flight from the point of injury to Role III.



23 January 2006



SGT Matthew D. Hunter (HHC/1-502 IN), 31, of Valley Grove, West Virginia; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while serving as a medic on 1/4/6 IA MiTT, was killed during a dismounted patrol on Route Temple in Latafiyah, Iraq. SGT Hunter identified disturbed earth just off the road and as he indicated to his comrades to push back, the IED exploded. **SSG Eric Jones**, the ground commander for the mission, immediately began coordination for a MEDEVAC on the radio, calling in the 9-line. **SGT Jeffrey Schoonover** and **SGT Justin Black** began setting security along with approximately 25 IA Soldiers while returning fire which was coming from the north/northwest. When security was established, SGT Schoonover and SGT Black returned to SGT Hunter and applied tourniquets to all four limbs. Shortly thereafter, a QRF team arrived with elements from C/1-502 IN and 1/4/6 IA MiTT and began searching for the triggerman, which was never found. The actions of SSG Eric Jones, SGT Jeffrey Schoonover, and SGT Justin Black earned each of them the Army Commendation with Valor.

24 January 1966

SFC Robert R. Wightman (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. SFC Wightman distinguished himself on 24 January 1966 while serving as acting platoon leader during a mission to relieve an element of an ambushed patrol near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. On this date, Platoon Sergeant Wightman's platoon was moving to join its parent unit when his rear security squad was ambushed. He immediately led his men through flooded rice paddies back toward the beleaguered squad. As he and his men neared the pinned down element, the Viet Cong fire became more intense. After skillfully deploying his platoon to give him fire support, Platoon Sergeant Wightman, with complete disregard for his personal safety, moved aggressively through heavy Viet Cong fire and directed the evacuation of the wounded to a nearby landing zone. When heavy Viet Cong fire forced away the incoming medical evacuation helicopter, Platoon Sergeant Wightman immediately called for tactical air support. As the aircraft approached the battle area, Platoon Sergeant Wightman skillfully directed effective air strikes and maneuvered his force against the insurgent troops. Promptly after the air strikes, he led his men in an aggressive attack, destroyed the insurgent positions, and routed the Viet Cong. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, fire superiority was regained over the insurgent troops and the casualties of the beleaguered squad were successfully evacuated. Platoon Sergeant Wightman's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a 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.

25 January 2006



SSG Jerry M. Durbin Jr. (2-502 IN), 26, of Spring, Texas; earned the Silver Star Medal and Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was killed when an improvised explosive device exploded near his dismounted patrol during combat operations in Baghdad.

SSG Jerry M. Durbin, received the Silver Star posthumously for exceptionally valorous achievement while serving with B/2-502 IN, attached to the 4th Infantry Division, in actions against the enemy. SSG Durbin attempted to disarm an IED that seriously threatened the safety and lives of his squad. SSG Durbin's heroic actions during combat operations in Iraq contributed to the overwhelming success of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team mission. His selfless actions, complete disregard for his own safety, and dedication to completing the mission at any cost, saved the lives of his fellow comrades.



***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."

