



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) "STRIKE HISTORY" 20 JULY – 26 JULY 2014



- 20 July 1943 Division returned to Fort Bragg from Springfield TN, where they participated in the Second Army Maneuvers in preparation of overseas movement in August 1943.
- 20 July 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** The 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry (reinforced) had one light contact resulting in 1 VC KIA (C).
- 20 July 1968 D/1-502 IN sprung an ambush on 2 VC, killing 1 VC. Alpha Company secured An Lo Bridge. Bravo, Charlie and Delta continued search and clear operations with negative contact.
- 20 July 1968 The third platoon of A/2-501 IN was point platoon with Earnest Evans "Cool Pappa" and Austin Gibson in the lead. We were heading up a steep mountain when "Cool Pappa and Gibson were cut down by enemy machine gun fire after crossing over the crest line and onto the top of the mountain. I was third man, and had just crossed over the crest line when they got hit. The bullets that cut them down barely missed me.
- As I (SP4 Perry A. Lewis) dove for cover, a trip wire caught me across the neck and I cringed as I hit the ground waiting for the blast. I stared in amazement at an old chi-comb grenade sputtering and spewing, strapped to the side of a tree -- it was a dud. After realizing that we were cut off from the rest of the platoon and no help was coming, I crawled forward as the machine gun continued to fire to assist "Cool Pappa" who was calling for help. He had been severely wounded. I lifted him up and carried him in my arms running back down the trail when a sniper opened up on us
- Lieutenant Whitaker was waiting for us at the crest line. Two men scooped up "Cool Pappa" in a poncho and whisked him down range to a chopper pad which was being prepared for the Medevac of the wounded. Sniper rounds were hitting all around us as I talked to Lieutenant Whitaker and our Medic, James Cleveland. I told Lieutenant Whitaker that I was going back for Gibson.
- Before he could really say anything I was crawling back down the trail as the sniper continued to fire. When I reached Gibson, he was screaming in pain, he had a terrible abdomen wound. I straddled him on all fours and he wrapped his arms around my neck and held on as we started the long crawl back. We made it back to the crest line and he was whisked away to the Medevac. Both "Cool Pappa" and Gibson died on the Medevac. Our Medic, James Cleveland was hit and died just a few meters away from where I was talking to him and LT Whittaker.
- 20 July 1969 Brigade units reported small clashes in the AO as Operation LAMAR PLAIN continued with light enemy contact. At 0705H, B/1-46, vic. BT138042, engaged and killed 1 NVA with small arms fire. At 1015H, Brigade LOH reconnaissance team, vic. BT76094, engaged one enemy soldier with ARA, recording 1 VC KIA and suffering 1 US WIA. At 1024H, D/1-501, vic. BS286996, engaged and enemy soldier at 200 meters, accounting for 1 NVA KIA and 1 AK47 captured. At 1800H, D/1-501, vic. BT285014, received small arms and automatic weapons fire that



killed the US point man; the element returned fire, but the enemy broke contact with negative assessment.

20 July 09 2BSTB awarded Meritorious Unit Commendation in support of military operations in Baghdad, Iraq from Oct. 15, 2007 – Nov. 18, 2008. 2BSTB displayed exceptionally meritorious service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 2BSTB'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.

20 Nov 07 1-75 CAV awarded Meritorious Unit Commendation in support of military operations from Oct. 1, 2005 – Sept. 20, 2006. The battalion displayed exceptionally meritorious service while in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq. The unit's professionalism and dedication to the mission went beyond the call of duty and contributed greatly to the success of the mission.

21 July 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** The 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry (reinforced) had three light contacts resulting in 2 VC KIA (C) and capture of 5 detainees and 1 individual weapon.

21 July 1968 Alpha, Charlie 1/502nd, and Recon cordon village, vic. YD6432 and searched, resulting in 2 NVA KIA and 1 NVA captured. Also captured weapons and destroyed BBT's in the area. CS was dropped from a helicopter after the cordon was set up. Bravo Company RIF in vic. YD7231 wounded 1 VC. Delta Company sprung an ambush vic. YD6129 on 1 VC, negative assessment.

21 -
25 July 10

CTF2 Fury conducts Operation Targak Paka-Wal, part of Operation Unify Arghandab, to clear the area around Kakaran to deny insurgents a safe haven from which they would be able to attack Kandahar City. CF partnered with ANA cleared the area of IEDs and established a location for what would become Combat Outpost Ashoque. The building of COP Ashoque was to demonstrate to the people of the area that ANSF and CF are committed to providing security and development from GIRoA.



22 July 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** Two light contacts by the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry (reinforced) resulted in 5 VC KIA (C) and capture of 3 individual weapons.

22 July 1968 1-502 IN continued search and clear operations. Alpha Company made contact with 2 VC, vic. YD6132 with negative results. Bravo Company sprung and ambush, vic. YD7132 resulting in 1 VC KIA, 2 VC WIA, 10 VC captured. Bravo Company had 1 VC KIA earlier at vic. YD7233.

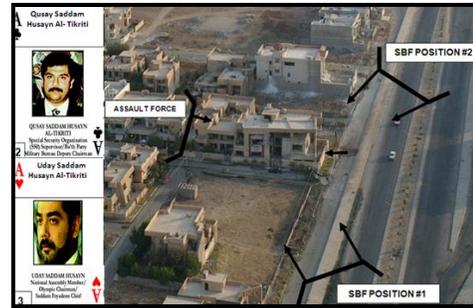
22 July 1969 All units continued their current mission with light contact reported. At 1213H, DE/1-501, vic. BT281057, B/2-17 Cav, vic. BT195110, observed and engaged one enemy soldier, resulting in 1 NVA KIA. At 1805H, A/1-46 vic. BT216051 observed 60 enemy soldiers moving in a valley below their position at a range of 2500 meters. ARA was employed resulting in 6 NVA KIA. CAV was also employed but the deteriorating weather and rainfall precluded an accurate assessment.

22 July 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** STRIKE Force returned to Camp Eagle for training and re-fitting for a new mission.



22 July 2003

Receiving reports on the whereabouts of Qusay and Uday Hussein, #2 and #3 respectively on the CENTCOM most wanted list, elements of the 502nd rapidly moved in to assist in the operation at the target house, with COL Anderson in overall command and control of the action. At 1000 hours, with all assets in place, an interpreter attempted to negotiate the surrender of the personnel inside. After multiple assaults, Qusay and Uday were finally killed in an upstairs room.



23 July 1943

The 101st adopts the nickname "The Screaming Eagles". The nickname was not new, as it was the name given to the 502nd's football team, coached by LT Bob Burns.

23 July 1967

Operation MALHEUR: The 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd infantry (reinforced) had five light contacts resulting in 2 US WHA, 4 VC KIA (C) and capture of 1 detainee and 1 individual weapon.

23 July 1968

Alpha Company secured An Lo and RIF in vic. of bridge. They killed 2 VC vic. YD6132, captured 1 VC, vic. YD6132. Bravo Company continued RIF operations, vic. YD7332 and YD7133, resulting in 3 VC KIA, 2 VC POW and 2 VCS. They also captured several weapons. Delta Company was security for Rome plow which hit a 250lbs bomb vic. YD6128, destroying the dozer. The driver was not injured.

24 July 1967

Operation MALHEUR: The 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry (reinforced) had two contacts resulting in the capture of 2 detainees and 1 individual weapon.

24 July 1968

1-502 IN had very light contact and continued search and clear operations. Alpha Company conducted defensive operation of An Lo Bridge. Bravo Company detained 11 VCS, vic. YD7233 (Later classified IC). Charlie Company had 1 US WIA and killed 1 VC in operations, vic. YD6323.

24 July 1969

Activity remained light in the LAMAR PLAIN AO as the 1-502 conducted a two company combat assault into the HILL 376 area, the area of heavy fighting in early June. At 0930H, A/1-502, vic. BT205125, conducted a CA into a cold LZ and commenced RIF operations in the area; at 0949H, B/1-502 followed A Company into the LZ and commenced supporting RIF operations in the area. At 0935H, D/1 -501, vic. BT287043, found the remains of one NVA KIA. At 1243H, A/1-502, vic. BT201121, found a grave containing the body of one NVA KBA. At 1605H, B/2-17 Cav, vic. BT233116, reported the results of a BDA, listing two NVA KIA by the airstrike. At 1627H, B/1-502, vic. BT202124, engaged three VC with small arms fire, killing two VC in the ensuing fire fight. 25 JULY: The 1st Brigade continued Operation LAMAR PLAIN with sporadic contact in the AO and the recovery of the crew of a disabled F4C that crashed in the AO. At 1100H, B/1-46, vic. BT168015, engaged a five man enemy force with small arms fire; the enemy broke contact and fled in a disorganized fashion, leaving behind seven SKS carbines and assorted equipment that was captured by the pursuing element. At 1300H, A/1-502, vic. BT198116, found the remains of two VC KIA by an earlier air strike. At 1403H, and F4C aircraft conducting an air strike for the 1st Brigade experienced mechanical failure and spun out of control; the crew ejected before impact and were recovered uninjured at 1410H by B/2-17 CAV and 1412H by a USMC recovery CH46.



- 25 July 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** The 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry (reinforced) had eight contacts resulting in 9 VC KIA (C) and captured 12 detainees and 2 individual weapons.
- 25 July 1968 A/1-502 secured An Lo Bridge and assisted in security of Rome plow. Charlie Company with 1 Platoon of PF's found 1 VC KIA by artillery. Bravo and Delta Company continued search and clear operations with negative contact.
- 25 July 1969 Units continued Operation LAMAR PLAIN with sporadic contact in the AO and the recovery of the crew of a disabled F4C that crashed in the AO. At 1300H, A/1-502, vic. BT198116, found the remains of two VC KIA by an earlier air strike.
- 25 July 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** STRIKE Force moved by air to FSB Maureen and opened the firebase. The fourth bird received small arms fire sustaining two hits and no casualties. While on a sweep, the 2nd Platoon of D Company found tree markings, a bunkers complex, and numerous fighting positions and a pink team received ground fire from a bunker complex. Chicago Peak had begun.
- 26 July 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** One contact by the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry (reinforced) resulted in capture of 1 detainee.
- 26 July 1968 1-502 IN continued search and clear operations with all companies receiving at least sniper fire. When fire was returned, then enemy fled. The VC is now in smaller groups. Charlie Company had 1 WIA by BBT.
- 26 July 1969 Units continued to record sporadic contact as all elements conducted extensive RIF operations in the AO. 1-46 conducted a combat assault into a cold LZ with its provisional reserve company (PROSERVCO), composed of the administrative and logistical personnel of the battalion rear. At 0955H, PROSERVCO/1-46 conducted a CA into an LZ, vic. BT224055, with negative enemy contact. At 1020H, A/1-502, vic. BT196118, found a grave containing one NVA KIA by an air strike. At 1125H, PROSERVCO/1-46 observed and engaged two NVA soldiers at a range of 100 meters, killing one NVA. At 1145H, B/1-502, vic. BT207109, engaged and killed one VC at 15 meters. At 1155H, B/101 UH1H, vic. BT202124, received small arms fire forcing the aircraft to land; one passenger in the aircraft was WIA. At 1530H, B/2-17 Cav, vic. BS105981, engaged a single NVA resulting in one NVA KIA. At 1540H, B/1-502 vic. BT2122122, found the remains of 3 NVA KIA by artillery. At 1610H, B/2-17 CAV vic. BS105908, found two NVA KIA in an earlier air strike. At 1800H, B/1-502 vic. BT219124 found a hut containing one M16.
- 26 July 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** At 0630, D/2-502 found eight bunkers, a wire comms system and four booby traps. At 0700 hours, a white team spotted numerous large bunkers. At 1312 hours, a white team spotted numerous large bunkers. At 1312 hours, C Company found a tunnel containing two 82mm rounds and two CS 82mm rounds. At 1415 hours D Company's 3rd Platoon found nine bunkers, three of which were occupied by 3-4 enemy Soldiers. A pink team was employed, killing 1 NVA and discovering two more bodies. At 1530 hours, the 3rd Platoon of D Company found 50-70 fighting positions and some AK-47 ammunition. Throughout the rest of July the STRIKE Force continued to operate on and around FSB Maureen. Numerous bunkers were found and some small caches. Contact was very light with no US casualties and enemy losses unknown.



During this week, in the span of 73 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.

- 5 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
- 1 x Bronze Star Medal w/ Valor (1 x Posthumously)
- 7 x Air Medal
- 15 x Purple Heart (15 x Posthumously)
- 1 x Non Hostile Illness or Injury

20 July 1968



The following Soldiers: SGT Ernest Evans (A/2-501 IN); PFC Bruce A. Marron (Pictured) (D/2-501 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.

20 July 1968



The following Soldiers: SGT James A. Cleveland (Pictured) (HHC/2-501 IN); SP4 Austin D. Gibson (A/2-501 IN); SP5 James E. O'Toole Jr. (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, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

20 July 1969



PVT Alex E. Martinez (D/2-501 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, South Vietnam.

20 July 1969

PFC Robert R. Sanford (D/1-501 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 Tin Province, South Vietnam.

20 July 2010

The following Soldiers: SGT Derek Slade and SPC Owen Littenberg (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while on a vehicle recovery mission, when insurgents attacked their vehicle with a rocket propelled grenade.

20 July 2010

SPC Janies Jordan (B/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.

21 July 1970

1LT William M. Duncan (HHC/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.

21 July 2010

SGT Rafael Machuca (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire.



22 July 1968



SPC Gary A. Meyer (A/2-501 IN) died from Non-Hostile accident in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

22 July 1968



PFC Gerald Kirby (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from small arms gunfire wounds, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

22 July 1971



SGT David B. Beglau (D/2-502 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.

22 July 2006

SPC Bradley Harris (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

22 July 2006



CPT Blake H. Russell (1-502 IN), 35, of Fort Worth, Texas; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action. CPT Russell died of injuries sustained from enemy forces munitions while investigating a possible mortar cache during combat operations in Baghdad.

23 July 1967

SFC Robert P. Sherman (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam.

23 July 1967

SP5 James L. Coachman Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (Posthumously) for heroism in connection with military operations against hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

23 July 1968

SP4 Wayne E. Timothy (A/1-501 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.

23 July 1970



SGT Wilfred W. Warner Jr. (D/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from other explosive device wounds, on an assault on Hill 1000 Vic Ripcord, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



23 July 2003



SGT Brett Christian (C/2-502 IN), 20, of North Royalton, Ohio, earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action. SGT Christian died while riding in a convoy that came under attack by rocket-propelled grenades in Mosul, Iraq.

23 July 2006

(PH) PFC John Hoyt (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action. PFC Hoyt received blunt force trauma injury to his right shoulder and elbow from an IED blast.

23 July 2010

1SG Burnell Hartlaub earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device. He is assigned to Battery A, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment.

25 July 1968



SGT Brendon J. Berrigan (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

25 July 1969

The following Soldiers: CPT John E. Kelly Jr., PFC Jimmy D. Courtney (D/2-501 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. (Pictures L-R)



25 July 1970

The following Soldiers: PFC Jack L. Clark, PFC Charles E. Coleman, PFC Eugene E. Coridan, PFC Christopher Delsesto, PFC Ronald E. Dewinf, PFC Neal Dow Jr., and PFC Larry J. Doyle (D/2-502 IN) were awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight. (101st Airborne Division (Airmobile); General Orders Number 9250; 13 August 1970)

25 July 2006

SGT Joseph Hammond, SPC Jason Thompson, PFC Zachory Carter (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action.

25 July 2010

PFC Travis Carlisle and PFC Michael Gardner (F/2-508 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their mounted patrol with a rocket propelled grenade.

25 July 2010

SGT Marcos Abreu, SGT Kampol Paksrilent, SPC Russell Wickham and PV2 Brandon Howell (I/3-2 CAV) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.



SGT Marcos Abreu



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

20 July 1968



SP4 Perry A. Lewis (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 July 1968. Specialist Lewis distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner with the Third Platoon, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, during a combat patrol in densely vegetated mountains west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Lewis' platoon was in the lead position, and, because of the thick vines and dense underbrush, was forced to cut a trail with machetes in its search of reported North Vietnamese Army base camp. Near the top of a slope the lead element came under an intense barrage of automatic weapons fire. The two lead men were shot immediately and, as the rest of the platoon sought cover, several more men were injured on punji stakes cleverly placed by the enemy in selected positions. Specialist Lewis was pinned down by the enemy fire. However, observing two of his comrades wounded, Specialist Lewis began crawling forward to aid the fallen men. He fired into the thick underbrush where the enemy was hidden. On several occasions the incoming fire was so intense that Specialist Lewis was forced to stop and conceal himself behind the sparse ground cover, but never did he try to return to safety. After several minutes of slow crawling he reached the first wounded man. Seeing that the man was in desperate need of medical attention, Specialist Lewis, with complete disregard for his own safety, began crawling and carrying the injured man to safety. The platoon began to pull back in order to employ helicopter gunships and volunteers were called forward to remove equipment from the front. Specialist Lewis volunteered and began the long crawl toward the forward area. An enemy machine gun was moved to within thirty meters of his position and subjected him and the friendly positions to steady fire. Specialist Lewis and one other man crawled through the heavy fire and destroyed the enemy position before retrieving the platoon's equipment, which contained valuable ammunition and Claymore mines. Specialist Lewis' 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.

21 July 1967

1LT Harold V. Toop Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 21 July 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, First Lieutenant Toop's platoon suddenly detected enemy activity to their front. Having been previously alerted of a possible enemy battalion command post in the area, Lieutenant Toop decided to lead a small reconnaissance element forward to investigate. Lieutenant Toop led a seven man reconnaissance element through enemy outposts and several times passed within several meters of enemy positions. When Lieutenant Toop and his small element were within thirty meters of a suspected enemy command post they were detected by enemy guards and immediately brought under a heavy volume of enemy fire. Lieutenant Toop immediately directed his reconnaissance element to return fire and secure a route of withdrawal. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Toop and his machine gunner assaulted the suspected enemy command post. Although twice knocked to the ground by enemy grenades, Lieutenant Toop continued forward and succeeded in personally killing two enemy officers inside the command post. Still under hostile fire, Lieutenant Toop stripped the dead enemy officers of credentials and documents and then led his men back to the main body of his platoon. Lieutenant Toop then called for artillery and gunship strikes on the enemy positions. It was later determined after a sweep of the area that one of the enemy officers Lieutenant Toop had killed had been a battalion commander. First Lieutenant Toop's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his 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.

21 July 1968



CPT Kenneth G. Gheen (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 July 1968. Captain Gheen distinguished himself while serving as the Commanding Officer of Company C, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry. Company C was on a combat operation in the village of Song Tri in the Province of Quan Dien, Republic of Vietnam. While searching for North Vietnamese Army Soldiers that were reported to be in the area of the Song Tri Village, the company came in contact at approximately 1730 hours. The company was receiving automatic weapons fire, small arms fire, and hand grenades from well-fortified enemy bunkers. In the early moments of the battle, Captain Gheen moved to an area where he could direct fire into one of the enemy bunkers. Captain Gheen brought suppressive fire on the enemy position which allowed the company headquarters section to reach a secured area. Once this was done, Captain Gheen, without regard for his own safety, crawled approximately fifty meters, in intense enemy fire, through an open field to the enemy positions that were hidden in the trees. When Captain Gheen reached a distance of twenty-five meters from the enemy bunker, he opened fire with his M-16 rifle and threw hand grenades. Captain Gheen's actions neutralized the enemy bunker and killed two North Vietnamese Army soldiers that were inside. Captain Gheen's heroism in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

23 July 1967

SFC Robert P. Sherman (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 23 July 1967, near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant First Class Sherman, acting as platoon leader, was moving his platoon down a jungle trail, when they were suddenly brought under an intense volume of enemy automatic weapons fire and subsequently pinned down. Without hesitation, Sergeant Sherman rushed through the withering enemy fire and began to maneuver his platoon against the well-fortified enemy position. As the platoon began an assault on the enemy position, a machinegun bunker on the left flank opened fire and pinned the platoon down once again. Sergeant Sherman, foreseeing the dangerous situation that could develop, took immediate action. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Sherman leaped from his covered position and assaulted the enemy bunker in the face of a withering hail of fire. Sergeant Sherman laid down an effective base of small arms fire and hurled grenades to knock out the bunker, resulting in three enemy dead and two automatic weapons captured. Sergeant Sherman's outstanding display of gallantry, dedication and 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.

23 July 1967

SP5 James L. Coachman Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (Posthumously) for heroism in connection with military operations against hostile force. Specialist Coachman distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 23 July 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Coachman's squad, acting as point squad for the platoon, was moving down a jungle trail when they were suddenly brought under an intense volume of enemy automatic weapons fire from six well concealed bunkers. Specialist Coachman, exposing himself to the vicious enemy fire, immediately began to organize his squad to maneuver against the enemy bunkers. After organizing his squad, he attempted to approach the enemy, but realized he was strongly outnumbered and his squad became pinned down. Specialist Coachman, with complete disregard for his own safety, left his covered position and charged through the enemy's withering hail of fire toward their position. Seeing their leader's outstanding aggressiveness, his squad became so inspired they joined the assault. As a result of Specialist Coachman's heroism, six enemy Soldiers were



killed and numerous others wounded. Specialist Coachman's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 1751)

25 July 1969



CPT John E. Kelly (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 25 July 1969. Captain Kelly distinguished himself while serving as the Commanding officer of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company D was engaged in the reconnaissance in force operation in the mountainous jungle west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Company D had been making sporadic contact with small enemy elements of three to four men for a period of seven days. Captain Kelly aggressively led his men in pursuit of these North Vietnamese Army reconnaissance elements since intelligence reports indicated the presence of a large enemy unit in the area. On the cited date, Captain Kelly was maneuvering with the one of his rifle platoons at the base of a hill while the remainder of his company secured the higher portion of the hill. At approximately 1100 hours, the rifle platoon received small arms fire from several well-concealed insurgents and one of his men was wounded. After he called for a medical evacuation helicopter and aerial rocket artillery support, the enemy Soldiers again opened up with a burst of machine gun fire, and Captain Kelly was mortally wounded. His courageous actions were an inspiration to his men and his outstanding leadership greatly aided in the overall success of the mission. Captain Kelly's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

***STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

A major reorganization took place on 3 February 1964, when the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division was activated at Fort Campbell, replacing the 1st Airborne Battle Group, 501st Infantry Regiment. The reorganization from the battle groups to brigades and battalions placed two battalions of the 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 2nd 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 3rd Battalions of the 502nd Infantry Regiment. With this reorganization, the Brigade adopted the regimental motto, "Strike."

