



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) "STRIKE HISTORY" 21 September – 27 September 2014



21-23 September 1968 Normal activities continued with no contact. B/1-502 found 1 ammo cache, vic. YD6029.

21 September –
06 December 2010

1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment "Leader Rakkasans" are assigned to CTF STRIKE for operations into the Horn of Panjwa and are quickly nicknamed, "Strikeasans."



22 September –
19 October 1965

Operation GOOD FRIEND I begins. The 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry (Airborne) secures the Cam Ranh Bay area for the arrival of the ROK Marine Brigade, relieving the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry.

23 - 26
September 2012

ANSF Realignment. In the last 48 hours, 2 platoons from 3/1/201 ANA rotated with Soldiers from 3/2/201 ANA in Kamdesh. 2/201 ANA S3 Air coordinated for 3000 kg supply and 50 Soldiers to conduct RIP from Bostick. TF 1-12 and 3/2 ANA leadership supervised RIP tasks, specifically the procedures for the integration of CF enablers at the remote site. The remaining platoons from 3/1 will complete their rotation to Kamdesh 23-25 AUG. CF and 3/2 ANA leaders will validate the new companies base defense procedures prior their return to FOB Bostick.

The 2/201 engineer construction platoon completed a majority of the unit's equipment movement from Naray to Chowkay in preparation for PRV strongpoint builds the following month. The 3 remaining pieces of engineer equipment in Naray required flatbed support, and the company will coordinate this movement for execution following Eid. The 2/201 ANA Assistant PAO provided a news release of the construction engineer road improvement efforts to the Nangahar branch of TOLA news. He anticipates that the news affiliate will circulate the story to other media outlets in the coming days.

Alingar awakening. On 25 SEP 12, ALP in southern Alingar reported an attack on arbakai by Taliban that resulted in 5 x arbakai KIA. Upon learning of the attack, the Qalatak and Khulman tribes put together fifty villagers to go and fight the TB in retribution for killing their tribesmen. Upon learning of this, the local TB contingent dispersed. Elders decided to hold a shura that they invited two provincial parliament members to IOT discuss their course of action. One of the parliament members, Hazrat Ali, has asked that the plan stays secretive so the group could gain the element of surprise against the TB leaders. 1/1/201 Kdk Commander, LTC Hokum Khan, clearly understands this situation and continues to develop his own network of informants in northern Alingar and southern Nurgeram. LTC Hokum Khan sees the uprisings as an opportunity to achieve immediate security gains in the AO. The Commander stated that he will continue to monitor this situation until he feels it is the correct time to intervene or include himself.

Countering insider threats. The British Engagement Team, Imam Hafiz, visited with 201 ANA Corps on 26 SEP 12. He conducted an office call with MG Waziri



to state the purpose of his visit, and then met with the Corps RCA to discuss his message of religious tolerance, a theological/cultural discussion, and methods to mitigate insider threat through propagation of a moderate interpretation of Islam. The Corps RCA stated to Imam Hafiz that ISAF, in general, have not representative themselves well or consistent with their understanding of Afghan culture/Islamic faith and extreme cases are seen with the burning of the Koran and the urination incident. These actions create misunderstandings between the partnered forces, and he stated that the ANSF need to be educated to put these situations into context so that they do not incite an attack on CF based upon dormant bias and previous radical indoctrination of ANA Soldiers. The Corps RCA continued that it is through this education that ANA will realize attacking CF is not consistent with Islam. As deceit and treachery is forbidden in the Muslim faith, ANA must understand attacking CF partners is behavior that vehemently opposes Islamic literature. With CF and the international community's commitment of blood and treasure to achieve security, prosperity, and peace in Afghanistan, the ANA must support these actions because peace and prosperity are consistent with the teachings of the faith.

21 - 31
September 2012

ANSF consolidation and realignment planning. 4/203 ANA BDE G3, in conjunction with combat advisors, began campaign planning for Wardak and Logar provinces. This will include checkpoint closures and a Toli rotation plan to enable greater offensive capabilities throughout both provinces. The staff hosted all Kandak commanders at Camp Maiwand/FOB SHANK in order to discuss the initial plan for the operational framework for future operations.

Insider attack. On 29 SEP 12 a platoon from 2-503 INF, during an engagement with Soldiers from 3/4/203 ANA KDK, are ambushed by members of the ANA at CP COLUMBUS at the western mouth of Tangi Wardak. This resulted in one US KIA, one US contractor KIA, and two ANA KIA.

24 September 1968

1-502 continued RIF operation. B/1-502 was OPCON to 1/501. D/1-502 killed 2 VC, vic. YD6234. Recon/1-502 engaged 2 VC, vic. YD6913 resulting in 1 VC captured.

24 September 2003

The Soldiers of the 502nd continued the task of rebuilding the city of Mosul and making it safe for the future; Over 700 arms caches had been discovered and destroyed along with unexploded ordnance in over 600 other sites. The true future of Iraq, the children, were also helped with the renovation of over 300 schools, giving them a better place to study and improve themselves, while outside of the classroom athletic fields and facilities were simultaneously being improved, and equipment donations came rolling in from multiple private businesses within the United States.

25 September 1944

1-502 and elements of the British 50th Division envelops German forces attempting to cut Hell's Highway, forcing them to withdraw and leave the highway open.

25 September 1968

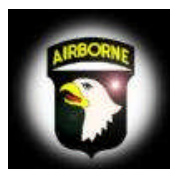
A/1-502 conducted security of An Lo and local patrols and ambushes. B/1-502 was on operation at Phu Vang. C/1-502 and D/1-502 continued RIF operation. Recon1/502 captured 1 VCS, vic. YD6930

25 September 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: B/2-502 moved to FSB Veghel to help close the firebase because of the oncoming monsoon season.

25 September 1972–
16 March 1973

The first group of AIT Students – all assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry commenced their AIT Training. Bravo Company began its AIT cycle on 9 October, with Charlie Company following on 23 October. Altogether,



342 new troops were received, the first tangible results of the Unit of Choice Program. The AIT Training program included such area as weapons instruction, field sanitation, intelligence, CBR, first aid and land navigation. In addition, the 4th AIT cycle graduated on 16 March 1973 with 50 more STRIKE troopers ready to receive their new MOS's.

In summary, 1972 was a building year for the Battalion. Going from an initial force of twelve personnel to a strength of over seven hundred, the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry – under command of LTC Clarence A. Patnode Jr. – looks forward to attaining a full readiness state by mid-year 1973. (1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1972 Unit History)

26 September 1968 1-502 had a day of very light contact. D/1-502 was the only unit to make contact, they ambushed 2 VC, resulting in 2 VC KIA.

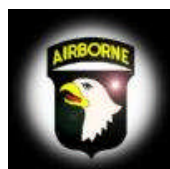
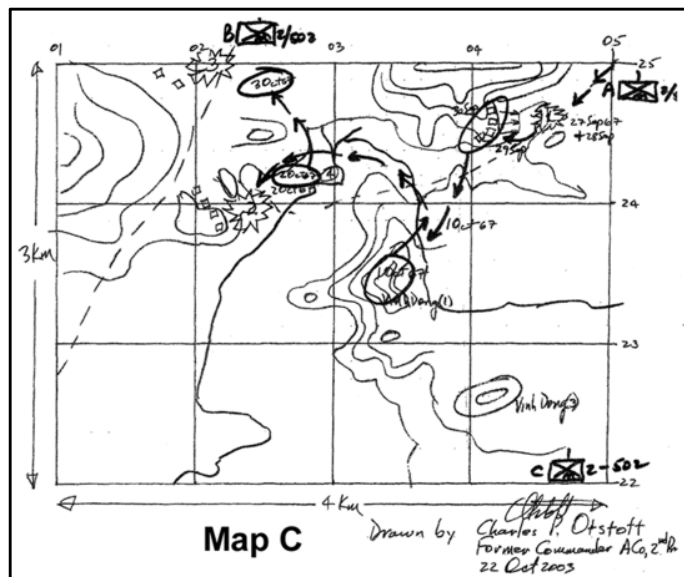
26 September 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** 2/502 IN had no enemy contact and plans were made to move to FSB Whip.

26 September 2006 Strike BCT redeploys to Fort Campbell after serving 12 months in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.



27 September 1967 **Operation WHEELER:** On 27 September, we were moving generally west to establish a blocking position with B Co. 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry under CPT Dick Boyd on our right (north) and C Co. under CPT Corky Godboldte on our left (south). None of the companies could see each other ... we were just moving on three parallel axes to the west in accordance with the Phase II mission.

A Company moved along a well defined trail wide enough for vehicles through rolling terrain spotted by small individual bamboo homes (hootches). We moved in a column of platoons with the CP behind the lead platoon. We moved fairly cautiously, but we were not expecting contact as we had none during the previous 8 days. (See Map C for



movements of A Company during this period.)

Late in the afternoon, a sharp exchange of gunfire took place with our lead element at about BT 047248. I moved forward to assess what we were up against as I received the initial report from the lead platoon leader that he had been engaged by several automatic weapons and had seen soldiers in green fatigues to his front. The next hour or so was a very confusing time as I found one of our troops dead in the road, but was unable to establish visual contact with the rest of the lead platoon. I expected to find them off the trail to the north in a fairly open area about 150-200 meters from the finger which ran northeast to southwest at our immediate front from where we appeared to be receiving most of the fire. Where ever they were, they reported being pinned down and unable to move. [Note: In 2006, I had occasion to talk with Jack Rogers at the Atlanta reunion of the 1st Brigade. He told me that his 3rd Platoon had been in the lead that day and had been the first unit engaged that afternoon. He stated that most of his platoon had gotten off the trail on the south side, rather than the north side. They had returned fire on the finger to our front from a hasty position just about 30 meters west of my position on the west side of a small tree line which obscured my view of them.]

I brought the second platoon in column up on the south side of the trail to positions that had some concealment and limited cover to bring the apparent enemy position under fire. I ordered the trailing platoon by radio to maneuver to the right (north) along the trail and attempt to get closer to the enemy finger from above on the north end of the finger. They were immediately engaged by two enemy soldiers firing from an outcropping of boulders that stood between 5-8 feet tall, probably an early warning OP for the main position. Our lead element had passed them before the firing broke out. They were less than 100 meters off the trail to the north side. The maneuvering element came in close proximity to the outpost and had it under fire, but was unable to dislodge the enemy soldiers.

As the fire fight raged, I tried to help reduce the outpost which I could clearly see just north of my position. I brought up an M60 gunner and told him to watch my tracers. I then marked the boulders with tracers and tried to get machine gun fire into the rock outcropping without injuring our own troops who were maneuvering very close by to reduce the position. I talked constantly on the radio with the platoon leader to make sure ricochets were not falling amongst his troops. I also called for and employed helicopter gunships with miniguns on the enemy held finger to our front. Artillery was called and adjusted over a period of more than an hour to get the rounds on the target as we best understood its layout to our front (west). Light rain began to fall and at some point someone shouted that we were being mortared. I had not heard the mortar rounds explode and was about to question that call. Suddenly I heard a "splock" sound and looked down between my legs to see the tail fin of a mortar round buried in the mud no more than 12 inches from my feet. I never bothered to try to find out if it was a dud round or the tail fin from a round that exploded nearby. I just counted myself exceptionally lucky either way, and I went on with the fight. I believe we succeeded in killing the two NVA in the rock outcropping that evening, but darkness fell as we made our medevacs. I decided that we would move into a defensive perimeter and continue the attack in the morning.

After establishing the perimeter, I assembled the platoon leaders in the bunker beneath the hootch we were using as a CP. We devised a plan for a deliberate attack of the enemy finger at first light the next morning. 4th Platoon would move to the prominent knoll about 200 meters to our southwest at BT043245 to provide a base of fire. Two platoons with Jerry Barnhill in charge would move via the higher ground north of the trail to flank the enemy and try to get above them to attack down the finger from the north. The last platoon would remain in reserve with the Company CP. I elected to remain at the CP where I could see the action



and direct the fire support. We laid on artillery support to "fire for effect" at 0600 on the enemy finger; and in addition, close air support and gunships with battalion. (Charles P. Otstott, Alpha Company CO Sep-Nov 1967)

27 September –
10 October 1968

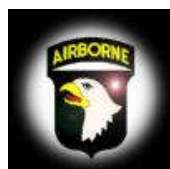
The 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, 2-17 Cav, and Vietnamese forces from Phu Vang (D) and Huong Thuy (D) conducted a soft cordon operation to attack and destroy the VC infrastructure in the Phu Vang District. During the period June – August, elements of 1-501 had frequent contact with small groups of VC, and encountered numerous booby traps in the Phu Vang area, but had not been able to close with and defeat large VC forces. The VC had intimidated the local population so effectively, that the allied forces had not been able to locate the VC. As a result of this situation and an increasing number of aircraft receiving ground fire in the area, 1-501 coordinated and planned a series of cordon operations in Phu Vang District. On the morning of 27 September, B/1-501 and C/1-501 Inf moved overland to establish cordons and searched around the hamlets vic. YD815265 and YD807272. US Navy Patrol Air Cushion Vehicles (PACV) patrolled the waterways adjacent to the cordoned hamlets. 1-501 Inf in the north (YD8027-YD8322), 2-54 ARVN on the east (YD8322-YD8319), 2-17 Cav on the south (YD8319-YD8322), established a cordon prior to darkness on 27 Sept 1968. The 2-54 ARVN Bn swept across the island on 28 September on three axes, fragmenting the enemy elements. During the ensuing searches conducted by the 1-54 ARVN and blocking forces, the allies killed 96 VC, and captured 174 VC, 153 individual weapons and 8 crew served weapons. In addition, PSYOPS missions conducted during the operation resulted in 46 Hoi Chanh returning to the GVW. Of the 174 PW captured, 98 PW were classified as members of the VC infrastructure. Friendly losses during the operation were 9 US WIA, 1 ARVN HIA, 8 ARVN WIA, 2 PF WIA. (Operational Report of 101st Airborne Division for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1))

27 – 28
September 1968

1-502 continued normal combat operations, but there was no enemy contact, in these two days.

27 September 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: The monsoon weather moved in and all units remained in a defensive posture with no enemy contact.



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.

- 2 x Distinguished Service Cross (1 x Posthumously)
- 7 x Silver Star Medal
- 1 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
- 12 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 78 x Purple Heart (54 x Posthumously)
- 1 x Non-Hostile Injury or Illness

21 September 1944



The following Soldiers: SGT John C. Craine, PFC Orin F. Keyes (Picture), SGT Cecil F. Miller (B/502nd PIR), SGT Clyde E. Featherston (C/502nd PIR), SGT Albert Mazzeo (F/502nd PIR), PVT Raymond R. Massucco, PFC Paul F. Volland, CPL John Q. Young, PFC Raymond L. House (G/502nd PIR), and PVT James A. Murphy (502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during Operation Market Garden, Liberation of Holland.

21 September 1970



SP5 Stephen T. Smith (HHC/1-502) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 September 2010

The following Soldiers: SGT Steven Liddle (HHC/2BCT); SSG Avionne Reese, SPC Chase Parent, and SPC Dylan Schwinn (A/1-320 FA); SSG Nicholas Smith (A/2BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

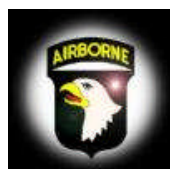
22 September 1944




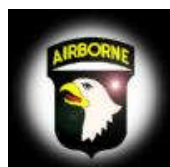
COL John Michaelis (HQ/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart. COL Michaelis and three members of his staff were seriously wounded by an artillery shell outside of his command post.

22 September 1944

The following Soldiers: PFC Michael P. Cherub (HQ 1/502nd PIR), PFC Garland E. Mills (HQ 2/502nd PIR), T/5 Henry F. Bilodeau (Pictured), and PVT Redmond D. Wells Jr. (B/502nd PIR), SGT James A. Colon (C/502nd PIR), PFC Nicholas L. Bonilla (Pictured), and PVT Charles W. Works (D/502nd PIR); PVT J. C. Ervin, PVT Richard P. Marvin, PVT William F. Podkulski, and PVT Elwin G. White (E/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during Operation Market Garden, Liberation of Holland. (Pictures L-R)



- 22 September 1944 The following Soldiers: PVT Glenn V.W. Erickson (HQ/3-502nd PIR); 1LT Clarence M. Baker (C/502nd PIR), SGT Lenwood E. Tuttle, CPL John W. Hagan (D/502nd PIR); 2LT Robert W. Sickles, PVT Domenick Chirico, (E/502nd PIR); PFC Raymond F. Cook, PVT Daniel A. Mentzer (H/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during the Battle of Best, Operation Market Garden, Liberation of Holland.
- 22 September 1944 The following Soldiers: PFC Louis H. Rigsby (G/502nd PIR) PFC William D. Meadows (H/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during Operation Market Garden, Liberation of Holland.
- 22 September 1966 CPL Johnnie C. Lawson Jr. (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 Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.
- 22 September 1966 SP4 Joe T. Johnson (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 in the Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam.
- 22 September 1968  PFC Richard W. Falk (B/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.
- 22 September 2010 The following Soldiers: PFC David Allen (A/2-502 IN); SPC Gerravasio Verra (HHC/1-320 FA), PVT Reginald Penton (B/1-320 FA); SPC Charles Parino (A/2BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.
- 22 September 2010 The following Soldiers: PFC Richard Bateman III (A/2-502 IN); SPC Jason Awad (595th ENG) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.
- 23 September 1944 PFC Ralph J. Zerbe (B/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during Operation Market Garden, Liberation of Holland.
- 23 September 1944 2LT Robert W. Lake (H/C/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously). 2LT Lake died from wounds in Holland, France.
- 24 September 1944 The following Soldiers: PVT Sigmund Korocinski (502nd PIR); T/4 Klaty A. Pyle (C/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during Operation Market Garden, the Liberation of Holland.
- 24 September 1966 PFC Stephen E. Burton (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the province and military region unknown.



24 September 1966



SFC GERAL J. BANNACH (A/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile illness or injury in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.

24 September 2010

The following Soldiers: SGT Nino Gray, CPL Joshua Armstrong, SPC FRANCISCO OLEA, SPC JOSE UMANA, SPC JUSTIN SELLERS, PFC JOSE REYESHARAOS and PFC JUSTIN MALONEY (H/3-2 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

24 September 2010

PFC Ira Mercer (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an 82mm recoilless rifle.

25 September 1944



The following Soldiers: PVT Herman A.H. Engelhardt (RHQ 502nd PIR), PFC Alton F. Short (HQ/2-502nd PIR), PVT Luther W. Davis (B/502nd PIR), PFC William J. McClimate Jr. (Pictured), and PFC John E. Suski (C/502nd PIR), PFC Howard R. Burgert, and PVT Antonio Da Cunzi, (H/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during Operation Market Garden, the Liberation of Holland.

25 September 1966



CPL Ronnie L. Noseff (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 and military region unknown.

25 September 1971

SP4 Jerry O. Lafayette (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) from military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

25 September 2010

2LT Joshua Linvill (G/3-2 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

26 September 1944

The following Soldiers: SGT Bailey Harrison (D/502nd PIR); PFC Paul B. Gentle (I/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during WWII in Holland, France.

26 September 2010

The following Soldiers: 1LT Kyle Snook (D/2-502 IN); PFC James Garner (B/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.

27 September 1944

PFC Manuel M. Pineda (H/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during WWII in Holland, France.



27 September 1967



The following Soldiers: CPL Louis W. Bellach Jr. and CPL Steven B. Riccione (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 in the Quang Tin Province, Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)

27 September 1968



SSG Bogard L. Floyd (A/1-501 IN) earned the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force in Vietnam.

27 September 2010

SGT Matthew Bolsinger (B/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire.

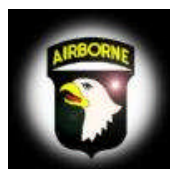
STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

21 September 1944

1LT George H. Craft (502nd PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 21 September 1944 in the vicinity of Saint Oedenrode, Holland. When his platoon came under enemy small arms fire, Lieutenant Craft raced across the distance separating him from the enemy position, firing his weapon into the enemy foxholes routing them from their positions, and capturing five of them. As his platoon continued to move forward, it came under the fire of an estimated enemy company. With total disregard for personal safety, Lieutenant Craft charged forward across an open field, his troops deploying behind him. The fury of his charge carried his platoon forward and caused the enemy to break. In overrunning the enemy position, his platoon captured thirty eight of the enemy. While his platoon reorganized, Lieutenant Craft pushed forward on a personal reconnaissance of a nearby house. Observing it to be an enemy headquarters, he charged forward alone, and by the use of hand grenades, drove out the enemy and captured eleven prisoners. First Lieutenant Craft's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, XVIII Airborne Corps, General Orders No. 19 (March 14, 1945))

21 September 1966

1LT John D. Mooneyham (A/2-502) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action: First Lieutenant Mooneyham distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 September 1966 near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. When his platoon came under intense small arms and mortar fire he immediately began moving among his men to ascertain the situation. He repeatedly exposed himself, without regard for his own safety, in order to direct the fire of his men. He personally led one squad forward in the face of an intense mortar barrage while the remainder of his platoon was providing heavy suppressive fire on the insurgents. The enemy was forced to abandon their prepared positions. Lieutenant Mooneyham led his platoon in pursuit of the confused and disorganized enemy despite heavy machine gun and mortar fire from a distant Viet Cont position. Because of Lieutenant Mooneyham's aggressiveness and determination the enemy was forced to occupy a hasty defensive position. Undaunted by the enemy's fire, he once again led a squad in an assault which



completely routed the last of the Viet Cong defenders. Throughout the engagement, Lieutenant Mooneyham moved about the fire swept battlefield maneuvering his squads in a professional manner. His aggressiveness, determination, and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the American Soldier and reflect great honor upon himself, his unit, and the United State Army.

21 September 2010



SGT Isaac Labonte (C/1-75 CAV) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor when he distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action in the face of the enemy during a dismounted patrol as part of Company C, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team STRIKE, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). His heroic actions allowed the rest of his patrol to fall back while under heavy enemy fire during a complex ambush.

On 21 September 2010, 3rd platoon partnered with 3rd platoon, 3rd Company 2/3/205 Corps ANA conducted operations near the villages of Haji Musa and Haji Rahmuddin in Zharay District, Kandahar Province of Afghanistan in order to disrupt Taliban infiltration routes in central Pashmul. The purpose of these patrols was to continue gains made against enemy forces during Operation Dragon Strike. Company C disrupted the area of Southern Pashmul with patrols designated to recover enemy cache and draw them into open terrain.

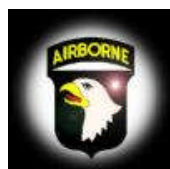
During this operation, SGT Labonte was the alpha team leader as well as point man in the patrol. The patrol moved south towards a compound of interest and potential patrol base. The route to the objective required movement through dense vegetation. During the final leg of movement, SGT Labonte led the patrol through a field that was surrounded by walls on three sides. As SGT Labonte's team came out of the vegetated portion of the field to secure the far side, the insurgents initiated a near ambush that included sustained enemy fire from multiple machine guns, RPGs, and AK-47s. The ground force received fire from three sides and from an enemy that was maneuvering along a wood line.

At the front of the patrol, SGT Labonte quickly moved through the heavy enemy machine gun fire and suppressed the enemy with his M203 grenade launcher although no substantial cover or concealment was available. His actions provided time and space for the rest of his team and the patrol to maneuver into a position to engage the enemy. As the battle continued, SGT Labonte marked the target with smoke rounds to allow close air support assets to quickly identify the insurgent location and provide danger close air support.

SGT Labonte remained in the kill zone and identified four insurgents attempting to maneuver into a more defensible position 20 meters away and directed his SAW gunner to lay a base of suppressive fire while continuing to engage with M203 rounds. His actions in the kill zone allowed the rest of his patrol to maneuver



against and engage the enemy therefore breaking their attack. SGT Labonte's actions directly resulted in no ISAF casualties and four insurgents killed. Without regard for his own safety, SGT Labonte's immediate actions in the kill zone of a near ambush enabled his patrol to lay down suppressive fire with HEDP and machine gun fire and allowed the rest of the patrol to move out of the kill zone.



22 September 1944

PFC Robert L. Deckard (C/1-502nd PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 22 September 1945, in the vicinity of Saint Oedenrode, Holland. As the lead scout for an infantry platoon Private First Class Deckard was forward of the main body when it became pinned down by enemy machine gun and 88-mm. fire. Private First Class Deckard was wounded while exposing himself in order to locate the machine gun. Disregarding his wound, he continued forward and hurled a grenade which destroyed the enemy gun and killed most of its crew. Discovering the location of an enemy 88-mm. gun, Private First Class Deckard continued forward with a grenade in each hand. He hurled the grenade at the enemy gun emplacement, killing its entire crew and several of the enemy nearby. Immediately following this action, he was mortally wounded by an enemy sniper. His exceptional fortitude, initiative and unswerving devotion to duty gave inspiration to his comrades to emulate and were a great contribution to the defeat of the enemy in that sector. Private First Class Deckard's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty at the cost of his life, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, XVIII Airborne Corps, G.O. #19 (March 14, 1945))

22 September 2010



SSG Derek Leach (C/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor when he distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy during clearance of Pashmul as a member of 1st platoon, Company C, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment. His heroic actions prevented the platoon from sustaining any casualties and allowed the platoon to disrupt a high profile Taliban meeting in the area.

CT Warrior, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment partnered with 4th Company 2/3/205 Corps ANA conducted an intelligence driven clearance of a Taliban staging and attack point in the village of Pashmul in Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. The purpose of the clearance operation was to disrupt Taliban influence and capability in the area.

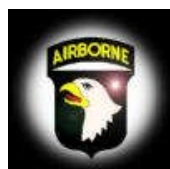
While moving to the objective, Taliban insurgents from an established defensive position ambushed SSG Leach's platoon. The platoon was in an open field with no cover or concealment and received small arms and machine gun fire from multiple directions. The ambush line spanned 500 meters of prepared bunkers and fighting positions along a wadi line.

As the platoon sergeant, SSG Leach remained calm and immediately led the platoon through decisive actions. Initially moving to a machine gun team that was pinned down by effective enemy fire; he directed their movement to a tactically advantageous location. He then oriented and directed their fires to suppress the Taliban ambush positions immediately relieving enemy pressure on the platoon.



Identifying a squad of ANA soldiers who remained fixed in open terrain, SSG Leach again maneuvered through enemy small arms and machine gun fire to their location to direct and cover their withdrawal to a safe position.

Continuing to disregard his own personal safety, he moved into effective enemy fire and repositioned the platoon forward observer to a location where he could best call for fire. SSG Leach then continued to maneuver the platoon to best fight the enemy.



As the assault element flanked the enemy, SSG Leach coordinated the effects of his platoon's support-by-fire position; the ANA partner force, the attached Sappers, and the indirect fire. His actions broke the enemy attack and allowed the assault element to sweep through the enemy engagement area resulting in the destruction of all enemy fighting positions along the wadi line.

SSG Leach's quick and selfless actions during the fire fight allowed the platoon to gain and maintain the initiative during a Taliban ambush as well as prevented the loss of life or injury to any of his Soldiers. Undoubtedly, without his actions, 1st platoon and the partnered ANA would have sustained casualties. His calm assessments and actions while under direct enemy fire were instrumental in the platoon's success and defeat of the enemy force.

25 September 2003

PFC Ian Blankenship (C/1-320 FA) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism during combat. DIVARTY Commander for 101st COL Montero and his convoy were attacked at an intersection by an IED and then engaged by small arms fire. PFC Blankenship's platoon was in the area and rushed to support. PFC Blankenship and one other Soldier ran over to secure the damaged truck and render aid to COL Montero's wounded driver. PFC Blankenship with another Soldier dragged the wounded driver back to their own truck, provided first aid, and left rapidly to take him to the next level of care.

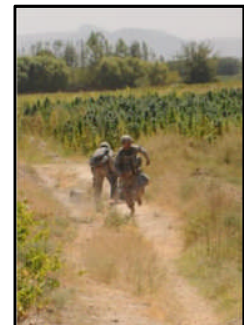
25 September 2010



The following Soldiers: SSG Scott Barker and SGT William Eddleman (A/1BSTB) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while they distinguished themselves by exceptional valor in action while engaging in breaching, clearing, and demolition operations under sporadic contact in direct support of Operation Tund Baad while assigned to Company A, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion in support of 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion. Their actions saved the lives of countless ISAF and ANSF Soldiers.

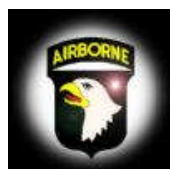
SSG Barker and his platoon including SGT Eddleman and his squad were ordered to open a breach into the green zone through defensive IED belts in the vicinity of Kandalay. SGT Eddleman's squad was the lead element for two Infantry companies to secure key terrain. Moving forward of the main element during early morning hours prior to sunrise and utilizing a MICLIC the platoon opened a breach lane.

After conducting the breach SSG Barker with SGT Eddleman's element moved ahead into the lane leading an infantry company forward. As the lead element into the breach, SSG Barker, SGT Eddleman and his squad discovered the entire charge had not detonated. The charge had misfired leaving over 1,000 lbs of explosives undetonated in the lane.



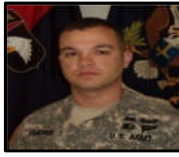
SSG Barker and SGT Eddleman volunteered to move into the un-cleared ground to manually detonate the remaining charges while ordering all others to move to a safe distance leaving them with no forward security to set the charge. SSG Barker and SGT Eddleman were forced to set the charge with a one minute time fuse due to the assets on hand and the trailing Infantry company being left in the open, putting them at great risk in order to allow maneuver elements to push into the green zone and reach their objectives.

After igniting the time fuse SSG Barker and SGT Eddleman began a 200 meter sprint over broken and muddy terrain to reach a safe covered position only three seconds prior to the blast. Then, once again they moved forward to ensure the



breach was open and clear to allow safe movement of following maneuver elements.

26 September 2010



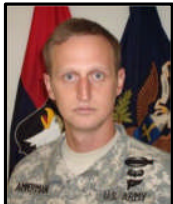
The following Soldiers: CPT William Faucher, SSG James Spear, SSG Jason Thompson, SSG Eric Ammerman and PFC Aaron Jonas (2-502 IN) were awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while serving in the Scout platoon, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment executed an air assault on OP Dusty, during Operation Lion Strike, in order to interdict enemy movement along Route Dusty.



After occupying the compound, the platoon immediately began to fortify defensive positions on the rooftop of OP Dusty. PFC Jonas immediately established communications with the Battalion Tactical Operations Center (TOC). Within minutes of occupying their positions, OP Dusty began to receive effective small arms fire from two separate enemy fighting positions located in thickly vegetated tree lines 250 meters to the south and east.



Over the next two days an estimated 15-20 enemy fighters conducted over 20 coordinated complex attacks in an attempt to surround and overrun OP Dusty. CPT Faucher repeatedly moved across the rooftop and coordinated counterattacks against the enemy. SSG Spear was able to engage the fighting position with an M320 grenade launcher, effectively suppressing the enemy and forcing them to break contact.



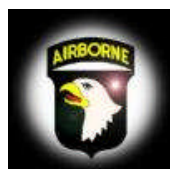
OP Dusty began receiving effective enemy RPG and machine gun fire from a position in a tree line 125 meters to the northeast. SSG Thompson moved across the rooftop, exposing himself in order to call for fire on the enemy machinegun position and mark the target with smoke for Close Combat Aviation. With PFC Jonas having established communications he was able to call in CCA for quick response.



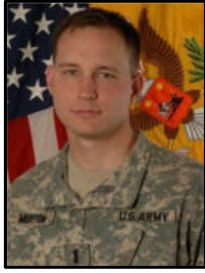
Immediately after an enemy RPG impacted on the wall of OP Dusty, CPT Faucher moved across the rooftop under effective enemy machinegun and small arms fire to suppress the enemy with his weapon, allowing SSG Spear to fire an AT-4 and SSG Ammerman to call for fire on the enemy fighting position.

CPT Faucher, SSG Spear, SSG Thompson and SSG Ammerman's selflessness and leadership throughout the two day engagement repeatedly inspired their platoon to continue fighting. CPT Faucher, SSG Spear, SSG Thompson and SSG Ammerman's actions resulted in over 20 fixed wing strikes, 30 CCA strikes, and over 18 danger close indirect fire missions resulting in 13 insurgents killed in action.

CPT Faucher, SSG Spear, SSG Thompson, SSG Ammerman and PFC Jonas' bravery and leadership were an inspiration to the platoon and their actions were directly linked to the platoon's ability to suppress over 20 enemy attacks thus preventing the position from being overrun.



26 September 2010



The following Soldiers: CPT Daryl Murton and SSG Jason Redick (HHC3-2 CAV) were awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while during a patrol on OP Gold displayed extraordinary valor and initiative that ultimately stabilized a rapidly deteriorating situation while assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

At the beginning of operations, a route clearance platoon on a patrol heading south through a wadi discovered and cleared an anti-personnel mine initiated IED. As the patrol repositioned to continue the mission, the lead RG-31, equipped with a mine roller, struck a secondary IED. The blast caused catastrophic damage to the vehicle and injured two crewmen who required immediate evacuation. CPT Murton quickly brought order to the situation by assessing the incident and directing SSG Redick to secure a suitable MEDEVAC HLZ.

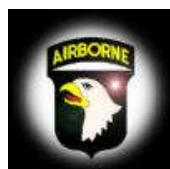


As the route clearance platoon began to consolidate, a second RG-31 at the rear of the formation struck a third IED. This incident again called for CPT Murton's calm leadership as he rapidly established priorities of work and assigned responsibilities for security and casualty evacuation. SSG Redick quickly secured another MEDEVAC HLZ. Even with the clear and present knowledge that there were likely mines and IEDs in the immediate area, SSG Redick continued to conduct operations without concern for his own safety.

Following successful evacuation of the casualties, SSG Redick was quickly able to establish plans for securing the TAC's vehicles and vigilantly maintained a constant presence in the wadi throughout the night, ensuring security on the damaged vehicles never lapsed. SSG Redick continuously monitored the remaining four crewmen in the TAC's vehicles to ensure they were alert, on the radio and scanning the culverts leading into the wadi. A portion of the Squadron TAC maintained overwatch along culverts as CPT Murton led a dismounted patrol of four Soldiers around the friendly position.

CPT Murton assertively led his team to various points in the wadi and surrounding compounds where insurgents were identified by UAS. Through vigilant patrolling, CPT Murton was able to deter them from continuing operations against the fixed friendly force throughout the night. The following afternoon as recovery operations were still ongoing, CPT Murton and SSG Redick identified insurgents attempting to infiltrate the element's perimeter. SSG Redick's immediate return of well-aimed fired were enough to deter them from continuing operations against the fixed friendly force.

CPT Murton and SSG Redick maintained security and situational awareness through lengthy recovery operations. The next morning the Squadron's wrecker struck a fourth IED. This strike resulted in yet another damaged vehicle and required the Air MEDEVAC of the squadron's senior recovery NCO. CPT Murton again expertly took control of the situation. CPT Murton identified, marked and secured the HLZ; SSG Redick positioned security forces in the wadi and moved the casualty to PZ Posture.



SSG Redick exhibited boundless energy and determination along with utter disregard for his own safety during a 33-hour patrol that involved four separate IED strikes, small arms contact, loss of three vehicles and multiple casualties. SSG Redick displayed the strength, decisiveness and combat skills that are indicative of the best of the Non-Commissioned Officers Corps.

CPT Murton demonstrated he was the epitome of a combat leader. Without CPT Murton's calm, decisive leadership, the outcome of the unit's operations could have been much worse.

26 September 2010



SrA Nathan Archambault was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while he distinguished himself with heroism as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller while engaged in ground combat against an enemy of the United States in support of Scout platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment at Forward Operating Base Howz-e-Madad, Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. SrA Archambault and the scout platoon conducted a partnered air assault with ANA soldiers into an unsecured helicopter landing Zone (HLZ).

Once the HLZ was secured, the team moved 900 meters through overgrown grape fields and dense woods to establish Observation Post (OP) Dusty. At dawn on the 26th, while holding the OP, they came under RPG, PKM and small arms fire from a tree line 250 meters to the southeast. Additionally the enemy used complex attack techniques to engage the scout platoon with effective PKM and AK-47 fire from two structures 175 meters to their east, creating a lethal crossfire. Without hesitation and under intense enemy crossfire, SrA Archambault positioned himself to communicate to the rear and immediately request close air support.

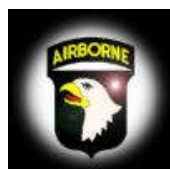


He quickly and efficiently informed the aircrew of the dire ground situation, the close proximity of enemy firing positions and began facilitating kinetic strikes. SrA Archambault controlled ten strafing passes, five of which were danger close and within 50 meters of his platoon's position. Despite the strafing passes, the enemy continued aggressively maneuvering in attempts to overrun the OP.

With complete disregard for his personal safety, SrA Archambault climbed on top of the compound roof at the OP and low crawled to get a better vantage point of enemy movements. With heavy machine gun fire



snapping over his head and impacting within four feet of his position in addition to sporadic RPG fire impacting within 50 meters, SrA Archambault controlled eight precision-guided munitions strikes on several enemy fighting positions, with weapons impacting as close as 170 meters of his own location, within the danger close proximity. Over the next 48 hours, he continued to repel 20 separate enemy assaults by controlling 4 additional strafing runs with rounds impacting enemy positions, and within 100 meters of the platoon's location.



Finally, the combination of precision guided munitions and multiple strafing runs ceased all enemy fire. The result of the engagement was an estimated 13 Taliban fighters killed and over 30 enemies wounded, with zero coalition casualties. Without SrA Archambault's bravery and leadership while controlling close air support, it is highly probable the 27 Coalition and Afghanistan soldiers would have died during the multi-day battle.

27 September 1967



CPT Charles P. Otstott (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 27 September 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. During a ground assault on a well-fortified enemy position, Captain Otstott personally organized a small element in an attempt to make a flanking maneuver against the enemy. Although under an intense volume of fire, Captain Otstott, on numerous occasions, fully exposed himself to the vicious hostile fire in order to coordinate the supporting fires and direct fire of his men. When he was unable to observe the air support being given, Captain Otstott, with complete disregard for his own safety, jumped from his covered position and moved to an exposed piece of high ground where he could better direct the air support. Captain Otstott was almost immediately detected by the enemy assault element. Again without concern for his own safety, Captain Otstott stood up, fully exposed to the enemy fire, and placed extremely effective fire into the ranks of the oncoming enemy, killing two insurgents and forcing the remainder to pull back. Captain Otstott remained in his exposed position until the air strikes had been completed. Captain Otstott'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.

27 September 67

1SG Frank R. Creed (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 27 September 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. First Sergeant Creed distinguished himself by his courageous actions on that night when an estimated North Vietnamese Army Company viciously attacked and overran a part of his company's perimeter. Reacting quickly to the rapidly worsening situation, First Sergeant Creed immediately organized his command post personnel and led them through the tremendous enemy fire to exposed positions where effective fire could be brought into the ranks of the charging enemy. During the fierce engagement, First Sergeant Creed continuously exposed himself to the hostile fire as he aggressively repelled the enemy, pointed out targets to his men, and offered them words of encouragement. Through First Sergeant Creed's leadership, determination, and courageous actions, his small element was able to delay the enemy force long enough for the company perimeter to be reformed and repel the determined enemy. First Sergeant Creed's unquestionable valor was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the American Division, and the United States Army.

27 September 67

SP4 Henry I. Willey (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 27 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. As Specialist Four, then Private First Class, Willey's squad moved out in an assault against a well-fortified enemy element, he observed his machine gunner had been wounded. Realizing the necessity for the extra firepower, he immediately ran towards the wounded gunner. While running through the enemy fire, he was hit and wounded. With no regard for his wounds or the enemy fire, Specialist Willey continued onward until he reached the weapon and, with the machinegun, placed a tremendous volume of fire into the enemy positions. Then detecting an enemy automatic weapons bunker, Specialist Willey, with utter disregard for his own safety, charged through vicious enemy fire and succeeded in destroying the bunker and killing four enemy soldiers. Specialist Four Willey's unquestionable gallantry was in keeping with



the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

27 September 67

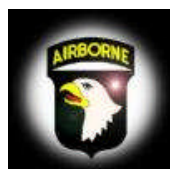


1LT James B. Peake (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 27 September 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. When contact was made with an estimated reinforced enemy platoon in well-fortified positions, First Lieutenant Peake immediately moved to the most forward point of his platoon's position and began to lead his men in an assault on the enemy. A squad became pinned down and Lieutenant Peake quickly organized a maneuvering element and personally led them in an attempt to flank the enemy positions. As Lieutenant Peake led his element forward, he was struck by enemy fire and painfully wounded in the leg. Disregarding his own safety, Lieutenant Peake got to his feet, charged an enemy machinegun position and destroyed it, killing three enemy soldiers and relieving the pressure on the pinned down squad. Refusing to be evacuated until his own casualties had been evacuated, Lieutenant Peake painfully walked approximately six hundred meters to insure the evacuation could be made from a secure landing zone. First Lieutenant Peake'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.

27 September 1967



LTC Ralph Puckett Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 27 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. During the hours of darkness on that evening, a small enemy element infiltrated the defensive perimeter of the Tactical Command Post, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry Regiment, Americal Division, and initiated an attack with grenades and automatic weapons fire. In the initial stage of the attack, a hand grenade landed approximately eighteen inches from Colonel Puckett's head and exploded, wounding him in the head and seriously affecting his hearing. Dazed and bleeding, Colonel Puckett staggered to his feet and, without hesitation, rushed into the raging battle and immediately began to reorganize the defensive perimeter. With complete disregard for his own safety, Colonel Puckett rushed through the withering hail of enemy grenades and automatic weapons fire and moved from position to position giving his men encouragement and directing their fire. Throughout the remainder of the night Colonel Puckett completely disregarded his wounds and personal safety as he directed all aspects of the defense of the Tactical Command Post and an artillery battery. When MEDEVAC helicopters arrived, Colonel Puckett supervised the evacuation of his wounded men and refused evacuation until his men had been cared for and the situation had returned to normal. The actions of Colonel Puckett undoubtedly inspired his men to such a degree that they successfully defended their positions and forced the enemy to withdraw. Lieutenant Colonel Puckett'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.



***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."

