



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) "STRIKE HISTORY" 22 December – 28 December 2013



22 December 1944 Four Germans appeared on the line at Bastogne with a request for the surrender of Bastogne. MG McAuliffe replied "NUTS." The Germans began the first of five nights of intense bombardment.

22 December 1968 1-502 continued to conduct extensive RIF throughout the AO. D/1-502 however was the only unit to make contact they engaged 2 VC, vic. YD6119, resulting in 1 VC KIA and 1 US WIA. D/1-502 captured 1 AK47, ammo, and gear. Later in the same area they discovered a cache with SA ammo, RPG round, 25lb. Salt and 2 SKS bayonets.

22 December 1967 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** A/2-502 found another recently used base camp.

22-27 December 2005 1-320 FA relocates from Camp Taji to Baghdad and assumes Area Defense Operations Center (ADOC) missions for Camp Victory.

22 December 2010 The 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldiers of Combined Task Force STRIKE operating in Kandahar's Maiw and district, were visited by the Sergeant Major of the Army at Combat Outpost Azzizulah.

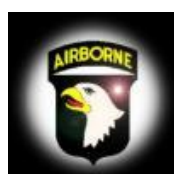
22 December 2010 The 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldiers of Combined Task Force STRIKE operating in Kandahar's Maiw and district, were visited by the Sergeant Major of the Army at Combat Outpost Azzizulah.



On a flat bed truck turned into a stage decorated with sandbags and camouflage netting, SMA Kenneth O. Preston spoke to the large "Wolf Pack" crowd and thanked them for their accomplishments during their deployment to southern Afghanistan and spoke about the holiday season.

"On behalf of the Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Casey, the Secretary of the Army, Secretary McHugh and all of the senior leaders back in DC and really all of our leaders around the world we say thanks for what you all are doing and wish you a Merry Christmas," said Preston. "This is our tenth Christmas now that we've had Soldiers, warriors like yourselves right now, deployed into harm's way. We never forget those we've lost and fallen, but we also pay tribute to our warriors out there, all of you right now, in harm's way."

Traveling with Preston were celebrities from the USO's 2010 Hope and Freedom Tour, also thanking the CTFS Soldiers for their efforts. Country singers Keni Thomas, Emily West, Buddy Jewell, rock star Alana Grace, comedian Chonda Pierce, Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Nicole Hamilton and Brandi Redmond and model, TV show host Leeann Tweeden, provided entertainment and a temporary break for the Soldiers from the Afghan combat zone.



“What our job is as ambassadors for the USO is to bring a touch of home to you guys that are far away from it,” said Tweeden, who has made 14 troop visits to Afghanistan and Iraq since September 11, 2001. “My father served in Vietnam and he had a USO show with Bob Hope and Raquel Welch and he always talked about how cool it was, for maybe an hour, to forget about what you were doing. I thank you very much.”



The USO celebrities played music, interacted with the crowd and put smiles on the faces of the Soldiers. The troop audience appreciated the in-theater performance.

“I liked their motivation,” said PFC Branton Harden, 19, of Emory, Texas and a radiotelephone operator with the squadron’s Headquarters and Headquarters Troop. “They seemed really excited to be here and see us.”

For a short time during their long deployment, the Wolf Pack Soldiers received encouraging words, enjoyed live music and were given the chance to smile, a change from their usual deployment lifestyle.



“It was like a piece of home was brought here, a change in pace,” said Harden. “It was good to hear Merry Christmas from the sergeant major. It was a break, a sort of escape compared to the eat, work, sleep that I am used to.”

23 December 1944

The enemy attacked the juncture of the 502nd and the 327th. American dive-bombers shattered this attack and the lines remained unchanged. On Christmas Eve, members of the 502nd attended mass at the 10th century chapel of Rolle Chateau. The Germans continued to conduct limited attacks on Bastogne on Christmas Day.

23 December 1967

2-501, and 1-502 send out first operations outside their perimeter. 1-502 is ambushed, suffering the brigade’s first two KIAs of Vietnam.

23 – 25

December 1967

Operation KLAMATH FALLS: B/2-502 was extracted and brought to the TAC CP for deployment after 25 Dec. Recondos closed into the TAC CP effective 24 Dec for deployment after 25 Dec.

23 December 1968

D/1-502 was the only company that had contact as they killed 1 VC with small arms fire, vic. YD5921.

23 December 1970

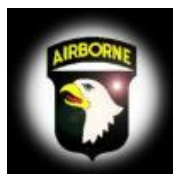
Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: 2/502 Battalion returned to Camp Eagle for seven day stand down.

24 December 1967

Operation KLAMATH FALLS: A/2-502 suffered 1 HA and 3 US WHA as a result of a command detonated claymore. The 24 Hour Christmas truce was spent with A Co. and C Co. in the Company perimeters around the landing zones. B Co. and Recondos spent the truce at the TAC CP.

24 December 1968

1-502 had very little activity as the Battalion returned to static positions in observance of the Christmas truce, to start at 1800hrs. Early in the morning D/1-502 killed 1 VC from ambush with a claymore.



25 December 1968

Christmas day found A/1-502 at LZ Sally, B/1-502 at An Lo, C/1-502 at FSB T-Bone, and D/1-502 at LZ Sally, with Recon/1-502 at An Lo. The Battalion observed the Christmas truce and enjoyed a Holiday meal.

25 December 2010

Combined Task Force STRIKE's 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment was attached to 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Raider. After winning the battles against Taliban in Arghandab and connecting the local populace to Afghan government, the Top Guns were needed for the Raider fight. Despite its current attachment, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), continues face-to-face contact with its Field Artillery Regiment.



CSM Alonzo Smith, the Command Sergeant Major for the STRIKE Brigade, took his personal security detachment teams across Highway 1 and into the Arghandab River Valley to wish his Top Guns Soldiers a Merry Christmas, Dec. 25. The Soldiers were excited to see "Strike 7."

"To see the Brigade Command Sergeant Major come all the way out here just to wish us a Merry Christmas makes me smile," said SPC Andrea Anderson, a Soldier cook with the Top Guns' Company G. "It shows that the STRIKE Brigade is concerned about the Soldiers operating in Arg handab, even though they're attached to another unit", said Anderson. Smith filled his Multi-purpose All Terrain Vehicles with boxed care packages sent to CTFS from a New Jersey mother whose Soldier son died in Iraq. Smith delivered the packages to the Soldiers based at Combat Outposts Terra Nova, Nolen, Stout, Tynes and Jelawur.

"I did not expect to get a Christmas gift from Sergeant Major Smith and that is something else," said S P C Joshua Socha of the battalion's Battery A and operating out of COP Nolen. "The box is pretty full and even has some decorations for the day."

Since its deployment, the Top Guns have defeated Taliban in all of its engagements and connected the populace to its Afghan government, something Arg handab hasn't seen for years. Smith felt it important to let his Top Guns Soldiers know they are appreciated.

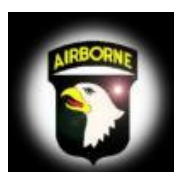


"You guys are writing the pages of the history books and I don't know of any other field artillery regiment in the Army that has done what you've done," said Smith to the Top Guns. "I did not want to take up the Soldiers' time on this day because it's a special day for every Soldier, but I just wanted to come here for a moment's time and say thank you and Merry Christmas."

26 December 1944

Relief from the 4th Armored Division arrived at Bastogne. Bastogne was the key to the Ardennes sector. By holding it the 101st defeated the German plan. On January 17th the 11th Armored Division relieved the 101st and they were sent back to refit and train for the invasion of Berlin. This operation never took place because the Russians captured the city before it could be launched. For the remainder of the war, the 502nd acted as a military police force for the occupation government.

The 3rd Battalion captured 3 high-ranking Nazi war criminals. They were Dr. Robert Leij, the leader of the Nazi labor front; Julius Streiches, the most virulent of the Jew



baiters and owner of the world's most extensive pornographic library; and Obergruppenfuhrer Karl Oberg, S.S. chief in occupied France.

26 December 1967

Operation KLAMATH FALLS: Recondos moved by foot NW into assigned AO. B Co. moved south on a 2 day mission to check out suspected VC locations. The company was scheduled to return to the TAC CP for deployment by air into the NW portion of the AO.

26 December 1968

A/1-502 conducted a CA to vic. YD6040 and conducted search and clear operations in vic. of LZ. The results were, 1 VC KIA, 1VC POW, 3 weapons, 750lb. Rice, uniforms, gear, ammo, an some documents were captured. The other units resumed offensive combat operations but had negative contact.

26 December 1968 –
05 January 1969

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: Phase V began. This phase began with a 24 hour stand down for A/2-502 at FSB Anzio while B, C D and Recon Co's moved by foot toward their new AO in the canopy south of FSB Anzio. A Co. became OPCON to 1-7 ARVN CAV. On 27 Dec, B Co. and Recon conducted a CA vic. YD894997 without incident on the morning of 27 Dec, while C and D Co. walked into the canopy. D 30 was relieved of security of FSB Roy by 1-327 and joined the company at 1450 vic. YD967002. On 29 Dec. at 1629 vic. YC917978 Recon observed old base camp and uncovered the following equipment: 2 AK-47's, 2 US Carbines, 1 SKS, 1 US 45 Cal. Pistol, 1 M-16 plus an assortment of documents and explosives. On 01 Jan. at 0955 vic. YD925000 C Co. engage 4 VC moving East on a trail resulting in 1 VC/NVA KIA, 1 AK-47 with three magazines. Due to the presence of heavy blood trails after the contact, a Combat Tracking team was requested. Due to faulty equipment, only the Visual Tacking team was able to repel into C Co. On 02 Jan. at 1220 vic. YC0933004 C 20 engaged 4 VC/NVA resulting in enemy dead and misc. equipment captured; at 1930 vic. YC919980 Recon discovered another small cache of weapons and equipment. Another small cache in a group of huts was discovered by Recon on 03 Jan. at 1530 vic. YC931984. Ground activity picked up on 4 Jan. at 0917 vic. YD936002 C Co. engaged 3 enemies at close range resulting in 1 VC/NVA trail watcher and captured two weapons. Phase V ended on 5 Jan. with negative contact and preparation of Operation PLATTE CANYON.

27 - 30
December 1967

Operation KLAMATH FALLS: A/2-502 made contact at 1150H Dec when one platoon walked into an estimated 5 man "L" shape ambush. This action resulted in 2 US KHA and 4 US WHA. As the company continued moving north towards the high ground, fresh base areas were found. On 28 Dec, as two elements of A Co. deployed on a group of suspected enemy hooches, 2 more US WHA were sustained as the element took fire from the hooches. Neither action resulted in known enemy losses. B Co. was air assaulted from the TAC CP to their new AO and commenced S&D operations to the SE.

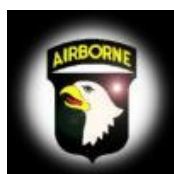
Artillery area fires were plotted and fired on suspected VC locations based on people sniffer reading and likely egress routes. These fires were employed periodically during the nights and days from 27 – 30 Dec. Results of the fires remain unknown, however, on three occasions after the H&I program began, bloody bandages were discovered in hooches on the high ground.

27 December 1968

A/1-502 had 7 people WIA by BBT they encountered. Many BBT's in the area, vic. YD6140. C/1-502 operating in vic. YD6218, the unit found 4 bodies, killed about 3 or 4 days earlier, they also found 2 M-72 LAW's and 1 RPG round. The unit engaged 2 VC with SA, vic. YD6219 with negative results.

28 December 1968

A/1-502 continued RIF operation. Vic. YD6140, finding 300lbs spoiled rice and 1 ton polished rice. D/1-502 had 1 US WIA by BBT, vic. YD6128. They detained two VCS, vic. YD6326.



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

- 1 x Distinguished Service Cross
- 9 x Silver Star Medal
- 1 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
- 1 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 3 x Bronze Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
- 34 x Purple Hearts (27 x Posthumously)
- 1 x Died of Non-Hostile Injuries or Illness

22 December 1944 The following Soldiers: PFC John A. Leviski (C/502nd PIR), 1LT Nicholas D. Mottola, SSgt Gordon Porter, PVT Charles L. Amann (D/502nd PIR), PVT Lamar E. Cage (G/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during WWII in Belgium, Germany.

22 December 2005 1LT Benjamin T. Britt (1-502 IN), 24, of Wheeler, Texas; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when an improvised explosive device detonated near their position during a dismounted patrol in Baghdad.



22 December 2005 SPC William Lopez-Feliciano (1-502 IN), 33, of Quebradillas, Puerto Rico; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when an improvised explosive device detonated near their position during a dismounted patrol in Baghdad.



22 December 2005 SGT Anthony Yrube (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received for back injury caused from the close proximity of the IED blast, possible hernia also sustained during the incident.

22 December 2005 SGT Roman Diaz (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received for shrapnel wounds received on his face from an IED.

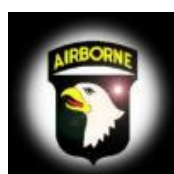
22 December 2005 PFC Samuel Gorton (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while on a dismounted patrol; an IED exploded less than 20 meters from PFC Gorton's position. He sustained hearing loss from the blast.

22 December 2005 SPC Michael Osberg (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was wounded by an IED while on a convoy.

22 December 2010 SSG Douglas Cox (HHC/3-2 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when an insurgent attacked his unit with a rocket propelled grenade.

23 December 1944 PVT Marvin E. Tutterow (RHQ/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during WWII.

24 December 1944 PFC Willard B. Caughran (B/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously). PFC Caughran died from wounds when he was hit by machine gun fire from the rouge tank that was attempting to break back through the lines in Belgium, Germany.



24 December 1967



SSG Walerija Chulchatschinow (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received as a result of fragment wounds received when he was hit by fragments from a hostile claymore mine while on combat operations in the Lam Dong Province, South Vietnam.

25 December 1944

1LT Porter C. Little (B/C/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously). 1LT Little who was killed by mortar fragments shortly after handing out Christmas cookies to some of his men in Belgium, Germany.

25 December 1944

The following Soldiers: PFC Frank Nowakowski Jr. (HQ/1-502d PIR); PVT Lloyd A. Gore (B/502d PIR); PFC Thomas F. Hatton Jr. (H/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during WWII in Belgium, Germany.

25 December 1970



PFC Richard J. Knickerbocker (D/2-501 IN) died from Non-hostile injury from incident on 14 December, as a result of injuries received while outside an artillery firing position when an explosive device detonated in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

25 December 2005

MAJ James Sizemore (C/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received. Civil Affairs and PSYOPs combat patrol received incoming mortar fire prior to departing from the Iraqi Army compound. The patrol consisted of 6 U.S. vehicles. The mortar round landed approximately 6 meters in front of MAJ Sizemore's vehicle, sending metallic shrapnel directly into the dismounted patrol personnel, vehicles, and bystanders. MAJ Sizemore was struck in the face and neck causing bleeding and contusions. Two Iraqi Soldiers were killed instantly and four were seriously wounded.

26 December 1944

The following Soldiers: PVT Edward J. Bradley (HQ/1-502d PIR); PFC Joseph C. Belanger (SVC/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during WWII in Belgium, Germany.

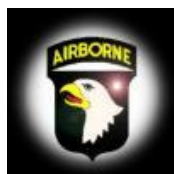
27 December 1944

The following Soldiers: PVT Quinn L. Chisholm (B/502d PIR); PVT Ernest F. Bruno (I/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during WWII in Belgium, Germany.

27 December 1967



The following Soldiers: PFC George Binko (Pictured) and PFC William A. Cason (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam.



27 December 1967



The following Soldiers: 1LT Ossie Reynolds, CPL David L. Boggs (Pictured) and PFC Johnson Minnitee Jr. (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Binh Thuy Province, South Vietnam.

28 December 1944

The following Soldiers: PFC Louis P. Migliarese (RHQ/502d PIR); S/Sgt Harold E. Waller, PVT Fred Cid, PVT Lorain O. Westenhaver (I/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during WWII in Belgium, Germany

28 December 2005

PV2 Nicholas Adams (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received. During a routine patrol, the first vehicle in the convoy turned onto Route Fatboy and hit an IED. PV2 Adams was in the gunner position and was partially thrown out of the turret when the IED exploded.

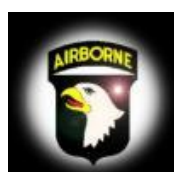
STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

24 December 1967

SP5 Lee C. Pugh (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 24 December 1967. While on a combat operation, Specialist Five Pugh was participating in a reconnaissance patrol near Bao Loc, Republic of Vietnam, when they were suddenly taken under an extremely heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire from a numerically superior enemy force set in a well concealed ambush. On the initial burst of enemy fire the squad leader was killed and three other men wounded. Realizing that the squad was now leaderless, Specialist Five Pugh immediately took charge and set the remaining troopers in a defensive perimeter, and continuously exposed himself to the vicious enemy automatic weapons fire in order to direct the fire of the men and point out enemy positions. Specialist Five Pugh then, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, charged forward through the murderous enemy fire to the aid of one of the wounded men. After insuring the wounded man was properly treated, Specialist Five Pugh then moved from position to position until all the wounded personnel were given medical aid. Specialist Five Pugh then radioed back to the company requesting reinforcements and a dust-off ship. Because he was able to give an exact location, the reinforcements arrived rapidly and the medical evacuation ship was able to come directly to his location, thereby saving valuable time and preventing further injuries. Specialist Five Pugh's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his 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.

25 December 1944

LTC Steve A. Chappuis (HQ/502d PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving as Commanding Officer, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 25 December 1944, in Belgium. During the siege of Bastogne by overwhelming enemy forces, Colonel Chappuis commanded a regiment of the defending 101st Airborne Division. When the enemy launched a fierce attack with strong infantry and armored forces in a supreme effort to seize the town, Colonel Chappuis mustered all available cooks,



drivers and orderlies to augment his depleted, widely deployed troops and skillfully maneuvered his forces to meet the attack. Under his courageous, inspiring leadership his men held, repulsing every attempt by the enemy to penetrate the lines. He repeatedly exposed himself to intense enemy fire in order to direct his troops effectively and personally reconnoitered enemy infested territory, completely disregarding his own safety. The heroic, inspiring leadership of Colonel Chappuis, and his personal courage and supreme 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, Third U.S. Army, General Orders No. 14 (January 14, 1945))

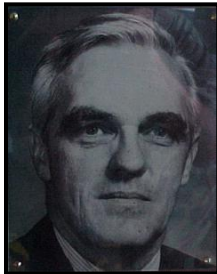
25 December 1944

PFC Amos J. Almeida 39250383 (502d PIR) earned the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself by heroic achievement in action. On 25 December 1944 in the vicinity of Champs, Belgium, the enemy launched a determined attack with six tanks and approximately seventy-five infantrymen, and succeeded in penetrating the main line of resistance. During the attack, one enemy tank seriously threatened the area in which Private First Class Almeida and his rocket launcher team was located. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Private First Class Almeida exposed himself to attract the attention and fire of the enemy tank, thereby permitting his platoon to engage and repel the other tanks and infantry. After cleverly avoiding the fire from the enemy armored vehicle, he fired his rocket launcher and destroyed the enemy tank. This heroic act contributed greatly to the successful defeat of the enemy attack. His actions were in accordance with the highest standards of the military service.

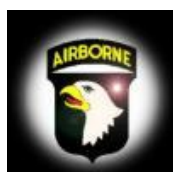
25 December 1944

CPT Ivan G. Phillips (HQ/502nd PIR) earned the Silver Star Medal while serving as the Communication Officer with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself by gallantry in action. On 25 December 1944 in the vicinity of Bastogne, Belgium, the enemy launched an attack against his regiment. The attack was preceded and supported by heavy artillery and mortar fire which scored a direct hit on the regimental switchboard and cut all wire communication. Captain Phillips immediately decided to move the switchboard to a sheltered position in spite of the heavy fire. As all available wiremen were either working on lines or had become casualties, he personally started laying wire across a fire-swept field, restoring the vitally needed communication system. On several occasions when artillery had destroyed lines in the most forward positions, he went forward with his wire team to repair the lines. ON one occasion the enemy infiltrated through the lines and snipers placed fire on him and his wire team, but despite this, he continued to repair lines without hesitation. Because of his devotion to duty, outstanding courage and aggressive action, vital communications were maintained which enabled the regiment to repel one of the most severe attacks of the defense of Bastogne. His actions were in accordance with the highest standards of the military service.

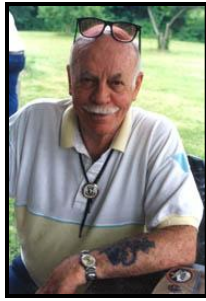
25 December 1944



MAJ John D. Hanlon (502nd PIR) earned the Silver Star Medal while serving with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself by gallantry in action. On 25 December 1944, in the vicinity of Champs, Belgium, one of the companies of the battalion which he commanded was dispersed around the outskirts of the village with the remainder of his battalion in a nearby town [unk] enemy regiment launched an attack with the initial objective of Champs. The attack was proceeded by an intense artillery barrage with heavy artillery continuing in support of the attack. Major Hanlon, with complete disregard for his personal safety, moved through the heavy artillery and small arms fire in order to reach his company at Champs which had been engaged in hand to hand fighting. Quickly surveying the situation, he received word that tanks and infantry had broken through an adjacent unit [unk] the [unk] flank and were headed for the rear and flank of his advancing troops. Running back through the village of Champs. Braving fire from the tanks and infantry, he reached the remainder of his troops and dispensed them to [unk] the tank and infantry attack. Major Hanlon remained with the most forward units until his battalion had knocked out six tanks and restored the lines to their original positions. The outstanding courage and leadership displayed by Major Hanlon were in accordance with the highest standards of the military service.



25 December 1944



SGT Schuyler "Sky" Jackson (502nd PIR) earned the Silver Star Medal while serving with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself by gallantry in action. ON 25 December 1945 in the vicinity of Bastogne, Belgium, enemy tanks and infantry attacked the defensive positions of his unit. Sergeant Jackson secured a rocket launcher and under [UNK] enemy fire, moved to a position from which he could direct effective fire on the enemy. Permitting an enemy tank to reach within thirty yards of his position, Sergeant Jackson fired one round which turned the armored vehicle to halt. He fired another round which put the tank on fire. He then proceeded to [UNK] in killing, wounding, and capturing over sixty enemy riflemen. His actions were in accordance with the highest standards of the military service. Entered the military service from the District of Columbia.

25 December 1944

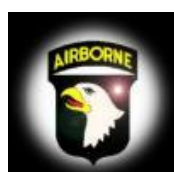
1SG Theodore E. Beishline (502nd PIR) earned the Silver Star Medal while serving with the Army of the United States distinguished himself by gallantry in action. On 25 December 1944 in the vicinity of Champs, Belgium, a firing enemy mortar and artillery concentration severed all lines of communication between his company and platoon command post. Realizing the urgent necessity of reestablishing communications, 1SG Beishline, voluntarily led a patrol to contact the platoons which were [unk] seven hundred yards away, manning a position two hundred yard from his platoon command post, the patrol observed an enemy platoon infiltrating along the main road approaching the threat this platoon prevented to the company. Sergeant Beishline withdrew his patrol, returned his way to a tank destroyer, and personally led the tank destroyer to a well selected position ahead of the enemy column, and expended its fire on the enemy. Through this initiative, aggressiveness, and extreme courage, Sergeant Beishline, prevailed instrumental in capturing and killing major portion of the enemy force. His actions were in accordance with the highest standards of the military service. He entered the military service from Pennsylvania.

25 December 1944

CPL Willis H. Fowler (502nd PIR) earned the Silver Star Medal while serving with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself by gallantry in action. On 25 December 1944, in the vicinity of Champs, Belgium, after fighting off an enemy infantry attach for several hours, Corporal Fowler sighted four enemy tanks in a defilade position on the crest of a hill and about four hundred yards to the left of his position. He quickly displaced his machined gun to the left and as the four tanks occupied by about thirty infantry attached over the crest he opened fire. The tanks immediately spotted his position and began firing upon Corporal Fowler with machine guns and tank rounds. Two 75mm Shells exploded beside his position. With his undeniable fighting spirit Corporal Fowler accounted for fifteen enemy dead and forced the enemy tanks to retreat back over the hill. The personal bravery, [unk] of purpose and fortitude displayed by Corporal Fowler were in accordance with the highest standards of military service. Entered the military service from Florida.

25 December 1944

CPT Ivan R. Hershner (I/502d PIR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic action on 25 December 1944 in the vicinity of Rolle, Belgium. Six enemy tanks with approximately fifty troops broke through an adjacent unit and were threatening the regimental command post. Captain Hershner, a staff member, assisted in organizing a line of defense with two tank destroyers supporting the line troops. After destroying two enemy tanks, the tank destroyers were hit by the remaining tanks which continued to pour heavy fire into the position. Seeing a man emerge from a burning tank destroyer with his leg nearly blown off, Captain Hershner with complete disregard for his own safety ran to his aid undeterred by the imminent danger of an explosion of the burning tanks destroyer's ammunition. Captain Hershner's outstanding heroism, his courageous determination and zealous devotion to duty undoubtedly saved the life of the wounded man. His actions were in accordance with the highest standards of the military service. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 12, 23 February 1945)



25 December 1944

T/5 Domingo Rivera Jr. (B/502d PIR) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for actions while serving with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself by gallantry in action. On 25 December 1944 in the vicinity of Bastogne, Belgium, he drove his vehicle through a heavy concentration of enemy artillery fire in order to reach several wounded men. En route to his objective, his truck ran over an anti tank mine which completely destroyed his vehicle and threw him thirty feet. Disregarding his injuries, Technician Fifth Grade Rivera continued forward to where the wounded [unk] men lying. Although constantly subjected to heavy enemy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire, he treated more than twenty casualties. His courage and dedication to duty were an inspiration to the front line troops. His actions were in accordance with the highest standards of the military service. Entered the military from New York.

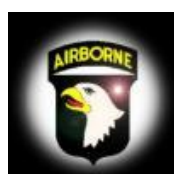
25 December 2005

SPC Steven Clark (B/2BTB) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor. After Christmas lunch, SPC Clark, a member of THT 590, was approached by an Iraqi National hired as an interpreter at the FOB. The interpreter asked SPC Clark if a weapons permit was available for him. SPC Clark told him that he would check and the two walked to the THT building. SPC Clark told the interpreter to wait outside but after unlocking the door the interpreter pointed a 9mm handgun into SPC Clark's back and told him to enter the building. After entering, the interpreter demanded the names of captured personnel and the names of informants. SPC Clark pointed to a laptop computer behind the gunman and said what he wanted was on the computer. The gunman turned his back to SPC Clark. At this point, SPC Clark pulled an M9 concealed in his back belt line. At the same time, the gunman wheeled around and both men opened fire. SPC Clark was struck once in the left chest and dropped to one knee. The insurgent was shot multiple times in the chest and abdomen but was killed by two well placed headshots. SPC Clark's life was saved by following Army Regulations and Doctrine by keeping his Ft Campbell Blue Book and Military Intelligence Badge in his left breast pocket. The 9mm round that struck SPC Clark was slowed by his Blue Book and stopped by his brass badge in its leather case.

28 December 1963



CPT William S. Carpenter Jr. (2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force in the Republic of Vietnam, on 28 December 1963. While accompanying a Vietnamese heliborne parachute battalion on a military mission, Captain Carpenter demonstrated fortitude, perseverance, and professional skill. When the helicopter landed and the Vietnamese element was proceeding to its objective, it was suddenly subjected to intense small arms fire by hostile forces. As the unit faltered momentarily, Captain Carpenter bravely exposed himself to the danger and rallied the forces by taking the lead position and encouraging the unit to follow his rapid pace. Although he received a bullet wound through his right arm while in this dangerous position, he completely ignored his own wound and, when he spotted the insurgent who shot him, he successfully dislodged him from a hole and prevented further hostile action from materializing. He then repeated his dauntless actions by organizing the soldiers in the area at which time another bullet struck his radio and knocked him to the ground. Despite his own personal injury and the hazardous conditions, he continued his diligent efforts and inspired the troops to defend their homeland until he succeeded in contacting the Senior Battalion Advisor before accepting evacuation by helicopter. Captain Carpenter's conspicuous gallantry and unselfish actions are in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service.



28 December 2003

SSG Stephen A. Carey (D/3-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for exceptional valor and courage under fire while serving with Company D, 3d Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM in the city of Mosul, Iraq, on 28 December 2003. Upon realizing that his element was in the kill zone of an enemy ambush, Staff Sergeant Carey selflessly assaulted into the enemy, disrupting the ambush before it could be initiated on friendly forces. Staff Sergeant Carey's bravery, selfless actions, leadership, and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon himself, the Strike Brigade, and the United States Army. (General Orders: Headquarters, 2d Brigade, Fort Campbell, KY, Permanent Orders 016-038 (January 16, 2004))

***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."

