



## 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AASLT) “STRIKE HISTORY” 27 April – 03 May 2014



27-30 April 1966

The 1/327 and 2/502 of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division begin Austin III, a search & Destroy operation in the La Nga Valley of Binh Tuy province, III CTZ.

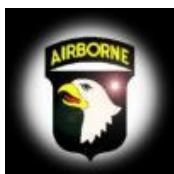
27 April –  
03 May 1968

**2ND BRIGADE/101ST TASK FORCE IN VIETNAM:** With an encirclement featuring brigade actions in each of the two previous weeks, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade was getting a reputation. On 28 April the Quang Dien district chief remarked at a ceremony that, according to a recently captured NVA prisoner, his local enemy commander had told his unit that when they get in heavy contact with airborne troops they must make every effort to stop the advance of the airborne during the day and get out of the area during the night because the paratroopers will fight through the night and defeat them. A message found on an NVA soldier killed in an ambush had said something like “if you make contact with the airborne, get out fast; they will surround you and kill you.” It was also at about this time that I passed by the interrogation of a captured enemy soldier whom I saw pointing at the Screaming Eagle patch on a nearby trooper. I asked the interpreter what the enemy soldier was saying. The reply was, “He is saying that that little bird is real mean.” So we built an archway over the steps leading down into our TOC and placed on it a sign, “That Little Bird Is Real Mean.”

April 28 began the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade’s classic cordon at Phuoc Yen. The 1st ARVN Division’s Black Panther Company, working with the 1/501, had received intense fire from an enemy force, possibly a battalion, at the north, or open, end of the “stocking” formed by the Song Bo River around that village. Brigade told the 1/501 to take advantage of the river to build a cordon around the trapped enemy, ordering that A/1/502 be inserted alongside the Black Panther Company to close the gap between its left flank and the Song Bo. The 1/501 moved its A Company overland to the Song Bo’s banks to the west of the village and brigade helolifted B/2/501 into a position from which the 1/501 could place that company on the river’s bank south of the village. To cover the east bank of the Song Bo, brigade arranged for three PF platoons from Huong Tra district plus a platoon of Catholic militia from a nearby hamlet. An encirclement was in place. Night-long illumination was called.

Before dawn on 29 April the enemy attempted three times to break through the A/1/502’s left flank, which was on the river bank. A Company stood firm and drove the enemy back. At 0800 that morning A Company attacked into the village but was itself driven back and the cordon continued that day and night. On 30 April B/1/501 replaced the Black Panther Company and that evening D/2/501 reinforced the cordon with one platoon alongside the hamlet militia at the river on the northeast corner of the encirclement and the rest of D Company reinforced A/1/502 and B/1/501 at the top of the cordon. That night the cordon was again sealed that under continuous illumination while the enemy was pounded with 105mm, 155mm, and 8 inch artillery fire. Again the enemy tried without success to find a gap in the troops’ line. In the early hours of 1 May, during a short break in the illumination, the enemy made an all-out attempt to break out in A/1/502’s zone, only to be driven back once more at a cost of 35 enemy killed; A Company suffered 3 KIA and 12 WIA in this action. A 1\502 lost 8 men killed and 33 wounded at Phuoc Yen. That afternoon B/2/501 took the place of A/1502 in the cordon, A Company was helolifted to LZ Sally, and the enemy was encircled one more night.

Shifts were made May 2 in the encircling line’s makeup. Finally, loudspeaker appeals to surrender, tear gas dropped from helicopters, continuous pounding by air strikes and



artillery (including one “time on target,” the simultaneous delivery of massed fires of many battalions) had their effect. On May 3, after defeating a last enemy attempt to escape, the encircling troops (A/1/501, B/1/501, A/2/501, D/2/501) cleaned out Phouc Yen. Enemy losses: 429 KIA, 107 POW, 117 weapons, and a battalion’s full radio suite, plus its SOI. US losses: 8 KIA, 44 WIA. ARVN losses: 3 KIA, 12 WIA. (LTG (then COL) John H. Cushman)

27 April 1968

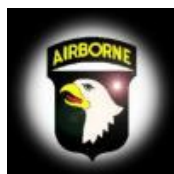
**Operation DELAWARE:** C/2-502 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon vic. YD536027 engaged an unknown sized enemy force bunkers. The maneuvered elements on the enemy and requested gunship support. The gunships could not fly due to the weather so C Co. pulled back and called in Artillery. The following day at 1500, after receiving the additional fire power of two 50 cal. MG’s and a 106 RR, C Co. again initiated the attack into the previous day’s contact area, securing the area at 1640. The area contained 15 bunkers with overhead coverage. Results: 1 US KHA, 7 US WHA, 1 M-16, 1 M-16 LIA, 10 RPG rounds, and 300 rounds of AK-47 ammunition CIA.

27 April 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** Recon Platoon (2-502 IN) continued sweeping south, reinforced by the remainder of B Company. At 0715 hours, they were engaged by an estimated enemy squad in reinforced bunkers. The enemy employed small arms against the platoon, killing one and wounding four before disengaging. A sweep of the area produced one enemy killed and an AK-47 captured, along with 100 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition and assorted medical supplies. At 1430 hours the Recon Platoon and B Company encountered a large enemy bunker complex. The contact lasted for two hours. The enemy, fighting from reinforced bunkers, employed automatic weapons, RPG’s and small arms against the friendly forces. With the help of ARA and artillery, the friendly forces were able to overrun the complex while losing only one man. The enemy fled the area leaving behind 1 NVA body, 3 AK-47 rifles and 1 RPD machine gun. The bunker complex consisted of 55 mutually supporting bunkers with thick overhead cover. Security was set up for the night in order to allow for an extensive search of the area the next day. C Company was designated to conduct a combat assault south of B Company and sweep north. The initial lift bird into the LZ (YD519056) received fire and forced down on the LZ, thus preventing the landing of additional aircraft. The initial mission was aborted and C Company was inserted north of B Company as reinforcements. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of D Company was air assaulted onto the location of the downed aircraft to secure it until it could be extracted the following day.

28 April - 17 May 1966

**Operation Austin VI** - The 117<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company provided support for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Infantry in its effort to halt the Viet Cong infiltration along the “Ho Chi Minh” trail in the rugged central highlands near Gia Nghia, approximately eight miles east of Nhon Co, Republic of Vietnam, from 28 April – 17 May 1966, during the conduct of Operation Austin VI. Some of the more important lessons learned during this period were the techniques required for flying at high density altitudes, maximum gross weights, and under severe weather conditions in the early morning and late afternoons caused by the rapidly approaching monsoon season for this area. In order to best accomplish its mission, the 117<sup>th</sup> placed volunteer crews and helicopters in the forward infantry command post. These crews, actually living with the infantry units were available to the supported units much earlier each day since they did not have to wait for the weather between Gia Nghia and the field locations to clear up enough to fly. In addition, the armed helicopter support was immediately available at all times and proved invaluable to the continuous combat operations. Midway through Austin VI, the tactical emphasis shifted to the area of Bu Gia Map. From this small landing strip, Infantry, Artillery, Army Aviation, and Air Force activities increased to a high peak. Close fire support by the 117<sup>th</sup> “Sidewinders” armed helicopter platoon was commonplace, requiring the addition of an ammunition and POL resupply point to be located at Bu Gia Map. The rough jungle terrain between the Cambodian border and the forward command post was literally impossible to land in. Time after time, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Recondo teams attempted to blast areas in order to provide sufficient clearings for the helicopters, but the task was fruitless. Therefore, the assault helicopter pilots of the 117<sup>th</sup> were forced to hover more than 60 feet in the air above the tree tops in order to



accomplish the wide variety of missions, including resupply of ammunition, food, and high explosives and occasionally the extraction of critically wounded personnel. Operation Austin VI was the most aggressive battle action for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division since its arrival in Vietnam. The data on enemy casualties is as follows: Killed in Action (by body count) 95, Killed in action (estimated) 85, Wounded (estimated) 17, Captured 15. An extract of the After Action Report of 2<sup>nd</sup> 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry for Operation Austin VI reveals that: “The assignment of the 117<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company command and control aircraft in direct support of the Infantry was invaluable to the success of the operation. A command and control helicopter was used for liaison, communication with subordinate units, assisting units to pin point their own locations, guiding units to terrain objectives, and the location of potential landing zones. This flexibility facilitated routine unit supply and airdrops and expedited emergency airdrops of chainsaws, demolitions, food and ammunition. Stationing the helicopters forward at Bu Gia Map provided much greater utilization.” (History of the 117<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company (UH-1)

28 April 1968

Battle of Phuoc Yen, as part of Operation CARENTAN II, element from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division and the 2/17 Cav encountered a strong enemy force from the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 90<sup>th</sup> PAVN Regiment during cordon and search operations four miles northwest of Hue. Casualties: U.S. 6 KIA and 43 WIA; enemy 314 KIA and 107 POW.

28 April –  
6 May 1968

**The Battle of Phuoc Yen:** The stench of death hung in the air as the paratroopers of Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry continued their search at the scene of a five-day cordon operation which marked the largest single victory since the arrival of the Screaming Eagles in Vietnam. The 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 90<sup>th</sup> North Vietnamese Regiment fought for survival for nearly four days trying to break through and impregnable airborne encirclement. Determined paratroopers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade repulsed every enemy escape attempt, inflicting heavy casualties on the NVA Soldiers.

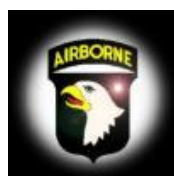
The battle of Phuoc Yen began with intelligence reports of the presence of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 90<sup>th</sup> Regiment operating in the “stocking” area of the Song Bo River, 3 miles northwest of Hue. Two allied rifle companies, Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade and the Black Panther Company from the 1<sup>st</sup> ARVN Division were deployed on the afternoon of April 28<sup>th</sup> to investigate.

The first contact of the ensuing battle was made under the hot afternoon sun amidst the humid green rice paddies just north of Duong Son Village, situated at the opening of the “stocking.” The allied fighting force pushed the enemy southward through the rice and into the natural barrier formed by the Song Bo.

COL John H. Cushman, Lexington, Mass., 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Commander, immediately dispatched his forces to seal any potential escape routes from the trapped enemy forces. Spreading through the rice in the late afternoon, the Black Panthers and Alpha Company paratroopers formed a curving arc of men to seal off the mouth of the “stocking.” Delta Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry, was helolifted into a reinforcing position east of Alpha Company.

While Vietnamese Skyraiders dropped 250-pound bombs on enemy positions, sending jagged steel fragments whirling through the trees, Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry, and Bravo Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry maneuvered around the bend of the river on the west and south. By nightfall, the paratroopers, with three Popular Forces (PF) platoon on the east side of the “stocking,” completed the cordon. They sealed the enemy in what was described by an observer as “a field commander’s tactical dream.” All forces were in position by 7 p.m. with reinforcing units moving to close on the enemy, should an attempted break take place.

Throughout the night, the paratroopers surveyed their fields of fire by the ghostly light of flares dropped from C-47’s. The thump and crack of artillery pounding the trapped



enemy battalion provided background sounds to the shifting flare shadows as the allied troops held the trap shut. At 1 a.m., Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry tensed as they observed three NVA trying to swim out of the cordon. Their figures immediately came into view against the dark water under the flares. They made good targets as the troopers fired on them, forestalling the potential escape.

The first significant attempt to break the tight encirclement was made on the morning of April 29, when Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry engaged an enemy platoon. Ducking shrapnel from bursting 60mm mortar rounds, the paratroopers held their position against heavy volumes of small arms and automatic weapons fire. Alpha Company paratroopers returned fire as gunships and heavy artillery tore the enemy force apart. Unable to breach the shrinking airborne snare, the NVA force retreated back to their doomed stronghold in Duong Son Village.

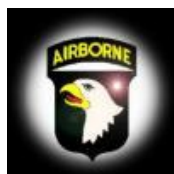
Sporadic fire continued throughout the day with artillery and air strikes battering the enemy fortifications. Late that afternoon, a second desperate enemy attempt to break the airborne stranglehold began as an unknown size enemy force attacked the northern blocking position with hand grenades and small arms fire. The airborne troopers of Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry nestled behind a natural hedgerow, sprayed the NVA with deadly grazing fire. By twilight, the decimated enemy force was driven back into their sanctuary, leaving seven bodies sprawled before Alpha Company's hedgerow.

The sights and sounds of the first night were repeated as artillery and illumination again made the night miserable for the trapped NVA. On the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup>, the ARVN Black Panther Company began an assault into the northern section of Phuoc Yen, but withdrew because of intense enemy fire. Members of Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry also launched an attack on Duong Son Village but withdrew after meeting stiff enemy resistance. Fourteen air strikes pounded the enemy forces and artillery fires bridged the gaps between the sorties. "When the air strikes were called in, our artillery shells would stop just as the jets swooped down," said CPT Jimmie J. Smith, South Lyon, Mich., an artillery fire direction officer. "By coordinating with all factions involved, the intense pressure on the enemy never faltered." During the course of the five-day battle, "Redlegs" of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 321<sup>st</sup> Artillery lobbed more than 13,500 rounds of 105mm, 155mm, and 8-inch howitzer shells on the enemy. Like the airborne infantrymen holding the line at the cordon, the artillerymen toiled day and night, endlessly uncrating, fusing, and firing the high explosives and illumination rounds which steadily blew the enemy forces apart.

Late in the afternoon of the 30<sup>th</sup>, the Black Panthers returned to their parent unit and were replaced by Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry who air assaulted into position at the north western edge of the cordon.

All units on the cordon received intermittent rifle, machine gun, RPG, and mortar fire during the night as remnants of the frustrated enemy battalion again probed the confining perimeter for weakness. At 4:40 a.m. on May 1, Alpha Company 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was struck by a ground attack toward the northwestern corner of the cordon. Supported by concentrated 60mm mortar fire lobbed from a mortar position outside the cordoned area, the NVA charged across the dewy rice toward the hedgerow positions held by the paratroopers. Holding their positions, the airborne infantrymen matched the NVA round for round for two hours before the enemy broke contact. During the lapse in the illumination, an enemy platoon broke through the cordon. At daybreak, 23 enemy bodies were strewn across the battlefield, cut down by the combined paratrooper force. Another 10 were killed attempting to swim north in the Song Bo.

Artillery continued to pound the enemy-held villages as a Division Psychological Operations team began broadcasting an appeal for the hopelessly trapped enemy to surrender and avoid further punishment. At 11 a.m., a one hour lull in the shelling was announced to allow the enemy to safely give up. The team, led by CPT Larry Cochran,





Thomaston, GA, appealed to the enemy through a loudspeaker carried to different positions on the cordon. "We wanted to save as many lives as we could," CPT Cochran said. "An interpreter spoke to the NVA telling them their situation was hopeless."

An NVA staff sergeant was first, to surrender and after receiving medical treatment and food, he volunteered to urge his comrades to follow the same course of action. Going back to the enemy hamlet, the sergeant went into one of the fortified bunkers and persuaded six NVA Soldiers to surrender. Soon a slow trickle of NVA filtered to the perimeter with their hands in the air and then a deluge of beaten enemy Soldiers began surrendering. Some had to be pulled out of the bunkers, the wounded carried, and many were uncovered by a systematic search of the river bank and pulled out of the water. Medevac helicopters quickly came in to extract the seriously wounded.

Elsewhere in the cordoned area, four air strikes struck the area around Phuoc Yen, where several NVA Soldiers were observed trying to sneak past the ring of airborne companies. At 1:45 p.m., Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502nd Infantry began a southward sweep of Duong Son. Little enemy resistance prevailed as the paratroopers searched the rubble for the battered survivors.

During the sweep, Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry, and Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry tightened the cordon around the remaining buildings in Phuoc Yen. Along the southern bend of the river, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry boarded helicopters to move to another area of operation, while Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry and the local popular force platoon extended their lines to plug the hole in the cordon. At the end of May 1st, the most decisive day of the operation, the combined airborne fighting force killed 121 NVA, and captured 95 prisoners with 59 enemy weapons.

During the night, the few surviving NVA Soldiers continued to probe for a weak spot in the dense shrinking perimeter. Short, sharp firefights followed, resulting only in swelling body count of NVA for the paratroopers holding the perimeter. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, a final sweep of the cordon was made with little enemy resistance.

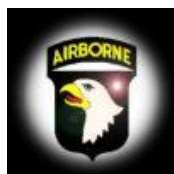
Between May 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup>, Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry combed the rubble, picking up weapons and equipment, while uncovering additional bodies to bring the final enemy body count to 429 NVA killed and 107 captured against American losses of five killed and 31 wounded. Interrogation of prisoners revealed their battalion commander, executive officer, and three company commanders died in the vicious five-day battle. So successful was the paratrooper's combat cordon in pinning down an elusive enemy that LtGen Henry W. Buse Jr., commander of the Pacific Marine Force, said recently that I Corps Marine Forces have adopted the tactic and have started to employ it near the DMZ. (By LT Jon McAtee; Rendezvous with Destiny Vol. 1, No 2 July 1968)

28 April –  
2 May 1968

The 2<sup>nd</sup> BDE helolifted four companies to the Phuoc Yen village 7km northwest of Hue (YD6928) in response to intelligence reports which indicated that an enemy battalion was in the village. Upon landing near the village, the companies immediately made contact with a sizeable enemy force. Throughout the period of 28 April – 2 May, numerous air strikes and heavy volumes of artillery fires were directed into the village. (Operational Report of 101<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Division for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1))

28 April – 4 May 1968

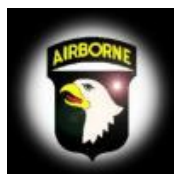
1-501 cordons Thon Phuoc Yen resulting in 429 NVA KIA, 107 NVA PWs, 117 individual and crew-served weapons, and BN radios with SOI.




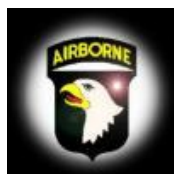
- 28 April 1968 Captured NVA POW Quang The Hau remarked during interrogation that his VC commander's guidance was "if you make contact with the airborne, get out fast; they will surround you and kill you."
- 28 April 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** at 0500 hours the night defensive position of the 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of B/2-502 was attacked by an estimated enemy platoon. The enemy's initial assault of RPG's and satchel charges was countered with claymore mines, grenades, and small arms fire. The contact persisted with the Soldiers engaged in close combat until first light when the enemy fled, leaving behind twelve (12) dead. Although several Soldiers were wounded (18) during the course of the action, only one was killed. As soon as the Medevac's were completed, sweep operations began again to the south. By 0830 at (YD5008) the sweep began to show promising results. A bunker complex was located containing bodies of enemy slain during contacts of the past two days. The complex, consisting of 36 bunkers and fighting positions surrounding a large command bunker, contained bodies of fourteen (14) enemy Soldiers. A second bunker complex located 200 meters to the south was also discovered. This complex also contained the bodies of enemy Soldiers killed during the previous two day engagements. A search of the 35 bunkers uncovered 20 enemy bodies, one RPD machine gun and one AK-47 rifle. The remainder of the day B Company and Recon Platoon searched the surrounding area and destroyed the bunkers. C Company moved south along the ridge toward B Company, searching out the sides of the ridge line and serving as rear security.
- 28 April 2006 **Operation REDSKINS:** C/1-502 and SCTS/1-502 conduct an Air Assault to block AIF egress away from SOF and Hilla SWAT forces.
- 29 April 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** An element of the 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division located at FSB GRANITE in Thua Thien Province receives a mortar attack followed by a sapper probe. Results are 18 enemy killed, 1 detained, 7 US KIA, 41 US WIA and 1 US MIA.
- 29 April 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** Screaming Eagles of the 2/501 IN BN received RPG, mortar, and small arms fire at FSB Granite. The "Drive On" Soldiers returned fire with organic weapons and called for support from Aerial Rocket Artillery. The attack is repelled and a post dawn sweep nets 22 NVA bodies and one detainee.
- 29 April 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** At 0955hours 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of D/2-502 began receiving limited small arms fire in the vicinity of YD519056. ARA was employed. The enemy attempted to split the platoon in two. Fighting for their lives, the Platoon was able to regroup their forces, and by utilizing a large volume of small arms fire and ARA, they were finally able to rout the enemy. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon and CP of D Company were brought in as reinforcements and were employed as blocking force for B and C Companies operating to the north. B Company continued its sweep south from Hill 714 along the ridge line. At 1400, B Company's 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon set off a booby trap. Although no casualties were incurred, the booby trap alerted the enemy and the platoon was brought under heavy fire by automatic weapons and 60mm mortars. The initial fire halted the platoon, but reinforcements were brought up, ARA, field artillery and tactical air strikes were employed. At 1550 a combined assault of bunker complex was made by B and C Company with the Recon Platoon screening the flanks. By 1550 two bunker complexes had been taken by close in fighting, and the enemy had been routed, although one US Soldier was killed and several wounded (26 US WIA), the enemy Soldiers suffered a solid defeat. A close check of the area revealed 16 enemy bodies, one M-79 grenade launcher, one RPG launcher, one U.S. M-60 machine gun, one PRC-25 radio, one B-40 rocket and one AK-47. B and C Company consolidated their forces and evacuated their wounded.
- D Company had established two night positions in the vicinity of the earlier morning contact. An OP from the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon saw and engaged one enemy. A squad was brought up to check out the area and they were engaged by an enemy squad in bunkers. The initial burst of fire caused one US casualty. ARA was employed and the enemy fled leaving behind one enemy body.



- 30 April 1968 STRIKE paratroopers continued reconnaissance-in-force missions near Veghel, contacting the enemy three times, killing 21 and capturing three weapons. At 1625 one mile east of Bastogne, the CG's command and control helicopter received hits from ground automatic weapons fire, slightly wounding MG O. M. Barsanti in the left leg. After directing artillery to be fired into the enemy location, Barsanti was evacuated to the 22nd Surgical Hospital, treated, and returned to duty at 1715 the same day.
- 30 April 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** C/2-502 moved through D/2-502 and became the point element to continue the sweep to the south along the ridge from Hill 714. At 1400 a large enemy cache was located by C Company. The cache contained the following weapons: 1 SKS, 14 Sniper weapons, 19 French submachine guns, 2 shotguns, 4 60mm mortars (complete), 3 30 caliber machine guns, 1 M-60 machineguns (US) and one RPD machine gun. By the end of April the main defenses of the enemy had been eliminated from the top of Hill 714. Although several large enemy bunker complexes had been overrun and destroyed, the enemy forces had merely displaced and broken into smaller units to harass and delay the STRIKE Force Soldiers.
- 30 April 1971 **Operation LAM SON 720:** The weather cleared allowing a small element of the 2-502nd IN Battalion to be inserted on Co Pung Mountain. One thousand fifteen meters in height, Co Pung commands the eastern approach to the upper A Shau Valley. To enjoy any success in the upper valley CO Pung had to be held. It was to be a 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade support base for future raids in and around Tiger Mountain. STRIKE Force was called upon to seize and hold Co Pung Mountain. Following B-52 strikes, fighter bomber attacks, and extensive artillery fire, the Battalion landed on Co Pung fighting bad weather and determined enemy. On the initial sortie onto the mountain two of the lift ships crashed on the LZ resulting in 5 STRIKE Force Troopers KIA and 10 WIA. Recon and Bravo quickly seized the high ground and the engineers expanded the LZ's Delta and Charlie Companies took the southern and eastern sides respectively. (2-502 Unit History, 1971)
- 30 April 2010 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, cases the battalion colors in preparation for 20deployment to Afghanistan.
- April 1972 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade returned to Fort Campbell from Vietnam.
- 01-18 May 1966 The 1/327, 2/502 (101st ABN), 2/503 (173d ABN) and 45th ARVN Regiment begin operation **Austin IV**, a search and destroy effort in Quang Duc and Phuoc Long provinces along the II/III CTZ boundaries near the Cambodian border, Bu Gia Map, Bu Prang, Nhon Co area.
- May – September 1968 2-501<sup>st</sup> BN returned to its former operational area West of Hue and began the slow task of identifying and destroying the VC infrastructure.
- As the operation of the Battalion expanded to include the area adjacent to the initial operational area, contact continued to be light and sporadic. This trend continued thru the month of September. Mines and booby traps were encountered; food, ammunition, and weapons caches were located; small VC elements ranging from two to fifteen personnel were ambushed and eliminated; and the local VC infrastructure was identified and rendered ineffective.
- May-Jun 2006 **Operation REDSKINS:** Combined, joint operation to disrupt Al Qaeda in Iraq.
- May 2006 **Operation IRON EAGLE:** 1-22 IN. Disrupt AIF along the Tigris River.
- May 2006 Operation **WINGED VICTORY:** 1-22 IN. Disrupt AIF along the Tigris River.



- 01-18 May 1966 The 1/327, 2/502 (101st ABN), 2/503 (173rd ABN) and 45th ARVN Regiment begin Operation **Austin IV**, a search and destroy effort in Quang Duc and Phuoc Long provinces along the II/III CTZ boundaries near the Cambodian border, Bu Gia Map, Bu Prang, Nhon Co area.
- 01 May 1968 As part of Operation CARENTAN II, the 2/17 Cav which was supporting the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division encountered an estimated reinforced NVA company 13 miles northwest of Hue. Casualties: U.S. 2 KIA and 26 WIA; enemy 82 KIA.
- 01 May 1968 1-502 IN Battalion moved back into Quang Dien District by helicopter and began RIF operations and security of An Lo Bridge and clearing of Q.L. #1. "C" sprang an ambush at (706348) on 5 NVA, killing 2 (BC). Later 2 VC were captured as they walked into the NPD. After interrogation it was learned that they were going to vic. 715330 to act as guides for NVA. At 05:30hrs. The NDP received SA fire and suffered 1 WIA. At 06:35hrs. They moved to the village (715330) and swept it finding a grave approximately 24 hours old with 4 KIA. Results: Friendly: 1 WIA; Enemy: 6 NVA KIA (BC), 2 WIA/POW. Alpha returned from OPCON to 1-501 Infantry after 3 day operation (Battle of Phuoc Yen). They received credit for 80 NVA KIA (BC)
- 
- 01 May 1969 Operation Massachusetts Striker: 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry reacted rapidly to capture documents and subsequent readouts to discover a hospital complex and a heavy machine repair shop near the Laotian Border which yielded over 100 pounds of medical supplies, eight vehicles, and ten weapons. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne (Airmobile), Operational Report – Lessons Learned. Dated 20 August 1969)
- 01 May 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** D/2-502 IN and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of A/326 ENG began construction of FSB Shock (YD518056) on the ridge line south of Hill 714. The firebase was established in the heart of the area of contact to provide additional fire support to units in contact with the enemy. The engineers, secured by D Company, worked under severe adverse conditions and enemy sniper fire to complete the firebase in record time. Upon the completion of the firebase, the mortar platoon of E Company and the Battalion commo group established themselves in the heart of the battle area.
- 01 May 1991 The last 101<sup>st</sup> Soldiers depart Saudi Arabia.
- 02 May 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon D/2-502 encountered an enemy squad in bunkers 500 meters northwest of FSB Shock. The platoon received RPG fire, small arms fire and satchel charges from three sides. The enemy attempted to maneuver to cut off the platoon. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon and Command group were brought up as reinforcements. The enemy fled the area leaving behind one body and one AK-47 rifle. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of D Company sustained only 3 men slightly wounded.
- 02 May 1971 **Operation LAM SON 720:** The enemy in the surrounding area launched the first of many mortar attacks against Co Pung. (2-502 Unit History, 1971)
- 03-05 May 1968 1-502 cordons Ap Nam Phu and Ap Pho Nam resulting in 33 NVA and VC KIA and 2 NVA PWs.
- 03 May 1968 While on a reconnaissance mission southwest of Hue, elements of the 2/502 IN BN received small arms and RPG fire. The 101st troopers returned fire and called in Aerial





Rocket Artillery and Air Strikes. After the battle a sweep of the area reveals the bodies of 27 NVA.

03 May 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** C/2-502 IN continued to sweeping operations to the south at YD 511063 made contact with the enemy at 1140 hours. The enemies encountered were fighting from well dug in camouflaged bunkers. Contact continued in the same location throughout the day, with the enemy giving no evidence of breaking contact. The enemy utilized tree platforms as well as reinforced bunkers. Although C Company kept up a high volume of fire and was supported by ARA and tube artillery, the enemy stubbornly resisted with small arms fire, RPG fire, automatic weapons fire and 51 caliber machine gun fire. Contact was broken by C Company at 1740 to regroup and call in air strikes on the enemy location. At the end of the day, a sweep of the area revealed 27 enemy KIA, while US casualties were 1 KIA and 13 WIA.

To relieve the pressure on the units on Hill 714 ridge line and to open the ridge line west of Hill 714 for operations, the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon of D Company and elements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon 326/ENG were combat assaulted into YD498047 and began expansion of the LZ. Contact with the enemy was initiated just off the LZ. An estimated 5 or 6 enemy firing small arms were engaged and ARA was called in support. The engineers worked diligently to expand the LZ although they were receiving sniper fire throughout the day. At the end of the day one enemy had been killed while there were no friendly casualties. B Company was extracted from Hill 714 to FSB Shock which one platoon secured while the remainder of the Company screened to the south. Air Strikes continued to be employed in support of C Company against enemy locations in vicinity of the previous days contact.

03 May 1970

Daily Journal for S2-3 Section, HQ/2-502 IN at FSB Veghel YD550035 (only significant events)

**0120:** Msg #1: See Incl-#1

Msg#1: All area north and east of 1<sup>st</sup> Bde boundary from YD568198 SW to 519150 SE to 542130 east to 6213 will belong to the 2nd BDE to be utilized and occupied by 3rd ARVN Regt. effective: 030800 May 70.

**0210:** Msg#2: See Incl#1

Msg #2: All Daisy Cutters: Were employed at 030820 on YD498053, YD494058, 100% ordinance was used, estimated 80% completed. Also employed on YD442067, YD455603, YD465063, YD472065, 95% completed. It is requested that Commanders VR LZ's to determine which target will have priority of work. Additional Daisy Cutters are to be requested for employment on 04 May 70 on above targets.

**0515:** At 0303 to 0310 unknown number of 122mm rockets hit Camp Eagle impacting Vic Varsity pad; four Cobra hit, one hanger, vehicles, H sector received small arms fire.

**1013:** Msg #3: See Incl-#1

Msg #3: AO Extension granted 3-54 ARVN from 1-506. From 1-506 and 3-54 boundary at YD490127 north to YD491160 east YD520160 south to base YD520150. Effective: 031200 to 072400.

**1040:** B Co 1<sup>st</sup> Plt (-) CP & 3d plat (-) YD508077, 2nd plat & 3d plat 1<sup>st</sup> sqd YD508076, 1<sup>st</sup> plat 1<sup>st</sup> sqd YD509079, C Co 1<sup>st</sup> plat YD511063, 2nd plat & 3d plat & CP & YD514064, C Co 1-327 1<sup>st</sup> plat YD510075, CP & 3rd plat YD511072, 2nd plat YD512068

**1051:** 1045, C Co 1-327 is no longer OPCON to 2-502

**1145:** Msg #4: See Incl #1

Msg #4: LZ construction team; LZ construction team should be inserted as early as possible on 04 May 70. Units should provide a reaction platoon to support the team in case of contact. Air Request will be submitted to this HHQ NLT 032100 May 70. The goal is one LZ per unit per day.

**1216:** S-R 3-1: See Incl #1

**S-R 3-1:**

1. 2-502 2. TS 3. Item #12 4. D Co 3rd Plat 5. 1150 6. YD5160577. D Co 3rd plat in a patrol base received unidentified incoming rounds. Took approximately nine rounds 75 meters from their perimeter. Suspected enemy



location was at YD514063. At 1228 ARA reported receiving automatic weapons fire, did not take any hits and have enemy location pinpointed and request ARA replacement. Element will sweep following ARA.

**1254:** S-R 3-2: See Incl #1

**S-R 3-2:**

1. 2-502 2. TS 3. Item #13 4. C Co 1<sup>st</sup> Plat 5. 1140-1225 hours 6. YD513063 7. Element while sweeping found two hooches when they were engaged by an undetermined sized enemy force with RPG and automatic weapons fire. The friendless received fire from the southwest. They returned fire and were maintain contact yet at 1220 without the enemy fleeing or withdrawing. 1225 contact terminated. The initial contact distance of engagement was 25 to 30 meters. Cannot determine which direction the enemy fled. No M-72 laws were used. At 1305 contact regained at same location. Contact continuing at 1330 and receiving RPG fire. At 1405 Medevac received fire. At 1430 1<sup>st</sup> plat was reinforced by the 2nd plat. Six pax were wounded. At 1440 C Co reported that dead enemy were everywhere. Element reported that there were enemy in platforms in trees throwing satchels at them. FOLLOW-UP: C Co attempting to overrun from the southeast and southwest met heavy resistance, RPG fire, at least 8 Machine gun positions to include 51 cal; satchel charges, grenades, and small arms fire. Element moved to regroup at 1740 on a high feature and call in all possible ordinance before resuming contact, all enemy positions well camouflaged. Results were one US KIA and 13 wounded. Enemy losses were estimated at 27 KIA.

**1400:** 1-327 request permission to insert sniper team and radar team on FSB Veghel and would set up tonight at YD553045 and then to go on a radar raid at YD559049 from 04 May 70 to 06 May; permission was granted.

**1855:** Night Location: A Co 1<sup>st</sup> plat YD537016, 2nd plat & CD YD537023, B Co YD508081, C Co 1<sup>st</sup> plat YD511063, 2nd plat & 3d plat & CP YD514064, D Co 2nd & 3d plat & CP YD513059, 1<sup>st</sup> plat YD518056, Radar YD544044.

**1945:** Msg #5: See Incl #1

Msg #5: Air request for LZ construction: 1-6-2 Engr's and 2 sqds D Co 28 pax; PZ FSB Veghel and FSB Shock 0730, LZ YD498042 0745; AMV meeting 0700. Request a log bird with a hook for tomorrow.

**2005:** Msg #6: See Incl #1

Msg #6: 032300May70, Item #30: Wounded pas: PAC #5 0-2 Simpson, David L.; #12 E-6 Gibbons, Philip; #16 E-5 Carstens, Harold H.; #37 E-5 Schweitzer, Anthony; #67 E-4 Hardy, Homer R.; #84 E-4 Nantz, Alvin; #85 E-4 Nordin, Glen; #94 E-4 Rosas, Luis A; #96 E-4 Stanley, Michael; #133 E-3 White, Tomas; #121 E-3 Majia, Raul E.; #141 Medic - Fuller, Kenneth G.; #146 Wilson; KIA #44 Witycyak, Glen R.

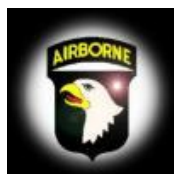
**2208:** Air Requests: Confirmed; one UH1H C&C bird; two log birds 0800-1200, one with a hook, 1-10-2 at 1445 to move A Co. and B Co; 1-6-2 0730 at Veghel for LZ construction; 1-6-2 to extract LZ team at 1600, 1-4-2 to extract pax from Veghel.

**2220:** Alternate Lifesaver YD520048 is clear.

**2300:** Msg #7: See Incl #1

Msg #7: 030205 May 70, Item #4: There will be no flame drops available for undetermined period of time due to shortage of thickening exits without which thickened fuel cannot be mixed. In this regards, supply of fougasse is dangerously low, units advised not to blow fougasse unless essential for defense. Units occupying airmobile firebases at this time should plan to carry as many employed fougasse as possible to the new firebases until shortage is eliminated. Unit commanders should make maximum use of self-started fires to clear underbrush and fields of fire.

**2400:** Summary: The STRIKE Force Battalion continued operations in assigned AO with severe clashes with the enemy. At 1150 hours Vic YD516057 the 3d Platoon D Co received approximately 9 unidentified enemy rounds outside their perimeter ARA reported on station and received enemy automatic weapons fire (See Incl - #1). At YD513063 C Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was engaged by an undetermined size enemy force resulting in six US WIA. The element attempted to overrun the enemy's position and received hostile 51 caliber fire, grenades, small arms fire and satchel charges. The satchel charges



were thrown from enemy platforms in trees. The contact resulted in one US KHA 13 US WHA and 27 enemy KIA (See Incl - #1).

Plans Summary: A Co. continues patrol and ambush operations in assigned AO with one platoon as security for FSB. B, C, D, and Recon Companies continue patrol and ambush operations in assigned AO.

**During this week, in the span of 72 years since the 502<sup>nd</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941 as the 502<sup>nd</sup> 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 502<sup>nd</sup> IN Regiment.**

13 x Silver Star Medal (4 x Posthumously)  
3 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor  
6 x Bronze Star Medal (3 x Posthumously)  
62 x Air Medal  
3 x Combat Medical Badges  
30 x Combat Infantry Badges  
98 x Purple Heart (56 x Posthumously)  
1 x Non-hostile injury or illness

27 April 1967 The following Soldiers: SP5 Dofey Jenkins, PFC Gary L. Ristine, and Jesus Jasso (HHC.2-502 IN) were awarded the Combat Medical Badge. (DA, HQ 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, Special Orders Number 118; 27 April 1967)

27 April 1967



The following Soldiers: SGT James E. Brooks (HHC/2-502 IN), SSG Alfred J.T. Thompson, SP4 David E. Thompson, PFC Victor A. Thompson, PFC Stephen W. Lyons, PFC Larry R. Herd, PFC Ronald R. Borboa, (A/2-502 IN), 1LT Edward R. Throckmorton, PFC Clarence E. Kuone, PFC Donald R. LaViolette, SGT Ronald L. Gillette, PFC Paul E. Magrath, PFC Carson L. Whaley, PFC Eugene Ross, SSG Ray A. Archuletta (Pictured), SSG Warner J. Johnson, SP4 Robert G. Roby, PFC Herbert R. Evans, PFC William F. Gunter Jr., PFC Arthur R. Besser, SP4 David H. Scott, PFC John R. Howard Jr., PFC Robin P. Milovich, PFC John W. Wilson, PFC Pellefery Jones, PFC Danny R. Smith, PFC Williw J. Woodard, PFC Zannie Warren, PFC Gary L. Dennis, and Bruce J. Fisher (B/2-502 IN) were awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. (DA, HQ 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, Special Orders Number 118; 27 April 1967)

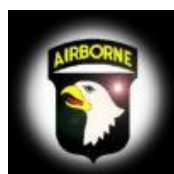
27 April 1967 PFC Randy L. Heerd (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Khanh Hoa Province, South Vietnam.

27 April 1970 The following Soldiers: 1LT Robert S. Hunt Jr., SSG Thomas Farrell, SP4 Donald L. Camp (B/2-502 IN) and PFC David S. Tuey (E/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 84)

27 April 1970 SGT Delbert E. Hall (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

28 April 1966 SP4 Anthony A. Gennocro (C/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile illness (Malaria) as a ground casualty in the Province unknown, South Vietnam.

28 April 1968 PFC Michael J. Saunders (D/2-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death



from small arms gun fire wounds in the vicinity of Phuoc Yen, 7km NW of Hue Citadel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

28 April 1968

The following Soldiers: CPL Valentine A. Ochs (Pictured), PFC Robert L. McDuffy, PFC Ronnie G. Slay (Pictured) (C/1-501 IN); SSG John B. Gingery (Pictured) (D/2-501 IN); PFC John T. Intihar (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gunfire wounds in the vicinity of Phuoc Yen, 7km NW of Hue Citadel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures from L to R)



28 April 1968



SP4 Millard L. Palmer (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds received while on a combat operation when hit by fragmentation from a hostile rocket round in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

28 April 1968

SFC Robert E. Holeyfield (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

28 April 1968

SP4 Harvy J. Cook (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> AB DIV; General Orders Number 1294; 8 June 1968)

28 April 1970

The following Soldiers: SSG Ronald S. Patterson, SP4 Thomas R. Weber, and SP4 Eugene V. Thurm (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96)

28 April 1970



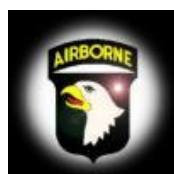
CPL Steven R. Sandlin (E/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds on Hill 882 Northwest of FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

28 April 1970

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

28 April 1970

SGT Fernando Rios-Maldonado (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.





28 April 2008



CPL David McCormick (1-75 CAV), 26, of Bay City, Texas; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when his forward operating base came under rocket attack in Baghdad, Iraq.

28 April 2008

SPC Evan Truesdale (1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from a rocket attack on AO Justice when one landed and hit his trailer. SPC Truesdale was in his trailer at the time the rocket hit his trailer which resulted in his wounds sustained.

29 April 1968



SP4 Thomas L. Twyford (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received by fragments while on combat operation when hit by fragments from a hostile mine in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

29 April 1968

The following Soldiers: SGT Thomas S. Cook and PFC Ronal E. Critzer (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from gunshot wounds received while on a combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire 4k NW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

29 April 1968

PFC Gary L. Daniels (A/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds while on a combat operation when engaged by hostile force in a firefight in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

29 April 1968

PFC David L. Massa (C/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operations when a hostile mine detonated in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

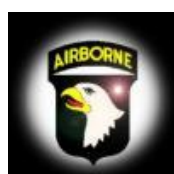
29 April 1968



SGT Joseph T. Kovaloff (A/1-502 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 vicinity of Phuoc Yen, 7km NW of Hue Citadel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

29 April 1970

CPL Linwood A. Walker (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation when mistaken for a hostile force and fired upon by a friendly force near FSB Granite, 18 KM S-SW of Phong Dien, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



29 April 1970



The following Soldiers: SGT Roy H. Snyder (HHC/2-501 IN); CPL Carl E. Patten, CPL Dennis W. Hunter (Pictured) (A/2-501 IN); CPL Robert S. Boggs (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from artillery, rocket, or mortar rounds while at an artillery firing position when they came under mortar attack by hostile force at FSB Granite, 18 KM S-SW of Phong Dien in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

29 April 1970

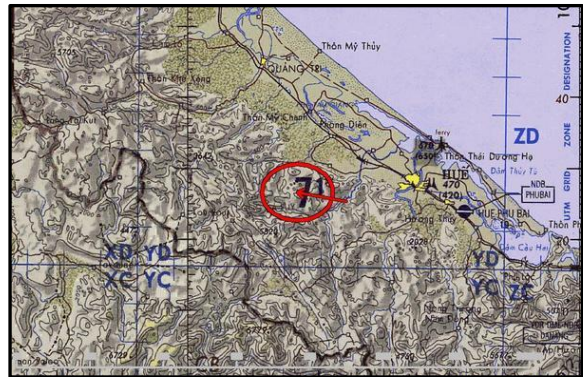


SP4 James W. McGuire (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when a booby trap detonated in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

29 April 1970



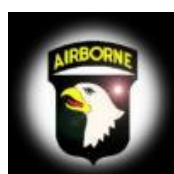
SSG (then SP4) Edward J. Bishop Jr. (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously); SSG Bishop died while MIA as a ground casualty with the incident date of 29 April 1970 when he was last seen while at an artillery firing position when the area came under attack by a hostile force. There were two other members with him in his position and they were putting



out a heavy volume of weapons fire on the enemy. However, the base was also receiving a heavy volume of enemy fire including satchel charges. Their position was being hard hit and the third member, who was the squad leader, ordered their position abandoned. As they moved from their position, a satchel charge hit it. A search of the area the next day revealed the body of the squad leader. The other member was wounded and no evidence of SP4 Bishop was found during the search, however a surviving member of the unit stated that he had sufficient time to abandon the position when the order to abandon was given. SP4 Bishop was classified as MIA with a date of death as of 29 August 1978. Remains not recovered. Location of incident: YD439188 Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Coffelt Database Report)

29 April 1970

SP4 William J. Stieve (D/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



29 Apr 2006



SGT Steve M. Sakoda (B/1-75 CAV), 29, of Hilo, Hawaii; 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 his HMMWV during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq.

29 April 2006

PFC Joshua Hooker (B/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from enemy or hostile actions.

29 April 2008



SSG Bryan E. Bolander (HHC/1-502 IN), 26, of Bakersfield, California; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. SSG Bolander was on his 3 OIF rotation with 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT.

29 April 2008

SSG Clay Craig (1-75 CAV), 22, of Mesquite, Texas; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq.

29 April 2008

SSG Ariel Morales (1-75 CAV) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for his action during operations in Iraq.

29 April 2008

SPC Byron Henson (1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while the Scout platoon, HHC, 1-502 IN was conducting a route security mission moving on Route Cubs North. SPC Henson was the driver of the third vehicle in the patrol when the vehicle was struck by an EFP. SPC Henson was diagnosed and treated for multiple fragment wounds to the head, including the left ear resulting from the intensity of the blast.

29 April 2008

SPC Preston Kaplan (1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from enemy actions.

30 April 1968



PFC Larry E. Lutz (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when hit by a blast from hostile anti-tank round in the vicinity of Phuoc Yen, 7km NW of Hue Citadel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

30 April 1968



CPL Arie Terry (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds while on combat operations when hit by fragments from a hostile mortar in the vicinity of Phuoc Yen, 7 KM NW of Hue Citadel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



30 April 1968



PFC Donald L. Peterson (C/2-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

30 April 1970

The following Soldiers: MAJ James R. Wessel (HHC/1-501 IN); CSM Stanley R. Marcille, CPT Donald R. Goates (Pictured) (1-OLC), and SP4 James F. Mashon (HHC/2-501 IN); 1LT Joseph L. Guerra (Pictured) , 2LT James W. Kwiecien, SSG Alan G. Pagels, SGT John M. Vitron, SGT John E. Upton, SP4 James E. Boyde, SP4 Bill N. Lyman, SP4 Thomas W. Lippy, SP4 Jay B. Wolfe, PFC Jasper L. Sistar, PFC Joe C. Barrientes, and PFC Daniel R. Stark (A/2-501 IN); SGT Gene H. Carlson (D/2-501 IN); PFC Michael J. Roland (E/2-501 IN Re-Con); and SP4 Larry D. Standley (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 96) (Pictured L-R)



30 April 1970



The following Soldiers: SGT Robert J. Shannon (Pictured) (A/2-501 IN) and SGT Larry N. Jones (E/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from artillery fire when their area came under attack by a hostile force at FSB Granite, 18 KM S-SW of Phong Dien, Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

30 April 1970



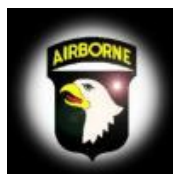
SGT Donnie E. Horton (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

30 Apr 2006

PFC John Huysman (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when at approximately 1630 while returning to his OP, PFC Huysman's vehicle was struck by an IED. PFC Huysman sustained shrapnel wounds to his right elbow along with multiple burns to the front and back of his head and upper right arm.

30 April 2006

SGT Adam Carlson (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while returning to his static OP, SGT Carlson's vehicle was struck by an IED. SGT Carlson received shrapnel wounds to the right side of the chin and perforation of the right ear.





30 April 2006

SPC Ronald Shirley (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while returning to his static OP, SPC Shirley's vehicle was struck by an IED. SPC Shirley received shrapnel wounds to the left lateral thigh and right lateral calf. He also had perforations of both ears.

30 April 2006

SPC Dante Soto (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while returning to his static OP, SPC Soto's vehicle was struck by an IED. SPC Soto sustained shrapnel wounds to the left forearm, left hand, and right shoulder.

30 April 2006

SPC Benjamin Keenen (A/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in result of enemy or hostile action.

01 May 1968

The following Soldiers: PFC Herald L. Delaney (C/1-501 IN); CPL Jackie G. Montgomery (D/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

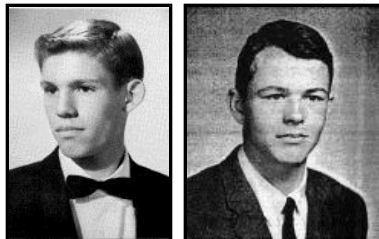
01 May 1968



PFC Daniel W. Daley (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds in Phuoc Yen, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

01 May 1968

The following Soldiers: 2LT John K. House (Pictured), SSG Gelasio N. Gomez Jr., PFC Lawrence J. Merschel (Pictured) (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in Phuoc Yen, Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



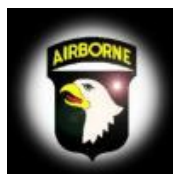
01 May -  
30 October 1969



The Following Soldiers: 1LT Daniel L. O'Neill, SFC Issac Heyward Jr., SSG Kenneth E. Buesing, SSG Walter L. Jensen, SGT Leonard D. Cole, SGT Robert Geddes, SGT Donald G. Lewis, SGT Freddie S. McLendon, SGT John O. Perkins, SP4 James M. Cannon, SP4 Benjamin F. Cryer, SP4 Gregory C. Decock, SP4 Santiago J. Erevia (Pictured), SP4 Lacy J. Farmer, SP4 Albin B. Garland, SP4 Robert C. Goodpaster, SP4 Howard C. Heinecke, SP4 Herbert G. Hobbs, SP4 Walter L. Hooker, PFC William B. Ingle, SP4 Bruce V. Johnson, and SP4 David A. Johnson (C/1-501<sup>st</sup> IN) were awarded the Air Medal (1-OLC) for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight operations.

01 May 1970

The following Soldiers: SGT Ronnie G. Clemmons (A/2-501 IN); 1LT Robert W. Layton (B/2-501 IN); SP4 Norman D. McGowans (D/2-501 IN) (1-OLC); SGT Benjamin B. Nevel and SP4 Charles E. Mott (E/2-501 IN); earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 85th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 99, 2 May 1970)



02 May 1969



The following Soldiers: SP4 Ira J. Sturgeon, SP4 Samuel C. Tharpe, SP4 Donald R. Williams, SP4 Ernest C. Williams, SP4 Robert C. Winstead, PFC Paul D. Arrowood, PFC Larry J. Baker, PFC John R. Bryant, PFC Gregory H. Bucknor (Pictured), PFC Charles G. Coghain, PFC Charles I. Fain, PFC Roger R. Gayken, PFC Steven C. Gerevics, PFC Larry J. Gladney, PFC Ernest Gutierrez, PFC Roberto M. Hegler, PFC Cleabern W. Hill Jr., PFC Michael G. Hovis, PFC Arthur N. Keister, PFC Dennis Jordan, PFC Douglas V. Leonard, PFC Fred T. Lyons, PFC Richard O. Malboeue, PFC Robert R. Malecki, PFC James R. McGraw, PFC Leston N. McVicar, PFC Ray E. Moon, PFC Connie R. Moss, PFC Richard E. Myrice, PFC Randal C. Nevil, PFC Gordon L. Niceswanger, PFC Nowlin, PFC Randal R. Pike, PFC Arthur L. Pittman, PFC William D. Poole Jr., PFC William F. Robershaw, PFC Tommy L. Rodreguez, PFC Bruce E. Buston, PFC Charles Small, PFC Michael D. Sopko, PFC James V. Steiner (A/2-501 IN) earned the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Republic of Vietnam (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM); General Order Number 7421; 22 June 1969)

02 May 1970

SP4 Daniel C. Johnson (E/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, mortar, or rocket wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

02 May 1970

The following Soldiers: SSG Leo J. Ludvigsen Jr. and SGT Harold G. Craft (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



03 May 1968

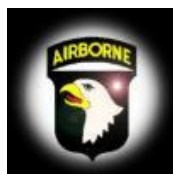
The following Soldiers: PFC Charles W. Kinney (C/1-501 IN); SGT Herman Jackson (A/1-502 IN); SGT Brian G. Hughes (Pictured) (C/2-501 IN); SGT Robert P. Johnston (Pictured); SGT Roger H. Sparks (Pictured) (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures are from L – R)



03 May 1969



SP4 Richard D. Miller (D/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



03 May 1970



The following Soldiers: SSG Thomas G. Hess and SSG Glenn C. Duncan (B/1-501 IN); SSG Glen R. Witycyak (Pictured) (C/2-502 IN); SP4 Edward W. Stone (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam.

03 May 1970

SSG Randal S. Phillips (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam.

### STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

27 April 1970



1LT James T. Hill (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 27 April 1970. Lieutenant Hill distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company E, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 502nd Infantry, in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. During a search and clear operation, Lieutenant Hill's platoon was providing rear security for another company. While moving down a ridgeline, the other unit came under fire from an enemy force using automatic weapons, small arms, rocket propelled grenades, and anti-personnel mines. The forward platoon leader was wounded and Lieutenant Hill immediately took command of the lead two platoons and deployed the men to place effective fire, he called in armed helicopter support and accurately adjusted fire to within twenty-five meters of his own position. Lieutenant Hill then personally led the two platoons in an assault on the enemy positions. Moving from bunker to bunker, he engaged the enemy with rifle fire and hand grenades until the insurgents were routed. Lieutenants Hill's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

27 April 1970

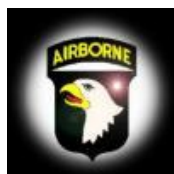


PFC Steven R. Sandlin (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operation involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 27 April 1970. Private Sandlin distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company E, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 502nd Infantry, during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While on a reconnaissance patrol, Private Sandlin's unit made contact with a numerically superior enemy force and suffered several casualties. Private Sandlin moved among the wounded men, checking their wounds and administering first aid. When the wounded were removed to an area of safety, he provided covering fire. The platoon sergeant was also wounded and Private Sandlin rushed to his position and gave protective fire until he could be removed to a safe area. While moving from one wounded soldier to another giving aid and encouragement, Private Sandlin was mortally wounded by hostile fire. Private Sandlin's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

27 April 1970



SFC Wallace Gainey (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 27 April 1970. Sergeant Gainey distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant in Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 502nd Infantry, on operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. During a combat patrol, Sergeant Gainey's unit was engaged by small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well-entrenched enemy force. The platoon leader was wounded in the initial contact, and Sergeant Gainey took charge of the platoon. He deployed his men and subjected himself to the hostile fire as he ran from position to position distributing badly needed ammunition. Sergeant Gainey repeatedly subjected himself to the hostile fire while helping wounded men to safety.



When armed helicopters arrived at the contact area, Sergeant Gainey withdrew the platoon a short distance to allow for aerial rocket artillery assaults. When the armed helicopters had finished, Sergeant Gainey led his men in a ground assault and overran the enemy positions. Sergeant Gainey's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 6574, 10 June 1970)

27 April 1970

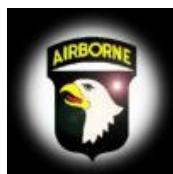
1LT Robert S. Hunt (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 27 April 1970. Lieutenant Hunt distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 502nd Infantry, during operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While on a combat patrol, Lieutenant Hunt's platoon was engaged by small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well-entrenched enemy force. Lieutenant Hunt quickly deployed his men but was wounded by enemy fire as he maneuvered the platoon. Although unable to walk, Lieutenant Hunt continued to command his men and direct their counterattack until relieved by his platoon sergeant and the platoon leader of another platoon. The actions of Lieutenant Hunt enabled his men to place effective suppressive fire on the insurgents and overrun the enemy positions. Lieutenant Hunt's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

28 April 1967

CPT Arthur F. Conlon (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while under hostile fire on 28 April 1967 near Khanh Dong, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 502nd (Airborne) Infantry was moving along the heavily vegetated slopes of a mountain when the lead element suddenly came under an intense volume of enemy rifle fire. Captain Conlon, very conscious of the fact that both the lead platoon leader and squad leader were new and inexperienced and that the men were hot and tired and had not had any contact for some time, he unhesitatingly rushed forward, picking up grenades from several riflemen as he moved. Upon reaching the lead squad, Captain Conlon found that they were under a tremendous volume of fire from extremely well-fortified enemy positions among some large boulders on the high ground. Realizing the squad was in a dangerous position and slow to react; Captain Conlon with complete disregard for his own personal safety exposed himself to the heavy enemy fire and began throwing grenades and placing effective fire into the enemy positions. The effectiveness of Captain Conlon's solo assault inspired his men to such a degree that they immediately began to fire and maneuver against the enemy positions. Again, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Captain Conlon moved to an area completely exposed to intense enemy fire and began directing supporting fire so as to cover the maneuver of his forward elements. Upon overrunning the enemy positions it was apparent that several of the enemy soldiers had been wounded. Unhesitatingly, Captain Conlon quickly organized and personally led a small element in pursuit of the fleeing enemy soldiers. As a result of Captain Conlon's professionalism and undaunted actions two enemy soldiers were killed, several more wounded, and one enemy automatic weapon was captured. Captain Conlon's outstanding display of gallantry, devotion to duty, and unquestionable valor in close combat against numerically superior hostile forces are in keeping with the finest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

28 April 1968

SP4 Bill Lux (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Alpha Company was conducting an assault on Phuoc Yen, Republic of Vietnam, and a village north of Hue. Moving through fields and hedgerows the company encountered enemy mortar, rocket propelled grenades, and machine gun fire. Suddenly the point element came under intense fire from automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade rounds. The point man, Specialist Lux, immediately began to return the enemy fire. Despite his exposed position in front of his platoon and the large amount of enemy fire, Specialist Lux remained in his forward vantage point with complete disregard for his personal safety and indicated to the platoon leader the location of enemy positions. When the remainder of





the platoon had reached his location, Specialist Lux joined them in assaulting the enemy positions. Specialist Lux's personal bravery and devotion to duty were keeping in highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

28 April 1970



SGT Francis Bartush (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 28 April 1970. Sergeant Bartush distinguished himself while serving as a fire team leader in Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 502nd Infantry, during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While set up in a night defensive position; Sergeant Bartush's unit came under a concentrated enemy sapper attack. The insurgents assaulted Sergeant Bartush's position on the perimeter and he engaged them with anti-personnel mines and rifle fire. During the fighting, he pinned down one insurgent with rifle fire and successfully engaged him with a hand grenade. Although his position bore the brunt of the assault, Sergeant Bartush repulsed the attack and forced the insurgents to withdraw. During a lull in the fighting, he subjected himself to enemy fire as he carried wounded personnel to the middle of the perimeter. Later, the sappers again attempted to overrun the friendly location. Although the other men at Sergeant Bartush's position were wounded, Sergeant Bartush fought alone and again repulsed the enemy attack. Sergeant Bartush's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

29 April 1970



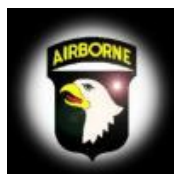
SP4 Edward J. Bishop (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Specialist Bishop distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company A, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, at Fire Support Base Granite, Republic of Vietnam. When the fire base came under hostile mortar fire and sapper attack, Specialist Bishop continually subjected himself to hostile fire to man his squad's radio and keep his company commander informed of the status of the fighting. After aiding a wounded comrade, he returned to his position to engage the insurgents. While assisting the machine gunner, he was mortally wounded by an enemy satchel charge. Specialist Bishop's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

29 April 1970

CPT James E. Mitchell (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Captain Mitchell distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer of Company A, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, defending Fire Support Base Granite, Republic



of Vietnam. When the firebase came under attack from an enemy sapper force supported by grenade and mortar fire, Captain Mitchell rallied his men for a counterattack. Despite intense fire, he moved from one position to position to brief his men on assaulting a helicopter pad which had been overrun by the insurgents. From an exposed position atop the command post bunker, Captain Mitchell coordinated the counter attack and directed his men in successfully retaking the helicopter pad. His actions contributed greatly to the successful defense of the firebase. While leading a sweep of the perimeter the following morning, Captain Mitchell detected enemy movement and at great risk personally captured a North Vietnamese Soldier. Captain Mitchell's personal bravery and devotion



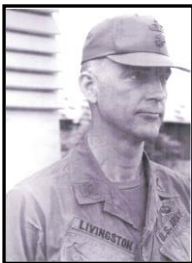
to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

29 April 1970



1LT James T. Hill (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (2-OLC) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Lieutenant Hill distinguished himself while serving as a reconnaissance platoon leader in Company E, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 502nd Infantry, near Fire Support Base Veghel, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Hill's platoon was providing rear security for another element of his battalion on a search and clear operation. When the lead platoon had moved approximately seventy-five meters from its patrol base, it came under intense enemy fire from a bunker complex. The element sustained numerous casualties in the first few minutes of contact, and Lieutenant Hill moved his platoon forward to assist, engaging several bunkers and radioing for aerial rocket artillery support and reinforcements. Although wounded during his advance, Lieutenant Hill continued moving toward the bunker complex until an enemy hand grenade exploded approximately two meters to his front, knocking him to the ground. Although wounded again, Lieutenant Hill maneuvered toward the nearest bunker and killed an enemy Soldier at a range of one foot. Despite numerous wounds and a damaged weapon, Lieutenant Hill continued fighting until the enemy was routed; even then refusing to be evacuated until all other wounded personnel were extracted. Lieutenant Hill's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

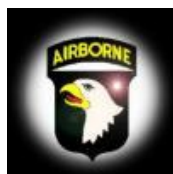
29 April 1970



LTC Otis W. Livingston Jr. (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal with Valor for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Lieutenant Colonel Livingston distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during the defense of Fire Support Base Granite, Republic of Vietnam. When the fire base came under a concentrated enemy sapper attack, Lieutenant Colonel Livingston radioed for air support and rushed to the perimeter to supervise the counterattack of his men. He constantly subjected himself to hostile fire while moving from position to position directing the defense of the perimeter. He directed the fire of his men and inspired them to defend their positions despite the vicious assaults of the numerically superior force. His actions contributed immeasurably to repulsing the enemy attack and the successful defense of the fire base. Lieutenant Colonel Livingston's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

29 April 1970

SSG Peyton Mullins (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Sergeant Mullins distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant in Company A, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, defending Fire Support Base Granite, Republic of Vietnam. When the firebase came under a coordinated mortar and sapper attack, several friendly soldiers were wounded in a foxhole hit by a satchel charge near Sergeant Mullins' position. Despite intense hostile fire, Sergeant Mullins rushed from his protected position to aid the wounded personnel at the foxhole. As he approached, he noticed several enemy sappers and successfully engaged them with accurate rifle fire. After moving the wounded under heavy fire to a protected position, Sergeant Mullins spotted an enemy soldier approaching his original position and successfully engaged the insurgent. Moments later, however, hostile grenade fire hit the position and wounded the two men there. Once again



Sergeant Mullins braved enemy fire to move the casualties to safety, then returned to his sector of the perimeter, which he defended single-handedly. Later, while searching for friendly casualties under heavy mortar fire, he observed another enemy sapper and successfully engaged him with a hand grenade. Sergeant Mullins' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

29 & 30 April 1970

SP4 Philip Calderwood (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970 and 30 April 1970. Specialist Calderwood distinguished himself while serving as a clinical specialist in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during combat operations at Fire Support Base Granite, Republic of Vietnam.



When the firebase was attacked by a battalion-size enemy force using rocket-propelled grenades, mortars, and automatic weapons, Specialist Calderwood immediately rushed to the perimeter to assist wounded personnel. Throughout the night he sought out the casualties, treated them, and moved them through the hostile fire to medical evacuation helicopters. The following day the firebase was subjected to a constant barrage of mortar fire and Specialist Calderwood continually braved the impacting rounds to aid the wounded and assist in their extraction. When a resupply helicopter was hit by a mortar round, several of its occupants were seriously wounded by the shrapnel. Specialist Calderwood unhesitatingly carried the casualties a considerable distance to a medical evacuation helicopter. His actions were responsible for saving many lives. Specialist Calderwood's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

29 April 1970

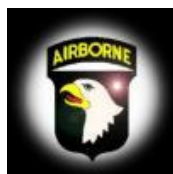


SP4 Robert J. Shannon (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Specialist Shannon distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company A, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, at Fire Support Base Granite, Republic of Vietnam. The fire base came under hostile mortar fire and an attack by a sapper forced armed with satchel charges. Subjecting himself to hostile fire, Specialist Shannon rushed from his foxhole to trap the insurgents in a suppressive crossfire between himself and his platoon. Although Specialist Shannon was mortally wounded during the attack, his actions served to repulse the sapper force and keep friendly casualties to a minimum. Specialist Shannon's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

29 April 1970



SGT (Then SP4) GERAL A. KULM (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Specialist Kulm distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner in Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 502nd Infantry, during combat operation near Fire Support Base Veghel, Republic of Vietnam. When his unit was engaged by an enemy force of unknown size Specialist Kulm rushed forward with his machine gun to place suppressive fire on the well-entrenched insurgents. When the weapon malfunctioned, Specialist Kulm was directed to assume the duties of radio-telephone operator. Moving forward, he grabbed a stick and proved for undergo enemy fortifications. Specialist Kulm repeatedly subjected himself to intense hostile fire during the contact to spot enemy positions and radio the locations to unit commanders. Besides advising his commanders during the troop deployment, Specialist Kulm moved throughout the area under intense enemy fire and assisted the wounded. Despite the hostile fire, he carried a wounded Soldier over





three hundred meters to a landing zone for medical evacuation. Specialist Kulm's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States of Army. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM); General Order Number 8785, 7 August 1970)

01 May 1968



SSG Jorge Otero- Barreto (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (1-OLC) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 17 February 1968. Staff Sergeant Otero distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader on a combat operation in the Republic of Vietnam. Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry was occupying defensive positions around a village north of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The village was occupied by elements of the 8th Battalion, 90th North Vietnamese Army Regiment and had defied all offensive attempts for two days. Because of clear weather, the enemy had been subject to constant air strikes and artillery. At 0415 hours, the enemy lay began a series of human wave attacks against Company A in desperate attempt to break out of the village. After the human wave assault had twice been driven back and fifty-eight enemy lay dead, the enemy forces withdrew into the village for their final stand. The first platoon led Company A into the village to destroy the remainder of the North Vietnamese Army forces and Sergeant Otero was the leader of the point element of the first platoon. Suddenly, the point came under fire from rocket propelled grenades, machine guns, and small arms firing from enemy bunkers and spider holes. With complete disregard for his own safety, Platoon Sergeant Otero immediately assaulted the nearest machine gun emplacement and killed all three of its crew members. He then led his squad through enemy fire in assaulting three more enemy positions, overrunning them and killing or incapacitating all of the enemy. Platoon Sergeant Otero's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

**\*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 502<sup>nd</sup> in different brigades of the 101<sup>st</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade with 1-327<sup>th</sup> and 2-327<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade became the parent headquarters for the 1st, 2nd, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions of the 502nd Infantry Regiment. With this reorganization, the Brigade adopted the regimental motto, "Strike."

