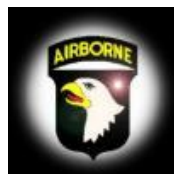




2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) "STRIKE HISTORY" 28 July – 03 August 2013



- 28 July 1967 The 2d Battalion, 327th Infantry and 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry conducted airmobile extractions to CARENTAN Base where they commenced preparation for Operations HOOD RIVER. (Operation Malheur After Action Report; 3 October 1967)
- 28 July 1968 A/1-502 IN secured An Lo Bridge. Bravo Company conducted RIF to village C/M YD6828, where a few small caches were found and numerous BBT's, but negative contact. Charlie Company no caps. Delta Company, OPCON to 1st BDE. PF CA'd to YD7029. RIF to village C/M YD7030. Results: 3 VC KIA (1 was platoon leader and another assistant platoon leader of Tan Taun Lai)
- 28 July 1969 At 0840H, vic. BT226094, a Brigade reconnaissance team observed and killed one enemy standing in a bunker entrance. At 1100H, vic. BT189121, A/1-502 apprehended two VN females and evacuated them as detainees. At 1205H, vic. BT218137, a Brigade reconnaissance team engaged one enemy, killing him with M60 MG fire. At 1435H, vic. BT207106, B/1-502 discovered hut with bunker, a tunnel and five coops with chickens. Detecting movement, the element reconnoitered by fire which resulted in four women and four children being detained. Two of the women were wounded; Medevac was made. At 1725H, vic. BT224093, A/1-501 evacuated two males, one female and two children as detailed. One male had napalm burns which were covered with an NVA bandage.
- 29-31 July 2012 **FOB/COP transfer.** On 31 JUL 12, TF LF transfers responsibility of COP Surobi and Anjiran to 3/201 ANA Brigade. The 201 ANA Corps significantly improved their capacity in fire support, route clearance operations, and brigade logistics operations. The Corps has just begun to focus on intelligence fusion and GSU operations through COP/FOB transition and the development of ANA service contracts.
- Indirect Fires.** In the last 60 days, The Corps has directed the repositioning of howitzers to provide direct support to kandaks. D-30 howitzers are primarily firing in the direct fire mode, and under the supervision of TF LAFAYETTE and TF MOUNTAIN WARRIOR, the howitzer sections have fired indirect fire in support of troops. D-30 howitzer sections have fired a total of 13 missions; 6 in support of deliberate operations and one in support of TIC. In addition, the efforts of the battlespace owner/integrator and combat advisors have developed a series of TTPs that certify the ANA for the employment of unpartnered coalition force enablers. Forward Observers have begun dedicated training to improve fires integration into operations.
- Route Clearance and EOD.** In the last 30 days the 201st Corps route clearance companies (RCCs) conducted 84 route clearance patrols (RCPs). Of these 84 RCPs, 6 were partnered and 78 were independent. As a result of these patrols, the 201st Corps found 19 IEDs and cleared 17 of them (find/clearance rate of 89%). Over the next 90 days, the Corps will continue to emphasize RCC maintenance, equipment readiness, and IED mitigation technician training. In addition, RCC will conduct focused operations to clear known IED engagement areas to maintain FOM on GLOCs.
- Brigade Level Logistics.** In the last 60 days, ANA brigades have successfully conducted 5 effective combat logistics patrols. The highlight ground resupply operations was 5/2/201 ANA CSSK combined arms resupply of Nangalam base providing 90 days of supply to 6/2/201 ANA. The Corps has made drastic improvement in their ability to resupply isolated ANA companies in Kamdesh and BeM. The joint aerial resupply of Kamdesh and BeM on 10-12 JUN used 54% of the total lift capacity. Through detailed planning, the AMCM process, and multiple AARs, ANA have increased their aircraft utilization to 100% on the 8-10 JUL resupply of BeM & Kamdesh. Over the next 90



days, the ANA will focus on increasing the frequency of prioritized resupply from the National Depot IOT improve BRIGADE maintenance OR rates. With specific emphasis on the “top 10” class IX repair parts and the development of BRIGADE pacing items, the Corps will increase their capacity to track operational readiness of key enablers and improve overall maintenance.

ANA medical treatment. Over the last 30 days, the ANA have performed 110 ground casevac compared to 14 CF air MEDEVAC missions, a ratio of 1 CF medevac to every 8 ANA medevacs. There are 5 combined aid stations operational in TF MOUNTAIN WARRIOR AO.

ANSF intelligence-driven operations. Intelligence fusion at the Corps level is in its rudimentary stages. The ANA have developed PIR, conduct daily intelligence fusion with the OCCR, and deployed 2/201 MICO in multifunction teams for deliberate operations in the Kunar River Valley. Over the next 90 days, the Corps will develop collection plans at the Corps and BRIGADE levels, improve the dissemination of intelligence products, and operationalize intelligence to support CIED operations.

FOB/COP transition and service contracts. Coalition forces have transferred 8 x COPs/FOBs to ANA control over the last 90 days. Through focused post-transfer assessment teams at Najil and Bad Pak, the Corps leadership assessed that 1/201 ANA BRIGADE is maintaining the tactical infrastructure to ensure functional FOBs/COPs in the future. Over the next 90 days, the Corps will focus on consolidating COP/FOB requirements to create service contracts for power generation, bulk water delivery, and black water/sewage removal. In addition, advisors and ANA staff will continue to conduct monthly tactical infrastructure post-transfer assessments to ensure the ANA are capable of sustaining COP/FOBs.

ANA leadership. MG Waziri directed the Corps DCG to lead a delegation to inventory and sign for facilities at TORA SUROBI camp (scheduled for 29 Jul) prior to assuming transfer from TF LAFAYETTE on 31 Jul. Brigade and Corps leaders acknowledge the requirement to vacate and dismantle ANA SUROBI camp. Additionally MG Waziri directed the DCG to lead delegations to UZBEEN and ANJIRAN to conduct post-transfer inventories and inspections based on alleged poor ANA accountability of facilities and equipment.

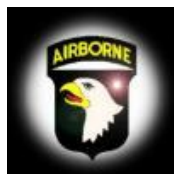
- 29 July 1965 2-502 arrives at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam and begins its deployment where they participated in 15 major campaigns from the Hue City in the North to the Delta region in the South

- 29 July 1968 A/1-502 IN secured An Lo Bridge and mine sweep. Bravo Company conducted RIF operations to village C/M vic. YD6829. Results: 11 VC KIA (Gunships killed more vic. YD6530), 3 VC POW, and 1 Chieu Hoi. Charlie Company conducted security of Rome plow operations. Delta Company was OPCON to 1st BDE; PF's CA'd to vic. YD6631 and YD6530 and conducted sweep and block for Bravo Company. Results: 2 VC KIA, 4 VC and 1 AK47 captured.

- 30 July 1968 1-502 IN continued search and clear operations with negative contact. The Battalion concentrated on caches and BBT. A total of 6 Chieu Hoi's surrendered.

- 30 July 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** 2-502 BN closed into Rear for a stand down and preparation for Operation Somerset Plain (4-20 August).

- 30 July 1968 **Operation SOMERSET PLAIN:** Planning for Operation Somerset Plain started with a stand down. The early portion of the planning was limited primarily to Intelligence build up.



30 July 1969

Reconnaissance activities increased and numerous signs of recent activity and bunker/hut complexes were found. At 0822H, C/1-501 conducted a move by air from CHU LAI Beach to TAM KY Refuel pad for the purpose of constituting a readily deployable RRF. At 0875H, the intensive reconnaissance developed positive enemy action as a LOH from B/2-17 Cav, vic. BT155003 was fired upon with 15 AK47 rounds while flying at 40 feet and 40 knots. One round passed through the main beam thereby damaging the aircraft. At 0900H, vic. BT165001, a LOH from B/2-17 Cav took a .30 cal round in the transmission causing it to make an emergency landing. A RRF was inserted at 0944H and the air-craft was secured and prepared for evacuation which was accomplished by 1051H. As planned, at 0901H, vic. BT234137, C/1-502, conducted a CA and began reconnaissance in force operations to the NE. At 0925H vic. BT205125, B/1-502 was extracted from the field, returning to the TAM KY refuel Pad. At 1000H, vic. BT213132, a scout dog working with A/1-502 tripped a booby trap; no injuries resulted. At 1025H, vic. BT224061, A/1-501 uncovered a grave which contained one male body; cause of death determined to be by air strike four days prior. Some 20 minutes later, while searching the area, the unit found a 68 year old man hiding in a hut. Further search disclosed medical supplies and a grave which contained the body of a female who had been killed by an air strike approximately four days prior. Results: One VC BDA and one detainee. At 1120H, vic. BT212008, a scout from B/2-17 Cav observed one enemy moving SW; the enemy was engaged with artillery with no further results. a change in plans diverted Recon/1-46 from RIF operations to LZ PROFESSIONAL. At approximately 1130H, vic. BT166003, a LOH from B/2-17 Cav received moderate AK47 and SA fire but no hits were taken. at 1135H, vic. BS163995, the Aero- Rifle Platoon found 10-15 large bunkers; at 1158H, 200 meters to the N, the platoon observed and engaged five enemy. Five NVA were killed; one female, obviously wounded, fled to the W. At 1410H, vic. BT158002, scouts from B/2-17 Cav observed ten large huts. Indications were that this was an exploitable area and the RRF was inserted a approximately 1425H. One female and four children were apprehended and evacuated as detainees. While observing an air strike at 1455AH, vic. BS139999, members of Aero-Rifle Platoon, B/2-17 Cav witnessed one body flying through the air as a result of the air strike; results were 1 NVA KBAS. At 1550H, the Aero-Rifle Platoon was extracted from PZ vic. BT155003 and returned to TAM KY airstrip. At 1705H, vic. BT215125, Recon/1-502 observed ten enemy moving to S; enemy taken under fire resulting in one VC KIA.

31 July 1968

A/1-502 secured An Lo Bridge, Bravo Company continued RIF, and Charlie Company had contact vic. YD6431 but enemy fled. Delta Company was OPCON to 1st BDE. Recon received 2 RPG rounds vic. YD6432 but never saw the enemy.

31 July 1969

Extensive ground and aerial reconnaissance continued, however, ground contact was light. At 1000H, vic. BT168105, D/1-46 located a bunker/ hut complex and apprehended 3 VN males, 9 females and 14 children; people were evacuated as detainees. At 1040H, vic. BT213124, Recon/1-502 apprehended and evacuated as a detainee, one VN female approximately 35 to 40 years of age. At 1100H, vic. BT227066, B/1-501 detained and evacuated 7 male and 4 female VN persons. At 1105H, vic. BT332120, C/1-502 apprehended one male and one female VN; evacuated two detainees. At 1200H, vic. BT216115, A/1-502 located 2 VN males, documents and 1500 pounds of salt. The VN were evacuated and the salt destroyed. At 1456H, vic. BS140971, scouts from B/2-17 Cav, conducting BDA for air strike, assessed 2 NVA KBAS and four bunkers and five bunkers destroyed. At 1620H, vic. BT138010, a B/2-17 Cav LOH received .30 cal and AK47 fire while flying at 40 feet and 40 knots. Four to five rounds were taken in the cockpit, wounding one US and damaging the aircraft.

August 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: 2-502nd "STRIKE Force" continued operations around FSB Maureen with no significant contact. The first four days of August were characterized by little enemy contact and small findings. C Company found an empty tunnel complex, B Company found four graves with dead NVA while the Recon Platoon found 12 bunkers with no recent activity.



August 1971 –
30 September 1971

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: The 2-502d mission of the battalion during the early part of August was to provide security for FB Normandy, to provide security along the southern flank of the 1st Brigade area of operations, and to patrol the Camp Eagle Rocket Belt. These missions prevented the enemy from disrupting local elections that were taking place during the month of August.

During the first week of August, the Recon and Sniper platoons were operating in the Camp Eagle Rocket Belt. During that operation they were credited with one NVA KIA, and one NVA WIA. In the third week of August the battalion changed AO's and was given a new mission. The mission was to provide security for FB Birmingham/Camp Bulldog, to patrol the Hue City Rocket Belt, to provide security of route 547 and to conduct company refresher training at Camp Bulldog. The "STRIKE FORCE" accomplished all its assigned missions and a varied number of tasks with a high degree of efficiency. Enemy contacts were few with a limited amount of trail activity indicating "Charlie" was still in the area though not in large numbers.

During the first two weeks of September the battalion continued to provide security for FB Birmingham, provide security in the northern portion of the 1st Brigade area of operations, and provides security for route 547 and to conduct company refresher training at Camp Bulldog.

In early September, intelligence reports indicated a large buildup of enemy troops west of the FB Veghel area. The 1st Brigade conceived a deception plan in which one company each from 2-502 Inf, 1-327th Inf, and 2-327th Inf would be combat assaulted in three separate locations. The combat assaults each had false artillery preps and false insertions giving the impression of larger forces being inserted. Air Strikes by USAF F4 Phantoms preceded each of the combat assaults.

On 3 September, D Company and a mortar section from E Company were combat assaulted into the area west of FB Tennessee and searched the area hit by air strikes and artillery preps. Within 300 meters of the LZ, the company discovered enemy bunkers sufficient to quarter a battalion size force. The company also detected the odor of dead bodies though none were found. Late that afternoon, the company was extracted simulating reinforcement by another company.

Concurrently, with the false and actual combat assaults, a team consisting of 3 RTG's led by CPT Cassidy, the STRIKE Force intelligence officer, began a planned simulation of radio traffic normally heard from 3 companies conducting reconnaissance in force operations. This special team simulated traffic for a total of six days to portray movement of the battalion toward FB Rendezvous located in the A Shau Valley. The deception operation was considered a large success. Initial G-2 reports indicated two NVA Battalions had withdrawn from the area west of Tennessee to their traditional sanctuaries in the northern A Shau Valley.

During the last two weeks of the month, the mission of the battalion was to secure and improve FB Bastogne, OP Checkmate and FB Kim Quy, provide security for Route 547, and provide security in the western portion of the 1st Brigade area of operations. The battalion TOC was located at FB Bastogne during this period. One company was used to provide security of FB Bastogne while the remaining companies conducted reconnaissance in force operations in the surrounding area. The indications of the enemy's presence appeared throughout the AO, but the enemy avoided contact and remained hidden. The battalion was extremely successful in preventing the enemy from infiltrating into the lowlands to disrupt the national elections and commit acts of terrorism.

On the 21-24 September, elements of 2-327th Inf received attacks by fire on their battalion command post located on OP Apollo. On 24 September, B/2-502 IN was placed OPCON to 2-327th Inf and combat assaulted on the ridgeline of hills 500-600, a



predominant hill mass dominating the southwest portion of the 2-327th Inf AO. Immediately, elements of the company came under small arms fire from an unknown size enemy force. From 25-30 September, B Company initiated two contacts with the enemy while the enemy while the enemy initiated the same. On 30 September, B Company engaged what appeared to be a platoon size or larger enemy force located in a large bunker complex. An intense firefight ensued with ARA, artillery, gunships, and air strikes controlled and employed by 1LT Ankley, B Company Commander. The result of the contact between B Company and an estimated company size force was 26 NVA killed number amount NVA wounded and three large bunker complexes destroyed, one capable of holding an 80 man force. B Company suffered only 3 wounded from a booby trap in the entire operation.

01 August 1968

A/1-502 secured An Lo Bridge and established local ambushes. B/1-502 RIF, vic. YD6529, C/1-502 continued Rome Plows security. D/1-502 sprung ambush, vic. YD6930, on 2 VC, 1 VC KIA. Log bird fired on 3 NVA, vic. YD2331. Recon moved into the area finding 1 NVA KIA and 2 NVA WIA.

01 August 1968

Operation SOMERSET PLAIN: On the evening the operation orders was received for movement to FSB Birmingham

01 August 1969

Ground units reported light enemy contact during a day of light activity. At 1720H, vic. BT213125, and element of Recon/1-502 engaged and killed 1 VC at 20 meters. Aerial reconnaissance continued with light enemy contact. At 0730H, vic. BT266118, a LOH of the Brigade reconnaissance team engaged and kill 3 VC with their M60. At 1125H, vic. BS173997, an aerial element of B/2-17 Cav engaged and killed 1 VC. A new operation plan was formulated calling for a two battalion operation to include the SONG TRAM and SONG VANG Valleys. The 1-501 Inf would initially combat assault two companies into the SONG TRAM Valley and one company would air move into an LZ and construct and secure a firebase to be occupied later in the day by A/2-320 Arty. On the following day the 1-502 would combat assault two companies into the west end of the SONG VANG Valley with a mission to conduct RIF operations to the east. Two other companies would combat assault into the east end of the SONG VANG Valley and establish blocking positions on the avenues of escape to the east of the other two companies of the 1-502 and south of the two companies of the 1-501.

02 – 13 August 1967

Operation Hood River

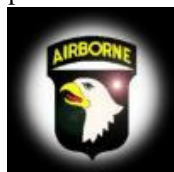
Location: I Corps: Quang Ngai Province; Base Areas 118 and 121
 Type/Objective: Search and Destroy 25 miles west of Quang Ngai City
 Units: USA – Task Force Oregon - 101st Airborne Division 1st BDE: 1-327th ABN, 2-327th ABN, 2-502 ABN); 196th Light Infantry Brigade (2-1st IN, 3-21st IN, 4-31st IN); VNAF – 2d ARVN Division; ROK – 2d ROK Marine Brigade; NVA/VC – 2d NVA Division.
 Casualties: U.S. – 3 KIA, 38 WIA; NVA/VC – 78 KIA, 13 POWs.

02 – 13 August 1967

Operation Hood River (After Action Report)

Operation Hood River was characterized by small unit actions and sporadic contact with small enemy forces. The search and destroy tactics utilized consisted of situation patrolling, night ambushes and night movement. The terrain over which operations were conducted of mountainous jungle and cultivated lowlands.

Operations Hood River was initiated immediately upon the completion of Operation MALHEUR. The 1st 327th Infantry was conducting search and destroy operations in the northern portion of Zon Ao (MALHEUR). The 2-327th Infantry and 2-502nd Infantry was at CARENTAN Base (the Brigade base camp west of DUC PHO). On 30 July one battery of the 2-320th Artillery conducted an overland move from CARENTA Base to Quang NGAI in preparation for the assault. Additionally, C Battery, 2-11th Artillery conducted an airmobile displacement form firing positions in ZON AO to Ha Thanh Cidg Camp form which it provide general support, reinforcing the fires of the 2-320th Artillery for the duration of the operation. On 31July, a second battery of the 2-320th Artillery

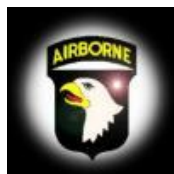


moved overland to Quang Ngai. On 1 August, the 1st Brigade established a TAC CP at Nui Thien An, a monastery northeast of Quang Ngai, where both the 2d ARVN Division and the ROCK Marine Brigade also established TAC CP's. The 2-327th Infantry and 2-502nd Infantry conducted airmobile displacement from Duc Pho to staging areas at Quang Ngai Airfield. Operation HOOD River commenced at 020800H August 1967 with the airmobile assaults of the 2-327th Infantry and 2-502nd Infantry, each with one Mike Force Company in direct support, into the western portions of their respective AO's. Landing zones were prepared by both artillery and tactical air. Fire was also placed on known and suspected enemy locations and on suspected routes of enemy movement toward the landing zones.

Concurrently the 1-327th Infantry reoriented to the north and commenced sweeping along likely enemy egress routes south from Veghel AO. One light contact by the 1-327th Infantry resulted in the capture of 9 individual weapons. Two light contacts by the 2-502nd IN resulted in 2 US KHA, 5 US WHA, 1 BC KIA (C) and capture of 1 individual weapon and 6 crew served weapons. On 3 August the 1-327th IN had two light contacts resulting in 2 VC KIA (C). The 2-327th IN had three light contacts resulting in 3 BC KIA (C) and captures 2 individual weapons. On 4 August one light contact by the 1-327th IN resulted in the capture of 1 wounded detainee. The Reconnaissance section of the 2-327th observed an called in artillery fire on an unknown size VC force resulting in 10 VC KIA (C). One other contact by the battalion resulted in 1 VC KIA (C). One light contact by the 2-502 resulted in the apprehension of 11 detainees. On 5 August two light contacts by the 1-327th resulted in 2 US WHA, 4 VC KIA (C) and capture of 11 detainees and 5 individual weapons. Four contacts by the 2-502 IN resulted in 2 US WIA, 4 VC KIA (C) and the capture of 56 detainees and 1 individual weapon. On 6 August the 2-327th IN had two light contacts resulting in 2 US WHA and 1 VC KIA (C). The 2-502 IN had seven contacts resulting in 8 VC KIA (C) and capture of 3 detainees and 3 individual weapons. On 7 August the 1-327th IN had two light contacts resulting in 3 VC KIA (C), capture of 2 detainees and 1 individual weapon. Two light contacts by the 2-327th IN resulted in 1 US WHA, 5 BC KIA (C) and capture of 9 detainees and 2 individual weapons. On 8 August the 2-327th had one light contact which resulted in 1 VC KIA (C) while seven light contacts by the 2-502 IN resulted in 3 US WHA, 6 VC KIA (C) and the capture of 5 detainees and 3 individual weapons. On 9 August one light contact by the 1-327th resulted in 2 VC KIA (C). The 2-327th had contact resulting in 1 US WHA, 6 VC (C) and the capture of 3 detainees and 5 individual weapons. The 2-502 IN had six contacts resulting in 3 VC KIA (C) and the capture of 6 detainees. On 10 August the 1-327th had one light contact resulting in 2 VC KIA (C). The battalion subsequently conducted airmobile extractions to Quang Ngai and an overland displacement to Chu Lai in preparation for future operations. Five light contacts by the 2-327th IN resulted in 3 VC KIA (C) and the capture of 9 detainees. The 2-502 IN had three contacts resulting in 1 US WHA, 1 VC KIA (C) and the capture of 2 detainees. On 11 August the 2-327th IN had one contact resulting in capture of 1 detainee and 1 individual weapons. The 2-502 IN had three contacts resulting in 3 VC KIA (C) and the capture of 2 detainees. On 12 August one light contact by 2-327th IN resulted in the apprehension of 7 detainees. Operation HOOD RIVER terminated 120730 August 1967 as the 2-327th and 2-502nd IN conducted airmobile assaults from field locations to Gohr AO (Base Area 117), initiating Operation BENTON. During the conduct of Operation HOOD RIVER a Brigade TAC CP was established at Chu Lai for the purpose of controlling Operation BENTON.

02 August 1968

1/502 IN continued normal operations with A/1-502 IN securing An LO Bridge, mine sweep, and local patrols, one ambush killed 1 VC, vic. YD6339. Patrols killed 2 VC, vic. YD6833 and captured 2 VC, vic. YD6334. B/1-502 conducted CA to vic. YD6928 and captured 2 VC, vic. YD6334. B/1-502 conducted CA to, vic. YD6928, with negative contact. C/1-502 conducted Rome Plow security. D/1-502 OPCON, 1st Bde.



02 August 1969

The new OPLAN was executed as two companies of the 1-501 conducted a combat assault into the SONG TRAM Valley and another began construction of FSB BOXER. LZ was green but, at 1400H, B/1-501 ran into heavy automatic weapons fire vic. BS131010. The contact was heavy for a short period as the unit suffered 5 KIA and 3 WIA. Enemy losses were unknown. In other contacts, at 1020H, vic. BS116979, an element of A/1-501 found 1 grave with two VC killed by ARA. At 1100H vic. BT283102, a Brigade LOH reconnaissance team engaged and killed 1 VC with their M60.

1-3 August 2012

ANSF Realignment. The 201st ANA Corps published the consolidation and realignment order. This order directs Brigades to conduct backbriefs to the Corps commander over the next week.

FOB/COP transition and service contracts. 201st ANA Corps conduct a service contract shura with a MOD service contract specialist at FOB Gamberi on 1-2 AUG. The purpose of the shura is to educate the ANA Brigade staff officers on the procedures for establishing a service contract and to write the requirements for water, sewage, and power generation by FOB.

ANSF intelligence-driven operations. On 2-3 AUG 12, Taliban insurgents conducted a series of coordinated attacks against ANSF and coalition positions in Kunar. Since 22 JUL 12, the ANSF sources coupled with indications and warnings to conduct predictive analysis and limited intel-driven targeting. In the days prior to the attacks, ANSF determined a wide-scale Taliban attack was imminent through their extensive human intelligence (HUMINT) assets. ANSF were able to make critical decisions based upon the indications and warnings that enabled pre-coordination of the re-positioning of forces. In addition, ANA provided ANA D-30 fire support to prevent destruction of several District Centers in Dangam, Marawara, Chapadara, and Sarkani. ANSF leaders in Kunar acted decisively and provided mutual support to units in contact. Overall, the Kunar wide Taliban attacks were largely ineffective the ANSF defeated them decisively. The ANSF demonstrated their ability to fight in mutual support, to successfully battle track and request enabler support, and to respond quickly prevented catastrophic failure. Following the attacks, ANSF leaders used media outlets to condemn the attacks and to demonstrate their resolve to protect the population.

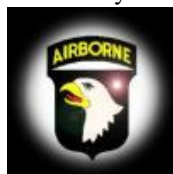
03 August 1968

1-502 conducted normal operations with B/1-502 killing 1 VC in spider hole.

03 - 4 August 1968

Operation SOMERSET PLAIN: 2-502 conducted planning and movement to FSB Birmingham as a road march was conducted, moving the air assault elements to staging area FSB Birmingham (east) This move was accomplished without incident and the STRIKE Force secured their assigned area, and commence final checks for the 1100h air assault into the A Shau Valley the following morning 4 Aug. At 0800h the STRIKE Force was alerted to assault, beginning at 0904h, all elements were moved into position on the PZ and were ready to go at 0900h. The first element departed to PZ at 0914h. The air movement went well with the last round or Artillery preparation falling approximately 30 seconds before touchdown on LZ Hatchet. The insertion went without incident until the final lift, when one aircraft (gunship) was disabled due to enemy action. This caused a minor change in the planned move from the LZ due to the necessity to secure the area for recovery operations. All units except D/2-502 moved as scheduled. D CO was delayed about three hours until the down aircraft was extracted.

Ground operation commenced with the STRIKE Force moving South and West to secure the high ground southwest of the LZ. The first days' move was without incident. From the point on however, daily contacts were made by most of the units. All actions were small in nature, with no known contacts with any enemy units larger than squad size. Throughout the operation the elements generally remained with 2000 meters of each other, in order to be capable of reinforcing in the event of hearing enemy contact. The entire operation was a RIF to test the enemy's reaction to penetration of a considered stronghold, and produce secondary benefits such as reduction of caches, intelligence of



the enemy in the area, and to gain information for possible future operations to include general disruption of the enemy's sense of security in the A Shau Valley.

Enemy resistance throughout the operation was characterized by the use of mortar fire both day and night, and the use of numerous RPG's during small contacts. The units were all "shadowed" during the operation, however the use of stay behind forces was ineffective as the enemy shadowed for the most part from adjacent terrain. The enemy generally avoided decisive contact during the entire operation.

The results of the operation were, 21 x KIA, 19 x KBA, 1 x NVA CIA, 1 x CHIOU HOI, 9 x C/S weapons CIA, 12 x Individual Weapons CIA, and 4 x 2 ½ ton Trucks CIA. US Casualties: 5 x KHA, 58 x WIA.

03 August 1968

Operation SOMERSET PLAIN: A road march was conducted, moving the air assault elements to staging area FSB Birmingham (east) This move was accomplished without incident and the STRIKE Force secured their assigned area, and commence final checks for the 1100h air assault into the A Shau Valley the following morning.

03 August 1969

Operations continued with light enemy contact as the 1-502 conducted a 4 company combat assault into the SONG VANG Valley complex. All LZ were green but contact was scattered in the AO. At 0915H, vic. BS159192, D/1-501 observed and killed 3 VC while suffering 1 WIA. At 11225H, vic. BT135013, B/1-501 found a grave with a Chinese body 24 hours old KBA. Also at 1125H, vic. AS092918, B/1-502 engaged and killed 1 NVA at 1430H, vic. BS146926, D/1-501 found a 19 year old female VC killed by ARA.

July –
December 1985

The 3-502nd Infantry was deployed to the Sinai, Egypt as part of the Multinational Force and Observers from July to December 1985. For outstanding service, the task force received the Army's first Superior Unit Award. TF 3-502d's return home was marred by the tragic Gander air crash (Arrow Air Flight 1285) in which 248 soldiers lost their lives.

30 July 2010 –
04 August 2010

Combined Task Force Top Guns Soldiers conducted Operation Palang Panja (Tiger Claw) against enemy forces outside the Arghandab district city of Jelawur.

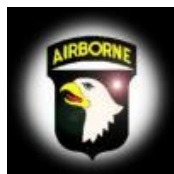


Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), partnered with the 1st Kandak, 1st Brigade, 205th Corps, Afghan National Army to clear a Taliban stronghold at the intersection of route Mariners and Highlife. The area known as Objective Bakersfield is crucial for Top Guns operations.

"We made it our mission to take (Bakersfield) away from the Taliban," said LTC David Flynn, commander, 1st BN, 320th FAR. "It is critical for us to have this."

The value of Bakersfield is in its location. Placed at the intersection of Routes Mariners and Highlife, it connects COPs Nolen, Terra Nova, Tynes and Jelawur. "It falls on the road that leads to our COPs and it was one of their strongholds, but we fought through attacks, IEDs and everything the Taliban had in the Arghandab River valley," said Flynn. "The Taliban no longer has control over the area."

For five straight days, the enemy attacked with snipers, indirect fire and small arms, but the combined platoons remained resolute. With the success of Operation Palang Panja, Taliban forces are denied freedom of movement in an area once under their control and



with COP Stout established at the intersection of Mariners and Highlife, the Top Guns control the area known as Bakersfield.

August 1990 –
January 1991

1-502nd Battalion deployed to Saudi Arabia as part of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Battalion conducted desert training and continued to refine Air Assault operations for the defense of Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

August –
September 2006

Operation Eagle Valor. Deliberate operations to consolidate gains in Battle of Shakaria Triangle.

01 August 1945

The 502nd leaves Germany for Auxerre, France to begin preparations for the impending invasion of Japan.

01 Aug 2008

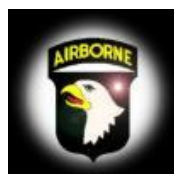
Operation Strike Eagles Strike Brigade attacks to clear and control enemy (SGC) support zones from 01 Aug – 30 Sep 08 to prevent SGC return and resurgence in these key areas and enable GoI/ISF security of the population. The IA clears historical SGC safe havens to deny SGC return to the Kadhimiya Security District. CF controls the KSD through precision searches of historical cache sites, possible IRAM construction sites, and possible bed-down locations. Civil Military Operations, conducted through partnership with the Neighborhood Councils, District Councils and the Beladiyah, provide essential services for the population to provide for their needs and gain their assistance in denying SGC anonymity within the KSD. Through GoI partnership the effective implementation of Iraqi led CERP and ICERP implementation will legitimize the local government and embolden them to take charge of the KSD. The implementation of microfinance initiatives, USAID and NGO assistance assists in energizing business activity and stimulate economic activity. Engineer effort focuses on establishing an Iraqi Army Combat Outpost in Shulla that facilitates the transition of Shulla to Control status. Information Operations, applied at specific maneuver corridors and chokepoints across the KSD, assists in denying SGC freedom of movement. Media Operations focuses on emphasizing GoI and ISF success in Iraqi national venues in order to ensure that SGC and those who support them see on a regular basis that the KSD is inhospitable for their return.

01 August 2008

Operation Strike Falcons Strike Brigade conducts full-spectrum operations in the Mansour Security District to defeat AQI and prevent their ability to plan, resource, recruit, and reconstitute within the Strike AO. The intent is to deny AQI's ability to seek refuge and cause them to relocate their base of operations. CF maximizes combat power, 24/7, to influence the population and separate them from AQI, maximizes partnership with the ISF and SoI to increase competence and build sustainable security, ensure NACs are fully staffed in Adl, Andalus, Mansour, and Mutanabi, implements USAID business development grants to encourage long term economic growth throughout Mansour, and builds a fully operational PWSS capability in Adl, Yarmouk, and Ameriya. Information operations will influence the population and influential leaders to actively deny AQI freedom of movement and recruiting capability. Public Affairs operations will publicize GoI and ISF success to influence the population and separate the population from the insurgents. BCT staff will influence the GoI leadership to increase NC competence and capability, expand economic opportunities through USAID business development, and expand Beladiyah capability through the implementation of PWSS's across the Mansour SD.

02 August 1990

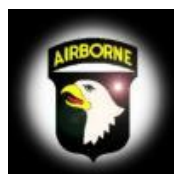
3-502 is the Division Ready Force when the initial call comes to the 101st to prepare for movement in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD



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 Silver Star
- 8 x Bronze Star with Valor
- 2 x Bronze Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
- 15 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 27 x Purple Hearts (14 x Posthumously)
- 3 x Non-Hostile Injury or Illness
- 1 x Civilian DOW

- 28 July 1969 SGT Daniel G. Casey (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from other explosive device wounds, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 28 July 1969 SP4 Daniel M. Brown (B/1-502 IN) died from Non-hostile wounds in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.
- 29 July 1970 SSG Ronald F. Persyn (D/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from small arms gunfire wounds, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 29 July 1970 PFC Gary L. Rose (B/1-501 IN) died from Non-Hostile illness or injury in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 29 July 1970 SP4 Lee T. Baiz (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from small arms gunfire wounds, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.
- 30 July 1970 CPL Vincent P. Moreham (D/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from small arms gunfire wounds, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 30 July 2010 SPC Brian McLaughlin (HHB/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.
- 30 July 2010 SGT Kyle Stout (JJB/1-320 FA), 25, of Texarkana, Texas; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.
- 30 July 2010 SPC Michael Stansbery (HHB/1-320 FA), 21, of Mount Juliet, Tennessee; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.



30 July 2010



MSG (R) Robert Pittman (HHB/1-320 FA), 41, Greenwood, Mississippi; died of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire. He was assigned to Asymmetric Warfare Group attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment.

30 July 2010

SPC Jeremy Kuehl (A/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

30 July 2010

The following Soldiers: SSG Jason Hamilton, SSG Matthew Hubbard, SGT Christopher Hatton, CPL Bobby Wilkins, SPC Edward Ritsema and PVT Gerardo Verduzco (HHB/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

31 July 1968

1LT Joseph E R Neal (A/2-501 IN) died of wounds in the province of Province of Thua Thien, Vietnam.

31 July 2010

CPT Timothy Rizzo (HHB/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with a rocket propelled grenade.

31 July 2010

SSG Drew Anderson (B/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

01 August 2010

SSG Christopher Young (A/2BSTB) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for actions as he proved vital in the successful clearance and seizure of Objective Bakersfield, key terrain previously held by determined and capable enemy forces.

01-

16 August 2010

SPC Michael Cooper (2/502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while playing an integral role in supporting 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, in the clearance of Objective Bakersfield by eliminating an enemy marksman.

01 August 2010

The following Soldiers: CPT Adam Tietje and CPT Melvin Cabebe (HHB/1-320 FAR) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their unit with indirect fire.

01 August 2010

SSG Drew Anderson (B/1-320 FAR) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with indirect fire.

01 August 2010

PFC Jose Rosario (HHC/2BSTB) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with a rocket propelled grenade.

01 August 2010

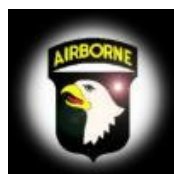
1SG Jonathan Brown (HHB/1-320 FAR) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with indirect fire.

01 August 2010

PFC Ian Aleksiewicz (HHC/2BCT) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with a rocket propelled grenade.

02 August 1969

The following Soldiers: SP4 William E. Campbell, SP4 David M. Ball, PFC Richard K. Lewis, PFC Dwight P. McKeathon, PFC Alexander P. Pomeroy (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from small arms gunfire wounds 13k SSE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.



02 August 2006

The following Soldiers: CPT Jared D. Bordwell, SSG John D. Cakora, SGT Ray Burchette, SPC Christian Arellano, PFC Gale Beaubien (A/1-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for valorous action in combat whiling moved under direct fire in order to assist in performing first aid on PFC Kubik, who was struck by direct fire. Each of them placed themselves between the wounded Soldier and five different directions of enemy positions in order to allow the medic to treat and evacuate the wounded Soldier. With complete disregard for his own safety, PFC Beaubien performed medical aid and treatment on PFC Kubik under intense, enemy direct fire. CPT Bordwell, along with the Platoon Sergeant, moved under sustained direct enemy fire to secure the designated MEDEVAC PZ. The established security under the direct supervision of CPT Bordwell allowed for an expedient MEDEVAC on a hot PZ for the wounded comrade on the ground. The complete disregard for their own safety allowed PFC Kubik's family to see him in person before he died from his injuries. Each of their actions on this day epitomized what the Army Values and Warrior Ethos stand for.

02 August 2006

PFC Brian J. Kubik (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death.

03 August 1968

The following Soldiers: SGT Stephen L. Havas, CPL Larry B. Buzzard, SGT Gary E. Hoadley (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from small arms gunfire wounds, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

29 July 1968

1LT David B. Land (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 July 1968. First Lieutenant Land distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader for Company B, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry during a combat mission near the village of Bao La, Quang Dien Province, Republic of Vietnam. The First Platoon captured a Viet Cong Soldier who gave the information that there were twenty to thirty enemy Soldiers in the Village of Bao La. The Third Platoon moved into a blocking force on the west side of the village and made contact, while the First Platoon moved on line and began a sweep north through the village. The enemy, suddenly realizing their situation, began a withdrawal to the east and northeast. First Lieutenant Land, the company executive officer on administrative matters, was monitoring the radio as the Second Platoon, who was guarding the company's equipment a thousand meters away from the fight, made enemy contact. Realizing that the enemy were about to break out to the east, First Lieutenant Land took six men and sprinted around the eastern end of the village and into a graveyard eleven hundred meters away. As they entered the graveyard they met heavy enemy fire. Heedless of the fire, First Lieutenant Land pushed his men forward and drove the enemy back through the graveyard and into the northern village. His six men spread thinly over two hundred meters, repulsed two enemy attempts to break out, mortally wounding six of them and capturing three. During their escape attempts, two of the Viet Cong tried to move through the graveyard over First Lieutenant Land. He fired, wounding one and capturing both of them. First Lieutenant Land's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 10050, 28 November 1968)



30 July 2010



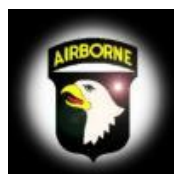
SFC Kyle Lyon (HHB/1-320 FA) earned the Silver Star for heroically distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as a platoon sergeant in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment. His heroic actions during the seizure and defense of Objective Bakersfield I and COP Stout during Operation Palang Panja II were instrumental in defeating a determined enemy that attacked his position repeatedly and his actions contributed directly to the accomplishment of the battery's mission. Originally ordered to establish screening positions north and south of Objective Bakersfield I, SFC Lyon and his platoon were the first to infiltrate the objective. 1st platoon, under his leadership, began taking sustained fire from enemy positions to the south and southwest. Realizing the threat that the volume and accuracy of the fire posed to his defensive positions, SFC Lyon moved from a covered position through enemy fire to reposition a grenadier with an M203 grenade launcher to mark targets for attack aviation engagement. Throughout the day, SFC Lyon directed the lethal fires of his men to repel repeated enemy efforts to retake the ground he and his men had valiantly fought to seize.

On 31 July, Objective Bakersfield I, now renamed COP Stout, began receiving accurate enemy 30mm grenades fired in an indirect mode, inflicting four casualties after the rounds impacted within the security perimeter. Disregarding his own personal safety, SFC Lyon immediately ran to the points of impact to conduct crater analysis to determine where the enemy grenadier was located.



On the afternoon of 1 August 2010, SFC Lyon and a squad from his platoon were tasked to secure an attached engineer Sapper squad while they employed explosives to reduce structures and enemy obstacles on the eastern side of COP Stout. While the engineers prepared the demolition, enemy elements began engaging SFC Lyon and his Soldiers with accurate small arms fire within 50 meters of their position. SFC Lyon responded instantly by charging forward under enemy fire and engaging the enemy position with his M4 rifle, placing accurate fire on their position. His Soldiers followed his heroic example and followed him forward where he directed them to occupy covered positions and repulsed the enemy attack, enabling the engineers to complete their obstacle reduction unimpeded.

Finally, on 2 August 2010, after three exhausting days of nearly constant contact with the enemy, SFC Lyon and his platoon again began receiving sustained, accurate enemy small arms fire from southwest of COP Stout. SFC Lyon, working with the Joint Tactical Air Controllers attached to the battery, directed three gun runs by Air Force A-10s that destroyed the enemy position. Later in the day, while taking more sustained fire from significant buildings to the southwest of COP Stout, SFC Lyon directed a heavy aviation attack weapons team onto the targets, personally coordinating the destruction of the enemy fortified position with Hellfire missiles and 30mm fire.



30 July 2010-
02 August 2010



SPC Calvin Gilkey (HHB/1-320 FA) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroically distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as a team leader and later as a squad leader for 2nd platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment.

His heroic actions during the seizure and defense of Objective Bakersfield I and COP Stout during Operation Palang Panja II were instrumental in defeating a determined enemy over the course of four days of intense fighting.

SPC Gilkey's team was the trail element of the decisive operation for the battery and was in charge of the rolling casualty collection point. When SPC Michael Stansbery detonated a pressure plate improvised explosive device (PPIED), SPC Gilkey had his team positioned in the first courtyard between significant buildings and had directed his M240B to cover to the NE up Route Mariners.

Moments after the first explosion, SGT Kyle Stout, SPC Gilkey's squad leader, struck a second IED, knocking SPC Gilkey to his knees. Despite his close proximity to the blast, SPC Gilkey proceeded to render first aid to other Soldiers that had been wounded in the same IED blast. SPC Gilkey then pulled the rest of the squad back to the west side of the objective to consolidate and re-organize.

SSG Tivao, the platoon sergeant, then spoke with SPC Gilkey and gave him control of 2nd squad. SPC Gilkey took charge of the squad for the next four days of hard fighting and led them with bravery and courage under extremely stressful conditions. After he took control of the squad, the battery sustained additional casualties, during which SPC Gilkey maintained his composure and stayed focused on the mission.



He maneuvered his squad through heavy enemy fire to bolster security positions to the west that allowed medics to render first aid to MSG (R) Robert Pittman, who was wounded by enemy small arms fire late in the morning of the first day of the operation. SPC Gilkey maintained his position under heavy enemy attack and directed his squad's machine gun fire as well as controlling his ANA partners' fire to provide security as the MEDEVAC helicopter landed.

As the battery consolidated its hold on the seized terrain and began establishing tactical infrastructure, the enemy again maneuvered on the east side of the objective. SPC Gilkey put one of his Soldiers into the .50 cal machine gun turret in a nearby vehicle and directed devastating fires that pushed them back. He moved his men back to the eastern wall and assumed a machine gun position for security to the northeast. SPC Gilkey led from the front and emplaced his Soldiers in effective fighting positions that repelled a determined enemy.

The following day, the enemy began attacking with indirect fire and SPC Gilkey led his Soldiers without regard for his own safety. He maneuvered through effective indirect fires to get accountability for all his Soldiers and then led them to secure positions on the east side of the objective to repel another enemy assault.

The next day his squad was moved to the north side security screen position with a platoon of ANA. As the active squad leader despite his limited experience, he continued providing excellent leadership for his squad and an entire ANA platoon. He effectively maintained this security position for 36 hours until rotated back to the rear to refit for continued operations at COP Stout.



30 July 2010



CPT Michael Haith (HHB/1-320 FA) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy during the clearance of Objective Bakersfield I, as an embedded tactical advisor for CTF Top Guns, in the Arghandab District, Kandahar Province of Afghanistan. His heroic actions led to the successful seizure of key terrain, and later the defense and evacuation of a critically wounded Soldier during the first day of the operation.

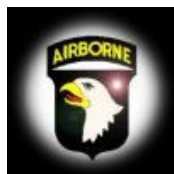
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, combined with 3/1/205 and 4/1/205 ANA companies, attacked to clear Objective Bakersfield I in order to deny insurgent intimidation of the population and allow local farmers the freedom of movement to conduct their crop harvest. The assault launched in the early hours of the morning, moving carefully south of the village of Jelawur, through grape fields and pomegranate orchards flooded with irrigation trenches. The enemy placed several improvised explosive devices in the area in an effort to disrupt ISAF and ANSF movement and protect their line of communication along the Arghandab River. During the seizure of the objective, two Soldiers were killed and eight wounded by pressure plate improvised explosive devices. The company team established a defensive perimeter on the south side of the objective, with dismounted Soldiers and mounted weapon systems repulsing repeated enemy small arms and rocket-propelled grenade attacks.

CPT Haith combined the synchronized resources from the task force to the theater level to provide the company the time and space to defeat the insurgents. Insurgents attacked the western end of the defensive perimeter with a heavy volume of small arms fire. MSG (R) Robert Pittman, an advisor from the Asymmetric Warfare Group, was struck by a single round in the barrage and HHB requested air medical evacuation. Without hesitating, CPT Haith led a medic and two others under enemy fire 100 meters across the open field between the TAC and where Pittman had fallen to render aid.



Immediately upon arriving at the western wall where Pittman lay, CPT Haith instinctively recognized that there was a gap in the security perimeter. As the insurgents' fire increased and rocket-propelled grenades passed overhead, CPT Haith repositioned an Afghan National Army M249 gunner and three American Soldiers to a more defensible position. CPT Haith then courageously bounded back across the open field to reposition an armored vehicle-mounted MK-19 grenade launcher to the western compound wall to establish a more formidable base of fire. CPT Haith moved from his covered position into the open to assume guidance and land the helicopter at the best position to evacuate the casualty.

CPT Haith's courage, bravery and professionalism that day resulted in the timely evacuation of a grievously wounded comrade and ensured that the line of defense held at the most critical moment of the battle.



30 July 2010



The following Soldiers: CPT Andrew Shaffer was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor; SGT Kevin Siler was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart; CPT Patrick McGuigan, CPT Venkat Motupalli, SGT John Naquin and PFC Etienne Perrault were awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor (HHB/1-320 FAR) while heroically distinguished themselves by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of a determined enemy as part of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment. Their heroic actions during the seizure and defense of Objective Bakersfield I and COP Stout during Operation Palang Panja II were instrumental in defeating a determined enemy and evacuating two critically wounded Soldiers during the first day of the operation.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, combined with Afghan National Army 3/1/1/205 and 4/1/1/205, attacked to seize Objective Bakersfield I, a longtime Taliban stronghold, in order to deny insurgent intimidation of the population and allow local farmers the freedom of movement to conduct their crop harvest. The assault launched in the early hours of the morning, moving south of the village of Jelawur through grape fields and pomegranate orchards heavily seeded with improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

SGT Naquin's squad was the lead element that was charged with crossing the southern canal and breaching into Objective Bakersfield I and establishing a foothold in order to facilitate the clearance of the objective. He encountered one faulty IED that struck one of the ANA soldiers but continued to lead his squad, demonstrating his dedication to the success of the mission in the face of a high IED threat area. As he began to establish his local support by fire position, SGT Naquin discovered a second IED on Route Mariners behind a building of interest on the objective with his keen observation of the terrain and signs of IEDs. He maintained his composure and successfully emplaced the rest of his squad, allowing 2nd squad to begin clearance of the objective. Following the initial clearance, SPC Michael Stansbery detonated a pressure plate IED near the second canal.

As members of the Combined Task Force (CTF) Top Guns TAC, CPT McGuigan and CPT Motupalli arrived at the objective immediately following its seizure. As the TAC closed on the objective, SPC Michael Stansbery struck and was mortally wounded by an IED. With complete disregard for their own safety, CPT McGuigan and CPT Motupalli instinctively ran to assess the situation. Realizing the severity of the injuries to SPC Stansbery, CPT McGuigan moved across a footbridge meters from where the casualty lay and established a hasty casualty collection point and initiated the 13-Line MEDEVAC.

SGT Naquin maintained his composure and immediately ran the line to check on his Soldiers. The enemy began attacking from the south and west with small arms fire minutes after the first IED. SGT Naquin began to direct his squad's fire to suppress the enemy to the west and also controlled the attached ANA squad's fires. While in communication with the battalion Tactical Operations Center at Forward Operating Base Terra Nova, a second IED detonated on the assault platoon securing the objective injuring several more Soldiers. With the second explosion Taliban forces immediately initiated direct fire and CPT McGuigan intuitively responded by repositioning the casualty collection point behind a route clearance vehicle. These actions shielded the casualties, permitting medics on-site to continue to administer life-saving treatment to the men awaiting aerial evacuation.

CPT Motupalli immediately rushed into the dust and debris of the second IED strike, began assessing the situation, and directing the evacuation of four Soldiers to safety. With the second explosion Taliban forces immediately initiated direct fire and CPT Motupalli provided direction to confused Soldiers as they attempted to reposition to repel the attack. CPT Shaffer moved under fire to lead his men to reinforce his flank positions and hold the ground seized.



After the evacuation of the casualties, the company team established a defensive perimeter on the south side of the objective, with dismounted Soldiers and mounted weapon systems repulsing repeated enemy small arms and rocket-propelled grenade attacks. CPT McGuigan, CPT Motupalli and the Combined Task Force TAC assembled in an abandoned building on the objective and synchronized resources from the task force to the theater level to provide the company the time and space to defeat the insurgents. CPT Motupalli provided expert assessment of the Taliban's strength, capabilities, and objectives that permitted the TAC to reinforce the company at the critical time of the fight.



That afternoon insurgents again attacked the western end of the defensive perimeter with a heavy volume of small arms fire in an attempt to overrun the position. MSG (R) Robert Pittman, an advisor from the Asymmetric Warfare Group attached to the task force, was struck in the barrage by a single round that immediately prompted urgent calls from the position for a medic.

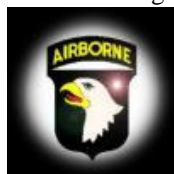
Without hesitating, CPT McGuigan and the Battalion Assistant Intelligence Officer, CPT Motupalli, led a medic under heavy enemy small arms fire 100 meters across the open field between the TAC and where Pittman had fallen to render aid. The exchange of fire at the location where Pittman fell continued to intensify as the enemy identified the medical evacuation helicopter on its approach. While the Soldiers defending the southwest side of the perimeter suppressed the Taliban attack, CPT McGuigan and the aid and litter team moved swiftly, under heavy enemy small arms fire, to deliver MSG (R) Pittman to the waiting medical evacuation helicopter. While under heavy enemy small arms and RPG fire, SGT Naquin continued to direct fires and led his squad in suppressing the enemy fire on the MEDEVAC helicopter. CPT Shaffer again exposed himself to enemy fire to coordinate air attacks, facilitate medical evacuation, and provide direction and guidance to his subordinates to continue to fight the enemy.

SGT Naquin continued to fight courageously as he was rotated to the southern security screen which kept the enemy pushed back from the objective to facilitate resupply operations and continued fighting position improvement. The enemy continued to advance on the southern security screen and maneuvered in close proximity to SGT Naquin's position; his squad and his ANA partners repelled them time after time with massed precision fires. SGT Naquin further discovered an IED in the vineyard to the south-east of the objective and prevented an ANA soldier from initiating it.



After over 24 hours of intense fighting, PFC Perrault's squad and ten Afghan National Army soldiers were manning a screen line to the east of Objective Bakersfield I to prevent enemy maneuver onto the objective. The line was set behind a north south running wall in a vineyard with east west running roads.

To get into position Coalition Forces were forced to clear the area with metal detectors under the cover of darkness and mark suspected IED locations. The enemy engaged the eastern screen line with multiple RPG and machine gun attacks throughout the day during their attempt



to force Coalition Forces to break contact from the objective. With few American Soldiers manning the eastern screen line, SFC Lyon, PFC Perrault's platoon sergeant, specially selected him to control the ANA soldiers on the screen line and ensure the eastern flank of the objective was held.

While PFC Perrault was moving along the line checking the ANA soldiers, his position came under heavy machine gun and RPG fire. Understanding the importance of gaining fire superiority in order to hold his position, PFC Perrault secured a RPG launcher and placed it into operation against enemy forces to the east. SGT Siler's squad, partnered with ten Afghan National Army soldiers, was manning a screen line to the south of the objective, renamed COP Stout, serving as the western flank of the friendly line securing the objective. The southern screen line was set in a ditch that had been previously used for irrigation along fields that had recently been flooded.

The mud was several inches thick, making movement for SGT Siler and his squad, as well as the accomplishment of the simplest of tasks, very challenging. The lull in the action that morning was suddenly punctuated by heavy enemy machine gun and RPG fire as SGT Siler's team came under attack. The enemy used the fortified cover provided by buildings to the southwest of the objective to rake the screen line with accurate fire, attempting to overrun the flank. SGT Siler immediately realized the sudden danger to his critical position and to the safety of his Soldiers and moved from his covered position into the open while under intense machine gun fire to the eastern side of his screen line to secure an AT-4.



With the AT-4 in hand SGT Siler then ran back under fire to his Soldiers on the western flank. He labored through the mud to an exposed position where he could take a good shot at the building insurgents were hiding in, while bullets struck all around him, and engaged it with the AT-4 as the enemy attempted to advance forward. Following the AT-4 engagement by SGT Siler, the enemy ceased its advance and the enemy forces in the nearby buildings stopped firing and withdrew.

Over the course of several days of fighting CPT Shaffer selflessly exposed himself to enemy indirect and direct fire to direct his forces to defend the position, launch counter attacks, and direct casualty evacuation. CPT Shaffer led his unit with marked distinction, courage and bravery and directed his forces who were under near constant attack for several days.

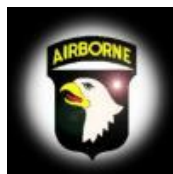
Today Coalition Forces continue to hold the critical terrain and deny the enemy sanctuary. Were it not for CPT Shaffer's leadership and heroism under fire during the assault to seize the canal crossing, his unit would not have completed the mission.

30 July 2010



SSG Raymond Reed (HHB/1-320 FAR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor while heroically distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as a squad leader in 1st platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, combined with Afghan National Army 3/1/205 and 4/1/205 companies, cleared Objective Bakersfield I in order to secure a canal crossing point and allow local nationals the freedom to harvest their crops without Taliban intimidation.



Upon clearing Objective Bakersfield I, HHB came under attack by a platoon size enemy element. 1st squad, led by SSG Reed, occupied the northern blocking position of Objective Bakersfield I. SSG Reed was tasked to secure Route Highlife north of the objective.

SSG Reed emplaced PFC Shannon, the platoon medic, and PVT Verduzco in a grape vineyard on the west side of Route Highlife. SSG Reed then emplaced the Platoon's machine gun team on Route Highlife pulling security to the east. While SSG Reed was checking on his Soldiers and verifying their sectors of fire, SSG Hamilton stepped on a pressure plate improvised explosive device consisting of two 82mm mortar rounds initiated by a wooden crush box on Route Highlife.

The blast knocked SSG Reed and two members of his Squad off of their feet and into the vineyard behind them. SSG Reed immediately recovered from the blast and began to check the status of his men and assess the situation. SSG Hamilton was severely injured by the blast and was lying on the ground on Route Highlife. SSG Reed called



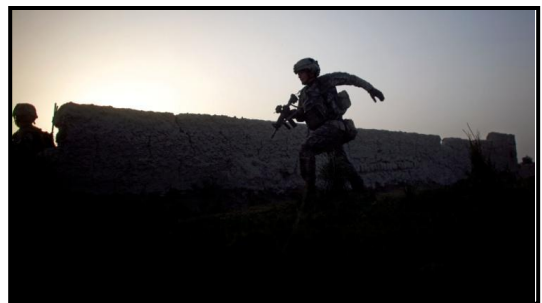
for the platoon medic, and then proceeded to move to the casualty and render aid despite the danger of secondary devices near the blast site. Once the medic relieved SSG Reed and continued aid of the casualty, SSG Reed took the initiative to reposition his security on the northern side of Objective Bakersfield to establish an HLZ for the MEDEVAC helicopter. As the MEDEVAC helicopter landed, SSG Reed assisted the medics in loading SSG Hamilton into the helicopter.

30 July 2010-
01 August 2010



SSG Benjamin Tivao (HHB/1-320 FAR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart while heroically distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy of the United States as a platoon sergeant in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Combined Task Force Top Guns, Combined Task Force STRIKE, Kandahar, Afghanistan. His heroic actions during the seizure and defense of Objective Bakersfield I and COP Stout during Operation Palang Panja II were instrumental in defeating a determined enemy that attacked his position repeatedly and his action contributed directly to the accomplishment of the battery mission.

In the early morning hours, SSG Tivao and 2nd platoon, partnered with a platoon from 3rd Company, 1/1/205 ANA, attacked to seize Objective Bakersfield I south of the village of Jelawur. As the assault force, SSG Tivao and his platoon moved carefully through grape fields and pomegranate orchards flooded with irrigation trenches, simultaneously navigating fields and paths that the enemy had seeded with improvised explosive devices in an effort to disrupt ISAF and ANSF freedom of movement. The platoon cleared from west to east of the objective until an improvised explosive device detonated, seriously wounding SGT Kyle Stout, a squad leader from 2nd platoon.



With complete disregard for his own safety due to the threat of secondary improvised explosive devices, SSG Tivao rendered immediate aid to SGT Stout and then quickly directed his platoon's fires east of the objective when the



enemy sought to pursue a perceived weakness in the line after the strike and placed small arms fire onto the position.

Throughout the morning of 30 July, as the enemy continued to attack to try to retake the ground seized by HHB/1-320th Field Artillery Regiment, SSG Tivao directed 2nd platoon to reposition and place devastating fires on the enemy, forcing them to withdraw time and again. On 1 August, while holding the southern screen line on the western flank, 2nd platoon came under heavy enemy small arms and RPG fire. SSG Tivao and his Soldiers observed numerous enemy elements moving into key buildings, attempting to use the fortified position to launch an attack to turn the western flank of the objective, renamed COP Stout. In the midst of heavy enemy fire, 2nd platoon learned through communication intercepts that the enemy assault leader had ordered his subordinates to try and capture SSG Tivao and two interpreters that were at his position on the line. Suddenly, four enemy fighters darted past a small opening in the wall just north of the buildings. SSG Tivao directed the attack aviation team on station to engage the enemy assault force with suppressive fires. 2nd platoon established fire superiority and, shortly thereafter, the attack helicopter engaged the building with a Hellfire missile. The enemy fire immediately ceased from this position and enemy communications intercepted by 2nd platoon indicated that the strike and the suppressive fires had killed four and wounded five enemy fighters.



Throughout the remainder of the day, SSG Tivao would confirm enemy positions in the vicinity of the buildings, reposition his platoon to more advantageous fighting positions 13 more times over a distance of nearly two and a half kilometers of movement, and call for lethal attack aviation fires that decimated the enemy's will to fight.

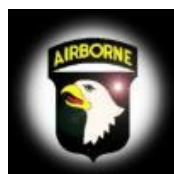
30 July 2010



PFC Jose Rosario (A/2BSTB) and SPC Cameron Fontenot (HHB/1-320 FAR) (Medics) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while heroically distinguishing themselves by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy. Their heroic actions on that day led to the successful seizure of key terrain during Operation Palang Panja, and later the defense of that terrain and evacuation of a critically wounded Soldier during the first day of the operation.

A brief and violent firefight along the western wall of Objective Bakersfield broke out, beginning with RPG and heavy enemy small arms fire directed at the western wall. The din of the enemy fire was suddenly shattered with cries for a medic, prompting PFC Fontenot to immediately grab his aid bag at the tactical command center 100 meters away. Without regard for his safety, he rushed across an open field thought to be heavily prepared with IEDs and came under precision enemy fire from over the western wall.

Without regard for his safety, PFC Rosario immediately rushed across the wall from the southern corner to the northern corner, exposing himself to precision enemy fire from over the wall multiple times. Upon arrival at the northern corner of the western wall, he began single-handedly applying aid to MSG(R) Robert Pittman, the Asymmetric Warfare Group advisor who was wounded by precision small arms fire. Without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own personal well being, he diligently worked to stop the bleeding until further help and assistance could arrive.



Upon arrival at the western wall, PFC Fontenot was directed to the casualty, MSG(R) Robert Pittman. He immediately began laboring to provide care as Soldiers along the wall continued to engage the enemy. Caring for MSG(R) Pittman required both PFC Rosario and PFC Fontenot to move beyond the sparse covering frequently and expose themselves to enemy fire.

During the treatment, the level of fire from the west and the south steadily increased, forcing Soldiers to reinforce the west perimeter with a MK-19 grenade launcher mounted on an MRAP. The MEDEVAC approached the landing zone and was followed by more enemy gunfire from the south, west and east. The MEDEVAC helicopter was also nearly struck with RPG rounds and sustained heavy small arms fire that caused damage to the aircraft and narrowly missed PFC Rosario and PFC Fontenot on several occasions.



As Soldiers along the wall engaged the enemy, the MEDEVAC helicopter began to land over 100 meters away, not realizing that they had not been able to move the casualty away from the only available cover at the western wall. While awaiting the arrival of the MEDEVAC, PFC Rosario volunteered to help transport MSG(R) Pittman's litter to the helicopter, knowing full well that when he exposed himself from behind the wall that he would leave himself completely vulnerable to enemy fire. Seeing where the MEDEVAC helicopter was landing, PFC Fontenot directed the quick and careful movement of MSG(R) Pittman's litter toward the landing site under enemy small arms fire. Undeterred by the risk, PFC Rosario quickly grabbed the back corner of the litter and began moving to the MEDEVAC as it approached.



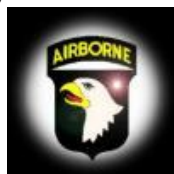
Before reaching the helicopter, PFC Fontenot and PFC Rosario were forced to take a knee in the middle of the field with the casualty, as the MEDEVAC raced toward them, pushing a cloud of dust and rocks ahead of it. PFC Rosario quickly covered MSG(R) Pittman, protecting him from the rocks and debris being tossed by the MEDEVAC. Nearby, Soldiers covered the movement with spectacular and furious suppressive fire. As soon as the brownout lifted and the helicopter came to a halt, PFC Rosario and PFC Fontenot quickly moved forward and secured MSG(R) Pittman in the helicopter.

30 July –
03 August 2010



1LT Timothy Hopper (HHB/1-320 FAR), was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart while heroically distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as a platoon leader, 2nd platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment.

Assigned with clearing Objective Bakersfield 1LT Hopper led his platoon onto the objective and began marking suspected IEDs for reduction. On the morning of July 30, SGT Kyle Stout was hit by a IED and with complete disregard for his own safety due to the threat of secondary IEDs, 1LT Hopper rushed to begin treatment to SGT Stout. First on the scene, he rapidly assessed the situation and began first aid treatment. After



applying tourniquets and combat gauze, he began coordination for air MEDEVAC.

On the morning of July 31, while taking accurate, sustained small arms fire from two buildings of interest, 1LT Hopper talked a heavy weapons team onto target and engaged with Hellfire and 30mm fire. These lethal and accurate strikes destroyed the enemy position and disrupted their attack. He continued to direct lethal strikes on enemy positions throughout the day.

On the afternoon of August 1, the friendly position began taking accurate 30mm grenades fired in an indirect fire mode. 1LT Hopper exposed himself to the hostile fire and assisted in treating the initial wounded and moving them to the aid station. He also began positioning Soldiers in more secure positions to protect them from the indirect fire.

Shortly after, he was hit with shrapnel in the leg from a nearby impact. He paused briefly to have the wound wrapped. Then he continued out into the open, again disregarding his own safety, to ensure the wounded were loaded for transport and that no additional casualties had been taken. 1LT Hopper's routine exposure to danger, composure under accurate fire and drive to help his brothers-in-arms were absolutely essential to the battery's successful seizure of Objective Bakersfield. His heroic actions during combat operations in Afghanistan contributed to the success of the command's mission.



01 August 2010



SSG Christopher Young (A/2BSTB) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for actions as he proved vital in the successful clearance and seizure of Objective Bakersfield, key terrain previously held by determined and capable enemy forces.

On 1 August 2010, SSG Young utilized his expert knowledge of explosives and problem solving skills to develop a plan to clear intricate IED minefields of unknown depth and complexity, as well as facilitate the seizure of a compound used by insurgents to mount heavy sniper, machine gun, RPG, and 30mm grenade attacks against STRIKE Soldiers. Once the dismounted patrol neared the objective, SSG Young initiated movement of his squad into their respective security positions. While seizing the objective, his element was engaged by a barrage of small arms fire, 50 meters east of their position. Undeterred by the volume of accurate enemy fire, SSG Young, having never before used this weapon in combat, fired an APOBS to clear a lane up to the predetermined breach site. The APOBS detonation resulted in two sympathetic detonations and destroyed a nearby enemy fighting position.

SSG Young continued to push forward of the security detachment to continue with the breach and utilized a second APOBS, resulting in an additional sympathetic detonation. While placing explosives at the breach site, SSG Young's squad came under a sustained 30mm grenade attack and a shower of machine gun fire from the northeastern side of the compound. SSG Young instructed his security detachment to take cover and return fire while he and his squad proceeded to place 1,500 pounds of C-4 and Bangalore torpedoes at key points along the structures of the compound. Moving under constant enemy fire, SSG Young inspected the emplacement and initiation tied on each charge. In total, his team destroyed 13 compounds and three enemy fighting positions which had been a safe haven to enemy forces and a staging point of numerous attacks on Coalition Forces.

After SSG Young cleared the compound and the patrol seized the objective, the patrol continued to receive 30mm grenades, RPG, and heavy machine gun attacks from concealed fighting positions in the vicinity of the objective. SSG Young and his squad reconnoitered the area and developed a course of action to eliminate enemy cover and concealment in the immediate vicinity of COP Stout. Through the use of Vallons mine detectors, over 600 pounds of explosives, and CTF Top Guns Soldiers, SSG Young and his squad leveled 400 meters of wall, destroyed 10 trees, and provided the fields of fire critical to the defense of COP Stout.



SSG Young's unparalleled courage against a formidable enemy force, during 120 hours of continuous operations, enabled CTF Top Guns to accomplish its mission. SSG Young's developed APOBS TTP was disseminated throughout US Forces – Afghanistan and the successes of SSG Young facilitated CTF Strike receiving heavy and dismounted Sappers from the US Marine Corps, Royal Engineers, CTF Bastogne and CTF Rakkasans Sappers.

01-
16 August 2010



SPC Michael Cooper (2/502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while playing an integral role in supporting 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, in the clearance of Objective Bakersfield by eliminating an enemy marksman.

1-320th FA BN was facing a persistent and accurate enemy marksman threat in Top Guns area of operations. Early in July, an enemy marksman engaged a Soldier in a guard tower at Combat Outpost Nolen resulting in his death.

The Scout platoon of 2-502nd IN BN was selected by the 2nd Brigade Headquarters to increase the combat capabilities of 1-320th FA BN by providing much needed counter-sniper support. 1-320th FA BN had recently established COP Stout in Objective Bakersfield to support offensive operations and to secure the area. The Scout Platoon arrived at COP Stout on the early evening of August 2, and immediately began to support 1-320th FA BN in the clearance of Objective Bakersfield.

During the early morning hours of August 3, SPC Cooper moved with his Sniper team to a position 200 meters to the south of COP Stout. Within minutes of first light, the position began to receive effective precision small arms fire from behind a five-foot wall 150 meters to the south and southeast of SPC Cooper's position. Over the course of the next three hours, SPC Cooper's position continued to receive effective small arms fire from five different positions to the south.

At 0910, SPC Cooper, while scanning his sector of fire for targets, observed a single military aged male 175 meters to the south of his position. The military aged male was wearing a makeshift ghillie suit, composed of strips of burlap sacks, holding a rifle while moving through a tree line parallel to SPC Cooper's position. SPC Cooper, without hesitation, engaged the enemy marksman with two rounds. The enemy marksman immediately dropped and was not observed again. The battle damage assessment patrol was able to locate a blood trail that led to a compound, which was a historical enemy CASEVAC site, 100 meters from the last known location of the enemy marksman.



SPC Cooper's tactical and technical proficiency was critical in the successful clearance of Objective Bakersfield. Since his successful engagement, 1-320th FA BN has not received any additional fire from an enemy marksman. SPC Cooper was directly responsible for preventing the injury or death of fellow Soldiers while assisting 1-320th FA BN in securing the area surrounding COP Stout.



***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."

