



## 2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) "STRIKE HISTORY" 28 September – 04 October 2014



28 September 1967

**Operation WHEELER** (2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry): In the early morning light, the base of fire platoon moved to its position without incident as did the two platoons that would make the assault. When the prep fires by the artillery battery were to begin, I learned that the data from the previous day's lengthy adjustment mission had been lost and the fires would have to be adjusted once more from scratch. I was furious at this development but had little choice other than to restart the fire adjustment. I had hoped for a devastating battery 3 or 6 on the target as our opening move. Instead we had round after round fired singly to adjust on the target while the enemy took cover against the coming barrage. We finally got a good fire for effect and the maneuver force began to move down the finger sometime around noon, if memory serves. LT Barnhill made some progress but reported that he was being sniped at from positions that he had passed as people popped up from apparent spider holes in his rear. I told him to pull back a safe distance and we would put more air and artillery on the target. He did so and we employed 5 or 6 CAS missions against the finger and much more artillery and helicopter gunships. He tried to advance again late in the day, but the results were the same. The enemy was obviously well hidden and well protected to have withstood the pounding we had given them. I called off the attack and ordered the company to reassemble in the Night Defensive Position. We would try something different the next day.

During the withdrawal of 4th Platoon from its base of fire support position, 1LT Peake was wounded by an enemy 7.62 round. He made the march back to the CP unassisted and told me he had been wounded, but requested to stay with his platoon. I directed him to get on the Medevac we had called to take out the 2 or 3 wounded we had sustained. The medevac came in on the road just east of our NDP as the last light was fading.

During the day, I had employed numerous CAS missions through the airborne FAC. Most of the ordnance had been "snakes and nape" which were 250 lb high drag bombs and napalm canisters. A pair of Marine planes delivered 5 inch Zuni rockets on one occasion. One pair of F-100s gave late warning that they were low on fuel and would have to drop all their ordnance on one pass. I knew that our guys were down and ready for the 250 lb bombs, but as the aircraft rolled in the FAC told me each plane was armed with two 750 lb bombs! I barely had time to get a warning to LT Barnhill when the bombs exploded! Fortunately for our troops, they landed on the west side of the finger and our troops were all on the east side. It was a very close call! Another close call for me personally occurred when I was sitting up on a large flat boulder so that I could see the target area and the rest of the battle space. During a lull in the action, I looked off to the south and realized that I was exposed to any enemy that might be in that generally open area to our south. I got off the rock and positioned myself on the north side of it so that the rock provided cover from the south. The very next CAS mission that came in dropped 250 lb high drag bombs and I heard a very loud metallic sound as something bounced off the rock I had just been sitting on. I soon realized from the sound that it must have been one of the tail fins from a



bomb that had just struck where I had been sitting minutes before! (Charles P. Otstott, Alpha Company CO Sep-Nov 1967).

28 September 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** 2/502 Battalion moved to FSB Whip, and began patrol and ambush operations in the new AO. There was one enemy sighted and several cultivated fields and small caches were found.

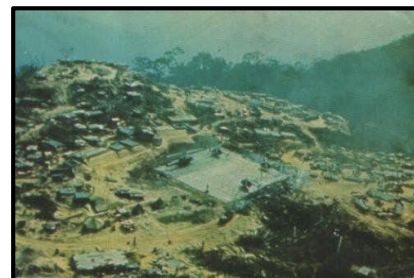
29 September 1967 **Operation WHEELER** (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry): During the night, a plan was devised at battalion HQ to reinforce A Company with the Recon Platoon and to employ more artillery on the next attempt to take the finger. We essentially ran the same attack plan again only we had the Recon Platoon air assault well above the enemy on the ridgeline and attack downhill along the finger in conjunction with our two platoons. The Battalion S3 was over the battlefield early in the morning controlling the insertion of the Recon Platoon and then directing the fires of two or three artillery batteries from the command and control helicopter. As our units were moving into their attack positions, the S3 gave an erroneous correction to a 105mm battery and the result was a volley of six 105 rounds landing amongst our troops and wounding several, including 1LT Jerry Barnhill the platoon leader of 1st Platoon who was wounded by shrapnel in the hand. (He was very angry, and justifiably so, when he returned to the CP as a "walking wounded.")

The Recondo Platoon air assaulted into an LZ about half a mile north and on higher ground from the enemy finger around noon. We reorganized, linked up with the Recondo element and pressed the attack again, only to find that the enemy had withdrawn during the night and left the position unoccupied. I moved the rest of the company to the finger where we reconsolidated and investigated the enemy complex. The NVA left some very new and very clean equipment behind. The NVA bunker and tunnel complex turned out to be a brick factory which used brick kilns as fighting positions as they afforded excellent cover and concealment to the enemy force. Also discovered was a tunnel large enough for 200 people and containing 200 pounds of marijuana. We decided to remain on the position long enough to destroy the complex with explosives so it could not be used again after our departure from the area.

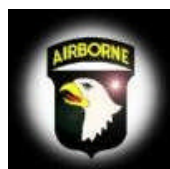
During the movement from the NDP to the abandoned enemy position, we passed the outpost that had engaged us on the first day of the fire fight. One dead NVA soldier lay beside the trail in green fatigues and new web gear. (Charles P. Otstott, Alpha Company CO Sep-Nov 1967)

29 September 1968 A/1-502 conducted security of An Lo and mine sweep. B/1-502 had movement near one of their ambushes, vic. YD6532, they engaged with SA fire, with negative results. A look-out on the tower at An Lo, spotted 15 individuals, digging-in. Artillery was called in.....results unknown.

29 September 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** FSB Whip received 26 rounds of 60mm mortar fire with six impacting inside the perimeter causing four US casualties. September closed with no more enemy contact. C/2-502 found an abandoned tunnel, while D Company found a cultivated field with fence and rodent traps.



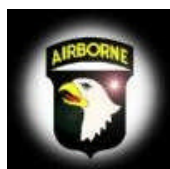
29 September 2012 **Insider attack.** On 29 SEP 12 a platoon from 2-503 INF, during an engagement with Soldiers from 3/4/203 ANA KDK, are ambushed by members of the ANA at



CP COLUMBUS at the western mouth of Tangi Wardak This resulted in one US KIA, one US contractor KIA, and two ANA KIA.

- 30 September 1967 **Operation WHEELER** (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry): We spent the entire day of 30 September destroying the enemy complex, resupplying with ammo and planning the next move to a nearby prominent hill mass where the Recondo Platoon would be extracted. The route to the next hill took us into low ground that paralleled the trail we had been on when the engagement of 27 September began. The route then took us up a fairly gentle hill over what appeared to be open ground. We planned and registered fire support by the 4.2 inch mortar platoon at the fire base to walk rounds ahead of us during the move. We also ran local patrols to try to ascertain the direction the enemy had gone when they left the bunker/tunnel complex. We assumed they had departed to the west, but we found nothing to confirm or deny that premise. (Charles P. Otstott, Alpha Company CO Sep-Nov 1967)
- 30 September 1968 C/1-502 replaced A/1-502 on An Lo Bridge security. C/1-502 conducted RIF operation, vic. YD6731. B/1-502 detained 7 VCS, vic. YD6135.
- End Sep 2008 **Operation Strike Pioneers** Based on the Division mission, NLT 20 Sep 08, MND-B units, ICW PRT-B and partnered with the BOC, defeats threats to returnees, supports ISF execution of resettlement, and influences the Baghdad Provincial Government's planned Iraqi resettlement to sustain security and protect the population. The purpose is to support the Gol and ISF resettlement of returnees and refugees in a lawful and peaceful manner to protect the population by preventing violent extremist ability to re-initiate the cycle of violence. End state of this operation is that Iraqi families are resettled; ISF implements resettlement in a lawful manner; AQI, SGC, and other extremists are unable to exploit resettlement by inciting ethno-sectarian violence; and Iraqis and the international community view the Gol resettlement as equitable.
- End Sep 2008 **Operation Strike Badgers** A contingency operation to counter another potential SGC offensive within the Strike AO. The purpose of this Operation is to prevent Special Groups return from threatening the population and disrupting ISF, CF, and Gol momentum. As SG Criminals attempt to return to Shulla and Hurriya, they will re-seed caches and prepare for an escalation of violence. End state of the Operation is that the population remains supportive of resettlement and the ISF, and SGCs depart the AO or are captured.
- 01 October 1967 **Operation WHEELER** (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry): We cautiously moved from the vicinity of the destroyed enemy bunker complex toward the southwest and the hill at BT 035233 about 1500 meters away. We employed mortars and airstrikes on suspected enemy positions as we approached. We passed through a small hamlet consisting of 3 or 4 hootches which we searched. There were no military aged males in sight, only the usual women and children. We arrived on the hill around mid-afternoon without having any enemy contact. The hill turned out to be a well-used piece of terrain. It was virtually bare of trees and covered in grass with lots of fairly large boulders in outcroppings here and there. The visibility of the surrounding terrain was magnificent from the hilltop. One could see easily two to five kilometers in several directions from the position. To the west was a large hill mass that we suspected the enemy was occupying. We prepared to occupy the hill as our NDP while we also prepared for the helicopter extraction of the Recondo Platoon.

Sometime in the late afternoon, UH-1s arrived in our air space to lift the Recondos out. I had recommended they approach from the east due to the unknown enemy situation to the west. But the wind was out of the east and the helicopters arrived in trail formation from the east and made a wide U-turn to make their final



approach to our position from the west. This maneuver took them over the jungle terrain about 2 kilometers west of our position. As the choppers straightened out of their turn and began their descent to our hill, the jungle erupted with automatic weapons fire directed at the helicopters...perhaps as many as 15 to 20 automatic weapons. Tracers were visible reaching up toward the choppers, but no hits were taken. We immediately called for artillery on the source area and we adjusted the fires of 155mm and 105 mm batteries into the area for about an hour, moving it all around the area from which the gunfire had come. We also employed CAS sorties against the area from which the fire came. I will always remember one pass made by the fast movers which came directly over our position flying east to west and shooting 20mm gatling guns at the enemy. I was showered with the shell casings and at least one live round that fell inside our position, but did not explode. It had not been fired, but was just ejected whole from the weapon as it passed overhead. The Recondo Platoon flew away and A Company was once again on its own.

About 1645 or so, the Battalion Commander LTC Danford called me on the radio and asked if I was ready to go down and attack the area where the fire had come from! I told him that I felt the enemy was in great strength from the volume of fire put up at the helicopters and that the area should be the objective for a battalion attack, not just my company. I suggested we hold our position for the night and plan a deliberate multi-company attack for the next day. He agreed and we stayed the night on the hill. The plan was for us to move toward the area in the morning with C Company pressing toward it on our south and B Company doing the same to our northwest. (Charles P. Otstott, Alpha Company CO Sep-Nov 1967)

01 October 1968

A/1-502 conducted RIF. Vic. YD6530, they engaged 2 VC with SA fire, resulting in 1 VC KIA. One of their day ambushes KIA 1 VC, vic. YD6928. B/1-502 engaged 3 VC with SA fire and clamors, vic. YD6031, with negative assessment. 01 - 08 October 2009 2nd Brigade Combat Team conducts Combined Arms Walk and Shoot Exercise, incorporating ground forces, direct and indirect fire, and combat aviation forces.

01-07 October 2012

**ANSF mission command of independent operations.** On 3 OCT 12, 1/1/201 ANA Kandak took contact in the vicinity of Parwai, Laghman. The 1/1/201 ANA Kandak rapidly responded to the TIC and marshaled 3 companies of combat power to pursue the enemy across the Alingar River into the Nurah Lam Valley. LTC Hokum Khan established C2 of the fight from an over watch position in the vicinity of Sunderwa. From that vantage point, he maneuvered three separate elements and incorporated organic mortars to fight the enemy. As this operation was not planned, 1/1/201 ANA Kandak had to execute a hasty CL V resupply with its QRF, establish an AXP near Sunderwa to move WIA back to Kalagush, and requested MEDEVAC for the VSI Soldiers. The fighting resulted in 3xEKIA (including INS leader Mullah Gul) and up to 7xEWIA. The actions of 1/1/201 ANA Kandak mark a significant achievement for the unit as operations in the Nurah Lam valley have long been considered high risk in a known INS safe haven. However, the Kdk and Brigade still require a great deal of improvement coordinating, battle tracking, and reporting. This operation was largely a Kandak fight because the Brigade was completely consumed conducting C2 of a concurrent clearing operation in Besram. The 1st Brigade LNO at the Corps had little understanding of the Besram Operation and even less information concerning the actions in Parwai. These factors limited the Corps/Brigade's ability to influence/resource the fight in Parwai when the Kandak started taking casualties. In an effort to immediately correct deficiencies in the Corps TOC, the Corps CoS spent most of the morning directing the BTL MAJ and LNOs to develop situational awareness and disseminate a common operating picture to the command.



**OPN OQAAB 35 (Wazir).** OPN OQAAB 35 commenced 3 OCT 12 to clear the villages of Wazir and Pirakhayl to deny insurgent safe havens in Khogyani District, Nangarhar. 1/4/201 ANA Kandak departed FOB Connolly and conducted linkup with the Khogyani AUP and 8/1 ABP units north of Wazir. The ANSF established blocking positions around the village of Wazir, and immediately received effective direct fire from 10-15 INS. A firefight ensued resulting in 4 x ANSF WIA. During CASEVAC of the wounded, the ANA identified that there were 4 x ANA DUSTWUN and the ANSF then spent the majority of the afternoon attempting to locate their missing Soldiers. Eventually, the Khogyani DSG was able to convince Afghan civilians to return 2 x dead ANA missing Soldiers, but 2 x ANA Soldiers remain missing. The Corps Commander and CoS continued to engage village elders IOT secure the release of the ANA MIA; and PGOV Sherzai issued guidance to the Wazir people to return the remaining ANA to GIRoA. Although the ANSF did not achieve their operational objectives, this was 1/4 ANA Kandak's first major clearing operation, and they learned several lessons for incorporation into the next fight. Through more detailed coordination, rehearsals, C2, and integration of enablers, the Kandak will continue to develop. The Brigade Operations officer stated that the Brigade will conduct a detailed AAR of today's operation and correct deficiencies before conducting further operations in the area.

**ANSF Realignment & PRV Strongpoint builds.** Upon completion of the Nangalam resupply last week, 6/2 Kdk began preparations to establish COPs at Sundray, Tantil, and Kandigal IOT maintain FOM on RTE Rhode Island. The Kdk commenced operations yesterday, and they faced substantial enemy contact at all three COP site locations. Although the enemy demonstrated strong resistance, the ANA persevered and occupied 3 compounds in Sundray. The ANA established OPs in overwatch of COP Sundray construction efforts and horizontal engineer assets are improving defensive positions. The 6/2/201 ANA Kandak Commander and CSM's presence and leadership during these operations have been fantastic. The leaders directed the Kandak to establish vehicle patrol bases in Tantil & Kandigal, and they positioned patrols to conduct disruption operations to maintain LOC security. In the coming days, LTC Turab has directed ANA and AUP in Sundray to visit local TB families and encourage an end to the violence in the area.

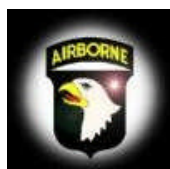
October 2009

2nd Brigade Combat Team C-T-Bs begin Eagle Flight I and II training exercises, focused on honing the skills and capabilities of C-T-B squads/teams and platoons respectively.

02 October 1967

**Operations WHEELER** (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry): Our plan was to leave one platoon in temporary over watch from the NDP and conduct a movement to contact with the company (-) north and west to the stream that ran north-south at the base of the NDP. We would cross the stream to the west side about 800 meters north of where we had seen the heavy concentration of automatic weapons the day before. We would bring the over watch platoon to the crossing site before moving south along the stream to find and attack the enemy.

We moved cautiously without incident through a small hamlet near the stream and arrived at the stream in mid-morning. The stream was about 10 to 20 meters across and waist to chest deep. We crossed it like a classic "danger area", putting M60 machine guns on both flanks of the near side to provide covering fire if needed. We sent the lead platoon across to clover leaf the far side and make sure there were no enemy in the vicinity before we crossed the main body. As I was crossing, I noted that two or three helicopters hovered over the stream about a mile to the north. At the time, I suspected they were from a unit to our north and may have been slightly out of their authorized area. I worried that they might see us, mistake us for NVA, and fire us up; but nothing happened. [Much later I learned that B Company was in heavy contact just north and a little west of us and



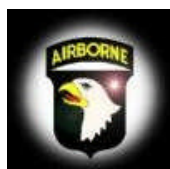
these were probably gunships supporting B Company. The battalion journal indicates that they may have been elements of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1/9 Cav which had been called to support B Company.]

We had 3rd Platoon in the lead moving south, then the CP, 4th Platoon, 2nd Platoon, and 1st Platoon which had been in over watch most of the morning. The lead platoon was soon in contact and deployed to maneuver against the enemy force on slightly higher ground. They reported rough going against automatic weapons and an occasional RPG. I moved forward to get a view of the action but could not get a clear picture. I sent 4th Platoon under SFC McDaniel's to the right to try to flank the enemy engaging 3rd Platoon. 4th moved a short distance before being engaged and reporting that they were pinned down. I moved to 4th's position and found them at the base of a small hill from where they had received fire that had killed one man with a bullet through the forehead. I told McDaniel's to see if he could get moving by employing fire and maneuver and then went back to my CP location.

Meantime, we were firing artillery to support our attack as close as we dared. 3rd Platoon began to maneuver forward employing hand grenades against NVA in spider holes. By late afternoon we had made some progress by employing gunships, artillery and fire and maneuver with 3rd Platoon doing most of the work. It began to rain and we had only about two hours of daylight left. At about that same time the battalion fire base came under attack and we lost our gunships to support the fire base defense. A short time later, 3rd Platoon called for resupply of hand grenades and I ordered 2nd Platoon forward to hand over their grenades to 3rd and reinforce the attack. While the two units were engaged in the handover and bunched up somewhat at a trail junction, the enemy fired two 82 mm mortar rounds which landed in the midst of our troops with devastating results. We had 6 immediate KIAs and at least a dozen wounded, some critically. Concerned about a counter attack by the NVA and with casualties to evacuate in waning daylight, I decided to consolidate our position on the most defensible terrain in the area and call off the attack while we tended to our dead and wounded.

We consolidated on the small knoll beside the stream where I had established my CP. To our north about 25 meters was a rice paddy which had been almost dry before the rain started. We collected our wounded and our dead there as it was the best obvious LZ to use for evacuation of both. Medevac was near impossible due to the heavy rain and the enemy fire, but we were lucky to get a Dust-off pilot who was instrument qualified and had nerves of steel [This was MAJ Pat Brady (later Major General) who earned the Medal of Honor in January 1968 for similar heroic evacuations under fire.]. B Company had been in heavy contact also about a mile to our north west, and they had several critically wounded troopers also. We had 4 critical WIA and several walking wounded. The Battalion TAC CP had been hit with mortars and small arms fire and they had several critically wounded to evacuate. The Dust-off went to B Company around midnight in the driving rain and made a trip back to Chu Lai. He returned to B Company for more critical WIAs and then announced that he would come to us and could take two of our critical WIAs. We lit the LZ with white light flashlights and he was able to drop in from the east, but took fire from our west during his descent. He took out two of our most critical cases and said he would return for the rest. He tried hard to get back in on his third trip, but the weather had gotten worse and he could not land. Regretfully he had to return to base and we had to keep our casualties with us all night. They were laid out on the edge of the rice paddy and the medics tended them throughout that long night. In the morning a grim sight greeted me as the rice paddy had filled with water and some of our dead and wounded were partially submerged in the shallow water.

It rained very hard most of the night. We formed a tight perimeter in heavy brush and I circulated early to encourage the men and to caution everyone to be alert.



Some of our wounded were moaning and calling out in the early evening, but that dissipated as they fell asleep. I had asked for a "Spooky" flare ship to keep us illuminated all night and aid in our defense. It was pitch black without the flares due to the rain and clouds. I talked to the flare ship all night long on the radio to keep him over us and putting the flares out at the right place. Sleep overwhelmed me several times and the flare ship strayed out of our area once. We were not attacked that night, but it was a very tense period, one of the longest nights of my life. (Charles P. Otstott, Alpha Company CO Sep-Nov 1967)

03 October 1967

**Operation WHEELER** (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry): Early in the morning, another Dust-off came and took the rest of our wounded. The Battalion Commander came in to assess the situation and took some of the dead troopers out in his ship. We received an ammunition resupply slick which took the remainder of our dead troops out. We had about 18 rucksacks from the dead and wounded to dispose of, so we stacked them in a line beside the rice paddy on the trail. When we left the area, we hoped to return and recover the gear. But if that were not possible, we intended to have an airstrike come in and napalm the stack to prevent the enemy from salvaging anything from the rucksacks.

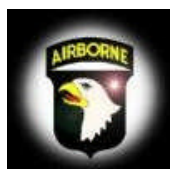
We departed the area about mid-morning to link up with B Company in accordance with the plan discussed between me and the Battalion Commander during his visit. I hated to surrender the battlefield to the enemy, but we were down to about 60 effectives by this time. The enemy apparently continued to hold the higher ground to our southwest, so it was doubtful we could dislodge them. B Company had endured a rough 24 hours also. It was a good thing for both companies.

We linked up with B Company at their location by late morning and began to set up a joint defensive perimeter. CPT Dick Boyd and I were good friends and we were glad to have the other as reinforcements. We settled in to get some rest, maintain our weapons and equipment, reorganize, and prepare for future operations. The weather was not bad that day, but it was expected to get worse the next day.

The rest of that day was uneventful. The duty log shows our field strength at the close of the day as 52 assigned and 10 attached. B Company had 91 and 13. (Charles P. Otstott, Alpha Company CO Sep-Nov 1967)

03 – 13 October 1968

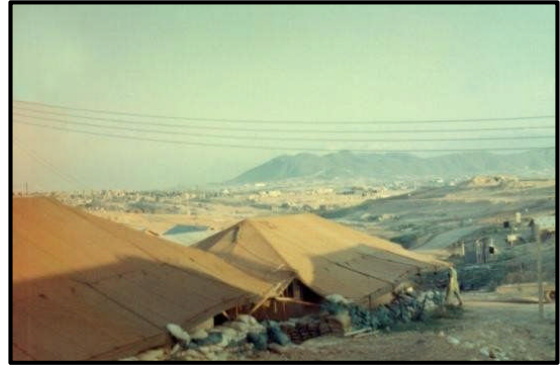
**Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Numerous ammo caches and base areas were found in (Vic. YC8500) along with increased light contacts. 13 OCT C/2-502 returned from OPCON. The 2nd Bn (ABN) IN effectively accomplished its mission during operation NEVADE EAGLE. The enemy sustained significant losses in personnel, equipment, and morale. His base areas were no longer safe. He lost valuable caches of weapons and ammunition. He was continually kept off balance, thus making it virtually impossible for him to mass and launch a full scale offensive. The results of this action were 102 x KIA, 42 x KBA, 1 x NVA POW, 3 x crew served weapons captured, and 87 individual weapons captured. US casualties: 25 x KIA, 136 x WIA.



03 October 1970

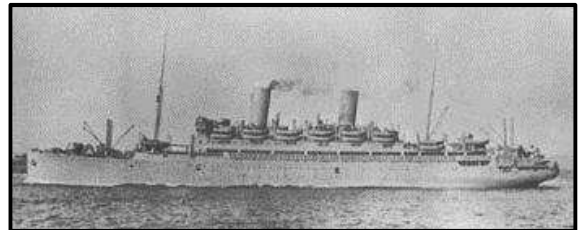
**Operation JEFFERSON**

**GLEN:** October opened quietly as the 2/502 Battalion began a new month with company size RIF operations in the vicinity of FSB Whip. Bad weather began to move over the AO necessitating resupply by parachute. D/2-502 engaged three enemy organic weapons. One friendly Soldier was wounded, while enemy results were unknown. FSB Whip was closed. The Battalion returned to Camp Eagle (Pictured) for refitting while the forward CP moved to OP Checkmate.



04 October 1943

The 502<sup>nd</sup> embarks on the SS John Ericsson to complete the rest of their voyage to England.



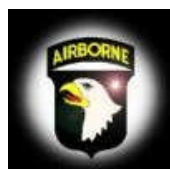
04 October 1967

**Operation WHEELER** (2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry): This day began with terrible weather throughout the battle zone. Some aircraft were grounded and we were told to expect little resupply and to maintain our defensive positions. We did call for and receive the airstrike on our abandoned equipment.

Toward noon, a chopper came in carrying two meals in mermite: one breakfast and one lunch. Dick Boyd and I consulted and I took the breakfast for A Company while B Company got the lunch. Very soon after we began to eat, soldiers began to get sick. The very first was my interpreter. Soon we had about 17 troops throwing up and requiring medevac. The breakfast meal had been contaminated and food poisoning had cut my strength by about 25%, even though we expected most to be back within 24-48 hours.

LTC Danford flew into our position in the afternoon to confer about our next steps. He told me that he would get immediate replacements flowing to me and we decided to pull A Company off line to a relatively safe area and receive the replacements in the field. I told him I would need a couple of days to assimilate the new troops and get them accustomed to the environment before we went "back on line". I planned to get them assigned into our existing structure and conduct at least one day's worth of short patrols to get them settled in their units and knowledgeable about our operations. It would have to be quick learning, but it was better than nothing. We determined that I would take A Company back up on the dominant high ground where we had been when the Recondo Platoon had been extracted after their choppers had been fired upon. We would make the move the next day.

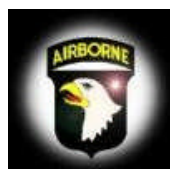
When LTC Danford's chopper lifted off the LZ, it took ground fire from a few hundred meters away from our position. Dick Boyd put an air strike into that area. The day closed without additional activity. (Charles P. Otstott, Alpha Company CO Sep-Nov 1967)





04 October 1968

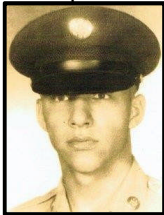
A/1-502 set up blocking positions, vic. YD6729 for 2 platoons sweeping from southeast. B/1-502 had 2 Cheiu Hoi's lead them to an arms cache, containing 2 60mm mortars and 18 individual weapons, 1000 rounds of ammo, 8 clamors ( Chi Com), 10 rifle grenades, and 2 RPG rounds. C/1-502 received 2 mortar rounds at An Lo, Negative casualties. Recon/1-502 had stand-down at LZ Sally (Pictured).



**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 502<sup>nd</sup> IN Regiment.**

- 2 x Distinguished Service Cross
- 1 x Cross of Gallantry
- 11 x Silver Star (6 x Posthumously)
- 4 x Bronze Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
- 2 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
- 7 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 39 x Purple Hearts (24 x Posthumously)
- 5 x Non-Hostile Illness or Injury

28 September 1967



SP4 John M. Zehnder (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, Vietnam.

28 September 1968

PFC Walter C. Blanton (B/2-501 IN) died of other Non-hostile causes (Drowned/Suffocated) in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

28 September 1970



SP4 Jay A. Muncey (HHC/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, Vietnam.

28 September 1970

CPL David M. Hopkins (E/1-501 IN) died of other Non-hostile causes (Drowned/Suffocated) in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

28 September 2010

The following Soldiers: SGT Eric Mattos (D/1-502 IN); SGT Deuane Vilaythong (A/1BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with a grenade.

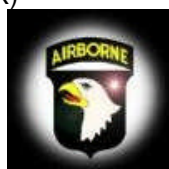
29 September 1944



The following Soldiers: PVT Charles Schmollinger (Pictured) (HQ/2-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) and PVT William S. Rosick (H/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during the Liberation of Holland.

29 September 1967

The following Soldiers: SFC James B. Fields (Pictured), SSG Craig A. McDaniel (Pictured), SGT William E. Wilson (Pictured), CPL George H. Ulrich (Pictured), CPL George E. Overshine, and CPL Robert J. Smith (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tin Province, Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)





29 September 1967

PFC William E. Hamilton (A/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 Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 September 1968



The following Soldiers: PFC Willie G. Gaddy and PFC Richard O. Gullixson (Pictured) (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 Quang Tin Province, Vietnam.

29 September 1970



SP4 Edward P. McCarthy III (E/2-502 IN) died of Non-hostile, illness or injury in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

29 September 1970



SP4 William J. Odstrcil (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death of wounds by other accidental causes in the unknown Province, South Vietnam. SP4 Odstrcil was injured on 13 June 1970, after a grenade accidentally exploded while his patrol was taking a rest. He was brought to Fort Hood, Texas and died of those wounds on this date.

29 September 1970



SSG (Then SP4) Refugio T. Teran (E/2-501 IN) was on Fire Support Base Henderson, about 9 nautical miles south-southwest of Camp Carroll and was occupied by 2-501 IN and 2-11 ARTY when FSB Henderson came under attack, first by heavy mortar fire, then assault by a North Vietnamese Army battalion. When FSB Henderson was relieved 24 American service members were dead and two were missing, which SP4 Teran was one of them. He was declared dead on 29 September 1978 and on 13 June 1996 his remains were repatriated, and positive identification publicly announced on 28 February 2002.

29 September 2010



SGT Justin Officer (B/1-75 CAV), 26, of Wichita, Kansas; was awarded 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 using an improvised explosive device.



29 September 2010 PFC Kevin Macari (HHB/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

29 September 2010 SPC Robert Perkins (HHT/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

30 September 1967 SSG William E. Willingham (HHC/2-502 IN) died of a Non-hostile injury from an Air loss or crash over land in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

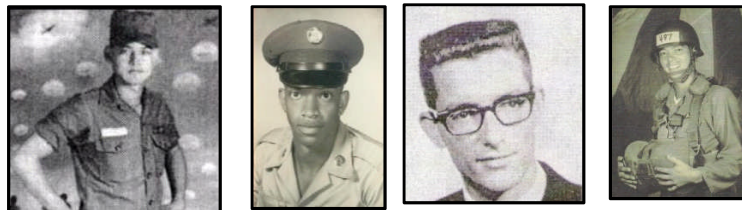


01 October – 30 November 1970



CPT Joseph L. Guerra (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star for an outstanding platoon leader, rich in ability and courage, who always demonstrated a spirit of zealous service. He especially distinguished himself in the Jefferson Glenn Operation, accruing during 1 Oct 70 to 30 Nov 70 in the Thua Thien Province. Although enemy fire was fierce, he was nonetheless brave and heroically commanded his men in combat, repelling waves of enemy attacks and causing 168 enemy KIA while confiscating 105 weapons of all types. (Signed BG Pham Van Phu, Commanding General First Infantry Division; 15 Feb 1971)

02 October 1967 The following Soldiers: SGT Richard P. Ruiz (Pictured), SP4 James T. Likely (Pictured), CPL Charles H. Kilgore (Pictured), SSG Ivan C. King (Pictured), and CPL Thomas E. Joseph (A/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 Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)

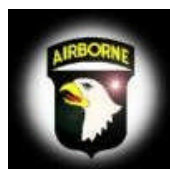


02 October 1967 CPL Sanford S. Johnson (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam.

02 October 2010 The following Soldiers: SFC John Allison and SPC Christopher (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with a grenade.

02 October 2010 The following Soldiers: SSG Joseph Perminas and SPC Aaron Murray (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with small arms fire and grenades.

03 October 1944 PFC William J. Heather (B/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during WWII in Holland, France.



04 October 1969



PFC James A. Biehl (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, Vietnam.

04 October 2010



SPC Joseph Prentler (G/3-2 CAV), 20, of Fenwick, Michigan; was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

04 October 2010

The following Soldiers: SGT Harris Dickie and PVT Douglas Carns (G/3-2 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

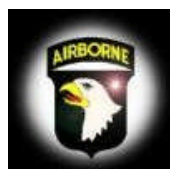
04 October 2010



SGT Karl Campbell (A/1-75 CAV), 34, of Chiefland, Florida; was awarded 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.

04 October 2010

PFC Joshua Pass (A/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.



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

28 September 1967 1LT Jerry R. Barnhill (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 28 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, First Lieutenant Barnhill's platoon became heavily engaged with an estimated enemy platoon in well-fortified positions. Lieutenant Barnhill immediately deployed his platoon and initiated an assault against the enemy positions. As the platoon moved forward, Lieutenant Barnhill led his platoon and accounted for personally killing one enemy soldier. When the lead element of the platoon became pinned down, Lieutenant Barnhill, with complete disregard for his own safety, aggressively charged a nearby enemy machinegun position and succeeded in destroying the position, killing two enemy soldiers and capturing the machinegun. Although Lieutenant Barnhill had been wounded, he continued to lead the assault, exposing himself to the heavy enemy fire, while giving his men encouragement and directing their fire by pointing out enemy positions. After the assault had been successfully completed Lieutenant Barnhill refused medical aid and evacuation until all his men had been cared for. First Lieutenant Barnhill's unquestionable valor was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

29 September 1967 SP4 Michael P. Perry (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Sergeant Perry distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 September 1967 while serving as squad leader of an airborne infantry company on a search and destroy mission near Chu Lai. The forward platoons of the company received a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire that pinned them down and inflicted several casualties. Sergeant Perry's platoon was contacted and requested to move forward and flank the Viet Cong. While advancing toward its sister elements, his unit was suddenly subjected to intense hostile fire from fortified and well concealed bunkers. While the rest of the troops provided supporting fire, Sergeant Perry and his platoon sergeant charged through a hail of bullets, firing their rifles and throwing hand grenades into the Viet Cong position. Several enemy grenades landed near Sergeant Perry, and he unhesitantly grabbed them and hurled them back at the insurgents. Although wounded by fragments from an exploding grenade, he refused to withdraw for medical treatment and continued his fierce assault until he had destroyed four enemy bunkers. He then quickly helped reorganize the platoon's troops and led them to relieve their beleaguered comrades. When savage automatic weapons fire again erupted on the platoon, Sergeant Perry and his platoon sergeant braved murderous fire to assault a Viet Cong position, successfully destroying it with hand grenades. Having expended his grenades, Sergeant Perry armed himself with enemy grenades and continued the attack through a curtain of fire. Sergeant Perry's extraordinary heroism 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. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 836 (February 23, 1968))

29 September 1967 SSG Larry A. Fletcher (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Staff Sergeant Fletcher distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 September 1967 while serving as platoon leader of an airborne infantry company on a search and destroy operation near Chu Lai. The company's forward platoons were savagely attacked and pinned down by a large Viet Cong force, and Sergeant Fletcher immediately led his men forward to reinforce the



embattled elements. After advancing five hundred meters, his force came under a murderous enemy barrage from self-concealed bunkers to the front.

Completely disregarding his personal safety, Sergeant Fletcher, accompanied by one of his squad leaders, attacked the hostile emplacements with rifles and grenades. Enemy grenades landed all around him as he assaulted, but he refused to take cover, picked up the grenades, and hurled them into the insurgents' bunkers. Fighting his way through a withering hail of bullets, he succeeded in destroying four fortifications. As he again led his men forward, they were hit a second time by intense automatic weapons fire from the front. Once more ignoring his welfare, Sergeant Fletcher charged the enemy position.

Despite bullets striking all around him, he reached hand grenade range and destroyed the hostile bunker with a deadly throw. As they neared the trapped platoons, his troops came under heavy fire a third time. Armed with enemy grenades captured earlier, Sergeant Fletcher and his squad leader assaulted the last bunker complex through a curtain of fire. Maneuvering from bunker to bunker while the Viet Cong concentrated fire on him, Sergeant Fletcher demolished four positions with grenade and rifle fire and forced the remaining enemy to flee the battlefield. His fearless actions in the heat of battle resulted in the destruction of nine bunkers and the elimination of eighteen enemy soldiers. Staff Sergeant Fletcher's extraordinary heroism 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. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 886 (February 27, 1968)

29 September 1967



SGT Craig A. McDaniel (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile enemy on 29 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. While on a patrol, Sergeant McDaniel's platoon received word that another platoon had become heavily engaged with an estimated platoon size enemy element and were pinned down. Sergeant McDaniel's platoon moved to the battle area and began maneuvering to the flank of the enemy element. Initiating the assault on the first enemy bunker, Sergeant McDaniel personally led his men and succeeded in destroying the bunker and killing two enemy soldiers. Immediately reorganizing his assault element, he again personally led his men in an assault on a second enemy bunker. As the assault element destroyed the second bunker, they were suddenly brought under fire from a third bunker. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant McDaniel charged the enemy bunker in an attempt to destroy it. Sergeant McDaniel was fatally wounded by the intense fire as he neared the bunker. His assault element became so inspired by their leader's courage that they viciously assault the third bunker and destroyed it. Sergeant McDaniel's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his intense devotion to duty were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

29 September 1967

PFC George E. Overshine (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile enemy on 29 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. When the 3rd Platoon of Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, made contact with an estimated enemy company in well-fortified positions, they immediately initiated an assault on a small network of bunkers and succeeded in destroying them. As the 3rd Platoon moved forward to assist a sister platoon, they hit a larger network of bunkers and were immediately brought under a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire. Private First Class Overshine immediately began to maneuver through a hedgerow and placed effective fire into an enemy bunker. Almost immediately, Private Overshine was taken under heavy fire from several more bunkers whose location he could not detect. Completely oblivious to the intense fire, Private Overshine crawled through the heavy enemy fire, throwing grenades and firing his weapon, until he located the enemy bunkers. As the platoon began to assault the enemy positions, an undetected enemy machine gun position opened fire on



them. Private Overshine, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, grabbed a hand grenade and charged the enemy position. Just as Private Overshine threw the grenade into the aperture of the machine gun bunker and destroyed it, he was struck by enemy fire and mortally wounded. As a result of his actions his platoon was able to successfully destroy the enemy bunkers. Private First Class Overshine's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty at the cost of his own life were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

29 September 1967



PFC George H. Ulrich (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 29 September 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. During an assault on heavily fortified enemy positions, Private First Class Ulrich had been given the mission of acting as rear security. Short after getting into position, Private Ulrich observed several enemy soldiers approaching the rear of his platoon. Realizing that he did not have time to warn his comrades, Private Ulrich, with complete disregard for his own safety, left his covered position and placed himself in a position completely exposed to the approaching enemy. As the enemy neared his position, Private Ulrich single-handedly engaged them, killing two of the enemy soldiers and wounding another. During the defense of his rear security position, Private Ulrich was struck by enemy fire and mortally wounded. His Courageous and aggressive actions prevented his platoon from being attacked from the rear and he undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades. Private First Class Ulrich's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

29 September 1967



SSG James B. Fields (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 29 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Fields distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action while on a search and destroy mission and his platoon became heavily engaged with an enemy force firing from well-fortified positions. In the initial stages of the firefight, the platoon was brought under intense automatic weapons fire and sustained heavy casualties. Sergeant Fields, under the covering fire of his platoon, rushed the enemy bunker in a determined effort to destroy it. As he neared the bunker, he was struck in the shoulder by the enemy fire and knocked to the ground. Picking himself up and completely disregarding his wound and the intense barrage of fire being directed at him, he continued in his aggressive assault. In the face of tremendous firepower, Sergeant Fields moved to within a few meters of the bunker before he was fatally wounded. Due to the courageous action of Sergeant Fields and the enemy's concentration of fire on him, the platoon was able to maneuver against the bunker and overrun it. Staff Sergeant Fields' outstanding display of gallantry, his aggressive determination and intense devotion to duty were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

29 September 1967

SGT Paul F. Moore (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile enemy on 29 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, the second platoon of Sergeant Moore's company came under intense automatic weapons fire from well-concealed enemy bunkers. Sergeant Moore moving quickly to the front led his squad to assist the pinned down platoon. Upon reaching the battle area, Sergeant Moore led his squad in an aggressive assault against the enemy positions. After advancing several meters on the enemy position, Sergeant Moore was wounded by an enemy grenade. Disregarding his wounds and personal safety, he continued to lead his squad's advance until they had swept the battle area and knocked out the enemy positions. After insuring that all his wounded had been taken to the rear, Sergeant Moore went to the rear to have





the aidman treat his wound. While the wounded waited for medical evacuation, the landing zone came under heaving automatic weapons fire. Again with complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Moore left his covered position and moved to the battle area, organizing a fighting team on the way. Sergeant Moore again led an assault into the enemy positions and knocked them out with grenade and rifle fire, forcing the enemy to flee the area. Only after returning to the evacuation area and insuring that all of the wounded had been evacuated, did Sergeant Moore allow himself to be evacuated. Sergeant Moore's courage and outstanding leadership undoubtedly saved his company from sustaining numerous casualties and was a decisive factor in the outcome of the battle. Sergeant Moore's unquestionable valor in close combat was in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

29 September 1967

SGT Paul Balog (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 29 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. On that date, Sergeant Balog's platoon became heavily engaged with an estimated two enemy squads emplaced in well-fortified bunkers. In the initial stages of the battle numerous friendly casualties were sustained. Sergeant Balog frequently exposed himself to intense hostile fire while pulling wounded comrades to covered positions, and carrying them to a nearby landing zone to be evacuated. When he returned to the area of contact, Sergeant Balog, his platoon leader, and one other man initiated an aggressive assault and succeeded in destroying four enemy bunkers and killing six enemy soldiers. Twice, Sergeant Balog fully exposed himself to hostile fire as he placed grenade fire into the enemy bunkers. During the course of the action, he was wounded in the shoulder by enemy fire. Without concern for his own safety, Sergeant Balog continued to fire at the bunkers until he succeeded in destroying them. When he ran out of ammunition, he obtained an enemy weapon and continued to move through the area. Suddenly, Sergeant Balog observed an enemy soldier in a well camouflaged spider hole and he rushed forward and killed him. Sergeant Balog's outstanding gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

29 September 1967



SGT William E. Wilson (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 29 September 1967 in the vicinity of Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Wilson distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic actions when his platoon became engaged with an enemy element of estimated platoon size firing from fortified positions. In the initial burst of fire several casualties were inflicted on Sergeant Wilson's fire team. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant Wilson rushed through the hostile fire and pulled the wounded to safety. He then reorganized the fire team and began to maneuver against an enemy bunker. As the fire team neared the bunker Sergeant Wilson dashed through the intense enemy fire and leaped on top of it. Just as he was preparing to throw a grenade into the bunker he was hit by hostile fire and critically wounded. Displaying undaunted determination Sergeant Wilson crawled to the aperture of the bunker and threw a grenade inside killing two enemy soldiers and neutralizing the position. Sergeant Wilson's unquestionable valor, fortitude, and dedication to duty were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.



29 September 2010



PFC Cameron Fontenot (HHB/1-320 FA), earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor when he heroically distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as a rifleman in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment. His heroic actions on that day were instrumental in saving PFC Kevin Macari's life.

PFC Fontenot's platoon conducted a dismounted enemy interdiction patrol in the grape furrows and pomegranate orchards west of Combat Outpost (COP) Stout. The enemy had seeded the area with pressure-plate improvised explosive devices (PPIED) in an attempt to disrupt coalition patrols in the area, making movement in the dense vegetation and challenging terrain slow and dangerous.

While moving through a vineyard, PFC Kevin Macari, the grenadier for bravo team, activated an improvised antipersonnel mine, amputating his left foot and sending shrapnel into his left arm pit and his spleen. The Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier that was partnered with PFC Macari received minor injuries. Due to the enemy protocol of emplacing multiple improvised explosive devices within the kill zone to target first responders, PFC Fontenot, the platoon medic, and the platoon sergeant, SFC Kyle Lyon, moved instinctively to render first aid but were forced to stop outside the kill zone until the area was cleared of secondary explosive devices before moving forward.



As the area was hurriedly cleared, the GIZMO mine detector failed. PFC Fontenot, observing the severity of his comrade's wounds, jumped over a grape furrow into the kill zone and began providing aid with total disregard for his personal safety. He arrived at PFC Macari's side and immediately began assessing the casualty. He quickly placed several tourniquets on the leg of the casualty and bandaged the deep shrapnel wounds on PFC Macari's armpit and abdomen.

Once the area was cleared of secondary explosive devices by the GIZMO mine detectors PFC Fontenot and SFC Lyon then began to direct the movement of the two wounded to a pre-established helicopter landing zone (HLZ) to the south of COP Stout. Without the selfless and heroic actions that have become second nature to PFC Fontenot, PFC Macari surely would have lost his life.

30 September 2010

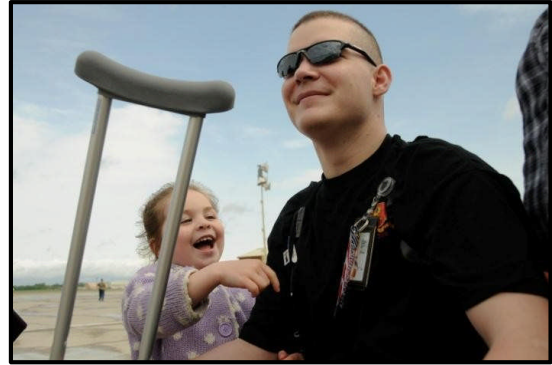


SPC David Bixler (HHB/1-320 FA) earned the Silver Star and Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he heroically distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy of the United States as a rifleman in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment. His heroically selfless actions on that day saved the life of an Afghan National Army soldier and left him severely wounded.

On 30 September, 1st platoon was conducting a combined dismounted area reconnaissance west of Combat Outpost Stout in the Arghandab River valley. The terrain was heavily vegetated with grape furrows and pomegranate orchards and the enemy had emplaced an untold number of pressure-plate improvised explosive devices (PPIEDs) in the area where the patrol was traveling. Because of this severe threat, the patrol had attached a Sapper squad that breached the east-west running wall on Route Mariners with explosives so a clear path would allow them to pass with their Afghan National Army partners unimpeded towards the objective.



The cleared path was marked with VS-17 panels and the platoon moved onward. SPC Bixler brought up the trail as the last man in the patrol to cross through the breach and he carefully picked up the panels which marked the cleared route as he crossed through the breach. While the patrol moved through the field to the south of Route Mariners, a suspected enemy IED was discovered using the platoon mine detector. The device was marked quickly and as the platoon attempted to establish standoff distance between the device and themselves, enemy elements waiting in ambush engaged the platoon from two separate locations with sustained PKM machine gun fires. The patrol responded in kind, but was unable to maneuver to close with the enemy due to the severe risk of IEDs in the surrounding fields, each of which had high walls surrounding them on three sides.



The patrol leader, 1LT Christopher Kinsel, gave the orders to break contact in order to flank the enemy positions from another, less dangerous field and directed that the patrol return through the path that had been previously cleared by the Sapper squad. Bravo team, with SPC Bixler on point, began to move back across Route Mariners through the breach point to establish a northern security position and to remark the cleared path across Route Mariners. As SPC Bixler began to lay the panels to mark the cleared path, one of the partnered Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers traveling with the patrol moved ahead of him and strayed out of the breached path and into an area that had not been cleared by the Sappers.

Immediately sensing the danger into which the ANA soldier had placed himself, SPC Bixler, with total disregard for his own safety, quickly ran to the soldier and threw him back onto the cleared path. As a result of his movement off the cleared path in order to save the ANA soldier from certain harm, SPC Bixler detonated a pressure plate IED beneath himself. Instantly, SPC Bixler's legs were amputated above the knee while the ANA soldier he had so gallantly saved sustained only minor injuries. Were it not for the heroically selfless actions of SPC Bixler on that day, the ANA soldier would have likely stepped on the device and sustained similar injuries or even death.

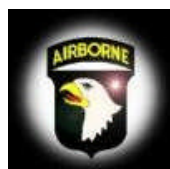
30 September 2010



1LT Christopher Kinsel (HHB/1-320 FA) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor when he heroically distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as a platoon leader, 1st platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Combined Task Force STRIKE, Kandahar, Afghanistan.

1LT Kinsel received the mission to conduct a search and attack to the southwest of COP Stout to destroy insurgent elements operating in zone. The platoon initiated movement and prepared to explosively breach a lane across an IED laden trail. When the explosive breach was complete, the lead squad with attached sapper team began taking machine gun fire from the east. The squad in contact forced the enemy to break contact and 1LT Kinsel led his platoon south.

As the platoon maneuvered into a field, they located multiple suspected IEDs with mine detectors. As they established security, multiple enemy machine guns opened fire from walled-off positions in an orchard to the south. The platoon attempted to take cover in the field and return fire. Recognizing the threat of



small arms baited IED attacks, 1LT Kinsel ordered the platoon to reposition and attack the insurgent positions from the flank.

As the platoon began establishing security near the breach lane, a Soldier was hit by an IED and grievously wounded. Still under heavy fire and focused on getting aid and litter teams to the wounded Soldier, 1LT Kinsel ordered the remnants of the lead squad and machine gun team to reposition. He remained alone in the field, engaging insurgent elements with his personal weapon to provide covering fire for their movement. He stayed in the open, firing three magazines at the enemy, and only displacing once the machine gun team had set into position.

He then bounded back to the platoon. As one squad executed the evacuation of the casualty to the helicopter landing zone, 1LT Kinsel continued moving from position to position, without regard for his own safety, to gain better bandage points and direct fires on the enemy. Once the casualty had been moved out of harm's way, 1LT Kinsel directed rotary wing fires against the insurgent positions, silencing their guns.



30 September 2010

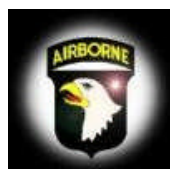


The following Soldiers: SPC Cliff Eberhart and PFC Jose Rosario (HHB/1-320 FA) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor when they displayed valor and courage in the rescue and subsequent aid of a fellow Soldier while reacting to a complex ambush.

On the afternoon of 30 September 2010, SPC Eberhart and PFC Rosario's Sapper team, along with 1st platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment and a platoon of Afghan National Army soldiers, conducted a dismounted demolition patrol approximately 400 meters from COP Stout, Arghandab Province, Afghanistan.

SPC Eberhart's task and purpose was to provide an explosive breaching capability in order to facilitate the emplacement of the security element's observation position. Upon arrival at the objective, the patrol became engaged from multiple enemy fighting positions with heavy and accurate fire. Without hesitation, SPC Eberhart returned effective fire on the enemy fighting positions. While intermittently suppressing the enemy, SPC Eberhart prepared, emplaced and detonated a field expedient line charge, providing his element with a clear path through the objective.

Once a clear lane was created, he positioned markers along its entirety, ensuring all friendly elements could identify the path. SPC Eberhart, once the marking was complete, placed himself at the entrance of the lane as a guide, personally ensuring safe passage for all friendly forces. Once safely across, SPC Eberhart emplaced his elements and directed fire, resulting in the suppression and disruption of the enemy. Due to the overwhelming effects of his team's fires, the enemy was forced to withdraw. After the enemy broke contact the patrol exfiltrated the objective. Near the entrance to the cleared lane, an ANA Soldier stepped off the path. SPC Bixler, a Soldier in CTF Top Guns, attempted to warn the Soldier. While attempting to physically retrieve him, SPC Bixler initiated an IED and was severely wounded. The detonation of this IED initiated a second

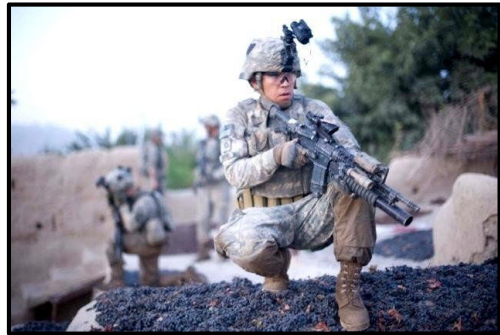


enemy attack. Immediately after the blast PFC Rosario maneuvered himself towards the direction of the blast and into the kill zone of an enemy ambush. Once he located the casualty, PFC Rosario dragged SPC Bixler into the blast crater to provide cover from the intense crossfire. Once in this partially covered position, PFC Rosario began to perform lifesaving medical treatment while bullets continued to fly overhead.



Instantly, and with disregard for his personal safety, SPC Eberhart maneuvered to the kill zone of the enemy ambush to retrieve the wounded Soldier. Once there, SPC Eberhart ensured that his team returned fire, while the wounded Soldier was recovered, and resumed directing movement at the breach site until the entire patrol was off of the objective.

PFC Rosario, upon the exfiltration of enemy forces, dictated the 9-line MEDEVAC request to the patrol leader. Once the request was complete, he continued to treat SPC Bixler and two additional wounded ANA soldiers. Once out of range of enemy attackers, medical assistance was initiated. SPC Eberhart established and secured a hasty landing zone for Air MEDEVAC. Upon the arrival of the MEDEVAC aircraft, while the platoon secured the site, PFC Rosario carried the wounded Soldiers to the landing zone and placed them on the bird.



As soon as the Soldier was evacuated, SPC Eberhart refocused his team on the task at hand. Despite the tragic loss, the remaining members of his element showed great resolve and continued the patrol and completed the mission. SPC Eberhart, PFC Rosario and the other Soldiers of his Sapper team exhibited the Warrior Ethos, refusing to leave a fallen comrade and placing the mission first.

SPC Eberhart displayed traits that have built the reputation of the U.S. military as an unstoppable force. SPC Eberhart's fierce courage under enemy fire and paramount commitment to mission accomplishment despite any and all obstacles saved the lives of three Coalition Forces Soldiers.

PFC Rosario's service in support of this mission was inspiring. His skills as a Combat Medic and as a Soldier were instrumental to the success of his Sapper team and the patrol that day. PFC Rosario, despite previously being injured during similar operations in the seizure of Objective Bakersfield, returned to his duties as the sapper platoon medic fully knowing the hazards of his chosen profession. PFC Rosario displayed the skills and bravery that have come to be expected of a member of 1st platoon, Company A, Sappers during combat operations in the Arghandab River Valley.

02 October 1967

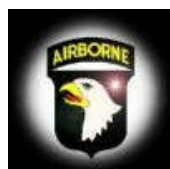
SSG John Jurinsky (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action: Staff Sergeant Jurinsky distinguished himself on 2 October 1967 while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam while serving with Company A, 2nd Battalion (Airborne),



502nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Sergeant Jurinsky's platoon was given the mission of assaulting a North Vietnamese Army defensive perimeter. The North Vietnamese Army force was in well camouflaged bunkered positions above Sergeant Jurinsky's platoon. The platoon deployed on line with two squads and began to move forward. Sergeant Jurinsky was initially with the third squad and in a reserve rear security position when suddenly the left flank squad was taken under an intense volume of enemy automatic weapons fire and became pinned down. The right flank squad began to maneuver, but became heavily engaged with automatic weapons and grenades. Sergeant Jurinsky immediately deployed his squad, gathered grenades and ammunition and rushed forward through the vicious enemy automatic weapons fire. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Jurinsky rushed forward and threw three hand grenades into the enemy bunker at a range of about ten meters. As the burst from the exploding grenades went off, Sergeant Jurinsky personally assaulted the enemy bunker and successfully killed the North Vietnamese Army soldiers inside. He was then under enemy automatic weapons fire again and was hit by a Chi-Com grenade that failed to explode. Sergeant Jurinsky pulled back below the next terrace. He single-handedly broke a counter-attack by throwing grenades and firing his M-16. Sergeant Jurinsky covered the withdrawal of the other squads to positions where they could secure their dead and wounded and while under fire helped carry them from their extremely exposed position. Sergeant Jurinsky's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are within the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

02 October 1967

CPT Richard K. Boyd Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 2 October 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Captain Boyd distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action while on a search and destroy mission when Company B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry became engaged with two enemy companies in fortified positions. As the point platoon assaulted the initial enemy bunker system, it was pinned down. Captain Boyd directed that two platoons move forward to assist the pinned down platoon. Personally leading the maneuvering force from point element, he started across an exposed area and was immediately brought under intense automatic weapons, rifle, and rocket fire. Observing that two of his men had been seriously wounded and were lying in an exposed area of hostile fire, Captain Boyd immediately, and with complete disregard for his own safety, rushed forward through the intense fire and pulled the men to safety. Captain Boyd then directed that one platoon give covering fire for the maneuvering element in order to withdraw its casualties and disengage the enemy to allow supporting artillery fire to be called in. Dazed by enemy rocket fire which wounded four, Captain Boyd regained his feet and, still exposed to the enemy fire, moved among his men's positions giving them encouragement and directing their fire. Captain Boyd remained continuously exposed until his wounded had been removed to safety. The outstanding leadership and courage displayed by Captain Boyd resulted in nine enemy dead. His gallantry while engaged in close combat with a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.



02 October 2010



SSG Christopher James (A/1-75 CAV) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he distinguished himself through exceptionally valorous conduct during a complex enemy attack as the platoon sergeant for the CTF Widowmaker Commander's Personal Security Detachment. SSG James' heroic actions and leadership prevented the loss of life for a wounded Afghan soldier.

Troop A, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment partnered with 1st Company/2/3/205 Corps ANA conducted clearance operations to clear enemy fighters in Zharay District, Kandahar Province of Afghanistan in order to disrupt Taliban influence and stabilize the area by opening a line of communication to connect the people to the government. On the second day of clearance operations the Squadron Commander along with the 2/3/205 Kandak Commander traveled to the Troop patrol base to meet with leaders regarding the progress of the clearance.

After the dismounted patrol was complete, the PSD mounted their vehicles and began to exfil from the area. Approximately seventy-five meters from the last covered and concealed location, the lead vehicle of the convoy became stuck in the soft sand. While attempting to recover the first vehicle, a second vehicle also became



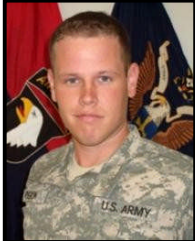
mired. Identifying that both vehicles were immobile and in the open, SSG James maneuvered his vehicle to a position to recover them. After maneuvering his vehicle, he immediately began providing security and directing the movement of the remainder of the convoy. As an ANA HMMWV maneuvered around the vehicles, it struck a pressure plate IED. The IED blast was immediately followed by enemy small arms fire from a tree line 150 meters away.

SSG James, approximately 20 feet from the blast site of the IED, was injured, temporarily disoriented, and in the open with no cover between him and the enemy positions. He quickly regained his awareness, kneeled, and began to suppress the enemy positions in the woodland. While the PSD and ANA suppressed the enemy, ANA soldiers began to exit the destroyed vehicle and move to a covered position. As the most injured ANA Soldier exited the vehicle and slowly crawled for cover, SSG James moved through the engagement area to the ANA soldier's location. Still under enemy small arms attack, he then grabbed the ANA soldier by the body armor and pulled him 20 feet to a covered position where he received medical attention. After ensuring the casualty received medical care, SSG James again moved to a position where he was able to directly engage the enemy. His actions during this sustained complex enemy attack were critical to saving Soldiers' lives on the battlefield.

SSG James' immediate actions in the kill zone, without regard for his own safety, enabled him to maneuver through insurgent small arms fire to recover a wounded Soldier from an IED strike. His actions ensured the Soldier was moved to cover where he received medical care. Furthermore, SSG James continued to engage the enemy in spite of his own injuries. Upon arrival to FOB Wilson, SSG James was immediately medically evacuated to Kandahar Role III medical care due to the seriousness of his injuries sustained in the initial blast.



04 October 2010



The following Soldiers: SGT Daniel Parce and SPC Jeffrey Rigdon, (D/2-502 IN) were awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while conducting a dismounted patrol south of Spin Pir, in order to clear abandoned enemy fighting positions. 1LT Summons, an attached Sapper platoon leader, triggered a pressure plate IED (PPIED), resulting in extreme injury to his back and legs. SGT Parce and SPC Rigdon ignored any threat of possible secondary IEDs, and rushed to the site of the casualty to help with treatment.

SGT Parce immediately took control of the aid and litter team, assessing the 1LT's injuries and aiding SPC Rigdon in the immediate treatment of the casualty. SGT Parce organized a fire team to locate and secure an emergency HLZ 300 meters north of the PPIED. The fire team was not able to keep up with their rate of movement, and SGT Parce and SPC Rigdon continued forward to expedite the MEDEVAC, while ignoring any threat of possible attacks.

SGT Parce and SPC Rigdon quickly secured the HLZ allowing the MEDEVAC to safely land and resulting in the helicopter to be "wheels up" and at the Level III at KAF in less than 25 minutes from the time of the initial injury.

SGT Parce and SPC Rigdon's quick action resulted in not only the survival of 1LT Summons, but also in no loss of limbs due to the PPIED strike.



04 October 2010



The following Soldiers: SSG Jonathan Gibson (A/75 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart; SPC Luis Jaime-Ponce was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor, while they distinguished themselves through valorous conduct during an improvised explosive device attack against Troop A, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry. SSG Gibson's leadership and SPC Jaime's assumption of the duties of his team leader contributed towards saving the life of one of their fellow Soldiers.

Partnered with 1st Company 2/3/205 Corps ANA, a patrol was conducted along an enemy infiltration route in Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. That morning, the section was moving from COP Fitzpatrick to an ambush position on Route Yellow in order to prevent the movement of Taliban forces to a position where they could attack the COP. About 20 minutes into the movement the section was directly hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) as they approached a large grape wall.

After SPC Jaime was hit by the concussion of the IED, which detonated within five meters of him, he instantly moved forward into the large crater created by the detonation to aid the wounded. Fully knowing the hazards of entering this danger zone, he courageously moved forward to provide assistance to his fellow Soldiers.

The IED killed one Soldier, wounded PFC Pass, and severely wounded SSG Gibson. SPC Jaime, identifying that his team leader was killed in action, immediately assumed his responsibilities by his own initiative. During this time, he aided his team leader, section sergeant, and a fellow Soldier while all were still in the kill zone among secondary IEDs.





SSG Gibson received multiple shrapnel wounds, including a large section of his right lower tricep removed as a result of the blast. Despite his wounds and inability to use his right arm, SSG Gibson immediately established accountability of his section, evaluated the other wounded Soldiers and initiated medical treatment.



SPC Jaime also assisted his section sergeant, SSG Gibson, and platoon leader in locating a helicopter landing zone (HLZ) for the MEDEVAC. SPC Jaime continued to report on the status of the wounded to his platoon leader. He provided his platoon leader with information for the medical evacuation report and as acting team leader walked the section perimeter to check security and began organizing security on the IED strike site in preparation for sending an element to the HLZ. Once a suitable location for the HLZ was determined SSG Gibson conducted leader-level reconnaissance to ensure it met the requirements and then instructed his section to secure and mark it.

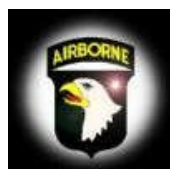
After assisting in the treatment of PFC Pass and calling in the medical evacuation request, SSG Gibson realized the extent of his own wounds. He refused medical treatment and walked around the perimeter to ensure his section continued to secure the area. SSG Gibson applied a tourniquet on his own arm and administered first aid.



SPC Jaime alternated between pulling security and monitoring the wounded and then he helped move the wounded Soldiers to the HLZ for medical evacuation. Upon arriving at the HLZ, he ensured that security was maintained. Once the MEDEVAC helicopter arrived, SSG Gibson assisted PFC Pass onto the aircraft and was the last one to climb on board. Despite displaying the symptoms of traumatic brain injury, SPC Jaime refused a ride on the MEDEVAC helicopter and instead remained behind to help pull security for hours at the IED strike site. He ensured the site remained secure until EOD arrived. It was only after EOD had completed their clearance and assessment of the IED strike site that SPC Jaime was evacuated to the medical clinic on FOB Wilson.

SPC Jaime's initiative and ability to take control at the critical point during an enemy attack was essential in preventing further loss of life. His performance and leadership during this event were well above expectations of a junior Soldier and instrumental in his section's response.

SSG Gibson's immediate actions in the kill zone went above and beyond expectations with utter disregard for his own safety and well-being by placing his men above himself.



**\*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 2nd Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry.

December 1967, 2nd Brigade deployed by C-141 aircraft to the Republic of Vietnam. Over the next five years, soldiers of the "Ready to Go" Brigade participated in twelve campaigns, compiling a distinguished combat record as well as an enviable reputation for success in the rehabilitation of a war-torn nation. The President of Vietnam personally decorated the colors of the Brigade three times, twice with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and once with the RVN Civic Action Honor Medal. The Brigade redeployed to Fort Campbell in April, 1972.

In 1984, with the reorganization of the Combat Arms Regimental System, the 2nd Brigade became the parent headquarters for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Battalions of the 502nd Infantry Regiment. With this reorganization, the Brigade adopted the regimental motto, "Strike."

