



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) “STRIKE HISTORY” 2 February – 08 February 2014



02 February 1968

2d Battalion (Abn), 501st Infantry was placed under the operational control of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division and remained in this status for approximately two weeks. During this period, the Battalion initially provided security for Camp Evans and subsequently conducted limited operations in the rocket belt around Camp Eagle and Camp Evans.



February 2003

In February 2003, the brigade deployed to the Middle East with the remainder of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) for what became Operation Iraqi Freedom. It returned a year later having led the Division through the key battles of An Najaf, south Al Hillah, Karbala, southern Baghdad, Mahmudiyah and Mosul.

2nd Brigade completed the two longest air assaults in Division history. In Mosul, it was instrumental in forming the City Council by holding the first free elections in the country since the fall of the regime. Over the subsequent 9 months, the Brigade rebuilt the city's hospitals, schools and water system.

2nd Brigade built a regional police force that became the model for the rest of the country to follow. It created the conditions whereby former Iraqi military personnel got paid and where the new Iraqi Dinar was introduced without incident. Above all, the Brigade fostered a secure environment that allowed the citizens of Mosul to live in a free and safe city that became a beacon of hope throughout Iraq.

The “STRIKE” Brigade then re-deployed back to Fort Campbell and began transforming from an Infantry Brigade to a modular Brigade Combat Team introducing the 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment; 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion; and the 526th Brigade Support Battalion to complement the 1st Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment.

The new and improved 2nd Brigade Combat Team deployed in September 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 2 BCT was assigned to an operational area south of Baghdad in arguably the most difficult area of operations in Iraq, supporting the strategic goal of stabilizing Baghdad. This area, due to the intensity of the insurgency, was labeled as the “Triangle of Death.”

The brigade rapidly initiated combat and counter-insurgency operations in this area to neutralize anti-Iraqi forces, develop Iraqi security force capabilities, secure key terrain, and improve government and economic development. In turn, the “STRIKE” Brigade established and fostered relationships with Iraqi Army leaders, local Sheiks, mayors, and city council members. The unit fought selflessly, disrupting enemy activities and denying terrorist safe-havens. The Brigade returned to Fort Campbell in late September 2006.

February 2005

2-502 IN awarded Meritorious Unit Commendation in support of military operations from March 19 – Sept 23, 2003. The battalion played a crucial role in the success of 2nd Brigade and the 101st Airborne Division in defeating Iraqi military and paramilitary forces, ousting the regime of Saddam Hussein. The battalion was key to the defeat of



enemy forces in the cities of Al Kufa, An Najaf, Karbala, south Baghdad, and Mosul. Throughout combat operations, they seized thousands of weapons, military equipment and ammunition, as it liberated the cities along its path, before settling in the northern city of Mosul. During stability and support operations in Mosul, the battalion continued to make its mark through vigorous patrolling, cordon and searches and civil affairs projects. The unit efforts allowed the Division to bring peace and stability to northern Iraq as well as improve the quality of life of the Iraqi people.

1-9 February 2013

MB 2 redeployment. The last TM STRIKE combat advisor teams redeployed from Logar and Wardak in early FEB 13. 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment (TM WIDOWMAKERS) Soldiers conducted reverse JRSOI through BAF and arrived at Fort Campbell, KY on 9 FEB 13.

03 February 1968

Operation SAN ANGELO: Mini-Firebase was extracted to SONG BE beginning at 0900H and closing at 1730H. The 2-502 began preparation for deployment to BIEN HOA to assume the mission of 101 ABN DIV IAF.

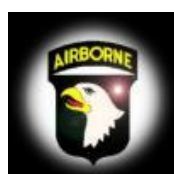
03 February 1968

PHU BAI - Thirty paratroopers of the 2nd Brigade; survived a helicopter crash landing near here recently and killed two VC as the Screaming Eagles waited for extraction. A "Chinook", ferrying the men of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. took a round in the rear engine and the troopers were alerted for a crash landing. As the cargo aircraft settled toward the ground, Lt. John Rodelli, Chicago, barked instructions to his platoon from A Co. "I told the men to set up a perimeter around the chopper as soon as we set touched the ground," Rodelli said. No sooner had the aircraft landed when enemy sniper fire peppered the area. Rodelli's platoon returned fire and killed two. The enemy firing ceased. Taking advantage of the lull, the pilot revved up the empty chopper and flew it to Phu Bai. Gunships arrived on station above the paratrooper platoon and provided covering fire.

04 February 1968

Operation SAN ANGELO: STRIKE Force advance part departed Song Be at 1700h. At 1919h the first C-130 sortie departed Song Be for Bien Hoa, and the battalion fighting forces closed at 050238FEB68 and then assumed the 101st Airborne Division IAF mission. Extensive search and destroy operations during Operation San Angelo were conducted with only sporadic, light contact with local force units. Contact with Main Force VC/NVA units failed to materialize

All missions assigned to the battalion were accomplished. While no significant contact was gained with the Main Force VC/NVA units, the activities of the STRIKE Force succeeded in keeping the local units in the Song Bo AO off balance during phase I and II. The results of the mission were twenty three (23) VC, one (1) NVA KIA, two (2) returnee, and eight (8) AK-47's captured. US losses were 3 x KIA, 25 x WIA.



February 1971

The 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry moved to FB Tomahawk (Pictured to Top Right) and FB Los Banos (Pictured to Bottom Right) and continued operations with the Battalion CP located on FB Tomahawk, and elements from Alpha Company securing both of the Fire Bases. During this operation the battalion joined forces with the 155th ARVN Co. to search out and attack enemy forces in the area. Alpha Company 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry was OPCON to 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry from 4 February to 9 February.



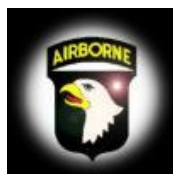
04 February 1972

Orders were cut directing the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, commanded by LTC John G. Pappageorge, relocate from RVN to Fort Campbell, Ky. The 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry would not, however, deploy as a unit: instead only one officer, one warrant officer, and ten enlisted men would bring the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry back to Fort Campbell. The rest of the “First Strike” troopers would either be reassigned in country, or receive PCS orders (on an individual basis) to various Stateside units. The color bearing detachment was headed by Captain Jack M. Davis, former S5 of the Battalion, and departed Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam (RVN), on 9 February 1972. CPT Davis and his men reported to Fort Campbell on 10 February.

Since only twelve “original” members of the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry returned to Fort Campbell from RVN, the spring and summer months were devoted to putting the “O Deuce” back on its feet. Officers and men came in slowly during these months, and it was not uncommon to see a company’s total strength as ten troops. The personnel who were assigned, however, had a mountain of work to do. The unit of choice program was emphasized to the maximum extent possible. Selected 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry troopers were sent in all directions with the mission of getting the word out about the First Strike Battalion and the 101st Airborne Division. Assigned to various regions throughout the United States, they spoke to businessmen of all trades, along with high school and college students. The effectiveness of their efforts are reflected in the fact that today, all of 90% of the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry troopers are volunteers, and this figure increases with every passing month.

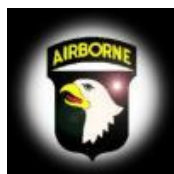
Operation Homecoming also received a good amount of emphasis within the unit. Conceived to officially welcome the 101st Airborne Division back to Fort Campbell, displays reflecting the history and traditions of the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry were set up, and the unit participated in the Pass-In-Review ceremonies in behalf of the Vice President Agnew, the Guest of Honor.

Numerous other commitments kept the small elements of the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry troopers busy. TO&E equipment had to be ordered, and as more and more personnel were assigned, the Battalion was required to move several times in search of more spacious quarters and offices. As spring faded into summer, the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry began to make preparations for the first complement of Advance Individual Training (AIT) students in knew it would receive in the latter part of September. Primary and assistant instructors went through special training of their own and the utilized their teaching skills ahead of time by assisting the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry in their AIT Schooling. Despite its small assigned strength, the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry also sent a



contingent of men to the United States Military Academy at West Point to help support USMA's summer training program. (1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1972 History)

- 05 February 1968 During the early morning hours the NPD of A/1-502 IN was heavily engaged by a reinforced NVA company. Heavy contact from 03:26hrs until 09:30hrs, when enemy broke contact. Patrols were sent out to assess the situation. Contact made with estimated NVA platoon. 5 NVA KIA (BC). Company sized sweeps sent out resulting in heavy contact and 20 more NVA KIA (BC). Alpha and Bravo extracted. Delta made negative contact. Battalion set up NDP's around Quang Tri for the night. Results: Friendly: - 33 WIA, 1 KIA; Enemy: 0 WIA, 25 KIA (BC) 100 KIA (Estimated); Captured: 2 MG's, 2 AK-47, 1-82mm and 1-60mm Mortar.
- 05 February 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** A/2-502 became OPCON to II FFV Fwd for a security mission Vic XS810945.
- 06 February 1968 1-501 IN, providing security for Seabee's repairing Highway 1, encounter a command-detonated mine. The platoon sent out patrols to look for Sapper who triggered it. Found the detonator wire and battery, but no triggerman.
- 06 February 1968 1-502 IN Battalion continues search and destroy operations southeast of Quang Tri, Very light contact with negative results.
- 06 February 1970 In three contacts west of FB Quick, A/2-502 killed two and captured three weapons. Also southeast of the Citadel, recon troopers of 1/501 engaged three VC in a bunker, killing them and taking weapons.
- 07 February 1968 1-502 IN Battalion continued search and destroy operations SE of Quang Tri with scattered heavy contact throughout the day. Delta reinforced by Recon and Bravo made contact with estimated NVA reinforced companies. Results: 25 NVA KIA (BC); Friendly 6 WIA, 2 KIA; Companies moved to NDP's by dark, estimated 100-150 NVA KIA during the day.
- 07 February 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** B/2-502 became OPCON to MACV HQS for a security mission Vic XS810945. At 1200H 2-502 began road march to AO DAN to the east of Bien Hoa escorted by a platoon of A/2-11 CAV. The move was uneventful and at 1350H 2-502 and G/2-11 CAV rendezvoused to form TF DAN Vic YT133123. At 1630H the C&C ship spotted 1 VC. Recon was deployed resulting in 1 VC Captured. VC was classified as a Chieu Hoi from the 48th VC BN.
- 07 February 1970 Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Platoon participated in an Air Drop exercise to protect Air Force personnel on the ground and to recover equipment from the test. The test was to see if a new beacon system could direct an accurate air drop of supplies during adverse weather conditions during low visibility, rain, or fog. They dropped 6 loads and the platoon was able to find them, which made the test successful.
- 08 February 1968 1-502 IN Battalion continued search and destroy operations southeast of Quang Tri, light contact was made during the day. Battalion received message from Brigade "Aerial observation and other sources gave 1/502 credit for 250 KIA (BC) for period 04 thru 08 February 1968." Results: Friendly 82 WIA 12 KIA; Enemy 6 WIA/POW 305 KIA (BC) 100 KIA (Estimated)
- 08 February 1968 During the night, Alpha and Bravo 1/502 IN; NDP site was infiltrated by sappers. Attacks were very heavy. Results: Friendly: 8 KIA, 19 WIA; Enemy: 11 NVA KIA (BC).
- 08 February 1970 FB Veghel closed as the 2nd Brigade began to phase out its operations against enemy supply routes out of the A Shau. The 1st Brigade's O-Deuce continued to RIF deeper into the 4th NVA Regiment base area southeast of Phu Loc.



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.

3 x Distinguished Service Cross Medals
 28 x Silver Star Medal (5 x Posthumously)
 4 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
 7 x Bronze Star Medal (6x Posthumously)
 5 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
 50 x Purple Heart (50 x Posthumously)

02 February 1966 SGT Jesse T. Bailey Jr. (B/2-502nd 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 Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

02 February 1970 SP4 Donald E. Bartek (C/1-502nd IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from misadventure (friendly fire) in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

02 February 2006 SPC Kelly Weaver (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received as a result of enemy or hostile action.

03 February 1966



SGT Richard C. Youngbear (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 Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

03 February 1968

SP4 James B. Brandon (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds received while on a military aircraft on courier mission and hit by hostile small arms gun fire in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. He was admitted to a military hospital where he later died.

03 February 1968

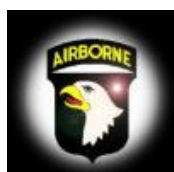


PFC James E. Malone (D/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

04 February 1966



2LT Frankie L. Wallace (B/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 Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.



04 February 1968



The following Soldiers: CPL Ernest L. Jacobs Jr. (B/2-501 IN), SGT Andrew L. Dawson and PFC Val G. Allard (Pictured) (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

04 February 1968



The following Soldiers: PFC Roy L. Winer (A/1-501 IN), SP4 Richard E. Harner Jr. (Pictured) and SP4 James Dziencilowski (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

04 February 1970

The following Soldiers: SP5 Albert W. Ott and SP4 Robert D. Souder (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.

04 February 1971

SSG Alden Bell (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. (1-501st Infantry Unit History)

04 February 2006

1LT Joshua Michaels (D/1-22 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was wounded by an IED while conducting vehicle recovery operations. He suffered a ruptured left eardrum and a contusion on lower right back.

04 February 2008

SGT Aaron Spence (1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was wounded while he was on a dismounted patrol when he was engaged by an IED. SGT Spence resulted in a perforated ear drum.

04 February 2008

PFC Blake Peaty (1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat.

05 February 1968



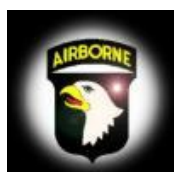
SP4 Ronald L. Means (B/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wound in the Quang Tri, South Vietnam.

05 February 2006

SPC Sergio A. Mercedes-Saez (2-502 IN), 23, of New York City; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed when the HMMWV in which he was riding rolled over into a canal in Baghdad.

05 February 2008

SPC Harrison Wooldridge (1-64 AR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting a route clearance patrol, SPC Wooldridge was operating the Husky, the lead vehicle in the convoy. SPC Wooldridge came under fire when an EFP detonated. Slugs and shrapnel from the blast penetrated his vehicle's hull, wounding his right foot and right thigh, as well as breaking numerous broken bones in his right foot. He was evacuated to Riva Ridge Treatment facility, where he received initial



treatment before being moved to the 86th Combat Support Hospital, and ultimately to Landstuhl, Germany.

05 February 2011

1LT Daren Hidalgo(G/3-2 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an anti-personnel mine.

06 February 1966

The following Soldiers: SGT Roy E. Thomas, PFC Timothy L. Hayes, PFC Walter Piper Jr. (Pictured), SP4 Joseph D. Guerrero (Pictured), and SSG Steven P. Mollohan (B/2-502 IN) and 1SG Alex E. Vaczi (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



06 February 1970



CPT James M. Lyon (HHC/2BDE) as a Field Artillery Unit Commander (Pilot) earned the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) military merit and wound received while on a maintenance mission on 5 February 1970, while flying a UH1H Helicopter from Hue to Phu Bai, South Vietnam. When about 18 miles northwest of Hue City, the helicopter caught fire and crashed (due to a malfunction), in the vicinity of YD494093. CPT Lyon was thrown clear of the aircraft and was burned extensively over most of his body, and a portion of his right leg four inches below the knee was severed. The other crew members CPT John W. Parsels (Co-Pilot), SP4 Tom Kobashigawa (Crew Chief), and SP5 Daniel H. Hefel (Door Gunner) were also injured at the time of the crash and could not take any evasive action. They were captured at 1630 hours by North Vietnamese troops and spent the night near the crash site. CPT Parsels reported during his "Homecoming" debriefing that CPT Lyons yelled and moaned in pain after the crash and during the night. AT 0600 hours the next morning he heard CPT Lyon moan and then he heard a shot fired from CPT Lyon's position about 30 feet from the aircraft wreckage. CPT Parsels heard no further outcry and believes that CPT Lyon was killed by the guards. Two weeks later he was told by 1LT Le Van "MAC" (An NVA Commander at "Camp Farnsworth"), that CPT Lyon died from his wounds, and was buried at the crash site. 1LT Le Van "MAC" gave CPT Parsels CPT Lyon's personal effects, which included his identification card and several photos which appeared to be his wife (NFI). (The same information was provided by SP4 Kobashigawa and by SP5 Hefel during their debriefings).

06 February 1970

1LT Russell A. Shields (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

06 February 2006

SPC Kenneth Sharp (A/2-101 BTB), (EOD Escort) earned the Army Commendation with Valor. As a member of EOD Escort, his courage, selfless service, and aggressiveness while engaging the enemy contributed immeasurably to both the success of his unit in combat and the safety of his fellow Soldiers.

06 February 2006

SPC Curtis Sherwood (A/2-101 BTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while operations during a route clearance mission to Sadr Al Yusufiyah, SPC Sherwood dismounted with a team to recon the road ahead to see if the buffalo would be able to make it down the road. SPC Sherwood was assigned the western sector in a security perimeter. The enemy ambushed the dismounts with RPG's and automatic small arms fire. SPC Sherwood's weapon was shot out of his hands. When the round impacted his weapon, metal fragmentations went into his hand from the enemy



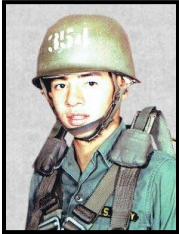
round. Two pieces went into his hand and underneath his skin all the way up to his wrist. He required a two hour surgery to remove the shrapnel.

07 February 1966



The following Soldiers: SSG Carlos Betancourt-Mojica and SP4 Sylvester Jackson Jr. (A/2-502 IN); SP4 Duane V. Olson (Pictured) (B/2-502 IN); SGT David B. Garcia and SGT Alexander Montoya (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gunfire wounds during a battle at My Canh 2, in the Phy Yen Province, South Vietnam.

07 February 1968



The following Soldiers: SP4 Raymond Brown (D/1-502 IN) and PFC Alfred Urdiales Jr. (Pictured) (E/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

07 February 1970

SGT Kenneth R. Lasseter (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

07 February 2006

SSG Justin Thomas (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting a relief in place during a patrol, an IED exploded destroying SSG Thomas' eyewear and sending debris into his eye.

07 February 2006

PFC Kenton Messmore (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting a relief in place during a patrol; an IED exploded hitting PFC Messmore with shrapnel in the left hip.

08 February 1966

SP4 Clarence Galloway (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

08 February 1969



The following Soldiers: SP4 Donald L. Kipp (Pictured) (C/1-501 IN); PFC Robert D. De Board (D/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 February 1969

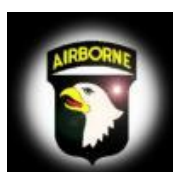
SP4 Joseph O. Strickland (D/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from misadventure (Friendly Fire) in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 February 2006

SPC Ian Brinson (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while during a dismounted patrol, SPC Brinson took rocket propelled gun fire, the round hit the M1114 that the Soldier was standing next to. He took shrapnel to the left shoulder and received ear damage.

08 February 2006

SPC Christopher McDaniel (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while during a dismounted patrol, SPC McDaniel took rocket propelled gun fire, the round hit the M1114 that the Soldier was standing next to. He sustained open wounds to the right hand and right thigh.



08 February 2006

SPC Raymond Perry (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while during a dismounted patrol, SPC Perry took rocket propelled gun fire, the round hit the M1114 that the Soldier was standing next to. He sustained a perforated left ear drum.

08 February 2011



SPC Nathan Carse (595th ENG), 32, of Harrod, Ohio, earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while an insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol using an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 595th Engineer Company, 2nd Engineer Battalion, 176th Engineer Brigade.

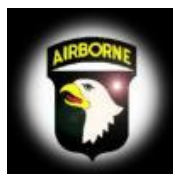
STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

02 February 1966

PFC Juan Sanchez Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. PFC Sanchez was a member of an element consisting of a wire laying team and one squad from the Recondo platoon which had been given the mission of laying a section of wire. As the element approached a small village it was suddenly brought under heavy fire from an enemy ambush. Private Sanchez immediately began to fire his machine gun into the enemy positions only to have it jam after several short bursts. Realizing how precarious the situation was becoming, Private Sanchez charged through the murderous fire and obtained a pistol from his Squad Leader and again with complete disregard for his own personal safety returned through the fire to secure the right flank. Private Sanchez again exposed himself to the intense enemy fire, firing a rocket launcher which he had been carrying into one of the enemy machine gun positions, killing several of the enemy soldiers and knocking out the machine gun. Private Sanchez then returned to his machine gun, broke it down, and corrected the malfunction. When the machine gun was again put into operation condition Private Sanchez began directing suppressive fire into the enemy position. After a short period of time, Private Sanchez was wounded in the leg but refused medical aid and began to secure his equipment so that it would not get into enemy hands. At this time Private Sanchez observed that one of his comrades had been wounded and lay in exposed area. Private Sanchez, disregarding his own safety and wounds, crawled to the side of his wounded comrade and dragged him to an area where he could be evacuated. Private Sanchez's outstanding display of courage and his devotion to duty are within the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

02 February 1967

SFC Camilio Gonzalez (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Star Medal for distinguishing himself while acting as platoon leader on a mission to relieve other friendly elements heavily engaged with the enemy. As he approached the battle area, his platoon suddenly received intense Viet Cong small arms and automatic weapons fire causing several casualties. Realizing that further efforts to advance would result in numerous losses, Sergeant Gonzalez called for reinforcements and an air strike. After directing the air strike, he organized his platoon for an assault. Because of the well fortified Viet Cong positions, he was forced to stop short of the objective. Observing that two squad leaders had been wounded, Sergeant Gonzalez reorganized his platoon and started forward again. After moving approximately 20 meters, they received intense hostile fire and sustained additional casualties. He then set up an extraction point and supervised the evacuation of the wounded. After the wounded were evacuated, Sergeant Gonzalez assembled his battle weary platoon, and once again assaulted the enemy fortifications. Sergeant Gonzalez, at the head of his platoon, charged forward and ran 50 meters across the open rice paddy, oblivious of the withering fire that engulfed the battlefield and that tore away his



equipment and knocked off his helmet. His men, spirited by this almost unbelievable act of heroism, assaulted behind their platoon sergeant and routed the enemy from its prepared defenses. Sergeant Gonzalez' extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military services and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

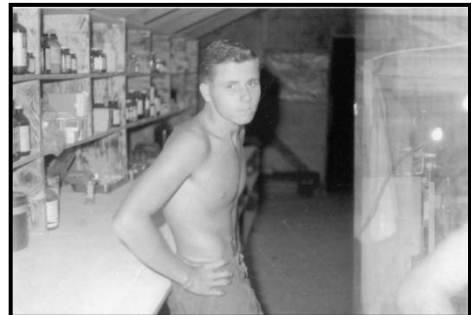
03 February 1966



SGT Richard C. Youngbear (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 3 February 1966 while serving as fire team leader of a reconnaissance patrol in the vicinity of Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours, while on guard on the patrol's perimeter, Sergeant Youngbear detected a hostile patrol that had approached to within ten meters of his position under concealment of darkness. Sergeant Youngbear, realizing that he had no time to alert the whole patrol, immediately engaged the insurgents with a deadly volume of automatic weapons fire. Although wounded in both legs by the Viet Cong fire, he courageously engaged the insurgents. As two of his men were coming to help him he shouted for them to pull back and take cover. Although hit several more times, Sergeant Youngbear continued firing, forcing the now disorganized Viet Cong to concentrate their fire on him. This enabled the rest of the small patrol to get in better firing positions to repel the hostile assault. Inspired by Sergeant Youngbear's fighting spirit against seemingly insurmountable odds, the patrol was able to repulse the attack. After the fierce fight, the patrol found Sergeant Youngbear mortally wounded with six dead Viet Cong around him. Had it not been for his devotion to duty, courage, and willingness to sacrifice his life, the entire patrol might have been taken by surprise and overrun. Sergeant Youngbear's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

03 February 1968

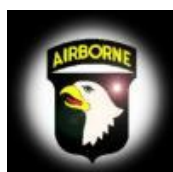
SP4 Lawrence E. Mize (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 February 1968. Specialist Mize distinguished himself while serving as a medic with the 1st platoon of Company A 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry 101st Airborne Division on an operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Mize was with members of the 1st platoon on an airmobile mission south of Hue when the helicopter was hit by automatic weapons fire from the enemy, forcing the ship to crash. The grounded helicopter was soon in flames and was again taken under enemy fire. The aircraft was evacuated, except for one man wounded by enemy fire and bleeding severely while still strapped to his seat. With complete disregard for his own safety, under enemy fire and with full knowledge that the burning aircraft might explode at any moment, Specialist Mize returned to the helicopter and treated the wounded man. Specialist Mize's quick and heroic action saved the wounded man's life. Specialist Mize's exceptional valor is 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 Orders Number 383)



03 February 1968



2LT John R. Rodelli (A/ 2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 February 1968. Second Lieutenant John R. Rodelli distinguished himself while serving as Platoon Leader of the 1st Platoon of Alfa Company 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Lieutenant Rodelli was with his platoon on a serial mission in a CH-47 helicopter when the aircraft came under direct fire, severely wounding one of his men and tearing into the starboard engine of the helicopter, thus disabling it. Told by the pilot that the helicopter was going to crash Lieutenant Rodelli quickly organized a perimeter defense to be established immediately upon contact with the ground. His calm manner and precise orders served well to prepare his men in advance and quell the fear that immediately rose with the news of the impending crash. Once on the ground the platoon evacuated the helicopter and



formed a perimeter defense to return the enemy fire. With enemy automatic weapons fire coming in, Lieutenant Rodelli calmly placed his men and directed the fire, at the same time calling in a Medevac helicopter, and radioing back for another CH-47 helicopter to come in to pick up his platoon. Then under enemy fire Lieutenant Rodelli rushed back inside the inflamed aircraft along with a medic to help treat the wounded man who was still strapped to his seat and bleeding severely. Provided with excellent covering fire, the Medevac picked up the wounded man, and the requested CH-47 helicopter landed to evacuate the rest of the platoon. With outstanding professional skill and exceptional bravery under fire, Lieutenant Rodelli directed his men aboard the helicopter while keeping the enemy no more than thirty-five meters distant, pinned down. In their defense Lieutenant Rodelli's men killed at least two enemy soldiers while suffering no casualties themselves. The successful defense and evacuation of his platoon as well as his personal conduct is testimony to Lieutenant Rodelli's outstanding heroism and high degree of professional skill under fire. Second Lieutenant Rodelli's extraordinary heroism is in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

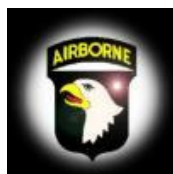
04 February 1966



2LT Frankie L. Wallace (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Second Lieutenant Wallace distinguished himself on 4 February 1966 while leading a squad size patrol on a routine search of several villages in the Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1430 hours as Second Lieutenant Wallace's squad approached a village, they were suddenly engaged by small arms and automatic weapons fire by an estimated Viet Cong squad. Exposing himself to the deadly insurgent fire, Second Lieutenant Wallace led an assault on the hostile positions. The assault was so aggressive that the Viet Cong were forced to withdraw. Second Lieutenant Wallace then led his patrol across an open rice paddy, skillfully executing fire and movement in pursuit of the insurgent force. The Viet Cong squad joined an estimated platoon size force who were well entrenched. Second Lieutenant Wallace directed effective artillery fire and air strikes on the hostile positions. When the supporting fires lifted, Second Lieutenant Wallace led his squad in an assault and was met by intense automatic weapons and mortar fire which forced him to withdraw. In the withdrawal, one fire team leader fell wounded....Without hesitation, Second Lieutenant Wallace ran in to the open rice paddy to aid his wounded comrade and was wounded in the leg before he could reach him. Unmindful of his wound, Second Lieutenant Wallace got up and continued toward the wounded man. As he approached the stricken soldier, he killed two Viet Cong who were also attempting to reach the wounded man. Fully exposed to the intense Viet Cong fire concentrated on him, he aided the wounded soldier. Second Lieutenant Wallace was mortally wounded by hostile automatic weapons fire while assisting his wounded comrade to safety. Due to his courage, inspiring example, and his leadership, he was instrumental in saving the life of a fellow soldier and accounted for twenty-seven Viet Cong killed. Second Lieutenant Wallace's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United State Army. (Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division, General Orders No. 3694 (June 12, 1966))

04 February 1966

CPT Henrik D. Lunde (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 4 February 1966 while serving as company commander during a mission to reinforce a squad size reconnaissance patrol that had made contact with a well-fortified Viet Cong platoon near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. As the lead elements of Captain Lunde's unit neared the battlefield, they encountered heavy automatic weapons fire from their front and left flank. Captain Lunde immediately ordered his platoons into an assault line. As the platoons were advancing by fire and movement across open rice paddies, it became evident that the reconnaissance patrol would be caught between the heavy fire of the Viet Cong and friendly elements. After an unsuccessful attempt to contact the platoon radio operators, Captain Lunde immediately moved from his position and by short rushes maneuvered through the hostile fire directed at him until he reached the center platoon. Since the platoon had lost several essential leaders, he regrouped the platoon, regained



the momentum of the assault, and led the troops forward. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he then ran 200 meters across an open field through another barrage of Viet Cong fire until he reached his right flank platoon. After coordinating his own flank elements with those of another company on his right, the Viet Cong force was finally defeated with 27 casualties. Captain Lunde's extraordinary heroism against a hard core force of Viet Cong was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

04 February 1966 –
04 January 1967

SP4 Charles W. Campbell (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for distinguishing himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period of 04 February 1966 to 04 January 1967. Through his untiring efforts and professional ability, he consistently obtained outstanding results. He was quick to grasp the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever changing situations inherent in a counterinsurgency operation and to find way and means to solve those problems. The energetic application of his extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United States mission to the Republic of Vietnam to assist that country in ridding itself of the communist threat to its freedom. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the United States Army and reflect great credit on him and on the military service.

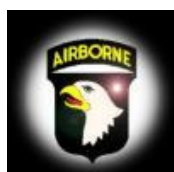
04 February 1966

PFC Michael Baldinger (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1-OLC) for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. PFC Baldinger distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 4 February 1966, in the Republic of Vietnam. While conducting a combat operation, elements of Private Baldinger's company were heavily engaged with an estimated reinforced company of North Vietnamese Army regulars southwest of Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. They were met by extremely heavy small arms fire from the entrenched Viet Cong. Unable to move further into the area, they began firing into the enemy's position. Suddenly a cry was heard that a medic was urgently needed. Without hesitation, Private Baldinger left his relatively secure area and ran forward in an effort to reach the wounded men. He ran through an open rice paddy, completely exposed to the withering enemy fire. After reaching the area, he began to administer first aid to the wounded. For one hour Private Baldinger could be seen crawling from one man to the next, even though he himself was completely exposed to the now extremely accurate enemy fire. His actions undoubtedly saved the lives of several Americans that day. Private Baldinger's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ; 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; GO No: 1451; 14 July 1967)

04 February 1968



CPT Gordon H. Mansfield (C/1-501 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, 1st Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Captain Mansfield distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 4 February 1968 as commanding officer of an airborne infantry company on a search and clear operation near Hai Lang. When his company came under devastating enemy fire, he immediately maneuvered his elements into positions for an attack. Receiving word that one platoon had been pinned down by enemy automatic weapons fire; he led a second platoon into position for a frontal assault upon the enemy. When the attack stalled in the face of ravaging fire, he led five men to the enemy's flank. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he led a savage charge upon the enemy position that completely destroyed it. Captain Mansfield repeatedly exposed himself to enemy weapons fire to evacuate his wounded men. While moving the casualties to safety, he was seriously wounded. Refusing aid, he continued to direct the evacuation of the wounded and coordinated with an adjoining company for aid. Only when he was certain that his men were safe did he agree to his own evacuation. Captain Mansfield's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service



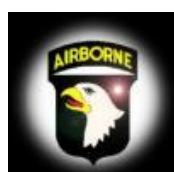
and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.
(Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 2945 (June 20, 1968))

04 February 1968

PFC DeForest S. Conner (C/1-501 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, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Private First Class Conner distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 4 February 1968 as a rifleman of an airmobile infantry company conducting a search and clear operation in the Hai Lang area. His platoon was advancing toward a village believed to be an enemy stronghold when it was suddenly taken under intense hostile automatic weapons fire from the right flank. Private Conner noticed that the fire seemed to be coming from a large enemy bunker adjacent to the concrete house. He jumped up and ran to a position ten meters from the enemy emplacement. He was wounded in the side during this maneuver, but he refused aid and began to fire into the fortification, allowing his platoon time to deploy for the engagement. He next attempted to throw a grenade into the bunker to destroy it. He was shot in the right arm. Disregarding his safety, he switched the grenade to his left hand and made an accurate throw. The explosion stunned the North Vietnamese Army soldiers in the bunker. Private Conner continued to place suppressive fire on the position and was wounded a third time. Realizing that the bunker would have to be completely demolished to eliminate its fire, he dashed forward, exposed to a hail of bullets, and tossed a grenade inside the emplacement which killed all its occupants. Unassisted, he then crawled to the rear for medical treatment. Private First Class Conner'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. 3645 (July 29, 1968))

05 February 1966

SP4 James C. Bennett (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself from 5 February 1966 to 6 February 1966 while serving as a medical aidman in the Republic of Vietnam. On the night of 5 February 1966, Specialist Bennett's platoon found itself situated in a Viet Cong minefield and had two casualties from detonated mines. Specialist Four Bennett, with complete disregard for his safety, ran through the minefield and administered first aid to the wounded men. On the following morning when his platoon attacked the village of Canh Tinh, they received intense automatic weapons and small arms fire that wounded three men. Again, exposing himself to intense hostile fire, Specialist Four Bennett went to their assistance and administered life saving first aid. After treating the wounded men, he pulled one of the men to safety and directed the evacuation of the other two men. When another man was wounded, Specialist Four Bennett again braved the hostile fire by running forty meters directly towards a Viet Cong machine gun position to aid the casualty. Approximately five meters from the wounded man's position, Specialist Four Bennett was wounded three times in the leg. Disregarding his own wounds, he crawled to the side of the wounded man and administered first aid. When the medical evacuation helicopter arrived, Specialist Four Bennett refused to be evacuated and continued with the platoon on the operation. Four hours later the platoon seized the village. While reorganizing the platoon, three men were wounded. Although suffering from pain, he went to the aid of the wounded, and was hit twice by mortar fragments. Disregarding his wounds, he pulled a wounded man across fifty meters of open rice paddies to safety. Despite his protest, he was evacuated for medical treatment. Specialist Four Bennett's courage and devotion to duty saved the lives of seven men within a twenty-four hour period. His impeccable valor in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



05 February 1968

CPT Paul M. Pritchard (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 5 February 1958. Captain Pritchard distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic actions near Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam. Captain Pritchard's company conducted an attack on a well dug-in enemy force of estimated Battalion size. The attack lasted for seven hours and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. During the entire action, Captain Pritchard continuously exposed himself to the heavy fire in order to control his units and direct supporting fire. His personal courage and the example set by him inspired his men and was a key factor in the company's successful attack on a strong enemy position. Captain Pritchard's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



06 February 1966

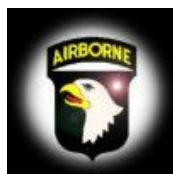


CPT Robert C. Murphy (C/2-502 IN) earned the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while Commanding Company C, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. On 6 February 1966, Captain Murphy, his command group, and one reinforced rifle platoon were deployed by helicopter to complete an encirclement of an entrenched Viet Cong company in the village of Canh-Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. On two occasions en route to their objective, this unit was subjected to intense and accurate sniper fire. Captain Murphy remained exposed to direct airstrikes and artillery fire into the insurgent positions in order to enable his unit to complete their objective. As Captain Murphy and his comrades approached the village, they came under deadly grazing machine gun fire. Upon coordinating with the other unit commander to launch a company attack, he led his troops in an assault through a murderous hail of bullets to storm the insurgent trenches. The Viet Cong fell back upon facing the attacking force. A vicious house-to-house battle followed. The Viet Cong, defending a series of fortified bunkers, pinned down one of the leading elements. Realizing that the momentum of the assault was faltering, Captain Murphy seized the initiative and charged through the intense hail of fire to destroy a bunker and kill two insurgents. Inside the village, a machine gun began firing at Captain Murphy. With great courage, and under the covering fire of another man, he again charged the hostile position, destroying the bunker and killing four more Viet Cong. He then recognized and consolidated his forces. The success of the operation was marked by his professional ability and courage. Captain Murphy's extraordinary heroism and gallantry in action are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. (HQ; U.S. Army, Pacific, G.O. Number 151; July 14, 1966)

06 February 1966



1SG Alex E. Vaczi (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while participating on a search and destroy operation at Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1800 hours, his unit received an intense volume of machine gun fire from well-concealed and heavily fortified Viet Cong positions near the village of Canh Tinh. Realizing the imperative need to locate and eliminate the hostile emplacements as quickly as possible to minimize casualties to his unit, First Sergeant Vaczi moved about the battlefield and placed his troopers in positions from which they could effectively engage the Viet Cong that he was able to locate. In one instance a well-concealed machine gun fired on the left flank of his unit. To locate this hostile machine gun bunker, he braved almost certain death by dangerously exposing himself, and then delivered extremely accurate fire on the hostile emplacement to force the Viet Cong to abandon the position. Despite the protests of all those around him, First Sergeant Vaczi persisted in exposing himself to the hostile fire while locating and directing effective fire on the Viet Cong positions. He continually encouraged and inspired his men to meet the hostile fire with a determined



aggressiveness. While moving from one man to another, First Sergeant Vaczi was mortally wounded. Even though he sacrificed his own life, his leadership inspired the platoon to locate and effectively engage the concealed hostile positions. First Sergeant Vaczi's gallant actions on the field of battle were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 February 1966

SSG Andrew J. May Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as a platoon sergeant during a reconnaissance operation near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. While moving toward their objective, Staff Sergeant May's squad received intense hostile fire. Staff Sergeant May deployed his men and continued forward. As his squad advanced, two troopers were wounded. Staff Sergeant May immediately threw grenades at the hostile position, killing a Viet Cong. With complete disregard for his safety, he braved hostile fire while assisting a wounded comrade. Carrying the injured man, he moved across open rice paddies to an evacuation point. Undaunted by the Viet Cong fire, he returned to his squad and gave the order to withdraw. He then took one man with him to provide covering fire while he moved to the other wounded trooper and managed to extract him. Later, he led an element into the village of Canh Tinh. While entering the area, his squad was again subjected to hostile fire. During the course of action, Staff Sergeant May assaulted a house occupied by a Viet Cong sniper and killed him with a well-placed grenade. Moving to the rear of the house, he encountered another Viet Cong in a bunker. Unhesitatingly Staff Sergeant May pulled another grenade from his belt and threw it into the bunker, killing the insurgent. Staff Sergeant May's courageous actions inspired his men to successfully complete their mission. His extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 February 1966

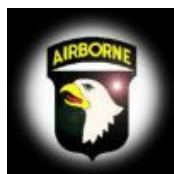


MAJ Donald B. Schroeder (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as task force commander of a battalion size force which was engaged with a Viet Cong force defending the well-fortified village of Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. Major Schroeder, while receiving hostile fire, courageously moved about the battlefield with complete disregard for his safety. On one occasion, he moved across seventy-five meters of open area to insure that all of his elements were coordinated. Major Schroeder then contacted the company commander of a reserve company and personally guided him into his sector. Throughout the remainder of the night, Major Schroeder calmly reported the developing situation of his task force. He directed aggressive patrols in pursuit of elements that were trying to break contact and cleared scattered pockets of resistance remaining in the village. His actions during the assault served as an inspiration to all and contributed immeasurably to the overwhelming victory. Major Schroeder's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 February 1966



SP4 Duane V. Olson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while participating on a search and destroy operation at Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1000 hours, Specialist Four Olson's unit was dispatched to relieve a friendly element that was pinned down by Viet Cong fire. As the platoon approached the friendly element, they came under intense sniper and machine gun fire and were pinned down. Specialist Four Olson detected a slight movement approximately one hundred meters away. Realizing that he could not place effective fire on the hostile targets from his present position, Specialist Four Olson picked up his machine gun and, without orders, he and his assistant rushed across a small clearing to a better position. He then fired into the hostile position and killed one of the snipers. While advancing on a Viet Cong machine gun position, his comrade was a wounded. Specialist Four Olson quickly rendered first aid to his wounded assistant, and began firing to enable him to crawl to safety. As Specialist Four Olson attempted to



reload his machine gun, the Viet Cong concentrated a deadly volume of fire on his position, and mortally wounded him. Because Specialist Four Olson had drawn the hostile fire on himself, the platoon was able to maneuver, eliminate the machine gun position, seize the village, and inflict numerous casualties on the Viet Cong. Specialist Four Olson's valor in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 February 1966

PFC Fount V. Smith (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. PFC Smith, with his unit, was helilifted to aid in the attack on a heavily fortified village. After ten minutes on the ground Private Smith's unit sustained several casualties and the situation became critical. Private Smith, without orders, began a one hundred meter crawl directly toward the enemy, although he was receiving heavy fire and was in grave danger. Upon reaching a trench, Private Smith began throwing hand grenades into the enemy positions. The Viet Cong spotted him and began throwing grenades back. Undaunted, and with complete disregard for his own life, Private Smith began picking up Viet Cong grenades and throwing them back. Soon Private Smith was out of ammunition and grenades and had no call for more. His comrades, some one hundred meters away, were unable to help him for almost ten minutes. Private Smith then received several grenades that were thrown to him by his comrades in the rear. After again expending all his grenades Private Smith called for more, but was unheard since all friendly forces were heavily engaged. He then rejoined his comrades and urged them to return to his previous location. Private Smith accounted for at least twelve enemy killed and paved the way for the assault which, together with actions of other friendly forces, routed a well armed enemy force from its prepared defenses. Private Smith's actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the American fighting man and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

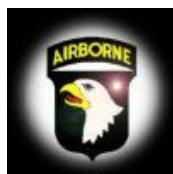
06 February 1966



LTC Henry E. Emerson (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as commander of a battalion which was engaged with a well trained and heavily armed Viet Cong battalion near Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. After directing the tactical deployment of his elements, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson became airborne in an H-13, a light observation helicopter, to continue the effective control of his maneuvering assault troops. While performing this courageous act, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson's aircraft received intense automatic weapons and small arms ground fire. Despite this, he remained over the battle area, pinpointed hostile emplacements, and analyzed the developing situations. Late that afternoon, the Viet Cong launched a heavy assault on the friendly force. At this time, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson landed his aircraft on the fire swept battlefield and personally directed the fire of his troops while repeatedly exposed to intense hostile fire. During the course of action, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson, with complete disregard for his personal safety, further exposed himself to Viet Cong fire while directing the medical evacuation of wounded. His outstanding devotion to duty, personal bravery, and leadership contributed immeasurably to the overwhelming defeat of the Viet Cong in that area. Lieutenant Colonel Emerson's gallant actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 February 1966

2LT James B. Craig (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as a platoon leader during a search and destroy mission at Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. While approaching a village shortly after midnight, the lead element entered a minefield and a soldier stepped on a min. For the next four hours, Second Lieutenant Craig led his men out of the minefield. Although another man stepped on a mine, he continued to encourage his men until all were safely out of the minefield. In the early morning his platoon suddenly received intense Viet Cong fire and sustained a few casualties. Realizing that further efforts to advance would result in numerous losses, Second Lieutenant Craig called for reinforcements and an air strike. After directing the air strike, he organized his platoon for an assault of the village. Because of the well-fortified Viet Cong positions, he was forced to stop short of the



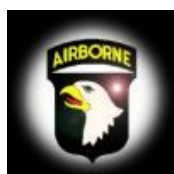
objective. Observing that two squad leaders and the platoon sergeant had been wounded, Second Lieutenant Craig reorganized his platoon and started forward again. After moving approximately 20 meters, they received intense hostile fire and sustained additional casualties. He then set up an extraction point and supervised the evacuation of the wounded. After the wounded were evacuated, Second Lieutenant Craig assembled his battle weary platoon, assaulted the village, and routed the Viet Cong defenders from their prepared defenses, Second Lieutenant Crag's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

06 February 1966

1SG Robert C. Melton (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as a First Sergeant during a company assault on the village of Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1400 hours, as First Sergeant Melton's company moved from a river bed, a Viet Cong force unleashed a devastating volume of automatic weapons fire from well-fortified bunkers. First Sergeant Melton immediately joined the company assault line, exposed himself to the intense Viet Cong fire as he moved from man to man, shouting words of encouragement, and directed fire on the hostile emplacements. First Sergeant Melton's inspiring leadership motivated the men and caused them to keep the assault line moving aggressively. When they neared the village, First Sergeant Melton rejoined the command element and assisted in the control of the unit. As they moved across a clearing, he discovered a seriously wounded soldier. Despite the intense Viet Cong fire, First Sergeant Melton carried the wounded man 35 meters to the safety of a dike. When two companies were pinned down by intense hostile fire from mutually supporting Viet Cong bunkers, First Sergeant Melton moved aggressively to within 10 meters of one bunker, threw a grenade into it, killed four Viet Cong, and destroyed the bunker. He then placed suppressive fire on the other bunkers while the elements of the companies advanced and destroyed the bunkers with hand grenades. Later, First Sergeant Melton organized the two elements into one unit and destroyed a final bunker. First Sergeant Melton's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 February 1966

SP5 Ronald J. Raney (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966, while serving as a member of a company during a combat operation near the village Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Five Raney was moving with the company command element when a radio operator was seriously wounded in an open field. Immediately Specialist Five Raney rushed seventy-five meters across the open field to the casualty. Although he was constantly exposed to intense sniper fire, Specialist Five Raney rendered first aid and carried the man back to safety. Within minutes, two men were seriously wounded. Despite intense hostile fire, he ran across a log bridge, picked up the injured soldiers, and helped them across one hundred meters of open rice paddies to a medical evacuation site. While directing the approach of a medical helicopter, the insurgents placed intense fire into the intended landing zone. Specialist Five Raney then, with great professional ingenuity, waved the helicopter away, constructed two poncho rafts and, while swimming beside them, floated both casualties down river to a more secure landing zone. During the ensuing assault on the village of Canh Tinh, Specialist Five Raney, though completely exposed to enemy fire, treated three more men and carried them to safety. Later, a man was wounded two hundred meters to his front. Disregarding the hostile fire, Specialist Five Raney ran through the open area, picked up the man, and carried him to a tree line. Through Specialist Five Raney's gallant efforts and devotion to duty, the lives of six men were saved. His unimpeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



06 February 1966

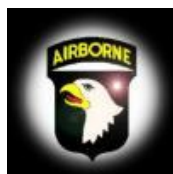
SSG Steven P. Mollohan (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as weapons squad leader on a search and destroy operation near Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1100 hours, his unit received an intense volume of machine gun fire from well-concealed and heavily fortified Viet Cong positions near the village of Canh Tinh. Staff Sergeant Mollohan unhesitatingly took the squad nearest him and maneuvered toward the insurgents flank. He inspired the troopers to follow his aggressive example as they began to assault the hostile positions. However, the Viet Cong shifted some of their fire to the advancing squad, and the momentum of their assault faltered. Staff Sergeant Mollohan then quickly moved from man to man, while completely exposed to the hostile fire, and established fire superiority over the insurgents. As the battle progressed and the platoon was maneuvering, Staff Sergeant Mollohan again exposed himself to intense hostile fire to direct medical aidman to the wounded. In one instance he ran across fifty meters of open rice paddy and pulled one of his wounded men to protective cover of a paddy dike so medical aidman could administer aid to him. As a new maneuver element advanced toward the Viet Cong trenches, one of Staff Sergeant Mollohan's machine guns jammed with a ruptured cartridge in the chamber. Realizing the importance of the fire power at this critical moment, Staff Sergeant Mollohan ran from man to man to find a cleaning rod to clear the chamber of the jammed machine gun. While exposed to the intense hostile fire that was concentrated on him, he was mortally wounded. His tremendous stamina, exemplary leadership, and personal courage contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Staff Sergeant Mollohan's gallant actions on the field of battle were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 February 1966

PFC Thomas C. Gorham (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while participating on a search and destroy operation near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1830 hours, Private First Class Gorham's squad was moving along a creek bed carrying wounded personnel to a helicopter extraction site, when suddenly they received intense hostile fire from Viet Cong entrenched positions on both sides of the creek. Reacting immediately to the situation, Private First Class Gorham ran through an open area, braved the hostile fire, hurled grenades, and fired his M-16 furiously. As a result of this action, Private First Class Gorham overran an entrenched machine gun position, and killed two Viet Cong. Later, with complete disregard for his personal safety while receiving intense hostile fire, Private First Class Gorham made a bold frontal assault on a nearby house, and succeeded in destroying the insurgent position and killing three Viet Cong. Private First Class Gorham's actions accounted for five Viet Cong being killed, five weapons being captured, and prevented heavy casualties in his squad. His unimpeachable valor in close combat against a hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 February 1966

CPT Thomas H. Taylor (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as commander of an airborne rifle company during a search and destroy mission at the village of Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. When elements of his company made contact with a large Viet Cong force, Captain Taylor immediately dispatched reinforcing elements and skillfully directed them into positions encircling the insurgent force. After assessing the battle from a helicopter over the insurgent position, he rejoined his company. As he made several attempts to move through the open rice paddies to join his most heavily engaged platoon he was met by increasingly heavy fire. Although he was unable to move, he continued to direct his platoon leaders and the deployment of another element to reinforce his encirclement of the village. As Captain Taylor moved forward through intense fire, he personally carried one of his wounded troopers to the casualty collection point. When one of his comrades was fatally hit and fell into a swift running river, Captain Taylor recovered the body of his dead comrade. After rejoining his element, he led an assault on an insurgent position and captured a machine gun. He then directed his scattered elements in the sporadic fighting throughout the night. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the decisive victory over the Viet Cong force. Captain



Taylor's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

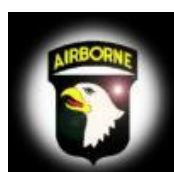
06 February 1966

SP4 Gregory Floor (B/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. SP4 Floor distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 6 February 1966 while on a reconnaissance patrol reconnoitering a valley west of the My Canh village. As the patrol was moving through the valley, the point man suddenly triggered a Viet Cong mine, wounding himself. Without regard for his own safety, Specialist Floor moved cautiously toward the wounded trooper. Putting the man on his back, Specialist Floor succeeded in bringing him to safety. Once outside the mined area, he began to administer first aid to the wounded man. While he was working on his comrade, another trooper detonated a mine, and he also lay wounded in the mined area. Again Specialist Floor, without hesitation, placed the life of his comrade above his own as he moved into the mined area and carried the wounded Soldier approximately one hundred meters to safety. Specialist Floor's devotion to duty and personal courage are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division; General Orders Number 583; 3 September 1966)



06 February 2006

SSG Patrick Reilly (A/2-101 BTB), Squad Leader (EOD Escort) earned the Army Commendation with Valor. SSG Reilly led his squad onto Route Utah in order to link up with an element from 1-75 CAV that had found an IED placed in a crater formed from the detonation of a previous IED. Upon reaching the link up site, SSG Reilly and his squad immediately began conducting the 5 & 25 drill to clear the immediate vicinity of possible IEDs. SSG Reilly and SrA Acosta, from the EOD Team, located a pressure plate IED consisting of two 120mm rounds approximately seven meters from where the squad had halted next to a 1-75 CAV vehicle. SSG Reilly moved the 1-75 CAV gun truck and his own vehicles east on Route Utah to a safe distance in order to allow EOD to destroy the IED with a controlled detonation. EOD then cleared the IED initially found by 1-75 CAV, determining that it was merely a decoy IED and set about sweeping the dirt area immediately north of Route Utah for the other IEDs believed to be there. Before the EOD Team finished their sweep, SrA Acosta stepped on a pressure plate setting off the two 120mm rounds it was wired to. SSG Reilly, seeing the detonation and the ensuing cloud of sand engulf three of his Soldiers, immediately rushed forward. As SSG Reilly approached the area of the blast he saw that two of his Soldiers were on their feet and moving back to the road but the third, SrA Acosta, was laying 10 meters from the road and severely wounded. SSG Reilly immediately moved off the road and without regard for his own life, crossed the IED seeded area to where SrA Acosta lie wounded. SSG Reilly quickly assessed the various wounds and immediately called for an air MEDEVAC to be requested. As the Eagle First Responder (EFR) Team arrived, SSG Reilly directed the medical treatment of SrA Acosta. SSG Reilly, upon seeing that the medic's tourniquets were not stopping the flow of blood from SrA Acosta's severed left arm, ordered SGT Lowell to retrieve a ratchet strap from his vehicle and use it to tourniquet the severed arm. The ratchet strap successfully cut off the flow of blood which kept SrA Acosta from completely bleeding out and dying before the air MEDEVAC arrived. SSG Reilly's courage, bravery, and professionalism were instrumental in SrA Acosta reaching the 10th CSH in the Baghdad Green Zone alive.



07 February 1966



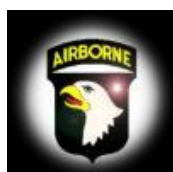
CPT Robert C. Murphy (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while serving as commanding officer on an assault in the village of Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. While enroute to their objective, Captain Murphy's unit received intense hostile fire from well-fortified Viet Cong positions and was pinned down immediately. Captain Murphy immediately called for air support and artillery fire. He then repeatedly exposed himself to the hostile fire to effectively direct air strikes and artillery fire upon the Viet Cong emplacements. This enabled his force to continue to the objective under the cover of suppressive supporting fire. As Captain Murphy and his force approached the village of Canh Tinh, they received deadly grazing machine gun fire. At this time, Captain Murphy, with complete disregard for his safety, conducted a frontal assault through a hail of Viet Cong fire, breached the hostile perimeter, and stormed the insurgent emplacements. The Viet Cong withdrew and a vicious house to house battle ensued. On one occasion, Captain Murphy's force was pinned down by direct Viet Cong machine gun fire. Dauntlessly, Captain Murphy rushed through the fire, destroyed the bunker with a hand grenade assault, and killed two Viet Cong. Inside the village, another machine gun opened up on Captain Murphy. Again, undaunted by the fire, Captain Murphy assaulted the hostile emplacement and neutralized it with well placed hand grenades, killing four Viet Cong. Through his fearless example and courageous leadership, the village was seized and the Viet Cong routed. Captain Murphy's unimpeachable valor 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. 2995 (May 20, 1966))

07 February 1966

1LT James E. Beitz (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while serving as platoon leader during a combat assault on the village of My Canh, Republic of Vietnam. As his platoon neared the village, it received intense hostile fire from a well-fortified bunker. Unhesitatingly, First Lieutenant Beitz deployed his platoon and directed a maneuver element to flank the hostile bunker. As the squad moved across an open area towards the village, they became pinned down by hostile fire. When a fire team leader was seriously wounded and exposed to the intense Viet Cong fire, several unsuccessful attempts were made to recover the wounded soldier. First Lieutenant Beitz, with complete disregard for his safety, while receiving hostile fire, crawled to the wounded soldier. Although he was seriously wounded while performing this heroic act, First Lieutenant Beitz secured a rope to the wounded man's body and began moving the casualty to safety. As he progressed, a hostile bullet severed the rope and because of the intensity of the Viet Cong fire, First Lieutenant Beitz was forced to abandon his rescue effort. He then withdrew his men and called in artillery fire. As he covered his unit's withdrawal, he was again wounded by hostile fire. First Lieutenant Beitz's unimpeachable valor in the face of a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

07 February 1966

SP4 Monte F. Cox (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while serving as a medical aidman during a combat mission near the village of My Canh, Republic of Vietnam. As Specialist Four Cox's platoon crossed a canal enroute to their objectives, they encountered intense small arms and machine gun fire. During the initial volley of fire, several casualties were sustained. Unmindful of the intense hostile fire, Specialist Four Cox moved across an open rice paddy to render first aid to his wounded comrades who were twenty meters from the entrenched Viet Cong. Having treated one man, he crawled to within five meters of a Viet Cong machine gun position to administer medical treatment to another wounded trooper. Immediately after rendering first aid, he picked up the man and carried him seventy-five meters through intense hostile fire to a covered position. Specialist Four Cox then returned, administered first aid to another wounded man, picked him up, and carried him across the same field through intense hostile fire. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Specialist Four Cox again returned through fifty meters of completely exposed battlefield to reach the wounded, treat their wounds, and direct others to carry them to cover. When all the wounded were evacuated Specialist Four Cox left the



battlefield. Through his courage, outstanding professional ability, and devotion to duty, he saved the lives of at least four American soldiers. The heroic actions of Specialist Four Cox were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

07 February 1966

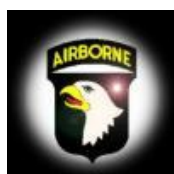
1SG Robert C. Melton (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while participating in a company assault on a Viet Cong village near My Canh, Republic of Vietnam. During the initial attack on the village, First Sergeant Melton courageously moved through intense hostile fire to within fifteen meters of a Viet Cong machine gun bunker to carry a wounded man to a covered position for treatment. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he returned to the scene of the vicious fighting three additional times to evacuate casualties. When reinforcements arrived and began suffering casualties, First Sergeant Melton again moved onto battlefield to within ten meters of a hostile automatic weapons position to carry a seriously wounded man to safety. Throughout the battle, he exposed himself to intense hostile fire while recovering his wounded comrades, and directing the fires of his men. First Sergeant Melton's actions were instrumental in saving many lives and enabled his company to complete its mission. His unimpeachable valor and devotion to duty in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

07 February 1966

CPT Robert C. Murphy (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while serving as company commander during a search and destroy mission near My Canh, Republic of Vietnam. When the lead elements of his company received sporadic sniper fire on the approach to the village, Captain Murphy immediately deployed his troops and initiated an assault on the Viet Cong positions. As the assault line neared the hostile emplacements the insurgent force unleashed a concentrated volume of automatic weapons fire from well-fortified bunkers. After ordering his troops to withdraw, Captain Murphy exposed himself to the deadly fire, skillfully directed effective air strikes on the Viet Cong positions, and supervised the evacuation of casualties. After nightfall, Captain Murphy personally led a small patrol to a position within five meters of a Viet Cong machine gun to extract the body of a fallen patrol leader. On the following morning, Captain Murphy led a successful assault on the village. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immensely to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. Captain Murphy's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

07 February 1966

SP5 Ronald J. Raney (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while serving as company senior aidman while participating in an assault on a Viet Cong village near My Canh, Republic of Vietnam. During the initial attack on the village, Specialist Five Raney's company sustained several casualties. Specialist Five Raney without regard for his personal safety, rushed to within five meters of a Viet Cong machine gun bunker to render first aid to two wounded soldiers. Realizing the need for their immediate medical evacuation, Specialist Five Raney again braved the hostile fire, carried one of the men to safety, and directed others to carry the other men to cover. When friendly reinforcements sustained several casualties while overrunning hostile bunkers, Specialist Five Raney again returned to the battlefield. Although completely exposed to hostile fire, he continued to administer first aid to his comrades, and refused to leave the battle area until all casualties were treated and evacuated. Specialist Five Raney's actions accounted for the saving of seven lives. His unimpeachable valor and devotion to duty in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



07 February 1970

SGT Kenneth L. Lasseter (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam of 7 February 1970. Sergeant Lasseter distinguished himself while serving as a team leader in the 2d Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, while conducting an ambush northwest of the city of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Shortly before midnight, Sergeant detected movement to the front of his position and moved to an area of limited cover to observe the situation. Discovering an enemy force rapidly advancing and about to overrun his position, he acted immediately. Engaging the enemy force with small arms fire and shouting instructions to his men, he drew the enemy's attention to his location. He remained at his open site and fired hand illumination to reveal the enemy force. Being unable to gain fire superiority, the enemy force broke contact. As it fled, Sergeant Lasseter was stuck down fatally wounded. His gallantry and sacrifice undoubtedly saved the lives of all his men, accounted for the killing of three enemy soldiers and the capture of three enemy weapons, and contributed immeasurably to the accomplishment of his appointed mission. Sergeant Lasseter's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

08 February 2011



1LT Patrick Lavin and SSG Patrick Smith Jr. (595th ENG) earned the Army Commendation Medal with valor while distinguishing themselves by their exceptionally valorous conduct during combat operations as a Sapper Executive Officer and Sapper Platoon Sergeant in 1st platoon, 595th Sapper Company, 2nd Engineer Battalion in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

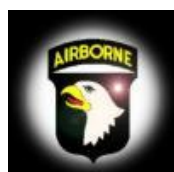
1LT Lavin and his team, consisting of SPC Carse, PFC Kitterman and SSG Smith were providing dismounted Sapper support to 1st platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment during an operation to destroy multiple enemy bunkers south of the village of Mollyan. While maneuvering to the location of the first bunker, PFC Kitterman, using a Vallons metal detector, identified a possible improvised explosive device (IED).



SSG Smith moved PFC Kitterman to cover and manually probed to locate the IED. After locating the IED SSG Smith placed a demolition charge on it in order to blow it in place and allow the mission to continue safely. After reducing the IED, SSG Smith led his team to complete the clearance and demolition of the targeted bunker. Upon completion of the demolition, 1LT Kerr, the 1st platoon leader for HHT, 1-75 CAV, notified SSG Smith via radio that his platoon had located another bunker to the east. At that time SSG Smith began to lead the team toward the next bunker.

While en-route to the bunker the last man in the formation, SPC Carse, triggered a victim operated IED (VOIED). SSG Smith, hearing the explosion, immediately checked his Soldiers and identified that the last man in the patrol had been struck. He identified SPC Carse down in the grape field and heard 1LT Lavin call "IED strike." Despite knowing that there were likely further IEDs within his immediate vicinity, 1LT Lavin and SSG Smith immediately ran to SPC Carse while calling the patrol leader on the radio to request the medic and initiate the 9-line MEDEVAC request.

Upon reaching SPC Carse, 1LT Lavin immediately assessed the extent of the injuries and lifted SPC Carse's gear from his face to allow him to breathe. 1LT Lavin reassured SPC Carse that he would be alright in order to calm him and help him control his breathing. 1LT Lavin then applied a tourniquet to SPC Carse's left leg, which was amputated in the blast. As SSG Smith and other members of the patrol arrived at the site to help, 1LT Lavin, remaining calm and focused, directed them to assist with treating the multiple injuries. SSG Smith immediately began applying a tourniquet to SPC Carse's left arm, which was amputated in the blast. After the medic arrived on scene, SSG Smith continued to assist the treatment while reassuring SPC Carse that he was going to be alright.



As the medic attempted to stabilize SPC Carse, SSG Smith directed the other Soldiers to help load him onto the litter. Despite the certain risk of further IEDs in the same vicinity, SSG Smith carried the litter to the helicopter landing zone, about 150 meters across a wadi from the blast site. 1LT Lavin secured a smoke grenade from SSG Smith to mark the landing zone. When the helicopter landed 1LT Lavin and SSG Smith used their bodies to shield SPC Carse and then loaded him onto the helicopter. After the helicopter departed SSG Smith rallied his team to recover SPC Carse's equipment and continue clearance of the area to protect the rest of the patrol from secondary IEDs.

As the platoon moved back toward the vehicle dismount point from the IED strike site, two local boys approached the patrol and offered to identify two IEDs. SSG Smith, maintaining his focus despite the traumatic events, destroyed both IEDs in place prior to continuing back to the vehicle drop off point.

1LT Lavin's calm and professional demeanor, as well as his instantaneous and selfless reaction following the blast, allowed SPC Carse to receive care rapidly and helped protect the rest of the patrol from secondary IEDs.

SSG Smith's composure, selfless service and warrior ethos enabled his team to continue their mission even after a catastrophic IED strike and his skill and leadership certainly saved the lives of his team and those around him several times during the mission.

08 February 2011



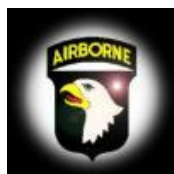
PFC Keith Garcia earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct at the risk of personal injury during a bunker clearance mission and subsequent IED strike in Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

CTF Warrior, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment and the 595th Engineer Company partnered with 4/2/3/205 Corps ANA conducted a mission to clear and destroy known enemy bunkers. The clearance was conducted in order to disrupt Taliban influence and IED production in the area of operations and deny the enemy use of several reinforced bunkers. PFC Garcia accompanied the patrol as the combat medic and remained with the platoon sergeant while one bunker was reduced. Following the reduction of the first bunker, a second bunker was discovered. As the attached engineer squad moved towards the new bunker to prepare it for reduction, a pressure plate IED detonated resulting in the serious injury of a Soldier.

With complete disregard for his personal safety, PFC Garcia immediately ran through 250 meters of uncleared grape orchards in order to reach the wounded Soldier. Upon reaching the triple amputee, PFC Garcia took over medical treatment and began administering first aid. While performing initial care, PFC Garcia simultaneously kept his platoon sergeant and platoon leader informed of the situation so that they could transmit the 9-line MEDEVAC request and MIST report. PFC Garcia provided guidance for the other Soldiers who were helping to treat and move the casualty, allowing for a maximum amount of help for the severely wounded Soldier.

PFC Garcia skillfully applied three tourniquets and administered an IV drip to the Soldier, then directed the other Soldiers as they fastened him into a compact SKEDCO and prepared to move him to the MEDEVAC LZ. At the HLZ, PFC Garcia performed one last carotid pulse checks and discovered that the casualty lost his pulse due to the initial loss of blood and immediately began administering CPR. As a direct result, PFC Garcia successfully revived the casualty's pulse in the middle of an HLZ while exposed to possible direct enemy fire. He continued monitoring the casualty with disregard for his own personal safety until the MEDEVAC helicopters successfully evacuated the Soldier from the site.

PFC Garcia's actions that day further distinguished himself in both maturity and bravery among his peers. As a junior enlisted Soldier, he personally directed six other Soldiers while treating the casualty at the blast site. He remained calm following a catastrophic



IED blast, provided effective first aid to a critically wounded Soldier, and led the physical evacuation of the casualty. PFC Garcia's immediate actions in an IED saturated area enabled him to care for an injured comrade. His actions were decisive, professional, and undeniably selfless which set an example for all Soldiers to follow.

***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."

