



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) "STRIKE HISTORY" 31 August – 06 September 2014



31 August –
1 September 1967

Operation STRIKE Force

Locations: I Corps, Quang Ngai Province; Lang Di; Quyet Thang
Type/Objective: Airmobile raid to liberate U.S. and VNAF POWs
Units: USA – Task Force Oregon – 101st Airborne Division: 1st Bde (2-502 ABN).
Casualties: Not included in source documents.

31 August 1968

A/1-502 was the only unit to have contact; they killed 1 VC, vic. YD6830.

31 August 2012

ANSF mission command of independent operations. On 31 AUG, 2/1/201 Kandak, AUP, NDS, and PRC conducted clearing operations of historic IDF POO sites IVO Panj Pa, Laghman. The PRC, ICW TF 10, conducted an air assault to establish blocking positions east of the village. The Kandak XO and advisors established a TAC on the high ground south of the objective, while the ANA Company Commander conducted a shura with the village elders to inform them of the clearing operation. At approximately 0950, INS engaged the PRC blocking positions with effective small arms fire. The ANA Kandak TAC (w/advisors) cleared fires through the BSI TOC & PRC. The M777 section at Methar Lam fired 10 HE/4 smoke rounds and CAS engaged with 30mm gun runs & GBUs on the INS positions. The ANSF performed well during the joint operation, and the Kandak XO's actions led to the successful integration of enablers.

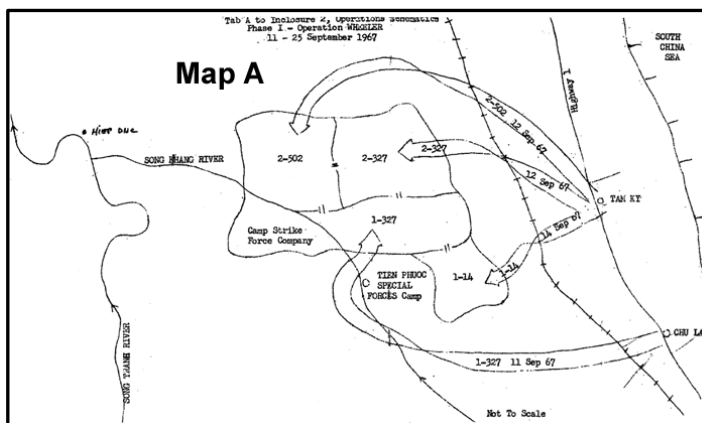
September –
November 2008

As security throughout 1-75 CAV AO improved, citizens of Ghazaliyah that had fled during the height of sectarian violence in 2007 began to return to their homes. 4/22/6 IA BN with the aid of 1-75 CAV ensured these Internally Displaced Persons safely returned to their homes. The operation successfully returned over 200 displaced families to Ghazaliyah from September 2008 until its relief in place in November. The long partnership between 1-75 CAV and 4/22/6 IA paid significant dividends as the IA really took charge of this Government of Iraq initiative and established two IDP Resettlement Centers. These centers were used by IDP's to notify the ISF that they intended to reoccupy their property and demonstrate they possessed the proper documentation. The brave citizens that returned to Ghazaliyah led the way for other Iraqis and were proof of the impact that 1-75 CAV had on the improvements to security and stabilization of the area.

September 1967

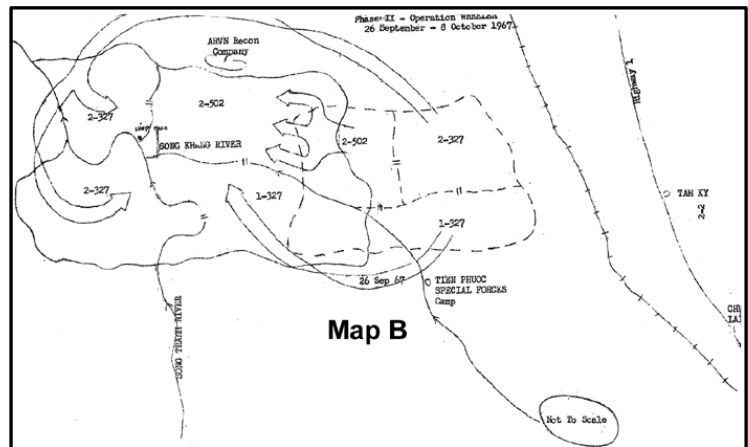
Operation Wheeler General

Situation: The 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division was OPCON to the Americal Division in September 1967. The mission assigned to the Brigade in



Operation WHEELER was, " ... to conduct search and destroy operations commencing 11 September 1967 northwest of TAM KY (BT0627) to find, fix, and destroy VC/NVA forces and to neutralize VC/NVA base camps."

The brigade conducted saturation patrolling and ambushes throughout the operation. Phase I (Map A) began on 11 September and closed on 25 September. Phase II (Map B) began on 26 September and closed on 8 October. I recall that we were searching for elements of an NVA division, but the official after action report does not indicate the size of enemy force thought to be in the area. (Charles P. Otsstott, Alpha Company CO Sep-Nov 1967)



01 September 1968 An ambush by D/1-502 engaged 1 VC, vic. YD6730, resulting in 1 VC KIA. Recon/1-502 was sent to vic. YD7231, where log bird had fired on 3 NVA. Recon had 1 NVA KIA, 1 NVA and 1 VC captured.

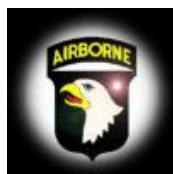
01 September 2010 – 18 April 2011 CTF STRIKE conducted Operation Economic Corridors (Amaliat Dalize Aqtesad). Originally intended to clear areas throughout Zharay and Panjwa“i Districts to deny insurgents access to engagement and support zones, increase GIRoA influence along Highway 1 and enhance development west of Kandahar City, this became CTF STRIKE’s overarching campaign plan. The intent for the initial phases of the operation was to destroy insurgent C2, caches and will, thus defeating their capability to influence Kandahar City, adjacent districts and Highway 1.

CF and ANSF cleaned up the roadsides adjacent to Highway 1, moving and hauling away rubble and destroyed vehicles that the insurgents caused. This was both to provide standoff along the highway so that insurgents could not emplace ambush positions as well as to present a picture of security to the Afghan people traveling on the main commerce artery.



3/2 SCR established a partnership with 6/3/205 Kandak for execution of operations in Maiwand and watchtowers were established along Highway 1 in order to increase GIRoA control of this key terrain. Tactical Infrastructure (TI) was established in critical locations and a ground LOC (RTE London) was created to bypass the IED laden RTE Langley and establish a crossing site of the Arghandab River to support operations in the Horn of Panjwa“i.

Operation Economic Corridors eventually grew to encompass all operations within the Governance and Development Lines of Effort. These included operations to construct and refurbish the road network that supported local



freedom of movement and commerce, development of professional Afghan National Security Forces in Zharay and Maiwand, refurbishment of the Zharay District Center, bazaar, and ANP station, conduct of agricultural training to increase local capability and capacity to maximize land use and foster economic growth, and collection of population census data to assist with future engagements with the Afghan people. A key operation that occurred was the registration of motorcycles throughout Zharay and Maiwand; this operation was widely hailed by local nationals as an example of things that they expected their government to do for them in order to enhance security.

01 - 06
September 2012

ANSF mission command of independent operations. On 4 SEP 12, OCCP Nangahar reported that a suicide bomber detonated at a funeral located in Dur-Baba District, Nangarhar Province resulting in 40x KIA and 70x WIA. The OCC-P Nangahar sent ciphers to PHQ and OCC-R informing security forces of the situation. ANSF first-responders from across Eastern Nangahar converged on the scene. This enabled leaders to direct security forces to respond to the traumatic incident. The Corps Battle Major directed the PAO to quickly message the event to the media highlighting ANSF rapid response and to denounce the cowardly actions of the INS.

Brigade Level Logistics. On 3 Sep, the Gamberi Forward Supply Depot (FSD) received a convoy from the National Supply Depot. Receipt of this convoy was encouraging news for the 201st Corps for several reasons. First, the delivery included 5 of the Corps' Top 10 High Demand CL IX Parts. Secondly, MG Wazeri's emphasis to increase the frequency of CL IX parts flow from NSD is bearing fruit. The frequency of convoys has improved from 59 days in MAY-JUL to every 19 days in AUG-SEP.

ANSF enabler training and capacity building. 4/201 ANA Brigade D30s executed a fire mission in support of OPN MTN Husky near Dangam. The target was the point of origin of small arms and RPG fire. What is extraordinary is the sophistication in their call for fire drill. The ANA called up max ord and GTL to the US TOC effectively executing airspace deconfliction. 1-12 confirmed that the airspace was clear and that there were no CDE issues in the area. The ANA executed an initial fire mission with two adjustments. Additionally, there were initial reports that PAK-MIL was firing at the same enemy contact. After action reports indicate that the insurgents were attempting to work a seam between PAKMIL and ANSF possibly to provoke a border fires incident.

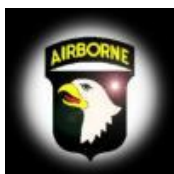
ANSF intelligence-driven operations. On 6 SEP, an AUP CID team from the ZHQs thwarted two suicide bombers enroute to Panjshayr targeting the 1st VP (Marshal Fahim Qasem) and Mol Minister (Bisam Ullah Muhammed) who were expected to attend the Massoud Day Memorial. The two bombers are cousins who were recruited at the Imam Azam Madrassa in the Imam Sahib District of Kunduz by Moloway Ismaiel. The CID discovered them in Qala Khawaja Village, Bagram due to a source they had maintained for the past month. Of significance is that the Zone CID Directorate built targeting packets on these two bombers completely without CF help, and captured them and their vests prior to waging the attack. Both suicide bombers were transferred to the Mol Counter- Terrorism Directorate based on the severity of their crimes.

02 September 1968

1-502 had no significant contact but the Battalion continued to encounter many BBT's.

03 - 06
September 1968

Combat operations were halted during Typhoon Bess, which brought heavy rains and gust of wind up to 40-60 knots. During the period 040200 Sept - 061400 Sept, a total of 19.02 inches of rain fall on Camp Eagle (YD 808162), the Division



Base Camp. All combat aviation missions were cancelled during this period. After the heavy rains stopped the RF/PF forces and 1/501 Infantry conducted several Eagle Flights over the flooded coastal lowlands in an attempt to locate enemy forces. Civil Affairs teams were very active as they distributed tons of needed food, clothing and construction materials to the local Vietnamese who had suffered economic and physical damage to their property.

03 September 1968

A/1-502 found 2 VC bodies in a bunker, vic. YD6232. B/1-502 found about 3000lb of rice. Recon/1-502 found 2 VC graves.

03 September 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A downed gunship was discovered by A/2-502 (YD598084).

04 – 05

September 1968

1-502 had no contact made. C/1-502 replaced company A/1-502 on An Lo Bridge security.

05 September 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: Operation Texas Star was terminated and Operation Jefferson Glen began. The final results for Operation Texas Star were: 37 US KIA, 290 US WIA, 288 Medevaced. Enemy casualties known are 228 KIA, 61 KBA and 2 PW's. 2/502 performed in an outstanding manner, and moved anxiously into Operation Jefferson Glen.

06 – 14

September 1968

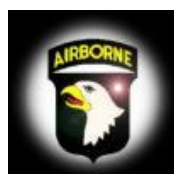
Operation NEVADA EAGLE: Heavy rains (typhoon) during early September caused the operation to come to a halt for three days, ending on 6 Sept. when extraction of STRIKE Force elements to the Rear for a stand down was begun. The stand down activities and Unit Proficiency Training was conducted 7-14 Sept.

06 September 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: 2/502 Battalion remained at Camp Eagle and conducted refresher training until this day, when the operation began in a new area of operations around FSB Normandy. There was no enemy contact on this date.

06 September 2010

STRIKE 6 visited Battery A, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment's COP Nolen and presented the STRIKE Brigade's coin to CPL Jason Cartwright and his bomb dog "Isaac" for excellence. CPL Cartwright and "Isaac" have successfully located two IEDs in two days during clearing operations in the vicinity of Charqolba Olya. CPL Cartwright is assigned to 67th Engineer Detachment, 5th Engineer Battalion, in support of 1-320th FA; 5th Engineer Battalion is from Fort Leonard Wood, MO.



During this week, in the span of 73 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.

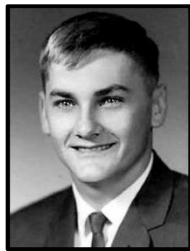
- 2 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
- 6 x Bronze Star with Valor
- 38 x Purple Heart (12 x Posthumously)
- 22 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 1 x Died from wounds
- 1 x Non Hostile Illness or Injury

31 August 1968



1LT James J. Jenks Jr. (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received from misadventure (friendly fire) in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

31 August 1970



SGT Richard E. Toney (C/1-502 IN) died from wounds from battle near Thon Ha Lo, 8km South East of Hai Lang on 22 February 1968 from small arms gun in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

31 August 1970

SGT Richard E. Toney (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

31 August 2010

CPT Jeffrey Mackinnon (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

31 August 2010

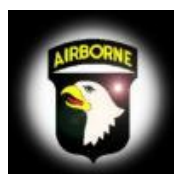
1LT Samuel Orlan (A/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

31 August 2010

The following Soldiers: SFC Guadalupe Montalvo, SSG Jamie Thompson and PFC Pavle Yankovich (B/1-66 AR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

31 August 2010

The following Soldiers: SFC Allen Manley and SPC Dylan Schwinn (A/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device and 30mm grenades.



01 September 1968



1LT John F. Hay (B/1-502 IN) action in combat earned him the Purple Heart for wounds sustained as a result of enemy or hostile actions. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 6027, 20 May 1969)

01 September 2010

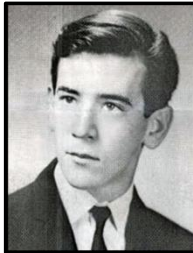
The following Soldiers: SSG Erik Hanson, SGT Francisco Silva, PFC Jonathan Marion and PFC Brandon Davis (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

02 September 1968



PFC George V. Szczepanczyk (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

02 September 1971



SP4 Gordon L. Kimmel (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds (Booby Trap) in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

02 September 2010

SGT Michael Turner (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire.

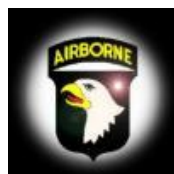
02 September 2010

SPC Jason Evans (A/526 BSB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his unit with 82mm rounds.

03 September 1965

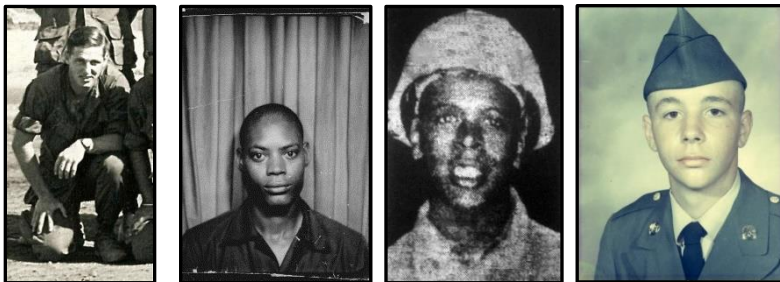


1LT George W. Burkheart (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in a Military Region and Province Unknown, South Vietnam.



03 September 1969

The following Soldiers: CPT Richard C. Miller, SGT Gary L. Evans (Pictured), CPL Leroy Rutherford (Pictured), PFC Louis T. Mills (Pictured), SP4 Neal D. Epifanio (Pictured) (D/1-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes (Air Loss-Noncrew) crash and burn on liftoff from LZ T-Bone, in the Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



03 September 2010

SSG Stephen Mosley (A/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with a rocket propelled grenade.

04 September 1965



1SG Frederick C. Brander (A/2-501 IN) action in combat earned him the Purple Heart for wounds sustained as a result of enemy or hostile actions.

05 September 1965

SGT Lawrence E. Jackson (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other causes in a Military Region and Province Unknown, South Vietnam.

05 September 1966

PFC Mack A. Knight (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.

05 September 1966



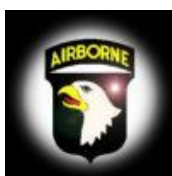
PFC Russell B. Walker (HHC/2-502 IN) died from other Non-Hostile causes in the Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

05 September 2010

PFC Carlos Leal (B/1-66 AR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

05 September 2010

The following Soldiers: SGT David Dunlap, SGT Brian Constantino, PFC Michael Waskom and PFC Stephen Kuvik (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked their mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.



- 06 September 2010 PFC Jorge Cortes (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with a rocket propelled grenade.
- 06 September 2010 SPC Robert Dickey (HHC/1-66 AR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

31 August 2010



The following Soldiers: SGT Cole Williams and SPC Brentten Gibson (A/1-320 FA) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroically distinguishing themselves by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as members of 2nd squad, 1st platoon, Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion serving as combat engineer support for Battery A, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment in Noor Muhammad Khan Kalache to provide breaching and demolition capabilities in order to allow freedom of maneuver for Battery A patrols.

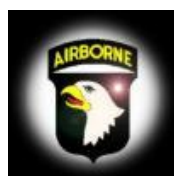


At approximately 0930 the building where 2nd squad was positioned came under heavy accurate machine gun and RPG fire. SGT Williams positively identified three enemy fighting positions and immediately engaged with accurate and effective fire with his M203 grenade launcher. SPC Gibson immediately maneuvered his M240B into a position to provide heavy suppressive fire on the enemy fighting position. Upon the emplacement of SGT Williams' security position, the patrol began taking heavy enemy 30mm grenade fire and SFC Manley, platoon sergeant for 2nd platoon, was struck with a 30mm rifle fired grenade in his lower leg and torso.

Upon seeing this, and having established fire superiority, SPC Gibson rushed to SFC Manley and immediately started providing lifesaving medical aid. After checking his airway and identifying all wounds, SPC Gibson then assisted SPC West in applying two tourniquets and dressing the wounds to SFC Manley's legs. Upon arrival of the medic, SPC Gibson, along with SPC West, then briefed PFC Schwinn, the platoon's medic, on the situation and what treatment they had given to SFC Manley. Upon completion SPC Gibson constructed a hasty litter out of a body bag and sleeping mat in order to stabilize and move the patient to the HLZ.



Without hesitation, SGT Williams organized a security patrol in order to facilitate the expeditious evacuation of the casualties to the pre-determined HLZ. In preparation for the movement, SGT Williams cross-loaded ammunition and aided the medic in stabilizing the casualties while maintaining a security perimeter around the site.



Once the 9-line MEDEVAC request had been called up, SPC Gibson, along with SPC West and PFC Schwinn carried the casualties to the pre-designated HLZ approximately 350 meters from the building. While setting a security perimeter at the HLZ, the enemy attacked again with heavy machine gun and 30mm grenade fire, from multiple covered and concealed positions. SGT Williams issued fire commands and directed his team's security on the northeast corner of the HLZ providing suppressive fire for the MEDEVAC helicopter. SPC Gibson and SPC West secured the casualties and began suppressing fire.

After approximately 30 minutes they were unable to secure the HLZ so SGT Williams directed the aid and litter teams to move the casualties to the alternate HLZ. SPC Gibson and PFC Schwinn picked the casualties up along with the security element and moved to another HLZ approximately 200 meters away. At the same time, an air weapons team began covering their movement with 2.75 FFARs and .50 cal machine guns.

Once security was emplaced at the new HLZ, they again came under machine gun and 30mm grenade fire. At the alternate HLZ, the Coalition Forces had no choice but to fight off the attacks long enough for a landing. Making this a no-fail mission, SGT Williams and his team fought through and suppressed the enemy's further advancement on the patrol and casualties, ultimately enabling the MEDEVAC helicopter to land at the new HLZ, and evacuate the coalition force casualties.

SGT Williams' sound tactical judgment and skills at a critical moment, and his unwillingness to grant the enemy the upper hand resulted in the safe evacuation of three critically wounded Soldiers.

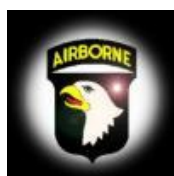
SPC Gibson's courage under fire and unwavering ability to accomplish the mission ultimately saved the life of SFC Manley. His immediate action on contact and judgment of what needed to be done is a perfect example for his fellow Soldiers.

31 August 2010



SPC Larry West (A/2BSTB) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while supporting A Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Combined Task Force Top Guns in Noor Muhammad Khan Kalache, providing breaching and demolition capabilities in order to allow freedom of maneuver for Battery A, 1-320th patrols. At the time of contact 2nd squad was staged at a building awaiting orders to start clearance of Noor Muhammad Khan Kalache. At approximately 0930, the staging point for operations came under heavy enemy machine gun and 30mm grenade fire. SPC West was about 10 meters from SFC Manley when he was struck by a 30mm rifle fired grenade. SPC West immediately rushed to SFC Manley's aid, moving directly into harm's way to get to the casualty and move him into the CCP. Once there, he and SPC Gibson started to assess the casualty and determine the extent of his injuries. SPC West then applied two tourniquets, one on each of the casualty's arms, preventing further blood loss, all while keeping pressure to the femoral artery on SFC Manley's left thigh while SPC Gibson removed clothing around the wound to see if they had enough room to place another tourniquet.

PFC Schwinn, the platoon medic, arrived and aided in putting the last tourniquet on the injured leg. SPC West and SPC Gibson proceeded to brief the medic. At this point, SPC West and SPC Gibson began constructing a makeshift litter with a body bag and SPC West's sleeping mat. Once the casualty was stabilized, the nine line MEDEVAC request was sent. SPC West and SPC Gibson along with the medic began to move the casualty approximately 300 meters to a pre-designated HLZ. Once the casualty was staged on the outside of the HLZ, the patrol again came under a second and intensified attack. SPC West moved to a



security position that allowed him to cover the casualty and the medic who was continuing to stabilize SFC Manley.

SPC West identified and engaged multiple enemy combatants, preventing one from firing an RPG. SPC West laid down sustained covering fire with his M249, protecting the casualty and the patrol from further injury.

After approximately 30 minutes of fighting, the HLZ was compromised and the patrol moved to an alternate, 200 meters away.



SPC West and SPC Gibson again moved the casualty to the new staging area and again SPC West placed himself into a firing position and provided protective fire on the enemy avenues of approach. SPC West identified and killed two more enemy combatants with his M249, this time allowing the MEDEVAC helicopter to land safely. Upon the MEDEVAC aircraft touching down, SPC West and SPC Gibson, along with the medic, moved the casualty and loaded him safely onto the helicopter in order to facilitate adequate medical care for the casualty.

SPC West's immediate action and willingness to put himself in the line of fire ultimately saved the life of SFC Manley. His actions are not only a great reflection on his own character and knowledge, but also of the training and character of the STRIKE Brigade and the United States military as a whole.

31 August 2010

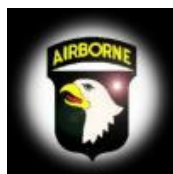


CPT Jeffrey Aebischer (A/1-320 FA) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while heroically distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as a platoon leader for Battery A, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment. His heroic actions on that day led to the successful defeat of a determined enemy attack on his patrol base, the detention of three insurgents and directly contributed to the successful evacuation of a wounded comrade from the battlefield.

Combined Team Alpha was conducting an operation to disrupt enemy activity in and around the village of Noor Muhammad Khan Kalacheh. After navigating through treacherous grape furrows and pomegranate orchards seeded with enemy improvised explosive devices, the company established a patrol base in the village and conducted reconnaissance from that location throughout the day.



CPT Aebischer led his platoon on a reconnaissance mission of a historic enemy mortar firing position that had placed accurate 82mm mortar fire on friendly positions just days earlier. Upon arriving at the mortar firing position, CPT Aebischer's platoon immediately came under small arms fire while one insurgent threw a grenade that landed within meters of his platoon, though it did not detonate.



CPT Aebischer quickly ordered his platoon to maneuver on the insurgent force, exposing himself to enemy fire as he led an assault that successfully detained three of the four enemy personnel seeking refuge in a nearby compound. CPT Aebischer obtained positive identification of the insurgents, successfully detained all three and began movement back to the patrol base.

While en-route to the patrol base, CPT Aebischer received word that SFC Manley was injured when an enemy indirect round impacted inside of the patrol base compound. CPT Aebischer immediately briefed his platoon and issued a new order to assist in securing the helicopter landing zone (HLZ).



CPT Aebischer's platoon arrived to the HLZ during an intense firefight in which accurate fires were preventing either MEDEVAC helicopter from landing. CPT Aebischer exposed himself as he placed his machine guns and directed fires on the insurgent position for nearly an hour. His platoon continued to provide suppressive fires while a new HLZ was located and SFC Manley was finally loaded onto the MEDEVAC helicopter.

31 August 2010



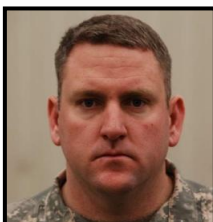
The following Soldiers: LTC William Taylor, CW3 David Weston, CW3 Stephen Mestas and CW2 Jesse Martin, earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor when a flight of two OH-58D Kiowa helicopters received a Troops-in-Contact (TIC) consisting of elements of 1st platoon and Headquarters platoon of Company D, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, out of COP Sarkari Bagh. The contact was occurring in the vicinity of the town of Haji Towr Kalacheh near an Afghan National Police checkpoint from the west side of the Arghandab River.



D16 had his elements on-line at the checkpoint returning fire while the elements were receiving effective small arms, automatic weapons, and precision rifle fires. D6 and his Personal Security Detachment were unable to maneuver from their position inside the ANP bunker due to the volume and accuracy of the fire on their location. After identifying all friendly forces on scene, "Long Knife" was cleared in hot on the enemy positions along a distance and direction given by D6.

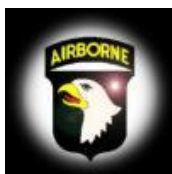


They made their runs and put effective fires onto the enemy positions, allowing D16 and D6 to reposition their forces and increase the effectiveness of their fires. D16 repositioned his sniper and SDM, enabling them to kill two enemy fighters. "Long Knife" continued their runs resulting in an additional two enemy fighters killed. "Long Knife" moved to FOB Jelawur to re-arm. Enemy fighters took this opportunity to conduct a counter-attack from the east side of the river on D16 and D6 elements, placing effective and suppressive fires on Company D elements.



The same "Long Knife" element returned on-station with full ammunition load out. D6 again identified friendly locations to the aircraft and passed them a distance and direction from his location to the enemy positions.

Due to the thick vegetation in the area, "Long Knife" was forced to fly extremely low to ID enemy fighting positions and enemy fighters, exposing themselves to what they knew to be automatic weapons fire below. Without hesitation, the "Long Knife" pilots began multiple, effective gun runs on the enemy positions, resulting in four more enemy killed in action.



This action broke the back of the enemy element, which broke contact and exfiltrated through the orchards. "Long Knife" stayed on-station until friendly elements were able to reposition for another counter-attack and gain confidence that the TIC was over. If it were not for the quick reaction time, accurate fires, knowledge of the terrain, and selfless desire to defeat the enemy at high risk to themselves that "Long Knife" brought to bear that day, it is highly likely that Company D would have sustained multiple casualties due to the enemy's ability to place high volumes of accurate fire on Dark Rider elements.



31 August 2010



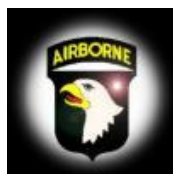
1SG Jose Banuelos (A/1-320 FAR) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor while heroically distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as the 1SG for Battery A, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment. His heroic actions on that day led to the successful defeat of a determined enemy attack on his patrol base and directly contributed to the successful evacuation of a wounded comrade from the battlefield.

Combined Team Alpha was conducting an operation to disrupt enemy activity in and around the village of Noor Muhammad Khan Kalacheh. After navigating through treacherous grape furrows and pomegranate orchards seeded with enemy improvised explosive devices, the company established a patrol base in the village and conducted reconnaissance from that location throughout the day. During the course of the operation, the company patrol base came under sustained enemy mortar, rifle-launched grenade and small arms fire. The volume of fire was intense from the start and grew thicker following the impact of an enemy 30mm grenade round that seriously wounded SFC Manley.

Reacting immediately to the threat posed by this enemy assault, 1SG Banuelos directed heavy volumes of accurate suppressive fire on the insurgents and immediately directed two OH-58D Kiowa Warriors to engage the insurgent position when they reported on station minutes after the first enemy small arms volleys.

1SG Banuelos quickly called a MEDEVAC request to the battalion headquarters and with complete disregard for his own safety led an eight-man squad through enemy fire to secure a helicopter landing zone (HLZ) to evacuate SFC Manley. Once 1SG Banuelos established security at the HLZ, the enemy maneuvered and attacked his position by massing indirect fire, rocket propelled grenade (RPG) and small arms fire on the HLZ, their most dangerous course of action.

1SG Banuelos willingly exposed himself to enemy fire multiple times to ensure that the squad's weapon systems were properly emplaced to suppress the insurgent fighting positions and simultaneously motivated his Soldiers to repel the enemy assault by assuring them of the strength of their position.



The MEDEVAC helicopter arrived and attempted to land on the HLZ where 1SG Banuelos and his Soldiers were entangled in a dense firefight but the dogged enemy presence forced the helicopters to circle overhead. The enemy continued to assault his position for over two and a half hours while 1SG Banuelos calmly directed the machine gun fire of the squad securing the HLZ as well as directing the attack aviation overhead, suppressing enemy fighting positions and eventually forcing the enemy to withdraw. As SFC Manley's condition began to deteriorate and he started to lose consciousness, 1SG Banuelos recognized the urgency of the moment and boldly repositioned the HLZ to facilitate the successful landing of the MEDEVAC helicopter, resulting in the successful evacuation of SFC Manley. Through his quick and courageous actions, 1SG Banuelos was directly responsible for repelling a determined enemy assault and preserving the life of SFC Manley.

31 August 2010



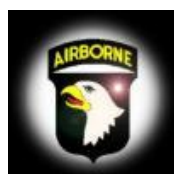
SFC Mark McDowell (A/1-320 FAR) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while heroically distinguishing himself by valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as an EOD team leader attached to Battery A, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment. His heroic actions on that day led to the successful defeat of a determined enemy attack on his patrol base and directly contributed to the successful evacuation of a wounded comrade from the battlefield.

SFC McDowell and his EOD team were participating in a company-sized operation to disrupt enemy forces near the village of Noor Muhammad Khan Kalacheh. After guiding his team through grape fields and pomegranate orchards littered with enemy improvised explosive devices, SFC McDowell and his team settled into a patrol base with Alpha Battery. Suddenly, the enemy initiated an attack on the patrol base with small arms fire and 30mm rifle-launched grenades, one of which wounded SFC Manley.

Instinctively, SFC McDowell ran amid the enemy fire without regard for his own safety to the aid of SFC Manley, providing initial care as one of the first to reach the wounded non-commissioned officer. SFC McDowell immediately recognized that the persistent enemy fire posed a great risk to SFC Manley, and without hesitation secured SFC Manley and moved him to safety to continue providing lifesaving medical treatment. SFC Manley sustained shrapnel wounds to both hands, arms, lower extremities, face and his abdomen, which SFC McDowell, with help from the medics on-site, expertly treated after he was moved out of the enemy kill zone.



Once the MEDEVAC request was submitted to the Battalion Tactical Operations Center, SFC McDowell was instrumental in preparing SFC Manley for movement by improvising a litter from a casualty bag that was on-hand. 1SG Jose Banuelos organized a squad to secure the helicopter landing zone (HLZ) and SFC McDowell orchestrated the movement of the casualty to the HLZ. When the aid and litter team got to the HLZ with the casualty, SFC McDowell quickly directed the SAW gunners and riflemen in the squad to a tree line where they established local security and began to return devastating fire on the enemy forces attempting to overrun the HLZ.



1SG Banuelos ordered an additional platoon that was conducting reconnaissance nearby to return to the HLZ to assist in repelling the determined enemy assault. When the platoon reached the HLZ, SFC McDowell met them and briefed them on the situation and the disposition of friendly forces currently in the fight. He directed them where they could best suppress the enemy for the landing of the MEDEVAC helicopter and returned to the casualty. After attempting several landings, the MEDEVAC touched down at an alternate HLZ and SFC McDowell immediately covered SFC Manley, shielding him from any debris that would have caused further injury to him. Under enemy fire, SFC McDowell assisted in carrying SFC Manley to the MEDEVAC helicopter, which evacuated him safely from the battlefield.

31 August 2010



The following Soldiers: SSG David Chavez Jr., SSG Jeremy Boxley (A/1-320 FAR) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and SGT Joshua Strickland (A/1-320 FAR) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart while heroically distinguishing themselves by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment.

SSG Chavez, SSG Boxley and SGT Strickland were participating in a company-sized operation to disrupt enemy forces near the village of Noor Muhammad Khan Kalacheh. After guiding the squad around enemy improvised explosive devices, SSG Boxley and his squad began conducting reconnaissance outside of the patrol base that had been established in the village.

At 1030, while SSG Chavez, SSG Boxley and SGT Strickland were helping to investigate the point of origin of an enemy mortar team, the platoon came under attack from a concealed three-man enemy force. Instinctively, SSG Chavez maneuvered his squad to close with the enemy position and swiftly detained two of the three insurgents. SSG Boxley maneuvered his squad to set up a support-by-fire position. When the third insurgent fled into the nearby village of Ladin Tabin, SSG Chavez and SGT Strickland chased him into the village despite being engaged by an enemy hand grenade that did not detonate.

SSG Boxley personally exposed himself to enemy small arms fire in order to rally his squad on the support-by-fire position. Once the insurgents were detained, SSG Boxley and his element continued to pull rear security for their advancing elements. Upon learning shortly thereafter that SFC Allen Manley had been wounded at the patrol base in Noor Muhammad Khan Kalacheh, SSG Chavez and SSG Boxley maneuvered their squads back to the patrol base to assist in the evacuation of the casualty. While returning to the patrol base, SSG Boxley and his men came under heavy enemy small arms fire.

Unimpeded, SSG Chavez and SGT Strickland moved their elements and quickly suppressed the enemy and continued to move toward the helicopter landing zone (HLZ). Upon arriving at the HLZ, they quickly positioned their elements to provide additional security for the MEDEVAC landing, almost instantly coming under attack as the enemy maneuvered and massed indirect fire, RPGs and small arms fire in an attempt to overrun the security of the HLZ.

SSG Chavez and SGT Strickland then fearlessly moved themselves to exposed positions so that they could best assess the enemy assault. Seeing that the helicopter could not land, SSG Chavez and SGT Strickland received the



location of an alternate HLZ and boldly repositioned their elements to that location under heavy enemy small arms fire. During this, SGT Strickland laid down suppressive fire for his comrades while the new HLZ was established. With the security position set and their team successfully repelling the enemy assault, SSG Chavez and SGT Strickland filled the need for additional litter-bearers by moving through enemy fire to reach SFC Manley and help carry him to the alternate HLZ.

Pinned down, SSG Boxley instinctively directed the fires of his men on the enemy position, which overwhelmed the enemy and forced them to break contact. Upon arriving at the patrol base, SSG Boxley recognized that the MEDEVAC effort would require a critical resupply of ammunition. SSG Boxley almost instantly came under attack as the enemy maneuvered and massed indirect fire, RPGs and small arms fire in an attempt to overrun the security of the patrol base and HLZ. SSG Boxley then fearlessly moved himself between the HLZ and the patrol base four separate times, carrying ammunition to support the HLZ security despite persistent enemy fire and without regard for his own safety.

Once SFC Manley was successfully evacuated, SSG Chavez and SGT Strickland rallied their elements, which had been in sustained contact with the enemy for over an hour. Recognizing that they would have to maneuver back to a covered and concealed position, SSG Chavez and SGT Strickland inspired their team by confidently electing to stay behind with the support by fire element to secure the movement of the team off of the HLZ, ensuring that all Soldiers safely returned to the patrol base.



Were it not for the combined efforts of SSG Chavez, SSG Boxley and SGT Strickland the security perimeter at the HLZ would have run critically low on ammunition and SFC Manley would not have been successfully evacuated from the battlefield.

31 August 2010

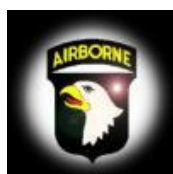


CPT James Thomasson (A/1-320 FAR) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor while heroically distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as the Commander for Battery A, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment. His heroic actions on that day led to the successful defeat of a determined enemy attack on his patrol base and directly contributed to the successful evacuation of wounded comrades from the battlefield.

Combined Team Alpha was conducting an operation to disrupt enemy activity in and around the village of Noor Muhammad Khan Kalacheh. After navigating through treacherous grape furrows and pomegranate orchards seeded with enemy improvised explosive devices, the company established a patrol base in the village and conducted reconnaissance from that location throughout the day.



During the course of the operation, the company patrol base came under sustained enemy mortar, rifle-launched grenade and small arms fire. While conducting a



reconnaissance near the patrol base, an insurgent force attacked CPT Thomason's location from a fortified fighting position within the village. Reacting immediately to the threat, CPT Thomasson willingly exposed himself to enemy fire multiple times as he directed heavy volumes of accurate suppressive fire on the insurgent location, motivating his Soldiers to close with and destroy the enemy.

After securing cover, the enemy engaged in their most dangerous course of action by massing indirect, rocket propelled grenade (RPG), and small arms fire on CPT Thomason's position. CPT Thomasson immediately called for the Afghan National Army's (ANA) RPG expert and directed two direct hits on the insurgent fighting position, destroying two enemy personnel.

Upon receiving additional intelligence that four insurgents were approaching the company's patrol base from the south, he quickly assembled a fire team and maneuvered south to interdict the imminent attack. The patrol base received a direct hit from an enemy rifle-launched grenade, seriously injuring SFC Allen Manley. CPT Thomasson maneuvered his element under indirect and small arms fire, establishing a support by fire position to assist in the MEDEVAC of SFC Manley. Without regard for his own safety, CPT Thomasson exposed himself to enemy fire as he directed all available assets to engage the insurgents' position.

Shortly after SFC Manley was evacuated, the patrol base came under another insurgent attack from a compound to the east. CPT Thomasson provided suppressive fire as his men maneuvered to a covered position, simultaneously coordinating for two OH-58D Kiowa Warriors to engage the insurgent fighting position. Assessing the effects on the enemy fighting position, CPT Thomasson called higher headquarters and recommended a Hellfire strike on the compound and destroyed the enemy fighting position.



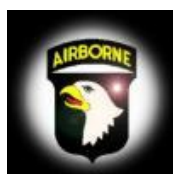
After consolidating the company elements, CPT Thomasson once again led a combined patrol to conduct a battle damage assessment into the hostile village still lurking with insurgent forces. The element received small arms fire and one RPG from the south. CPT Thomasson immediately placed his crew served weapons into action and directed the ANA to fire two RPGs at the enemy location.

Through his quick and courageous actions over the course of the day, CPT Thomasson was directly responsible for repelling multiple enemy attacks, disrupting an enemy 82mm mortar firing position, killing four insurgents and capturing two others and successfully coordinating the MEDEVAC of SFC Manley and two ANA Soldiers, potentially saving their lives.

31 August 2010



SPC Chase Parent (A/1-320 FAR) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while heroically distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as a radio telephone operator with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment during combat operations. His heroic actions on that day led to the successful defeat of a determined enemy attack on his patrol base.



Combined Team Alpha was conducting an operation to disrupt enemy activity in and around the village of Noor Muhammad Khan Kalacheh. After navigating through treacherous grape furrows and pomegranate orchards seeded with enemy improvised explosive devices, the company established a patrol base in the village and conducted reconnaissance from that location throughout the day. Upon returning to the patrol base from a search and attack patrol, SPC Parent maneuvered to a break in the eight foot high wall as small arms fire impacted in close proximity to his position.

SPC Parent, without hesitation or regard for his personal safety, positioned himself in the center of the break in the wall in order to engage the insurgents with his M4 rifle. SPC Parent maintained his position even after the intensity of the fire fight began to escalate with AK-47 and PKM fire. His willingness to expose himself to enemy fire allowed the enemy to direct their fire on his position while another Soldier was able to fire multiple 40mm HE rounds on the enemy position. SPC Parent also provided suppressive fire for an Afghan National Army Soldier who finally delivered a lethal combination of two rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) ultimately destroying the enemy fighting position.



Upon confirming two enemy KIA with the Scout Weapons Team, SPC Parent volunteered to conduct a battle damage assessment (BDA) of the enemy fighting position. SPC Parent once again exposed himself to the enemy as he gained positive identification of three insurgents and returned fire. His decisive actions caused the insurgents to immediately break contact and retreat into the pomegranate fields.

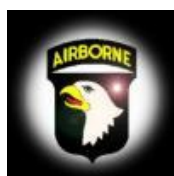
Through his quick and courageous actions over the course of the day, SPC Parent was directly responsible for repelling multiple enemy attacks, defeating a determined enemy, saving the lives of both US and ANA Soldiers, and ensuring the success of the unit.

31 August 2010



SGT Randall Woods (1-320 FAR) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor while heroically distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy of the United States as a team leader in Combined Team Alpha, Combined Task Force Top Guns, Combined Task Force STRIKE, Kandahar, Afghanistan, during combat operations on 31 August 2010 as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom. His heroic actions on that day led to the successful defeat of a determined enemy attack on his patrol base and significantly shaped the battlefield for the unit's success by engaging and killing at least one insurgent. On the morning of 31 August 2010, Combined Team Alpha began their second day of patrol base operations to disrupt enemy activity in and around the village of Noor Mohammad Khan Kalacheh. At approximately 0615, SGT Woods navigated his team through treacherous grape furrows and pomegranate orchards seeded with enemy improvised explosive devices to conduct a search and attack mission. At approximately 0900, SGT Woods was near the southwestern compounds of the village when the patrol base started to receive sporadic small arms fire.

SGT Woods quickly navigated his team back into the patrol base and received an updated assessment from his platoon sergeant, when the insurgents launched a fierce attack on the patrol base. Without hesitation or regard to his personal safety, SGT Woods maneuvered out of the compound's east doorway which was exposed to the enemy small arms fire. He established a fighting



position along the damaged portion of an eight foot tall mud wall. In this position, SGT Woods was exposed to AK-47 and PKM fire as the insurgent attack grew with intensity.



SGT Woods identified two insurgents on top of a compound in eastern Noor Mohammad Khan Kalacheh and fired approximately twelve rounds of 40mm HE from his M320 grenade launcher. SGT Woods left his covered position and exposed himself to the barrage of enemy fire each time he fired a 40mm HE round at the insurgent position. SGT Woods killed one insurgent on top of the compound with a direct hit from the M320 grenade launcher. He stayed in his position until an Afghan National Army soldier fired two rounds from his rocket propelled grenade (RPG), ultimately killing the second insurgent on top of the compound.

Through his quick and courageous actions over the course of an intense battle, SGT Woods was directly responsible for repelling an enemy attack, allowing friendly units to maneuver out of the patrol base, and killing at least one insurgent.

31 August 2010



PFC Jean Paul Descolline (A/1-320 FAR) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while heroically distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy of the United States as a grenadier for Battery A, Combined Task Force Top Guns, Combined Task force STRIKE, Kandahar, Afghanistan, during combat operations on 31 August 2010 as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom. His heroic actions on that day led to the successful defeat of a determined enemy attack on his patrol base and directly contributed to the successful evacuation of a wounded comrade from the battlefield.

PFC Descolline was serving as quick reaction force for his platoon in support of a mission to investigate the point of origin of an enemy mortar team. At approximately 1030, and upon learning that SFC Allen Manley had been wounded at the patrol base in Noor Muhammad Khan Kalacheh, PFC Descolline maneuvered with his teammate, quickly suppressed the enemy with his M203 and continued to move towards the helicopter landing zone (HLZ). Upon arriving at the HLZ, PFC Descolline quickly positioned himself to provide devastating fires on the enemy in support of the MEDEVAC landing.

PFC Descolline instantly came under attack as the enemy maneuvered and massed indirect fire, RPGs and small arms fire in an attempt to overrun the security of the HLZ. PFC Descolline fearlessly maintained the right flank of the HLZ for nearly two hours from a completely exposed position where he could best deliver devastating fires on the enemy as the MEDEVAC tried in vain to land amid the attack. With his security position set and his squad successfully repelling the enemy assault, PFC Descolline continued to fight off the enemy attack. Once SFC Manley was successfully



evacuated, PFC Descolline maintained his position to support the maneuver of friendly elements off the HLZ. PFC Descolline had been in sustained contact with the enemy for nearly two hours.

01 September 2010



SPC Billy Richardson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor when he distinguished himself by valorous service while defending Strong Point Pulchakhan from a determined enemy and by providing life-saving aid to his fellow Soldiers.

2nd Platoon partnered with personnel of the Afghan National Army 2nd Platoon 1/3/205 Kandak were defending newly acquired SP Pulchakhan approximately one kilometer south of Highway 1. SP Pulchakhan was divided into two separate SP's with New Pulchakhan to the north, and Old Pulchakhan separated by 75 meters of dense terrain to the south.

As the guard towers were conducting a relief in place, insurgent forces engaged Old Pulchakhan with RPG and heavy AK-47 fire from a distance of 250 meters to the southeast. An RPG struck one guard tower on the southern side, critically injuring SSG Hanson, SGT Silva (SPC Richardson's squad leader), PFC Marion, and PV2 Davis.

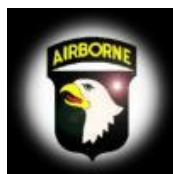
Disregarding his own personal safety, SPC Richardson immediately ran from his position in the center of the SP and climbed the 30 foot ladder that led up to the guard tower while it was still under heavy contact from insurgent forces to assist two of the casualties that were in the tower. SPC Richardson escorted SSG Hanson down the ladder, supporting the majority of his bodyweight and moving him out of the danger area. Realizing he was isolated and his immediate leadership was incapacitated, he quickly moved into action trying to regain the initiative.



SPC Richardson unhesitatingly made the climb back up the ladder to Guard Tower 5 while completely exposed to effective fire from the enemy in order to make radio contact with his platoon leader who was at New Pulchakhan. He quickly gained situational awareness of the contact, and relayed the distance, direction, and description of the insurgents to the adjacent towers coordinating fire and massing his squad's combat power on the enemy.

Due to his poise under fire and timely decisions, the enemy attack was quickly broken with precision lethal fires, and the enemy was forced to break contact. SPC Richardson exited Guard Tower 5 and ensured all casualties were collected at the CCP and provided a precise report to the Platoon Sergeant and medic who were en-route from emplacing a protective wire obstacle 100 meters west of SP Pulchakhan.

SPC Richardson rendered life-saving aid to SSG Hanson who was bleeding profusely from severe lacerations to his head. He was also able to stop the bleeding and bandage two other



casualties who suffered multiple lacerations and shrapnel to the arms and upper legs. SPC Richardson's flawless medical care resulted in the platoon medic having to provide no further treatment for the casualties prior to their CASEVAC back to FOB Howz-e-Madad.

SPC Richardson's dedication to his comrades, courage under fire, as well as his poise while assuming his critically injured squad leader's role allowed his squad to successfully defend SP Pulchakhan from an insurgent attack and quickly transport four casualties to higher level medical care in an efficient manner.

His actions were instrumental in the success of his platoon securing SP Pulchakhan, preparing for future Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP) occupation and securing a vital line of communication for the brigade. His dedication to his fellow Soldiers and mission accomplishment exemplify the traits required of a STRIKE Force Soldier.

03 September 1965

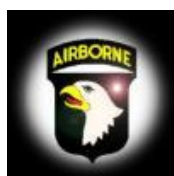


1LT George W. Burkheart (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action 1LT Burkheart distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic action on 3 September 1965 while serving as a reconnaissance platoon leader in the Republic of Vietnam. Engaged in a search and destroy operation near the village of Binh Khe. Lieutenant Burkheart and his entire platoon became pinned down by intense enemy small arms fire while crossing an open rice paddy. Realizing that continued hostile fire would inflict heavy casualties upon his men, Lieutenant Burkheart continually exposed himself while moving from position to position shouting words of encouragement and directing fire on the enemy positions to his immediate front. On a number of occasions he exposed himself to direct hostile fire in order to observe the enemy and direct fire. Twice Lieutenant Burkheart exposed himself to direct the movement and adjustment of machine guns, and the second time he was mortally wounded. By his brave action, personal example, and obvious concern for his men, he so inspired them that they were able to overcome the numerically superior Viet Con force. Led by his example, the platoon moved forward and occupied their objective. Lieutenant Burkheart's conspicuous gallantry in action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

03 September 1968



MAJ Sidney Shachnow (HHC/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in combat operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 September 1968. Major Shachnow distinguished himself while serving as the S3 Officer for the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry during a combat operation. During the early evening hours, Major Shachnow was conducting a light aerial reconnaissance of the battalion area of operations when he spotted a cooking fire. Major Shachnow, knowing that there were no friendly forces in the area, immediately placed fire on the objective. After a thorough aerial search of the area, he located a sampan, which was partially hidden in a hanging bush along a river bank. He then directed the pilot to fly very low over the target in an effort to locate possible enemy Soldiers. Spotting two enemy Soldiers, Major Shachnow personally marked the enemy's location with tracer rounds. Oblivious to his own safety, he maintained an exposed position and continued to order repeated passes over a hedgerow concealing the remaining enemy Soldiers. As the enemy began evasive action, Major Shachnow fired on them and directed the helicopter to land in preparation for an attack on the enemy's position. A thorough search of the area revealed that Major Shachnow had discovered an enemy base camp of well-fortified and camouflaged bunkers containing vast quantities of rice. Major Shachnow's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a 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.



05 September 2010



SPC Timothy King (A/2BSTB) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor during combat operations in the Arghandab River valley, displayed tremendous valor and courage while conducting a dismounted demolition mission, assisting in the establishment of Strong Point Lugo, Charqolba-Olya, Combined Area of Operations Top Guns while assigned to Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

On September 5, SPC King was responsible for explosively reducing trees in order to improve Strong Point Lugo's observation and fields of fire. The enemy had launched daily attacks on the Strong Point from covered and concealed positions in the immediate vicinity. The Sappers were tasked to eliminate these positions. While en-route to the objective, SPC King's sapper squad along with a security detachment from 1st platoon, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, CTF Top Guns came under heavy sustained enemy small arms and RPG fire approximately 200 meters south of Charqolba-Olya, Arghandab District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

Undeterred by the enemy's SAF attack, SPC King assessed the situation, placed mission accomplishment over his own safety, and led his team to complete the task. While under fire, he swept for mines with the Vallons mine detector. Once he determined that the route was too dangerous for this, he conducted a deliberate breach up to the objective with an APOBS. After safely reaching the objective, he established security positions at appropriate intervals along the wall on the north side of the objective.



While SPC King and the demolition team were placing charges around trees, the enemy increased the intensity and accuracy of their fires attempting to defend this key terrain. Undeterred by the enemy attacks, SPC King and his team emplaced charges over two hours of sporadic enemy fires. As the team began withdrawing from the objective, SPC King positively identified enemy forces advancing toward his position from a grape hut not more than 50 meters away. He immediately returned effective fire, pinning down enemy forces and allowing a safe withdrawal of friendly forces from the objective.

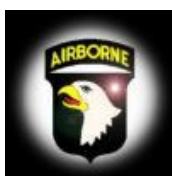
Showing great attention to detail, SPC King inspected all charges and tie-ins, corrected deficiencies and bounded back to the objective rally point (ORP). Once the patrol had 100% accountability of all personnel and equipment, SPC King pulled the demolition initiator, resulting in the destruction of 25 trees and 200 meters of wall, and greatly increasing the defensibility of Strong Point Lugo.

05 September 2010



SGT Matthew Pemble (A/1-320 FA) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor during combat operations in the Arghandab River valley in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) 10-11, displayed valor and courage while conducting dismounted operations in Charqolba-Olya.

On 5 September 2010, while conducting dismounted demolition operations, SGT Pemble's sapper squad, along with 1/A/CTF Top Guns, came under heavy small arms and RPG fire in an ambush approximately 200 meters south of Charqolba-Olya, Arghandab Province, Afghanistan. The squad's mission was to explosively clear and reduce trees and a wall in order to improve the fields of fire for Strong



Point Lugo. SGT Pemble was tasked with placing expedient demolitions charges on a tree line along the north side of the footpath, once it had been cleared. While emplacing the charges, his forward security team became engaged with small arms fire from multiple enemy fighting positions. SGT Pemble maneuvered himself to the pre-established limit of advance, and began issuing fire commands, overwhelming the enemy with fire superiority.

Once the advantage was gained, SGT Pemble carefully placed each charge and thoroughly inspected the line. Once complete, he ordered his fire teams to bound back while maintaining suppressive fire. The enemy, unaware of the onslaught of explosives about to be initiated, and acknowledging SGT Pemble's position, increased their rate of fire and attempted to maneuver onto SGT Pemble's squad. The enemy's desperate attack forced SGT Pemble to take cover in a nearby canal.



From this position SGT Pemble returned fire and ordered the forward security team to bound back. Once his forward security had reached safety, SGT Pemble detonated the charges. Demoralized and disoriented by the explosion, the enemy broke contact. SGT Pemble then took a small security team and inspected the site to ensure all charges were detonated and that the desired effect was reached. In all, 25 trees and 200 meters of wall were leveled, greatly increasing the fields of fire for Strong point Lugo. True to his Sapper mission, SGT Pemble had provided increased survivability for Strong Point Lugo and deteriorated the enemy's freedom of mobility.

SGT Pemble's immediate actions on contact, tenacious pursuit of the mission, and technical and tactical prowess are exemplary of the highest Army traditions.

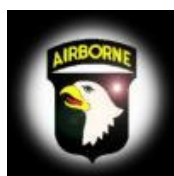
05 September 2010



The following Soldiers: SSG Timothy McKinnis, SGT Jesse Hattesoehl, SGT Zachary Fraker and PFC Mark Drake earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor; SPC Cody Chandler earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart, during the clearance of the Village of Tiran as members of 1st platoon, Company C, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment partnered with 4th Company 2/3/205 Corps ANA conducted an intelligence driven clearance of an enemy cache in Zharay district. The clearance disrupted Taliban influence and IED construction in the area of operations.

As the platoon arrived at the enemy cache site, they received effective and sustained small arms and machinegun fire from enemy positions across an open field. This area was template as the local Taliban headquarters with approximately 20 fighters operating throughout the area as well as a well defended engagement zone for the Taliban. Upon taking fire, SSG McKinnis, the 2nd squad leader, SGT Hattesoehl, the 2nd squad alpha team leader, and SGT Fraker, the 2nd squad bravo team leader, quickly realized the need to establish an attack-by-fire position to allow the platoon space to maneuver.

The squad moved to the edge of the covered and concealed position in order to provide suppressive fire and direct the maneuver of the fire teams. SGT Hattesoehl and SGT Fraker quickly realized their team's weapons could not fire accurately on the insurgents' position. With complete disregard for their own personal safety, SGT Hattesoehl and SGT Fraker moved out of their covered and concealed positions into the open in order to lay suppressive fires.





As the rest of his squad provided suppressive fires with their M4s and M249s from their covered locations, SSG McKinnis alternated between teams in order to direct their engagement of the enemy and also to provide his team leaders with tactical instructions. SSG McKinnis also directed the maneuver of the attached ANA partners and headquarters element. As the rest of his team continued to provide suppressive fires SGT Fraker fired his M320 Grenade Launcher directly onto the enemy position. Throughout the fight, SGT Hattesoehl and SGT Fraker alternated between covered and uncovered positions in order to engage the enemy as well as guide the actions of their teams.



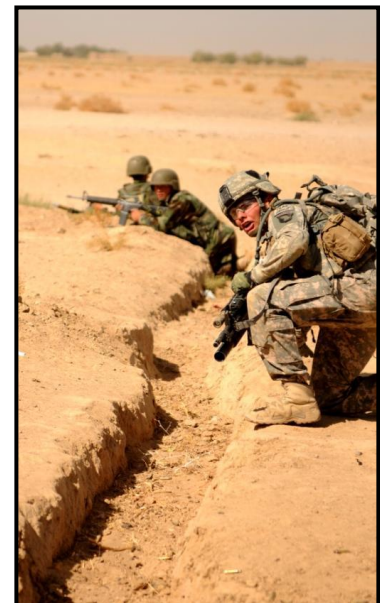
SPC Chandler led his team into a wadi 200 meters north of the insurgent buildings and fighting positions. From this position, SPC Chandler maneuvered along the wadi in order to engage the enemy and direct the fires of his team. An hour into the fight, as he was maneuvering through exposed terrain to direct his Soldiers' fire, SPC Chandler was struck by an enemy gunshot to his abdomen. After being injured, he remained calm and assisted in his own medical care until he was evacuated from the battlefield.



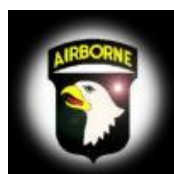
As the battle continued, SGT Fraker was the first to recognize a Taliban reinforcement of 10 fighters moving west along a road to the south of the platoon. He quickly reoriented his team's fire to suppress the enemy reinforcements before they affected the fight. SGT Fraker's decisive reaction prevented the insurgents from maneuvering on Coalition Forces. SGT Fraker's team effectively engaged the enemy with 40mm High Explosive grenade and machine gun fire that broke the enemy counter attack.



Under SGT Hattesoehl's leadership, his team effectively engaged the insurgents with over 30 High Explosive 40mm grenades, SMAW-D, as well as suppressive fires from the team's organic weapons which allowed the platoon to break contact and evacuate a seriously wounded Soldier. As rotary wing close air support arrived, SSG McKinnis, SGT Hattesoehl and SGT Fraker risked their lives again by moving forward to a position to mark enemy locations for engagement by rotary wing fires. During this action, they moved into the open field multiple times to direct the withdrawal of the squad and the headquarters element.



PFC Drake swiftly identified the enemy's location and assessed the requirement and called for indirect fire support. During this engagement, PFC Drake repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire as he called for indirect fire missions with both 155mm and 120mm systems as well as twelve Kiowa Warrior gun runs. With complete disregard for his own safety and under direct enemy fire, multiple times he moved to a position forward of the platoon to mark friendly positions. As he



was marking friendly positions, PFC Drake recognized a better location for adjusting fire missions. With his platoon still under contact, he moved back into a position under direct enemy fire and continued to adjust calls for fire in order to allow their displacement to a defensible position.

Once his platoon was within defensive terrain, PFC Drake moved to the roof of a nearby building and continued to engage the enemy with indirect and rotary wing fires. Throughout the battle, he provided his Platoon Leader with current assessments as well as accurate and timely information to the Squadron tactical operations center. PFC Drake's actions were essential in the defeat of an entrenched enemy force along the Taliban Zharay defensive belt.

With complete disregard for his own safety, SSG McKinnis' immediate actions in the enemy engagement area enabled him to maneuver his squad and suppress the insurgent attack. Throughout the three hour fire fight, he risked his life multiple times in order to successfully suppress the enemy, provide life-saving cover fire, and mark enemy locations with smoke. As

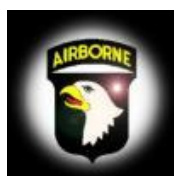


As a result of SSG McKinnis actions, direct and indirect fires killed an estimated 15 Taliban insurgents. His performance and leadership while under direct enemy fire were instrumental in the platoon's success.

With complete disregard for his own safety, SGT Hattesoehl's immediate actions in the enemy engagement area enabled him to direct the movement of his team and suppress an enemy attack. Throughout the battle, he risked his life multiple times in order to successfully suppress the enemy, provide life-saving cover fire, and mark enemy locations with smoke. As a result of SGT Hattesoehl's actions, fifteen enemy fighters were destroyed through the synchronization of direct and indirect fires. His performance and leadership while under direct enemy fire were instrumental in the platoon's success.

With complete disregard for his own safety, SGT Fraker's immediate actions in the enemy engagements area enabled him to maneuver his team and suppress the insurgent attack. Throughout the three hour fire fight, he risked his life multiple times in order to successfully suppress the enemy, provide life-saving cover fire, and mark enemy locations with smoke. As a result of SGT Fraker's actions, direct and indirect fires killed an estimated fifteen Taliban insurgents. His performance and leadership while under direct enemy fire were instrumental in the platoon's success.

PFC Drake proved himself to be an invaluable asset with his calm and effective actions that brought an immediate and deadly result to the enemy. His actions that day prevented the enemy from maneuvering against his platoon. He displayed maturity and courage beyond what is expected of any Soldier and his immediate actions in his first fire fight ensured 1st Platoon's success



05 September 2010



The following Soldiers: 1LT Barrett Rife and SSG George Harrison Jr. (A/2-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while conducting a mounted resupply mission along route Ottawa between Strong Point Lakokhel and Strong Point Ghundy Ghar, 2nd platoon's lead vehicle struck a pressure plate IED (PPIED). The IED strike was so powerful it forced the MAXPRO vehicle into a vertical position.

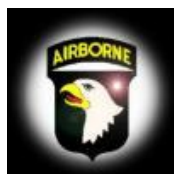
The vehicle came to rest on the ramp and resulted in extreme injuries to four U.S. Soldiers. 1LT Rife, the platoon leader, 2nd platoon, ignored any threat of possible secondary IEDs and moved to the site of the IED strike. With the assistance of his weapons squad leader, SSG Harrison, they began the extraction and assessment of wounded. Total disregard for their own safety in order to save the lives of four fellow Soldiers resulted in the wounded immediately receiving lifesaving care.

1LT Rife immediately assessed and reinforced security at the IED site. He requested ISR assets to aid in security as he began initial assessment of the wounded. Completing his initial assessment, 1LT Rife calmly submitted a 13-line MEDEVAC request, which resulted in a rapid wheels-up time for the MEDEVAC aircraft from Kandahar Air Field. After submitting the MEDEVAC request he assisted in the extraction of two of the four wounded from the escape hatch on the roof of the struck MAXPRO, SGT Dunlap and PFC Waskom, both of whom had sustained less-serious lower extremity injuries. 1LT Rife assisted SSG Harrison in moving the first two wounded to an established triage location 100 meters north of the IED site. As the medic began treating the initial wounded, 1LT Rife, again with disregard for his own personal safety, climbed up the outside of the MAXPRO and began the extraction of the TC, SSG Constantino who sustained multiple injuries to his lower extremities. 1LT Rife physically held open the door of the MAXPRO as he removed the TC from the vehicle, carefully lowering him to the ground and moving him to the triage location.

1LT Rife returned to the vehicle for a third time, as SSG Harrison scaled the driver's side of the vehicle he entered the struck vehicle through the escape hatch and began the extraction of SPC Kuvik, the driver of the vehicle. SPC Kuvik was unconscious at the time and had sustained extreme blast injuries to his lower extremities; he was pinned within the vehicle by his restraint system and part of the vehicle's dash. 1LT Rife began cutting and removing restraints and debris, which were preventing the extraction of the driver. SSG Harrison lowered the injured driver down to 1LT Rife, who then extracted him through the escape hatch. After this, he assisted in moving the driver to the triage area.



At the triage location, 1LT Rife and SSG Harrison assisted in the treatment of the wounded and then facilitated the loading of all wounded on two MEDEVAC aircraft. 1LT Rife's and SSG Harrison's action and treatment of all four wounded resulted in the survival of all wounded, with no loss of extremities from the injuries sustained from the IED strike.



05 September 2010



SGT Victor Faggiano (C/1-75 CAV) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor when he distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy during the clearance of the village of Tiranan as a member of 1st platoon, Company C, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment. His heroic actions led to the decisive defeat of a Taliban attack. On 5 September 2010, 1-75 CAV partnered with 4th Company/2/3/205 Corps ANA conducted an intelligence driven clearance of an enemy cache in Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. The clearance disrupted Taliban influence and IED construction in the area of operations.

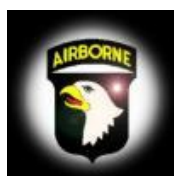
As SGT Faggiano's platoon arrived at the enemy cache site, his squad received effective and sustained small arms and machine gun fire from two buildings across an open field. These buildings were part of a templated local Taliban headquarters with approximately 20 fighters operating throughout the area. Upon taking fire, SGT Faggiano, the 1st squad leader, quickly realized his squad's position was directly in the cross fire between enemy positions. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, he moved into an open area in order to provide suppressive fires to allow his squad to move to a covered position.

As the rest of his squad maneuvered into a wadi line meters north of the insurgent buildings, SGT Faggiano ran along an exposed wadi in order to engage the enemy and direct the fires of his squad and his attached machine gun team. After an hour of intense combined arms combat, one of his team leaders received a gunshot wound to the abdomen. SGT Faggiano immediately moved to and provided the initial assessment and care of the wounded Soldier.



As the battle continued, he alternated between his squad, the machine gun team, and his wounded team leader ensuring he balanced engaging the enemy with treating the wounded Soldier. While consolidating his squad, SGT Faggiano recognized an enemy force attempting to flank his position along the wadi line they occupied. He rapidly shifted his squad's effects to engage the enemy maneuver. Under his leadership, his Soldiers effectively engaged the insurgents with multiple organic weapons and machine gun fires delivering devastating effects to the enemy.

With complete disregard for his own safety, SGT Faggiano's immediate actions in the enemy engagement area enabled him to maneuver his squad and suppress an insurgent attack. During the three hour fire fight, he risked his life multiple times in order to successfully suppress the enemy, direct life-saving covering fire, and provide essential first responder care. As a result of SGT Faggiano's actions, direct and indirect fires killed an estimated 15 Taliban insurgents. His performance and leadership while under direct enemy fire were instrumental in the platoon's success and allowed his wounded Soldier to be safely medically evacuated.



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

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

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

