



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT)
“STRIKE HISTORY”
09 February – 15 February 2014



09 – 10
February 1968

Operation SAN ANGELO: Recon/2-502 picked up on VC from a church where he was hiding in hopes of surrendering to a US unit. Man was classified as a local VC Chieu Hoi. B/2-502 was released from OPCON MACV HQ and closed Bien Hoa. A/2-502 released from OPCON II FFV CP Fwd and closed Bien Hoa on 10Feb.

09 February 1970

On this morning FB Birmingham received 3 mortar rounds.

09 February 1970

Combined forces in the 1st Brigade AO engaged two enemy, killing five and capturing the other five. 2/502 paratroopers with 1st ARVN Soldiers killed two and captured two weapons. The “Ready To Go” 2nd Brigade terminated operation. FB Bastogne, near the A Chau, was closed.

10 February 1968

Operation SAN ANGELO: 2-502 had conducted extensive search and destroy operations and was conducted with only sporadic light contact with local force units. Contact with main force VC/NVA units failed to materialize.

Results of Operation KLAMATH FALLS:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>WIA</u>
US	3	23	2

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VC KIA</u>	<u>NVA KIA</u>	<u>Wpns Ind.</u>	<u>Returnee</u>
ENEMY	23	1	8 AK-47's	2

The Battalion personnel strength at the conclusion of Operation was as follows:

Authorized:	778
Assigned:	696
Present for Duty:	620
Not present for duty:	78

10 February 1968

Col. Cushman directs 2nd Brigade to concentrate on combined operations with ARVN and Province forces within the brigade's AO.

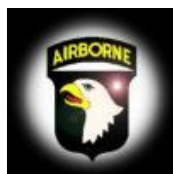
10 February 1970

Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Platoon discovered an enemy mortar site. The platoon was able to recover 11 mortar rounds, 30 firing caps in a can, and numerous firing caps on the ground. Apparently duds as they appeared to have been pried out of the tail section of the rounds that didn't set off. The firing caps have the appearance of 12 gauge shot gun shells. The Platoon called in a disposal unit who flew in by helicopter and removed the ordinance.

10 February 2006

Howitzer platoon assigned to B/1-320 FA, firing out of FOB Mahmudiyah North, received a call for fire from a 1-75CAV element caught in an ambush. The CAV element had made contact with dug-in, well armed AIF, and was pinned down by crew served weapons fire, unable to maneuver. Fixed wing assets could not properly locate the target or safe friendly troops.

In the firefight with the CAV element, AIF had fallen back from their prepared trenches to two buildings close by. 1-75 CAV's initial call for fire requested HE/DELAY, in an attempt to punch through the roofs of the buildings. A two round adjust was fired, and



repeated with a point detonation setting. Once the observer on the ground observed effects on target, he called for a four round fire for effect.

Subsequent maneuver and site exploitation found 14 AIF KIA in the rubble of both houses.

11 - 16
February 1968

Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON: 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry moved to Danang from Bien Hoa. This was conducted in two phases.

11 - 16
February 1968

Operation Unnamed: Operation Began (2-502 IN); Locations: Bien Hoa Province, RVN; Saigon, RVN; South China Sea; Danang, RVN; Task Organization: (TF Danford): 2-502 IN, 1/A/326 ENG, C/2-320 ARTY, IPW, 181 MI Detachment.

Mission: The 2d BN (Abn), 502d Infantry moved by motor march from Bien Hoa to Newport, Saigon, and LST to Danang, RVN. (AAR 17FEB1968)

The Battalion personnel strength at the beginning of Operation was as follows:

Authorized:	778
Assigned:	681
Present for Duty:	588
Not present for duty:	93

Execution:

Phase I – This phase included the repositioning of cargo and personnel at the Newport docks for further deployment by ship. At 111345H Feb the cargo was carried by motor convoy for boarding at Newport. At 120815H Feb, the 1st of 2nd march units departed Bien Hoa for Newport. The second march unit departed Bien Hoa 120830H.

Phase II – At 121210H Feb, the 1st LST departed Newport for Danang with A/2-502, C/2-320 Arty, and the command element abroad. At 121130H Feb, the second LST departed Newport with remainder of the TF.

Results: At 161600H Feb, the last elements of TF Danford closed Danang, RVN.

11 February 1970

Operation RANDLOPH GLEN: 2-502 (STRIKE Force) Battalion receives approximately fifty 60mm mortar rounds at Fire Base Rifle. The ground mortar attack is followed by an attack by an unknown number of enemy sappers. The attack lasted for approximately 45 min. The Strike Force troopers successfully repel the attack but not until nine Strike Force Soldiers gave their lives in defense of the firebase, killing 12 NVA. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)

12 February 1968

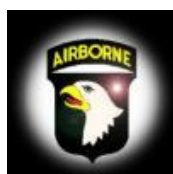
1-502 IN Battalion continues search and destroy operations east of Quang Tri and security of LZ Jane. Contact light with 1 WIA by booby-trap.

12 February 1969

I Corps, the 1st Brigade opened a new offensive operation with a combat assault by 2/502 north and east of FB Brick. The 2nd Brigade 1/501 established a new cordon southwest of FB Sandy.

12 February 2009

2BSTB holds a Remembrance Ceremony to honor the fallen STRIKE Soldiers from OIFs 05-07 and 07-09. Fallen Soldiers include SSG Stephen Seale, SGT Carlton Clark, and CPL Jose Zamora from OIF 05-07 and CPL Jessica Ellis from OIF 07-09.



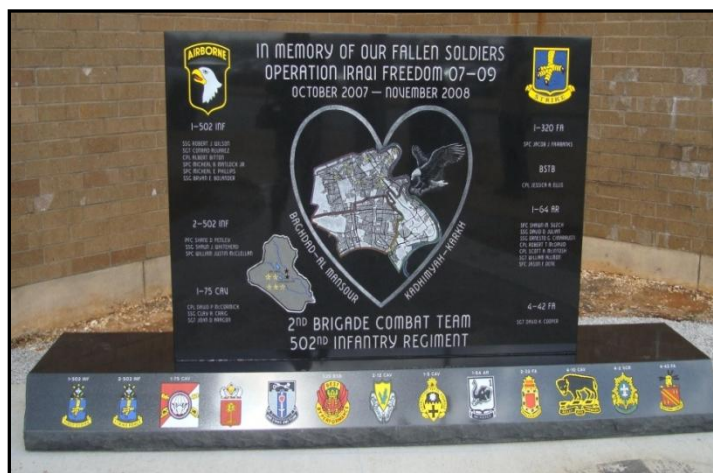
12 February 2009

2-502 IN holds a Remembrance Ceremony to honor the fallen STRIKE Soldiers from OIF 07-09. Fallen Soldiers include SSG Shaun J. Whitehead and SPC William J. McClellan.



12 February 2009

STRIKE holds a Remembrance Ceremony to honor the fallen STRIKE Soldiers from OIF 05-07. The following is the symbolism of the monument: The OIF 07-09 Monument honors the fallen comrades of 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. The black granite with an outline of a heart in the center is the symbol that represents the 502nd



Infantry Regiment. The symbol was attained during WWII. Inside of the heart is a map of the 502nd IN Regiment's Operational Environment in Baghdad, the districts of Al Mansour, Kadhimiya and Karkh. The Iraq map to the bottom left shows the 2-502nd Operational Area. A Bald Eagle is superimposed in the heart; this represents our enduring presence in North West Baghdad, Iraq.

The Area of Responsibility map and the map of Iraq to the bottom left of the black heart are embellished with 16 gold stars representing the locations where 502nd IN Regiment Soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice. On the upper left corner is the 101st Division Patch. On the upper right corner is the 502nd Infantry Regiment "STRIKE" unit crest. The casualties from each Battalion in our BCT are listed by name, rank and task force of each Fallen Eagle.

The unit crests for all Battalions that comprised the 502nd BCT during OIF 07-09 are listed across the memorial base.

12 February 2011

Gen. (R) Jack Keane, Chairman of the Board for the Institute for the Study of War.

13 February 1968

1-502 IN Battalion continues search and destroy operations southeast of Quang Tri and security of LZ Jane. Negative contact made.

13 February 1969

The new Leech Island operation continued as 2/502 searched for an enemy sapper battalion. 2/501 continued to recon in the Nui Ke area, killing three enemy.

14 February 1968

During the reporting period the 1-502 IN Battalion continued S&D (Search and Destroy) operations to the southeast of Quang Tri and continued to furnish security along QL #10 northwest to Hai Lang.

14 February 1969

Near Nui Ke, paratroopers of 2/501 killed two VC and captured an RPG launcher and an AK-47.

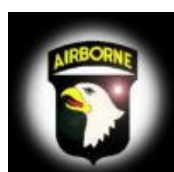
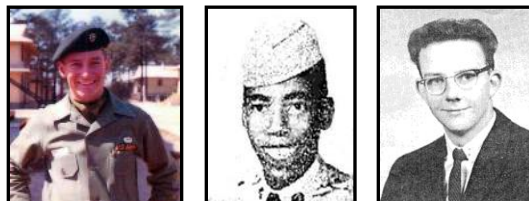


- 14 February 1971 The 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry moved to field location YD934078 just to the south of Anzio, with Alpha Company providing security. The elements of Charlie Company were taken to Phu Bai Combat Base to conduct nightly ambushes to aid in the defense of the installation.
- 14 February 2011 Gen. David Petraeus, the International Security Assistance Force commander.
- 15 February 1968 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry continues search and destroy operations with moderate contact made. Combat assault by Bravo received S/A and A/W fire during 2nd lift. Negative contact made after that. Alfa and Charlie made contact while sweeping. Results: 1 WIA, Enemy: 14 KIA.
- 15 February 1969 Scattered contact with squad-size or smaller enemy forces resulted in 11 enemy killed, two prisoners and 16 weapons captured, 2/502 found seven enemy dead, later discovered five weapons in a tunnel during patrols north and east of FB Brick. In two brief contacts in the rocket belt, 1/502 killed one enemy, captured another and took an AK and an RPG launcher. (Rendezvous with Destiny, Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary 1968-69)
- 15 February 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** 2-502 (STRIKE Force) Battalion Command Post was moved from FSB Rifle to Camp Eagle and FSB Rifle was closed. Operations continued in the area north of FSB Rifle with E Company occupying FSB Arsenal (YD812082). There was no enemy contact for the next three weeks. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)
- 15 February 1971 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry moved to FB Thunderbird with Charlie Company manning the perimeter.
- 15 February 2010 A Pre-Deployment Site Survey team of 15 senior leaders deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan in order to gain situational awareness of 2nd Brigade's future area of responsibility.

During this week, in the span of 72 years since the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941 as the 502nd Parachute Battalion, an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assault, the following awards were awarded to members of 2BCT and the 502nd IN Regiment.

1 x Distinguished Service Cross Medals (1 x Posthumously)
 8 x Silver Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
 2 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1 x Posthumously)
 1 x Bronze Star Medal (1x Posthumously)
 40 x Air Medals
 58x Purple Heart (42 x Posthumously)

09 February 1966 The following Soldiers: 1LT William D. Settlemire, PFC Johnny P. Price (Pictured), SGT William Cooley (Pictured), SGT John D. Bowman III (Pictured), and PFC John H. Mincey (A/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. (Pictures L-R)



09 February 1968

The following Soldier: SP6 Charles J. Crawford Jr. (HHC/1-502 IN), 1SG Joseph W. Rounseville (Pictured), SSG Bernard J. Caron, CPL Clyde L. De Mello, SP4 Charles E. Novel, and SP4 Donald S. Waite (Pictured) (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from other explosive device wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



09 February 1968

SP4 Benjamin J. Terejko Jr. (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

09 February 1968

SP4 Thomas Norton (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

10 February 1945

T/4 Clarence J. Kell (C/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during WWII in Belgium, Germany.

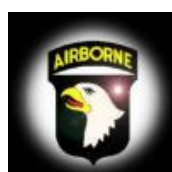
11 February 1970

The following Soldiers: PFC Timothy C. Farrell and SP4 Vincent M. La Rocca (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and from wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms fire wounds at FSB Rifle, 16k WSW of Phu Bai, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



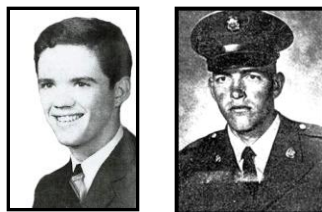
11 February 1970

The following Soldiers: SP4 Raymond R. Moon (Pictured) (HHC/2-502 IN), PFC Morgan L. Cahoon (Pictured), SP4 John J. Burns Jr., and PFC Harold W. Shuler (E/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and from wounds received their deaths from artillery, rocket, mortar fire wounds at FSB Rifle, 16k WSW of Phu Bai, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



11 February 1970

The following Soldiers: SGT Robert R. Davis and PFC Marlin T. Peterson (E/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and from wounds received their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds at FSB Rifle, 16k WSW of Phu Bai, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictured L-R)



12 February 1969



SP4 Antonino Ruggeri (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 Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

12 February 2006

PFC James Young (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from shrapnel received on his left bicep from a VCIED.

13 February 1968



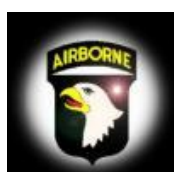
CPT Felix Sosa-Camejo (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

13 February 1968

SGT Franklin Delano R. Hatton (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 Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam.

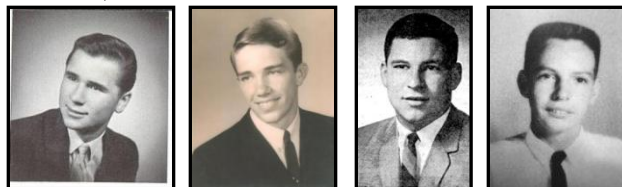
13 February 1969

The following Soldiers: 1LT Robert C. Wilkins, SGT Darryl F. Dilger, SP4 Joe A. Ysais (Pictured), PFC Salvadore O. Ricardo Jr. (A/2-501 IN); 1LT Donald C. Murnock (Pictured), SP4 George H. Keathley, PFC Santiago Nunez (B/1-502 IN); SP4 Floyd J. White Jr., PFC Winston L. Bower, PFC David B. Newell (E/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received during action against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (General Orders Number 2072; 9 March 1969)



13 February 1969

The following Soldiers: CPL Philip R. Frankiewicz and CPL Dennis E. Dawson (A/2-501 IN); SGT John W. Mendez (B/2-501 IN); SP4 Bedford M. Morris Jr. (B/1-502 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.



13 February 1970



PFC Richard J. Gorges (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

13 February 1970



SSG Ronald L. Haug (E/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.

13 February 2006

SGT David Rudnick (D/1-22 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from an IED while conducting combat operations. He suffered a minor concussion and laceration to the chin.

13 February 2008

SPC Antonio Johnson (1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from being wounded by the enemy.

14 February 1968



SP4 Harold L. Begody (D/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

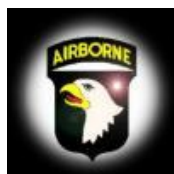
14 February 1968



PFC William Blakely (D/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

14 February 1968

PFC Rodolfo DeLeon (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.



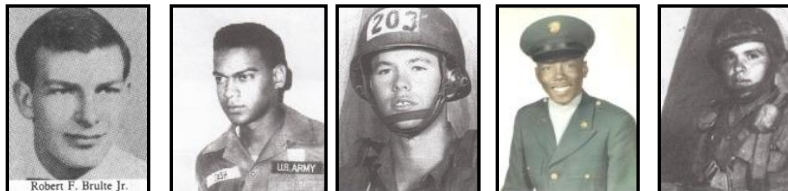
14 February 1969 CPL Salvador O. Ricardo (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

15 February 1969 The following Soldiers: SGT William R. Bellow, Amos F. Christian, Raymond Crawford, Scotty C. Davidson, Albert L. Edwards, David L. Ferguson, Harold D. Gearhardt, David W. Goodman, Diego M. Hammett, SP4 John C. Hayden Jr., Larry G. Hock, SGT Robby J. Hughes, Patrick L. Hurley, 1SG Lee F. Jones, SGT Peter C. King, Darrell D. Magneson, SGT Robert N. Malanders, LT Terry A. Mills, Napoleon R. Nochez, Eliseo A. Ortiz, Molina D. Ramos, Dennis P. Rose, David R. Sablan, John R. Schmitt Jr., Thomas J. Schwarzman, Steven L. Scott, Ellis J. Sherrick, SSG Dennis G. Williams (B/1-502 IN) earned the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Republic of Vietnam (General Order Number 10527)

15 February 1968 PFC Melvin H. Sanders (D/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 while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

15 February 1968 The following Soldiers: CPT Paul M. Pritchard, 1LT David B. Land, 1LT David B. Reider, SP4 Rodney Hall, SP4 Paul W. Nolan, SP4 Gary L. Stouffer, PFC Davis E. Derricho, PFC Harris D. Lee, PFC Larry S. Lloyd, PFC Robert A. Gibbs, PFC Donald E. Copeland (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight. (HQ; 101st ABN DIV; General Order No: 1094; 31 January 1969)

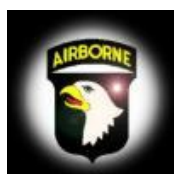
15 February 1968 The following Soldiers: 2LT Robert F. Brulte Jr. (Pictured), SGT David M. Cash (Pictured), CPL Wade E. Thackrey Jr. (Pictured), CPL Emanuel F. Burroughs (Pictured), PFC Earnest P. Holmes Jr., and PFC Henry M. Tabet (Pictured) (D/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



15 February 2006 SSG Aleksandr Moroshy (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while his platoon was escorting the BN TAC to FOB Mahmudiyah. At approximately 2030 on Route Temple, D141 took a direct hit on the drivers' side from a trip wire IED. Shrapnel shattered SSG Moroshy's left forearm.

15 February 2006 SPC Rubin Anderson (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while 4/D/1-502 IN was escorting the BN TAC to FOB Mahmudiyah. At approximately 2030 on Route Temple, D141 took a direct hit on the drivers' side from a trip wire IED. SPC Anderson sustained facial lacerations and lost 7 teeth.

15 February 2006 PFC Salvadore Bertolone (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while 4/D/1-502 IN was escorting the BN TAC to FOB Mahmudiyah. At approximately 2030 on Route Temple, D141 took a direct hit on the drivers' side from a trip wire IED. PFC Bertolone sustained lacerations to his face and hands.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

09 February 1966

CPT Henrik O. Lunde (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 9 February 1966 while serving as a company commander on a search and destroy mission near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. When the lead elements of the company approached the end of a narrow valley, they were engaged by an estimated Viet Cong company. During a lull in the action at dusk, Captain Lunde reorganized his forces and was leading them to a secured landing zone to evacuate casualties when the lead platoon was viciously attacked by a Viet Cong force. Although Captain Lunde and his command group were pinned down in the open by a murderous crossfire from two machine guns, Captain Lunde skillfully directed his executive officer in the defense of the remainder of the company. When the small group received intense grenade and mortar fire, Captain Lunde fearlessly led a bold frontal assault on the Viet Cong positions. Inspired by his courage, the small force overran the hostile emplacements. When their new position received a crossfire from two Viet Cong machine guns, he detected movement in the bushes. Captain Lunde, having used all of his grenades and not wanting to give away the exact location of his small perimeter, jumped up from his concealed position, and killed a Viet Cong with a burst of accurate fire. Captain Lunde's alertness and courageous action saved the small group from certain disaster. Throughout the course of the battle, Captain Lunde displayed aggressiveness, outstanding leadership, and inspired his men by his example. 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.

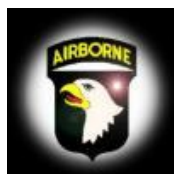
09 February 1966



SGT John D. Bowman III (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 9 February 1966 while serving as a member of a company whose mission was to relieve the pressure on friendly elements that were pinned down by a numerically superior Viet Cong force in the vicinity of Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1700 hours, while his platoon was maneuvering along a tree line, they were attacked by an entrenched and well camouflaged Viet Cong force. As the platoon advanced, it came upon an open area. Realizing that his men must cross the hazardous area to assist the other elements and unite the company, Sergeant Bowman rallied his man and personally led them across the open area. While leading his men, Sergeant Bowman was mortally wounded. His courageous actions, which had forced the Viet Cong to concentrate their fire on him, enabled the platoon leader to maneuver a squad to the flank and overrun the insurgent position. As a result three Viet Cong were killed and a machine gun was captured. His inspiring leadership while receiving intense hostile fire, and devotion to duty at the cost of his life, contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Sergeant Bowman'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.

09 February 1966

SSG Jose S. Laguana (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 9 February 1966 while serving as a platoon leader in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date, elements of the second platoon were engaged in a vicious fire fight with an entrenched Viet Cong force armed with automatic weapons and machine guns. As the hostile fire grew in intensity, the second platoon and the command element were pinned down. The first platoon was called to maneuver to the right along a creek bank and destroy a hostile position. Viet Cong machine gun fire pinned down the first platoon also. At this time, Staff Sergeant Laguana located the hostile machine gun and, with complete disregard for his safety, moved courageously around the Viet Cong machine gun position. After approaching to within 20 meters of the hostile position, Staff Sergeant Laguana braved almost certain death by charging through intense machine gun fire as he assaulted the hostile emplacement. Staff Sergeant Laguana's courage resulted in the death of two Viet Cong, the capture of a machine gun, an automatic rifle, and a rocket launcher. Because of his heroic actions the pinned down elements were able to advance, rout the insurgents, and continue their mission. Staff Sergeant Laguana'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 States Army.

09 February 1966

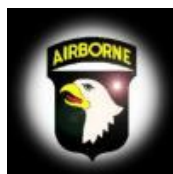
1LT William D. Settlemire (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 9 February 1966 while serving as platoon leader on a reconnaissance mission to secure a landing zone for a medical evacuation southwest of Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 2000 hours, while nearing the intended landing zone, his platoon received intense automatic weapons fire from close range on three sides. Although wounded in the initial engagement, First Lieutenant Settlemire refused medical aid, valiantly rallied his men, and moved them into a hasty perimeter. While exposed to the hostile fire, he continued to brave almost certain death as he moved from man to man to locate the wounded, direct their evacuation, encourage his men, and point out targets to them. While First Lieutenant Settlemire was moving to rally his men in a counterattack, he was hit again and mortally wounded. Though their leader had fallen, the momentum of the counterattack enabled his men to rout the Viet Cong force. First Lieutenant Settlemire'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.

10 February 1967

CPT Charles G. Belan (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for action in combat. The forward elements of Captain Belan's company, while on a search and destroy mission, located an enemy base camp. Immediately, Captain Belan maneuvered his company so as to effectively surround the base camp. As Captain Belan's company began to converge on the base camp, the forward elements were suddenly brought under a murderous volume of enemy fire. Realizing the precarious situation that the lead element was in, Captain Belan quickly began to press the remainder of the company into the assault. When another element of the company was brought under an equally withering volume of enemy fire, Captain Belan, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, charged through the enemy fire and personally led the assault against an estimated Viet Cong Platoon and successfully routed the enemy force. As the remainder of the company continued to move forward in the assault, another element of the company began to receive heavy enemy fire from a different direction. Again Captain Belan charged through the withering enemy fire and personally led the element against an estimated Viet Cong squad. Once again, an element was brought under fire from an estimated Viet Cong squad and again Captain Belan moved through the enemy fire and led his troops on a successful assault which overran the enemy position. Captain Belan's heroic actions were an inspiration to his men and a direct contribution to the destruction of the enemy base camp. As a result of his exemplary bravery, several enemy soldiers were killed, various weapons captured and sixteen prisoners of the Viet Cong were released, Captain Belan's outstanding gallantry in action and his avid devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

10 February 1967

SGT Fred A. Hendricks (B/2-502) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for action in combat. While on a search and destroy mission, Sergeant Hendricks was moving his squad along a stream when they discovered a rice and salt cache. Realizing the possibility of the enemy being near, Sergeant Hendricks left half of his squad to destroy the cache and with the remainder, he began to establish security on high ground overlooking the stream. Suddenly they were brought under fire by two Viet Cong. Sergeant Hendricks quickly returned the enemy fire and personally killed one enemy soldier and wounded the other. As Sergeant Hendricks maneuvered his element through the enemy position, he suddenly discovered a cleverly concealed complex of approximately twenty buildings and numerous bunkers with people running in apparent confusion. Realizing that he and his squad were up against an estimated reinforced platoon and that the element of surprise was important, Sergeant Hendricks charged forward with complete disregard for his own personal safety and began throwing grenades into the bunkers and dwellings. Sergeant Hendricks' squad quickly followed their inspirational leader without hesitation. Entering one of the dwellings, Sergeant Hendricks comes face to face with an enemy soldier



pointing a submachine gun directly at him. Dropping to the floor, Sergeant Hendricks fired a burst from his weapon and killed the enemy soldier. It was later discovered that the enemy soldier was identified as a North Vietnamese lieutenant who was the camp commander. Sergeant Hendricks continued to lead his men in the lightning assault on the enemy, forcing the numerically superior element to withdraw from the battle area. As a result of Sergeant Hendricks' actions, an enemy base camp was captured and numerous prisoners of the Viet Cong were liberated. His superior leadership and courageous actions inspired his men to such a degree that the small fire team element routed an estimated reinforced platoon-size enemy element. Sergeant Hendricks' outstanding display of gallantry in section and his avid devotion to duty are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

13 February 1968



CPT Felix Sosa-Camejo (C/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period of 14 November 1967 – 13 February 1968. 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 ways 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 of Army and reflect great credit on him and on the military service. (Bronze Star Citation)

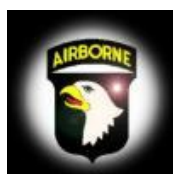
13 February 1969



1LT Donald C. Murnock (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 February 1969. Lieutenant Murnock distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company B, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, on a combat operation about twelve miles north of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Murnock was leading two squads of the First Platoon during a reconnaissance of a trail in the thick jungle terrain when the First Platoon was engaged by heavy fire from well-concealed ambush positions. In the course of the firefight, the lead man was struck by an enemy mine fragment and mortally wounded. Three other members of the platoon were seriously wounded, including Lieutenant Murnock, and one of the more seriously wounded was pinned down by the intense volume of fire. Although Lieutenant Murnock suffered ruptured ear drums from the initial contact, he reorganized the platoon and took the appropriate counter measures. Realizing that the seriously wounded individual was rapidly losing blood, Lieutenant Murnock, with the aid of his wounded platoon sergeant, directed the assault against the enemy in an attempt to retrieve his wounded and dead. He encouraged the wounded individuals to crawl to safety while he instructed the members of the platoon to provide a base of fire and again assault the enemy position. He remained in his unprotected position, directing the assault, until the enemy was repelled. Although his condition was serious, he thought of his men's welfare before his own safety and insisted that his men be evacuated first. Lieutenant Murnock'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. (General Order Number 3782; 25 April 1969)

13 February 1969

SGT Roger J. Barski (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 February 1969. Sergeant Barski distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company A, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, in the mountains southwest of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, Company A made contact with a large North Vietnamese force. During the ensuing firefight, the platoon leader of the second platoon was wounded by enemy fire and was unable to continue at his post. Sergeant Barski quickly assumed command and began to direct his men in suppressing the enemy fire. He moved from position to position, often completely unprotected from the intense enemy fire. After directing his men in providing an effective base of fire, he crawled forward to assist his wounded platoon leader and

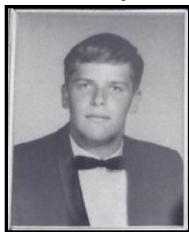


another wounded man. While under direct enemy fire, he administered emergency first aid to both men and then dragged them back to the company perimeter. After assuring their safety, Sergeant Barski led the platoon in an assault on the enemy positions, and succeeded in silencing them in close quarter fighting. Sergeant Barski'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.

13 February 1969

SP4 Ethen D. Smith (B/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 February 1969. Specialist Smith distinguished himself while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, as a radio operator on a combat operation about twelve miles southwest of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Company B, headquarters, and two squads of the first platoon were conducting a reconnaissance of a trail in thick jungle terrain. The lead squad suddenly received intense fire from the front. The lead man was immediately killed by a mine, and three other personnel were seriously wounded by the initial contact. One of the more seriously wounded individuals was pinned down by the intense volume of fire, and was unable to crawl to safety. Specialist Smith, with complete disregard for his own life, crawled through the heavy volume of fire. On the third attempt he successfully reached his wounded comrade. Du to his display of courage, the wounded man was able to receive immediate medical care. Specialist Smith's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st Airborne Division; General Order Number 3587; 20 April 1969)

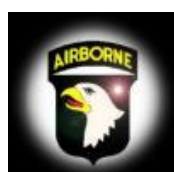
14 February 1968



PFC William Blakely (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company D, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Private First Class Blakely distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 14 February 1968 during a search and clear operation in the Hai Lang Area of Quang Tri Province. He was acting as point man for his platoon as it swept through a village. He discovered a line of bunkers manned by North Vietnamese Army Regulars, and the platoon was immediately hit with hostile automatic weapons fire and command detonated mines. Although wounded by the initial barrage, Private Blakely began hurling hand grenades onto the enemy positions, killing two North Vietnamese soldiers. He then sought cover behind a haystack to his platoon's front, and from there he saw his squad leader lying wounded and unconscious fifteen meters from the enemy bunkers. With complete disregard for his safety, Private Blakely crawled forward under intense fire to rescue the man and brought him back to the shelter of the haystack. Ignoring the pain of his injuries, he then continued to engage the enemy with rifle fire and hand grenades. While in an act of throwing a grenade, he was seriously wounded by an exploding enemy rocket round. He clutched the activated grenade and fell forward on it, saving the lives of his squad leader and a medic, and preventing injuries to other members of his squad who were close by. Private First Class Blakely'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. (G.O. Number 4316; 11 November 1968)

15 February 1968

1LT William F. Aronow (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 February 1968. First Lieutenant Aronow distinguished himself while serving as Executive Officer of Company D, 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry. Company D was on a combat patrol eight kilometers northwest of Hue, Republic of Vietnam, in search of enemy mortar positions when the lead element came under a withering hail of automatic weapons and small arms fire. Many men in the lead platoon were killed or wounded in the initial blast, and the forward elements were pinned down by a murderous fire. The company was operating with only two platoons and these were under strength. Thus there was only one platoon in reserve to relieve the pressure on the point platoon, and the enemy fire, coming from an estimated North Vietnamese company well entrenched and dug in, was seriously



retarding the efforts to extricate these men from their exposed position. Attempts were also being made to evacuate the wounded, but a number of injured men were so close to the enemy lines that this seemed virtually impossible. At this time First Lieutenant Aronow arrived with a handful of reinforcements and, fully exposing himself to the deadly enemy fire, skillfully deployed these men in an effort to stabilize the situation. The platoon leader of the lead platoon had been killed, and First lieutenant Aronow quickly seized control of the action in front, bringing up what reserves was left and distributing ammunition resupply. Still the heavy enemy fire was unabated, and men continued to fall, many of these in efforts to evacuate the dead and wounded. One man had been shot down almost directly beneath the enemy guns, and his body had lain there for a number of hours as any would be attempt to reach him appeared suicidal. However the platoon sergeant was about to make the effort when First Lieutenant Aronow ordered him to remain in position so as not to expose the senior man in the platoon to such excessive danger. Instead First Lieutenant Aronow went out himself, leading three volunteers, to reach the man. Immediately much enemy fire was concentrated on First Lieutenant Aronow as he moved across the open field in complete disregard for his own personal safety. On reaching the man he was found to be dead, and First Lieutenant Aronow ordered the men to put his body on a stretcher which had been brought out while he covered them. First Lieutenant Aronow then proceeded to shield the men with his own body and took a corner of the stretcher with one hand and, firing his rifle with the other, returned to the company lines. First Lieutenant Aronow then remained exposed while directing the evacuation of the remaining casualties, and once every wounded man had been moved to the rear the company began its withdrawal. First Lieutenant Aronow remained with the rear guard, firing as he moved and covering the withdrawal. Groups of enemy soldiers tried to turn the flank of the rear detachment and isolate it, but First Lieutenant fired on them and drove them back. The enemy repeated this action a number of times, but First Lieutenant Aronow, skillfully directed the security element, inflicted heavy casualties on the North Vietnamese in their vain efforts, and thus affected a safe withdrawal. In doing so he was not hesitant in exposing himself to the enemy fire in order to control his men. Without the calm, courageous leadership of First Lieutenant Aronow at a critical moment, the company very well might have suffered devastating results. His dedication to duty in the face of galling enemy fire was a lasting inspiration to every man in the company as well as a telling factor in the successful withdrawal of the company from a totally untenable position. First Lieutenant Aronow's exceptional and constant gallantry are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

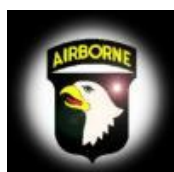


15 February 1968 SP4 Ronald Ymbras (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Air Medal for distinguishing himself by meritorious achievement while participating in a aerial combat assault into hostile territory in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 February 1968. During this operation he displayed the highest order of air discipline and acted in accordance with the best traditions of the service. By his determination to accomplish his mission in spite of the hazards inherent in a heliborne combat assault into hostile territory and by his outstanding degree of professionalism and devotion to duty, he has brought credit upon himself, his organization, and the military service. (HQ; 101st ABN DIV; General Order No: 1094; 31 January 1969)

***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."

