



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) “STRIKE HISTORY” 16 September – 22 September 2012



16 September –
06 December 2010

CTF STRIKE conducted a major operation involving all of its assets called Operation Dragon Strike. The operation was intended to provide security to southern Afghanistan.

“Operation Dragon Strike is one of many operations designed to secure the majority of the Afghan population in the Zharay and Maiwand districts,” said COL Arthur Kandarian, CTFS commander. As the operation continues, the amount of attacks on Highway 1 has decreased, said Kandarian.

The operation has each unit assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), clearing Taliban strongholds along Kandahar’s busiest route. Highway 1 was considered Taliban property, but since the operation started, control has been given back to the populace.

“Since Operation Dragon Strike began, we have seen an increase of the freedom of movement for the Afghan people on Highway 1,” said Kandarian. “We have also seen an increase in the amount of elders and leaders that come to the district center and we have been able to have the district governor go to more of the villages and places in the district to conduct shuras with the locals.”

North of Highway 1 is desert terrain with a lower population whereas the southern part of the highway is a combination of populated villages, deep water canals, large grape fields, mountain chains and Taliban presence. Partnered patrols from the STRIKE Battalions and the Afghan National Army’s 205th Corps, over 8,000 strong, continues to take out key Taliban positions.

“By removing the firing points Taliban use along Highway 1, we remove the Taliban’s



ability to limit our movement in the area,” said 1LT Reily McEvoy, a Fort Knox, Kentucky native and a platoon leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, one of the units in the operation. “This is what we trained for and this is a classic dismounted fight.” With the US and Afghan CTFS units clearing south of Highway 1, Taliban presence and influence leaves the area and the two partnered forces grow stronger.

“This is one of the many operations we are going to continue to do to improve the security for the Afghan population in Zharay and Maiwand,” said Kandarian. “It also increases the skill and capabilities of our Afghan partners, the Afghan Army and the Afghan police.”

As Combined Task Force STRIKE continues its partnered objectives in Operation Dragon Strike, the security of Zharay and Maiwand increases as do the capabilities of the people of Kandahar.

17 September 1944

The 502nd landed by parachute on Zon Drop Zone in Holland. 1st Battalion moved north from the drop zone to capture ST. Odenrode. While securing canal and river bridges, 1st



Battalion fought off persistent company and battalion sized German attacks. When the 101st moved north to hold positions Southwest of Arnhem, the 502nd became the Division reserve operating near Dodewaard. While in reserved the Deuce conducted security patrols which resulted in some direct engagements. German landmines however proved to be significant threat which caused a number of casualties.

17 September 1944

The following Soldiers loaded up on AC No., Chalk 10 for Operation Market Garden (In Drop Order): 1LT Jack F. Riggins, CPL Joe S. Martin, PVT John Zaika, PFC Alton F. Short, PVT Charles S. Garten, PFC LeRoy Kent, PVT Herbert Godbolt, PFC Hover L. Taylor, PFC Robert L. Hagelbaker, PVT Maxwell R. McLean, PVT Roy Elam, PFC Jesse L. Jacker, PVT Daiel Maurer, CPL Joseph Craney, SGT Roy Sutcliffe.

18 September 1944

D/502 was embroiled in a battle at a (possibly rail) embankment east of Best, Holland. Ray Hood calls it "hand grenade city", as both sides were lobbing grenades over the embankment and shooting, when targets presented themselves. The ground was sandy and heavy fighting raged. The 101st troops had run out of water and were extremely thirsty. Walt Kawalek of D/502 later wrote: "Our rifles got sand in the breeches, and we were forced to work the bolts by hand until we could get enough oil on them to properly function. Seemed like the hotter they got, the better they worked. Linseed oil boiled out of the stocks and burnt our hands from the terrific heat of the barrels."

18 September 1944

LTC Robert G. Cole, Commander of 3/502 is killed in action east of Best, Holland by a sniper as he was personally adjusting recognition panels to protect his men from strafing Allied aircraft.



18-21 September 1965 Operation Gibraltar, a sweep to secure the 1st Cavalry Division's basecamp, takes place near An Ninh in the Son Con Valley north of An Khe. Conducted by the 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry (Airborne), it will become the first major contact of the 101st Airborne Division and the first defeat of a Vietcong Main Force unit by the US Army. Results were 13 US KIAs, 44 WIAs while the VC suffered 226 KIAs.

Quote:

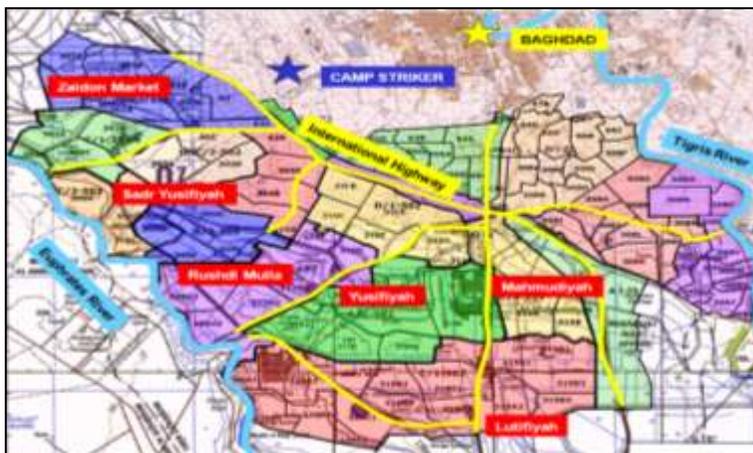
Landing at 7:00 o'clock in the morning, in what was later determined to be a Viet Cong battalion command post, the troopers found themselves completely surrounded and outnumbered. Only one company and a half were able to set down on the landing zone; the remaining assault force was waved out of the area by a captain on the ground who was later killed by heavy ground fire. But as reinforcements arrived it was quite evident the original assault had caught the enemy completely by surprise, and he was never able to reorganize his force. This was compounded by the courageous actions of the surrounded troopers, who took the offensive and badly mauled the confused Viet Cong.

18 September 1968 A/1-502 sprung an ambush, vic. YD6729 on 1 VC, resulting in 1 VC KIA. B/1-502 provided security for Rome plow. C/1-502 is still OPCN to 1/501.

19 September 1968 D/1-502 had light contact with 2 VC, vic. YD6630 with negative results. Recon/1-502 engaged 5 VC, vic. YD7130 with negative results; they later engaged 1 VC from ambush in the same area, resulting in 1 VC KIA.

20 September 1968 A/1-502 security of An LO, B/1-502 was OPCON to 1/501, and C/1-502 RIF vic. YD6530, they had 2 light contacts with 3 VC, vic. YD6628 and 4 VC, vic. YD7029, with negative assessment.

20 September 2005 2BCT deploys to Multi-National Division Baghdad to partner with Iraqi Security Forces to conduct full-spectrum counter-insurgency operations to isolate and neutralize anti-Iraqi forces, continue to develop Iraqi Security Force capability, secure key terrain, and support government and economic development in order to create a security environment that facilitates the completion of the UNSCR 1546 process on schedule.



20 September 2010 The command and control of the Arghandab district was reassigned to Task Force Raider (1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division) along with 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment and 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment under tactical control.

21-23 September 1968 Normal activities continued with no contact. B/1-502 found 1 ammo cache, vic. YD6029.



21 September –
06 December 2010

1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment “Leader Rakkasans” are assigned to CTF STRIKE for operations into the Horn of Panjwa“i and are quickly nicknamed, “Strikeasans.”

22 September –
19 October 1965

Operation Good Friend I begins. The 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry (Airborne) secures the Cam Ranh Bay area for the arrival of the ROK Marine Brigade, relieving the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry.

During this week, in the span of 71 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, 501st IN (Vietnam) and the 502nd IN Regiment (*See STRIKE HISTORY NOTE).

1 x Medal of Honor (1 x Posthumously)
8 x Distinguished Service Cross Medal (3 x Posthumously)
9 x Silver Star Medal (3 x Posthumously)
8 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
8 x ARCOM with Valor
5 x Bronze Star Medal (5 x Posthumously)
189 x Purple Heart Medal (135 x Posthumously)

16 September 2010

The following Soldiers: SPC Adam Lipski was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor; PFC Thomas Pedigo and SPC Kevin Clifton was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor (A/2-502); SPC Matthew Zaragoza (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart for exceptionally valorous service.

16 September 2010



SGT Aaron Kramer (A/2-502 IN), 22, of Salt Lake City, Utah, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously). SGT Kramer died in Kandahar, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire.

16 September 2010



SPC Timothy Johnson (A/1-66 AR), 24, of Randolph, New York, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously). SPC Johnson died in Kandahar, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

16 September 2010

The Following Soldiers: SFC Ted Maust, PFC Marion Novotny and PVT Joshua Morales, SGT Jeremy Snyder, SPC Daus Hempker, SPC Tyler Sawyer and PFC Allen Carney (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

16 September 2010

MSG Kenneth White (A/1-320 FAR) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire.



16 September 2010 SGT Jose Ruiz (HHC/1-66 FAR) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

17 September 1944 The following Soldiers: PVT Roy L. Stephens (RH/502d PIR); PVT Clarence J. Kubsch (HQ/2-502d PIR); William A. Nesbit [1] (I/502d PIR); PVT Paul T. Sullivan (502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during Holland France, during Operation Market Garden.



17 September 1944 S/Sgt John T. White (H/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during the Battle at Best, Operation Market Garden, the Liberation of Holland.

17 September 2010 2LT Taylor Murphy (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart for exceptionally valorous conduct in a movement to contact into the town of Makuan.

17 September 2010 SSG Adam Johnson (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for exceptionally valorous service.

17 September 2010 The Following Soldiers: SGT David Coleman and SPC Caylin Gardner (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

17 September 2010 SSG Jaime Newman (B/1-502 IN), 27, of Richmond, Virginia, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously). SSG Newman died in the Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. Wounded were SGT Gabriel Meza, SGT Ryan Heneghan, SGT Caylin Gardner, SPC George Ellsworth, SPC Milton Jenkins, SPC Nicholas Leigh, SPC Jonathan Avery, SPC Jose Garcia, PFC Tyrell Loper, PFC Jordan Heckel, and 2LT Taylor Murphy.



17 September 2010 The Following Soldiers: SGT Gabriel Meza, SGT Ryan Heneghan, SPC George Ellsworth, SPC Milton Jenkins, SPC Nicholas Leigh, SPC Jonathan Avery, SPC Jose Garcia, PFC Tyrell Loper and PFC Jordan Heckel (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

17 September 2010 CPL Deangelo Snow (D/526 BSB), 22, of Saginaw, Michigan, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart. CPL Snow died in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his vehicle with a rocket-propelled grenade.



17 September 2010



1LT Eric Yates (B/1-502 IN), 26, of Rineyville, Kentucky, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart. 1LT Yates died in the Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

17 September 2010

SSGT Brent Olson (42nd SFS) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device. Home station, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, and was in support of 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment

17 September 2010

The following Soldiers: SGT Bethany Bayer (HHC/2BSTB); SGT Justin Kerby (A/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked her mounted patrol with a rocket propelled grenade.

17 September 2010

SPC Fabian Salazar (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

18 September 1944

PFC Joe E. Mann (H/502d PIR) was awarded the Medal of Honor (Posthumously) for conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty in the vicinity of Best, Holland.

18 September 1944

The following Soldiers: CPT Fred O. Drennan (E/2-502d PIR); PFC William A. Conklin (G/502d PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.

18 September 1944

PVT William F. Podkulski (E/502d PIR) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the vicinity of Best Holland.

18 September 1944



The Following Soldiers: 1LT Winfield F. Brungard, PVT Ira L. Brookins, PFC George Lineberry, PVT John R. Markowitz, PVT Millard T. Sanderlin (HQ/2-502d PIR); CPL George E. Spear (F/2-502d PIR) PVT Nicholas Krainovich, T/5 Robert E. Doran [2] (HQ/3-502d PIR); SGT James W. Brodie, T/4 Gordon N. Majure, PVT Billy J. Penn (D/502d PIR); CPT Fred O. Drennan, S/Sgt Jack W. Duncan, PVT Richard P. Ofchinick (E/2-502d PIR); 2LT Owen Owen, 1LT Nicholas C. Schiltz [1] (F/502d PIR); PVT Onroe Luther, PFC Joe E. Mann, PVT Robert L. Mattess, T/5 Joseph Senger (H/502d PIR); SGT Everett D. Dye [3] (I/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during the Battle at Best; Operation Market Garden, the Liberation of Holland.



18 September 1944

The following Soldiers: PVT Sidney W. Irvan (HQ/1-502d PIR); PVT Ivie A. Ward Jr. earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death in Holland, France



- 18 September 1965 MAJ Herbert J. Dexter (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in the vicinity of Binh Khe, Republic of Vietnam.
- 18 September 1965 SSG Johnnie W. Faircloth (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action in the Republic of Vietnam.
- 18 September 1965 SSG Roynald M. Taylor (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam.
- 18 September 1965 LTC Wilfrid K. G. Smith (HHC/2-502 IN;) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action north of Binh Rhe, Republic of Vietnam.
- 18 September 1965 The following Soldiers: MAJ Herbert J. Dexter (HHC/2-502); SSG Johnnie W. Faircloth, SP4 Ernest L. Miller, SP4 Joe L. Meek (B/2-502); CPT Robert E. Rawls, SSG George E. Burchett, SSG Roynald E. Taylor, SP4 Frank Boynton, PFC Johnnie P. Winfrey, PFC Leroy Hicks, PFC Jerry D. Underwood, PFC Ernest K. Gerhardt (C/2-502) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gunfire wounds during the Battle of An Ninh in the Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam.
- 18 September 1967 PFC Jackie A. Tuohy (B/2-502) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as a ground casualty in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.
- 18 September 1970 SSG Norman H. Lambert (HQ/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.
- 18 September 2010 The following Soldiers: SGT Rolando Zavala and SGT Vincent Jones (A/1-320 FAR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for exceptionally valorous conduct during combat operations.
- 18 September 2010 SFC Phillip Carroll (A/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy in Kandahar, Afghanistan.
- 18 September 2010 CPT Jeffrey Aebischer (A/1-320 FAR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for valorous conduct in the face of the enemy in Kandahar, Afghanistan.
- 19 September 1944 The following Soldiers: PFC William P. Evans, PFC Frank P. Garofano (G/502d PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy near Best, Holland.
- 19 September 1944 PFC Reginald Davis (F/502) is awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action near Best, Holland.
- 19 September 1944 The following Soldiers: PVT Hubert G. Pitts (RHQ/502d PIR); 1LT Rodney B. Adams (B/502d PIR); PVT John J. O'Brien Jr. (C/502d PIR); PVT Arylis W. Green, PVT Howard H. Schwarting Jr., PVT John Matey (502d PIR); T/5 David S. Newbury, PFC Raymond F. Stein (SRVC/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart



(Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during Operation Market Garden, the Liberation of Holland.

19 September 1944



The following Soldiers: CPL Cyrus W. Miller (3-502d PIR); PFC Alex Delulio Jr., T/5 Edwin B. Wood (RHQ/502d PIR); PVT Frank T. Kessler Jr. (C/502d PIR), PFC David C. Gifford, PVT Frank G. McLane, PFC Thaddeus Migacz (D/502d PIR), SGT Frank J. Tedeschi, PFC Michael Babich, PVT Cecil B. Lawhorn, (E/502d PIR), PFC Sidney Conley, PFC Johnnie B. Kilgore [2], PFC Charles J. La France, PFC Wilson L. Lee, SGT George J. Repko, PVT Byron T. Sykes, SGT William Storino (F/502d PIR), PVT Eugene J. Yonce (H/502d PIR) PVT John R. Clark, PVT Warren F. Clark, PVT Leslie B. Nussbaum, PVT William E. Baker, S/SGT Julius J. Sovak, CPL Lester A. Taylor [1] (I/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during the Battle at Best; Operation Market Garden, the Liberation of Holland.



19 September 1967

SP4 William D. Austin (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force, in the Republic of Vietnam,

19 September 1970

CPT Charles S. Ciccolella (E/2-502) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action, during combat operations on Fire base Whip, Republic of Vietnam.

19 September 1970

SP4 Rufus A. Thomas Jr. (B/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 Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

19 September 2010

The following Soldiers: CPT Matthew Crawford (A/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor; SGT Zane Cordingly (A/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart; SGT Joseph Hardin (B/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart; PFC Thomas Leonard (595th ENG) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart; for exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy in Zharay District, Kandahar Province of Afghanistan.

19 September 2010

The following Soldiers: LTC Thomas McFadyen, 1LT Joseph Han, SSG Christopher James, SPC Francisco Minaya, PFC Robert Trujillo, PFC Kelly Doyle (HHT/1-75 CAV), 1LT Jacob Watson, PFC Joshua Bullis (595th ENG) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

19 September 2010

PFC David Allen (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

20 September 1944

PFC Fred Sparks Jones, Jr. (G/2-502d PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy during Operation MARKET GARDEN, near Brest, Holland.



20 September 1944 The following Soldiers: PFC Aubrey F. Burriss, (HQ/502nd PIR) S/SGT Howard T. Huntington, PVT Charles C. Johnson, PFC Jay E. Lehman, PVT Pete G. Valencia (HQ/1-502nd PIR) 1LT Elmer G. Brining (B/502nd PIR) PFC John A. Kern Jr., (C/502nd PIR); SGT James J. Nemeth (E/502nd PIR), PVT Henry L. Jackson (G/502nd PIR); 2LT George L. Davidson (SRVC/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during Operation Market Garden, Liberation of Holland.

20 September 1944 The following Soldiers: PVT John Kish Jr. (D/502nd PIR); PFC Albert A. Pontecorvo, SGT Peter J. Starzyski (E/502^d PIR); S/SGT Joe L. Clements, PFC Fred S. Jones Jr., PFC Royce W. Jones, PVT Melvin L. Tetrick (G/502^d PIR); PVT William K. Cole, PFC Harry N. Goodman, PVT Lawrence F. Koller Jr. (H/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during the Battle at Best, Holland, France.

20 September 1966



The following Soldiers: SGT Elias R. Rodriguez (B/2-502 IN) and SGT Charles J. Blanco (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.



20 September 2010

The following Soldiers: SGT Grover Muirheid, PFC Jeremy Perez, PFC Marcus Carter, PVT Cory Clark and PVT David Burton (C/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their mounted patrol with a rocket propelled grenade.

21 September 1944

1LT George H. Craft (502^d PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in the vicinity of Saint Oedenrode, Holland.

21 September 1944

The following Soldiers: SGT John C. Craine, PFC Orin F. Keyes [1], SGT Cecil F. Miller (B/502nd PIR), SGT Clyde E. Featherston (C/502nd PIR), SGT Albert Mazzeo (F/502nd PIR), PVT Raymond R. Massucco, PFC Paul F. Volland, CPL John Q. Young, PFC Raymond L. House (G/502nd PIR), and PVT James A. Murphy (502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during Operation Market Garden, Liberation of Holland.



21 September 1966

1LT John D. Mooneyham (A/2-502) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam.

21 September 1970

SP5 Stephen T. Smith (HHC/1-502) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



21 September 2010 SGT Isaac Labonte (C/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for exceptionally valorous action in the face of the enemy near the villages of Haji Musa and Haji Rahmuddin in Zharay District, Kandahar Province of Afghanistan

21 September 2010 The following Soldiers: SGT Steven Liddle (HHC/2BCT); SSG Avionne Reese, SPC Chase Parent, SPC Dylan Schwinn (A/1-320 FAR); SSG Nicholas Smith (A/2BSTB) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

22 September 1944 PFC Robert L. Deckard (C/1-502d PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in the vicinity of Saint Oedenrode, Holland.

22 September 1944 COL John Michaelis (HQ/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart, COL Michaelis and three members of his staff are seriously wounded by an artillery shell outside of his command post.

22 September 1944 The following Soldiers: PFC Michael P. Cherub (HQ 1/502nd PIR), PFC Garland E. Mills (HQ 2/502nd PIR), T/5 Henry F. Bilodeau, and PVT Redmond D. Wells Jr. (B/502nd PIR), SGT James A. Colon (C/502nd PIR), PFC Nicholas L. Bonilla [1], and PVT Charles W. Works (D/502nd PIR); PVT J. C. Ervin, PVT Richard P. Marvin, PVT William F. Podkulski, and PVT Elwin G. White (E/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during Operation Market Garden, Liberation of Holland.



22 September 1944 The following Soldiers: PVT Glenn V.W. Erickson (HQ/3-502d PIR); 1LT Clarence M. Baker (C/502d PIR), SGT Lenwood E. Tuttle, CPL John W. Hagan (D/502d PIR); 2LT Robert W. Sickles, PVT Domenick Chirico, (E/502d PIR); PFC Raymond F. Cook, PVT Daniel A. Mentzer (H/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during the Battle of Best, Operation Market Garden, Liberation of Holland.

22 September 1944 The following Soldiers: PFC Louis H. Rigsby (G/502nd PIR) PFC William D. Meadows (H/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during Operation Market Garden, Liberation of Holland.

22 September 1966 SP4 Joe T. Johnson (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 Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam.



22 September 1968



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

22 September 2010

SSG Derek Leach (C/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy during clearance of Pashmul in Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

22 September 2010

The following Soldiers: PFC David Allen (A/2-502 IN); SPC Garravasio, PVT Reginald Penton (B/1-320 FAR); SPC Charles Parino (A/2BSTB); earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

22 September 2010

The following Soldiers: PFC Richard Bateman III (A/2-502 IN); SPC Jason Awad (595th ENG) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

16 September 2010



The following Soldiers: SPC Adam Lipski was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor; PFC Thomas Pedigo and SPC Kevin Clifton was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor (A/2-502); 3rd platoon was tasked to conduct battle damage assessment of an enemy casualty on the battlefield following an attack on their combat outpost earlier that day.

During the initial movement from the outpost toward the objective, the patrol began crossing an open danger area, establishing a support-by-fire and flank security and bounding one team from the lead squad forward across the field. As this team reached their next covered position on the far side of the field, insurgents attacked the patrol with small arms and machine gun fire from multiple directions. The enemy had entrenched fighting positions to the patrol's front, and there was another element engaging the patrol with intermittent harassing fire from a rooftop on the patrol's flank.

The patrol leader began establishing a base of fire. After initial suppression of the enemy the lead squad leader, SGT Aaron Kramer, moved across the open field to the lead team in order to maneuver them back to a covered location with the main element. During this movement he sustained a gunshot wound to his upper right arm and fell to the ground.

PFC Pedigo, a SAW Gunner in the trail squad, ran forward with his team leader, SPC Clifton, and the platoon medic, SPC Lipski, to SGT Kramer while still under sustained and effective enemy fire. Despite rounds impacting the ground around him, PFC Pedigo provided continuous and disciplined suppressive fire on enemy forces. PFC Pedigo exposed himself to direct enemy fire for several minutes in an open field without cover in order to allow the medic to provide immediate treatment.

For several minutes SPC Lipski treated and evaluated SGT Kramer under direct enemy fire in an open field with no cover. Despite rounds impacting the dirt around him SPC Lipski remained steady and composed. He continued his



efforts to treat and save the wounded Soldier and administered competent initial evaluation and treatment, facilitating a speedy 13-line MEDEVAC request.

PFC Pedigo continued to suppress the enemy with his team leader while the medic moved SGT Kramer 25 meters to cover and only moved back to cover himself when the casualty was out of the engagement area. SPC Lipski led the effort to load SGT Kramer on a litter and into the CASEVAC vehicle and provided medical attention en-route to a higher level of care.

PFC Pedigo's courage went beyond the call of duty, and his effective suppression single-handedly provided the firepower, which allowed the platoon medic to evacuate the casualty without further loss of life. Acting with complete disregard for his personal safety, PFC Pedigo exposed himself to enemy fire from multiple directions for an extended period of time in order to save the life of a fellow Soldier.



Acting with complete disregard for his personal safety, SPC Lipski exposed himself to enemy fire from multiple directions for an extended period of time in order to save the life of a fellow Soldier.

16 September 2010



SPC Matthew Zaragoza (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart for exceptionally valorous service as a M240B machine gunner in 3rd platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

3rd platoon conducted a dismounted patrol to screen engineer elements creating a blocking position in the "Super Wadi," key terrain in the Maiwand district. The platoon moved west and crossed the Super Wadi, entering terrain ISAF forces had not patrolled in years. Moving south along the Super Wadi ahead of the engineers, the platoon was engaged by the enemy from fighting positions 250 meters away to both the south and southwest.

SPC Zaragoza's section was in the middle of an open field when they were engaged. While his section struggled to find cover, SPC Zaragoza sprinted forward toward the enemy fire to a short wall 75 meters ahead of him. SPC Zaragoza engaged the enemy with a high volume of suppressive fire and was grazed along the inside of his leg by an enemy bullet.

Ignoring his wound, SPC Zaragoza continued accurately and aggressively engaging the enemy, allowing the rest of his element to find positions of cover and concealment from which to return fire. With their base of fire established, the platoon was able to maneuver and destroy the enemy, clearing the way for the engineers to move south.



Despite the wound he sustained, SPC Zaragoza continued the dismounted mission, carrying a load of more than 60 pounds for six and a half hours. Upon completion of the patrol SPC Zaragoza was evacuated to the company Strong Point where he received medical treatment from the Battalion Surgeon.

The success of this mission ceased the insurgent flow of men, weapons, and equipment into both the Battalion and Brigade area of operations.

17 September 2010



2LT Taylor Murphy (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart for exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy of the United States, as a platoon leader, Company B, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, FOB Wilson, Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. On this date at approximately 1600 hours his platoon was conducting a movement to contact into the town of Makuan.

2LT Murphy was in charge of a 30 man platoon that was conducting a movement to contact in an area where his element had recently taken recoilless rifle and small arms fire. 2LT Murphy's platoon was securing combat engineers as they emplaced demolitions in support of counter mobility operations. While on Phase Line White, north of Makuan village, his platoon came under a heavy volume of small arms fire, PKM fire and recoilless rifle fire pinning the platoon down. The enemy fire originated from multiple locations in the tree line just 150 meters south of 2LT Murphy's location.

Unable to identify the origin of the fires 2LT Murphy selflessly exposed himself in order to assess the origin of the enemy fire. Within seconds 2LT Murphy was engaged with an accurate burst of machine gun fire. 2LT Murphy was struck through the right wrist with the bullet lodging itself in his front chest plate. With complete disregard for his wounds, 2LT Murphy continued to lead his platoon refusing medical treatment until his Commander arrived and ordered him back off the line for treatment. After having received treatment 2LT Murphy rejoined his platoon and continued to move between his squads directing their fires.



His actions allowed his platoon to gain fire superiority on the enemy positions. His coordination of rotary aircraft strikes on the enemy positions broke the enemies' will to continue the fight, and forced them from their fighting positions. On order 2LT Murphy, still wounded, led his platoon as they assaulted the enemy positions. His leadership and direction were instrumental in quickly securing the enemy fighting positions. His assault forced the enemy to displace south through an open area allowing 3rd platoon to engage and destroy the enemy.

Following three A-10 gun runs, two kinetic strikes, and multiple engagements with CCA 2LT Murphy again led his platoon to conduct battle



damage assessment. Only after his platoon had returned to the strongpoint did he allow himself to receive further treatment. Twenty-four hours after being wounded, 2LT Murphy was called upon to react to a double IED strike that resulted in a mass casualty situation. His platoon was tasked with securing the site and assisting in the evacuation of all casualties when they were engaged with an IED during movement. The IED detonated ten meters from 2LT Murphy's location. After ensuring his lead team leader was uninjured, 2LT Murphy, with disregard for secondary IEDs, rushed to the site of the blast to assess the situation.

He determined that his patrol had sustained six casualties and his platoon sergeant was KIA. Fearing a secondary IED, 2LT Murphy established security north of the blast site and then returned to move the casualties to his new security perimeter. After all casualties were evacuated, 2LT Murphy again returned to the blast site taking great risk to collect secret graphics and recover the remains of his fallen platoon sergeant. Upon securing all recoverable materials 2LT Murphy helped carry his fallen platoon sergeant over 800 meters back to the strong point. Upon returning to the strong point 2LT Murphy was tasked with securing the ambulatory wounded in moving 500 meters to the ground casualty evacuation linkup site.

Once there, 2LT Murphy received a follow on mission to again return to the blast site and evacuate two additional Soldiers who suffered delayed effects of TBI. 2LT Murphy again moved the 800 meters back to the blast site, secured the casualties and moved them back to the ground AXP. Only after all casualties had been evacuated did 2LT Murphy return to the company strong point where he ensured that his Soldiers were physically and mentally prepared for follow on missions.

2LT Murphy's courage and leadership under fire and dedication to duty are unquestionable. He consistently continued to lead, maneuver and coordinate CAS, CCA and IDF expertly and with complete disregard for his personal safety and wounds, thus driving off and securing the enemies' fighting locations.

17 September 2010



SSG Adam Johnson (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for exceptionally valorous service as a squad leader in 2nd platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

2nd platoon conducted a dismounted patrol to interdict insurgent forces in support of the establishment of Strong Point Shalghamay. The patrol moved west to secure terrain previously unoccupied by Coalition Forces. The platoon discovered and destroyed one insurgent weapons cache and one insurgent remote controlled IED.

Upon exfil of the objective, 2nd platoon was ambushed by multiple enemy positions to the west and southwest. 2nd platoon gained fire superiority on insurgent fighting positions and began to maneuver west to close with the enemy. During the assault, an additional insurgent fighting position to the southeast engaged the platoon's left flank from the rear.

SSG Johnson clearly communicated the situation to the platoon leader and quickly coordinated to maneuver his squad



on the insurgents. SSG Johnson effectively maneuvered his squad over 200 meters to close with and destroy the enemy, employing tactically sound use of fire and maneuver, smoke to screen movement and mark friendly locations, and hand grenades to breach enemy fighting positions.

SSG Johnson's aggressive assault caused the wounded insurgents to break contact and retreat from the engagement area. During the assault, one Soldier in SSG Johnson's squad was wounded by insurgent RPG fire. SSG Johnson quickly established security on the objective area, assessed the casualty, and rapidly moved the wounded Soldier to the platoon casualty collection point for CASEVAC.

18 September 1944



PFC Joe E. Mann (H/502d PIR) was awarded the Medal of Honor (Posthumously) for conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Company H, 502d Parachute Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. On 18 September 1944, in the vicinity of Best, Holland, Private First Class Mann platoon, attempting to seize the bridge across the Wilhelmina Canal, was surrounded and isolated by an enemy force greatly superior in personnel and firepower. Acting as lead scout, PFC Mann boldly crept to within rocket-launcher range of an enemy artillery position and, in the face of heavy enemy fire, destroyed an 88-mm gun and an ammunition dump. Completely disregarding the great danger involved, he remained in his exposed position, and, with his M-1 rifle, killed the enemy one by one until he was wounded four times. Taken to a covered position, he insisted on returning to a forward position to stand guard during the night. On the following morning the enemy launched a concerted attack and advanced to within a few yards of the position, throwing hand grenades as they approached. One of these landed within a few feet of Private First Class Mann. Unable to raise his arms, which were bandaged to his body, he yelled "grenade" and threw his body over the grenade, and as it exploded, died. His outstanding gallantry above and beyond the call of duty and his magnificent conduct were an everlasting inspiration to his comrades for whom he gave his life. (General Orders No. 73, August 30, 1945)



18 September 1944

PFC William A. Conklin (G/502d PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company G, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 18 and 19 September 1944. Private First Class Conklin's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, Seventh U.S. Army, General Orders No. 436 (1945))



18 September 1944



CPT Fred O. Drennan (E/2-502d PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company E, 2d Battalion, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 18 September 1944. Captain Drennan's outstanding leadership, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty at the cost of his life, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, 1st Allied Airborne Army, General Orders No. 34 (1945))

18 September 1944

PVT William F. Podkulski (E/502d PIR) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while serving with the army of the United States, distinguished himself by gallantry in action. On 18 September 1944, in the vicinity of Best Holland, PFC Podkulski located an enemy mortar which was holding up the advance of his company. Searing personal safety, Private Podkulski rushed forward across an open field in the face of heavy and intense enemy fire to destroy the enemy gun. Before reaching the gun, he was seriously wounded. Undaunted and with unflinching devotion to duty he crawled forward to a position from which he was able to destroy the entire enemy position with hand grenades. By his heroic actions the company was able to advance toward its objective. During a later action he was mortally wounded. The supreme sacrifice he made above and beyond the call of duty his intrepid courage and heroic devotion to duty exemplify the highest standards of the military service. Entered the military service from Pennsylvania.

18 September 1965



MAJ Herbert J. Dexter (HHC/2-502 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. On 18 September 1965, Major Dexter, the S3 Officer of the 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, was accompanying his battalion on a search and destroy mission in the vicinity of Binh Khe, Republic of Vietnam. The battalion was airlifted to the operational area and upon arriving encountered increasingly heavy hostile fire from various insurgent positions. A friendly platoon, who had landed in a previous life, was forced to withdraw from a tactically important hill along the landing zone perimeter. Realizing the importance of the hill as a defensive position, Major Dexter, with complete disregard for his personal safety, voluntarily rushed to the now heavily infested hostile area and successfully reorganized the friendly forces positioned there. He quickly issued competent instructions and personally led the left flank element up the hill, despite the intense hostile small arms and mortar fire being directed at the platoon. While securing the crest, Major Dexter personally killed two insurgents who were at a deadly close range and sustained a leg wound from the murderous Viet Cong fire. Realizing that his leadership and encouragement were needed to inspire the members of the besieged platoon to hold the hill position, Major Dexter, although in great pain from his wound, continually refused to be evacuated. As the battle raged on, he was mortally wounded. Major Dexter's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 6275 (November 4, 1966))



18 September 1965



SSG Johnnie W. Faircloth (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with Company B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. Staff Sergeant Faircloth distinguished himself by heroic action on 18 September 1965 while serving as a rifle squad leader in an airborne infantry battalion on two heliborne search and destroy operations in the Republic of Vietnam. Almost immediately after landing, Sergeant Faircloth's element was pinned down by enemy small arms fire. The unit received instructions to move forth to link up with the main force approximately 800 meters away. With enemy sniper fire coming from the west, and knowing the small unit was completely surrounded by enemy forces, Sergeant Faircloth, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, led the first element of the unit north. After moving approximately 20 meters, the element came under a heavy volume of small arms and machine gun fire. Sergeant Faircloth was wounded and fell to the ground, signaling the other members of the element to return to the unit's positions. He refused to accept medical aid for himself knowing that it might result in another casualty. Sergeant Faircloth was wounded several more times by enemy machine gun fire and died on the battle field. His fearlessness and genuine concern for his subordinates in the face of his own peril was an inspiration to the entire unit. Staff Sergeant Faircloth's unimpeachable valor in close combat against numerically superior forces that was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 1537 (November 9, 1965))

18 September 1965

SSG Roynald M. Taylor (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action Staff Sergeant Taylor distinguished himself by heroic action on 18 September 1965 while serving as squad leader in an airborne infantry battalion on a heliborne search and destroy operation in the Republic of Vietnam. Almost immediately after landing, the small unit was pinned down by a heavy volume of hostile small arms fire. One man was killed and one was wounded as the element attempted to push out of the defensive perimeter to line up with the main force. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Taylor immediately moved under intense enemy fire to the wounded man, he picked him up and began to carry him to safety. As he was returning to the defensive position, he was mortally wounded by enemy fire. The wounded man he rescued was later evacuated to safety. Staff Sergeant Taylor's valorous actions in close combat against an overwhelming enemy force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

18 September 1965

LTC Wilfrid K. G. Smith (HHC/2-502 IN;) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action Lieutenant Colonel Smith distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 18 to 19 September 1965, while serving as a battalion commander conducting a heliborne search and destroy operation in the mountainous region north of Binh Rhe, Republic of Vietnam. Initially the operation met little or no resistance other than light sporadic small arms fire. Upon the arrival of the second lift, which included Lieutenant Colonel Smith and his tactical command post, fierce accurate small arms and automatic weapons fire, supported by mortars, pinned down the entire force. Within minutes two company commanders were wounded and evacuated. The battalion S3 and the one remaining company commander were killed shortly thereafter, leaving Lieutenant Colonel Smith as the only senior officer present. With complete



disregard for his own personal safety, he moved from position to position adjusting his defenses, offering words of encouragement, and insuring proper care of the dead and wounded. For seventy six hours under Lieutenant Colonel Smith's inspirational leadership, his men beat off each attack and killed over two hundred enemy soldiers. His extraordinary heroism and outstanding leadership in the face of overwhelming odds were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

18 September 1970

SSG Norman H. Lambert (HQ/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 18 September 1970. Sergeant Lambert distinguished himself while serving as Operations Sergeant of the 1st Battalion, 502 Infantry, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant was accompanying a rifle platoon when the forward element came under intense fire. The platoon medic stepped on a mine as he moved to the aid of the wounded pointman. Sergeant Lambert, with conspicuous disregard for his own life, he began maneuvering through the heavy volume of enemy fire to the aid of the wounded medic. He administered first aid under fire and began carrying the medic back through the mined area until he had the wounded man to cover. He then unhesitatingly returned through the mined area and enemy fire to recover the pointman. After applying first aid under direct fire from the enemy he carried the man to cover and safety. After he was satisfied that the wounded men were being taken care of he picked up his weapon and assisted in routing the enemy force and then called in the medevac helicopter. Sergeant Lambert's unselfish acts resulted in the saving the lives of the two men who would have otherwise died from their wounds. Sergeant Lambert'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.

18 September 2010



The following Soldiers: SGT Rolando Zavala and SGT Vincent Jones (A/1-320 FAR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as team leaders for Combined Team Alpha, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, during combat operations. Their heroic actions on that day led to the successful defeat of a determined enemy attack, the elimination of an enemy machine gun position, and the recovery of a large enemy cache. SGT Zavala, SGT Jones and their platoon conducted a movement to contact patrol to disrupt an enemy mortar team operating near the village of Ladin Tabin. SGT Zavala and SGT Jones led their teams across grape furrows and through pomegranate orchards seeded with IEDs en-route to the enemy's last known location.

Upon reaching the platoon's objective, SGT Jones began clearing a building of interest in search of the enemy mortar system. As they cleared through the building, SGT Jones' fire team received heavy volumes of enemy indirect and machine gun fire.

As devastating enemy fires impacted his position, SGT Jones exposed himself to enemy fire as he established a support by fire position. Without hesitation or regard for his own safety, SGT Jones motivated his team as he willingly exposed himself to the enemy several times in an effort to draw fire from the enemy position, allowing SGT Zavala's fire team to successfully assault the machine gun position.

SGT Zavala exposed himself to enemy fire by moving to a position where he could best assess the enemy threat. Instinctively, SGT Zavala



determined the enemy's location and maneuvered his team to assault the enemy machine gun position.

Upon receiving the order to maneuver his team to a position that provided security, SGT Jones assumed the duty as point man once again as he led his team down a narrow alley way. As SGT Zavala's team maneuvered down the alley



way, two enemy insurgents engaged SGT Zavala's fire team with AK-47s from within 40 meters. Undaunted by the enemy's actions, SGT Zavala engaged both enemy fighters with his M4 and led his team as they continued towards the objective.

As SGT Jones approached another building of interest, the fire team became engaged yet again by enemy small arms from south. SGT Jones continued to lead his team towards the objective despite the fire, where he emplaced his M240B and M249 gunners to protect the platoon's right flank. SGT Zavala organized his team in a four man stack as the enemy continued to engage and entered the enemy compound with extreme violence, causing the insurgents to abandon the compound.

As SGT Zavala and SGT Jones began the tactical site exploitation of the building of interest, he uncovered an enemy machine gun, AK-47, RPG launcher with rockets and countless IED making materials. As SGT Zavala, SGT Jones and their fire teams prepared to seize the cache, the enemy engaged the building from the south and east with small arms fire in an attempt to drive out the patrol.

As his platoon regained fire superiority, SGT Jones maneuvered to the doorway of the compound and began engaging the enemy combatants with his M4 as enemy small arms fire impacted nearby. SGT Jones' bravery created time and space for the entire platoon to recover the enemy cache and return from where they began the movement back to COP Nolen.



SGT Zavala ensured the safe extraction of the platoon as he and his team provided suppressive fires on the enemy's position. SGT Zavala's brave actions while exposing himself to heavy enemy fire in Ladin Tabin resulted in the recovery of one of the largest caches in the battalion's area of operations and silenced the enemy assault.

18 September 2010



SFC Phillip Carroll (A/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy of the United States as a Platoon Sergeant for Battery A, Combined Task Force Top Guns, Combined Task Force STRIKE, Kandahar, Afghanistan, during combat operations on 18 September 2010 as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom. His heroic actions on that day led to the successful defeat of a determined enemy attack, the elimination of four enemy insurgents, the recovery of a large enemy cache, and the successful evacuation of a wounded comrade from the battlefield.

On 18 September 2010, SFC Phillip Carrol was conducting a movement to contact with insurgent forces in the vicinity of Ladin Tabin. Upon entering the village of Ladin Tabin, SFC Carroll came under attack from an estimated 12 man insurgent force. SFC Carroll immediately began exposing himself to heavy



enemy fire in an effort to emplace weapon systems and deliver devastating fires on an enemy machine gun position to the south of the building.

Once SFC Carroll gained fire superiority, 3rd platoon's assault element successfully breached and cleared the enemy machine gun position in another building that had been placing direct and indirect fires on the building where coalition forces were. Minutes after the assault element cleared the enemy position and began conducting a sensitive site exploitation, the enemy launched a fierce counterattack. As the enemy placed direct and indirect fire weapon systems in an attempt to regain the building, SFC Carroll maneuvered the remaining elements of 3rd platoon from the building of cover to the point of the enemy attack to reinforce 3rd platoon's assault element and help repel the enemy attack.

As SFC Carroll maneuvered from his position to the enemy's position of attack, he was engaged by enemy forces several times. Undaunted, SFC Carroll reached the enemy position and began emplacing critical weapon systems to fight off the enemy attack as direct and indirect fires impacted in his vicinity. SFC Carroll then exposed himself to enemy fire multiple times to secure an enemy cache that was discovered in the building they were using as cover. After securing the cache, SFC Carroll stayed in the building used by the enemy and continued to deliver fires on the enemy while other elements of 3rd platoon maneuvered back to their secured building.



SFC Carroll ensured critical treatment was applied to a wounded comrade after being informed that he received a gunshot wound to the forearm. He quickly assessed his condition and made the recommendation to transport the wounded Soldier on ground. As 3rd platoon began its movement back to COP Nolen, SFC Carroll successfully massed fires as the enemy attempted to ambush the patrol on three separate occasions. As SFC Carroll fought off enemy attacks, he successfully relayed enemy positions to his Platoon Leader which led to a devastating air strike on the enemy. SFC Carroll's actions saved the lives of his comrades and resulted in the elimination of four enemy insurgents.

18 September 2010



CPT Jeffrey Aebischer (A/1-320 FAR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for valorous conduct in the face of the enemy of the United States as a Platoon Leader for Combined Team Alpha, Combined Task Force Top Guns, Combined Task Force STRIKE, Kandahar, Afghanistan, during combat operations as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom. His heroic actions on that day led to the successful defeat of a determined enemy attack and the recovery of a large enemy cache.

On 18 September 2010, Company A, 1st Battery, 320th Field Artillery Regiment received credible intelligence on the location of an enemy mortar system and crew that had recently placed effective fires on COP Terra Nova. After successfully navigating his platoon through grape furrows and open fields littered with enemy improvised explosive devices, CPT Aebischer's platoon began conducting a search of a building, when his unit was attacked by enemy indirect and machine gun fire from another building.

As his platoon established fire superiority, CPT Aebischer maneuvered under fire to a position south of the building they were searching, with his assault team leader and coordinated an attack on the enemy fighting position. After



directing the placement of his support by fire position, CPT Aebischer immediately maneuvered with his assault team through a narrow alley to the building the enemy was occupying, CPT Aebischer ordered his lead assault element to breach the building while the enemy continued to engage with small arms fire.

As CPT Aebischer fought his way into the building, the enemy abandoned the compound, leaving behind one of the largest caches of enemy weapons and improvised explosive devices discovered in the battalion's area of operation. As CPT Aebischer's platoon consolidated and conducted a thorough sensitive site exploitation, the enemy engaged the building from the south and east with small arms fire in an attempt to drive out the patrol.

After directing the placement of his platoon's fires on the enemy fighting position, CPT Aebischer left his covered position and again exposed himself to enemy fire as he ran to the alley west of the building to establish critical M240B positions in an effort to establish fire superiority. CPT Aebischer elected to remain exposed with his support-by-fire element as the remainder of his platoon moved back to COP Nolen with the entire cache. CPT Aebischer's bravery in assaulting an enemy machine gun position and recovering a valuable cache significantly disrupted enemy operations and proved critical to the success of the battery's mission.

19 September 1944



PFC Frank P. Garofano (G/502d PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company G, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 19 September 1944, near Best, Holland. The enemy attacked from three sides and supported by artillery and mortar fire, threatened to envelop his company. He fired his sub machine gun at the advancing enemy, killing nine and wounding three. Aware that his platoon's assault was impaired by the intense fire, he instructed a comrade cover him while he moved to the flank in an attempt to enter an enemy held house. Crawling forward, he reached a position ten feet from his objective. He threw a hand grenade into the house, forcing out its hostile occupants. Other forces immediately directed fire on him. Firing on the enemy with his gun he affected the surrender of ninety three and wounded approximately thirty. Private First Class Garofano's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army. Headquarters, Seventh U.S. Army, General Orders No. 438 (August 25, 1945)

19 September 1944



PFC William P. Evans (G/502d PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company G, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 19 September 1944, near Best, Netherlands. On that date Private First Class Evans charged and crawled across an open field under heavy fire and through icy water with a fixed bayonet. Nearing his objective, he observed enemy soldiers, leaving the building and others firing on a comrade, Private First Class Evans opened fire, later bayoneted a German who rushed him, and forced the surrender of many. In the course of the action, he and a comrade captured 93 and wounded approximately 30 of the enemy. Private First Class Evans' intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the



101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army.
Headquarters, Seventh U.S. Army, General Orders No. 437 (1945)
Home Town: Aliquippa, Pennsylvania

19 September 1944

PFC Reginald Davis (F/502) is awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action near Best, Holland. Davis single-handedly moved his 40 pound Light Machine Gun under direct fire of small arms to within 100 yards of a 20mm AA gun and, with a total ammunition expenditure of less than sixty rounds, killed the gun crew, the security element, and blew up the stockpiled ammunition for the AA gun. He was personally written up by LTC Steve Chappuis.

19 September 1967

SP4 William D. Austin (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in the Republic of Vietnam, on 19 September 1967. His actions, without regard for his own safety, reflect great credit on himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. (Department of the Army, General Orders No. 31 (September 25, 1984))

19 September 1970



CPT Charles S. Ciccolella (E/2-502) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 September 1970. Captain Ciccolella distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer of Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations on Fire base Whip, Republic of Vietnam. When the firebase came under an intense enemy mortar barrage, Captain Ciccolella left the safety of his bunker to direct mortar counter fire. Despite the continuing enemy fire, he led his men from covered positions to the mortars, and, maneuvering from position to position insured that accurate return fire was being placed on the enemy. Again subjecting himself to the intense barrage, Captain Ciccolella organized and led two recoilless rifle teams across the firebase to bring direct fire on the enemy. His actions were instrumental in silencing the enemy positions. Captain Ciccolella'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.

19 September 2010



CPT Matthew Crawford (A/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy during the clearance of Objective Patriots as a member of Combined Task Force Widowmaker Commander's Personal Security Detachment. His heroic action prevented the loss of life and limb of a critically wounded Soldier during a complex enemy attack with an improvised explosive device.

Troop A, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry partnered with 2nd Company 2/3/205 Corps Afghan National Army conducted operations to clear the village of Zendanon in Zharay District, Kandahar Province in order to disrupt Taliban influence, stabilize the village and connect the people to the government.

Troop A initially shaped the area with intelligence driven targeting for several days in preparation for clearing known enemy areas. These shaping operations resulted in significant enemy resistance over this period. On the morning following the clearance, Troop A established security around the town of Zendanon. In order to facilitate the stabilization of Zendanon, the Squadron Commander along with the 2/3/205 Kandak Commander moved to the village to conduct key leader engagements (KLE) with the village Elders.



CPT Crawford, the squadron intelligence officer, was part of the gathering of intelligence. His intention was to gain intelligence first hand and to see the battlefield from the perspective of the Soldier. While moving with the Commander's PSD, the element came under sustained enemy attack that was initiated with an IED on the center of the formation.

CPT Crawford was within meters of the explosion and although initially stunned by the detonation quickly recovered his bearing and immediately responded to a complex enemy attack. In disregard of his own personal safety, he immediately moved forward through an IED laden area and enemy engagement area to assist treatment of wounded. As CPT Crawford approached the IED strike site, he came upon a non-commissioned officer administering first aid to PFC Trujillo who sustained extensive lacerations and trauma to both of his upper thighs. Upon identifying the seriously wounded Soldier, CPT Crawford began immediate lifesaving procedures and emplaced a tourniquet on PFC Trujillo's right leg to stop the significant blood loss.

During this time, the PSD and Troop A Soldiers continued to engage the enemy through a complex attack. CPT Crawford remained focused on treating PFC Trujillo throughout the enemy small arms fire and provided the necessary care to stabilize PFC Trujillo. After onsite lifesaving care and stabilization were complete, CPT Crawford then helped carry PFC Trujillo to the MEDEVAC aircraft for movement to the medical treatment facility.

His actions and critical lifesaving activities during this complex enemy attack were critical to saving Soldiers' lives on the battlefield. CPT Crawford's immediate action in the kill zone, without regard for his own safety, enabled him to move through an IED laden area and provide immediate lifesaving care to a wounded Soldier. Without the quick response, PFC Trujillo would have not recovered from the blood loss due to injuries sustained during the IED attack.

19 September 2010



SGT Zane Cordingly (A/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart for exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy during the clearance of Objective Patriots as a team leader of the CTF Widowmaker Commander's Personal Security Detachment. His heroic actions prevented the loss of life and limb of a critically wounded Soldier during a complex enemy attack with an improvised explosive device.

Troop A, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment partnered with 2nd Company/2/3/205 Corps ANA conducted operations to clear the village of Zendanon in Zharay District, Kandahar Province of Afghanistan in order to disrupt Taliban influence, stabilize the village and connect the people to the government. A Troop initially shaped the area with intelligence driven targeting for several days in preparation for clearing known enemy areas. These shaping operations resulted in significant enemy resistance over this period. On the morning following the clearance, A Troop established security around the town of Zendanon. In order to facilitate the stabilization of Zendanon, the Squadron Commander along with the 2/3/205 Kandak Commander moved to the village to conduct key leader engagements (KLE) with the village elders. SGT Cordingly, as the trail PSD team leader, directed the actions of his team as they provided dismounted security for the Commander's staff while escorting them to the Zendanon KLE. While moving through the outer portion of the village of Zendanon, the center of the formation came under a complex enemy attack. This attack was initiated with an IED intended to create maximum damage on the command element.



SGT Cordingly, within five meters of the blast radius of the IED, was knocked to the ground and temporarily disoriented. As soon as he regained his awareness, SGT Cordingly moved throughout the IED laden area and began taking accountability of his Soldiers and checking for injured personnel. Through this process, he identified that PFC Trujillo was severely injured resulting from extensive shrapnel injuries to his upper thighs. SGT Cordingly immediately assessed the casualty and began life saving medical procedures. While the remainder of the PSD engaged the enemy attack with direct fire weapons, SGT Cordingly remained focused on treating PFC Trujillo. SGT Cordingly successfully applied life saving techniques and a tourniquet resulting in the stoppage of extensive blood loss. His actions and critical lifesaving activities during this sustained complex enemy attack were critical to saving a Soldier's life on the battlefield.



SGT Cordingly's immediate actions in the kill zone, without regard for his own safety, enabled him to move through an IED laden area and provide immediate lifesaving care to a wounded Soldier. SGT Cordingly's actions stabilized the injured Soldier until medical personnel were on site to provide additional care. Furthermore, SGT Cordingly stayed with PFC Trujillo from the point of injury to the HLZ providing consistent care and oversight for his injured comrade.

19 September 2010



SGT Joseph Hardin (B/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart for exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy during the clearance of Payendi as a member of 3rd platoon, Troop B, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment. His heroic actions on 19 September 2010 prevented the loss of life of a critically wounded Soldier during an enemy attack with an improvised explosive device.

On 19 September 2010, Troop B, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry partnered with 2nd Company/2/3/205 Corps, conducted operations to clear the village of Payendi in Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan in order to disrupt Taliban influence, stabilize the village, and connect the people to the government. Troop B initially shaped the area with intelligence driven targeting in preparation for clearing this known Taliban stronghold. These shaping operations resulted in significant enemy resistance over this period. On the evening following the clearance, Troop B established multiple strong points on the western perimeter of the town in order to prevent Taliban infiltration of the town and to secure the population from Taliban reprisals.

SGT Joseph Hardin, a team leader in 3rd platoon, was leading an R & S patrol at 2050 hours to emplace claymores and identify covered and concealed avenues of approach to his strong point in western Payendi. While leading this patrol, SGT Hardin was injured by a PPIED that detonated on the third member of the patrol.

SGT Hardin was within meters of the strike site, receiving shrapnel wounds to his face and neck, and was initially disoriented by the blast. However, in disregard to his own personal safety and his own wounds, he immediately moved through an area with possible secondary devices to assist with the treatment of casualties. As SGT Hardin approached the IED strike site, he came



upon PFC Joshua Bullis, who had triggered the device and was a triple amputee. Upon identifying the seriously wounded Soldier, SGT Hardin and PFC Thomas Leonard began immediate lifesaving procedures and emplaced tourniquets on PFC Bullis' legs and arm in order to stem massive blood loss. After performing initial care, SGT Hardin reported his location and status of all casualties to his Platoon Sergeant, allowing him to quickly and accurately deliver a MEDEVAC request and ensure that the platoon Medic arrived on site as quickly as possible. His prompt actions and immediate lifesaving care while ignoring his own injuries undoubtedly saved the life of PFC Bullis.

SGT Hardin's immediate actions in the kill zone, without regard for his own safety and in complete disregard for his own wounds, enabled him to move through an IED laden area and provide immediate lifesaving care to a wounded Soldier. Without the quick response, PFC Bullis would have not recovered from blood loss due to injuries sustained during the IED attack.

19 September 2010



PFC Thomas Leonard (595th ENG) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart for heroically exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy of the United States as a Combat Engineer with 595th Engineer Company, attached to 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, during a reconnaissance and security patrol outside his unit's patrol base in vicinity of Payendi, Zharay District, Afghanistan.

At approximately 2105, PFC Leonard and PFC Bullis were providing security for 1LT Watson and SGT Hardin while they emplaced claymore mines to cover the dead space from which their patrol base was attacked previously that day. As PFC Bullis attempted to identify a possible emplacement location for the claymore mine, he triggered a victim operated improvised explosive device. PFC Leonard, having received shrapnel to his neck in the blast, ignored his own wounds and moved immediately through the IED strike site to provide lifesaving assistance to PFC Bullis.

Upon reaching PFC Bullis, PFC Leonard discovered that both of his legs and his left arm had been severed in the blast. He immediately began to apply tourniquets to PFC Bullis' severed limbs with the assistance of SGT Hardin. After the tourniquets were applied, help arrived from the patrol base and PFC Leonard assisted moving PFC Bullis onto a poleless litter. He then moved under his own power to the helicopter landing zone. At the HLZ, PFC Harris, the platoon medic, attempted to treat PFC Leonard who once again ignored his own injuries for the well-being and treatment of his comrades. Instead, he directed PFC Harris to treat 1LT Watson who received more severe shrapnel wounds to his groin, hand and face. PFC Leonard's selfless disregard for his own health and safety and the immediate care he provided for PFC Bullis saved his life.



20 September 1944

PFC Fred Sparks Jones, Jr. (G/2-502d PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company G, 2d Battalion, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 20 September 1944, during Operation MARKET GARDEN, near Brest, Holland. Private First Class Jones' intrepid actions,



personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty at the cost of his life, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, XVIII Airborne Corps, General Orders No. 31 (1945))

21 September 1944



1LT George H. Craft (502d PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with the 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 21 September 1944 in the vicinity of Saint Oedenrode, Holland. When his platoon came under enemy small arms fire, Lieutenant Craft raced across the distance separating him from the enemy position, firing his weapon into the enemy foxholes routing them from their positions, and capturing five of them. As his platoon continued to move forward, it came under the fire of an estimated enemy company. With total disregard for personal safety, Lieutenant Craft charged forward across an open field, his troops deploying behind him. The fury of his charge carried his platoon forward and caused the enemy to break. In overrunning the enemy position, his platoon captured thirty eight of the enemy. While his platoon reorganized, Lieutenant Craft pushed forward on a personal reconnaissance of a nearby house. Observing it to be an enemy headquarters, he charged forward alone, and by the use of hand grenades, drove out the enemy and captured eleven prisoners. First Lieutenant Craft's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, XVIII Airborne Corps, General Orders No. 19 (March 14, 1945))

21 September 1966

1LT John D. Mooneyham (A/2-502) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action: First Lieutenant Mooneyham distinguished himself by gallantry in action on 21 September 1966 near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. When his platoon came under intense small arms and mortar fire he immediately began moving among his men to ascertain the situation. He repeatedly exposed himself, without regard for his own safety, in order to direct the fire of his men. He personally led one squad forward in the face of an intense mortar barrage while the remainder of his platoon was providing heavy suppressive fire on the insurgents. The enemy was forced to abandon their prepared positions. Lieutenant Mooneyham led his platoon in pursuit of the confused and disorganized enemy despite heavy machine gun and mortar fire from a distant Viet Cong position. Because of Lieutenant Mooneyham's aggressiveness and determination the enemy was forced to occupy a hasty defensive position. Undaunted by the enemy's fire, he once again led a squad in an assault which completely routed the last of the Viet Cong defenders. Throughout the engagement, Lieutenant Mooneyham moved about the fire swept battlefield maneuvering his squads in a professional manner. His aggressiveness, determination, and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the American Soldier and reflect great honor upon himself, his unit, and the United State Army.



21 September 2010



SGT Isaac Labonte (C/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for exceptionally valorous action in the face of the enemy during a dismounted patrol as part of Company C, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team STRIKE, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). His heroic actions allowed the rest of his patrol to fall back while under heavy enemy fire during a complex ambush.

On 21 September 2010, 3rd platoon partnered with 3rd platoon, 3rd Company 2/3/205 Corps ANA conducted operations near the villages of Haji Musa and Haji Rahmuddin in Zharay District, Kandahar Province of Afghanistan in order to disrupt Taliban infiltration routes in central Pashmul. The purpose of these patrols was to continue gains made against enemy forces during Operation Dragon Strike. Company C disrupted the area of Sothern Pashmul with patrols designated to recover enemy cache and draw them into open terrain.

During this operation, SGT Labonte was the alpha team leader as well as point man in the patrol. The patrol moved south towards a compound of interest and potential patrol base. The route to the objective required movement through dense vegetation. During the final leg of movement, SGT Labonte led the patrol through a field that was surrounded by walls on three sides. As SGT Labonte's team came out of the vegetated portion of the field to secure the far side, the insurgents initiated a near ambush that included sustained enemy fire from multiple machine guns, RPGs, and AK-47s. The ground force received fire from three sides and from an enemy that was maneuvering along a wood line.

At the front of the patrol, SGT Labonte quickly moved through the heavy enemy machine gun fire and suppressed the enemy with his M203 grenade launcher although no substantial cover or concealment was available. His actions provided time and space for the rest of his team and the patrol to maneuver into a position to engage the enemy. As the battle continued, SGT Labonte marked the target with smoke rounds to allow close air support assets to quickly identify the insurgent location and provide danger close air support.

SGT Labonte remained in the kill zone and identified four insurgents attempting to maneuver into a more defensible position 20 meters away and directed his SAW gunner to lay a base of suppressive fire while continuing to engage with M203 rounds. His actions in the kill zone allowed the rest of his patrol to maneuver against and engage the enemy therefore breaking their attack. SGT Labonte's actions directly resulted in no ISAF casualties and four insurgents killed. Without regard for his own safety, SGT Labonte's immediate actions in the kill zone of a near ambush enabled his patrol to lay down suppressive fire with HEDP and machine gun fire and allowed the rest of the patrol to move out of the kill zone.

22 September 1944

PFC Robert L. Deckard (C/1-502d PIR) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 22 September 1945, in the vicinity of Saint Oedenrode, Holland. As the lead scout for an infantry platoon Private First Class Deckard was forward of the main body when it became pinned down by enemy machine gun and 88-mm. fire. Private First Class Deckard was wounded while exposing himself in order to locate the machine gun. Disregarding his wound, he continued forward and hurled a grenade which destroyed the enemy gun and killed most of its crew. Discovering the location of an enemy 88-mm. gun, Private First Class Deckard continued forward with a grenade in each hand. He hurled the grenade at the enemy gun emplacement, killing its entire crew and several of the enemy nearby.



Immediately following this action, he was mortally wounded by an enemy sniper. His exceptional fortitude, initiative and unswerving devotion to duty gave inspiration to his comrades to emulate and were a great contribution to the defeat of the enemy in that sector. Private First Class Deckard's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty at the cost of his life, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, XVIII Airborne Corps, G.O. #19 (March 14, 1945))

22 September 2010



SSG Derek Leach (C/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy during clearance of Pashmul as a member of 1st platoon, Company C, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment. His heroic actions prevented the platoon from sustaining any casualties and allowed the platoon to disrupt a high profile Taliban meeting in the area.

CT Warrior, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment partnered with 4th Company 2/3/205 Corps ANA conducted an intelligence driven clearance of a Taliban staging and attack point in the village of Pashmul in Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. The purpose of the clearance operation was to disrupt Taliban influence and capability in the area.

While moving to the objective, Taliban insurgents from an established defensive position ambushed SSG Leach's platoon. The platoon was in an open field with no cover or concealment and received small arms and machine gun fire from multiple directions. The ambush line spanned 500 meters of prepared bunkers and fighting positions along a wadi line.

As the platoon sergeant, SSG Leach remained calm and immediately led the platoon through decisive actions. Initially moving to a machine gun team that was pinned down by effective enemy fire; he directed their movement to a tactically advantageous location. He then oriented and directed their fires to suppress the Taliban ambush positions immediately relieving enemy pressure on the platoon.

Identifying a squad of ANA soldiers who remained fixed in open terrain, SSG Leach again maneuvered through enemy small arms and machine gun fire to their location to direct and cover their withdrawal to a safe position.

Continuing to disregard his own personal safety, he moved into effective enemy fire and repositioned the platoon forward observer to a location where he could best call for fire. SSG Leach then continued to maneuver the platoon to best fight the enemy.

As the assault element flanked the enemy, SSG Leach coordinated the effects of his platoon's support-by-fire position; the ANA partner force, the attached Sappers, and the indirect fire. His actions broke the enemy attack and allowed the assault element to sweep through the enemy engagement area resulting in the destruction of all enemy fighting positions along the wadi line.

SSG Leach's quick and selfless actions during the fire fight allowed the platoon to gain and maintain the initiative during a Taliban ambush as well as prevented the loss of life or injury to any of his Soldiers. Undoubtedly, without his actions, 1st platoon and the partnered ANA would have sustained casualties. His calm assessments and actions while under direct enemy fire were instrumental in the platoon's success and defeat of the enemy force.



***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.

In 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."

