



**2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AASLT)**  
**“STRIKE HISTORY”**  
**19 May – 25 May 2013**



- 19-21 May 1968 1-501 cordons Thon Lang and Xa Nau resulting in 65 NVA/ VC KIA and 2 NVA/VC PWs.
- 19 May 1969 Activity lessened in the AO as the 1-501 continued to push south toward LZ Professional.
- 19 May 1969 **Operations Vic Dong Ap Bia – Hill 937:** In the morning, with the 1-506<sup>th</sup> Inf on the south and the 3-187<sup>th</sup> Inf on the north, the enemy positions were subjected to continuous artillery and TAC fires. The 2-501<sup>st</sup> Inf and the 2/3d ARVN were alerted to prepare to assist in the final sweep of the enemy’s fortified positions surrounding the entire ridge line. By late afternoon an additional 175 enemy bodies had been accounted for.
- 19 May 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** D/2-502 had been extracted from south of Hill 882 and was given the mission of screening north of FSB Veghel. While moving to the east, A/2-502 received fire from a small enemy delaying force. C/2-502 moving to the west to effect a link-up with A Company encountered a small enemy force also acting as a delaying force. The enemy quickly disengaged from contact. One US Soldier was killed, while no enemy bodies could be found.
- 19 May 2006 A/2-101 destroys the Durbin Bridge to prevent AIF from using the Durbin Bridge as a vehicular crossing point, to make the Bridge un-repairable so that forces are not required to provide over watch.
- 20 May 1968 As part of Operation NEVADA EAGLE, B/1/501st Airborne, C/2/501st Airborne, D/1/502d Airborne, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division engage an estimated NVA company while conducting a cordon and search of Dong Gi Tay, five miles east of Hue. Casualties: US 12 WIA; enemy 62 KIA.
- 20 – 21 May 1968 Reacting to intelligence reports which indicated increased enemy activity in village of Dong Gi Tay, 8km east of Hue (YD8321), B/1-501 conducted RIF operations to determine the exact location of the enemy. While moving north, B/1-501 engaged an estimated company. Companies A/1-501, C/2-501, and D/1-502 conducted a combat assault into the battle area and quickly formed a cordon around the enemy. B/1-501 was supported by 13 air strikes and 8”, 155mm and 105mm artillery fires while exchanging SA/SW fire with the enemy. During 20 May the companies killed 57 enemy and captured 20 weapons. Throughout the night 20-21 May, artillery illumination was provided and at day-break, after silencing mortar fire inside the cordon, B/1-501 and D/1-502 swept through the village. The results of the cordon operation which terminated at 211700MAY68 were: 12 US WIA, 62 NVA KIA, 2 NVA POW, 42 IWC, and 4 CSWC. (Operation Report, Lessons Learned, HQ 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM); 26 December 1968)
- 20-21 May 1968 1-502 IN continued the RIF operations and security mission of An Lo and QL #1. During these two days only light contact was made. Results: Friendly: 1 WIA; Enemy: 4 VC KIA (BC), 1 VC WIA (Escaped). Delta Company while conducting the road sweep from An Lo to Evans spotted a mine but before they could remove it a civilian bus ran over it. Results: No injuries, bus heavily damaged.



- 20 May 1969 **Operations Vic Dong Ap Bia – Hill 937:** 4 Battalions executed a coordinated assault on Hill 937. The 3-187<sup>th</sup> Inf, with A/2-506<sup>th</sup> Inf attached, assaulted the hill from the north; 1-506<sup>th</sup> Inf from the south and southwest; the 2/3d ARVN from the southeast; and the 2-501<sup>st</sup> Inf from the northeast. The 3-187<sup>th</sup> swept up the hill from the north, while the 1-506<sup>th</sup> and 2-501<sup>st</sup> blocked possible routes of escape. The 2/3d ARVN moved onto Hill 937 from the south. By 1200 hours Battalion objectives on the Dong Ap Bia Ridge were taken. The determined enemy resistance disintegrated as friendly forces overran enemy positions resulting in total body count for 20 May was 109.
- 20 May 1969 **Operations Vic Dong Ap Bia – Hill 937:** Allied forces swept over the hill to check the enemy base area in detail. After ten days of hard fighting the 3-197<sup>th</sup> Infantry had earned a well deserved rest and returned to the coastal plains. The 1-506<sup>th</sup> Inf secured the abandoned enemy positions while the 2-501<sup>st</sup> Inf conducted RIF operations to the west. The 2/3d ARVN conducted RIF operations to the east. Friendly reconnaissance of the area encountered only isolated and sporadic resistance. An additional 59 enemy killed were discovered and 89 weapons were captured.
- 21 May 1969 Brigade elements engaged in heavy contact as the 1-501 fought a day long struggle against a determined, well dug-in enemy. At 0500H, C/1-501, vic. BT164115, detected movement outside an NDP and engaged the suspected enemy with M-79 and hand grenades. A first light sweep disclosed 2 VC KIA. At 0642H, B/1-501, vic. BT165108, received intensive small arms and heavy machinegun fire from an enemy force of unknown size. The ensuing contact continued throughout the day. Charlie, Delta Company and Recon/1-501, vic. BT165105, observed 4 NVA with a 12.7mm HMG and engaged the enemy position. At 1000H, D/1-501 joined the bitter fighting by engaging an enemy force in the area. The fighting continued throughout the day as the enemy tenaciously defended from steel-reinforced concrete bunkers. Tactical air, artillery, and Air Cav support was used throughout the fighting, but the ground units remained locked in close combat throughout the afternoon. As the elements disengaged, the enemy left 25 KIA on the battlefield with the 1-501 suffering 12 KIA and 46 WIA in the fight. Contact was scattered elsewhere in the AO as the ground elements began to uncover mute evidence of the effectiveness of the intensive air and artillery strikes throughout the AO. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)
- 21 May 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** In the morning a white team and pink team were employed to scout the gap between A/2-502 and C/2-502. The white team bird took several hits from enemy positions east of A Company, forcing it to land. The pink team LOH was also hit by enemy fire and forced to land. The bird had to be extracted, but there were negative casualties. At 1900, A and C Companies were linked up.
- 21 May 2010 Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team deploys to Kandahar, Afghanistan.
- 22 May 1968 B/1-502 IN while on a RIF vic. 694305 received fire from the village. After returning fire and artillery, they swept the area and found 2 NVA KIA (BC) and captured 5 NVA/VC POW's in their bunkers. Delta fired artillery on suspected enemy positions then swept thru the area and found 3 VC KIA and 1 NVA KIA. Results: Enemy: 3 NVA KIA (BC), 5 POW.
- 22 May 1969 Moderate enemy activity continued in the AO as scattered contacts of varying intensity ground and air were reported. At 0530H, D/1-501, vic. BT162106, engaged and killed an NVA soldier moving outside the NDP. At 0850H, Recon/1-501, vic. BT141052, captured one VC attempting to hide in a trench. At 0925H, B/1-502, vic. BT141502, received small arms fire, resulting in 1 US WIA; the element returned fire. At 1100H, B/1-502, vic. BT 136059, received machine gun fire from a concealed position, resulting in 1 US KIA; the elements returned fire, but they enemy broke contact. At 1315H, B/1-



502, vic. BT140046, found the remains of 5 NVA killed by an airstrike conducted the previous day. At 1407H, vic. BT165110, found the body of one NVA who had been killed in an earlier skirmish. At 1455 and 1457, two Brigade aircraft were hit by ground fire; a LOH from 2-320 Arty was hit vic. BT215161 and a UH1H C&C ship of 1-501 was hit vic. BT165110 with a total of 3 US WIA. At 1910H, B/1-501, vic. BT162109, observed 2 NVA in an open field; engaged the enemy with M-79 fire, killing one. At, 2018H, Recon/1-501, vic. BT128068, observed a small enemy force and engaged them with small arms, accounting for 2 NVA KIA. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)

22 - 24 May 1969

**Operations Vic Dong Ap Bia – Hill 937:** Operations cost the enemy a total of 630 NVA KIA. In addition to these confirmed casualties, a PW captured during the operations indicated that 80% of the units in his area were casualties. The 2-501<sup>st</sup> Inf and the 2/3d ARVN continued search operations in the vicinity of Hill 937, accounting for 77 NVA killed and 3 crew served weapons captured. The search operation continued on the 23d of May with 1-506<sup>th</sup> Inf finding 10 more NVA bodies and the 2-501<sup>st</sup> Inf finding 3 bodies. On 24 May the 1-506<sup>th</sup> Inf discovered 51 individual weapons and the 2-501<sup>st</sup> Inf found 1 NVA KIA.

22 May 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** Artillery was employed against the known enemy bunkers, utilizing 8", 105 and 155mm artillery batteries.

23 May 1943

502nd PIR took part in the Camden maneuvers. Shortly after the Camden Maneuvers the bit Tennessee maneuvers were held.

23-25 May 1968

1-502 IN Battalion made light contact throughout the period while conducting RIF and security missions throughout the AO. Results: Enemy: 1 WIA BBT, 8 VC KIA (BC).

23 May 1969

All units continued RIF operations in the area and contact continued as the sweeping forces ferreted out small enemy forces. At 0850H, a logistics aircraft for 1-501, vic. BT163108, received small arms fire which wounded one crewman. At 1100H, B/1-501, vic. BT163108, engaged an enemy force hidden in bunkers; the unit employed small arms fire and tactical air, resulting in 1 NVA KIA and 1 US WIA. At 1115H, Recon/1-502, vic. BT125054, captured 1 NVA soldier and discovered the remains of 1 VC killed by an earlier airstrike. At 1353H, B/1-501, vic. BT161111, received unknown caliber mortar fire and M-79 fire, resulting in 3 US KIA and 7 US WIA; the element returned fire and negative assessment. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)

23 May 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** At first light the sweep of the bunker complex began from the Artillery fire on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A/2-502 reinforced C/2-502 and swept across the complex with no resistance. The artillery had successfully eliminated this enemy force. A Complex of 20 bunkers and 12 hooches were secured and the bodies of twelve enemy were uncovered from the rubble. Mortar rounds, small arms ammo, RPG rounds and assorted documents were discovered in the complex area.

24 May 1968

**Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** First major contact was made by C/1-508 Inf, 3/82d Abn Div during its RIF to the south of FSB STRIKE. It engaged an estimated NVA company, possibly guarding the 90<sup>th</sup> NVA Regt. HQs resulting in 2 NVA including the Commander of C/1-508 IN. After several attempts had been made to retrieve their MHA's C/1-508 was assisted by B/2-502 IN finally retrieving their MHA's. A and C CO were reoriented to conduct RIF along ridgelines running generally N-S. A CO ran into an estimated NVA platoon during this time.



- 24 May 1969 Activity decreased in the AO with only three minor contacts being reported. At 0830H, a Brigade LOH reconnaissance team, vic. BT138068, engaged 3 VC with ARA support, accounting for 3 VC KIA. At 1425H, B/1-501, vic. BT158112, had 1 US KIA by small arms fire from an undetermined size enemy force. At 1615H, B/1-501, vic. BT154106, again received small arms fire, resulting in 1 US KIA and 2 US WIA; the unit returned fire with negative assessment. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)
- 24 May 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** The final police of the area was completed and STRIKE Force Battalion relocated its forces in a new AO east of the Song Bo River.
- 25 May 1968 The Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division continued their pursuit of the enemy in Operation Carentan II, killing 72 enemy and capturing seven weapons in scattered action. The largest action took place near Pha Tam Giang Bay five miles north of Hue. A/1/502 Inf surprised a reinforced NVA platoon. The paratroopers forced the enemy to withdraw to positions on the bay. Small arms fire and supporting artillery drove the enemy from his position and contact was lost. Forty-one NVA soldiers were killed in the battle. Thirty-one additional enemy were killed in widely scattered actions the same day.
- 25 May 1969 All units continued RIF operations in their respective AO as the enemy increased ground-to-air fire and continued to resist in the face of increasing pressure. At 0945H, A/1-502, vic. BT153117, suffered 2 US WIA by small arms fire from an unknown enemy force. At 1120H, a logistics aircraft for B/1-501, vic. BT155118, had 1 US WIA from ground fire. At 1309H, Recon/1-502, vic. BT125045, found the remains of 2 NVA killed by an earlier airstrike. At 1620H, A/1-501, vic. BT165098, engaged an enemy force with small arms. The alert soldier quickly maneuvered and over-ran an enemy 82mm mortar position, killing 6 NVA and capturing 1 NVA who was identified as the squad leader. Additionally, the aggressive company claimed 3 WC and the complete 82MM mortar. At 1825H, B/1-501, vic. BT153117, had 2 US WIA from small arms fire; the element returned fire but the enemy broke contact with negative assessment. At 1850H, Recon/1-502, vic. BT136045, engaged and killed 1 NVA and, at 1915H, C/1-501, vic. BT164115, closed out the day's activities when it discovered 1 VC KIA from an earlier clash. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)

**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, 501<sup>st</sup> IN (Vietnam) and the 502<sup>nd</sup> IN Regiment (\*See STRIKE HISTORY NOTE).**

2 x Distinguished Service Cross  
 19 x Silver Star (5 x Posthumously)  
 1 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor  
 1 x Bronze Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
 3 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor  
 85 x Purple Heart Medal (38 x Posthumously)  
 3 x Non-Hostile injury or illness

19 May 1967 SP4 Dale E. Wayrynen (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds on Hill 424 near Duc Pho, in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.



19 May 1968

1LT Roger G. Stallard (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in combat in action against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (General Orders Number 240; 10 January 1969)

19 May 1968



SGT Eugene M. Sutton Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded 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, Republic of Vietnam.

19 May 1970



SGT Billy R. Lucas (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds on Hill 714, NW of FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

19 May 2006

SGT Christopher Flores (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received as a result of enemy or hostile action.

20 May 1968



SGT Michael Gillard (D/2-501 IN) died from injuries received when a fire truck pinned him to a bridge he was guarding in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

20 May 1970

The following Soldiers: SGT Ralph T. Mueller (A/1-501 IN); SSG Tony R. Ward, CPL Roy L. Carter (A/2-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

20 May 1970

The following Soldiers: SGT Gary W. Gear, CPL John A. Claggett (Pictured), and CPL Robert E. Cain (Pictured) (E/2-502 IN Recon Platoon) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously). These Soldiers died from multiple fragmentation wounds on Hill 882, NW of FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



21 May 1968

The following Soldiers: SSG Richard A. Paquette and SGT John B. Pond Sr. (C/1-501 IN); SP4 Paul W. Gamine (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received during actions in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st Air CAV DIV; General Order Number 4616)



21 May 1968



The following Soldiers: PFC Michael F. Deeny III (Pictured) (A/2-502 IN); SP4 James Johnson Jr., PFC Leonard D. McGinnis, PFC Charles E. Walthall (B/2-502 IN); SGT Billie R. Acree, SGT Charles P. Brown, CPL Larry M. Gross (C/2-502 IN); PFC Vincent J. Caravello (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds at Camp Eagle 7km SSE of Hue on RT 546, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1968



The following Soldiers: 2LT John P. Brown (Pictured) and SSG Jerry E. Spicer (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds at Camp Eagle 7km SSE of Hue on RT 546, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1969

The following Soldiers: SP4 Richard F. Sengo, SP4 Robert H. Anderson Jr., PFC Walen R. Sumrow (B/1-501 IN); 1LT Valentine J. Zapert, SP4 Roy E. Huckaby, SP4 Gary W. Elliott, PFC Rickey L. Larsen, and PFC Henry F. Ybarra (C/1-501 IN); 1LT Ronald L. Black, SP4 Gerard P. Winka, SP4 Kenneth L. Bowles, SP4 Robert E. Ross, PFC Thomas J. Smith, PFC Paul DiGerolamo (D/1-501 IN); PFC Richard L. Costerisan (E/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 7673)

21 May 1969

The following Soldiers: PFC Edison R. Phillips (Pictured) (B/1-501); CPL Patrick R. Diehl, PFC Lee A. Napier, PFC Louis E. Fenceroy, PFC Thomas P. Jackson Jr. (Pictured) (C/1-501 IN); SFC Pedro A. Rios (Pictured), SGT LC Carter, CPL Michael M. Hatzell (Pictured), SP4 Keith N. Starnes Jr., SP4 Edward J. Hogan, (Pictured), SP4 Charles E. Hawkins Jr., PFC James I. Sanford (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the vicinity of hill 270, 6 KM E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



Edison R. Phillips, 19  
Army, Pfc  
Plymouth, Pa.



Michael M. Hatzell, 19  
Army, Pfc.  
San Jose, Calif.



21 May 1970

SGT Larry J. Kirkland (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while he was returning to a night defensive position when he was mistaken for a hostile force and fired upon by friendly force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



- 21 May 2010 PV2 Walter Taylor Jr. (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire.
- 21 May 2010 PFC Daniel Hughes (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with a rocket propelled grenade.
- 22 May 1945 PFC George M. Koscelansky (HQ/2-502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death in Germany.
- 22 May 1969 The following Soldiers: SSG Kenneth E. Buesing and SP4 John P. Sansone (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in action in combat. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Order Number 7032)
- 22 May 1969 PFC Errol W. Perreira (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.
- 22 May 1971 SGT Armando M. Zepeda (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Ta Trang River Valley 14 KM North of Ruong Ruon, Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 22 May 2006 PV2 Calvin Davis Jr. (B/1-22 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received as a result of enemy or hostile actions.
- 23 May 1969 The following Soldiers: SP4 Roy C. Newsome (Pictured) (B/1-501 IN); CPL Robert L. Boese (Pictured) (E/1- 501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds 5 KM E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



23 May 1969



PFC Robert J. Randall Jr. (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds 5 KM E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

24 May 1968

1LT Michael L. Deane (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds at Camp Eagle 7km SSE of Hue on RT 546, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



24 May 1969



SP4 Charles R. Jones (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

25 May 1968

The following Soldiers: SSG Thomas L. Partin, SP4 Glenn A. Gentile, SP4 Michael J. Jercens (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st Air CAV DIV; General Order Number 4616)

25 May 1968

CPT Jackie P. Justice (D/1-502 IN) (1-OLC) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st Air CAV DIV; General Order Number 4616)(Amendment Order No. 5578)

25 May 1968

SGT Jessie C. Alba (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from hostile mortar attack in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

25 May 1969

The following Soldiers: SP4 Ralph A. Vitch and PFC Mario Lamelza (A/1-501 IN) was awarded 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.

25 May 1969

The following Soldiers: SGT Timothy D. Ward (1-OLC), SGT Gary L Vaneteen, SGT Brian S. Williams, SP4 Michael B. Altizer, PFC Walter Marshal Jr. (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 85th Evac, Hospital, (SMBL); General Order Number 54, 26 May 1969)

25 May 1969

The following Soldiers: 1LT Bohdan G. Kopystianskyj, SGT Brian S. Williams (1-OLC), SP4 Michael B. Altizer(1-OLC), SP4 Paul S. Pawlak, PFC Walter Marshal Jr.(1-OLC) PFC Garry A. Crocker, PFC Monte W. Haugland, PFC Billy J. Stracener, PFC Milton J. Royal (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 6546, 9 June 1969)

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

19 May 2006

PFC Daniel Hansen (B/2-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for actions in combat. PFC Hansen was traveling to a coalition TCP when his vehicle was struck with an IED. PFC Hansen was outside of the vehicle moving a wire obstacle when the IED detonated. PFC Hansen was knocked down and rendered temporarily unconscious. When he regained consciousness, he found the Truck Commander, his team leader, wounded by shrapnel received to the face and foot. PFC Hansen courageously faced the situation that confronted him. He immediately tended to and dressed his leader's wounds and called Patrol Base Swamp requesting a 9-line MEDEVAC, the senior line medic, and more Soldiers to help secure the site. Realizing that the two interpreters who were being escorted were shaken and scared, PFC Hansen told them to run the 200 meters back to the patrol base. This action put the interpreters out of harm's way and facilitated showing the medic and follow-on forces exactly where



to go. Because PFC Hansen immediately requested the MEDEVAC and used his training to treat his team leader's wounds, the NCO was listed as "Not Seriously Injured" by the time he arrived at the hospital. Though shaken up by the blast, PFC Hansen's quick thinking allowed him to call for more Soldiers at the site. They were able to conduct tactical questioning with the local nationals in the vicinity of the site, leading Bravo Company to gain vital information about how IEDs were emplaced in the Company's area of operations. PFC Hansen's actions and quick thinking were well above his grade as he showed courage, leadership, and knowledge and saved the life of a fellow Soldier.

20 May 1968

MAJ Nathaniel P. Colby (2-17 CAV) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 20 May 1968 through 21 May 1968. Major Colby distinguished himself while serving as Commanding Officer of the 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. Following the hard fought battle for Hue and the coastal lowlands after the North Vietnamese Army Tet Offensive, the 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry, in conjunction with other United States and Vietnamese forces, continued the pursuit of one enemy regiment throughout the coastal plains east of Hue. On 20 May 1968, Major Colby was designated as Commander of Task Force Saber during the temporary absence of his Commanding Officer. The task force, based at Fire Base Forward, ten kilometers east of Hue, had been in heavy contact for several days. Despite the heavy contact, Major Colby immediately undertook to rally the forces at the fire base to reorganize their defenses and establish counter-mortar targets to prevent further friendly casualties. At 0345 hours on 21 May 1968, Fire Base Forward again came under attack and received numerous mortar rounds. Major Colby left the shelter of his fighting position to rally his men and direct the tank and one hundred six millimeter recoilless rifle fire against the enemy mortar positions. Throughout the battle, he moved from position to position to give encouragement to his men. Through his leadership and courage, his men were inspired to even greater efforts and the enemy attack was repulsed. Major Colby'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. (Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division, General Orders No 8319 (July 5, 1969))

20 May 1970



CPL John A. Claggett (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 May 1970. Private Claggett distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company E, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While approaching an enemy bunker complex, Private (promoted to Cpl posthumously) Claggett's platoon received intense hostile fire. Despite the heavy volume of hostile fire directed against him, Private Claggett maneuvered against the insurgents and returned fire. He moved to an open position and remained there, placing suppressive fire on the enemy until one of his comrades threw a hand grenade into an enemy bunker. Private Claggett then assaulted the bunker nearest him and was mortally wounded by hostile automatic weapons fire. Private Claggett'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.

20 May 1970

SP4 Gary W. Gear (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operation involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 May 1970. Specialist Gear distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner in Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations in Thus Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While approaching an enemy bunker complex, Specialist Gear's platoon received intense hostile fire. Despite the heavy volume of enemy fire, Specialist Gear rushed forward



with his weapon and returned suppressive machine gun fire on the enemy positions. Shortly thereafter, Specialist Gear was wounded by hostile fire. Despite his wounds, he continued firing and continued moving forward ahead of the rest of the men. He maneuvered from position to position under hostile fire in spite of his wounds to provide covering fire for his comrades. While maneuvering against the insurgents, Specialist Gear was mortally wounded by a command-detonated anti-personnel mine. Specialist Gear's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AMB), General Order Number 8213; 21 July 1970)

20 May 1970

1LT James T. Hill (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (1-OLC) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Lieutenant Hill distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during a reconnaissance mission near Fire Support Base Veghel, Republic of Vietnam. When the forward element of his platoon was ambushed by a well-entrenched enemy force, Lieutenant Hill immediately led an assault on the enemy bunkers, destroying one bunker as his platoon advanced on other enemy positions. Lieutenant Hill then called for and adjusted artillery on the remaining fortifications. His actions contributed greatly to the routing of the enemy force. Lieutenant Hill'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.

21 May 1969

1LT Daniel L. O'Neill (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). First Lieutenant O'Neill distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 21 May 1969 while serving as platoon leader on a search and destroy mission. His unit was ordered to attack a heavily-fortified hilltop position near the city of Tam Ky. A large open rice paddy lay between his position and the objective. Immediately upon initiating the attack, his platoon was subjected to heavy enemy automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade fire. Employing fire and maneuver, he began to move his platoon forward. Realizing that his men were reluctant to move because of the heavy volume of enemy fire, Lieutenant O'Neill began to move up and down the line shouting encouragement. He then took the lead and led his platoon across the rice paddy to the base of the enemy positions. Employing hand grenades and close fighting, his platoon broke through the initial enemy bunkers and continued to ascend the hill. He then realized that his platoon was receiving fire from its flanks and rear as well as from the enemy positions to the front. Temporarily halting his platoon, he directed the destruction of the enemy positions to his flanks and rear with light antitank weapons and hand grenades. He then renewed the assault, called for and redistributed ammunition, and led the final assault to the top of the hill, eliminating the final pockets of enemy resistance. Ordered to withdraw from the hill to reinforce another platoon, he effectively led his men against the insurgents and rescued the besieged elements. Lieutenant O'Neill's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 499 (February 22, 1970))

21 May 1969

SP4 James P. Glemser (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Specialist Four Glemser distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 21 May 1969 while serving as a radio telephone operator during a search and clear operation near the city of Tan Ky, Quang Tin Province. While maneuvering against well-fortified North Vietnamese bunker complexes, his patrol came under intense small arms and automatic weapons fire. As his



platoon advanced, an enemy soldier hurled a grenade from his spider hole towards Specialist Glemser and his platoon sergeant, seriously wounding the sergeant. Amid intense enemy fire, Specialist Glemser crawled towards the casualty. After reaching the wounded man, he applied a dressing to his wounds and dragged him to a safer position. Then, Specialist Glemser assaulted the enemy soldier's spider hole, successfully eliminating the foe. Returning to the wounded sergeant, Specialist Glemser carried him 100 meters across a fire-swept rice paddy to the safety of his team's perimeter. Specialist Four Glemser's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 2033 (June 12, 1971))

21 May 1969

1LT Donald F. Gourley Jr. (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 May 1969. Lieutenant Gourley distinguished himself while serving as platoon leader in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry. Company C was ordered to attack a heavily fortified enemy hill near Tam Ky in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Gourley promptly organized his platoon and deployed it in preparation for the attack. A large open rice paddy lay between his position and the objective. Immediately upon initiating the attack, his platoon received intensive fire from enemy automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenades. Lieutenant Gourley immediately began to move his platoon forward employing fire and maneuver. Noting the reluctance of his troops to subject themselves to the enemy's fire and cross the open rice paddy, he left his covered position and moved up and down the line directing and encouraging his men. He led his platoon across the rice paddy toward the enemy position. Upon reaching the base of the enemy held hill, the insurgents began a heavy barrage of hand grenades, which inflicted numerous casualties. Lieutenant Gourley led the assault on the enemy positions, and the 2nd platoon broke through the first line of enemy entrenchments and continued to ascend the hill. Upon reaching the crest of the hill, his platoon again came under intense fire from additional enemy positions. With the ammunition supply becoming rapidly depleted, Lieutenant Gourley moved from position to position redistributing the remaining ammunition. He then led the final assault to the top of the hill, eliminating the final pockets of enemy resistance. At this time the reserve platoon of his company came under attack and Lieutenant Gourley's platoon was ordered to withdraw from the hill and reinforce another platoon. Remaining behind with a small force, he covered his platoon as it evacuated its casualties and withdrew to reinforce the second platoon. The enlarged unit was able to repel the enemy attack. At this time Lieutenant Gourley realized that one of his men was missing. Having determined that the man was lying wounded about a third of the way up the initial objective, he moved to the open location of the wounded man and brought him safely back. Lieutenant Gourley's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



21 May 1969



SGT Elmer O. Neises (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 May 1969. Sergeant Neises distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, near the city of Tam, Ky, Republic of Vietnam. During a search and clear mission, Sergeant Neises subjected himself to the hostile fire as he rushed an enemy position and destroyed it with hand grenades. Sergeant Neises, seeing that the enemy force had his platoon in a cross fire, he picked up several anti-tank weapons and advanced on an insurgent machine gun position with two of his fellow Soldiers. He crawled toward the position despite receiving hostile fire and placed suppressive fire on the insurgents, allowing his comrades to destroy the hostile positions. His courageous actions during the intense enemy contact contributed greatly to the success of the mission. Sergeant Neises' 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.

21 May 1969

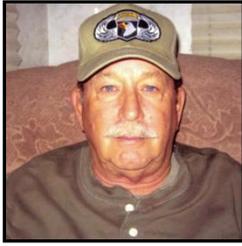
SSG Kenneth E. Buesing (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 May 1969. Sergeant Buesing distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during search and clear operation near Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam. While maneuvering against a heavily fortified North Vietnamese Army bunker complex, two platoons of Company C were subjected to heavy machine gun fire from the left flank. Volunteering to neutralize the enemy position, Sergeant Buesing crawled through intense enemy bunker. When two light anti-tank weapons silenced the hostile machine gun but failed to neutralize the bunker, Sergeant Buesing again subjected himself to enemy small arms fire to crawl closer to the bunker and destroy it and its occupants with hand grenades. Sergeant Buesing's action saved the lives of many of his comrades and enabled his element to advance. Sergeant Buesing'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.

21 May 1969

SP4 Michael C. Tomaszewski (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 May 1969. Specialist Tomaszewski distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company D, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during a search and clear operation near Tam Ky in Quan Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Tomaszewski was maneuvering with his unit against a well-entrenched enemy force occupying a hillside position. Suddenly his element was subjected to the intense fire of an enemy bunker complex, and several men were wounded and remained open to hostile fire. Specialist Tomaszewski then led his machine gun team forward in an attempt to place suppressing fire on the enemy. Crawling forward into the heavy enemy fire, he placed his life in the hands of the determined insurgents in order to maneuver his men. While he provided covering fire, the other men of his platoon evacuated the wounded to safety. With this accomplished, the men of Company D attempted to assault and destroy the enemy positions. In the ensuing battle, Specialist Tomaszewski's platoon leader was wounded and evacuated. Immediately assuming command, he led his men against the insurgents throughout the remainder of the day and kept command of his platoon until a new platoon leader was assigned several weeks later. His outstanding courage and professional leadership were an inspiration to all his men and undoubtedly contributed to the saving of many lives as well as being a major factor in the success of the assault on the enemy positions. Specialist Tomaszewski'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.



21 May 1969



1LT Valentine J. Zapert (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 May 1969. Lieutenant Zapert distinguished himself while serving as platoon leader, reconnaissance platoon, Company E, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during a reconnaissance in force operation near Tam Ky, in Quan Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Zapert volunteered to take his platoon and relieve Company D, which had sustained numerous casualties while engaging a well-entrenched enemy force. While attempting to reach the company's location, Lieutenant Zapert's platoon suddenly came under intense enemy machine gun fire. Reacting immediately, he charged through the heavy fire and silenced the enemy position, killing the three-man crew and capturing the weapon. Utilizing several of his men in this position, he directed them to place suppressive fire upon the enemy as he and the remainder of his men went forward. While advancing on Company D's location, Lieutenant Zapert was wounded by an enemy hand grenade, which temporarily impaired his vision and hearing. Ignoring his wounds, he subjected himself continually to the intense fire as he directed evacuation of the dead and wounded. As he directed medical evacuation operations, he was again wounded in the leg by small arms fire. Quickly bandaging his wound, he evacuated the casualties to a secure area beyond the reach of enemy fire. Only when all of the men had been treated and evacuated did he agree to leave the field of battle. His personal bravery and dynamic leadership resulted in the killing of several enemy, the capturing of a large caliber enemy crew served weapon, and the saving of many lives. Lieutenant Zapert'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.

21 May 2010



The following Soldiers: SGT Geoffrey Emschweiler and SGT Evan Rea (A/1-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while stationed at COP Senjaray, Kandahar Province, executed their roles as team leaders with exceptional intestinal fortitude, and personal courage while under heavy enemy fire. While patrolling west along a route in Senjaray, SGT Rea's team came under intense and accurate fire from multiple enemy positions. Without hesitation SGT Rea maneuvered his fire team under direct enemy machine gun fire to a covered position and engaged enemy positions. SGT Rea prioritized targets and instructed his grenadier to engage an enemy RPG team, neutralizing the threat and preventing further RPGs from being fired on friendly positions.

While other elements of his squad were under heavy contact from an enemy ambush, SGT Emschweiler directed his team to engage multiple enemy positions, denying them the ability to maneuver. While SGT Rea's fire team was engaged with enemy positions, three enemy personnel attempted to flank his fire team from the west. SGT Rea quickly noticed the enemy movement and began firing at the area the enemy was trying to reach. After he realized that the enemy was dangerously close to flanking his position, SGT Rea put his own life in danger by maneuvering on the enemy and throwing a hand grenade. The hand grenade landed between the enemy personnel, which effectively repelled their assault.

SGT Emschweiler took it upon himself to emplace and lead elements of the Afghan National Police force, directing their fire on enemy positions. While elements of the squad were breaking contact, SGT Emschweiler directed his team to provide a heavy volume of fire, which allowed ISAF forces to maneuver northeast toward Senjaray. With disregard for his own life, SGT Emschweiler provided suppressive fire



so his Soldiers could break contact to better covered and concealed positions. SGT Rea's actions contributed significantly to repelling the enemy ambush and prevented enemy forces from maneuvering on his squad. His display of courage, bravery, and lethal action changed the tempo of the battle. SGT Emschweiler's situational awareness and determination resulted in ISAF forces providing precision fire on Taliban positions. Because of his actions, the Afghan forces rallied together and successfully broke contact from the enemy ambush with no casualties.

21 May 2010



PFC Joshua Conley (A/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor while distinguishing himself with valor and exemplary duty performance as a rifleman during the defense of Pir Mohammed School. He is assigned to 3rd platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment at Combat Outpost Senjaray. While improving defensive fighting positions at Pir Mohammed School after a rocket propelled grenade attack to a guard tower, PV2 Taylor was maintaining security down a canal to the south and was gravely wounded by an enemy sniper. PFC Conley immediately returned fire, suppressing the enemy sniper and gaining fire superiority. PFC Conley then moved under enemy fire to PV2 Taylor's position and displayed extraordinary intestinal fortitude and strength while dragging PV2 Taylor to a covered and concealed position. After moving PV2 Taylor to cover, PFC Conley conducted casualty assessment and began buddy aid. PFC Conley administered a pressure dressing to the wound further controlling the bleeding. Once bleeding was controlled, PFC Conley assisted in moving PV2 Taylor to the platoon casualty collection point for further care and evacuation.

21 May 2010



SGT Michael Craddock (A/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor while distinguishing himself with valor and exemplary duty performance as a fire team leader assigned to 1st platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, under direct enemy fire during combat operations in Senjaray. While patrolling along an eastern route in Senjaray SGT Craddock was providing overwatch from his truck when the Pir Mohammed School came under fire. During this time SGT Craddock and his truck also came under direct and indirect fire from the enemy. SGT Craddock instructed his truck not to fire on the enemy when he realized that Afghan civilians were directly in the line of fire between his truck and the enemy. SGT Craddock took it upon himself to dismount the truck and move the local nationals out of the line of fire. SGT Craddock single handedly bounded 35 meters to cover, provided suppressive fire and evacuated 15 Afghan civilians out of immediate danger while under heavy accurate small arms fire. SGT Craddock bounded back 20 meters to another location and again suppressed the enemy, allowing all 15 civilians to move over a wall to safety. SGT Craddock continued to engage the enemy once the local nationals were safe, and is credited with killing or wounding four enemy combatants before remounting his truck.



22 May 1968

1LT Thomas W. Trabert (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 May 1968. First Lieutenant Trabert distinguished himself while serving as Platoon Leader for the 2d Platoon, Company D, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, while on a search and clear operation along the Song O Au River near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Trabert was in command of a three man patrol which was in search of traces of enemy activity and provided security for the rest of the platoon. Shortly after crossing the stream, Lieutenant Trabert observed a North Vietnamese Army platoon preparing its night position. Lieutenant Trabert then maneuvered his small patrol into position in order to lead it in an attack upon the unsuspecting enemy force while leading the grenade and small arms assault upon the



enemy, Lieutenant Trabert received a painful hand wound, but continued against the entrenched enemy. Having taken the initiative from the enemy, Lieutenant Trabert then called in and directed helicopter gunship fire upon the enemy positions. A sweep of the battle area revealed seventeen enemy casualties, numerous weapons, and evidence of several wounded enemy Soldiers. Lieutenant Trabert's actions resulted in the reduction of the enemy force to an ineffective fighting unit. First Lieutenant Trabert'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.

22 May 1969



PFC Errol W. Perreira (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action on the Republic of Vietnam on 22 May 1969. Private Perreira distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company B, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, while on a reconnaissance in force operation south of Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam. The Second Platoon was caught by intense fire from concealed enemy positions. The initial volley of fire wounded the Kit Carson Scout attached to the platoon. Private Perreira, disregarding his own safety, went to the aid of the wounded man through intense enemy fire to move him to safety. He then rejoined his element, which was maneuvering on the enemy position. It soon became apparent that the platoon's organize weapons and determination would not be sufficient to overcome the strongly emplaced enemy. It was decided to move back so that artillery and gunships could be utilized. Private Perreira stayed forward as the platoon started to move back, giving them covering fire with his own weapon. Once the platoon had pulled back a short distance, he made one last attempt to dislodge the enemy. He stood up and threw a grenade into the enemy machine gun position. He was mortally wounded in this effort, which destroyed the position of the enemy weapon. PFC Perreira'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.

23 May 1968



CPT Jackie P. Justice (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 23 May 1968. Captain Justice distinguished himself while serving as Commanding Officer of Company D, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry on a combat operation in the village of Ap Dong Bao, Republic of Vietnam. During the late morning hours, a Viet Cong force attacked the Second Platoon, and Captain Justice moved quickly through the danger area to reach his lead element. Throughout the ensuing battle, he personally directed the retaliatory fire of his men and was most instrumental in repulsing the Viet Cong attack. That afternoon, Captain Justice and his element swept the battle area to check for enemy casualties. After he returned to his former position, the headquarter element received intense hostile sniper fire. Captain Justice set up a base of fire and directed an orderly withdrawal to the main body of the company. Upon reaching the perimeter, Captain Justice directed the retaliatory artillery and helicopter gunship fire upon the enemy positions. Captain Justice'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.

25 May 1969



PFC Mario Lamelza (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 25 May 1969. Private Lamelza distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman with Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry, during a combat mission in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, the lead platoon of Company A came under an intense volume of small arms and automatic weapons fire from well-fortified enemy bunker complexes. Private Lamelza maneuvered across the rice paddy to within fifteen meters of an enemy machine gun position. After eliminating this bunker with a hand grenade, he moved through the brush to the next enemy position. Then, with complete disregard for his own safety, he stood up and killed the occupants of the second bunker with rifle fire. While attempting to maneuver on the third enemy position, he suffered fatal gunshot wounds. Private Lamelza'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.

25 May 1969

SP4 Ralph A. Vitch (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 25 May 1969. Specialist Vitch distinguished himself while serving as a team leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, during a combat mission in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, the lead platoon of Company A came under an intense volume of small arms and automatic fire from well-fortified enemy bunker complexes. When Specialist Vitch saw a fellow Soldier wounded, he immediately rushed to his aid. Braving intense enemy fire, Specialist Vitch found that he was unable to save the fatally wounded Soldier. Without regard for his own safety, Specialist Vitch maneuvered on one of the bunker positions. On reaching grenade distance, he repeatedly threw grenades into the bunker, but the enemy Soldiers held and continued to fire at him. He then charged the position and killed its occupants with rifle fire. He then directed his attention to the second enemy position, but before he could maneuver within grenade range he was mortally wounded by gunshot fire. His conspicuous gallantry contributed to the killing of six North Vietnamese Soldiers and the capture of another. Specialist Vitch'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.

**\*STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

A major reorganization took place on 3 February 1964, when the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division was activated at Fort Campbell, replacing the 1st Airborne Battle Group, 501st Infantry Regiment. The reorganization from the battle groups to brigades and battalions placed two battalions of the 502<sup>nd</sup> in different brigades of the 101<sup>st</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade with 1-327<sup>th</sup> and 2-327<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam 1965, in was most notable commanded by LTC Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson. The new 2nd Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1st and 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."

