



2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AASLT)  
"STRIKE HISTORY"  
23 September – 29 September 2012



24 September 1968 1-502 continued RIF operation. B/1-502 was OPCON to 1/501. D/1-502 killed 2 VC, vic. YD6234. Recon/1-502 engaged 2 VC, vic. YD6913 resulting in 1 VC captured.

24 Sep 03 The Soldiers of the 502<sup>nd</sup> continued the task of rebuilding the city of Mosul and making it safe for the future; Over 700 arms caches had been discovered and destroyed along with unexploded ordnance in over 600 other sites. The true future of Iraq, the children, were also helped with the renovation of over 300 schools, giving them a better place to study and improve themselves, while outside of the classroom athletic fields and facilities were simultaneously being improved, and equipment donations came rolling in from multiple private businesses within the United States.

25 September 1968 A/1-502 conducted security of An Lo and local patrols and ambushes. B/1-502 was on operation at Phu Vang. C/1-502 and D/1-502 continued RIF operation. Recon1/502 captured 1 VCS, vic. YD6930

25 September 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:**  
B/2-502 moved to FSB Veghel to help close the firebase because of the oncoming monsoon season.



26 September 1968 1-502 had a day of very light contact. D/1-502 was the only unit to make contact, they ambushed 2 VC, resulting in 2 VC KIA.

26 September 2006 Strike BCT redeploys to Fort Campbell after serving 12 months in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.



27 September -  
10 October 1968

The 1-501 Inf, 2-17 Cav, and Vietnamese forces from Phu Vang (D) and Huong Thuy (D) conducted a soft cordon operation to attack and destroy the VC infrastructure in the Phu Vang District. During the period June – August, elements of 1-501 had frequent contact with small groups of VC, and encountered numerous booby traps in the Phu Vang area, but had not been able to close with and defeat large VC forces. The VC had intimidated the local population so effectively, that the allied forces had not been able to locate the VC. As a result of this situation and an increasing number of aircraft receiving ground fire in the area, 1-501 coordinated and planned a series of cordon operations in Phu Vang District. On the morning of 27 September, B/1-501 and C/1-501 Inf moved overland to establish cordons and searched around the hamlets vic YD815265 and YD807272. US Navy Patrol Air Cushion Vehicles (PACV) patrolled the waterways adjacent to the cordoned hamlets. 1-501 Inf in the north (YD8027-YD8322), 2-54 ARVN on the east (YD8322-YD8319), 2-17 Cav on the south (YD8319-YD8322), established a cordon prior to darkness on 27 Sept 1968. The 2-54 ARVN Bn swept across the island on 28 September on three axes, fragmenting the enemy elements. During the ensuing searches conducted by the 1-54 ARVN and blocking forces, the allies killed 96 VC, and captured 174 VC, 153 individual weapons and 8 crew served weapons. In addition, PSYOPS missions conducted during the operation resulted in 46 Hoi Chanh returning to the GVW. Of the 174 PW captured, 98 PW were classified as members of the VC infrastructure. Friendly losses during the operation were 9 US WIA, 1 ARVN HIA, 8 ARVN WIA, 2 PF WIA.

27 – 28  
September 1968

1-502 continued normal combat operations, but there was no enemy contact, in these two days.

27 September 1970

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** The monsoon weather moved in and all units remained in a defensive posture with no enemy contact.

28 September 1970

**Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** 2/502 Battalion moved to FSB Whip, and began patrol and ambush operations in the new AO. There was one enemy sighted and several cultivated fields and small caches were found.



29 September 1968

A/1-502 conducted security of An Lo and mine sweep. B/1-502 had movement near one of their ambushes, vic. YD6532, they engaged with SA fire, with negative results. A look-out on the tower at An Lo, spotted 15 individuals, digging-in. Artillery was called in.....results unknown.



- 29 September 1970      **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** FSB Whip received 26 rounds of 60mm mortar fire with six impacting inside the perimeter causing four US casualties. September closed with no more enemy contact. C/2-502 found an abandoned tunnel, while D Company found a cultivated field with fence and rodent traps.
- End September 2008      **Operation STRIKE PIONEERS:** Based on the Division mission, NLT 20 Sep 08, MND-B units, ICW PRT-B and partnered with the BOC, defeats threats to returnees, supports ISF execution of resettlement, and influences the Baghdad Provincial Government's planned Iraqi resettlement to sustain security and protect the population. The purpose is to support the GoI and ISF resettlement of returnees and refugees in a lawful and peaceful manner to protect the population by preventing violent extremist ability to re-initiate the cycle of violence. End state of this operation is that Iraqi families are resettled; ISF implements resettlement in a lawful manner; AQI, SGC, and other extremists are unable to exploit resettlement by inciting ethno-sectarian violence; and Iraqis and the international community view the GoI resettlement as equitable.
- End September 2008      **Operation STRIKE BADGERS:** A contingency operation to counter another potential SGC offensive within the Strike AO. The purpose of this Operation is to prevent Special Groups return from threatening the population and disrupting ISF, CF, and GoI momentum. As SG Criminals attempt to return to Shulla and Hurriya, they will re-seed caches and prepare for an escalation of violence. End state of the Operation is that the population remains supportive of resettlement and the ISF, and SGCs depart the AO or are captured.

**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 Medal
- 13 x Silver Star Medal (5 x Posthumously)
- 12 x ARCOM with Valor
- 1 x Bronze Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
- 50 x Purple Heart Medal (34 x Posthumously)

- 23 September 1944      PFC Ralph J. Zerbe (B/502d 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.
- 23 September 1944      2LT Robert W. Lake (H/C/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously). 2LT Lake died from wounds in Holland, France.
- 24 September 1944      The following Soldiers: PVT Sigmund Korocinski (502<sup>nd</sup> PIR); T/4 Klaty A. Pyle (C/502<sup>nd</sup> 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.
- 24 September 1966      PFC Stephen E. Burton (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the province and military region unknown.



24 September 1966 SFC Geral J. Bannach (A/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile illness or injury in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.

24 September 2010 The following Soldiers: SGT Nino Gray, CPL Joshua Armstrong, SPC Francisco Olea, SPC Jose Umana, SPC Justin Sellers, PFC Jose Reyesharaos and PFC Justin Maloney (H/3-2 CAV) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

24 September 2010 PFC Ira Mercer (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an 82mm recoilless rifle.

25 September 1944



The following Soldiers: PVT Herman A.H. Engelhardt [1] (RHQ 502<sup>nd</sup> PIR), PFC Alton F. Short (HQ/2-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR), PVT Luther W. Davis (B/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR), PFC William J. McClimate Jr.[2], and PFC John E. Suski (C/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR), PFC Howard R. Burgert, and PVT Antonio Da Cunzi, (H/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during Operation Market Garden, the Liberation of Holland.



25 September 1966



CPL Ronnie L. Noseff (C/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 province and military region unknown.

25 September 1971

SP4 Jerry O. Lafayette (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) from military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

25 September 2003

PFC Ian Blankenship (C/1-320 FAR) was awarded the ARCOM with Valor for heroism during combat in Mosul, Iraq. DIVARTY Commander for 101<sup>st</sup> COL Montero and his convoy were attacked at an intersection by an IED and then engaged by small arms fire. PFC Blankenship's platoon was in the area and rushed to support. PFC Blankenship and one other Soldier ran over to secure the damaged truck and render aid to COL Montero's wounded driver. PFC Blankenship with another Soldier dragged the wounded driver back to their own truck, provided first aid, and left rapidly to take him to the next level of care.

25 September 2010

The following Soldiers: SSG Scott Barker and SGT William Eddleman (A/1BSTB) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while they distinguished themselves by exceptional valor in action while engaging in breaching, clearing, and demolition operations under sporadic contact in direct support of Operation Tund Baad.

25 September 2010

2LT Joshua Linvill (G/3-2 CAV) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.



- 26 September 1944 The Following Soldiers: SGT Bailey Harrison (D/502d PIR); PFC Paul B. Gentle (I/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during WWII in Holland, France.
- 26 September 2010 The Following Soldiers: CPT William Faucher, SSG James Spear, SSG Jason Thompson, SSG Eric Ammerman and PFC Aaron Jonas (Scout PLT/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while they executed an air assault on OP Dusty, during Operation Lion Strike.
- 26 September 2010 The Following Soldiers: CPT Daryl Murton and SSG Jason Redick (HHC/3-2 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor during a patrol to OP Gold displayed extraordinary valor and initiative that ultimately stabilized a rapidly deteriorating situation while attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).
- 26 September 2010 SrA Nathan Archambault (AF) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while distinguishing himself with heroism as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller while engaged in ground combat against an enemy of the United States in support of Scout platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment at Forward Operating Base Howz-e-Madad, Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.
- 26 September 2010 PFC James Garner (B/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.
- 26 September 2010 1LT Kyle Snook (D/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.
- 27 September 1944 PFC Manuel M. Pineda (H/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during WWII in Holland, France.
- 27 September 1967 The Following Soldiers: LTC Ralph Puckett Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN); CPT Charles P. Otstott, 1LT James Peake, 1SG Frank R. Creed, SP4 Henry I. Willey (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.
- 27 September 1967 The following Soldiers: CPL Louis W. Bellach Jr. and CPL Steven B. Riccione (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 Quang Tin Province, Vietnam.
- 27 September 2010 SGT Matthew Bolsinger (B/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire.



- 28 September 1967 1LT Jerry R. Barnhill (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.
- 28 September 1967 SP4 John M. Zehnder (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 Quang Tri Province, Vietnam.
- 28 September 1968 PFC Walter C. Blanton (B/2-501 IN) died of other Non-hostile causes (Drowned/Suffocated) in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 28 September 1970 SP4 Jay A. Muncey (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, Vietnam.
- 28 September 1970 CPL David M. Hopkins (E/1-501 IN) died of other Non-hostile causes (Drowned/Suffocated) in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 28 September 2010 SGT Deuane Vilaythong (A/1BSTB) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with a grenade.
- 28 September 2010 SGT Eric Mattos (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with a grenade.

29 September 1944



The following Soldiers: PVT Charles Schmollinger (HQ/2-502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) and PVT William S. Rosick (H/502<sup>nd</sup> PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during the Liberation of Holland.



- 29 September 1967 The Following Soldiers: SSG Larry A. Fletcher and SP4 Michael P. Perry (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.
- 29 September 1967 The Following Soldiers: SSG James B. Fields\*, SGT Craig A. McDaniel\*, SGT Paul F. Moore, SGT Paul Balog, SGT William E. Wilson\*, PFC George E. Overshine\*, PFC George H. Ulrich\* (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (\* Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile enemy near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.
- 29 September 1967 The following Soldiers: SFC James B. Fields, SSG Craig A. McDaniel, SGT William E. Wilson, CPL George H. Ulrich, CPL George E. Overshine, and CPL Robert J. Smith (C/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 Quang Tin Province, Vietnam.
- 29 September 1967 PFC William E. Hamilton (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.



- 29 September 1968 The following Soldiers: PFC Willie G. Gaddy and PFC Richard O. Gullixson (D/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 Quang Tin Province, Vietnam.
- 29 September 1970 SP4 Edward P. McCarthy III (E/2-502 IN) died of Non-hostile, illness or injury in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 29 September 1970 SP4 William J. Odstrcil (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death of wounds by other accidental causes in the province of Province and Military Region Unknown.
- 29 September 2010 PFC Cameron Fontenot (HHB/1-320 FAR) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroically distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy.
- 29 September 2010 SGT Justin Officer (B/1-75 CAV), 26, of Wichita, Kansas; was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously). SGT Officer died of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol using an improvised explosive device.
- 29 September 2010 PFC Kevin Macari (HHB/1-320 FAR) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.
- 29 September 2010 SPC Robert Perkins (HHT/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.



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

25 September 2010



The following Soldiers: SSG Scott Barker and SGT William Eddleman (A/1BSTB) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while they distinguished themselves by exceptional valor in action while engaging in breaching, clearing, and demolition operations under sporadic contact in direct support of Operation Tund Baad. Their actions saved the lives of countless ISAF and ANSF Soldiers.

SSG Barker and his platoon including SGT Eddleman and his squad were ordered to open a breach into the green zone through defensive IED belts in the vicinity of Kandalay. SGT Eddleman's squad was the lead element for two Infantry companies to secure key terrain. Moving forward of the main element during early morning hours prior to sunrise and utilizing a MICLIC the platoon opened a breach lane.

After conducting the breach SSG Barker with SGT Eddleman's element moved ahead into the lane leading an infantry company forward. As the lead element into the breach, SSG Barker, SGT Eddleman and his squad discovered the entire charge had not detonated. The charge had misfired leaving over 1,000 lbs of explosives undetonated in the lane.

SSG Barker and SGT Eddleman volunteered to move into the un-cleared ground to manually detonate the remaining charges while ordering all others to



move to a safe distance leaving them with no forward security to set the charge. SSG Barker and SGT Eddleman were forced to set the charge with a one minute time fuse due to the assets on hand and the trailing Infantry company being left in the open, putting them at great risk in order to allow maneuver elements to push into the green zone and reach their objectives.

After igniting the time fuse SSG Barker and SGT Eddleman began a 200 meter sprint over broken and muddy terrain to reach a safe covered position only three seconds prior to the blast. Then, once again they moved forward to ensure the breach was open and clear to allow safe movement of following maneuver elements.

26 September 2010



The Following Soldiers: CPT William Faucher, SSG James Spear, SSG Jason Thompson, SSG Eric Ammerman and PFC Aaron Jonas (Scout PLT/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while they executed an air assault on OP Dusty, during Operation Lion Strike, in order to interdict enemy movement along Route Dusty.

After occupying the compound, the platoon immediately began to fortify defensive positions on the rooftop of OP Dusty. PFC Jonas immediately established communications with the Battalion Tactical Operations Center (TOC). Within minutes of occupying their positions, OP Dusty began to receive effective small arms fire from two separate enemy fighting positions located in thickly vegetated tree lines 250 meters to the south and east.



Over the next two days an estimated 15-20 enemy fighters conducted over 20 coordinated complex attacks in an attempt to surround and overrun OP Dusty. CPT Faucher repeatedly moved across the rooftop and coordinated counterattacks against the enemy. SSG Spear was able to engage the fighting position with an M320 grenade launcher, effectively suppressing the enemy and forcing them to break contact.

OP Dusty began receiving effective enemy RPG and machine gun fire from a position in a tree line 125 meters to the northeast. SSG Thompson moved across the rooftop, exposing himself in order to call for fire on the enemy machinegun position and mark the target with smoke for Close Combat Aviation. With PFC Jonas having established communications he was able to call in CCA for quick response.

Immediately after an enemy RPG impacted on the wall of OP Dusty, CPT Faucher moved across the rooftop under effective enemy machinegun and small arms fire to suppress the enemy with his weapon, allowing SSG Spear to fire an AT-4 and SSG Ammerman to call for fire on the enemy fighting position.

CPT Faucher, SSG Spear, SSG Thompson and SSG Ammerman's selflessness and leadership throughout the two day engagement repeatedly inspired their platoon to continue fighting. CPT Faucher, SSG Spear, SSG Thompson and SSG Ammerman's actions resulted in over 20 fixed wing strikes, 30 CCA strikes, and over 18 danger close indirect fire missions resulting in 13 insurgents killed in action.



CPT Faucher, SSG Spear, SSG Thompson, SSG Ammerman and PFC Jonas' bravery and leadership were an inspiration to the platoon and their actions were directly linked to the platoon's ability to suppress over 20 enemy attacks thus preventing the position from being overrun.

26 September 2010



The Following Soldiers: CPT Daryl Murton and SSG Jason Redick (HHC/3-2 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor during a patrol to OP Gold displayed extraordinary valor and initiative that ultimately stabilized a rapidly deteriorating situation while attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

At the beginning of operations, a route clearance platoon on a patrol heading south thru a wadi discovered and cleared an anti-personnel mine initiated IED. As the patrol repositioned to continue the mission, the lead RG-31, equipped with a mine roller, struck a secondary IED. The blast caused catastrophic damage to the vehicle and injured two crewmen who required immediate evacuation. CPT Murton quickly brought order to the situation by assessing the incident and directing SSG Redick to secure a suitable MEDEVAC HLZ.

As the route clearance platoon began to consolidate, a second RG-31 at the rear of the formation struck a third IED. This incident again called for CPT Morton's calm leadership as he rapidly established priorities of work and assigned responsibilities for security and casualty evacuation. SSG Redick quickly secured another MEDEVAC HLZ. Even with the clear and present knowledge that there were likely mines and IEDs in the immediate area, SSG Redick continued to conduct operations without concern for his own safety.

Following successful evacuation of the casualties, SSG Redick was quickly able to establish plans for securing the TAC's vehicles and vigilantly maintained a constant presence in the wadi throughout the night, ensuring security on the damaged vehicles never lapsed. SSG Redick continuously monitored the remaining four crewmen in the TAC's vehicles to ensure they were alert, on the radio and scanning the culverts leading into the wadi. A portion of the Squadron TAC maintained overwatch along culverts as CPT Murton led a dismounted patrol of four Soldiers around the friendly position.

CPT Murton assertively led his team to various points in the wadi and surrounding compounds where insurgents were identified by UAS. Through vigilant patrolling, CPT Murton was able to deter them from continuing operations against the fixed friendly force throughout the night. The following afternoon as recovery operations were still ongoing, CPT Murton and SSG Redick identified insurgents attempting to infiltrate the element's perimeter. SSG Redick's immediate return of well-aimed fired was enough to deter them from continuing operations against the fixed friendly force.

CPT Murton and SSG Redick maintained security and situational awareness through lengthy recovery operations. The next morning the Squadron's wrecker struck a fourth IED. This strike resulted in yet another damaged vehicle and required the Air MEDEVAC of the squadron's senior recovery NCO. CPT Murton again expertly took control of the situation. CPT Murton identified, marked and secured the HLZ; SSG Redick positioned security forces in the wadi and moved the casualty to PZ Posture.

SSG Redick exhibited boundless energy and determination along with utter disregard for his own safety during a 33-hour patrol that involved four separate IED strikes, small arms contact, loss of three vehicles and multiple casualties. SSG Redick displayed the strength, decisiveness and combat skills that are indicative of the best of the Non-Commissioned Officers Corps.



CPT Murton demonstrated he was the epitome of a combat leader. Without CPT Morton's calm, decisive leadership, the outcome of the unit's operations could have been much worse.

26 September 2010



SrA Nathan Archambault (AF) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while distinguishing himself with heroism as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller while engaged in ground combat against an enemy of the United States in support of Scout platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment at Forward Operating Base Howz-e-Madad, Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. SrA Archambault and the scout platoon conducted a partnered air assault with ANA soldiers into an unsecured helicopter landing Zone (HLZ).

Once the HLZ was secured, the team moved 900 meters through overgrown grape fields and dense woods to establish Observation Post (OP) Dusty. At dawn on the 26th, while holding the OP, they came under RPG, PKM and small arms fire from a tree line 250 meters to the southeast. Additionally the enemy used complex attack techniques to engage the scout platoon with effective PKM and AK-47 fire from two structures 175 meters to their east, creating a lethal crossfire. Without hesitation and under intense enemy crossfire, SrA Archambault positioned himself to communicate to the rear and immediately request close air support.

He quickly and efficiently informed the aircrew of the dire ground situation, the close proximity of enemy firing positions and began facilitating kinetic strikes. SrA Archambault controlled ten strafing passes, five of which were danger close and within 50 meters of his platoon's position. Despite the strafing passes, the enemy continued aggressively maneuvering in attempts to overrun the OP.

With complete disregard for his personal safety, SrA Archambault climbed on top of the compound roof at the OP and low crawled to get a better vantage point of enemy movements. With heavy machine gun fire snapping over his head and impacting within four feet of his position in addition to sporadic RPG fire impacting within 50 meters, SrA Archambault controlled eight precision-guided munitions strikes on several enemy fighting positions, with weapons impacting as close as 170 meters of his own location, within the danger close proximity. Over the next 48 hours, he continued to repel 20 separate enemy assaults by controlling 4 additional strafing runs with rounds impacting enemy positions, and within 100 meters of the platoon's location.

Finally, the combination of precision guided munitions and multiple strafing runs ceased all enemy fire. The result of the engagement was an estimated 13 Taliban fighters killed and over 30 enemies wounded, with zero coalition casualties. Without SrA Archambault's bravery and leadership while controlling close air support, it is highly probable the 27 Coalition and Afghanistan soldiers would have died during the multi-day battle.

27 September 1967

CPT Charles P. Otstott (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 27 September 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. During a ground assault on a well-fortified enemy position, Captain Otstott personally organized a small element in an attempt to make a flanking maneuver against the enemy. Although under an intense volume of fire, Captain Otstott, on numerous occasions, fully exposed himself to the vicious hostile fire in order to coordinate the supporting fires and direct fire of his men. When he was unable to observe the air support being given, Captain Otstott, with complete disregard for his own safety, jumped from his covered



position and moved to an exposed piece of high ground where he could better direct the air support. Captain Ostott was almost immediately detected by the enemy assault element. Again without concern for his own safety, Captain Ostott stood up, fully exposed to the enemy fire, and placed extremely effective for into the ranks of the oncoming enemy, killing two insurgents and forcing the remainder to pull back. Captain Ostott remained in his exposed position until the air strikes had been completed. Captain Ostott's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

27 September 1967

1SG Frank R. Creed (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 27 September 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. First Sergeant Creed distinguished himself by his courageous actions on that night when an estimated North Vietnamese Army Company viciously attacked and overran a part of his company's perimeter. Reacting quickly to the rapidly worsening situation, First Sergeant Creed immediately organized his command post personnel and led them through the tremendous enemy fire to exposed positions where effective fire could be brought into the ranks of the charging enemy. During the fierce engagement, First Sergeant Creed continuously exposed himself to the hostile fire as he aggressively repelled the enemy, pointed out targets to his men, and offered those words of encouragement. Through First Sergeant Creed's leadership, determination, and courageous actions, his small element was able to delay the enemy force long enough for the company perimeter to be reformed and repel the determined enemy. First Sergeant Creed's unquestionable valor was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the American Division, and the United States Army.

27 September 1967

SP4 Henry I. Willey (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 27 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. As Specialist Four, then Private First Class, Willey's squad moved out in an assault against a well-fortified enemy element, he observed his machine gunner had been wounded. Realizing the necessity for the extra firepower, he immediately ran towards the wounded gunner. While running through the enemy fire, he was hit and wounded. With no regard for his wounds or the enemy fire, Specialist Willey continued onward until he reached the weapon and, with the machinegun, placed a tremendous volume of fire into the enemy positions. Then detecting an enemy automatic weapons bunker, Specialist Willey, with utter disregard for his own safety, charged through vicious enemy fire and succeeded in destroying the bunker and killing four enemy soldiers. Specialist Four Willey's unquestionable gallantry was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

27 September 1967

1LT James B. Peake (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 27 September 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. When contact was made with an estimated reinforced enemy platoon in well fortified positions, First Lieutenant Peake immediately moved to the most forward point of his platoon's position and began to lead his men in an assault on the enemy. A squad became pinned down and Lieutenant Peake quickly organized a maneuvering element and personally led them in an attempt to flank the enemy positions. As Lieutenant Peake led his element



forward, he was struck by enemy fire and painfully wounded in the leg. Disregarding his own safety, Lieutenant Peake got to his feet, charged an enemy machinegun position and destroyed it, killing three enemy soldiers and relieving the pressure on the pinned down squad. Refusing to be evacuated until his own casualties had been evacuated, Lieutenant Peake painfully walked approximately six hundred meters to insure the evacuation could be made from a secure landing zone. First Lieutenant Peake's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

27 September 1967



LTC Ralph Puckett Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 27 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. During the hours of darkness on that evening, a small enemy element infiltrated the defensive perimeter of the Tactical Command Post, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry Regiment, Americal Division, and initiated an attack with grenades and automatic weapons fire. In the initial stage of the attack, a hand grenade landed approximately eighteen inches from Colonel Puckett's head and exploded, wounding him in the head and seriously affecting his hearing. Dazed and bleeding, Colonel Puckett staggered to his feet and, without hesitation, rushed into the raging battle and immediately began to reorganize the defensive perimeter. With complete disregard for his own safety, Colonel Puckett rushed through the withering hail of enemy grenades and automatic weapons fire and moved from position to position giving his men encouragement and directing their fire. Throughout the remainder of the night Colonel Puckett completely disregarded his wounds and personal safety as he directed all aspects of the defense of the Tactical Command Post and an artillery battery. When MEDEVAC helicopters arrived, Colonel Puckett supervised the evacuation of his wounded men and refused evacuation until his men had been cared for and the situation had returned to normal. The actions of Colonel Puckett undoubtedly inspired his men to such a degree that they successfully defended their positions and forced the enemy to withdraw. Lieutenant Colonel Puckett's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division and the United States Army.

28 September 1967

1LT Jerry R. Barnhill (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 28 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, First Lieutenant Barnhill's platoon became heavily engaged with an estimated enemy platoon in well fortified positions. Lieutenant Barnhill immediately deployed his platoon and initiated an assault against the enemy positions. As the platoon moved forward, Lieutenant Barnhill led his platoon and accounted for personally killing one enemy soldier. When the lead element of the platoon became pinned down, Lieutenant Barnhill, with complete disregard for his own safety, aggressively charged a nearby enemy machinegun position and succeeded in destroying the position, killing two enemy soldiers and capturing the machinegun. Although Lieutenant Barnhill had been wounded, he continued to lead the assault, exposing himself to the heavy enemy fire, while giving his men encouragement and directing their fire by pointing out enemy positions. After the assault had been successfully completed Lieutenant Barnhill refused medical aid and evacuation until all his men had been cared for. First Lieutenant Barnhill's unquestionable valor was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and



reflects great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

29 September 1967

SP4 Michael P. Perry (C/2-502 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, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Sergeant Perry distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 September 1967 while serving as squad leader of an airborne infantry company on a search and destroy mission near Chu Lai. The forward platoons of the company received a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire that pinned them down and inflicted several casualties. Sergeant Perry's platoon was contacted and requested to move forward and flank the Viet Cong. While advancing toward its sister elements, his unit was suddenly subjected to intense hostile fire from fortified and well concealed bunkers. While the rest of the troops provided supporting fire, Sergeant Perry and his platoon sergeant charged through a hail of bullets, firing their rifles and throwing hand grenades into the Viet Cong position. Several enemy grenades landed near Sergeant Perry, and he unhesitatingly grabbed them and hurled them back at the insurgents. Although wounded by fragments from an exploding grenade, he refused to withdraw for medical treatment and continued his fierce assault until he had destroyed four enemy bunkers. He then quickly helped reorganize the platoon's troops and led them to relieve their beleaguered comrades. When savage automatic weapons fire again erupted on the platoon, Sergeant Perry and his platoon sergeant braved murderous fire to assault a Viet Cong position, successfully destroying it with hand grenades. Having expended his grenades, Sergeant Perry armed himself with enemy grenades and continued the attack through a curtain of fire. Sergeant Perry'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. 836 (February 23, 1968))

29 September 1967

SSG Larry A. Fletcher (C/2-502 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, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Staff Sergeant Fletcher distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 September 1967 while serving as platoon leader of an airborne infantry company on a search and destroy operation near Chu Lai. The company's forward platoons were savagely attacked and pinned down by a large Viet Cong force, and Sergeant Fletcher immediately led his men forward to reinforce the embattled elements. After advancing five hundred meters, his force came under a murderous enemy barrage from well-concealed bunkers to the front. Completely disregarding his personal safety, Sergeant Fletcher, accompanied by one of his squad leaders, attacked the hostile emplacements with rifles and grenades. Enemy grenades landed all around him as he assaulted, but he refused to take cover, picked up the grenades, and hurled them into the insurgents' bunkers. Fighting his way through a withering hail of bullets, he succeeded in destroying four fortifications. As he again led his men forward, they were hit a second time by intense automatic weapons fire from the front. Once more ignoring his welfare, Sergeant Fletcher charged the enemy position. Despite bullets striking all around him, he reached hand grenade range and destroyed the hostile bunker with a deadly throw. As they neared the trapped platoons, his



troops came under heavy fire a third time. Armed with enemy grenades captured earlier, Sergeant Fletcher and his squad leader assaulted the last bunker complex through a curtain of fire. Maneuvering from bunker to bunker while the Viet Cong concentrated fire on him, Sergeant Fletcher demolished four positions with grenade and rifle fire and forced the remaining enemy to flee the battlefield. His fearless actions in the heat of battle resulted in the destruction of nine bunkers and the elimination of eighteen enemy soldiers. Staff Sergeant Fletcher'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. 886 (February 27, 1968)

29 September 1967

SGT Craig A. McDaniel (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile enemy on 29 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. While on a patrol, Sergeant McDaniel's platoon received word that another platoon had become heavily engaged with an estimated platoon size enemy element and were pinned down. Sergeant McDaniel's platoon moved to the battle area and began maneuvering to the flank of the enemy element. Initiating the assault on the first enemy bunker, Sergeant McDaniel personally led his men and succeeded in destroying the bunker and killing two enemy soldiers. Immediately reorganizing his assault element, he again personally led his men in an assault on a second enemy bunker. As the assault element destroyed the second bunker, they were suddenly brought under fire from a third bunker. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant McDaniel charged the enemy bunker in an attempt to destroy it. Sergeant McDaniel was fatally wounded by the intense fire as he neared the bunker. His assault element became so inspired by their leader's courage that they viciously assault the third bunker and destroyed it. Sergeant McDaniel's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his intense devotion to duty were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

29 September 1967

PFC George E. Overshine (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile enemy on 29 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. When the 3rd Platoon of Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, made contact with an estimated enemy company in well-fortified positions, they immediately initiated an assault on a small network of bunkers and succeeded in destroying them. As the 3rd Platoon moved forward to assist a sister platoon, they hit a larger network of bunkers and were immediately brought under a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire. Private First Class Overshine immediately began to maneuver through a hedgerow and placed effective fire into an enemy bunker. Almost immediately, Private Overshine was taken under heavy fire from several more bunkers whose location he could not detect. Completely oblivious to the intense fire, Private Overshine crawled through the heavy enemy fire, throwing grenades and firing his weapon, until he located the enemy bunkers. As the platoon began to assault the enemy positions, an undetected enemy machine gun position opened fire on them. Private Overshine, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, grabbed a hand grenade and charged the enemy position. Just as Private Overshine threw the grenade into the aperture of the machine gun bunker and destroyed it, he was struck by enemy fire and mortally wounded. As a result of his actions his platoon was able to successfully destroy the enemy bunkers. Private First Class Overshine's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his



devotion to duty at the cost of his own life were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

29 September 1967

PFC George H. Ulrich (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 29 September 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. During an assault on heavily fortified enemy positions, Private First Class Ulrich had been given the mission of acting as rear security. Short after getting into position, Private Ulrich observed several enemy soldiers approaching the rear of his platoon. Realizing that he did not have time to warn his comrades, Private Ulrich, with complete disregard for his own safety, left his covered position and placed himself in a position completely exposed to the approaching enemy. As the enemy neared his position, Private Ulrich single-handedly engaged them, killing two of the enemy soldiers and wounding another. During the defense of his rear security position, Private Ulrich was struck by enemy fire and mortally wounded. His Courageous and aggressive actions prevented his platoon from being attacked from the rear and he undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades. Private First Class Ulrich's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

29 September 1967

SSG James B. Fields (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 29 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Fields distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action while on a search and destroy mission and his platoon became heavily engaged with an enemy force firing from well fortified positions. In the initial stages of the firefight, the platoon was brought under intense automatic weapons fire and sustained heavy casualties. Sergeant Fields, under the covering fire of his platoon, rushed the enemy bunker in a determined effort to destroy it. As he neared the bunker, he was struck in the shoulder by the enemy fire and knocked to the ground. Picking himself up and completely disregarding his wound and the intense barrage of fire being directed at him, he continued in his aggressive assault. In the face of tremendous firepower, Sergeant Fields moved to within a few meters of the bunker before he was fatally wounded. Due to the courageous action of Sergeant Fields and the enemy's concentration of fire on him, the platoon was able to maneuver against the bunker and overrun it. Staff Sergeant Fields' outstanding display of gallantry, his aggressive determination and intense devotion to duty were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

29 September 1967

SGT Paul F. Moore (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile enemy on 29 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, the second platoon of Sergeant Moore's company came under intense automatic weapons fire from well-concealed enemy bunkers. Sergeant Moore moving quickly to the front led his squad to assist the pinned down platoon. Upon reaching the battle area, Sergeant Moore led his squad in an aggressive assault against the enemy positions. After advancing several meters on the enemy position, Sergeant Moore was wounded by an enemy grenade. Disregarding his wounds and personal safety, he continued to lead his squad's advance until they had swept the battle



area and knocked out the enemy positions. After insuring that all his wounded had been taken to the rear, Sergeant Moore went to the rear to have the aidman treat his wound. While the wounded waited for medical evacuation, the landing zone came under heaving automatic weapons fire. Again with complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Moore left his covered position and moved to the battle area, organizing a fighting team on the way. Sergeant Moore again led an assault into the enemy positions and knocked them out with grenade and rifle fire, forcing the enemy to flee the area. Only after returning to the evacuation area and insuring that all of the wounded had been evacuated, did Sergeant Moore allow himself to be evacuated. Sergeant Moore's courage and outstanding leadership undoubtedly saved his company from sustaining numerous casualties and was a decisive factor in the outcome of the battle. Sergeant Moore's unquestionable valor in close combat was in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

29 September 1967

SGT Paul Balog (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 29 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. On that date, Sergeant Balog's platoon became heavily engaged with an estimated two enemy squads emplaced in well fortified bunkers. In the initial stages of the battle numerous friendly casualties were sustained. Sergeant Balog frequently exposed himself to intense hostile fire while pulling wounded comrades to covered positions, and carrying them to a nearby landing zone to be evacuated. When he returned to the area of contact, Sergeant Balog, his platoon leader, and one other man initiated an aggressive assault and succeeded in destroying four enemy bunkers and killing six enemy soldiers. Twice, Sergeant Balog fully exposed himself to hostile fire as he placed grenade fire into the enemy bunkers. During the course of the action, he was wounded in the shoulder by enemy fire. Without concern for his own safety, Sergeant Balog continued to fire at the bunkers until he succeeded in destroying them. When he ran out of ammunition, he obtained an enemy weapon and continued to move through the area. Suddenly, Sergeant Balog observed an enemy soldier in a well camouflaged spider hole and he rushed forward and killed him. Sergeant Balog's outstanding gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

29 September 1967

SGT William E. Wilson (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 29 September 1967 in the vicinity of Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Wilson distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic actions when his platoon became engaged with an enemy element of estimated platoon size firing from fortified positions. In the initial burst of fire several casualties were inflicted on Sergeant Wilson's fire team. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant Wilson rushed through the hostile fire and pulled the wounded to safety. He then reorganized the fire team and began to maneuver against an enemy bunker. As the fire team neared the bunker Sergeant Wilson dashed through the intense enemy fire and leaped on top of it. Just as he was preparing to throw a grenade into the bunker he was hit by hostile fire and critically wounded. Displaying undaunted determination Sergeant Wilson crawled to the aperture of the bunker and threw a grenade inside killing two enemy soldiers and neutralizing the position. Sergeant Wilson's unquestionable valor, fortitude, and dedication to



duty were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

29 September 2010



PFC Cameron Fontenot (HHB/1-320 FAR) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroically distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as a rifleman in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment. His heroic actions on that day were instrumental in saving PFC Kevin Macari's life.

PFC Fontenot's platoon conducted a dismounted enemy interdiction patrol in the grape furrows and pomegranate orchards west of Combat Outpost (COP) Stout. The enemy had seeded the area with pressure-plate improvised explosive devices (PPIED) in an attempt to disrupt coalition patrols in the area, making movement in the dense vegetation and challenging terrain slow and dangerous.

While moving through a vineyard, PFC Kevin Macari, the grenadier for bravo team, activated an improvised antipersonnel mine, amputating his left foot and sending shrapnel into his left arm pit and his spleen. The Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier that was partnered with PFC Macari received minor injuries.

Due to the enemy protocol of emplacing multiple improvised explosive devices within the kill zone to target first responders, PFC Fontenot, the platoon medic, and the platoon sergeant, SFC Kyle Lyon, moved instinctively to render first aid but were forced to stop outside the kill zone until the area was cleared of secondary explosive devices before moving forward.

As the area was hurriedly cleared, the GIZMO mine detector failed. PFC Fontenot, observing the severity of his comrade's wounds, jumped over a grape furrow into the kill zone and began providing aid with total disregard for his personal safety. He arrived at PFC Macari's side and immediately began assessing the casualty. He quickly placed several tourniquets on the leg of the casualty and bandaged the deep shrapnel wounds on PFC Macari's armpit and abdomen.

Once the area was cleared of secondary explosive devices by the GIZMO mine detectors PFC Fontenot and SFC Lyon then began to direct the movement of the two wounded to a pre-established helicopter landing zone (HLZ) to the south of COP Stout. Without the selfless and heroic actions that have become second nature to PFC Fontenot, PFC Macari surely would have lost his life.

**\*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.

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."

