



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT)
“STRIKE HISTORY”
30 September – 06 October 2012



- 30 September 1968 C/1-502 replaced A/1-502 on An Lo Bridge security. C/1-502 conducted RIF operation, vic. YD6731. B/1-502 detained 7 VCS, vic. YD6135.
- 01 October 1968 A/1-502 conducted RIF. Vic. YD6530, they engaged 2 VC with SA fire, resulting in 1 VC KIA. One of their day ambushes KIA 1 VC, vic. YD6928. B/1-502 engaged 3 VC with SA fire and clamors, vic. YD6031, with negative assessment.
- October 2009 2nd Brigade Combat Team C-T-Bs begin Eagle Flight I and II training exercises, focused on honing the skills and capabilities of C-T-B squads/teams and platoons respectively.
- 01 -
08 October 2009 2nd Brigade Combat Team conducts Combined Arms Walk and Shoot Exercise, incorporating ground forces, direct and indirect fire, and combat aviation forces.
- 03 –
13 October 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Numerous ammo caches and base areas were found in (Vic. YC8500) along with increased light contacts. 13 OCT C/2-502 returned from OPGON. The 2d Bn (ABN) IN effectively accomplished its mission during operation NEVADE EAGLE. The enemy sustained significant losses in personnel, equipment, and morale. His base areas were no longer safe. He lost valuable caches of weapons and ammunition. He was continually kept off balance, thus making it virtually impossible for him to mass and launch a full scale offensive. The results of this action were 102 x KIA, 42 x KBA, 1 x NVA POW, 3 x crew served weapons captured, and 87 individual weapons captured. US casualties: 25 x KIA, 136 x WIA.
- 03 October 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** October opened quietly as the 2/502 Battalion began a new month with company size RIF operations in the vicinity of FSB Whip. Bad weather began to move over the AO necessitating resupply by parachute. D/2-502 engaged three enemy organic weapons. One friendly Soldier was wounded, while enemy results were unknown. FSB Whip was closed. The Battalion returned to Camp Eagle for refitting while the forward CP moved to OP Checkmate.
- 04 October 1943 The 502nd embarks on the SS John Ericsson to complete the rest of their voyage to England.
- 04 October 1968 A/1-502 set up blocking positions, vic. YD6729 for 2 platoons sweeping from southeast. B/1-502 had 2 Cheiu Hoi's lead them to an arms cache, containing 2 60mm mortars and 18 individual weapons, 1000 rounds of ammo, 8 clamors (Chi Com), 10 rifle grenades, and 2 RPG rounds. C/1-502 received 2 mortar rounds at An Lo, Negative casualties. Recon/1-502 had stand-down at LZ Sally.



05 October 1944 The 502nd is ordered out of its defensive positions around St. Oedenrode north of Nijmegen between the Rhine and Waal Rivers to defensive positions within the British line known as 'The Island.'

05 October 1968 A/1-502 conducted RIF and ambushes, vic. YD6730 with negative contact. B/1-502 found 1 SKS, ammo and other equipment, vic. YD6538. At vic. YD 6130, B/1-502 engaged 1 VC with negative assessment. D/1-502 was at Phu Vang.

06 October 1968 1-502 (-) (with the exception of "D", at Phu Vang) continued normal operations with negative contact. We did provide 4 EM to NP on a check point to look for VC and draft dodgers. The EM worked with elements from Pistol Pete, from vic. YD7529 to vic. YD8332. They detained 183 people who were classified as follows.

IC	131
VCS	9
ARVN deserters	1
Military age males	41
VC	1

06 -

25 October 2010

Operation Eagle Claw: In early October, CTF Top Guns developed a plan to complete the clearance of Western Arghandab and remove the remnants of Taliban in the Area of Operations. The Task Force created Operation Eagle Claw to deny the enemy sanctuary in the Arghandab River Valley and prevent the area from being used by the Taliban to launch future attacks on Kandahar City.

CTF Top Guns conducted Operation Eagle Claw from 6 to 25 October 2010 in combined action with 1/1/205, United States Special Operations Forces, Afghan National Army Commando forces, and Afghan Border Police. The plan called for the isolation of villages in the gardens South of Jelawur to permit clearance of insurgent



sanctuaries by over 400 Afghan Border Police (ABP), combat advised by US Special Forces Detachments. To accomplish this operation, CTF Top Guns attacked to seize Objective Tarok Kalache, Khosrow Sofla, and Charqolba Sofla to deny enemy sanctuary, remove known Taliban command and control nodes, and set conditions for the resettlement of the Arghandab River Valley by the displaced Afghan population.

To achieve decisive effects, CTF Top Guns targeted abandoned villages used by the insurgents to produce thousands of pounds of HME. Prior to commencement of ANSF clearing operations, the CTF Top Guns coordinated for an elite infantry company from Task Force South to conduct an air assault to confirm or deny the presence of HME in the village of Tarok Kalache and Khosrow Olya. Similarly, ANA Commandos would conduct an air assault to confirm or deny HME production in the abandoned village of Lower Babur. Upon confirmation of HME production and assessment of these villages, CTF Top Guns requested dynamic reduction of the abandoned compounds to prevent



the movement of new HME from the area and to deny the insurgents use of the compounds for future HME production. These pre-assault fires set the conditions for the rapid reduction of improvised explosive device minefields and seizure of footholds in the villages of Tarok Kalache, Khosrow Sofla, and Charqolba Sofla. Special Operations Command Forces conducted the air assaults into Tarok Kalache and Khosrow Olyaon the evening of 6 October and confirmed the enemy situational template. On the evening of 6 Oct and the early morning of 7 Oct, USAF assets and HIMARS rocket systems delivered over 49,200 pounds of ordnance on the Taliban sanctuary of Tarok Kalache and eliminated the threat.

The Taliban emplaced IEDs in most compounds protecting their fighting positions and former patrol bases in Tarok Kalache, and CTF Top Guns approved the reduction of house-borne IEDs in the villages. With the reduction of house-borne IEDs complete, the Combined Task Force isolated the operations area to the North, South, West, and conducted a deliberate breach of IED minefields along Route Highlife from Combat Outpost Stout to the Arghandab River. The breach was critical to the establishment of blocking positions and screen lines to isolate the operations area and prevent the repositioning of insurgent forces to the East.



Following these kinetic strikes, on 7 October, HHB/1-320, in combined action with Afghan National Army

Forces, employed M58 Mine Clearing Line Charges (MICLICs) and MK 7 Anti-Personnel Obstacle Breaching Systems (APOBS) explosive line charges to establish breach lanes through IED minefields to Tarok Kalache and Khosrow Sofla. CTF Top Guns integrated Engineer Sappers, military working dogs, dismounted RCP with Doking Mini-flail, and engineer construction dozers to clear and proof a 1200 meter lane to Tarok Kalache and Khosrow Sofla, uncovering or causing sympathetic detonation of 31 IEDs.



At the conclusion of breaching operations on 7 October, CTF Top Guns had established eastern blocking positions. Upon establishing the eastern blocking positions and screen lines, General Raziq

Khan and 400 Afghan Border Police rapidly cleared the villages of Noor Mohammad Khan Kalache, Charqolba Sofla, and Don Kalache. Stymied in their westerly approach to Khosrow Sofla by IED minefields, the ABP culminated in



the clearance of Arghandab, but they provided Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment the freedom of movement to secure the village of Charqolba Sofla. With the establishment of Combined Combat Outpost Durham in Charqolba Sofla, Strongpoint Weaver in Tarok Kalache, and Strongpoint Simmons in Khosrow Sofla, the three former insurgent command and control nodes were effectively under the control of ISAF and Afghan Security Forces by 14 October 2010. The operation was extremely successful and resulted in the displacement of Taliban fighters from the district and an early cessation of the 2010 fighting season in Arghandab. The prudent control measures, employment of line charges and breaches, and the effective use of fires prevented civilian casualties and limited Afghan Security Force casualties to an Afghan Border Policemen and 2 American Soldiers wounded by IED strikes. The operation interdicted insurgent movement in the Khosrows; reduced HME production facilities in Babur, Khosrow Olya, Khosrow Sofla and Tarok Kalache; destroyed insurgent strongpoint's and disrupted Taliban tactical command and control nodes; and denied insurgent freedom of movement to support zones, patrol bases, and access to 6 large, tactical caches in the area of operations.

During this week, in the span of 71 years since the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941 as the 502nd Parachute Battalion, an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assault. The following awards were awarded to members of 2BCT, 501st IN (Vietnam) and the 502nd IN Regiment (*See STRIKE HISTORY NOTE).

8 x Silver Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
 3 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
 6 x ARCOM with Valor
 2 x Bronze Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
 29 x Purple Heart Medal (15x Posthumously)
 1 x Non-Hostile Injury or Illness

- 30 September 1967 SSG William E. Willingham (HHC/2-502 IN) died of a Non-hostile injury from an Air loss or crash over land in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.
- 30 September 2010 SPC David J. Bixler (HHB/1-320 FAR) was awarded the Silver Star Medal and Purple Heart for his heroically selfless actions on that day saved the life of an Afghan National Army Soldier and left him severely wounded in the Arghandab River Valley.
- 30 September 2010 1LT Christopher Kinsel (HHB/1-320 FAR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroically distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy in Kandahar, Afghanistan.
- 30 September 2010 The following Soldiers: SPC Cliff Eberhart and PFC Jose Rosario (HHB/1-320 FAR) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while displaying valor and courage in the rescue and subsequent aid of a fellow Soldier while reacting to a complex ambush.
- October 1970 – 1971 SP4 Robert C. Saal (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor while distinguishing himself by outstandingly meritorious service in connection with the military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.



02 October 1967

SSG John Jurinsky (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action: SSG Jurinsky distinguished himself while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.

02 October 1967



CPT Richard K. Boyd Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.

02 October 1967

The following Soldiers: SGT Richard P. Ruiz, SP4 James T. Likely, CPL Charles H. Kilgore, SSG Ivan C. King, and CPL Thomas E. Joseph (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, South Vietnam.

02 October 1967

CPL Sanford S. Johnson (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 Nam Province, South Vietnam.

02 October 2010

The following Soldiers: SSG Joseph Perminas and SPC Aaron Murray (HHC1/502 IN); SFC John Allison, SPC Christopher Murphy (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with a grenade.

02 October 2010

SSG Christopher James (A/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart while distinguishing himself through exceptionally valorous conduct during a complex enemy attack.

03 October 1944

PFC William J. Heather (B/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.

04 October 1969

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

04 October 2010

The following Soldiers: SGT Daniel Parce and SPC Jeffrey Rigdon (D/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while conducting a dismounted patrol south of Spin Pir, in order to clear abandoned enemy fighting positions.

04 October 2010

The following Soldiers: SSG Jonathan Gibson (A/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart; SPC Luis Jaime-Ponce (A/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor, while distinguishing themselves through valorous conduct during an improvised explosive device attack.



04 October 2010



SPC Joseph Prentler (G/3-2 CAV), 20, of Fenwick, Michigan; was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously). SPC Prentler died of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

04 October 2010

The following Soldiers: SGT Harris Dickie and PVT Douglas Carns (B/3-2 CAV) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

04 October 2010



SGT Karl Campbell (A/1-75 CAV), 34, of Chiefland, Florida; was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously). SGT Campbell died of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

04 October 2010

PFC Joshua Pass (A/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

05 October 1944

CPL Jerry Sevier (I/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during WWII in Holland.

05 October 1967

SGT Holbert E. Davis (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force near Chu Lai in the Republic of Vietnam.

05 October 1967

1LT Cecil P. Kimberling (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force near Chu Lai in the Republic of Vietnam.

05 October 1967

SGT Holbert E. Davis (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 Nam Province, South Vietnam.

05 October 2008

The following Soldier: SPC Bryant Bearfield, SPC James Sinay, and SPC Vuong Dihn (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart as they were wounded lightly when their MRAP vehicles is struck by a 5-array EFP. The EFP narrowly misses the gunner of the vehicle, with one of the discs shearing off the barrel of the M240B machine gun mounted on top.

06 October 1944

The following Soldiers: PVT Walter A. Shandis (A/502nd PIR) and 1LT George A. Larish (I/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during WWII.

06 October 1968

CPT James M. Hayes (HHC/2-502) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action near the city of Phu Loc, Republic of Vietnam.



- 06 October 1967 PFC David French (C/2-502 IN) 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,
- 06 October 1967 CPL Ernie J. Elfenbein (C/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 Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam.
- 06 October 1967 CPT Cordell S. Godboldte (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam.
- 06 October 2010 SGT Joshua Strickland (A/1-320 FAR) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

30 September 10



SPC David J. Bixler (HHB/1-320 FAR) was awarded the Silver Star Medal and Purple Heart for his heroically selfless actions on that day saved the life of an Afghan National Army Soldier and left him severely wounded. On 30 September 2010, 1st Platoon, HHB/1-320th Field Artillery Regiment was conducting a combined dismounted area reconnaissance west of Combat Outpost Stout in the Arghandab River Valley. The terrain was heavily vegetated with grape furrows and pomegranate orchards and the enemy had emplaced an untold number of pressure-plate improvised explosive devices (IED) in the area where the patrol was traveling. Because of this sever threat; the patrol had attached a Sapper squad that breached the east-west running wall on Route Mariners with explosives so a clear path would allow them to pass with their Afghan National Army partners unimpeded toward the objective. The cleared path was marked with VS-17 Panels and the platoon moved onward. Specialist Bixler brought up the trail as the last man in the patrol to cross through the breach and he carefully picked up the panels which marked the cleared route as he crossed through the breach. While the patrol moved through the field to the south of Route Mariners, a suspected enemy IED was discovered using the platoon mine detector. The device was marked quickly and, as the platoon attempted to establish standoff distance between the device and themselves, enemy elements waiting in ambush engaged the platoon from two separate locations with sustained PKM machine gun fire. The patrol responded in kind but was unable to maneuver to close with the enemy due to the sever risk of IEDs in the surrounding fields, each of which had high walls surrounding them on three sides. The patrol leader, First Lieutenant Christopher Kinsel, gave the order to break contact in order to flank the enemy position form another, less dangerous field and directed that the patrol return through the path that had been previously cleared by the Sapper squad. Bravo Team, with Specialist Bixler on point, began to move back across Route Mariners through the breach point to establish a northern security position and to remark the cleared path across Route Mariners. As Specialist Bixler began to lay the panels to mark the cleared path, one of the partnered Afghan National Army (ANA) Soldiers traveling with the patrol moved ahead of him and strayed off the breached path and into an area that had not been cleared by the Sappers. Immediately sensing the danger, into which the ANA Soldier had placed himself, Specialist Bixler, with total disregard for his own safety, quickly ran to the Soldier and threw him back onto the cleared path. As a result of his movement



off the cleared path in order to save the ANA Soldier from certain harm, Specialist Bixler detonated a pressure plate IED beneath himself. Instantly, Specialist Bixler's leg were amputated above the knee while the ANA Soldier he had so gallantly saved sustained only minor injuries. Were it not for the heroically selfless action of Specialist Bixler on that day, the ANA Soldier would have likely stepped on the device and sustained similar injuries or even death. Specialist David Bixler's heroic actions during combat operations in Afghanistan saved the life of an Afghan National Army Soldier partnered with his platoon. Specialist Bixler's brave action in securing a comrade in immediate danger was unwavering despite the great personal risk to himself. Specialist Bixler's gallantry, selflessness, and courage in combat is in keeping with the finest traditions of military heroism and reflects great credit upon himself, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, COMBINED TASK FORCE TOP GUNS, COMBINEDS TASK FORCE STRIKE, USFOR-A, and the United States Army.

30 September 2010



1LT Christopher Kinsel (HHB/1-320 FAR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroically distinguishing himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as a platoon leader, 1st platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Combined Task Force STRIKE, Kandahar, Afghanistan. 1LT Kinsel received the mission to conduct a search and attack to the southwest of COP Stout to destroy insurgent elements operating in zone. The platoon initiated movement and prepared to explosively breach a lane across an IED laden trail. When the explosive breach was complete, the lead squad with attached sapper team began taking machine gun fire from the east. The squad in contact forced the enemy to break contact and 1LT Kinsel led his platoon south.

As the platoon maneuvered into a field, they located multiple suspected IEDs with mine detectors. As they established security, multiple enemy machine guns opened fire from walled-off positions in an orchard to the south. The platoon attempted to take cover in the field and return fire. Recognizing the threat of small arms baited IED attacks, 1LT Kinsel ordered the platoon to reposition and attack the insurgent positions from the flank.

As the platoon began establishing security near the breach lane, a Soldier was hit by an IED and grievously wounded. Still under heavy fire and focused on getting aid and litter teams to the wounded Soldier, 1LT Kinsel ordered the remnants of the lead squad and machine gun team to reposition. He remained alone in the field, engaging insurgent elements with his personal weapon to provide covering fire for their movement. He stayed in the open, firing three magazines at the enemy, and only displacing once the machine gun team had set into position.

He then bounded back to the platoon. As one squad executed the evacuation of the casualty to the helicopter landing zone, 1LT Kinsel continued moving from position to position, without regard for his own safety, to gain better bandage points and direct fires on the enemy. Once the casualty had been moved out of harm's way, 1LT Kinsel directed rotary wing fires against the insurgent positions, silencing their guns.



30 September 2010



The Following Soldiers: SPC Cliff Eberhart and PFC Jose Rosario (HHB/1-320 FAR) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while displaying valor and courage in the rescue and subsequent aid of a fellow Soldier while reacting to a complex ambush. On the afternoon of 30 September 2010, SPC Eberhart and PFC Rosario's Sapper team, along with 1st platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment and a platoon of Afghan National Army soldiers, conducted a dismounted demolition patrol approximately 400 meters from COP Stout, Arghandab Province, Afghanistan. SPC Eberhart's task and purpose was to provide an explosive breaching capability in order to facilitate the emplacement of the security element's observation position. Upon arrival at the objective, the patrol became engaged from multiple enemy fighting positions with heavy and accurate fire. Without hesitation, SPC Eberhart returned effective fire on the enemy fighting positions. While intermittently suppressing the enemy, SPC Eberhart prepared, emplaced and detonated a field expedient line charge, providing his element with a clear path through the objective.

Once a clear lane was created, he positioned markers along its entirety, ensuring all friendly elements could identify the path. SPC Eberhart, once the marking was complete, placed himself at the entrance of the lane as a guide, personally ensuring safe passage for all friendly forces. Once safely across, SPC Eberhart emplaced his elements and directed fire, resulting in the suppression and disruption of the enemy. Due to the overwhelming effects of his team's fires, the enemy was forced to withdraw.

After the enemy broke contact the patrol exfiltrated the objective. Near the entrance to the cleared lane, an ANA Soldier stepped off the path. SPC Bixler, a Soldier in CTF Top Guns, attempted to warn the Soldier but to no avail; while attempting to physically retrieve him, SPC Bixler initiated an IED and was severely wounded. The detonation of this IED initiated a second enemy attack. Immediately after the blast PFC Rosario maneuvered himself towards the direction of the blast and into the kill zone of an enemy ambush. Once he located the casualty, PFC Rosario dragged SPC Bixler into the blast crater to provide cover from the intense crossfire. Once in this partially covered position, PFC Rosario began to perform life saving medical treatment while bullets continued to fly overhead.

Instantly, and with disregard for his personal safety, SPC Eberhart maneuvered to the kill zone of the enemy ambush to retrieve the wounded Soldier. Once there, SPC Eberhart ensured that his team returned fire, while the wounded Soldier was recovered, and resumed directing movement at the breach site until the entire patrol was off of the objective.

PFC Rosario, upon the exfiltration of enemy forces, dictated the 9-line MEDEVAC request to the patrol leader. Once the request was complete, he continued to treat SPC Bixler and two additional wounded ANA soldiers. Once out of range of enemy attackers, medical assistance was initiated. SPC Eberhart established and secured a hasty landing zone for Air MEDEVAC. Upon the arrival of the MEDEVAC aircraft, while the platoon secured the site, PFC Rosario carried the wounded Soldiers to the landing zone and placed them on the bird.

As soon as the Soldier was evacuated, SPC Eberhart refocused his team on the task at hand. Despite the tragic loss, the remaining members of his element showed great resolve and continued the patrol and completed the mission. SPC Eberhart, PFC Rosario and the other Soldiers of his Sapper team exhibited the Warrior Ethos, refusing to leave a fallen comrade and placing the mission first.



SPC Eberhart displayed traits that have built the reputation of the U.S. military as an unstoppable force. SPC Eberhart's fierce courage under enemy fire and paramount commitment to mission accomplishment despite any and all obstacles saved the lives of three Coalition Forces Soldiers.

PFC Rosario's service in support of this mission was inspiring. His skills as a Combat Medic and as a Soldier were instrumental to the success of his Sapper team and the patrol that day. PFC Rosario, despite previously being injured during similar operations in the seizure of Objective Bakersfield, returned to his duties as the sapper platoon medic fully knowing the hazards of his chosen profession. PFC Rosario displayed the skills and bravery that have come to be expected of a member of 1st platoon, Company A, Sappers during combat operations in the Arghandab River Valley.



October 1970 – 1971

SP4 Robert C. Saal (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor while distinguishing himself by outstandingly meritorious service in connection with the military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. During October 1970 – October 1971, SP4 Saal consistently manifested exemplary professionalism and initiative in obtaining outstanding results. His rapid assessment and solution of numerous problems inherent in a combat environment greatly enhanced the allied effectiveness against a determined and aggressive enemy. Despite enemy adversities, he invariably performed his duties in a resolute and efficient manner. Energetically applying his sound judgment and extensive knowledge, SP4 Saal has contributed materially to the successful accomplishment of the United States mission in the Republic of Vietnam. His loyalty, diligence and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

02 October 1967

SSG John Jurinsky (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action: Staff Sergeant Jurinsky distinguished himself on 2 October 1967 while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam while serving with Company A, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Sergeant Jurinsky's platoon was given the mission of assaulting a North Vietnamese Army defensive perimeter. The North Vietnamese Army force was in well camouflaged bunkered positions above Sergeant Jurinsky's platoon. The platoon deployed on line with two squads and began to move forward. Sergeant Jurinsky was initially with the third squad and in a reserve rear security position when suddenly the left flank squad was taken under an intense volume of enemy automatic weapons fire and became pinned down. The right flank squad began to maneuver, but became heavily engaged with automatic weapons and grenades. Sergeant Jurinsky immediately deployed his squad, gathered grenades and ammunition and rushed forward through the vicious enemy automatic weapons fire. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Jurinsky rushed forward and threw three hand grenades into the enemy bunker at a range of about ten meters. As the burst from the exploding grenades went off, Sergeant Jurinsky personally assaulted the



enemy bunker and successfully killed the North Vietnamese Army soldiers inside. He was then taken under heavy under enemy automatic weapons fire again and was hit by a Chi-Com grenade that failed to explode. Sergeant Jurinsky pulled back below the next terrace. Sergeant Jurinsky single-handedly broke a counter-attack by throwing grenades and firing his M-16. Sergeant Jurinsky covered the withdrawal of the other squads to positions where they could secure their dead and wounded and while under fire he helped carry them from their extremely exposed position. Sergeant Jurinsky's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are within the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

02 October 1967

CPT Richard K. Boyd Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 2 October 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Captain Boyd distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action while on a search and destroy mission when Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry became engaged with two enemy companies in fortified positions. As the point platoon assaulted the initial enemy bunker system, it was pinned down. Captain Boyd directed that two platoons move forward to assist the pinned down platoon. Personally leading the maneuvering force from point element, he started across an exposed area and was immediately brought under intense automatic weapons, rifle, and rocket fire. Observing that two of his men had been seriously wounded and were lying in an exposed area of hostile fire, Captain Boyd immediately, and with complete disregard for his own safety, rushed forward through the intense fire and pulled the men to safety. Captain Boyd then directed that one platoon give covering fire for the maneuvering element in order to withdraw its casualties and disengage the enemy to allow supporting artillery fire to be called in. Dazed by enemy rocket fire which wounded four, Captain Boyd regained his feet and, still exposed to the enemy fire, moved among his men's positions giving them encouragement and directing their fire. Captain Boyd remained continuously exposed until his wounded had been removed to safety. The outstanding leadership and courage displayed by Captain Boyd resulted in nine enemy dead and his gallantry while engaged in close combat with a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

02 October 2010



SSG Christopher James (A/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart while distinguishing himself through exceptionally valorous conduct during a complex enemy attack as the platoon sergeant for the CTF Widowmaker Commander's Personal Security Detachment. SSG James' heroic actions and leadership prevented the loss of life for a wounded Afghan soldier. Troop A, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment partnered with 1st Company/2/3/205 Corps ANA conducted clearance operations to clear enemy fighters in Zharay District, Kandahar Province of Afghanistan in order to disrupt Taliban influence and stabilize the area by opening a line of communication to connect the people to the government. On the second day of clearance operations the Squadron Commander along with the 2/3/205 Kandak Commander traveled to the Troop patrol base to meet with leaders regarding the progress of the clearance.

After the dismounted patrol was complete, the PSD mounted their vehicles and began to exfil from the area. Approximately seventy-five meters from the last covered and concealed location, the lead vehicle of the convoy



became stuck in the soft sand. While attempting to recover the first vehicle, a second vehicle also became mired. Identifying that both vehicles were immobile and in the open, SSG James maneuvered his vehicle to a position to recover them. After maneuvering his vehicle, he immediately began providing security and directing the movement of the remainder of the convoy. As an ANA HMMWV maneuvered around the vehicles, it struck a pressure plate IED. The IED blast was immediately followed by enemy small arms fire from a tree line 150 meters away.

SSG James, approximately 20 feet from the blast site of the IED, was injured, temporarily disoriented, and in the open with no cover between him and the enemy positions. He quickly regained his awareness, kneeled, and began to suppress the enemy positions in the woodline. While the PSD and ANA suppressed the enemy, ANA soldiers began to exit the destroyed vehicle and move to a covered position. As the most injured ANA Soldier exited the vehicle and slowly crawled for cover, SSG James moved through the engagement area to the ANA soldier's location. Still under enemy small arms attack, he then grabbed the ANA soldier by the body armor and pulled him 20 feet to a covered position where he received medical attention. After ensuring the casualty received medical care, SSG James again moved to a position where he was able to directly engage the enemy. His actions during this sustained complex enemy attack were critical to saving Soldiers' lives on the battlefield.

SSG James' immediate actions in the kill zone, without regard for his own safety, enabled him to maneuver through insurgent small arms fire to recover a wounded Soldier from an IED strike. His actions ensured the Soldier was moved to cover where he received medical care. Furthermore, SSG James continued to engage the enemy in spite of his own injuries. Upon arrival to FOB Wilson, SSG James was immediately medically evacuated to Kandahar Role III medical care due to the seriousness of his injuries sustained in the initial blast.

04 October 2010



The Following Soldiers: SGT Daniel Parce and SPC Jeffrey Rigdon (D/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while assigned to 2nd squad, 3rd platoon, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, conducted a dismounted patrol south of Spin Pir, in order to clear abandoned enemy fighting positions. 1LT Summons, an attached Sapper platoon leader, triggered a pressure plate IED (PPIED), resulting in extreme injury to his back and legs. SGT Parce and SPC Rigdon ignored any threat of possible secondary IEDs, and rushed to the site of the casualty to help with treatment.

SGT Parce immediately took control of the aid and litter team, assessing the 1LT's injuries and aiding SPC Rigdon in the immediate treatment of the casualty. SGT Parce organized a fire team to locate and secure an emergency HLZ 300 meters north of the PPIED. The fire team was not able to keep up with their rate of movement, and SGT Parce and SPC Rigdon continued forward to expedite the MEDEVAC, while ignoring any threat of possible attacks.

SGT Parce and SPC Rigdon quickly secured the HLZ allowing the MEDEVAC to safely land and resulting in the helicopter to be "wheels up" and at the Level III at KAF in less than 25 minutes from the time of the initial injury.

SGT Parce and SPC Rigdon's quick action resulted in not only the survival of 1LT Summons, but also in no loss of limbs due to the PPIED strike.



05 October 1967

SGT Holbert E. Davis (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 5 October 1967 near Chu Lai in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Davis distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic actions on that date when his squad, while on a search and destroy mission, was suddenly brought under heavy enemy automatic weapons and mortar fire and pinned down. Without regard for his own safety, Sergeant Davis rushed through the hostile fire giving his men encouragement and pointing out enemy positions while remaining fully exposed to the intense fire. Although wounded himself, he rushed out onto the battlefield on several occasions and pulled wounded men to safe areas where medical aid could be administered. Later Sergeant Davis observed a small enemy element attempting to overrun a machinegun position and, again without regard for his own safety, charged the enemy and succeeded in forcing them to withdraw. As the enemy pulled back, Sergeant Davis was struck by hostile fire and fatally wounded. Sergeant Davis's outstanding display of gallantry and his intense devotion to duty even at the cost of his life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

04 October 2010



The Following Soldiers: SSG Jonathan Gibson (A/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart; SPC Luis Jaime-Ponce (A/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor, while distinguishing themselves through valorous conduct during an improvised explosive device attack against Troop A, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry. SSG Gibson's leadership and SPC Jaime's assumption of the duties of his team leader contributed towards saving the life of one of their fellow Soldiers.

Partnered with 1st Company 2/3/205 Corps ANA, a patrol was conducted along an enemy infiltration route in Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. That morning, the section was moving from COP Fitzpatrick to an ambush position on Route Yellow in order to prevent the movement of Taliban forces to a position where they could attack the COP. About 20 minutes into the movement the section was directly hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) as they approached a large grape wall.

After SPC Jaime was hit by the concussion of the IED, which detonated within five meters of him, he instantly moved forward into the large crater created by the detonation to aid the wounded. Fully knowing the hazards of entering this danger zone, he courageously moved forward to provide assistance to his fellow Soldiers.

The IED killed one Soldier, wounded PFC Pass, and severely wounded SSG Gibson. SPC Jaime, identifying that his team leader was killed in action, immediately assumed his responsibilities by his own initiative. During this time, he aided his team leader, section sergeant, and a fellow Soldier while all were still in the kill zone among secondary IEDs.

SSG Gibson received multiple shrapnel wounds, including a large section of his right lower triceps removed as a result of the blast. Despite his wounds and inability to use his right arm, SSG Gibson immediately established accountability of his section, evaluated the other wounded Soldiers and initiated medical treatment.

SPC Jaime also assisted his section sergeant, SSG Gibson, and platoon leader in locating a helicopter landing zone (HLZ) for the MEDEVAC. SPC Jaime continued to report on the status of the wounded to his platoon leader. He provided his platoon leader with information for the medical evacuation report and as acting team leader walked the section perimeter to check security and



began organizing security on the IED strike site in preparation for sending an element to the HLZ. Once a suitable location for the HLZ was determined SSG Gibson conducted leader-level reconnaissance to ensure it met the requirements and then instructed his section to secure and mark it.

After assisting in the treatment of PFC Pass and calling in the medical evacuation request, SSG Gibson realized the extent of his own wounds. He refused medical treatment and walked around the perimeter to ensure his section continued to secure the area. SSG Gibson applied a tourniquet on his own arm and administered first aid.

SPC Jaime alternated between pulling security and monitoring the wounded and then he helped move the wounded Soldiers to the HLZ for medical evacuation. Upon arriving at the HLZ, he ensured that security was maintained. Once the MEDEVAC helicopter arrived, SSG Gibson assisted PFC Pass onto the aircraft and was the last one to climb on board. Despite displaying the symptoms of traumatic brain injury, SPC Jaime refused a ride on the MEDEVAC helicopter and instead remained behind to help pull security for hours at the IED strike site. He ensured the site remained secure until EOD arrived. It was only after EOD had completed their clearance and assessment of the IED strike site that SPC Jaime was evacuated to the medical clinic on FOB Wilson.

SPC Jaime's initiative and ability to take control at the critical point during an enemy attack was essential in preventing further loss of life. His performance and leadership during this event were well above expectations of a junior Soldier and instrumental in his section's response.

SSG Gibson's immediate actions in the kill zone went above and beyond expectations with utter disregard for his own safety and well being by placing his men above himself.

05 October 1967

1LT Cecil P. Kimberling (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 5 October 1967 near Chu Lai in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, First Lieutenant Kimberling's platoon was moving along a jungle trail when the pointman suddenly detected enemy activity. Lieutenant Kimberling moved forward to make a reconnaissance of the suspected enemy positions and located twenty North Vietnamese Army soldiers preparing positions. Lieutenant Kimberling immediately deployed his platoon to within twenty meters of the enemy position. He initiated the assault and valiantly led his men forward. As they charged forward, placing a tremendous volume of fire into the enemy positions, Lieutenant Kimberling was struck in the leg and wounded. Utterly disregarding his painful wound, and shouting words of encouragement, he continued and directed the assault. As a result of Lieutenant Kimberling's heroic actions and inspiring leadership, thirteen enemy soldiers were killed and seven enemy weapons were captured. First Lieutenant Kimberling'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.

06 October 1967

CPT Cordell S. Godboldte (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 6 October 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, suddenly became heavily engaged with an enemy element in well-fortified positions. Captain Godboldte, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, rushed forward through heavy enemy fire to the most forward point of contact. Quickly evaluating the situation, Captain



Godboldte then began to maneuver the third platoon to the rear of the enemy element. Captain Godboldte immediately called for an air strike and then maneuvered the second platoon to the flank of the enemy positions as a blocking force. When the air strike was made, Captain Godboldte exposed himself to the enemy fire to direct the jet aircraft's fire effectively onto the enemy targets. When the air strike was terminated, Captain Godboldte directed his third platoon to initiate an assault on the enemy fortifications from the rear, while the second platoon was utilized as a blocking force. Captain Godboldte observed one of his platoon leaders who lay wounded in an exposed area. Again with complete disregard for his own safety, Captain Godboldte rushed through the bullet-swept area, picked up his wounded comrade and carried him to a safe position where he could be given medical aid. As the enemy element attempted to escape by the only route available, Captain Godboldte called for and directed fire from artillery and gunships into the ranks of the fleeing enemy. Captain Godboldte'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.

06 October 1967

PFC David French (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action, Private First Class French distinguished himself on 6 October 1967 while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, While serving with company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. While on a search and destroy mission, Private French's platoon was pinned down by an extremely heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire from a well entrenched and concealed enemy bunker. Realizing the need for immediate action, Private French, with complete disregard for his own safety, began to maneuver through the vicious enemy fire to within hand grenade range of the enemy bunker. As Private French neared the enemy position, a volley of hand grenades were thrown at him in an attempt to stop his progress. Instantly, Private French picked up the grenades nearest him, tossing them back at the enemy bunker in an effort to knock it out. As he neared the enemy bunker, a grenade exploded within five feet of him, knocking him to the ground with fragment wounds on the face, neck, and chest. Although bleeding profusely from his painful and serious wounds, he once again, with complete disregard for his own safety, charged through the murderous enemy fire, and succeeded in destroying the enemy bunker with a series of hand grenades. Private French's outstanding display of gallantry in action 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.

06 October 1968

CPT James M. Hayes (HHC/2-502) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 6 October 1968. Captain Hays distinguished himself while searching for a downed helicopter near the city of Phu Loc, Republic of Vietnam. Captain Hayes' lead element suddenly came under intensive enemy automatic weapon fire form well-fortified positions. Captain Hayes moved through the heavy fire to personally take command of the lead element. He then directed the retaliatory fire of his men, moving throughout the area giving words of encouragement to them. Because of his leadership, he and his men finally overran the enemy positions. Captain Hayes then established a defensive perimeter to evacuate the dead and wounded and replenished the exhausted ammunition supply. At this time, the enemy unleashed a barrage of rocket, small arms, and mortar fire on his company's position. While under



attack, Captain Hayes, with complete disregard for his own safety, ran through incoming enemy fire to direct the evacuation of the wounded. On several occasions, he moved the wounded personnel to safety. During the attack, he adjusted helicopter gunship and artillery fire, which eventually silenced the enemy positions. He then personally directed the evacuation of the wounded, giving them words of encouragement and assisting medical personnel in the treatment of the seriously wounded. Captain Hayes' 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 502nd in different brigades of the 101st. The 2nd Battalion was in the 1st Brigade with 1-327th and 2-327th Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam 1965, in was most notable commanded by LTC Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson. The new 2nd Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1st and 2d Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry.

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

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

