



STRIKE

Vietnam War Weekly History



February 18th – February 24th, 2018

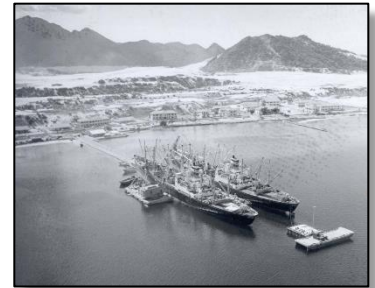
Issue: 88

Brief History of the 501st, 502nd and 2nd Brigade (101st ABN DIV)

The 502nd, or “five-oh-deuce”, was activated July 1, 1941 at Fort Benning, Georgia as the 502nd parachute infantry battalion, as an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assaults. The 502nd entered combat in World War II on June 6, 1944, by jumping into Normandy, with allied forces landing on D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. Between 1945 and 1964. A major reorganization took place on 3 February 1964, when the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne 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, 502nd Infantry was in the 1st Brigade with 1-327th and 2-327th Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam and arrived at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam on 29 July 1965, they were commanded by the most notable commander LTC Hank “The Gunfighter” Emerson.

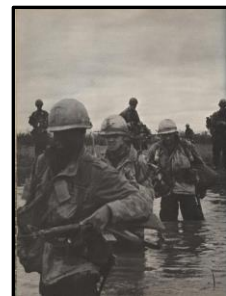


The new 2nd Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1st and 2d Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry. December 1967 the 501st, 502nd and 2nd Brigade deployed by C-141 aircraft and arrived at Bien Hoa Airbase on 13 December 1967. Over the next five years, Soldiers of the “Ready to Go” Brigade participated in twelve campaigns, compiling of a distinguished combat record as well as an enviable reputation for success in the rehabilitation of a war-torn nation. The Brigade redeployed to Fort Campbell in April 1972.



During this week, in the span of 8 years since the 501st Infantry Regiment, 502nd Infantry Regiment and 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division deployed in support of the Vietnam War the following are from After Action Reports, Staff Duty Logs, and Personal Accounts. (* All items have been reproduced from the Unclassified / Declassified Holdings of the National Archives.)

- 18 – 20 February 1966 **Operation VAN BUREN:** One company of the 2-502 IN BN occupied a designated portion of defensive position of TUY HOA NORTH Airfield and the Battalion (-) conducted RECONDO Patrols. The REONDO platoon conducted a joint ARVN/RECONDO patrol vicinity coordinates BQ129539. The 2-502 IN BN conducted a search and Destroy Operations using infiltrated RECONDO patrols as guides and blocking positions on 182030H January 1966 vicinity coordinates BA1158. This operation was terminated on 201715H January 1966. Also, during this period, the RECONDO platoon conducted joint operations with RF/PF forces in a sweep of a village vicinity coordinates BQ150558. The results of the Battalion's operations for this period were no friendly losses, 6 VC KIA (BC), 2 VC KIA (EST), 1 WIA (BC), 3 WIA (EST), and 8 VCS. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Operations VAN BUREN After Action Report; 25 February 1966)
- 18 February 1968 1-502 IN BN continues search and destroy operations southeast of QUANG TRI with light contact and negative results.
- 18 February 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON began (2-502 IN); Locations: DA NANG Province, RVN. Task Organization: A/2-502 IN, B/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN, Reconcos. Battalion Control: 3(-) 2-326 ENG, C/2-320 ARTY (DS), Mortar Platoon (DS), IPW, 181 MI Detach. The following changes were made in the task organization during Operation SAN ANGELO. (1) During the course of the operation on 280001Feb, control headquarters was changed from 1st Marine Div to 5th Marine Regiment. (AAR 20MAR1968)
- 18 February 1969 **Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** 1-502 IN BN carried out patrols and ambushes. In the vicinity of YD6316 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon found several bunkers that were recently used, a bunker complex, and several burned out hooches.
- 18 February 1969 Screaming Eagles joined with the people of THUA THIEN Province in celebrating the TET holidays. The 501st Signal threw a party at TAY LOC orphanage, inside the HUE Citadel. The orphanage had been destroyed in last year's TET Offensive but rebuilt with the 101st ABN DIV aid. Support Command and Division Artillery also gave parties at orphanages, and the three brigades gave a total of 15 parties at schools and orphanages. The Division band played at three locations, and Screaming Eagles were provided with newly minted coins and specifically printed holiday greetings to give to the people of the province. The Division also extended the helping hand to the widows and orphans of 1st ARVN Division soldiers who died defending their homeland.
- 18 February 1971 1-501 IN BN terminated operations in the area and returned to PHU BAI Combat Base by truck for refresher training. Training was orientated toward marksmanship, maintenance, contact teams, and commander's time.
- 19 February 1968 1-502 IN BN continues search and destroy operations with mission of security of QL #1 in A.O. During this time period 3 VC KIA (BC) by ambush and 1 US WIA later KIA by mine on QL #1.
- 19 February 1968 **Operation JEB STUART:** 2-501 IN BN lead elements initiated their phase of Operation Jeb Stuart by moving South toward HUE with the mission of clearing all approaches into HUE from the northwest in conjunction with the 5-7th and 2-12th Cavalry. During this move to HUE, elements of the battalion were continuously harassed by snipers and squad and platoon sized delaying forces.
- Upon closing to the northern portion of the wall around HUE, the battalion established defensive positions and conducted search and destroy operations in the immediate vicinity. Results of the operation were: 95 enemy killed, 29 captured and 42 weapons seized.



19 February 1968

S3, 2-501 IN BN (Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log "Declassified") (0010-2400);
0010: From B/2-501 IN: Rear receiving sniper fire from 90° approximately 20 rounds – no casualties.
0025: From B/2-501 IN: Reference message No 2. (0010) only 10 rounds Semi-automatic – from 65° AZ.
0026: From B/2-501 IN: Lot of movement on west and southwest of compound, don't know if they occupant is VC.
0805: From Recon: Moving at this time.
0805: From S3 Air: Air Strike req 1100H, NLT tot 1130H will have to be sky spot, therefore no real heavy stuff. Lift of A/2-501 IN & C/2-501 IN is still schedule for 0830H, however very bad weather may delay it.
0812: From D/2-501 IN to 3BDE: LZ now secure.
0855: From Recon: Have linked up with D/2-501 IN
0900: From D/2-501 IN: Have a plat on sally, 1 evac, will depart with Redon in 10 Min.
0920: From S3: B Co 1ACD; You will have friendly operating in your AO. Headed for the following coordinates 612 280, 618 260, 630 270. They will be impossible to tell from VC; D/2-501 IN will get from 3BDE S3. Give to S3 Air for A/2-501 IN & C/2-501 IN by telephone.
0943: 1st lift 81mm off.
1012: 2 Chinooks on ground at LZ Sally A/2-501 IN
1025: 2 Chinooks load departed Camp Evan for LZ Sally
1031: 2 Chinooks landed at LZ Sally that closes out A/2-501 IN
1040: From S3 Air: 2 Chinooks of C/2-501 IN departed
1058: Last 2 Chinooks landed at C/2-501 IN departed now.
1105: B/2-501 IN send platoon to vicinity YD 625308 to investigate possible landing site.
1150: FO with platoon from B/2-501 IN report 2 VC moving north vicinity 624323
1225: B/2-501 IN has picked up 1 detainee to be brought to this location.
1235: 1/6 trench found leading to open field. Coordinates 625314, detainee states that there are mortar positions located 638305.
1425: From C/2-501 IN have objective in sight
1445: From C/2-501 IN. On OBJ 2 negative contact, A/2-501 IN on OBJ 1.
1530: Recon sees some NVA off to the right at C/2-501 IN
1530: From D/2-501 IN: Still have a friendly down, cannot get CO evacuated. 630255 D/2-501 IN wounded by SA fire.
1535: A/2-501 IN: Have two LMG to direct front, one of them is 15m in front of 3rd platoon, have them pinned down.
1540: From D/2-501 IN: Receiving heavy fire now.
1545: From C/2-501 IN: Shifting to the right Alpha is advising have seen some NVA here equipped.
1540: From A/2-501 IN: Fire slacked up when ARA fire went over. When ARA left, NVA opened up again.
1538: From D/2-501 IN: CO was only slightly wounded, does not require Medevac, bleeding has stopped.
1559: BN CO: Believe there is a sniper between A/2-501 IN & D/2-501 IN.
- A/2-501 IN: Have 2 casualties, think need evac, one is 1st Sgt, hit him in the elbow. Still have some wounded, can't get them out.
1615: From A/2-501 IN: 2 KIA – 6 WIA, which I know of trying to work out to the north too secure LZ. Just east of OBJ 1, have personnel between C/2-501 IN and my position.
1618: C/2-501 IN: Have 1 Killed and 4 wounded, that I heard of. Request ship is in good position for now.
1620: From C/2-501 IN: Are on your left, receiving fire.
1624: From A/2-501 IN to C/2-501 IN: Have overrun our bunker, receiving fire from you, cut it out.
1630: From A/2-501 IN: Believe we are engaged with Arty again.
1640: From A/2-501 IN to CO: Still firing over my troops; some NVA there, if you stop firing we can get them.
- C/2-501 IN: 2nd platoon tied in with A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon moved up from the rear, hear mortar fire landing on the enemy.
- Sniper has got about 3 of 36 elements, some of the Mortar rounds hit close to me, need Medevac.
1655: A/2-501 IN Medevac is prepared. 1st Lift still here, 3 WIA's and 4 KIA's.
- To A/2-501 IN from 6: You are on the edge of Blue.
- C/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon has a Platoon CP pinned down w/4 slightly wounded around them.
- C/2-501 IN will need 1 Medevac when can I get my wounded out.
- From C/2-501 IN: Your perimeter for tonight will be NW of our present location.
- C/2-501 IN needs a Dust off. Need more than thought, have to secure an LZ.
1815: C/2-501 IN. requires Medevac 2 Soldiers – ship on station.
1835: Medevac completed for all elements
2020: To BDE from BN CO: Recap of today's actions: A/2-501 IN and C/2-501 IN got to OBJ 1 and 2 w/o any indication of enemy activity after a good prep was fired A passed three 1 into black (edge of Black) C/2-501 IN moved three 2 to just south of boundary between Blue and Black w/ D/2-501 IN and CP group following D/2-501 IN NVA let A/2-501 IN & C/2-501 IN pass thru 1 and 2, probably as a result of the prep at the time I was engaged heavily immediately following A/2-501 IN and C/2-501 IN were heavily engaged. Terrain consists of Island. Wooded rising up out of the rice paddies, each one being heavily fortified. Results: Friendly CAS 5 KIA, 18 WIA (evaced) 1 WIA (not evaced) minor.
2140: From B/2-501 IN: Received 3 incoming rounds of M-79. Hit the Berm, believed they were fired from about 60m down the underbrush on North side of river.
2157: D/2-501 IN instructed to call H & I on grid 643255 with 4.2 Mortar Platoon.
2157: Kilo 6 said most person perimeter has one Squad ready to shoot Illumination.
2310: B/2-501 IN reports receiving sporadic sniper fire also one trip flare set off and personnel engaged possible hits – unable to confirm.



19 February 1968

Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON: A/2-502 IN received AW fire from AT916910, results: 1 US WHA. At 0900H, B/2-502 IN detonated an AP mine, results: 2 US WHA, coordinates AT902956. Two additional command detonated mines were found at the same coordinates and destroyed in place. At 1200H, C/2-502 IN vicinity AT903936 spotted 13 VC eating, engaged with small arms, results 2 VC KIA, 1 AK-47, 1 SKS, 1 60mm Mortar complete captured. At 1445H, A/2-502 IN found enemy base camp with a large quantity of ammunition, explosive, and other sapper materials. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Operation Tacoma-Houston After Action Report; 20 March 1968)

19 February –
05 March 1968

Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON: Extensive Search and Destroy and saturation ambushing was conducted by the "STRIKE Force" with only sporadic local force units. No contact was made with Main Force VC/NVA units.

19 February 1969

Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE: 1-502 IN BN continued to conduct RIF operations and established ambushes. The radar at FSB T-Bone reported movement of 2-3 persons in vicinity YD648209. 81mm mortars fired but at first light checked and showed negative results.

19 February 1969

Nine enemy were killed, and 10 weapons captured in the AO. The 2-501 IN BN while patrolling the NUI KE rocket belt, killed four enemy and captured five weapons. Gunships supporting sniffer aircraft killed three enemy in two contacts southeast of FB Tennessee. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)

19 February 1971

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: B/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon, was credited with the only enemy contact during February. They spotted two NVA in a rest area, engaged them with small arms fire, and employed ARA and artillery on the site. Though they failed to find any enemy dead, the platoon captured numerous miscellaneous equipment and several items of value.

20 February 1968

1-502 IN BN continued with S&D and security mission. Light contact during the day with 1 NVA KIA (BC) by ambush.

20 February 1968

Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON: At 1345H, C/2-502 IN found vicinity AT903936 additional sapper equipment, 60mm bipod, and 4 – B40 Rockets. At 1655H, A/2-502 IN had three VC walk into their perimeter vicinity AT926909, results 1 VC KIA, 1 AK-47 captured. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Operation Tacoma-Houston After Action Report; 20 March 1968)

20 February 1969

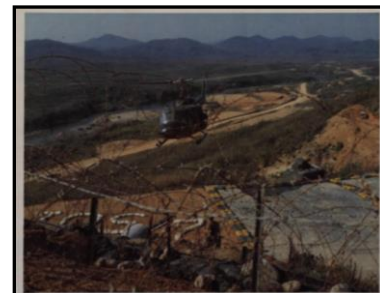
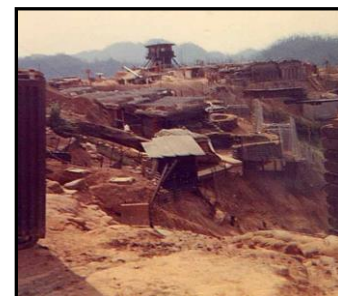
Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon at YD579147 spotted 1 VC on the trail. He was killed by a VC hand grenade booby trap resulting in 1 VC KIA and 1 AK-47 captured. The rest of the 1-502 IN BN conducted RIF operations and ambushes with C/1-502 IN continuing to provide security for FSB T-Bone.

20 February –
03 March 1969

Operation SPOKAN RAPID: Operation Began (2-502 IN); Locations: HAM HOA District, RVN. Task Organization: A/2-502 IN, B/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN, D/2-502 IN, Recon, 106mm RR Section, 81MM Mortar Platoon. Supporting Forces: C/2-320 ARTY (DS), A/326 ENG (-) (DS), 1 Plt B/326 ENG, Team from 20 Chemical Detachment (DS), Army Aviation (1st BDE AVN PLT, 160th AVN GRP), 7th USAF (TAC AIR)

Mission: The 2-502 IN BN (ABN) will secure FSB Normandy, construct and secure FSB Spear using accelerated fire support base construction plan, conduct RIF operations in assigned AO to locate and destroy enemy base areas and caches, locate and interdict enemy lines of communication, and fix and destroy enemy troop concentrations. (AAR 15MAR1969)

Execution: On 20 Feb, in preparation for the operation, A/2-502 IN was combat assaulted onto FSB Normandy while B/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN, D/2-502 IN and Recon platoon were airlifted to FSB Birmingham. E/2-502 IN (-) with mortars radar and the Battalion forward CP were lifted to FSB Normandy after A/2-502 IN had secured the area. Adverse weather conditions began during the early morning hours on 21 February and continued until 24 February. During this time A/2-502 IN, E/2-502 IN (-), and the 2-502 IN BN Forward CP remained at FSB Normandy. The 2-502 IN BN (-) (Command Group), C/2-502 IN and D/2-502 IN remained at FSB Birmingham. A slight weather breaks on 23 February allowed resupply of FSB Normandy but the weather again closed in before any additional moves could be made. On 24 February, the weather lifted allowing B/2-502 IN and Recon platoon to be airlifted to FSB Spear. The weather breaks continued on 25 February and C/2-502 IN and D/2-502 IN conducted combat assaults onto LZ Red (YC636946) and started RIF operations. During the combat assault the gunship flying cover observed movement and bunker complexes to the North of the LZ. D/2-502 IN diverted operations; C/2-502 IN conducted operations to vicinity YC6494 and D/2-502 IN to vicinity YC6196. The Recon platoon began RIF operations to the South of FSB Spear and conducted the operation to vicinity YC6992. There was negative enemy contact during the operation. On 27 February C/2-502 IN located one hut at YC647947 and one bunker at YC646942. On 1 March C/2-502 IN closed on PZ Green (YC645946) and was extracted to FSB Birmingham. D/2-502 IN was extracted from PZ Yellow (YC645946) to FSB Birmingham, and the Recon platoon returned to FSB Spear and was extracted to FSB Birmingham. C/2-502 IN, E/2-502 IN (-) and the 2-502 IN BN CP remained at FSB Normandy; B/2-502 IN remained at FSB Spear. On 2 March C/2-502 IN moved by truck and assumed security of FSB Boyd. D/2-502 IN and Recon platoon remained at FSB Birmingham to secure a staging area for 2-501 IN BN. On 3 March the 2-502 IN BN CP was airlifted to Camp Eagle, A/2-502 IN and E/2-502 IN (-) secured FSB Normandy, and D/2-502 IN with the Recon platoon secured the staging area at FSB Birmingham. Operation SPOKAN RAPIDS terminated on 3 March at 2400H with no Enemy or Friendly losses or casualties.



20 February –
03 March 1969

Operation SPOKANE RAPIDS: This operation was conducted by elements of the 2-502 IN BN, 3-187 IN BN (OPCON to 1BDE) and supporting artillery. Intelligence obtained prior to the initiation of the operation indicated that elements of the 5th NVA Regiment were located in the NAM HOA area and using the area as a rear support base to cache supplies, and the TA TRACH and PAO NAI Rivers as lines of communication to resupply their combat elements in the forward areas. It was believed the enemy would withdraw, employing delaying tactics, to the A SHAU and RUONG RUONG Valleys rather than defend his base areas. The 2-502 IN BN was to secure FSB Normandy, construct and secure FSB Spear using the accelerated fire support base construction concept; thereafter conduct reconnaissance in force operations in conjunction with the 3-187 IN BN in their respective AO to locate and destroy base areas and caches, locate and interdict enemy lines of communication, and fix and destroy enemy troop concentrations. Inclement weather slowed construction of FSB Spear and the combat assaults of the maneuver forces for several days. One in the area the maneuver elements encountered limited enemy contact and were extracted on 3 March. Enemy personnel losses during the operation were: 9 KIA and 2 wounded. Friendly personnel losses were: 3 killed and 11 wounded. (DA, Senior Officer Debriefing Report; MG Melvin Zais, CG, 101st ABN DIV; Period 19 July 1968 – 25 May 1969) (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, 101st ABN DIV; Period Ending 30 April 1969)

20 February 1969

1BDE initiated a new offensive operation with assaults south of FB Normandy for probes into the 5th NVA Regiment base area. In search and clear operations northwest of Bastogne, A/1-502 IN killed one enemy and captured one weapon when they spotted a VC installing a booby trap. B/3-506 IN "Currahees" found 1200 pounds of rice in an area surrounded by 105 booby traps; the next day, the paratroopers discovered 1500 pounds of rice. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)

20 February 1970

C/2-502 IN, 1st platoon was combat assaulted from Firebase Arsenal to designated LZs in the area.

20 – 28 February 1971

DEWEY CANYON II and LAMSON 719: HQ, 3BDE, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) deployed to central QUANG TRI and passed to the operational control of the 1BDE, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) until 24 February when they reverted to the operational control of the 101st. Constituting this brigade, the 1-501 IN BN deployed from THUA THIEN Province to QUANG TRI Province on 24 February, followed a day later by the 2-502 IN BN and the 2-327 IN BN on 28 February.

21 February 1966

Operation HARRISON: The 2-502 IN BN received Brigade Frago 48-66 which assigned the mission of clearing area CANNON of all VC forces utilizing one (1) rifle company jointly with one (1) rifle company of the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade. Coordination with 2nd ROK Marine Brigade was immediately affected and Battalion OPORD 18-66 was published and distributed. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report, Operations HARRISON; 1 April 1966)

21 February 1968

Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON: At 1155H, A/2-502 IN engaged a small size enemy force, results: 1 VC KIA, 1 AK-47 captured. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Operation Tacoma-Houston After Action Report; 20 March 1968)

21 February 1968

1-502 IN BN continued with operations and had scattered light to moderate contact by B/1-502 IN. Results: 1 KIA, 1 WIA, and 4 NVA KIA (BC)

21 February 1968

D/2-501 IN continued search and destroy operations southeast of LZ Sally while moving toward Hue from the northwest. It was this day that 2 Delta Raiders (SSgt. Joe R. Hooper and SSgt. Clifford C. Sims) was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2 separate actions for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty". SSgt. Joe Ronnie Hooper was the **MOST DECORATED SOLDIER OF THE VIET NAM WAR**. Joe earned 37 medals including the Congressional Medal of Honor, 2 Silver Stars, 6 Bronze Stars, and 8 Purple Heart Medals)

Results of engagement – 1 Delta Raider killed in action – (Clifford Sims Congressional Medal of Honor – posthumously.)
22 Delta Raiders wounded in action – (Hubert L. Davis, James B. Bowman, John B. Gingerly, James L. Martin, James Calhoun, Jody Gravette, Tex W. Gray, David R. Leaf, Alfred M. Mount, James C. Rachell, Thomas Hopkins, Ava A. James, Thomas Miles, Noah N. Rockel, Davis Wallace, Frankie Gaines, Victor A. Holmes, Joe R. Hooper, Lonnie Thomas, Ernest McManus, Samuel Ayala, Henrie L. Delaney.) 24 NVA killed. (From D/2-501 IN incident report)

21 February 1968

Eyewitness Account of the Battle (By PSG George Parker D/2-501 IN) The Delta Raiders were assaulting a strong enemy position near Hue on the 21st of February when heavy enemy rocket, machine gun and automatic weapons fire halted the advance in front of a stream about 20 feet wide. Sgt. Hooper, a squad leader, got a few men together and dashed across the stream and up into the face of the enemy fire even though the enemy was firing from bunkers just on the opposite bank. Those bunkers were overrun, and soon the rest of the company got moving following Sgt. Hooper's example. A couple men were hit and left exposed to enemy fire, but Sgt. Hooper braved the fire and went out after him. He brought one man back, and then went after the second man. He got to him but was wounded in the process. Still he brought the man back to safety and then went out again even though he was wounded himself. He found SSG Thomas pinned down and tried to find where the fire was coming from. SP4 Mount was up in front of them, so Sgt. Hooper called out to him to see if he could move between two small houses to locate the fire. Mount took one step between the houses and was hit in the leg. Because of his wound, he couldn't move, and the enemy fire was getting closer and closer. Sgt. Hooper took drastic action to prevent Mount from being killed. He moved around the left of the houses even though the enemy had manned bunkers not more than fifteen meters away from the side of the house. Somehow, he got past these bunkers and behind the houses where he saw three bunkers connected by a trench. Sgt. Hooper got up and charged the first bunker (they were no more than 10 meters apart), throwing a grenade inside and then spraying it with rifle fire. This killed everyone inside and from behind this bunker he started firing into the second bunker, and this fire eliminated everyone in there. He got up and ran toward the third bunker just as an NVA radioman came out, and Sgt. Hooper shot him dead. Those bunkers had had rockets, automatic weapons, and a large radio complex in them. Sgt. Hooper then returned to the river bank where a lot of men were hesitant about going forward. But after seeing Sgt. Hooper they all got up to follow him; Just as they had deployed at the top of the bank three NVA jumped out of the bamboo and started firing their AK-



47's, but the Chaplain was the only man hit. Still, everyone just froze except Sgt. Hooper who fired away, dropping two of the enemy while the other managed to escape. Sgt. Hooper then bandaged the Chaplain's wound and helped him back to safety. When he returned, he led the men in a swamp up to the three bunkers he had just eliminated. In this sweep the other bunkers on the flank were overrun.

Sgt. Hooper moved ahead of his men at this point to analyse the situation and while forward saw three snipers running from a bunker in an effort to get to a house. Only two of them made it as Sgt. Hooper shot the third one down. Then taking a LAW, he hit the house they had just entered dead center and killed both men while setting the house ablaze. Over on the right the squad was getting heavy fire from two more houses and Sgt. Hooper proceeded to knock those out too. Still fire came from the right, and soon it was determined it was coming from a shrine in that area. Sgt. Hooper crawled forward with two other men and opened fire on it. The enemy fire soon ceased. Returning to his men, Sgt. Hooper led them in another sweep which overran a few more bunkers. Here they halted again, and Sgt. Hooper climbed on top of the bunkers to fire on the enemy. While he was on top of it an NVA officer climbed out and pointed his rifle at Sgt. Hooper's head. Sgt. Hooper swung around but the NVA pulled the trigger first. However, his weapon jammed, and Sgt. Hooper found he was out of ammunition. The NVA started running, but Sgt. Hooper caught him and killed him with his bayonet. When he got back to his men he found they were under heavy automatic weapons from a house in front. Everyone was taking cover, but Sgt. Hooper moved out alone and maneuvered around behind the house. He kicked in the back door and was fired on instantly, but the bullets missed by about an inch or less, and the NVA didn't have a second chance. Sgt. Hooper opened up with a fierce blast and then threw in two grenades as he left, the total effect killing all the defenders. As his men moved up they encountered stiff resistance. This was coming from the last line of defense where enemy bunkers were positioned in an inverted "U" with heavy fire coming from the row of bunkers on the left running perpendicular to the line of advance. There was a trench running in front of the bunkers and Sgt. Hooper dashed down this trench with SP4 Urban following. As he passed each one he tossed a grenade into it and Urban made sure the job was done by pouring rifle fire into each one after the explosion. This killed all but two defenders who staggered out of one of the bunkers, shaken and bloody, they were taken prisoner. When they got to the last bunker they turned right and fired on two NVA behind the next bunker down the line. The NVA ducked down and Sgt. Hooper rushed up to the bunker from where he started firing on two more bunkers down the line, one housing a machine gun. He found out that the two NVA whom he had shot at were inside the bunker he was on and he dropped an incendiary grenade inside which was awfully affective. He kept on firing on the two bunkers, finally silencing the other one. Just then he saw that SP4 Gray was wounded in a trench near the bunkers he had just been firing on. Enemy fire was still sweeping the field, but Sgt. Hooper rushed over too Gray because Gray couldn't get out of the trench and the enemy was firing on him. When Sgt. Hooper got there, he sat his rifle down since he was out of ammunition and got into the trench to help Gray. Then SSG. Thomas threw Sgt. Hooper a .45 cal. pistol in case he needed it. Sgt. Hooper set the pistol down so that he could lift Gray with both hands, but just when he got him up he saw an NVA come out of nowhere and point his rifle at Sgt. Hooper's head. Before the NVA could pull the trigger though Sgt. Hooper had picked up the pistol and blasted him. Then he took Gray back to a secure area and came back to reorganize his men. We were setting up a line just beyond the final bunker lines and enemy fire was still coming in. But Sgt. Hooper and SP4 Urban spotted it and started firing. Then Sgt. Hooper crawled forward to check the damage and found three NVA lieutenants with their heads riddled with bullets. After that we moved out into the field and pretty well cleaned up the area. Sgt. Hooper spent a lot of time taking care of the wounded and finally looked after his own wounds only after he had his men settled down.

Sgt. Joe R. Hooper in one day accomplished more than I previously believed could have been done in a month by one man. And he did it all while wounded. It wasn't just the actual count of positions overran and enemy killed which was important, but far more so was the fantastic inspiration he gave every man in the company. It was his personal courage on any number of occasions that kept everyone going against some of the heaviest fire I have ever encountered.

- 21 February 1969 Combined forces in the 2BDE AO killed four enemies and took two weapons, and the allies in the 3BDE AO captured two prisoners and one weapon. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)
- 21 February 1969 **Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** The only contact made today was by B/1-502 IN, 1st platoon at YD624206. They engaged 6 VC with small arms fire. Resulting in 1 VC KIA and 1 Ak-47 captured.
- 21 February 1970 D/1-502 IN located a bunker complex at 7699. Items found in the bunker included 2 AK-47's, 2 NVA ponchos, miscellaneous cooking utensils, and 1 typewriter. D/1-502 IN located trail with many recent footprints and requested a dog team.
- 21 – 28 February 1970 A/2-502 IN found seven graves containing the bodies of enemy Soldiers killed in combat. Since the usual policy was to open the graves to try and determine what NVA unit the dead had come from, the poor guys assigned to this detail must have had a very bad time.

During this time the C/2-502 IN, 1st platoon continued to patrol in the rain-soaked jungles. One overcast, drizzly day, word came over the radio that Recon had encountered some gooks and had killed one. We were told to be extra cautious because NVA were in the area. Walking along a wide jungle trail, we came upon the dead gook. He had been stripped of his uniform for intelligence purposes and I was able to see the wounds that killed him. It appeared that the bullet had entered his upper torso from the side and had traveled under the skin and muscle across his chest, exiting on the opposite side and raising big welts. (Mighty Men of Valor: With Charley Company on Hill 714-Vietnam 1970, by John G. Roberts)
- 22 February 1966 **Operation HARRISON:** At 1900H, B/2-502 IN departed battalion base vicinity CQ206426 by truck to dismount point vicinity CQ220386. Upon arrival at the dismount point three (3) Recon patrols were deployed to infiltrate the Objectives 1, 2 and 3, vicinity CQ165910, CQ187387 and CQ220391 respectively. There was negative enemy contact during the night. The 2-502 IN BN (-) continued with assigned security missions, maintenance of equipment and OMMI inspection at Battalion Base vicinity CQ206426. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report, Operations HARRISON; 1 April 1966)



22 February 1967

Operation FARRAGUT: 2-502 IN BN terminated operations in the western portion of the LE HONG PHONG and extracted to SONG MAO. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation FARRAGUT)

22 – 27 February 1967

Operation FARRAGUT IV: All units were moved to the vicinity of TAC CP by helicopter, ending Phase I of Farragut IV. That afternoon, the 2-502 IN BN airlifted to SONG MAO to prepare for Phase II. On arrival at SONG MAO airstrip, the companies set up a bivouac in an area covered by dry brush, and there a mishap occurred which cost STRIKE FORCE dearly. A cooking fire got out of control, and immediately spread over a wide area, engulfing rucksacks, weapons, ammunition, hand-grenades, 60mm mortar rounds, and LAW's. Efforts to put the fire out failed, and troops began trying to carry equipment out of the danger area across a dirt road. Captain Steve Sylvasy, CO of C/2-502 IN, was right in the middle of the fire trying to supervise removal of LAW's and mortar ammunition, when the first large explosion was triggered by heat. Captain Sylvasy received severe shrapnel wounds in his chest and stomach, putting him out of action for over two months. Everyone moved across the road, and for the rest of the night sporadic explosions kept all personnel at a safe distance from the remains of the fire. The next day resupply operations began, and by 24 February the 2-502 IN BN was once again ready to conduct operations against the enemy.



The sudden and unexpected mission that initiated Phase II of FARRAGUT IV was to assist an ARVN Ranger Battalion which was heavily engaged with an estimated battalion size VC Main Force Unit in the DI LINH-BAO LOC area on Highway 20. Two ARVN relief columns had been ambushed, and a MACV Advisor Team was missing, believed captured. Local ARVN officials claimed adamantly that the VC were withdrawing to the west. Other sources indicated a possible move to the south and east. Playing a hunch, the 2-502 IN BN Commander committed only one company to the west of DI LINH and two to the south and east. A feature of this operation was the very rapid deployment of the STRIKE FORCE over a distance of over 70 km without any prior recon.

The first indication of trouble was received at the brigade at approximately 1230H and the 2-502 IN BN was in position by dark.

Southeast of DI LINH, C/2-502 IN ambushed 4 VC on the morning of the 25th, killing 2 and capturing 1. The POW stated that he was an intelligence squad member belonging to C 200 Battalion, and that 3 other Battalion size forces were in the DI LINH area. Acting on his information B/2-502 IN was air-lifted to interdict the suspected withdrawal route of one of the main force units. That evening a platoon of B/2-502 IN was caught in a three-sided ambush by an estimated company armed with heavy automatic weapons. The enemy did not withdraw, and fighting was extremely heavy throughout the night. Gunships and illumination were employed, but fighting was too close-in to utilize the gunships effectively. The enemy finally withdrew on the early morning of the 26th, leaving 9 VC KHA and 5 weapons. US losses were 1 KHA and 8 US WHA.

No other contacts were made with the enemy, and the 2-502 IN BN was extracted by helicopter to SONG MAO on 27 February.

22 February 1968

S3, 2-501 IN BN (Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log "Declassified") (0100-2400);

0100: A/2-501 IN receiving incoming Mortar Rounds.

0315: A/2-501 IN. has had movement in their location. Some S/A incoming fire negative casualties.

0720: Kilo and Log ship arrived; 80rds of 81mm were loaded to go to 81mm mortar platoon, 90mm & ammo for B/2-501 IN.

0818: 2-501 IN BN perimeter receiving sniper fire from Northern part of woods vicinity 693 223; C/2-501 IN is sweeping this direction

0835: A/2-501 IN repushes VC heading toward CP. Take him under fire

0836: Have a squad in that area – threw grenades, may have got them

0910: 1st Lift B/2-501 IN on LZ

0845: Delayed Entry: Fr S3 to BDE 3: Lot of sniper fire going on our area. Have to clear and secure area before B/2-501 IN can come in. Objective area is too big to clear. Have to sweep part where sniper fire is coming from.

0850: Delayed entry to BDE: Have killed 1 NVA sniper

0918: 2nd Lift B/2-501 IN Complete

0930: 3rd Lift B/2-501 IN on ground now.

0935: 4th Lift B/2-501 IN complete

0940: From 3: C/2-501 IN has 3 WIA; need Medevac, 2 in the leg, 1 in the neck. Fr DOW R O.1 U 1.7 Medevac requested, aircraft 928 evacuate in 5 min.

1010: Medevac w/one litter patient complete from C/2-501 IN

1049: From TAC CP: Have 2 WIA, that should be evacuated, 3 more that have got to secure LZ

1115: Still working w/C ready to clear up objective 7 in 30, will move to 8 with B/2-501 IN and A/2-501 IN

1117: 3 WIA have been evaced – 3 are remaining, 1 cannot get to yet, so far 6 from C/2-501 IN 1 from Recon. (Medic)

1145: From Recon: Have killed 1 NVA sniper, am getting 4 KIA's from C/2-501 IN out now.

1150: CO has almost completed clearing 7 to the North, cleared 1-man north of it at the woods. From BDE use M79. D 1/7 Cav is pulling down from the North.

1155: From Recon: Have picked up 4 KIA's from C/2-501 IN Recon has 3 WIA (1 Medic), C/2-501 IN has 4 KIA and 6 WIA, C/2-501 IN going to sweep the remainder of the northern part of our AO.



1215: From BN CO: for today, C/2-501 IN has 4 KIA, 6 WIA, Recon has 3 WIA. C/2-501 IN has 7 NVA, B/2-501 IN, A/2-501 IN Recon has 1 POW
 1220: B/2-501 IN receiving SA from our left, has some indirect splashes 200-300 to right.
 1225: A/2-501 IN receiving mortar fire on left flank, about 50 meters 60 or 81 meters
 1225: To BDE: Last Medevac complete 1145
 1225: To BDE S2: Have 3 more weapons to report 2 – M2 carbines, RPG Rd 3, AK-47 rounds 16, 136 – 5.56, 46 rounds of .30 Cal, 1 Chinese stick grenade.
 1307: From B/2-501IN to S3: Don't get area until in contact; see a lot of people off my left running east.
 1345: S3 got contact with FAC, ceiling good enough for strike
 1346: A/2-501 IN & B/2-501 IN moving on line to move to RJ8. Recon is in position to secure South flank.
 1400: Bunkers being destroyed by engineers in vicinity of OBJ 7
 1403: A/2-501 IN starting to receive fire
 1405: B/2-501 IN in contact with sniper and small arms
 1430: A/2-501 IN has 1 KIA and 3 WIA
 1433: B/2-501 IN receiving M-60 from left flank
 1445: Medevac requested for B/2-501 IN
 1450: B/2-501 IN has 1 WIA, need Medevac now.
 1509: B/2-501 IN & A/2-501 IN will try to start moving. A center plot reached woods where enemy loc.
 1510: Medevac complete
 1520: From A/2-501 IN: If Recon will engage bunker on my right, I can get another element in there.
 1530: A/2-501 IN about 75 meters in the wood have left center (declassified portion) in the woods right flank still cannot get in and going to try to get in the woods and in that location.
 1535: Firing broke out heavy again, B/2-501 IN in the woods
 1535: From CO to C/2-501 IN: Go in OBJ 8, and A/2-501 IN & B/2-501 IN, go around A/2-501 IN's right flank.
 1546: From CO: Need log bird to pick up POW, same equipment for captured equipment, KIA not ready for pick up.
 1547: B/2-501 IN: 30 Body Count at this time.
 1550: A/2-501 IN moving up on the right getting RPG's but are driving on into OBJ 8
 1550: From B/2-501 IN: Need Medevac for 3 personnel
 1557: From A/2-501 IN to B/2-501 IN: Civilian say VC are heading toward B/2-501 IN
 1600: A/2-501 IN here VC crawling out of the grass behind them. Recon Platoon is going to move against them.
 1615: A/2-501 IN receiving fire from his rear, in the high ground, will fire M79 and try to flush them out.
 1630: Recon securing ground site: A/2-501 IN receiving fire, recon getting fire between OBJ 7 and present location. A/2-501 IN getting lots of fire from field, fire coming from open field from the north.
 1655: D/2-501 IN, CP, 81mm Plat displacing to vicinity only 8 now.
 1712: B/2-501 IN. has 5 WIA to be evaced
 2020: Casualties today: A/2-501 IN – 3 KIA, 2 WIA; B/2-501 IN – 14 WIA (2 not evacuated) total 16; C/2-501 IN – 4 KIA, 6 WIA; Recon 3 WIA 2 not evacuated total of 5. Body count B-16, C-7, Rcn-1; POW's C-1, Recon 2; Wpns Captured today: 3 AK47, 1 LMG, 200 rounds of AK47, 136 rounds of 5.56, 11 blocks of TNT, 400 rounds of 7.62, 1 AP Mine, one Chicom stick mine.

- 22 February 1968 1-502 IN BN continued search and destroy operations and security QL #1 southeast of QUANG TRI. Operations by A/1-502 IN resulted in 2 KIA by grenade attacks during security of LZ Jane. B/1-502 IN while sweeping, made heavy contact with C/1-502 IN getting ambushed while moving to B/1-502 IN aid. D/1-502 IN was also in heavy contact during the day. Results: 5 KIA, 32 WIA and 12 NVA KIA (BC), Estimated NVA battalion area. (Extracts from 1968 1-502 IN BN History; Coffelt Database)
- 22 February 1968 B/1-502 IN and C/1-502 IN vicinity YD469425 engaged an estimated NVA Battalion in prepared positions. Artillery and ARA Armed Helicopters supported the contact, which terminated at 1600H. During the contact nine (9) NVA were KIA, one US was KIA and 22 US were WIA and evacuated.
- 22 February 1968 At 1200H, D/1-502 IN and E/1-502 IN vicinity YD474403 made contact with an estimated reinforced NVA company in bunkers. The contact terminated at 1600H and resulted in three (3) NVA KIA, one weapon captured, two (2) US KIA and nine (9) US WIA and evacuated.
- 22 February 1969 **Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** There were no contact made today. The 1-502 IN BN continued with its normal operations. D/1-502 IN moved to LZ Sally and then moved via CH47. B/1-502 IN, 1st platoon found a diary belonging to the VC killed on the 21st. The diary contained much information about trails in the area.
- 22 February 1970 A perimeter defensive check was made of FSB Birmingham today with negative results. Medevac requested for Soldier with severe head wound that was sustained when an M79 blew up. The Soldier was in B/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon located YC787987. Recon team 2 located underground kitchen 8' wide 15' deep with overhead cover of 8" dirt and logs. Estimated usage 1 year ago, it was destroyed by the unit.
- 22 – 23 February 1971 **Operation Jefferson Glen:** All STRIKE Force units were moved to FB Birmingham to stage for an upcoming operation to the South of FB Normandy. STRIKE Force personnel were resupplied with food and ammunition, had their equipment checked, replaced and/or repaired. This period also enabled the troops to rest, get hot food, and entertainment with a floor show provided on the Re-arm Pad. The troops also made frequent use of the HUE TRACH River to bathe and clean-up
- 23 February 1966 **Operation HARRISON:** At 0600H, B/2-502 IN conducted Search and Destroy and sweep to the South in area CANNON. At 1050H, B/2-502 IN discovered and destroyed 1,200 pounds of rice vicinity CQ271322; results 1 VC KIA (BC) and 1 M-1 carbine captured. Other VC were suspected to have escaped in a tunnel system near DA NGU (1) vicinity CQ 250320. RCA (Riot Control Agent) and "MIGHTY MITE" were utilized in the tunnel network and thorough search of the area



revealed 1 VC KIA (BC), 1 VC WIA (BC) and 3 weapons captured. B/2-502 IN RECONDO patrols remained in position vicinity CQ165910, CQ187383 and CQ220391. There was negative enemy contact during the night. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report, Operations HARRISON; 1 April 1966)

23 February 1966

Operation HARRISON: At 1200H, 2-502 IN BN received BDE OPORD 50-66 (HARRISON) which assigned the mission of conducting a heliborne assault commencing H-Hours, D-Day to seize position WOLF; conduct Search and Destroy operations to secure WOLF; select, secure and report LZ for Artillery Battalion (-); establish blocking positions on trails vicinity BA865595 and BQ94590; be prepared to provide one company for heliborne assault on targets of opportunity with emphasis in area vicinity BQ965655 (trail junction); and protect Artillery in sector. Brigade OPORD 50-66 (HARRISON), was implemented by Battalion OPORD 19-66 (HARRISON).

The RECONDO Platoon deployed by air, utilizing 2 UH1D helicopters, 6 sorties, from TUY HOA SOUTH Airfield vicinity CQ 207426 commencing 251300H February to position FOX vicinity DONG TRE SF CAMP. Their mission was to conduct 3 RECONDO patrols vicinity BQ870632, BQ896612 and BQ910615, to report any and all enemy activity encountered and specifically to observe the Battalion LZ. Following the Battalion landing the RECONDO Platoon was to initiate RECONDO patrols to the East to link up with the 2-327 IN BN vicinity BQ927590 in accordance with Annex D, OPORD 19-66. The RECONDO patrols departed position FOX at 1330H and were in position at 260500H February vicinity BQ972622, BQ902616 and BQ910623. A radio-relay team from the platoon remained at position FOX to insure continuous communication between the RECONDO patrols and higher headquarters. This technique proved effective and continuous communications were maintained prior to the deployment of the Battalion to position WOLF. At this time the radio-relay was no longer needed, and their force displaced from position FOX to WOLF: 5 lifts with 102 sorties of UH-1D helicopters were utilized. TAC Air was not utilized to prepare the LZ due to weather conditions but remained on cap. 2-320 IN BN (-) fire LZ preparation 30 minutes prior to the assault; 712 rounds were fired. There was negative enemy contact on the LZ.

The 2-502 IN BN closed new location vicinity BQ913601 effective 261255H February. At this time position WOLF was secure and the Brigade was informed. Battalion RECONDO Platoon captured 1 VC cadre nurse (female) vicinity BQ 901616 at 261045H February. Battalion CP located vicinity BQ911608, A/2-502 IN vicinity BQ912601, B/2-502 IN vicinity BQ911601 and C/2-502 IN vicinity BQ911593. Commencing at 1600H, B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN initiated CHECKERBOARD operations in sector and 2-320 ARTY BN (-) began displacing from position FOX utilizing three CH47 Chinooks. Artillery Battalion (-) closed in position WOLF vicinity BQ911602 effective 1655H. Battalion continued intensive patrolling and CHECKERBOARD operations in sector. Commencing 1800H, C/2-502 IN infiltrated 3 RECONDO patrols to vicinity BQ878615, BQ858610 and BQ868592; all patrols in position effective 2330H with negative enemy contact. RECONDO patrol from C/2-502 IN ambushed a VC squad vicinity BQ871606 at 2030H; results: 1 VC KIA (BC), 1 VC WIA and 1 US carbine captured. Commencing 1800H, A/2-502 IN infiltrated 2 RECONDO patrols to vicinity BQ915629 and BQ930615; both patrols in position effective 2202H with negative enemy contact. Commencing 1800H, B/2-502 IN infiltrated 3 RECONDO patrols to vicinity BQ944554, BQ936532 and BQ913500, all 3 in position effective 2200H with negative enemy contact. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report, Operations HARRISON; 1 April 1966)

23 February 1968

1-502 IN BN search and destroy operations continued with security QL #1. Scattered light contact made with 2 WIA by BBT.

23 February 1968

Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON: At 1530H, A/2-502 IN vicinity AT910914 engaged 2 VC on trail, results: VC fled north, 1 US WHA. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Operation Tacoma-Houston After Action Report; 20 March 1968)

23 February 1969

Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A/1-502 IN (-) moved to FSB T-Bone and assumed the responsibility of providing security for FSB T-Bone. C/1-502 IN moved from FSB T-Bone to LZ Sally. Recon platoon also moved to LZ Sally. 2BDE intelligence reported on this day that the NVA and VC plan to launch attacks on major cities and military installations on the 22nd or 23rd of February.

23 February 1970

At 0940H, B/1-502 IN (-) and 2nd platoon was engaged by 5-10 VC/NVA moving down a trail. They received 3 RPG rounds and S/A fire. They sustained minor casualties and returned fire with S/A with negative results. The casualties were all minor fragmentation wounds.

24 February 1966

Operation HARRISON: At 0730H, B/2-502 IN again made a thorough search and sweep of villages near NA NGU (1) and PHY LAC vicinity CA271321 and CQ280320 respectively with negative enemy contact. At 1300H, B/2-502 IN engaged 1 VC vicinity CQ288318; results: 1 VC KIA (BC), 1 weapon and one box of 30 caliber ammunition captured. At 1715H, B/2-502 IN was extracted by helicopter from LZ Red vicinity CQ282322 back to Battalion base vicinity CQ206426. B/2-502 IN closed Battalion base effective 251815H February 1966. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report, Operations HARRISON; 1 April 1966)

24 February 1967

Operation FARRAGUT: In response to a request for assistance from LAM DONG Province, the 2-502 IN BN and C/2-230 ARTY conducted airmobile assaults from SONG MAO to selected LZ's west of DI LINH and began search and destroy operations to locate and destroy an estimate VC battalion which had ambushed local ARVN forces. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation FARRAGUT)

24 February 1968

1-502 IN BN search and destroy operations continued with security of QL #1. Scattered light contact made with 1 WIA by BBT.



24 February 1969 **Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/1-502 IN continued to provide security at FSB T-Bone. B/1-502 IN conducted RIF operations to Omaha and set out ambushes. D/1-502 IN sent out patrols and ambushes also. C/1-502 IN and Recon platoon remained at LZ Sally.

24 February 1970 D/1-502 IN taught PF forces today on a variety of subjects including First Aid, Hasty ambushes, NDP sites and M79 grenade launcher. B/1-502 IN (-) moving east received S/A fire and one man was wounded in both legs below the knee. He was evacuated to the rear in the vicinity of 795985. Enemy casualties were unknown. C/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon spotted 1 NVA/VC carrying something. The man fled, and a search of the area produced nothing.

24 - 28 February 1971 **Operation Jefferson Glen:** A/2-502 IN combat assaulted into the new Area of Operations. As B/2-502 IN was preparing to combat assault, the Battalion Commander was notified to cancel the existing operation and prepare to move to QUANG TRI Province to come under the operational control of the 3BDE. The mission was to support LAM SON 719. A/2-502 IN was brought back to FSB Birmingham and with much haste; preparations were made to move north. Coordination at all levels had to be affected and preparations immediately made to move the battalion north. With thorough planning and massive effort, all obstacles were overcome, and on the morning of the 25th, STRIKE Force, relocated to CP at MAI LOC and moved and moved the companies into the AO ten miles to the southwest of QUANG TRI.

At MAI LOC the remaining days of February were spent "digging in" and fortifying the compounds. Troops shelters were built, mess buildings and latrines were erected, and a command post for the bunker line was established. A comprehensive logistic system was set up using three widely separated resupply points. Thus, continuous comfort service support was provided for all field elements throughout the vast area of operations.

February 28th, ended Operation JEFFERSON GLEN for the STRIKE Force troopers as the last week of February ushered in Operation LAM SON 719.

24 – 25 February 1971 1-501 IN BN was air lifted to DONG HA Combat Base and received a warning order to move on 25 February to A-1, B-1, and A-2. The move was completed, and operations were resumed in that area. During the reporting period a light mortar platoon was organized in B/1-501 IN and C/1-501 IN. These elements consisted of one 81mm mortar tube and fifteen to twenty men. The platoon remained in the companies' area of operation and conducted daily patrols. Its purpose was to provide the Company Commander with fire support under his direct control.

24 February 1971 1-501 IN BN has assumed command of A-2. B/1-501 IN found a booby trap vicinity YD281758, B/1-501 IN vicinity YD281785 site six enemy and engaged them with mortar fire. Results negative.



During this week, in the span of 8 years since the 501st Infantry Regiment, 502nd Infantry Regiment and 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division deployed in support of the Vietnam War the following awards were awarded to the service members during combat operations.

2 x Medal of Honor (1 x Posthumously)
1 x Distinguished Service Cross
13 x Silver Star Medal (4 x Posthumously)
6 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
4 x Bronze Star Medal (4 x Posthumously)
2 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
73 x Purple Heart Medal (31 x Posthumously)
5 x Died from Non-hostile injuries or illness

18 February 1966

SGT William F. Collier (C/2-502 IN) died from a gunshot wound to his right lung received in a hostile ground action on 16 February in the Phu Yen Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 February 1968



SSG Robert L. Mosley (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on a combat operation when engaged a hostile force in firefight during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

19 February 1968



SGT William R. Seibert (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on a combat operation when engaged a hostile force in firefight during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

19 February 1968



SP4 Timothy L. Collier (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on a combat operation when engaged a hostile force in firefight during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

19 February 1968



SP4 John Pass III (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on a combat operation when engaged a hostile force in firefight during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

19 February 1968



PFC Jerry D. Sisco Jr. (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on a combat operation when engaged a hostile force in firefight during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



19 February 1968



CPL James C. Foster (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on a combat operation when engaged a hostile force in firefight during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam

19 February 1968



SP4 Enrique L. Soliz (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on a combat operation when engaged a hostile force in firefight during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam

19 February 1968

PFC Ronnie Harrell (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from injuries from a mine explosion on HWY QL-1 during combat operation when engaged hostile force in firefight in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. PFC Harrell's was MIA and his body was recovered and returned to US soil on 01 March 1968.

19 February 1968



1SG Frederick C. Brander (A/2-501 IN) (1-OLC) actions in combat earned him the Purple Heart Medal for gunshot wounds in left arm sustained as a result of enemy or hostile actions. (Pictured is from March 1968; when General Abrams is on left awarding the Purple Heart Medal to 1SG Brander with MG Barsanti and Col Cushman in Photo.)

19 February 1970



SP4 Jimmie R. Marshall (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation when hostile force was encountered 15km southwest of Hue in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

20 February 1970



SGT Victor Zaragoza (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds while on combat operation when hostile force was encountered during a patrol north of FSB Veghel approximately 15 miles southwest of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

20 February 1970



1LT David A. Hockett (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragment wounds while on combat operation when hostile force was encountered during a patrol north of FSB Veghel approximately 15 miles southwest of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

21 February 1968



PFC Florentino Cantu (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from a gunshot wound received when he engaged hostile forces in a firefight while on a combat operation in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

21 February 1968

PFC James E. Lanning (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 239; 31 March 1968)

21 February 1968

SP4 Mark Marcus (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 239; 31 March 1968)



21 February 1968



SSG Clifford C. Sims (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds received when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

21 February 1968



SSG John B. Gingery (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 239; 31 March 1968)

21 February 1968



CPL Joe R. Hooper (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 239; 31 March 1968)

21 February 1968



SP4 Lawrence E. Mize (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 239; 31 March 1968)

21 February 1968

The following Soldiers from D/2-501 IN:

SSG Hubert L. Davis	SSG James L. Martin	SGT James E. Calhoun	SP4 James C. Rachell
SP4 Alfred M. Mount	SP4 Victor I. Starks	SP4 James B. Bowman	SP4 Clarence J. Straten
SP4 Ava G. James	PFC Gary L. Hobbs	PFC Stephen L. Taylor	PFC Thomas L. Miles
PFC Martin E. Driffil	PVT Robert P. Wasley		

Was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 239; 31 March 1968)

21 February 1969



SP4 Dale E. Rauber (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds while on a combat operation when encountered hostile forces in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 February 1968

PFC Walter Easley (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)

22 February 1968

PFC Walter L. Johnson (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)

22 February 1968

SP4 John R. McCleaf Jr. (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)

22 February 1968

SP4 Tommy Guzman Jr. (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)

22 February 1968

SP4 Brian M. Eckert (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)



22 February 1968

The following Soldiers from A/2-501 IN:

2LT John R. Rodelli SP4 Charles S. Quash SP4 Chanucey M. Fisher PFC Stanley G. Williams

Was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)

22 February 1968

The following Soldiers from B/2-501 IN:

SFC Guillermo E. Lanzo SGT Keith A. Guthrie SGT James A. Clark SP4 Ronald L. Massey
SP4 Francis E. Templeton SP4 David E. Nelson SP4 Rodney L. Carlson SP4 Edward M. Titus
PFC Howard E. Farmer PVT Bryon R. Walter

Was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)

22 February 1968

SSG John Pool (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)

22 February 1968

PFC Jimmy Urbiztondo-Montano (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)

22 February 1968

SSG Vernon L. Campbell (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)

22 February 1968

PFC Charles R. Hedricks (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)

22 February 1968

2LT Edward D. Chandler (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)

22 February 1968

SP4 Eddie J. Prater (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)

22 February 1968

SGT Jeffrey R. Lighton (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)

22 February 1968

SP4 Jack R. Taylor Jr. (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)

22 February 1968

SP4 Samuel L. Learn (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and four wounds received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230; 31 March 1968)

22 February 1968

PFC Jerry W. Smith (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



22 February 1968

SP4 Samuel L. Anderton (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



22 February 1968

PFC James A. Koch (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



22 February 1968



SP4 Charles W. Cline (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragment wounds when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 February 1968



SP4 Michael S. Collins (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 February 1968



SGT Jon A. Julia (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 February 1968



SGT Fred Reaves Jr. (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 February 1968



PFC Cornelius Pressley (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 February 1968



SGT Roland P. Levesque (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from metal fragment wounds received during combat operation when hit by hostile grenade fragment while in a firefight at a bunker complex near THON HOI KY 10KM SE of HAI LANG in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

23 February 1968



PVT David R. Lehr (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for merit and for wounds received from gunshot wound while on a combat operation when engaged by hostile force in a firefight at a bunker complex near THON HOI KY 10KM SE of HAI LANG in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 February 1968



SP4 James S. Combs (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds when he engaged hostile force in a firefight while on a combat operation when engaged by hostile force in a firefight at a bunker complex near THON HOI KY 10KM SE of HAI LANG in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



22 February 1968



PFC Joe M. Neill (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from metal fragment wounds when he was hit by fragment from hostile grenade while on a combat operation when attacked on LZ Jane, 6KM SW of HAI LANG in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 February 1968

PFC Herman McGee (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death on 31 August 1970 from gunshot wounds when he encountered a hostile force while on a combat operation when attacked on LZ Jane, 6KM SW of HAI LANG in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 February 1968



SGT Richard E. Toney (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire near Thon Ha Lo, 8KM SE of HAI LANG in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam on 31 August 1970.

22 February 1968



SP4 Edward Zamora (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was hit by fragment from a hostile grenade while on a combat operation near Thon Ha Lo, 8KM SE of HAI LANG in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 February 1969



SP4 Dale C. Fisher (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when mistaken for a hostile force and engaged in a firefight by a friendly force in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

22 February 1970



SP4 Jerry K. Brighter (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from sniper fire while on a combat operation when the area came under attack by hostile fire in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

23 February 1968



PVT David R. Lehr (D/1-502 IN) died from wounds received on 22 February 1968; from gunshot wound while on a combat operation when engaged by hostile force in a firefight at a bunker complex near THON HOI KY 10KM SE of HAI LANG in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

18 February 1968

SGT Coulbourn Dykes (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 18 February 1968. Sergeant Dykes distinguished himself while serving as a fire team leader with Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, during a combat helicopter assault into the village of Xom Trung Hoa, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. The third platoon moved into a position to assault a company-sized enemy force with the first platoon providing supporting fires. As the platoon moved forward on a prearranged signal, they began receiving heavy automatic weapons fire from four enemy bunkers. Sergeant Dykes ordered his fire team to lay down a base of fire. He charged through the hail of enemy fire, assaulting one enemy bunker. He tossed a grenade in the bunker aperture, killing its occupant and capturing one weapon. Sergeant Dykes then laid down a base of fire while his fellow platoon members rushed forward and destroyed two other enemy positions. Sergeant Dykes' actions resulted in two enemy dead and two weapons captured. Sergeant Dykes' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 8627; 30 October 1968)

19 February 1968



1SG Frederick C. Brander (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 February 1968. First Sergeant Brander distinguished himself while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry. Company A was on combat operation near the village of Thon Thuan, Republic of Vietnam. First Sergeant Brander was with the point platoon on the sweep, when two men in khaki uniforms were spotted running into a hut, and the platoon moved on line and began to take them under fire. The platoon advanced approximately twenty meters when a tremendous volume of automatic weapons and machine gun fire from a hedgerow fifty meters to the front halted the advance. The volume of fire was so heavy that it was practically impossible to maneuver. One man was killed with the initial burst of fire, and in order to give cover to a medic that rushed to his aid, First Sergeant Brander exposed himself to the brutal fire. Moving first from the right flank to the left flank, First Sergeant Brander, continuing to give covering fire for the medic, placed a heavy volume of fire on the enemy, constantly braving the enemy fire to give encouragement to his men and direct their fire and movement. Moving out in front of the slowly advancing line of men, First Sergeant Brander threw smoke grenades in order to cover his movements and to permit a faster advance on the enemy positions. Still moving back and forth along the line of advance, First Sergeant Brander was helping to evacuate the wounded and men killed in the action when he was wounded by a burst of machine gun fire. His extraordinary courage and physical stamina were an inspiration to all those in the unit. First Sergeant Brander's exceptional valor at the risk of his own life and dedication to his men is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st AIR CAV DIV; General Orders Number 4350; 3 August 1968)

19 February 1968



1LT Robert H. Adams Jr. (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 February 1968. First Lieutenant Adams distinguished himself while serving as platoon leader with Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A was conducting combat operations eight kilometers west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam, and was advancing upon a wooded area over open rice paddies when the second platoon, under First Lieutenant Adams, broke contact with the company and veered to the left. Shortly the remainder of the company came under a withering hail of enemy rocket propelled grenade, machine gun, and automatic weapons fire from well-fortified bunker positions in trenches to the company's front. First Lieutenant Adams' platoon was advancing obliquely from the left and initially avoided the fire thus providing them with an opportunity to flank the enemy bunkers. But as they approached they were taken under heavy machine gun fire from a bunker to their front. First Lieutenant Adams, with utter disregard for his own safety, rallied his men and led them in a fierce attack, First Lieutenant Adams himself charging the bunker with a pistol and grenades, knocking out the machine gun. Fire from other enemy positions now engulfed the platoon, yet First Lieutenant Adams, undaunted by the severity of the fire, personally led his men forward and overran a second position, silencing all the direct fire on the remainder of the company, while inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and capturing a number of weapons and documents. First Lieutenants Adams' fierce offensive spirit and unreserved courage in the face of devastating enemy fire was an inspiration to his men and was greatly responsible for the total success of the ensuing assault. His initiative and devotion to duty were surpassed only by his personal valor. First Lieutenant Adams' exceptional gallantry is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2106; 26 June 1968)

20 February 1968



1LT Robert H. Adams Jr. (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 February 1968. First Lieutenant Adams (Then Second Lieutenant) distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A and Company C was engaged in a multi-unit search and clear operation in the vicinity of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The entire unit was proceeding through a vast expanse of rice paddies toward a graveyard which was somewhat raised above the level of the paddies. Because it was a strategic position, the area was to be cleared before the companies set up for the night. Suddenly sniper fire erupted from the high ground, wounding three men with initial burst fire. Lieutenant Adams, the second platoon leader, quickly saw that because of the sniper's positions, the command groups of both companies were in extreme danger. Lieutenant Adams rallied his men together to form an assault line and with complete disregard for his own safety, led the charge on the enemy that resulted in killing several North Vietnamese Soldiers while sustaining no further casualties among his platoon. Due to Lieutenant Adams, quick reactions and refusal to panic in the face of deadly enemy fire, the enemy force was annihilated, and the loss of friendly personnel was kept to a minimum. Lieutenant Adams' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 6763; 2 October 1968)



20 February 1968

2LT Gary C. Bridges (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 February 1968. Second Lieutenant Bridges distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader for Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, on a combat operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0930H, Company C was engaged in a sweep operation designed to drive the insurgents from any fortified positions. The company was on line with Lieutenant Bridges' platoon to the left side. As the assault line advanced, the right side of the line came under intense sniper fire. In a maneuver designed to give maximum fire power against the enemy and still maintain the advance of the company, Lieutenant Bridges' platoon was stretched out to two thirds of the company front with the other two platoons concentrated on the snipers. During the tricky change in the formation, Lieutenant Bridges was constantly moving along the extended line of his platoon despite the sporadic sniper fire, and occasional grenade barrages hitting his platoon. During the entire period, Lieutenant Bridges moved coolly about his platoon, checking his area, encouraging his men, and keeping the company commander informed with reports as to the status of the advance. As a direct result of his leadership and courageous actions, Lieutenant Bridges' platoon killed two Viet Cong and suffered no casualties. Second Lieutenant Bridges' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 4501; 11 August 1968)

20 February 1970



SGT Victor Zaragoza (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 February 1970. Sergeant Zaragoza distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company A, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during a reconnaissance-in-force operation near Fire Support Base Veghel, Republic of Vietnam. While waling as lead man for his platoon, Sergeant Zaragoza detected an enemy ambush to his front. He immediately shouted a warning to his platoon members and rushed the enemy position, enabling his comrades to maneuver for cover. His unselfish sacrifice prevented the enemy ambush from materializing and kept friendly casualties to a minimum. Sergeant Zaragoza personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 3326)

20 February 1970



1LT David A. Hockett (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 February 1970. Lieutenant Hockett distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, while his platoon was conducting a reconnaissance-in-force operation north of Fire Support Base Veghel, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Hockett's lead squad suddenly received heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well-concealed enemy force. After directing the remainder of his element to fine cover, Lieutenant Hockett rushed forward to the area of contact where he saw the platoon's lead man lying on the trail. With complete disregard for his personal safety Lieutenant Hockett boldly ran forward to assist the wounded men. Despite intense hostile fire he managed to reach the lead man and began to carry him to cover. While carrying the injured man Lieutenant Hockett was mortally wounded by the North Vietnamese fire. Lieutenant Hockett's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2914; 13 March 1970)

20 February 1970



SP4 John Marks (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 February 1970 and 21 February 1970. Specialist Marks distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman in Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during reconnaissance-in-force operations near the Song Bo River, Republic of Vietnam. On two successive days, Specialist Marks' unit received intense enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire. Each day, Specialist Marks rushed forward under fire to treat the wounded. He administered first aid and consoled his fellow Soldiers. On both days, Specialist Marks coordinated medical evacuation operations and was responsible for the evacuation of the wounded. His actions contributed greatly to the success of the mission. Specialist Marks' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number. 7077; 22 June 1970)

21 February 1967



SP4 Francis J. Gentile (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 February 1968. Specialist Gentile distinguished himself while serving as medical corpsman with Company C, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during heavy fighting with a large enemy force several kilometers west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. At the beginning of the battle Company C had three medical corpsmen attached to it including Specialist Gentile. However early in the day the two other corpsmen were wounded and put out of action, leaving only Specialist gentile to care for the wounded of the entire company. The intensity of the fire which wounded his two comrades necessarily incurred even greater than normal casualties throughout the company, thus making his task all the more arduous and dangerous. But with the amazing energy, surpassed only by his unparalleled courage, he continually moved along the company front under constant and severe fire by the enemy. The company was hit by a veritable fusillade of rifle and machine gun fire from the enemy lines, this coupled with the barrage of grenades, both rifled and from M-79 grenade launchers. Even under the barrage Specialist Gentile continued to expose himself to the deadly enemy fire during the entire battle until all the wounded had been cared for. His outstanding heroism not only saved a number of lives but served to inspire those around him to greater efforts as well. Specialist Gentile's exceptional gallantry is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, AIR CAV DIV; General Orders Number 4551; 11 August 1968)



21 February 1968



SSG Clifford Sims (D/2-501 IN) (Posthumously) was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a squad leader with Company D, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy aggressor forces at Hue, Republic of Vietnam, on 21 February 1968. Company D was assaulting a heavily fortified enemy position concealed within a dense wooded area when it encountered strong enemy defensive fire. Once within the wood line, Staff Sergeant Sims led his squad in a furious attack against an enemy force which had pinned down the 1st Platoon and threatened to overrun it. His skillful leadership provided the platoon with freedom of movement and enabled it to regain the initiative. Staff Sergeant Sims was then ordered to move his squad to a position where he could provide covering fire for the company command group and to link up with the 3d Platoon, which was under heavy enemy pressure. After moving no more than 30 meters Staff Sergeant Sims noticed that a brick structure in which ammunition was stocked was on fire. Realizing the danger, Staff Sergeant Sims took immediate action to move his squad from this position. Though in the process of leaving the area two members of his squad were injured by the subsequent explosion of the ammunition, Staff Sergeant Sims' prompt actions undoubtedly prevented more serious casualties from occurring. While continuing through the dense woods amidst heavy enemy fire, Staff Sergeant Sims and his squad were approaching a bunker when they heard the unmistakable noise of a concealed booby trap being triggered immediately to their front. Staff Sergeant Sims warned his comrades of the danger and unhesitatingly hurled himself upon the device as it exploded, taking the full impact of the blast. In so protecting his fellow soldiers, he willingly sacrificed his life. Staff Sergeant Sims' extraordinary heroism at the cost of his life is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself and the United States Army. (General Orders Number 83; 12 December 1969)



21 February 1968



SSG Joe R. Hooper (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), in action against enemy aggressor forces at Hue, Republic of Vietnam, on 21 February 1968. Staff Sergeant Hooper, U.S. Army, distinguished himself while serving as squad leader with Company D. Company D was assaulting a heavily defended enemy position along a river bank when it encountered a withering hail of fire from rockets, machineguns and automatic weapons. Staff Sergeant Hooper rallied several men and stormed across the river, overrunning several bunkers on the opposite shore. Thus inspired, the rest of the company moved to the attack. With utter disregard for his own safety, he moved out under the intense fire again and pulled back the wounded, moving them to safety. During this act Staff Sergeant Hooper was seriously wounded, but he refused medical aid and returned to his men. With the relentless enemy fire disrupting the attack, he single-handedly stormed three enemy bunkers, destroying them with hand grenade and rifle fire, and shot two enemy soldiers who had attacked and wounded the Chaplain. Leading his men forward in a sweep of the area, Staff Sergeant Hooper destroyed three buildings housing enemy riflemen. At this point he was attacked by a North Vietnamese officer whom he fatally wounded with his bayonet. Finding his men under heavy fire from a house to the front, he proceeded alone to the building, killing its occupants with rifle fire and grenades. By now his initial body wound had been compounded by grenade fragments, yet despite the multiple wounds and loss of blood, he continued to lead his men against the intense enemy fire. As his squad reached the final line of enemy resistance, it received devastating fire from four bunkers in line on its left flank. Staff Sergeant Hooper gathered several hand grenades and raced down a small trench which ran the length of the bunker line, tossing grenades into each bunker as he passed by, killing all but two of the occupants. With these positions destroyed, he concentrated on the last bunkers facing his men, destroying the first with an incendiary grenade and neutralizing two more by rifle fire. He then raced across an open field, still under enemy fire, to rescue a wounded man who was trapped in a trench. Upon reaching the man, he was faced by an armed enemy soldier whom he killed with a pistol. Moving his comrade to safety and returning to his men, he neutralized the final pocket of enemy resistance by fatally wounding three North Vietnamese officers with rifle fire. Staff Sergeant Hooper then established a final line and reorganized his men, not accepting treatment until this was accomplished and not consenting to evacuation until the following morning. His supreme valor, inspiring leadership and heroic self-sacrifice were directly responsible for the company's success and provided a lasting example in personal courage for every man on the field. Staff Sergeant Hooper's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army. (General Orders Number 24; 17 April 1969)



21 February 1968

SGT Dale A. Urban (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company D, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. Sergeant Urban distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 21 February 1968 as a team leader during an assault by his company against a strongly entrenched enemy force near Hue. As his unit drew near a stream fronting the communists' strongholds, it was met by rocket and machine gun fire from a series of bunkers lining the opposite shore. The barrage caused the company to halt and take cover, but Sergeant Urban and his squad leader rushed forward in a daring assault through the chest-deep water silencing several positions. When the company advanced deeper into the dense woods, the hostile fire increased from the strategically placed bunkers and fortified villages. The deadly cross fires again caused men to falter and take cover as the casualties mounted. Ignoring the devastating fusillade, Sergeant Urban and his squad leader sprang forward and assaulted several more bunkers with hand grenades, eliminating all resistance. Ahead of them, however, lay a line of four fortifications which were placing fire into the flanks of their unit, effectively halting further advance. Sergeant Urban and his squad leader, in total disregard for their safety, rushed forward and ran along a trench line fronting the bunkers, throwing hand grenades inside and raking the positions with rifle fire as they passed. They killed all the occupants, except for two who staggered out and were captured. Sergeant Urban then rushed another bunker totally destroying it with an incendiary grenade, and began to deliver heavy fire into two more emplacements, one harboring a machine gun. Both of these were soon silenced by his accurate fire. The enemy's final line of resistance had all but disintegrated, except for sporadic fire which continued from an undetermined location. Sergeant Urban and his squad leader, though unable to spot any movement, quickly estimated the source of the fire to be in some high brush just thirty meters to their front. Putting their rifles on full automatic, the two men sprayed the suspected area and waited for a



response. There was no return fire. Suspecting a possible trap, Sergeant Urban courageously crawled forward and found three North Vietnamese officers, killed by rifle fire behind the concealing underbrush. Sergeant Urban'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. (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number 502; 13 February 13, 1969)

21 February 1968



SFC George Parker Jr. (D/ 2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 February 1968. Platoon Sergeant Parker distinguished himself while serving with Company D, the Delta Raiders of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry. Company D was conducting a coordinated assault on a strongly fortified and tenaciously held enemy position in a dense wood near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. As the Delta Raiders moved to the assault across a wide, deep stream heavy enemy automatic weapons fire engaged the attacking force, and a rocket added to the crescendo the company slowed, and many men took cover as their comrades fell under the enemy onslaught. Yet Platoon Sergeant Parker stood amidst this terrible storm of fire coming from heavy bunkers on the opposite shore and rallied his men by personal courage, leading them in a fierce assault across the stream, overrunning the first line of bunkers where an enemy flag which had flauntingly flown was captured. Moving into the dense and nearly impenetrable wood the fighting became savage, at times involving hand to hand combat. As men fell Platoon Sergeant Parker rushed up under torrents of lead to treat the men and carry them back. After evacuating several men Platoon Sergeant Parker, in reorganizing his men, found that two of his squad leaders had been wounded and that his platoon leader's radio had been destroyed by enemy fire, thus severing communications. Quickly assuming total command of the situation, Platoon Sergeant Parker organized the rest of his men into two squads and then led them forward in a driving attack on the enemy positions, a series of strong bunkers interlinked by an intricate trench system. Personally, destroying two enemy bunkers with hand grenades, Platoon Sergeant Parker remained in the van of the attacking force as the situation called for more inspired leadership than tactical control. Moving forward against undiminished enemy fire, Platoon Sergeant Parker led his platoon in an overwhelming advance, relentlessly, driving the enemy, and destroying them in place where they refused to flee. By his personal courage and inspiring example, the platoon was able to totally destroy a most formidable enemy stronghold which might otherwise have destroyed the platoon in place, so great was the enemy firepower. Platoon Sergeant Parker's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st AIR CAV DIV; General Orders Number 4207; 31 July 1968)

21 February 1968



CPT William W. Erbach (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 February 1968. Chaplain Erbach distinguished himself while serving as chaplain with the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The Battalion was making an assault on a North Vietnamese Regimental base camp and was encountering severe enemy fire from a strong, well-entrenched bunker system. Fighting became very intense and drew to close quarters as casualties began to mount. Company D was making the main assault, and this is where Chaplain Erbach went in an effort to inspire the men. He continually moved along the line encouraging the men, but as the casualties increased Chaplain Erbach, unarmed and in complete disregard for his own safety, moved out across the bullet swept field to help care for an evacuate the wounded. Time and again he crossed the field, aiding the wounded and materially helping in every way possible. While assisting one of the fallen Soldiers, Chaplain Erbach was himself seriously wounded after he had been repeatedly advised to leave the forward area. After receiving first aid and being taken to the rear, he refused medical evacuation and remained on the field caring for further wounded Soldiers as they were brought to his position for evacuation. Only after all the wounded had been evacuated, five full hours after being grievously wounded himself, did Chaplain Erbach consent to being evacuated. His courage and inspiration were of great significance in contributing to the success of the battalion's assault. Chaplain Erbach's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1665; 17 June 1968)

21 February 1970



2LT Robert L. Worrall (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 February 1970. Lieutenant Worrall distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company B, 2d Battalion, (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, on a reconnaissance patrol near the Song Bo River, Republic of Vietnam. When the lead man in the patrol observed a possible enemy position, Lieutenant Worrall deployed his men and directed them to conduct reconnaissance by fire. Immediately, his platoon received intense automatic weapons fire from a small force of North Vietnamese Army Soldiers. Lieutenant Worrall repeatedly subjected himself to hostile fire to direct the return fire of his men, expedite the medical evacuation of the wounded, and direct artillery strikes. His actions under fire were an inspiration to his unit. Lieutenant Worrall's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 7090; 22 June 1970)



22 February 1968



CPT David W. Reiss (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 February 1968. Captain Reiss distinguished himself while commanding Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry during and assault on a heavily fortified enemy position three kilometers west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The enemy position consisted of well-fortified bunker complex, linked by an intricate trench system, and manned by an estimated North Vietnamese Company. The approach routes to the position, which skirted a small village, were very poor and as a result the attack had to be made over a route which afforded very little cover. The assault began in conjunction with Bravo Company, Company A on Bravo's right, and from the outset Captain Reiss positioned himself in an open rice paddy in order to better control his own company and from where he could better observe the enemy. He gave no indication that he was even aware of, much less concerned about, the intense enemy fire streaming into the paddy in the form of machine gun, automatic rifle, and small arms fire as well as rocket propelled grenades which continually slammed into the area. The volume of fire steadily increased, and the rockets became incessant rather than frequent. Still Captain Reiss' only concern was directing his company and destroying the enemy as he himself remained dangerously exposed all the while. At one point a platoon was pinned down by murderous fire, so that is where Captain Reiss went, ignoring the extreme danger as he shifted men and weapons bringing devastating firepower of his own on the enemy, and all the while inspiring his men by courageous presence in the bullet-swept zone. This inspiration was the spark necessary to build up the momentum of the platoon and the entire attack as it got rolling and swept over the enemy positions, thus enabling the company to complete its mission. The final assault which carried the enemy position may well not have been possible were it not for Captain Reiss' forceful and inspiring leadership. Captain Reiss' gallantry in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st AIR CAV DIV; General Orders Number; 4568; 11 August 1968)

22 February 1968



SSG Charles J. Maguire (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 February 1968. Staff Sergeant Maguire distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader with the first platoon of Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry, during a combat operation approximately four kilometers' northwest of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Maguire's squad came under heavy enemy fire while moving with the company. At that time, he skillfully maneuvered his squad to a more advantageous position from which he was able to pour a devastating amount of fire into enemy lines. In the meantime, a number of his men had been wounded, and Staff Sergeant Maguire, with utter disregard for his own personal safety, exposed himself to the still intense enemy fire in order to help evacuate these men. Again, and again he returned under heavy fire to bring back the wounded and, despite the severity of the enemy fusillade, he returned to his lines only after all the wounded had been cared for and brought out of the line of fire. Upon returning to his men, Staff Sergeant Maguire's squad was completely suppressed. His unreserved courage and unsurpassed skill were an inspiration and lasting example to his men. Staff Sergeant Maguire's exceptional valor is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st AIR CAV DIV; General Orders Number 3805; 18 July 1968)

22 February 1968



2LT John R. Rodelli (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 February 1968. Second Lieutenant Rodelli distinguished himself by heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force while serving as a platoon leader while Company A, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry was on a combat operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The company had come under heavy fire from a series of fortified positions held by an estimated enemy company. Second Lieutenant Rodelli, realizing the importance of knocking out the fortified enemy positions too free the company's progress, led the lead elements of his platoon against the enemy's positions disregarding his own safety. Even though sustaining heavy automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire, Second Lieutenant Rodelli fearlessly led his men across an open field. Under his masterful direction of fire, and great personal courage, Second Lieutenant Rodelli's Platoon overran the tough enemy position. This courageous act enabled the rest of the company to move forward unhindered and free to accomplish their mission. Second Lieutenant Rodelli's unhesitating courage and dedication to his unit's mission were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st AIR CAV DIV; General Orders Number 3806; 18 July 1968)

22 February 1968



CPT Jackie Justice (HHC/1-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism while participating in aerial flight in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 February 1968. Captain Justice distinguished himself while serving as Battalion S-3 Officer of the 1st Battalion (Airborne) 502d Infantry in the Command and Control ship in support of a combat operation near Quan Tri, Republic of Vietnam. Company B and Company C of the Battalion had intensive contact with the enemy. Company C had two wounded men in front of enemy bunkers situated in a rice paddy and could not be reached by friendly forces because of the intensive fire from the enemy. The Battalion Commander ordered the Command and Control ship to make low, slow passes directly in front of the Viet Cong bunkers. Although the aircraft received numerous hits from the insurgent positions, it continued making passes at the bunkers. Captain Justice's placing fire on the bunkers with his M16 rifle from the aircraft, contributed immeasurably to the extraction of the wounded Company C men. Captain Justice's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 733; 20 May 1968)

22 February 1968



SGT Roland P. Levesque (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously); SGT Levesque distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. On 22 February 1968, SGT Levesque and his squad while conducting ground operations near the province of Quan Tri, came under intense fire from an enemy bunker. While maneuvering his squad, one of his men was wounded by the enemy. With no regard for his own personal safety, SGT Levesque directed his squad to return the fire while he charged through the intense automatic weapons fire to recover the wounded man. As he was returning to his squad with the wounded man, SGT Levesque was mortally wounded. SGT Levesque's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders 903; 31 May 1968)



22 February 1968

PFC Albania Small (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in the Republic of Vietnam, on 22 February 1968. His actions, without regard for his own safety, reflect great credit on himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 73; 23 December 1987)

23 February 1967

PFC William J. Franks (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while on a search and destroy mission near Ban Ne Thuot, was suddenly brought under a tremendous volume of fire from an estimated company size element in fortified positions. As the platoon moved forward in the assault. Private Franks observed an enemy machine gun position to his front that was placing murderous fire on an element of his platoon. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Franks exposed himself to the enemy fire and began firing his weapon into the enemy position. Realizing that his fire was not effective and that he must act quickly, Private Franks jumped up and charged the enemy position, firing as he ran. When Private Franks was approximately twenty meters from the enemy machine gun he was struck by an enemy bullet and knocked to the ground. Getting on his feet Private Franks continued to assault the enemy position until he was struck by another enemy bullet and mortally wounded. As a result of Private Franks' courageous actions, the enemy position was destroyed, and many lives were saved. Private Franks' outstanding gallantry in action and his avid devotion to duty even at the cost of his life are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (IFFV; General Orders Number 251; 15 March 1967)

23 February 1968



2LT Robert H. Adams JR. (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (1-OLC) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 23 February 1968. First Lieutenant Adams distinguished himself while serving as platoon leader with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry. Company A was providing the rear security for a battalion size assault on a North Vietnamese Regimental base camp north of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. As the battle grew in intensity, the attacking force began receiving heavy rocket propelled grenade and sixty-millimeter mortar fire from the right flank. Company A was instructed to move to the area and silence the enemy resistance. As Lieutenant Adams moved his platoon toward a hedgerow, the platoon came under heavy rocket propelled grenade and machine gun fire from the concealed enemy force. Knowing that to delay might be disastrous; he led his platoon in a headlong dash to the hedgerow. Apparently noting the Lieutenant Adams was the rallying force in the unit, the enemy concentrated a furious burst of fire on him, destroying his rifle in his hands. He stopped momentarily, picked up the grenade launcher of a wounded man, and again resumed his assault on the enemy. With his men following him, the enemy positions were overrun and the platoon, more slowly now, pursued the fleeing enemy. After an hour of continuous fighting, Lieutenant Adams had succeeded in reaching his objective and the company began to set up a defensive perimeter. Very soon though, sniper fire began to erupt from within the perimeter and Lieutenant Adams, with several other, attempted to locate the snipers. He soon discovered that there were three North Vietnamese in a small area. Concealing his movement with smoke grenades, Lieutenant Adams crept forward in a low crouch and as the smoke cleared, found himself almost face to face with the surprised enemy. He quickly shot all three of the enemy soldiers and finally was able to declare the area secured. Second Lieutenant Adams' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 8663; 30 October 1968)

23 February 1968



CPT Dennis J. Gillem (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (2-OLC) for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 23 February 1968. Captain Gillem distinguished himself while serving as Company Commander of Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, on combat operations near the village of Chua Thieu Mu, Republic of Vietnam. The company, led by the third platoon as point element, was engaged in a large sweep designed to drive the insurgents from their fortified positions. As they moved out the third platoon came under intense enemy fire. Captain Gillem immediately moved forward from his rear position to the forward most element of the platoon to assess the situation. After making his assessment, Captain Gillem again moved across the bullet swept fields to the second platoon to personally direct its movements. Despite the heavy fire and with complete disregard for his own welfare, Captain Gillem moved with the forward element of the platoon in order to effectively control the flanking attack on the enemy. Through informants captured during the sweep it was determined that an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese lie in and wait to ambush the company. Because of the overwhelming numerical superiority and the close proximity to the enemy, Captain Gillem chose to withdraw in order to call in effective artillery fire. Captain Gillem personally directed all elements of the company in an orderly withdrawal and in spite of the intense enemy fire, remained in place until his assurance that all elements of his command had withdrawn. Captain Gillem's courageous actions during the engagement, without regard for his own safety, enabled the company to drive the enemy from the fortified positions. His leadership and personal direction were an inspiration to his men and rallied confidence in their abilities. Captain Gillem's exceptionally gallant actions reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st AIR CAV DIV; General Orders Number 4605; 11 August 1968)



ACRONYMS

ACAV: Armored Cavalry
AD: Americal Division
AD: Airborne Division (Would be after numeric numbers)
AO: Area of Operations
ARA: Aerial Rocket Artillery
ARCOM: Army Commendation Medal
ARVN: Army of the Republic of Viet Nam (also known as the South Vietnamese Army (SVA))
BDE: Brigade
BN: Battalion
BSM: Bronze Star Medal
BBT: Booby Traps
CA: Combat Assault
CANOPY: Heavily Wooded Terrain
CO: Company
CP: Command Post
DSC: Distinguished Service Cross
DZ: Drop Zone
FSB: Fire Support Base
HQ: Headquarters
IED: Improvised Explosive Device
IFFV: I Field Force Vietnam
IN: Infantry
KBA: Killed by Air or Artillery
KHA: Killed by Hostile Action
KIA: Killed in Action
KNHA: Killed by Non-Hostile Action
LZ: Helicopter Landing Zone
MI: Military Intelligence
MOH: Medal of Honor
MP: Military Police
NDP: Night Defensive Position
NVA: North Vietnamese Army
OBJ: Objective
OP: Observation Post
PAVN: People Army of Vietnam
POW: Prisoner of War
PF: Popular Forces
PZ: Helicopter Pick-up Zone
Recon Platoon: Reconnaissance Platoon
RIF: Reconnaissance in Force
RF: Regional Force
ROK: Republic of Korea
SA: Situational Awareness
SIGINT: Signal Intelligence
SSM: Silver Star Medal
STRIKE Force: 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry
SVA: South Vietnamese Army
TF: Task Force
TOC: Tactical Operations Center
USARV: United States Army Vietnam
USARPAC: United States Army Pacific
WIA: Wounded in Action
WHA: Wounded by Hostile Action
WNHA: Wounded by Non-Hostile Action
"V": Valor
VC: Viet Cong

