



STRIKE

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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.)

- 11 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART:** A/2-501 IN ambush has closed at 0815H. They found 2 – AK-47's; the rifles have the number 11 stamped on the stock in a circle made in 1964. Also found 2 grenades and approximately 300 rounds of AK ammo. The bodies they found were exceptionally large, dressed in green uniforms. A/2-501 IN reported that the contact during the night they had two men with shrapnel wounds and would like them evacuated. The men will be evacuated to FSB Pinky. B/2-501 IN reported at 1215H that they have one WIA and will be required medevac. At 1245H, B/2-501 IN reported that they had one more WIA. At 1300H, 1-502 IN reported seeing 3 VC in the area vicinity 682302 moving in direction of B/2-501 IN. 2-501 IN BN, Recon platoon reported at 1305H that they have found 8 bodies killed by shrapnel vicinity 655233 in raves. Two individuals were larger and appeared to be Chinese, dressed in black PJ, 2 in combination of black and green uniform – 2 completely in green uniforms. At 1454, B/2-501 IN reported that they are still receiving AW fire from bushes. B/2-501 IN moved into edge of woods receiving heavy fire and do not have foothold in the woods and cannot fire and maneuver going to move to the school where we first received fire. B/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon has one (1) WIA, heavy fire in the grave site. At 1510H, B/2-501 IN reported that they still cannot fire and move out, have requested ARA; cannot pull back without covering fire. At 1516H, B/2-501 IN reported that they have pulled back to the rive and are ready for the airstrike. B/2-501 IN reported sighting an approximate NVA reinforced platoon moving in the area. At 1519H, B/2-501 IN reported 4 WIA ready for pick up from medevac. At 1530H, B/2-501 IN reported having 7 WIA for pickup. At 1532H, C/2-501 IN forward elements receiving sniper fire 1 WIA, withdrawing with him. At 1547H, B/2-501 IN reported medevac completed. At 1605H, C/2-501 IN had an ambush vicinity of bridge 687289; reporting 1 WIA and 1 walking wounded. At 1610H, B/2-501 IN reported having 1 KIA – needed ARA to cover for evacuation. At 1623H, C/2-501 IN reported 2 WIA, 2 litter, 1 ambulatory. At 1725H, B/2-501 IN location vicinity 695296 and C/2-501 IN location vicinity 695295; B/2-501 IN will have ambushes to the east and west of gravesite. At 1737H, D/1-502 IN LZ to the north of B/2-501 IN and C/2-501 IN and establish a blocking position a blocking position vicinity 690310. At 1740H, B/2-501 IN reported 9 WIA, 1 KIA will confirm; C/2-501 IN reported 2 WIA. At 1905H, 1-502 IN BN reported D/1-502 ambush location 684304 and 693306. C/1-502 IN ambush locations 704313 and 707316. At 2035H, 2-501 IN BN reported to 2BDE that all unit's location and ambush location. At 2130H, S1 reported B/2-501 IN KIA at Camp Evans, 9 – WIA at Phu Bia; 2 very critical. C/2-501 IN 2 – WIA at Phu Bia. Daily summary NVA/VC body count 132 POW/Detainees, 34 individual weapons, 32 – crew served weapons, 12 – US weapons, 12 – US WIA, 109 – Evac, 21 -US KIA; Operation JEB STUART terminated. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officers Log; 11 March 1968)
- 11 March 1968 Members of C/326 ENG BN (Abn), clearing Highway 1 north of HUE with the 1-502 IN BN discovered and dismantled an NVA booby trap of 11 rounds of 105mm shells buried in the road and wired for command detonation. SSG Ronald Henn, Clarksville, TN, had to take the wires out and remove the shells because exploding them in place would have blown too large a hole in the road. (Rendezvous with Destiny Volume 1, Number 2; July 1968)
- 11 March 1968 1-502 IN BN conducted joint operations and swept AP DUC TRONG with ARVN's. Contact was light and the ARVN's found 46 NVA KIA (BC) by artillery and captured 3 more. Results: Enemy: 46 NVA KIA (BC) Artillery, 3 WIA/POW.
- 11 March 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** The 1-502 IN BN returned to LZ Sally and D/1-502 IN moved by truck from LZ Sally to FSB Birmingham to secure the artillery at that location.
- 11 March 1970 C/1-502 IN, 1st platoon located 200 old damaged AK rounds. D/1-502 IN Reconed 19 trails to determine movement of enemy and recent use. A planned artillery zone was executed with two secondary explosions occurring in zone.
- 11 March 1971 B/1-501 IN had a MA detonated at XD921547. Found blood trail. Followed with negative results.
- 11 March 1971 B/1-501 IN found one bunker. Last activity 2-3 weeks. A trail-oriented north to south lead form the bunker.
- 11 March 1971 B/1-501 IN had a MA detonated at XD899545 Resulting in one enemy KIA.



12 – 14 March 1966

Operation HARRISON: Mission: 2-502 IN BN was to conduct a Search and Destroy operation commencing 130400H to exploit ARCLIGHT and find, fix and destroy VC forces and installations in the area. Execution: At 0640H, RECONDO/2-502 helilifted from the battalion base, TUY HOA SOUTH Airfield to LZ White. Their mission was to secure the battalion LZ and provide terminal guidance for helilifted deployment of the battalion. The RECONDO elements deployed to: RECONDO (-) BQ926318; RECONDO (A) BQ928308; RECONDO (B) BQ952292. They sighted a total of 10 VC in small groups. At 130100H, the first lift of 2-502 left the battalion base and landed on LZ Red BQ936335, by 0250H the lift into LZ RED was completed with negative enemy contact. A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN moved forward to reach the line of departure to exploit the ARCLIGHT strike of 0400H, C/2-502 IN was in battalion reserve. At 0345H, A/2-502 IN started to move toward PL BLAST (the line of departure) and at 0410H, B/2-502 IN move to PL BLAST. By 0628H, B/2-502 IN had crossed PL BOOM and A/2-502 IN crossed at 0720H, both having negative contact. C/2-502 IN and 2-502 IN BN CP started moving forward at 0743H. At 0900H, B/2-502 IN discovered 8 huts and clothing vicinity BQ925293; all were destroyed. They also found a small training camp in this area with 3 BA magazines, 100 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, 2 carbine magazines, one manual AR weapon (believed to be Russian), 22 shirts, 8 packs, 78 rounds of 7.62 AK-47 ammunition and 100 pounds of TNT. A/2-502 IN secured objective 1 by 1610H and B/2-502 IN secured objective 2 at 1748H; the 2-502 IN BN CP displaced to BQ942292. Three (3) RECONDO elements were sent out to the following locations: RECONDO (B) BQ908264; B-2 BQ926250; RECONDO (C) BQ938277. At 140515H March, 1 VC walked into A/2-502 IN perimeter; he was captured without incident and found in his possession were LBE and 2 hand grenades. The VCS had no weapon in his possession and seemed to be under the influence of a drug. By 1230H, both A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN had closed in around the 2-502 IN BN CP and were preparing for a heli-mobile assault to exploit another ARCLIGHT. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation HARRISON; 1 April 1966)

12 March 1968

At 0121H, C/2-501 IN reported 3 enemy coming across the bridge at the time of the ambush, 2 positions fired had on zeroed in and sure that they hit him; thinking they got the other two and fired back before dropping the 2 positions that engaged. At 0137H, 2-501 IN BN, Recon engaged 4 personnel cutting their wire with 4 rounds of M-79 got a secondary explosion believed enemy had 2lb block of TNT by the sound. Enemy fled down the hill. At 0209H, 2-501 IN BN, Recon reported 6 targets engaging with M-79 the enemy is fleeing to the west also some enemy carrying satchel charges. At 0313H, 2-501 IN BN, Recon reported engaging few people at their wire with M-79 got a secondary explosion believed that it may have set off a charge the person was carrying. At 0940H, C/2-501 IN reported hitting a booby trap; reported having 1 KIA, 5 WIA; at 0959H reported that C/2-501 IN had 2 KIA now, one WIA died, C/2-501 IN Commander believes booby trap 60mm mortar. Medevac arrived and completed at 1004Hs with 2 KIA and 5 WIA. At 1225H, B/2-501 IN lead element in contact with enemy force of unknown size vicinity 719310. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officers Log; 12 March 1968)

12 March 1968

Paratroopers from C/2-501 IN killed 41 NVA at the close of two-day battle three miles north of HUE. (Rendezvous with Destiny Volume 1, Number 2; July 1968)

12 March 1968

The 1-502 IN BN continued operations and made light contact. Results: 2 VC KIA (BC), 1 VC POW

12 March 1969

Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER: C/1-502 IN assaulted an area near FSB Veghel, a U.S. position in the central valley that had been abandoned the previous year, to establish a landing zone for the battalion. Awaiting the troopers was the 816th NVA Battalion. Fighting from about 1630H through the night. C/1-502 IN Soldiers secured the base, losing 2 KIA while killing 12 NVA. The rest of the NVA troops fled some four miles southwest to the 2,640 ft. DONG A TAY Mountain, described as a "round, squat hill with a large razorback ridge flowing out of it to the north." Initially, U.S. Commanders thought the enemy force guarding the area around FSB Veghel was only squad sized, and after it was cleared thought it might be a company. But Soldiers in the field knew differently. "The first couple of nights near DONG A TAY, we could hear the ticking of generators in the background of our radio communications," said 1st Lt John Eastham, Commander of 2nd Plt, B Co. "We knew then we had something big." (VFW Article (March 2008))

12 March 1969

Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER: At 1635H, C/1-502 IN conducted a C/A from LZ Sally to unoccupied FSB Veghel. The company came under heavy fire from an estimated NVA company as the last lift touched down on the LZ. C/1-502 IN deployed and maneuvered against the company and sporadic contact continued until 2400H. The results were 2 US WIA, 2 US KIA, 8 NVA KIA and 4 NVA KBAA. Due to inclement weather the 1-502 IN BN (-) was unable to reinforce C/1-502 IN.

12 March 1969

The strike is underway as the 1-502 IN BN combat assaults to the edge of the valley. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 2); Summer 1969)

12 March 1970

B/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon, 1st squad found 1 sleeping position and three sets of sandal tracks. D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon requested medivac for man with heat cramps. At location 763004, A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon found 4 VC type bunkers 5-6 months old. They contained 2 VC protective masks, 1 pick, 4 entrenching tools, 2 AK magazines, 4 ponchos, 1 canteen, various medical supplies and other small equipment. It was back logged on the first available bird.

12 March 1971

D/1-501 IN, 1st platoon at XD956603 spotted one NVA with AK-47. Employed with small arms fire. Resulting in one NVA KIA and one AK-47.

13 March 1968

1-502 IN BN made light contact during the day and an ambush from C/1-502 IN fired on 70-80 NVA with artillery. Results: Enemy 3 NVA KIA (BC), 25 WIA (Estimated)



13 March 1968

At 0046H, C/2-501 IN, Tiger 12 spots a platoon size 14 to 25 enemy to their front 300 meters moving west. At 1230H, C/2-501 IN received approximately 3 sniper rounds from vicinity 723296, believe from one individual left. C/2-501 IN reported vicinity where they received sniper fire that they have received observed approximately six (6) water buffalo with military age personnel on them will be requesting artillery. At 1250H, C/2-501 IN observed several military age personnel riding water buffalo grid 734294 will fire artillery on location. At 1308H, Artillery completed on personnel 16 elements. At 1345H, C/2-501 IN observed approximately twelve (12) more water buffalo with military age personnel on them. At 1445H, C/2-501 IN detained one individual vicinity 723309. At 1503H, B/2-501 IN approaching the green surprised to check from NE moving to SW. Many women and children outing same way as before previous engagements. At 1520H, B/2-501 IN in contact vicinity 7523112; requested air for that vicinity, will call in artillery. At 1525H, 2-501 IN BN requested ARA for B/2-501 IN in contact with well dug in enemy forces firing automatic weapons vicinity 752312. At 1530H, A/2-501 IN, element 26 closed at CP location. At 1550H, C/2-501 IN reported receiving some SA fire at this time to the NE or location. At 1615H, 2-501 IN BN, Recon has observed 100-150 civilians appeared to be working in fields from grid 685240 – 685220. At 1650H, C/2-501 IN came in contact with two (2) well-fortified bunkers with machineguns. The right flank will fire for left flank to advance in vicinity 738294. At 1655H, 2-501 IN BN S3 requested more air strikes for B/2-501 IN and C/2-501 IN. At 1702H, C/2-501 IN requested medevac for 1 WIA. At 1713H, B/2-501 IN has some to be medevacked, monitored 5 total medevacs needed. At 1727H, medevac completed for B/2-501 IN with 5 WIA; medevac will return for C/2-501 IN. At 1810H, Eagle 115 at C/2-501 IN with pick up of two (2) WIA. At 1850H, C/2-501 IN reported that they are still receiving incoming. At 1950H, B/2-501 IN reported needing medevac for 2 more WIA. At 1945H, C/2-501 IN reported having 2 Detainees, 1 captured vicinity 733309 refused to say anything. The other captured just before making enemy contact vicinity 745304 has no ID. At 1950H, B/2-501 IN reported having two (2) personnel wounded from artillery round. At 1959H, B/2-501 IN reported having three (3) wounded requests medevac. At 2005H, B/2-501 IN reported having six (6) WIA. At 2030H, C/2-501 IN received 5 rounds of RPG fire, no casualties. At 2125H, 2-501 IN BN reported to 2BDE that C/2-501 IN has two (2) WIA and B/2-501 IN had seven (7) WIA as a result of hostile actions. At 2215H, 2BDE requested where B/2-501 IN was at when artillery hit their location. At 2240H, 2-501 IN BN reported to 2BDE the B/2-501 IN was at location YD753315 (center mass) at 1945H when the friendly artillery hit their positions. They were in a small cluster of buildings at that location which is 300 meters from closet point of the objective area. The growth around the hamlet is typical – heavy bamboo and brush hedgerows. The company (B/2-501 IN) was digging in their night defensive positions at the time. This was the same location they had occupied since approximately 1530H – three (3) air strikes and much artillery had been called in on the objective during that time. They did not move center of mass from 1530H and had no problems with the previous artillery fire and heavy fire employed during the airstrike. SITREP for days events: 158 NVA/VC Body Count, 38 POW/Detainee, 38 Individual weapons, 13 Crew served weapons, 13 US Weapons, 25 US KIA, 132 US WIA (Evac) "Six (6) WIA from friendly artillery. Enemy contact for B/2-501 IN and C/2-501 IN with estimated platoon size element. 2-501 IN BN activity SITREP: NVA/VC Body count = 0; Detainees from C/2-501 IN = 2; US WIA = B/2-501 IN seven (7); C/2-501 IN two (2). (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officers Log; 13 March 1968)

13 March 1969

Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER: The 1-502 IN BN (-) move by air from LZ Sally to FSB Birmingham and then to FSB Veghel. A/1-502 IN, B/1-502 IN and C/1-502 IN conducted RIF operations in the vicinity. At 1200H, C/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon at vicinity YD543025 engaged an estimated NVA platoon in bunkers. Results were 4 NVA KIA and 1 US WIA. At 1215H vicinity YD543030, C/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon engaged an estimated NVA company on a densely-vegetated hill. Results: 3 US WIA, 2 US KIA and 4 NVA KIA.

13 March 1970

1-502 IN BN Recon found tracks of 3 pair of tennis shoes and ½ of a US poncho liner. The trail indicated the VC or NVA were dragging something heavy. An agent report indicated the VC were on a rice mission in vicinity 775125.

13 March 1971

C/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon at XD956603 moving along a trail north to south received small arms fire from unknown size element. Resulting in one NVA KIA and on AK-47 captured. One US WIA.

13 March 1971

C/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon at CS964603 was engaged by unknown enemy size element. Resulting in one NVA KIA and two AK-47s. One US WIA.

13 March 1971

C/1-501 IN, 4th platoon, Command Post at XD955599 C&C approached platoon's location and received unnumbered rounds of 51 Caliber. Resulting in one US WIA. The platoon received additional 6-8 60mm and small arms fire. Resulting in 1 US WIA.

13 March 1971

C/1-501 IN, 4th platoon received heavy volume of mortar fire both 60mm and 82mm impacting 35-60m outside perimeter. Additionally, received 30 rounds due north and west of their position vicinity XD955599.

13 March 1971

C/1-501 IN, 4th platoon received 7-10 rounds of unknown type. SEL vicinity XD962626. ARA believed to destroyed 1 or 2 mortar positions.

14 March 1968

1-502 IN BN continued operations and moved companies to LZ Sally for marshalling and stand down.

14 March 1969

Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER: A/1-502 IN continued a RIF to the southwest and discovered several NVA bunkers, 6 NVA KIA within that past 24 hours and 2 CSWC. C/1-502 IN sustained 1 US WIA from a 60mm mortar round booby trap. D/1-502 IN continued to secure FSB Bastogne and Recon platoon continued to RIF with negative enemy activity. TAC CP and E/1-502 IN (-) move to FSB Veghel.

14 March 1970

Camp Eagle took incoming rounds with minor damage. The 1-502 IN BN units reported they suspected launching sites to be 730059 and 766049. A Pink team located footprints of 2-3 persons and an old campsite at YD748071. Boat patrols hit a dud round or mine in water and had minor damage to their engine shaft. D/1-502 IN saw people searching and heard voices 300 meters from NDP. They employed S/A and M79 fire with negative results.



- 14 March 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** 2-502 IN BN (STRIKE Force) returned to the field. Maneuver Companies operated north and west of FSB Pistol (YC902902) with the Battalion CP secured by D/2-502 IN located at FSB Pistol. This AO showed definite signs of recent enemy activity. One of the lift ships conducting A/2-502 IN assault struck a booby trap on the LZ wounding two Soldiers and causing minor damage to the Aircraft. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)
- 14 March 1971 C/1-501 IN vicinity XD934603 initiated contact with unknown size enemy force 50 meters from their location and no return fire by the enemy. Results three NVA KIA.
- 14 March 1971 C/1-501 IN set MA at XD947605. C/1-501 IN spotted three enemy trying to dismantle the MA. MA was detonated. Results three NVA KIA and four Ak-47's captured. C/1-501 IN had another MA detonated same vicinity and the results were 2 NVA KIA.
- 14 March 1971 B/1-501 IN vicinity XD934538 found 15 bunkers. They were facing a trail-oriented north to south. In the bunker, they found 1 NVA rucksack, 4 bags 15lbs each of rice and a 10 gallon can of rice.
- 14 March 1971 C/1-501 IN vicinity CD949604 had MA detonated 75 meters south of their location. Results 1 NVA KIA, 1 AK-47 and 1 Rucksack.
- 15 – 19 March 1966 **Operation HARRISON:** Mission: 2-502 IN BN conducted a heliborne assault on area FOX commencing 150800H and initiated Search and Destroy operations to exploit ARCLIGHT and find, fix and destroy VC forced and installations in sector. Execution: On 15 March at 0755H the 1st lift got off consisting of C/2-502 IN and landed at 0808H with no enemy contact. The battalion was 90 per cent on the ground of LZ FOX by 0920 hours, B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN began moving on axis ROPE. The battalion CP was located at vicinity CQ088263, A/2-502 IN CQ088263, B/2-502 IN CQ090252 and C/2-502 IN CQ092289. Nine-armed VC were sighted at CQ099289 at 1500H and a RECONDO force was sent in to check them out. C/2-502 IN found 12 huts at CQ092240 large enough for 20-30 personnel. They had not been used in quite some time. The units stopped at 1800H and sent out RECONDO elements forward. On 16 March, B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN continued to move South, they had negative contact. On the 17th, the RECONDO element killed on VC at vicinity CQ109283. The VC had no weapon but did have some documents. At 1455H, the RECONDO element spotted 3 VC with weapons, CQ117283, artillery and air were called in on the location. At 1845H, the units were located at the following coordinates: C/2-502 CQ11222; B/2-502 IN CQ135223; A/2-502 IN CQ086263; A1C CQ067265. At 2052H, 3 snipers fired into A/2-502 IN CP. There were no US casualties. On 17 March at 1145H, the RECONDO platoon found 7 tons of rice at CQ102277, 250 rice bags were requested to extract the rice. A/2-502 IN at CQ114274 found small VC camp capable of handling 30-40 personnel. One M-16 rifle and magazine, 150 rounds of linked 30 caliber ammunition, 3 used LAWS, papers 2 blocks explosives, six 60mm mortar rounds, 1 Grease Gun with magazines and two 30 round magazines with unknown type ammunition. At 1445H, C/2-502 IN killed 1 VC, CQ128293. The VC had 2 hand grenades and no weapons. A cache found by RECONDO vicinity CQ126274 had 5,000 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, 6 M1A1 AT mines, 1 MLE 24 MG, 2 MAS 36 and 150 pounds of nitro starch. RECONDO platoon located 300 bushels of rice vicinity CQ116244. Several other rice caches were found in the area, total of 35 tons were extracted. B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN continued moving to vicinity of CQ1423, both on a separate axis. At 191050H March, B/2-502 IN had one WIA due to a mine. B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN moved into the south end of the valley to sweep down the following day. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation HARRISON; 1 April 1966)
- 15 – 18 March 1967 **Operation FARRAGUT:** 2-502 IN BN minus, conducted an airmobile and overland move to an area just south of Secret Base 7 and began search and destroy operations. One company of the 2-502 IN BN continued operations in the NE portion of Secret Base 35 until 18 March when it rejoined the battalion. On 16 March the 2-502 IN BN discovered a large campsite and contacted an estimated 6 VC resulting in 1 US WIA, 5 VC KIA (BC), 1 BOC and 4 SA captured. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation FARRAGUT)
- 15 – 20 March 1967 **Operation FARRAGUT:** Acting on information gained from local Vietnamese Officials, elements of the 2-502 IN BN were lifted to an area south of PHAN RANG in the same general AO of FARRAGUT III. It was believed that a VC District Headquarters Company and Local Force Unit was operating in the area.
- Sporadic contact was made during the next 6 days resulted in 6 VC KHA, 1 NVA POWE, and 5 weapons captured. Information gained from the POW, who had come to SVN 6 months before, indicated that the unit he was with was a VC District Headquarters Company consisting of 70-80 personnel (12 of whom were VC). The unit had broken down into 6-man groups and split up when the 2-502 IN BN entered the area.
- 15 March 1968 1-502 IN BN continued operations and found 1 NVA KIA (BC) by small arms, one day old. Received credit for 48 NVA KIA (BC) by artillery from events on 11 March.
- 15 March 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** 1-502 IN BN continued RIF and security missions with negative enemy activity.
- 15 March 1970 1-502 IN BN, Recon elements heard 4 or 5 shots from the Salad Bowl area. At location 735044. Recon (-) found 3 cases of RPG rounds wrapped in plastic and the charges to go along with them. They were all in excellent condition. They blew them in place. D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon found 4 60mm mortar rounds at location 761055 and destroyed them there. D/1-502 IN, 1st platoon found 4 60mm mortar rounds at location 761055 and destroyed them there. D/1-502 IN, 1st platoon (-) found a rocket launcher and tripod. Many high-speed trails are running around the area and out into the canopy. A cave was 10 feet from the site and showed no signs of recent use.
- 15 March 1971 C/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon detonated claymore, ChiCom vicinity XD948603. Results 4 US WIA, 3 US KIA and 1 KCS WIA



16 – 17 March 1968 1-502 IN BN conducted limited operations and made negative contact.

16 March 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** A/1-502 IN and B/1-502 IN continued RIF operations to the southwest with negative enemy activity. C/1-502 IN secured FSB Veghel and sustained 1 US KIA from 1 60mm mortar round BBT with a pressure type firing device and destroyed 1 US Claymore with a pressure firing device. D/1-502 and Recon platoon cited negative activity.

16 March 1970 B/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon (-) reported definite movement 50 meters east of their position at 715110. They threw a grenade with negative results. VR bird spotted an old bunker complex with a freshly dug entrance. D/1-502 IN reported that they 177th PF platoon at location 728085 found 2 NVA bunkers with recent signs of use. One position had a lot of blood in it. At 740087 the PF platoon found 9 122mm rocket canisters and several sets of footprints.

16 March 1971 C/1-501 IN vicinity XD945606 received small arms fire and frags. Engaged 20m from their location. Results 1 US WIA, 2 NVA KIA, 1 RPG launcher with 2 rounds, 1 AK-47, 1 PRD MG with 1000 round belt.

16 March 1971 C/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon vicinity found 6 152mm rounds complete with powder chargers, projectiles and fuses on trial-oriented north to south. Also 25 ChiCom grenades.

17 March 1968 At 0145H, 2-501 IN BN, Recon reported 4 lightly wounded, two will require medevac in morning. All were wounded by fragmentation. At 0210H, 2-501 IN BN, Recon recapped that they received 5 rounds RPG – 3 directed at Radar, 2 at platoon CP. Also, approximately 15 rounds small arms fire, and 2 rounds 60mm. Casualties – 5 WIA (light), 3 will require medevac but will wait until morning; 3 from Radar, one to be evacuated, 2 from Recon, both to be evacuated. At 0803H, A/2-501 IN started moving at 0757H on their search and destroy, picked up detainee on a local sweep vicinity 695205. Individual attempted to evade capture on bicycle. At 0900H, C/2-501 IN about 1200 meters from CPN received small arms fire from south of Highway 1; approximately 50 meters from road in bunkers. Swept area with negative results. At 1515H, C/2-501 IN elements repots till on hill, elements went on ridge after side received SA sniper fire moving to eliminate it vicinity 653203. A/2-501 IN requests ARA for 16 element receiving sporadic sniper fire from 653203. Also, some fire from valley below their location in bunkers. At 1535H, A/2-501 IN elements receiving fire from 660201 and 664196. At 1625H, A/2-501 IN element at vicinity 653203 received a few sniper rounds from 647206 as they moved into the vicinity a few enemy personnel departed to the west. The element found six (6) bunkers and are destroying them at 653203. At 2045H, A/2-501 IN reported summary of contact. Alpha 16 element approached Hill 305 from the steep side catching the enemy by surprise two (2) CHI claymores were blown by the enemy, 3 more were destroyed by 16 element; six (6) bunkers were destroyed. Bunkers were made of pickets and P.S.P. A/2-501 IN had a body count of one (1) and no friendly casualties. At 2345H, A/2-501 IN, B/2-501 IN and D/2-501 IN negative activity; 2-501 IN BN, Recon has no more incoming rounds at this time, they are still looking for movement of the two (2) squad size elements. C/2-501 IN reports a force of approximately six (6) people milling in one area. Possible mortar squad, vicinity 684248, approximately 75 meters to the front of C/2-501 IN Tiger 3 element. At 2358H, C/2-501 IN reports Tiger 3 element in process of moving out to engage these people to their front; Charlie 6 has warned all his Soldiers and is standing by in case they try to come in. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officers Log; 17 March 1968)

17 March 1969 **Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER:** 1-502 IN BN elements continued RIF operations and security operations with B/1-502 IN discovering a recently used NVA base area. C/1-502 IN destroyed enemy bunkers and a quantity of ammunition vicinity of FSB Veghel.

17 March 1971 B/1-501 IN, 1st platoon received 20 rounds of 82mm, 1 bunker hit direct resulting in 1 US WIA and 2 US KIA.

17 March 1971 Shortly after being inserted into the Rockpile area northwest of QUANG TRI, "Geronimo's" of C/1-501 IN discovered an enemy supply trail. Employing mechanical ambushes and small arms fire, the Screaming Eagles element killed 9 NVA Soldiers, captured 18 rucksacks of rice and seven rifles. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 4); Winter – Spring 1970 – 1971)



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.

1 x Distinguished Service Cross (1 x Posthumously)
8 x Silver Star Medal
3 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
9 x Bronze Star Medal (9 x Posthumously)
34 x Purple Heart Medal (27 x Posthumously)
1 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor

11 March 1968



SSG Charles J. Maguire (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 452; 24 April 1968)

11 March 1968



SP4 Thomas Ptak (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 452; 24 April 1968)

11 March 1968

SGT Dale J. Nuxoll (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 452; 24 April 1968)

11 March 1968

SP4 Glen I. Sakagawa (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 452; 24 April 1968)

11 March 1968

SP4 Bobby J. Linville (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 452; 24 April 1968)

11 March 1968

SP4 Thomas A. Soals (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 452; 24 April 1968)

11 March 1968



SP4 Raymond G. Rocha (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 wounds when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

12 March 1968



PFC Paul T. Arambula (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of metal fragment wounds when he was hit by fragment from hostile booby trap while on combat operations 3km North of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

12 March 1968



PFC Bernd Bachleda (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire 3km North of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



12 March 1968



SP4 Richard L. Dunlap (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire 3km North of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

12 March 1968



SGT William A. Jones (C/2-501IN) 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 metal fragment wounds received when he was hit by fragmentation from a hostile booby trap while on combat operations 3km North of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

12 March 1969



CPL John A. Ramirez (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms fire while on combat operation during combat operation from a hostile force during a combat assault on FSB Veghel, 28km SW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

12 March 1969



SP4 Paul J. Peoples (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 fire while on combat operation during combat operation from a hostile force during a combat assault on FSB Veghel, 28km SW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

12 March 1971



SSG Benjamin E. Slagowski (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 he was mistaken for a hostile force and fired upon by artillery fire from a friendly force 9km NW of Hue SW AFLD in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. SSG Slagowski was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired.

13 March 1968



PFC Leon J. Atteridge Jr. (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from a gunshot wounds when hit by hostile sniper fire while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 March 1968



SP4 Ruben N. Tackett (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 March 1969



SP4 Douglas W. Bice (C/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 small arms gun fire wounds 300 meters north of FSB Veghel, 18km W-SW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



13 March 1969



SP4 Craig S. Mettling (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds 300 meters north of FSB Veghel, 18km W-SW of Hue SW Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 March 1970



SP4 Robert H. Goosen (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragment wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered on 7 February 1970 in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. SP4 Goosen was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired.

13 March 1970

SP4 Benjamin F. Jackson (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 March 1971



SGT Neal S. Crowder (C/1-501 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 military mission when a hostile force was encountered when unit was ambushed 14km N-NW of Ca Lu Airfield in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. SGT Crowder was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired.

14 March 1968



SP5 William W. McConnell (HQ/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 gunshot wounds received when hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

14 March 1971



PFC Alvin Adikai Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while a passenger on a military vehicle mission when a mine detonated 4 KM S-SW of Cam Lo Village in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 March 1966



SGT Tomas V. Martinez (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds to his chest and intestines received in hostile ground action the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

15 March 1968



PFC Danny E. Blevins (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 wound received while on combat operation when bit by hostile small arms fire in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



15 March 1970



SGT Paul D. Carson (C/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 an explosive device while on a combat operation when a mine detonated in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 March 1971



SGT John Elam Jr. (C/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 when he was killed while on a combat operation when a mine detonated 14km N-NW of Ca Lu Airfield, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 March 1971

CPL Juan Espinosa (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed while on a combat operation when a mine detonated 14km N-NW of Ca Lu Airfield, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 March 1971



SGT James C. Mullinax Jr. (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed while on a combat operation when a mine detonated 14km N-NW of Ca Lu Airfield, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 March 1968



SSG Bogard L. Floyd (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force in Vietnam. (Silver Star Certificate)

16 March 1968



SGT Gary P. Hadley (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds when he engaged hostile force while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 March 1968



SSG Bogard L. Floyd (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death as a result of gunshot wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 March 1968



SSG Bogard L. Floyd (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for meritorious achievement in ground operation against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 318; 08 April 1968)



16 March 1968



PFC Christopher H. Bell (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death as a result of gunshot wounds received when his unit engaged hostile automatic weapons fire while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

17 March 1968



SP4 Roger E. Duncan (B/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 multiple fragmentation wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

17 March 1971



SP4 Thomas E. Testorff (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed while on a combat operation when the area came under mortar attack by hostile forces in the Tien Hien River Valley 11km NW of Ca Lu Airfield in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

17 March 1971



SP4 Harry C. King (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed while on a combat operation when the area came under mortar attack by hostile forces in the Tien Hien River Valley 11km NW of Ca Lu Airfield in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

11 March 1968



SSG Charles J. Maguire (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 11 March 1968. Staff Sergeant Maguire distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader with Company B, 2d Battalion, and 501st Infantry. As Company B moved on a combat operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam, Staff Sergeant Maguire was leading the point squad in its advance. Quite suddenly, the company came under very heavy automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire. Fully realizing his precarious situation, Staff Sergeant Maguire quickly moved his squad to a more advantageous position when he could organize them and place effective fire on the enemy. When Staff Sergeant Maguire saw a man fall under the tremendous barrage of fire, he dashed across forty meters of bullet-swept rice paddy and started administering first aid despite the battle raging all around him. While treating the man, a rocket propelled grenade exploded very close to Staff Sergeant Maguire and he and three other men were quite seriously wounded. In spite of his painful wound, Staff Sergeant Maguire refused to be evacuated and moved back to continue directing his element in the close-in combat that threatened to become hand to hand fighting. Only when he was out of ammunition could his comrades persuade Staff Sergeant Maguire to move to the rear for medical attention. Though the enemy fire still was sweeping every sector of the company area, he started moving to the aid station, some one hundred meters to the rear, through a hail of bullets. On his way, Staff Sergeant Maguire stopped to help another man to the aid station that was unable to move himself. His heroic actions and selfless devotion to his men mark him as a truly remarkable soldier. Staff Sergeant Maguire's exceptionally valorous 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 AIR CAV DIV; General Orders Number 4552; 11 August 1968)

12 March 1968



CPT Dennis J. Gillem (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (3-OLC) for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 March 1968. Captain Gillem distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry. Company C was on a combat operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam, when the left flank sustained intense enemy fire. The greatest portion of the fire was coming from two bunkers to the company's front, and the enemy fire was a highly effective interlocking sectors type fire. When the bunker on the left was eliminated, the bunker on the right began to put out an even greater and deadlier base of fire upon the left flank element, inflicting a growing number of casualties. Captain Gillem completely ignoring the voluminous amount of enemy fire hitting around him, assaulted the enemy bunker with only a forty-five pistol and hand grenades, disregarding his own safety. With only destruction of the enemy position in his mind, Captain Gillem succeeded in neutralizing it an enabling his company to proceed to the successful end of their operation. Captain Gillem'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 7793; 19 October 1968)

12 March 1968

1LT Gary C. Bridges (C/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 12 March 1968. First Lieutenant Bridges distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry. Company c was on a combat operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam when the left flank sustained heavy enemy fire from strongly fortified positions. Immediately, First Lieutenant Bridges maneuvered his platoon form his company's right flanks to the enemy's respective left flank. When First Lieutenant Bridges saw that the attack was losing momentum, without hesitation or regard for his own life, he immediately volunteered to take a small group of men on an extremely hazardous two-fold mission. First, he led the small group across a river which meant wading through mud and water up to his chest to extract a wounded man, sniper fire intensifying as he went. Secondly, having picked up the wounded man, First Lieutenant Bridges directed his small group in an attack to hit yet another side of the enemy position. Moving from each of his group's positions, Fist Lieutenant Bridges, ignoring the increasingly heavy enemy fire which was flying around him, gave encouragement and direction to each of his men calmly and fearlessly. His determination and courage during the operation were instrumental in his company's completion of the mission. First Lieutenant Bridges' disregard for his own safety and calm determination in the face of a larger enemy force were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United State Army. (HQ, 101st AIR CAV DIV; General Orders Number 5246; 29 August 1968)

12 March 1968



SGT Willie D. Montgomery (C/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 12 March 1968. Sergeant Montgomery distinguished himself while serving as team leader with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company C was on a combat operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam, when the left portion of the company came under increasingly heavy fire from a series of reinforced bunkers to its right and front. Sergeant Montgomery was under fire almost form the first shot but refused to seek cover for himself. Despite the deadly fire that swept all sectors of the field, he volunteered to join his squad leader in attacking a bunker. Sergeant Montgomery moved forward, braving the enemy position that had several men totally pinned down. As he destroyed the first bunker with a hand grenade, another supporting bunker opened fire on him. Without hesitation, he shifted his attention to the second position and assaulted it with equal fervor. The pressure he applied on its soon began to tell and the enemy began to flee in complete disarray. Sergeant Montgomery's exceptional valor and determination were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (DA, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 5349; 8 September 1968)



13 March 1968



CPT Dennis J. Gillem (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 March 1968. Captain Gillem distinguished himself while serving as company commander with Company C, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company C was on a combat operation in the vicinity of Hue, Republic of Vietnam and was approaching a river when it came under heavy enemy fire from a series of fortified bunkers and houses on the opposite side of the river. As one man attempted to cross a bridge over the river, he was hit and fell on the bridge. When another man moved to the bridge to help the wounded man, he became pinned down by the intense enemy fire. Completely disregarding his own safety, Captain Gillem ran to an exposed position, enabling the man pinned down to move the wounded man as he laid down suppressive fire on the enemy positions. The wounded man was evacuated as far as the river bank but could be moved no further on the ground as a veritable fusillade of enemy rounds hitting all around them impeded any further progress on land. Oblivious to the hail of enemy rounds hitting all around him, Captain Gillem ran from his position, across an open rice paddy, and down the river bed constantly exposing himself to the lethal volleys of the enemy. Upon reaching the water he inflated an air mattress, moved it through not only the water but also the unwavering enemy fire, secured the wounded man and floated him down the river to a point where he could be administered aid. Captain Gillem's steadfast courage and total dedication to his men is 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 5189; 29 August 1968)

13 March 1971



LTC Arthur C. Dister Jr. (HHC/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Colonel Dister distinguished himself on 13 March 1971 while serving as Battalion Commander, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, on a combat operation in Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. When Lieutenant Colonel Dister's helicopter, preparing to land at his company's field location, came under intense hostile fire, he detected numerous enemy positions. Jumping from the craft, Lieutenant Colonel Dister moved to an open area, and despite the extreme danger, called for an directed artillery fire on the enemy emplacements. Although seriously wounded, he remained exposed to the hostile onslaught and continued directing the artillery attack until he could be medically evacuated. Lieutenant Colonel Dister's gallantry in action was 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 4070; 10 May 1971)

14 March 1969



SP4 Robert L. Eppers (HHC/1-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor (1-OLC) for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 14 March 1969. Specialist Eppers distinguished himself while serving as a radio telephone operator in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Eppers was directing the landing of resupply helicopters on a mountain fire support base when he suddenly spotted a firing device half buried in the landing zone. Quickly waving a helicopter off to an alternate landing zone while another helicopter prepared to land, he resolutely uncovered the device and the two attached mortar rounds, disarmed them, and then continued to direct the incoming aircraft. His swift and courageous reaction to the danger averted possible casualties and prevented the destruction of incoming aircraft. Specialist Eppers' 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 4986, 20 May 1969)

16 March 1966

1LT James D. Hart (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 16 March 1966 while serving as platoon leader on a combat operation near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. As First Lieutenant Hart was leading a patrol deep in a Viet Cong infested area, his unit received intense hostile fire. First Lieutenant Hart immediately moved forward through the intense fire and quickly made an estimate of the situation. Although repeatedly exposed to the Viet Cong fire, First Lieutenant Hart skillfully deployed his men and effectively directed their return fire. As the battle continued, the patrol sustained several casualties. Unhesitatingly, First Lieutenant Hart called for supporting artillery fire. With complete disregard for his safety, First Lieutenant Hart repeatedly exposed himself to the hostile enemy fire as he skillfully adjusted the artillery fire onto the Viet Cong emplacements. He then personally led an assault on the hostile positions. Inspired by their leader, the patrol eagerly and aggressively joined him in the assault. During the course of action, First Lieutenant Hart wounded three Viet Cong and neutralized their emplacement with well-placed had grenades. His courageous efforts enabled the patrol to continue their mission which resulted in the capture of six rifles and one machine gun. First Lieutenant Hart's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV; General Orders Number 4720; 18 July 1966)



16 March 1968



PFC Christopher Hiawatha Bell (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Private First Class Bell distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions during a search and destroy mission in enemy territory. Realizing the danger of the mission, Private Bell volunteered to be point man in place of his less experienced comrades. He came upon a fork in the trail, stopped the platoon and moved forward alone. He suddenly opened fire, killing an enemy soldier on the trail. The platoon was immediately pinned down by a vicious hail of enemy automatic weapons fire from at least three positions. Private Bell, trapped in front of the platoon, began placing a heavy volume of effective counter fire on the insurgents, allowing his platoon leader to deploy the lead squad. The enemy fire became so intense that the squad was soon immobilized as it tried to maneuver against the insurgents. Realizing the precarious situation that was rapidly developing, Private Bell quickly went into action. He secured hand grenades from his rucksack and began to crawl through the murderous barrage toward the enemy bunker putting out the heaviest volume of firepower. As he neared the position, he exposed himself to the fusillade to throw a grenade which destroyed the bunker and killed its occupants. The platoon was still receiving heavy automatic weapons fire, so he moved toward a second bunker and destroyed it with hand grenades. The platoon then began receiving fire from a position to its left flank, and Private Bell began moving towards the source. Once in range, he rose to throw a grenade and was struck by a burst of automatic weapons fire which knocked him to the ground. Ignoring his wound and completely disregarding his safety, he got to his feet and rushed forward. He was struck twice more by a burst from the enemy machine gun, but he continued to charge until he was close enough to throw a grenade into the bunker, destroying it. Private First Class Bell's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number 3762; 2 August 1968)

16 March 1968



COL John H. Cushman (2nd BDE CDR) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 16 March 1968. Colonel Cushman distinguished himself on 16 March 1968 while serving as Brigade Commander, Second Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, on a combat operation with Company A 1st Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry. On 16 March the 1st Platoon, attacking north, had been stopped by intense rocket and automatic weapons fire from concealed bunker positions 200 meters inside the village. The 2nd platoon was engaged with the enemy in a flanking position 300 meters to the northwest. Movement of the company was halted. Colonel Cushman, Brigade Commander, was airborne over the battle area in an unarmed light observation helicopter, OH-23. Realizing that effective and early resumption of the attack required his personal intervention, Colonel Cushman landed in his OH-23 100 meters from the 2nd platoon and with his radio operator moved forward into the fire-swept area to the platoon leader and platoon sergeant where he determined the situation. Returning to his landing area, he called in his helicopter and moved to the location of the company commander. With his radio operator he accompanied the company commander and artillery forward observer to where the 1st platoon was in contact. Here he determined that the point elements of the 1st platoon had been cut down by machine gun fire from a concealed enemy bunker, and that platoon lead elements continued under intense enemy fire. Colonel Cushman then moved forward to join lead riflemen of the platoon. Exposing himself to hostile fire at close range, he determined that the primary fire support needed by Company A was aerial rocket artillery fire to disengage the 1st platoon, recover its wounded, and destroy the enemy positions. Colonel Cushman so informed the battalion commander and remained with the artillery forward observer near the enemy positions until the rocket attack was successfully completed. Returning to the company command post and determining that lack of ammunition was holding up a flanking attack by the 2nd platoon, Colonel Cushman once again called in his OH-23, boarded it, loaded it with ammunition, and once more entered the fire-swept 2nd platoon area where he delivered the ammunition and evacuated a wounded soldier. Company A then executed a flanking attack by the 2nd platoon, enveloping the enemy positions.

16 March 1968

CPT Allen D. Gezelman (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 16 March 1968. Captain Gezelman distinguished himself with extraordinary gallantry in action while serving as Company Commander of Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Company A had been given the mission of searching and clearing the village of Ap Co Thap, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. As the elements of the company maneuvered into attack positions around the village, the 1st platoon received intense enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire. Captain Gezelman, realizing the seriousness of the contact, immediately moved forward to the 1st platoon's position in order to better evaluate the situation. Captain Gezelman skillfully directed the 2d and 3d platoons to maneuver to the right flank of the 1st platoon, where they could render support to the 1st platoon. Captain Gezelman, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, remained with the forward elements in order to better direct the battle. Under Captain Gezelman's precise directions and outstanding leadership, the company swiftly and successfully suppressed the enemy fire and forced the enemy to flee the village. As a result of the battle, 15 enemies were killed while Company A sustained only a few casualties. Captain Gezelman's gallant actions and devotion to duty while engaged in close combat with an armed enemy force 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 1769; 18 June 1968)

17 March 1969

1SG Alexander Maka (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for an action during a night reconnaissance mission near Hai Lang, which saw the veteran infantryman assume command of a patrol when the platoon leader was wounded his company commander killed. His company had been engaged in search and destroy, sweeps during the day and consolidated their forces for the night. Elements of the company were given a reconnaissance mission and had moved about 300 meters from their position when they received fire from machine-gun and grenades. Attempts to dislodge the enemy from his bunkers proved unsuccessful and when the platoon leader and company commander became casualties, Maka assumed command. He set up a 90mm recoilless rifle and destroyed the bunker and enemy machine guns which had pinned down the platoon. Repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire, Maka completed several ammunition resupply missions and controlled the evacuation of the wounded. Sgt. Maka, now serving his third tour in Vietnam, fought previously with the 1st Air Cav. Div. and was an advisor to an ARVN airborne division.



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

