



STRIKE

Vietnam War Weekly History



February 10th – February 16th, 2019

Issue: 140

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.)

10 February 1967 **Operation GATTLING I & II:** POW camp was found, and 16 indigenous prisoners were liberated. It appeared that the camp had held more than 100 people, including VC jailers and staff; the bulk of whom had been removed. The brief action involved in taking the camp resulted in 1 VC KHA and 2 weapons captured.

During the remainder of the operation units were extracted from the AO one at a time to return to PHAN RANG and bring their gear to PHAN THIET, which became the 2-502 IN BN forward base camp. Having moved their baggage, the companies returned to the field.

10 February 1968 COL Cushman directs 2BDE to concentrate on combined operations with ARVN and Province forces within the brigade's AO.

10 February 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** 2-502 IN BN had conducted extensive search and destroy operations and was conducted with only sporadic light contact with local force units. Contact with main force VC/NVA units failed to materialize.

Results of Operation KLAMATH FALLS:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>WIA</u>
US	3	23	2

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VC KIA</u>	<u>NVA KIA</u>	<u>Wpns Ind.</u>	<u>Returnee</u>
ENEMY	23	1	8 AK-47's	2

The Battalion personnel strength at the conclusion of Operation was as follows:

Authorized:	778
Assigned:	696
Present for Duty:	620
Not present for duty:	78

10 February 1969 Penetration into enemy base areas and extensive operations on the plains resulted in occasional contacts with squad to platoon size elements. As 2-501 IN BN pursued the 5th NVA Regiment near NUI KE, A/2-501 IN BN killed two enemy. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)

10 February 1969 **Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** B/1-502 IN moved from LZ SALLY to YD6240 and conducted a RIF at YD626172. The B/1-502 IN found 72 old bunkers. C/1-502 IN moved to LZ SALLY and then conducted a C/A to 4 ambush positions. D/1-502 IN was established at FSB T-BONE. At 2040 hours in the vicinity YD658219, 2nd platoon sprung an ambush on VC moving along a trail from west to east. The VC were engaged with claymore and small arms. There were negative results. Recon platoon moved to LZ SALLY.

10 February 1970 A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon discovered an enemy mortar site. The platoon was able to recover 11 mortar rounds, 30 firing caps in a can, and numerous firing caps on the ground. Apparently, duds as they appeared to have been pried out of the tail section of the rounds that didn't set off. The firing caps have the appearance of 12 gauge shot gun shells. The platoon called in a disposal unit who flew in by helicopter and removed the ordinance.

11 – 14 February 1966 **Operation VAN BUREN:** The 2-502 IN BN conducted nine (9) squad size RECONDO patrols vicinity BQ995285 at 141545H. A/2-502 IN infiltrated into the area vicinity coordinates BQ950278 the day before Operations CHECKERBOARD. C/2-502 IN discovered a cache of medical supplies, ammunition and explosives vicinity coordinates BQ995285. Results for period 101815HFebruary1966 to 141800February1966 were the following: 2 VC KIA (BC), 2 BC WIA (EST), 1 weapon, 40,000 rounds small arms ammunition, 7 Bangalore torpedoes, 12 grenades and 50 pounds of TNT. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report, Operation Van Buren; 25 February 1966)

11 - 16 February 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** The 2-502 IN BN moved to DA NANG from BIEN HOA. This was conducted in two phases.



11 – 16 February 1968

Operation Unnamed: Operation began (2-502 IN BN);
Locations: BIEN HOA Province, RVN; SAIGON, RVN; South China Sea; DA NANG, RVN;
Task Organization: (TF Danford): 2-502 IN BN, 1/A/326 ENG, C/2-320 ARTY, IPW, 181 MI Detachment.
Mission: The 2-502 IN BN moved by motor march from BIEN HOA to NEWPORT, SAIGON, and LST to DA NANG, RVN. (AAR 17FEB1968)



The Battalion personnel strength at the beginning of Operation was as follows:

Authorized:	778
Assigned:	681
Present for Duty:	588
Not present for duty:	93

Execution:

Phase I – This phase included the repositioning of cargo and personnel at the NEWPORT docks for further deployment by ship. At 1345H on 11 February the cargo was carried by motor convoy for boarding at NEWPORT. At 0815H on 12 February, the 1st of 2 March units departed BIEN HOA for NEWPORT. The second march unit departed BIEN HOA at 0830H on 12 February.



Phase II – At 1210 hours on 12 February, the 1st LST departed NEWPORT for DA NANG with A/2-502 IN, C/2-320 ARTY, and the command element abroad. At 1130H 12 February, the second LST departed NEWPORT with remainder of the TF.

Results: At 161600H Feb, the last elements of TF Danford closed DA NANG, RVN.

11 February 1968

At 1408H, A/2-501 IN found a freshly dug bunker approximately 1 week old with spider holes; possible mortar position vicinity 545311. Left intake due to no C4. At 1603H. D/2-501 IN received sniper fire from vicinity 541298, checked out area with negative results. At 2017H, reported from higher that A/2-501 IN and B/2-501 IN became OPCON to 1-7 CAV on 120700FEB1968. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 11 February 1968)

11 February 1969

Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A/1-502 IN conducted a C/A from LZ SALLY to YD589155 and then conducted RIF operation. B/1-502 IN conducted saturation patrols and established ambush positions. At YD631167, 1st platoon found 6 new bunkers, 70lbs fresh rice, 700 AK-47 rounds, 2 hooches and some tools. C/1-502 IN conducted saturation patrols in the vicinity YD6929. D/1-502 IN continued to provide security for FSB T-BONE. Recon platoon conducted a C/A from LZ SALLY to YD589155 and conducted a RIF operation.

11 February 1970

A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon at vicinity 713061 found shot gun shells, not a US manufactured type. A/1-502 IN later found 11 82mm mortar rounds, 3 cans shotgun rounds and a bamboo carrier. Recon found two launching sites for 122mm rockets location 737018.

11 February 1970

FSB RIFLE was attacked at 0113H with mortar, RPGs and using sappers, the enemy penetrated the perimeter of the two battalions of the 502d ABN IN and the 5th ARVN. Begore being driven off by US artillery, aerial rocket artillery, and flareship, the enemy destroyed an aid station and one other building. The nine (9) KIA (8 US, 1 ARVN) and 15 WIA (12 US, 3 ARVN) cost the enemy 12 KIA. (HQ, USMACV; Command History 1970, Volume III; 19 April 1971)

11 February 1970

Operation RANDLOPH GLEN: 2-502 IN BN (STRIKE FORCE) Battalion receives approximately fifty 60mm mortar rounds at FSB RIFLE. The ground mortar attack is followed by an attack by an unknown number of enemy sappers. The attack lasted for approximately 45 min. The STRIKE FORCE troopers successfully repel the attack but not until nine STRIKE FORCE Soldiers gave their lives in defense of the firebase, killing 12 NVA. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding) (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 1); Spring 1970)

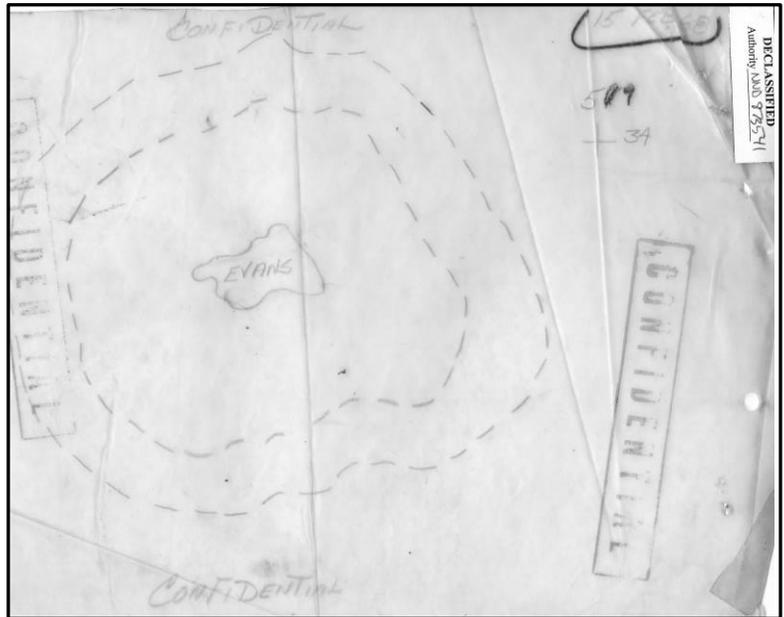


12 February 1968

At 1612H, B/2-501 IN found fresh ammo can with apparent Chinese marking at vicinity 564311. One female detainee apprehended at same location. At 1630H, B/2-501 IN enroute to LZ EVANS. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 12 February 1968)

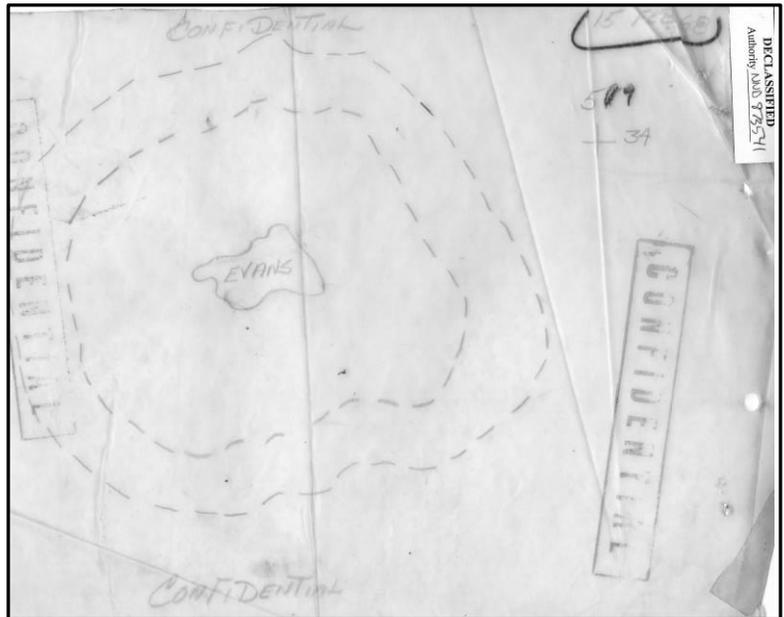


- 12 February 1968 1-502 IN BN continues search and destroy operations east of QUANG TRI and security of LZ JANE. Contact light with 1 WIA by booby-trap.
- 12 February 1969 The Screaming Eagle Division's "orphan" battalion in II Corps, the 3-506 CURRAHEES, was in heavy contact. Charlie Company combat assaulted into a hot LZ in support of RFs and was immediately engaged by the NVA. In a seven-hour firefight, the paratroopers killed 20 enemy while D/2-320 ARTY killed five. Other elements of I Field Force's Task Force South accounted for another 28-enemy killed. Back in I Corps, the 1BDE opened a new offensive operation with a combat assault by 2-502 IN BN north and east of FSB BRICK. The 2BDE's, 1-501 IN BN established a new cordon southwest of FSB SANDY. Elsewhere, SCREAMING EAGLES deployed to complement the disposition of ARVN troops for the TET holidays. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)
- 12 February 1969 **Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** 1-502 IN BN continued with patrols and ambushes. At 1635H at YD582154, Recon platoon-initiated contact on an estimated 10 NVA moving on a trail. The action resulted in 1 US WIA, 1 NVA KIA, 1 AK-47, 4 rucksacks, 1 radio and 1 surgical kit captured.
- 12 February 1970 1-502 IN BN, Recon team 1 found 3 hootches with signs of recent use. Also found a note containing several names.
- 13 February 1968 At 0621H, 2-501 IN, Recon received 2 incoming rounds which landed within 50 meters of their location; no casualties reported. At 0705H, 2-501 IN BN relayed message for B/2-501 IN to have one platoon report to A/2-501 IN to be sued to occupy 2 OP's and to report NLT 0800H. A/2-501 IN informed that B/2-501 IN would supply one platoon to assume responsibility of their section; A/2-501 IN was to move out NLT 0830H. If A/2-501 IN needed a dog team during the day to report it to battalion headquarters and they will have a slick bring one out to their location. C/2-501 IN was to move to a location of their choice and recommended by battalion S3 for movement to grid 538293 to set up a base resupply camp. C/2-501 IN was informed to get max rest during the day and wait for further orders. C/2-501 IN, Commander stated that this was a completed change of mission, of what was discussed before. Battalion informed Recon platoon of same mission with grid coordinate of 49300. B/2-501 IN will be working in grids 5630 & 5631. B/2-501 IN was informed that 2 dog teams will be ready with pickup NLT 0830H. 1-7 CAV informed battalion S3 negative on Bird dog aircraft support today. Possibly if battalion called Division, they might come up with something. C/2-501 IN reported where is to set up camp for the day vicinity. At 0915H, B/2-501 IN reported clearing CAMP EVANS and proceeding on assigned mission. At 1016H, B/2-501 IN reported that they needed medevac due to Soldiers stepping on booby trap; medevac completed at 1029H with one Soldiers. At 1100H, B/2-501 IN reported injured Soldier apparently was trying to pick up grenade type device – 1SG is checking to make determination. B/2-501 IN apprehended one detainee male, 50yrs old at YD561311 at will returned to CAMP EVANS. At 1135H, LT Bischoff delivered AO overlay to MAJ Brown 1-30 ARTY – ground clearance for unobserved fires in the AO will be required from 2-501 IN BN. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 13 February 1968)
- 13 February 1968 1-502 IN BN continues search and destroy operations southeast of QUANG TRI and security of LZ JANE. Negative contact made.
- 13 – 19 February 1968 2-502 IN BN departed by sea on 13 February and on 19 February landed at DA NANG. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, HQ, 101st Air Cavalry Division, Period Ending 30 April 1968)
- 13 February 1969 **Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** 1-502 IN BN continued with patrols and ambushes. At 1100H at YD628166, B/1-502 IN, 1st platoon made contact with an enemy force. The results were 5 US WIA and 1 US KIA. There was negative assessment of enemy casualties. At 0930H at YD578154, Recon platoon made contact resulting in 1 US WIA.
- 13 February 1969 The new LEECH ISLAND operation continued as 2-502 IN BN searched for an enemy sapper battalion. 2-501 IN BN continued to recon in the NUI KE area, killing three enemy. 2-17 CAV gunships, while supporting the 9th Marines' Operation DEWEY CANYON north of the A SHAU VALLEY, killed five enemy. 3-506 CURRAHEES discovered 22-1/2 tons of rice. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)
- 13 February 1970 D/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon is training PF personnel on map reading and the use of a compass. They also are teaching M-16 inspection and cleaning to other PF personnel.



14 February 1968

At 0810H, D/2-501 IN reported that they had 2 lightly wounded, still needed to be picked up and needed medical supplies. Medevac request was requested. At 0907H, A/2-501 IN reported about 30 personnel moving over the hill side at vicinity 523297 or they belong to C/2-501 IN. At 1700H, BN XO reported to CO that the move to BEIN HOA will begin on 16 February 1968. The order of movement will be 1-501 IN, 2-501 IN, BDE element 2-502 IN. We do not know how long the movement will take. At present time we do not know the availability of transportation. At 1700H, 3BDE reported that they were moving back at this time about 500 meters from the bridge, we had only 1 casualty. He was KIA. At 1925H, D/2-501 IN reported during search and destroy operation vicinity 631310 found 3 – M-1 rifles, 5 – Carbines, 12 rounds 60mm mortar, 4 magazines, .30 cal. Ammo and miscellaneous web gear.



At 1947H, B/2-501 IN reported that they had HI M-79 round impacting 300-400 meters from vicinity 551307. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 13 February 1968)

14 February 1968

During the reporting period the 1-502 IN BN continued S&D (Search and Destroy) operations to the southeast of QUANG TRI and continued to furnish security along QL #10 northwest to HAI LANG.

14 February 1969

Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A/1-502 IN received fire from an unknown element resulting in 1 US WIA. C/1-502 IN move to FSB T-BONE and assumed the security at T-Bone. D/1-502 IN moved off of FSB T-BONE and conducted patrols and established ambushes.

14 February 1969

3BDE initiated a new phase of its operation against the 6th NVA Regiment with 1-506 IN BN completing an air assault and beginning a RIF toward FSB SWORD. SCREAMING EAGLES conducted extensive patrol and RIF operations aimed at thwarting enemy attempts to position for a repetition of 1968's TET Offensive. Four enemy were killed, and 16 weapons captured during the day. The largest haul, of 12 weapons, was found in a hut near LEECH ISLAND by STRIKE FORCE troopers. Included in the find were nine M-2 carbines, two Chicom SMGs and a Russian SMG. Near NUI KE, paratroopers of 2-501 IN BN killed two VC and captured an RPG launcher and an AK-47. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)

14 February 1969

Near NUI KE, paratroopers of the 2-501 IN BN killed two VC and captured an RPG launcher and an AK-47.

14 February 1970

1-502 IN BN, Recon (-) cut LZ at 735020. 1-502 IN BN, Recon team 1 at 738016 engaged 1 NVA/VC with S/A fire. They then made a sweep of the area with negative findings.

14 February 1971

1-501 IN BN moved to field location YD934078 just to the south of FSB ANZIO, with A/1-501 IN providing security. The elements of C/1-501 IN were taken to PHU BAI Combat Base to conduct nightly ambushes to aid in the defense of the installation.

15 – 17 February 1966

Operation VAN BUREN: 2-502 IN BN continued aggressive RECONDO patrolling in the Western Sector of TAOR GOLD during this period discovering many caches with large amounts of equipment and many weapons. The following enemy equipment and weapons were captured: 43 weapons, eight 60mm mortar rounds, 30 uniforms, and 60,000 rounds of various types of small arms ammunition. Enemy results were VC KIA (BC) and 18 VCS. B/2-502 IN moved overland to secure artillery position vicinity CQ091358 on 17 February at 1400H. No contact was made enroute. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Operation VAN BUREN, After Action Report 150600H January 1966 – 201200 February 1966)

15 February 1967

Operation GATTLING I & II: No significant contact was made, and the 2-502 IN BN were extracted by helicopter to PHAN THIET. Final results of the operation were 7 VC KIA, 50 detainees, and 3 weapons captured. US losses amounted to 7 US WHA, mostly due to booby traps.



Although the results of the operation seem negligible, the mere presence of Allied Troops in this area (known as Military Region Six) served to let the VC know that they could not consider any area secure from invasion. MR 6 had unchallenged VC control for several years. During Operation GATTLING II, other elements of the 1BDE captured a large amount of signal equipment, indicating that a headquarters of some importance had been operating there prior to Allied penetration of the area.



15 February 1968

Operation JEB STUART: During the journal period, the 2BDE (-) continued Operation JEB STUART. Elements of the 2BDE cleared QL-1 from HAI LANG to vicinity MY THANH and conducted sweeping operations in the AO.

1-501 IN BN: A/1-501 IN conducted an airmobile assault into an LZ vicinity YD498515. C/1-501 IN and D/1-501 IN continued sweeping SE from vicinity YD480520. At 2110H, D/1-501 IN received fire resulting in 1 US KIA & 1 US WIA vicinity YD497504.

1-502 IN BN: At 0325H a squad size ambush from A/1-502 IN ambushed estimated 30 NVA vicinity YD349427. Enroute to NDP patrol encountered 6 NVA. At first light, A/1-502 IN encountered 7 NVA at ambush site. Results: 13 NVA KIA (BC). At 0843H C/1-502 IN encountered 10 NVA vicinity YD37040, engaged with S/A & ARA. Results: 1 NVA KIA (BC). At 1027H B/1-502 IN conducted C/A into LZ YD466436 and received fire on second lift. B/1-502 IN swept along river and was extracted to LZ JANE at 1700H. Summary of Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log, HQ, 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV; 15 February 1968.

15 February 1968

D/2-501 IN under the operational control of 5-7 CAV came under heavy contact approximately 1 kilometer west of the main battle area (YD650250). Artillery and ARA were employed and B/5-7 CAV and C/5-7 CAV were rushed to reinforce D/2-501 IN in their fight against an estimated reinforced enemy company. By the after, when contact was breaking fifty-eight NVA had been killed. The two companies then rejoined the battalion in their blocking positions.

15 February 1968

D/2-501 IN (Delta Raiders), 2nd platoon and 3rd platoon was conducting a search and destroy mission while proceeding toward HUE. The platoon encountered an unknown number of NVA receiving heavy fire (machine guns, automatic weapons and motors). (A six-hour fire fight ensued. Results: 2nd and 3rd platoon suffered a total of 6 KIAs (2LT Robert Brulte, SGT David Cash, PFC Ernest P Holmes, CPL Wade E. Thackrey, CPL Emanuel F. Burroughs and PFC Henry Tabet). 17 MIAs (Michael Kopay, Billy Barnett, Bernard Hacker, William Heinz, Julio Medina, Robert Rainwater, Eugene Robertson, Kurtland Waker, Joe Dunlap, Ronald Hendrix, David McKieghan, Alex "Doc" Spivey, John Wheat, Dennis Simmons, Barry Rainey, Glen Pechacek, and Robert Gould) with NVA KIAs 56. (From D/2-501 IN incident reports)

15 February 1969

Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon engaged 2 VC at YD578148 resulting in 1 US WIA, 1 VC KIA and 1 AK-47 captured. B/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon at YD628165 engaged 2 NVA resulting in 1 NVA KIA, 1 NVA WIA, 1 AK-47 and 1 RPG launcher captured. There were negative US casualties. The rest of the 1-502 IN BN continued conducting patrols and establishing ambushes, with C/1-502 IN providing security on FSB T-BONE.

15 February 1969

Scattered contact with squad-size or smaller enemy forces resulted in 11 enemy killed, two prisoners and 16 weapons captured. 2-502 IN BN found seven enemies' dead, later discovered five weapons in a tunnel during patrols north and east of FSB BRICK. In two brief contacts in the rocket belt, 1-502 IN BN killed one enemy, captured another and took an AK and an RPG launcher. RAKKASANS of A Company engaged a squad, killing one enemy, taking a prisoner and four AK-47s, two machine guns and two RPG launchers northwest of FSB Katy. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)

15 February 1970

Operation RANDOLPH GLEN: 2-502 IN BN (STRIKE FORCE) Battalion Command Post was moved from FSB RIFLE to CAMP EAGLE and FSB RIFLE was closed. Operations continued in the area north of FSB RIFLE with E/2-502 IN occupying FSB ARSENAL (YD812082). There was no enemy contact for the next three weeks. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)

15 February 1971

1-502 IN BN moved to FSB THUNDERBIRD with C/1-502 IN manning the perimeter.

15 February 1971

1-501 IN BN moved to FSB THUNDERBIRD where it stayed until 18 February when the battalion returned to PBCB for refresher training.

16 February 1968

Operation JEB STUART: 2BDE continued operation JEB STUART under the OPCON of 1ACD. Elements cleared QL-1 from HAI LANG to vicinity MY THANH and operation we conducted in the AO. 1-501 IN BN was levied to provide one platoon for security for SEABEEs for their work in upgrading road from HAI LANG to the sea. SEABEEs will arrive HAI LANG with 20-40 personnel and 21 pieces of equipment at 1030H. In addition, the mine sweep team with B/1-501 IN clearing NE along access road upon linking up with mine sweep team with D/1-502 IN clearing SW along access road will proceed to HAI LANG with security provided by 1-501 IN BN and begin sweeping "road to the sea". At 0745H A/1-501 IN received sniper fire from the W at coordinate YD494513. At 0808H, 1-501 IN BN, Recon platoon engaged 3 individuals at 2155H last night with negative results. At 1012H it was reported that the District Chief HAI LANG reports that from YD481443 NE to YD501463 on East side of river, estimated 1 rifle battalion located there yesterday. Village personnel moving out of village. District Chief trying to get more information if battalion is still in the area. At 1220H 1-501 IN BN between following coordinates 1 NVA BN located YD463491 – YD475485, air strike requested. At 1146H 1-502 IN BN reported vicinity YD487444 – 2 VC engaged 1-502 IN BN C/C. Gun team from 1-9 CAV called in result 2 VC KIA (BC) VC were on S side of stream. At 1330H 1-502 IN BN reported vicinity YD495453, 3 VC heavily armed and running, gun team engaged, results: 3 VC KIA (BC (1-9 CAV). At 1332H 1-502 IN BN reported vicinity YD483445m A/1-502 IN received rounds of S/A pulling back to call in artillery. At 1329H, C/1-502 IN at YD494447 engaged 1 VC. Results: 1 VC KIA (BC). At 1339H, A/1-502 IN in contact with unknown size enemy force at YD484445 – received S/A & A/W fire and 10 mortar rounds, (size unknown) position unknown, A/1-502 IN has 1 KIA, 3 WIA – medevac has been requested presently calling in artillery. At 1420H, C/1-501 IN received A/W fire from YD498508 and YD496504 at 1410H at 1422 they reported all quiet. At 1440H, A/1-501 IN at YD456484 had several military age detainees, 1 with head wound, dressed in Khaki, pants and black shirt. At 1425H, C/1-502 IN was engaged with estimated enemy platoon, received heavy A/W and S/A fire. Called in ARA twice, still receiving heavy fires. At 1500H, A/1-502 IN and C/1-502 IN still in contact have had 1 critical WIA from C/1-502 IN, 1 KIA, 7 WIA from A/1-502 IN, all have been medevaced. At 1522H, A/1-502 IN at YD482442 have suffered 1 KIA, 7 WIA all medevaced in rice paddy south of village, have not entered village yet, using artillery and ARA on village, C/1-502 IN at YD493452 well into village have been using artillery & ARA, had 1 WIA, evacuated, 3 more WIA



at this time. At 1535H, C/1-501 IN receiving A/W fire from YD497507, estimate 3 A/W fire from YD497507, estimate 3 A/W, presently calling in artillery. At 1610H, D/1-501 IN had 1 NVA KIA (BC) vicinity YD474486, also found 3-4 manikins dressed in military uniforms at that location. At 1745H, D/1-501 IN vicinity YD475485 had found many bunkers, well prepared. Found an old woman who said there were many men in area about a week ago. Appears to be a battalion size location. At 2345H, 1-501 IN BN, Recon platoon in contact vicinity YD448508, 7 NVA KIA (BC), 4 KIA possible – negative US casualties, still in small contact S/A fire. (HQ, 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 16 February 1968)

- 16 February 1968 1-502 IN BN search and destroy operations with 2 Combat assaults by A/1-502 IN and C/1-502 IN. Heavy contact results in 1 KIA, 13 WIA, 1 MIA; Enemy 18 KIA (BC).
- 16 February 1969 **Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** The 1-502 IN BN continued to conduct patrols and ambushes. At YD624166 B/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon engaged 1 NVA with small arms resulting in 1 NVA KIA and 1 SKS captured. Later in the day the 2nd platoon engaged another NVA at the same location resulting in 1 NVA KIA and 1 AK-47 captured. At YD694306, D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon engaged 3 sampans and sunk one of them.
- 16 February 1969 SCREAMING EAGLES moved into defensive positions in the evening for a 24-hour TET holiday ceasefire. Earlier encounters with small enemy groups resulted in six killed and nine weapons captured. B/2-502 IN found seven hooches with bunkers and five weapons. First Strike troopers killed two enemy and captured their weapons. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)
- 16 February 1969 B/2-502 IN found seven hooches with bunkers and five weapons. The "FIRST STRIKE" troopers killed two enemies and captured their weapons.
- 16 February 1970 A/1-502 IN BN combat assaulted onto a closed FSB NORMANDY YD690017 in order to reopen it in support of FSB SPEAR and an operation in the AO. 2nd and 3rd platoons were tasked to stay on the hill as security for the 105's and 1st platoon was tasked to patrol and set up nightly ambushes at the base of the mountain.
- 16 February 1970 B/1-502 IN received transmission on radio from an unknown location. They identified themselves as lawyer 71,72,74 and 76.



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
6 x Silver Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
5 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (3 x Posthumously)
19 x Bronze Star Medal (19 x Posthumously)
2 x Army Commendation Medal (2 x Posthumously)
47 x Purple Heart Medal (39 x Posthumously)
40 x Air Medal
1 x Died of Non-Hostile Illness or Injuries

11 February 1970



SP4 John J. Burns Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and from wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket or mortar wounds while at an artillery firing position when mortar attacked on FSB RIFLE while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 16k W-SW of PHU BAI in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam

11 February 1970



PFC Morgan L. Cahoon (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal (1-OLC) and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and from wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket or mortar wounds while at an artillery firing position when attacked on FSB RIFLE while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 16k W-SW of PHU BAI in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam

11 February 1970



SGT Robert R. Davis (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and from wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragment wounds while at an artillery firing position when attacked on FSB RIFLE while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 16k W-SW of PHU BAI in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam

11 February 1970



PFC Timothy C. Farrell (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and from wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms fire wounds when attacked on FSB RIFLE while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 16k W-SW of PHU BAI in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

11 February 1970



SP4 Vincent M. LaRocca (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal (1-OLC) and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and from wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms fire wounds when attacked on FSB RIFLE while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 16k W-SW of PHU BAI in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

11 February 1970



SP4 Raymond R. Moon (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and from wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket or mortar wounds while at an artillery firing position when attacked on FSB RIFLE while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 16k W-SW of PHU BAI in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam



11 February 1970



PFC Marlin T. Peterson (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and from wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragment wounds while at an artillery firing position when attacked on FSB RIFLE while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 16k W-SW of PHU BAI in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam

11 February 1970



PFC Harold W. Shuler (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and from wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket or mortar wounds while at an artillery firing position when attacked on FSB RIFLE while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 16k W-SW of PHU BAI in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam

11 February 1970

SGT Danny E. Chavez (HHC 2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 6936; 19 June 1970)

12 February 1969



SP4 Antonino Ruggeri (A/2-502 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 while on combat operations when engaged hostile force in a firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. SP4 Ruggeri was admitted to a military hospital, placed on the VSI list and later expired.

13 February 1968



CPT Felix Sosa-Camejo (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (2-OLC) and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wound received when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation during USMC retaking HUE City, in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 February 1968



SGT Franklin Delano R. Hatton (B/2-502 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 was hit by hostile automatic weapons fire while on combat operations on January 25th in the PHUOC LONG Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 February 1969

1LT Robert C. Wilkins (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wound received during action against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2072; 9 March 1969)

13 February 1969

SGT Darryl F. Dilger (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wound received during action against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2072; 9 March 1969)

13 February 1969

PFC Salvadore O. Ricardo Jr. (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wound received during action against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2072; 9 March 1969)

13 February 1969

1LT Donald C. Murnock (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wound received during action against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2072; 9 March 1969)

13 February 1969

SP4 George H. Keathley (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wound received during action against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2072; 9 March 1969)

13 February 1969

PFC Santiago Nunez (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wound received during action against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2072; 9 March 1969)



13 February 1969

SP4 Floyd J. White Jr. (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wound received during action against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2072; 9 March 1969)

13 February 1969

PFC Winston L. Bower (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wound received during action against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2072; 9 March 1969)

13 February 1969

PFC David B. Newell (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wound received during action against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2072; 9 March 1969)

13 February 1969



SP4 Joe A. Ysais (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2072; 9 March 1969)

13 February 1969



CPL Philip R. Frankiewicz (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 engaged hostile force in firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. CPL Frankiewicz was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on the VSI list, and later expired.

13 February 1969



CPL Dennis E. Dawson (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 engaged hostile force in firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 February 1969



SGT John W. Mendez (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Bronze Star Medal (1-OLC), Army Commendation 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 engaged hostile force in firefight 14km W-SW of HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 February 1969



SP4 Bedford M. Morris Jr. (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation 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 engaged hostile force in firefight 14km W-SW of HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 February 1970



PFC Richard J. Gorges (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 deaths from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam. PFC Gorges was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired.

13 February 1970



SSG Ronald L. Haug (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his deaths from small arms gun fire wounds while at an artillery firing position when the area came under attack by a hostile force at FSB RIFLE, 16km south of PHU BAI Airfield in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. SSG Haug was admitted to a military medical facility on 11 February and alter expired on 13 February.



14 February 1968



SP4 Harold L. Begody (D/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 received when he engaged hostile force while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking HUE City during TET 1968, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

14 February 1968



PFC William Blakely (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 multiple explosive device wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking HUE City during TET 1968, in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

14 February 1968



PFC Rodolfo DeLeon (C/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 while his unit engaged hostile force while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking HUE City during TET 1968, in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

14 February 1969

CPL Salvador O. Ricardo (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 engaged by hostile force in a firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. CPL Ricardo was admitted to a military facility, placed on the VSI list and later expired.

15 February 1968



SP4 Ronald Ymbras (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Air Medal for distinguishing himself by meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial combat assault into hostile territory in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 February 1968. During this operation, he displayed the highest order of air discipline and acted in accordance with the best traditions of the service. By his determination to accomplish his mission in spite of the hazards inherent in a heliborne combat assault into hostile territory and by his outstanding degree of professionalism and devotion to duty, he has brought credit upon himself, his organization, and the military service. (HQ; 101st ABN DIV; General Order No: 1094; 31 January 1969)

15 February 1968

The following Soldiers from B/1-502 IN:

SGT William R. Bellow	Amos F. Christian	Raymond Crawford	Scotty C. Davidson
Albert L. Edwards	David L. Ferguson	Harold D. Gearhardt	David W. Goodman
Diego M. Hammett	SP4 John C. Hayden Jr.	Larry G. Hock	SGT Robby J. Hughes
Patrick L. Hurley	1SG Lee F. Jones	SGT Peter C. King	Darrell D. Magneson
SGT Robert N. Malanders	LT Terry A. Mills	Napoleon R. Nochez	Eliseo A. Ortiz
Molina D. Ramos	Dennis P. Rose	David R. Sablan	John R. Schmitt Jr.
Thomas J. Schwarzman	Steven L. Scott	Ellis J. Sherrick	SSG Dennis G. Williams

Was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Republic of Vietnam (General Order Number 10527)

15 February 1968



PFC Melvin H. Sanders (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on a combat operation when engaged hostile force in firefight in support of USMC retaking HUE City during TET 1968, in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 February 1968

The following Soldiers from B/1-502 IN:

CPT Paul M. Pritchard	1LT David B. Land	1LT David B. Reider	SP4 Rodney Hall
SP4 Paul W. Nolan	SP4 Gary L. Stouffer	PFC Davis E. Derricho	PFC Harris D. Lee
PFC Larry S. Lloyd	PFC Robert A. Gibbs	PFC Donald E. Copeland	

Was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight. (HQ; 101st ABN DIV; General Order No: 1094; 31 January 1969)



15 February 1968



2LT Robert F. Brulte Jr. (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from a metal fragment wound received while on a combat operation when engaged a hostile force in a firefight in the vicinity of THON THUONG, 11km W-NW of HUE Citadel during TET 1968 in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 February 1968



CPL Emanuel F. Burroughs (D/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 received while on a combat operation when engaged a hostile force in a firefight in the vicinity of THON THUONG, 11km W-NW of HUE Citadel during TET 1968 in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 February 1968



SGT David M. Cash (D/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 received while on a combat operation when engaged a hostile force in a firefight in the vicinity of THON THUONG, 11km W-NW of HUE Citadel during TET 1968 in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 February 1968



PFC Earnest P. Holmes Jr. (D/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 received while on a combat operation when engaged a hostile force in a firefight in the vicinity of THON THUONG, 11km W-NW of HUE Citadel during TET 1968 in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 February 1968



PFC Henry M. Tabet (D/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 received while on a combat operation when engaged a hostile force in a firefight in the vicinity of THON THUONG, 11km W-NW of HUE Citadel during TET 1968 in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 February 1968



CPL Wade E. Thackrey Jr. (D/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 received while on a combat operation when engaged a hostile force in a firefight in the vicinity of THON THUONG, 11km W-NW of HUE Citadel during TET 1968 in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 February 1966



SGT William F. Collier (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received from a gunshot wound to his right lung received in a hostile ground action in the PHU YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 February 1968



SSG Jorge Otero-Barreto (A/1-502 IN) (3-OLC) actions in combat earned him the Purple Heart Medal. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, Para. 1 General Order Number 235, 31 Mar 69; Amended General Order Number 3276, 12 April 69)



16 February 1968



SP4 Randall L. Saunders (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of a gunshot wound received when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operations when inserted along railroad-highway QL-1, 6km southeast of QUANG TRI City in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 February 1968



SP4 Valentine B. Vollmer (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragment wounds received when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operations when inserted along railroad - highway QL-1, 6km southeast of QUANG TRI City in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam. The change in his status from missing to deceased was based upon the determination of a Board of Officers convened by the Commanding General, US Army, Vietnam which carefully investigated the circumstances concerning his missing status. His remains have not been recovered. (SP4 Body was not originally recovered and was later found and body returned to US Soil on 09 August 1974 and identified on 23 March 1976)

16 February 1970



SSG Pastor F. Ruiz (C/2-502 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 combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 February 1971



SFC Evelyn F. Lankford (A/2-502 IN) died of Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty while on a mission crossing a river when he was swept away by the current while crossing the HUU Trach River 19km S-SW of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

10 February 1967

CPT Charles G. Belan (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for action in combat. The forward elements of Captain Belan's company, while on a search and destroy mission, located an enemy base camp. Immediately, Captain Belan maneuvered his company so as to effectively surround the base camp. As Captain Belan's company began to converge on the base camp, the forward elements were suddenly brought under a murderous volume of enemy fire. Realizing the precarious situation that the lead element was in, Captain Belan quickly began to press the remainder of the company into the assault. When another element of the company was brought under an equally withering volume of enemy fire, Captain Belan, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, charged through the enemy fire and personally led the assault against an estimated Viet Cong Platoon and successfully routed the enemy force. As the remainder of the company continued to move forward in the assault, another element of the company began to receive heavy enemy fire from a different direction. Again, Captain Belan charged through the withering enemy fire and personally led the element against an estimated Viet Cong squad. Once again, an element was brought under fire from an estimated Viet Cong squad and again Captain Belan moved through the enemy fire and led his troops on a successful assault which overran the enemy position. Captain Belan's heroic actions were an inspiration to his men and a direct contribution to the destruction of the enemy base camp. As a result of his exemplary bravery, several enemy soldiers were killed, various weapons captured, and sixteen prisoners of the Viet Cong were released, Captain Belan's outstanding gallantry in action and his avid devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, IFFV; General Orders Number 338; 12 April 1967)

10 February 1967

SGT Fred A. Hendricks (B/2-502) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for action in combat. While on a search and destroy mission, Sergeant Hendricks was moving his squad along a stream when they discovered a rice and salt cache. Realizing the possibility of the enemy being near, Sergeant Hendricks left half of his squad to destroy the cache and with the remainder, he began to establish security on high ground overlooking the stream. Suddenly they were brought under fire by two Viet Cong. Sergeant Hendricks quickly returned the enemy fire and personally killed one enemy soldier and wounded the other. As Sergeant Hendricks maneuvered his element through the enemy position, he suddenly discovered a cleverly concealed complex of approximately twenty buildings and numerous bunkers with people running in apparent confusion. Realizing that he and his squad were up against an estimated reinforced platoon and that the element of surprise was important, Sergeant Hendricks charged forward with complete disregard for his own personal safety and began throwing grenades into the bunkers and dwellings. Sergeant Hendricks' squad quickly followed their inspirational leader without hesitation. Entering one of the dwellings, Sergeant Hendricks came face to face with an enemy soldier pointing a submachine gun directly at him. Dropping to the floor, Sergeant Hendricks fired a burst from his weapon and killed the enemy soldier. It was later discovered that the enemy soldier was identified as a North Vietnamese lieutenant who was the camp commander. Sergeant Hendricks continued to lead his men in the lightning assault on the enemy, forcing the numerically superior element to withdraw from the battle area. As a result of Sergeant Hendricks' actions, an enemy base camp was captured, and numerous prisoners of the Viet Cong were liberated. His superior leadership and courageous actions inspired his men to such a degree that the small fire team element routed an estimated reinforced platoon-size enemy element. Sergeant Hendricks' outstanding display of gallantry in section and his avid devotion to duty are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, IFFV; General Orders Number 609; 1 August 1967)

13 February 1968



CPT Felix Sosa-Camejo (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period of 14 November 1967 – 13 February 1968. Through his untiring efforts and professional ability, he consistently obtained outstanding results. He was quick to grasp the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever-changing situations inherent in a counterinsurgency operation and to find ways and means to solve those problems. The energetic application of his extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United States Mission to the Republic of Vietnam to assist that country in ridding itself of the Communist threat to its freedom. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the United States of Army and reflect great credit on him and on the military service. (Bronze Star Citation)

13 February 1969



1LT Donald C. Murnock (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 February 1969. Lieutenant Murnock distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company B, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, on a combat operation about twelve miles north of HUE, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Murnock was leading two squads of the First Platoon during a reconnaissance of a trail in the thick jungle terrain when the First Platoon was engaged by heavy fire from well-concealed ambush positions. In the course of the firefight, the lead man was struck by an enemy mine fragment and mortally wounded. Three other members of the platoon were seriously wounded, including Lieutenant Murnock, and one of the more seriously wounded was pinned down by the intense volume of fire. Although Lieutenant Murnock suffered ruptured ear drums from the initial contact, he reorganized the platoon and took the appropriate counter measures. Realizing that the seriously wounded individual was rapidly losing blood, Lieutenant Murnock, with the aid of his wounded platoon sergeant, directed the assault against the enemy in an attempt to retrieve his wounded and dead. He encouraged the wounded individuals to crawl to safety while he instructed the members of the platoon to provide a base of fire and again assault the enemy position. He remained in his unprotected position, directing the assault, until the enemy was repelled. Although his condition was serious, he thought of his men's welfare before his own safety and insisted that his men be evacuated first. Lieutenant Murnock'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 3782; 25 April 1969)



13 February 1969



SGT Roger J. Barski (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 February 1969. Sergeant Barski distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company A, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, in the mountains southwest of HUE, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, Company A made contact with a large North Vietnamese force. During the ensuing firefight, the platoon leader of the second platoon was wounded by enemy fire and was unable to continue at his post. Sergeant Barski quickly assumed command and began to direct his men in suppressing the enemy fire. He moved from position to position, often completely unprotected from the intense enemy fire. After directing his men in providing an effective base of fire, he crawled forward to assist his wounded platoon leader and another wounded man. While under direct enemy fire, he administered emergency first aid to both men and then dragged them back to the company perimeter. After assuring their safety, Sergeant Barski led the platoon in an assault on the enemy positions, and succeeded in silencing them in close quarter fighting. Sergeant Barski'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. (SGT Barski middle individual in picture) (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2866; 30 March 1969)

13 February 1969



SP4 Ethen D. Smith (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 February 1969. Specialist Smith distinguished himself while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, as a radio operator on a combat operation about twelve miles southwest of HUE, Republic of Vietnam. Company B, headquarters, and two squads of the first platoon were conducting a reconnaissance of a trail in thick jungle terrain. The lead squad suddenly received intense fire from the front. The lead man was immediately killed by a mine, and three other personnel were seriously wounded by the initial contact. One of the more seriously wounded individuals was pinned down by the intense volume of fire, and was unable to crawl to safety. Specialist Smith, with complete disregard for his own life, crawled through the heavy volume of fire. On the third attempt he successfully reached his wounded comrade. Due to his display of courage, the wounded man was able to receive immediate medical care. Specialist Smith'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 3587; 20 April 1969)

14 February 1968



PFC William Blakely (D/1-501 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 D, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Private First Class Blakely distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 14 February 1968 during a search and clear operation in the Hai Lang Area of QUANG TRI Province. He was acting as point man for his platoon as it swept through a village. He discovered a line of bunkers manned by North Vietnamese Army Regulars, and the platoon was immediately hit with hostile automatic weapons fire and command detonated mines. Although wounded by the initial barrage, Private Blakely began hurling hand grenades onto the enemy positions, killing two North Vietnamese soldiers. He then sought cover behind a haystack to his platoon's front, and from there he saw his squad leader lying wounded and unconscious fifteen meters from the enemy bunkers. With complete disregard for his safety, Private Blakely crawled forward under intense fire to rescue the man and brought him back to the shelter of the haystack. Ignoring the pain of his injuries, he then continued to engage the enemy with rifle fire and hand grenades. While in an act of throwing a grenade, he was seriously wounded by an exploding enemy rocket round. He clutched the activated grenade and fell forward on it, saving the lives of his squad leader and a medic, and preventing injuries to other members of his squad who were close by. Private First Class Blakely'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. (General Orders Number 4316; 11 November 1968)



15 February 1968



1LT William F. Aronow (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 February 1968. First Lieutenant Aronow distinguished himself while serving as Executive Officer of Company D, 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry. Company D was on a combat patrol eight kilometers northwest of HUE, Republic of Vietnam, in search of enemy mortar positions when the lead element came under a withering hail of automatic weapons and small arms fire. Many men in the lead platoon were killed or wounded in the initial blast, and the forward elements were pinned down by a murderous fire. The company was operating with only two platoons and these were under strength. Thus there was only one platoon in reserve to relieve the pressure on the point platoon, and the enemy fire, coming from an estimated North Vietnamese company well entrenched and dug in, was seriously retarding the efforts to extricate these men from their exposed position. Attempts were also being made to evacuate the wounded, but a number of injured men were so close to the enemy lines that this seemed virtually impossible. At this time First Lieutenant Aronow arrived with a handful of reinforcements and, fully exposing himself to the deadly enemy fire, skillfully deployed these men in an effort to stabilize the situation. The platoon leader of the lead platoon had been killed, and First lieutenant Aronow quickly seized control of the action in front, bringing up what reserves was left and distributing ammunition resupply. Still the heavy enemy fire was unabated, and men continued to fall, many of these in efforts to evacuate the dead and wounded. One man had been shot down almost directly beneath the enemy guns, and his body had lain there for a number of hours as any would be attempt to reach him appeared suicidal. However, the platoon sergeant was about to make the effort when First Lieutenant Aronow ordered him to remain in position so as not to expose the senior man in the platoon to such excessive danger. Instead First Lieutenant Aronow went out himself, leading three volunteers, to reach the man. Immediately much enemy fire was concentrated on First Lieutenant Aronow as he moved across the open field in complete disregard for his own personal safety. On reaching the man he was found to be dead, and First Lieutenant Aronow ordered the men to put his body on a stretcher which had been brought out while he covered them. First Lieutenant Aronow then proceeded to shield the men with his own body and took a corner of the stretcher with one hand and, firing his rifle with the other, returned to the company lines. First Lieutenant Aronow then remained exposed while directing the evacuation of the remaining casualties, and once every wounded man had been moved to the rear the company began its withdrawal. First Lieutenant Aronow remained with the rear guard, firing as he moved and covering the withdrawal. Groups of enemy soldiers tried to turn the flank of the rear detachment and isolate it, but First Lieutenant fired on them and drove them back. The enemy repeated this action a number of times, but First Lieutenant Aronow, skillfully directed the security element, inflicted heavy casualties on the North Vietnamese in their vain efforts, and thus affected a safe withdrawal. In doing so he was not hesitant in exposing himself to the enemy fire in order to control his men. Without the calm, courageous leadership of First Lieutenant Aronow at a critical moment, the company very well might have suffered devastating results. His dedication to duty in the face of galling enemy fire was a lasting inspiration to every man in the company as well as a telling factor in the successful withdrawal of the company from a totally untenable position. First Lieutenant Aronow's exceptional and constant gallantry are 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 3229; 7 July 1968)

15 February 1968



2LT Robert F. Brulte Jr. (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) For gallantry in action on 15 February 1968 while serving as Platoon Leader of the 3d Platoon of Company D, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, during a combat patrol eight kilometers northwest of HUE, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Brulte was leading his platoon, the lead element of Delta Company, when his men were taken under sniper fire. Under orders, he maintained his advance, and his platoon was shortly caught under the withering hail of enemy automatic weapons and small arms fire. In the initial contact with his platoon suffered many casualties but Lieutenant Brulte, exposing himself to enemy fire, formed a defensive position and maintained complete control of his men while calling in supporting fire on the enemy position. It was soon evident that Lieutenant Brulte's platoon was being fired on by an estimated North Vietnamese Company, well entrenched and dug in around a small hamlet. While waiting for reinforcements to come forward to assist him in extricating his men from a totally untenable position, Lieutenant Brulte continued to demonstrate supreme valor in exposing himself to enemy fire in order to adjust the artillery supporting fire to cover his men. Indeed, it was his dedication to his men and his devotion to his men and his devotion to duty which found him so exposed when he was struck down and mortally wounded by enemy fire. Yet despite grievous wounds Lieutenant Brulte continued to relay fire mission coordinates over his radio until he expired. Lieutenant Brulte's exceptional valor and devotion to duty are 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 399; 16 April 1968)



ACRONYMS

ACAV: Armored Cavalry
ACD: Air Cavalry Division
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
CAV: Cavalry
CO: Company
CP: Command Post
DIV: Division
DSC: Distinguished Service Cross
DZ: Drop Zone
ENG: Engineer
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

