



# STRIKE

Vietnam War Weekly History



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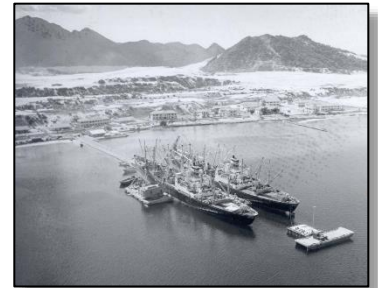
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## Brief History of the 501<sup>st</sup>, 502<sup>nd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade (101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV)

The 502<sup>nd</sup>, or "five-oh-deuce", was activated July 1, 1941 at Fort Benning, Georgia as the 502<sup>nd</sup> parachute infantry battalion, as an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assaults. The 502<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne was activated at Fort Campbell, replacing the 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Battle Group, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment. The reorganization from the battle groups to brigades and battalions placed two battalions of the 502<sup>nd</sup> in different brigades of the 101<sup>st</sup>.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade with 1-327<sup>th</sup> and 2-327<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2d Battalions, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry. December 1967 the 501<sup>st</sup>, 502<sup>nd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.




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**During this week, in the span of 8 years since the 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> 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.)**

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- 02 February 1966 **Operation VAN BUREN:** At 1900H, 2-502 IN conducted RECONDO patrols vicinity coordinates CQ059303, accounting for 2 VC KIA (BC), 9 VC KIA (EST), 1 BCS, and 2 weapons captured. Friendly losses were 1 KIA and 3 WIA. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation VAN BUREN; 150600 January 1966 – 201200 January 1966; 25 February 1966)
- 02 February 1968 CPT Justice, 2BDE 3 Yankee, informed 2-501 BN to be prepared to provide 1 platoon with engineer capability to move by helicopter in morning to PHU BAI, this platoon will escort 12 SP's trucks (sweeping in front) to EL PASO. Platoon will then escort trucks back to PHU BAI with supplies. Be prepared for pickup of this platoon at approximately 0800H.
- At 1037H, LT Bush reported finding documents, letters and medical supplies in building vicinity YD820179. At 1135H, 2BDE S3 informed that the BN will not move from EL PASO today – BDE CO will come with further instructions. At 1515H all companies informed to be prepared to move on foot from current location.
- At 1607H, all companies informed to be prepared to move immediately. Troops should be prepared to move out. Order of March C/2-501 IN, D/2-501 IN, A/2-501 IN, B/2-501 IN, D/2-501 IN, E/2-501 IN and BN CP. At 1910H, BN CP closed in at new location vicinity HUE – PHU BAI AIRFIELD.
- At 2210H, BDE XO informed 2-501 IN BN to be prepared for pickup at 0800H on 03 February. 30 Soldiers will be loaded on each helicopter. There will be enough for whole element. Entire element will be in 1<sup>st</sup> lift.
- (HQ, 2-501 IN BN, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; Daily Staff Journal Entry; 02 February 1968)
- 02 February 1968 2-501 IN BN was placed under the operational control of the 3BDE, 1<sup>st</sup> ACD and remained in this status for approximately two weeks. During this period, the 2-501 IN BN initially provided security for CAMP EVANS and subsequently conducted limited operations in the rocket belt around CAMP EAGLE and CAMP EVANS.
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- 02 February 1969 **Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** 1-502 IN BN continued RIF operations at YD498091. D/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found an old 3-4 man sleeping area, 1 pair rubber sandals, 1 fishnet and cooking utensils. D/1-501 IN continued to provide security for FSB BASTOGNE and mine sweep to FSB BIRMINGHAM.
- 02 February 1970 C/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon called in medivac for on Soldier with severe headaches. A Soldier was killed in a non-hostile action on FSB BIRMINGHAM bunker line. This shooting was accidental.
- 03 – 04 February 1966 **Operation VAN BUREN:** 2-502 IN BN (-) attacked along two axes to secure objective (hills) 105 and 51. A/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN secured their objectives with negative contacts. B/2-502 IN conducted a search and destroy operation to the East and South while moving to secure the Eastern portion of Hill 51. B/2-502 IN had negative contact enroute to their objective, however, they discovered 6 VC KIA on the hill, believed to be the results of Artillery fire from a previous engagement. HQ/2-502 IN was helilifted to Hill 51 on 04 January at 1200H and the battalion prepared for operations in TAOR GOLD. A 2-502 IN BN, Recondo patrol engaged a small VC force on the after on the 4<sup>th</sup>. This engagement developed into a battalion (-) operation when additional VC forces were sighted in the area. A/2-502 IN attacked and pursued while C/2-502 IN (-) assisted and joined the pursuit. B/2-502 IN was helilifted at 1645H to a blocking position vicinity cQ012300 to block the VC forces. Results of the Battalion's operations were 30 VC KIA (BC), 1 VCS, 15 KIA (EST), 15 WIA (EST), 2 Rocket Launchers and 14 weapons captured. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Operation VAN BUREN, After Action Report 150600H January 1966 – 201200 February 1966)
- 03 February 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** Mini-Firebase was extracted to SONG BE beginning at 0900H and closing at 1730 hours. The 2-502 IN BN began preparation for deployment to BIEN HOA to assume the mission of 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV IAF. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Operation SAN ANGELO, Combat After Action Report; 17 February 1968)
- 03 February 1968 At 0720H, all elements of 2-501 N BN was on order for movement. Starting at 0943H elements of the 2-501 IN BN departed for LZ EVAN in four (4) lifts. At 1340H the 4th lift downed, 1 WIA – Medevaced at 1345H. A/2-501 IN platoon on 4<sup>th</sup> lift reported 2 VC KIA vicinity YD908110. At 1510H it was reported the three lifts arrived at new location "LZ EVANS"



and at 1545H lifts 4 and 5 departed completed. A/2-501 IN lift included 326<sup>th</sup> ENG BN. All elements that departed to "LZ" is now OPCON to 3<sup>rd</sup> BDE, 1ACD.

B/2-501 IN, C/2-501 IN, D/2-501 IN and E/2-501 IN remained at present location until further notice. All elements informed to be prepared for movement to airstrip by 0630H 04 February for loading. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; Daily Staff Journal Entry; 02 February 1968)

03 February 1968

**PHU BAI** - Thirty paratroopers of the 2BDE; survived a helicopter crash landing near here recently and killed two VC as the Screaming Eagles waited for extraction. A "Chinook", ferrying the men of the 2-501 IN BN took a round in the rear engine and the troopers were alerted for a crash landing. As the cargo aircraft settled toward the ground, LT John Rodelli, Chicago, barked instructions to his platoon from A/2-501 IN. "I told the men to set up a perimeter around the chopper as soon as we set touched the ground," Rodelli said. No sooner had the aircraft landed when enemy sniper fire peppered the area. LT Rodelli's platoon returned fire and killed two. The enemy firing ceased Taking advantage of the lull, the pilot revved up the empty chopper and flew it to PHU BAI. Gunships arrived on station above the paratrooper platoon and provided covering fire.

03 February 1969

**Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/1-502 IN moved to FSB BASTOGNE and assumed security of FSB BASTOGNE. D/1-502 IN and Recon platoon moved to LZ SALLY. D/1-501 IN was released from OPCON to 1-502 IN BN.

03 February 1970

A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found five sets of sandal tracks at 734033. They were 2 to 4 hours old and moving NW on a trail. Condor 29 checked out sampans. The condor also found a used campsite at 734015.

04 February 1968

**Operation SAN ANGELO:** STRIKE FORCE (2-502 IN BN) advance part departed SONG BE at 1700H. At 1919H, the first C-130 sortie departed SONG BE for BIEN HOA, and the battalion fighting forces closed at 0238H on 05 February 1968 and then assumed the 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV IAF mission. Extensive search and destroy operations during Operation SAN ANGELO were conducted with only sporadic, light contact with local force units. Contact with Main Force VC/NVA units failed to materialize

All missions assigned to the 2-502 IN BN were accomplished. While no significant contact was gained with the Main Force VC/NVA units, the activities of the STRIKE FORCE succeeded in keeping the local units in the SONG BO AO off balance during phase I and II. The results of the mission were twenty-three (23) VC, one (1) NVA KIA, two (2) returnee, and eight (8) AK-47's captured. US losses were 3 x KIA, 25 x WIA. (HQ, 2-502 IN: Operation SAN ANGELO, Combat After Action Report; 17 February 1968)

04 February 1968

2-501 IN BN at 0515H, received 4 rounds of 122mm rockets; negative results. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 04 February 1968)

04 – 10 February 1968

The morning of 03 February a supply convoy from QUANG TRI to CAMP EVANS was stopped by enemy north of HAI LANG, and General Tolson ordered the 2d Bde to reopen Highway 1. The 1-501 IN BN attacked with B/1-501 IN, followed by D/1-501 IN, and then A/1-501 IN. The enemy was well dug in. SFC O'Connor, in Blood Brothers, has written: "During the assault all three companies were turned back. Captain Shive (A Company commander) gave orders for the Third Platoon to attack and for the First and Second Platoons to give them cover fire. As soon as the First Platoon started into the village all hell broke loose. The sky above was loaded with flying lead... We could see that the First Platoon was running into a meat grinder..." From the 1/501 Journal:

"BN commander advised that the situation was bad. BDE CO told CO 1-501 IN BN to pull back and call in artillery... The requested air strikes to support 1-501 IN BN were cancelled at 1535 hours due to rainy misty weather." The 1-501 IN BN would attack 4 February with B/1-501 IN, C/1-501 IN, and D/1-501 IN and well-coordinated artillery support.

And so, it did, to clean the enemy out of HAI LANG. B/1-501 IN fought its way into the village and set up a blocking position, while C/1-501 IN attacked through the village from the south and D/1-501 IN from the west. By nightfall HAI LANG belonged to the 1-501 IN BN, which had four men killed and 40 wounded, 20 of whom returned to duty. That day, the CAV division cancelled the move of the 2BDE to CAMP EVANS; we would remain at Jane. The rest of the week the 1-501 IN BN completed opening Highway 1 and kept it open. Captain Gordon Mansfield, commanding C/1-501 IN, received the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions February 4.

The 2-501 IN BN, which had moved by truck from LZ EL PASO to PHU BAI, could not continue to CAMP EVANS; the roads were cut. Because of marginal weather and a C-47 shortage (one C-47 lifting troops was shot down, no casualties) the 2-501 IN BN did not complete its move until February 7.

C/1-502 IN BN had been left behind on 24 January protecting the division command post; the night of TET, it had air assaulted to the rooftop of the US embassy in Saigon. OPCON to the CAVs 1BDE and operating with Cavalry Hueys and gunships, and with artillery and air support, the 1-502 IN BN (-) had since TET been fighting continuous search and destroy missions around QUANG TRI with excellent results. On 5 February, it reported a B/1-502 IN ambush of an NVA mortar platoon. The night of February 8-9, the enemy struck back with a rocket and 40 round mortar attacks and penetrated the battalion night defensive position, causing 9 KIA, including the A/1-502 IN forward observer and first sergeant, and 25 WIA, including the company commander. (By LTG (then COL) John H. Cushman)

04 February 1970

1-502 IN BN, Recon found 36 priming charges and 2 CHICOM 82mm mortar rounds with Chinese writing and numbers on front. They also located 3 foxholes positions each with overhead cover. The location of the equipment and foxholes was 713061. Condor located one old bunker 6' x 8' at 798031 and two spider holes at 802016 which were recently built.



04 February 1971

1-501 IN BN moved to FSB TOMAHAWK and FSB LOS BANOS and continued operations with the Battalion CP located on FSB TOMAHAWK, and elements from A/1-501 IN securing both of the Fire Bases. During this operation, the 1-501 IN BN joined forces with the 155<sup>th</sup> ARVN CO to search out and attack enemy forces in the area. A/1-502 IN was OPCON to 1-501 IN BN from 4 February to 9 February.



04 February 1972

Orders were cut directing the 1-502 IN BN, commanded by LTC John G. Pappageorge, relocate from RVN to Fort Campbell, KY. The 1-502 IN BN would not, however, deploy as a unit: instead only one officer, one warrant officer, and ten enlisted men would bring the 1-502 IN BN to Fort Campbell. The rest of the "First Strike" troopers would either be reassigned in country or receive PCS orders (on an individual basis) to various Stateside units. The color bearing detachment was headed by Captain Jack M. Davis, former S5 of the Battalion, and departed DA NANG, Republic of Vietnam (RVN), on 9 February 1972. CPT Davis and his men reported to Fort Campbell on 10 February.

Since only twelve "original" members of the 1-502 IN BN returned to Fort Campbell from RVN, the spring and summer months were devoted to putting the "O Deuce" back on its feet. Officers and men came in slowly during these months, and it was not uncommon to see a company's total strength as ten troops. The personnel who were assigned, however, had a mountain of work to do. The unit of choice program was emphasized to the maximum extent possible. Selected 1-502 IN BN troopers were sent in all directions with the mission of getting the word out about the First Strike Battalion and the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. Assigned to various regions throughout the United States, they spoke to businessmen of all trades, along with high school and college students. The effectiveness of their efforts is reflected in the fact that today, all of 90% of the 1-502 IN BN troopers are volunteers, and this figure increases with every passing month.

Operation Homecoming also received a good amount of emphasis within the unit. Conceived to officially welcome the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division back to Fort Campbell, displays reflecting the history and traditions of the 1-502 IN BN were set up, and the unit participated in the Pass-In-Review ceremonies in behalf of the Vice President Agnew, the Guest of Honor.

Numerous other commitments kept the small elements of the 1-502 IN BN troopers busy. TO&E equipment had to be ordered, and as more and more personnel were assigned, the Battalion was required to move several times in search of more spacious quarters and offices. As spring faded into summer, the 1-502 IN BN began to make preparations for the first complement of Advance Individual Training (AIT) students in knew it would receive in the latter part of September. Primary and assistant instructors went through special training of their own, and the utilized their teaching skills ahead of time by assisting the 1-502 IN BN in their AIT Schooling. Despite its small assigned strength, the 1-502 IN BN also sent a contingent of men to the United States Military Academy at West Point to help support USMA's summer training program.

05 – 08 February 1966

**Operation VAN BUREN:** 2-502 IN BN conducted a light Recondo patrolling activities. During the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of February the 2-502 IN BN engaged a NVA force of an estimated reinforced company size. The results of this operation were 57 VC KIA (BC), 15 WIA (EST), 15 KIA (EST), 30 weapons captured and large quantities of LBE. Friendly losses were 8 KIA and 43 WIA. During the latter phase of this operation a Recondo patrol from A/2-502 IN became engaged with an estimated VC platoon vicinity BQ988281. After a vicious fire fight, to include close combat in VC trenches, contact was broken. The results were 4 VC KIA (BC), 2 VC KIA (EST) and one SMG captured.

2-502 IN BN (-) conducted Checkerboard operations in TAOR GOLD with B/2-502 IN operating in the South Eastern sector. After suffering 2 WIA casualties from AP mines. B/2-502 IN, Recondo platoon (-) was instructed to wait for daylight, and then to move to its subsequent location. While conducting this daylight move, Recondo platoon (-) became engaged vicinity CQ087287 with a VC force estimated initially to be one VC platoon, and subsequently estimated to be a VC Company. This engagement developed into a major operation when a second platoon from B/2-502 IN moved overland to reinforce the Recondo element in contact and exploited by hitting the VC force on its Northern flank. The third rifle platoon of B/2-502 IN then conducted a helicopter assault vicinity CQ087287 to block the Southern and Western flank of the VC force. Each platoon subsequently became engaged developing the outline of the VC position. During this period the first of thirteen (13) sorties of Tac airstrikes hit the target area. Although the VC force was now contained, B/2-502 IN lacked sufficient combat power to overrun it and C/2-502 IN (-), consisting of two (2) rifle platoons and company headquarters conducted a helicopter assault to the South, vicinity CQ087287 with the mission of sweeping North and blocking retreat or reinforcement of the trapped VC force. The VC force, solidly entrenched with mutually supporting AW positions, fought tenaciously and professionally throughout the ground action and air strikes. The fierce defense together with the recovery of an apparent PAVN KIA body was an indication that the engaged enemy force was, in fact, the 95<sup>th</sup> PAVN Unit reported in the area. Later intelligence reports confirmed that PAVN identity. B/1-327 IN was alerted for possible employment, prepared for a heliborne assault and passage of OPCON to 2-502 IN BN. B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN (-) linked at 1850H effectively ending further resistance of the trapped PAVN force. B/1-327 IN began its helicopter lift arriving on an LZ secured by B/2-502 IN, at approximately 1845H, a Task Force consisting of B/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN (-) and B/1-327, 2-502 IN BN XO commanding, was organized and swept the battlefield and secured a perimeter in the area of engagement at approximately 06 February at 2000H. No further action took place during the night. The results of the engagement were 39 VC KIA (BC), 15 VC KIA (EST) and 15 VC WIA. Various types of equipment and several weapons were taken. Most of the bodies found wore uniforms and black leather belts with stars on the buckles, an additional indication that they were PAVN. At 0845H, 07 February, B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN (-) conducted a sweep to return to Battalion base area. B/2-502 IN returned directly west with no encounters on the way and closed in its base area at 1030H. C/2-502 IN (-) swept wide to the South to search an area from which sniper fire was received on 06 February and





encountered another well entrenched VC force vicinity CQ090291; estimated initially to be one (1) platoon. C/2-502 IN (-) maneuvered aggressively, developed the action, and closed off three (3) sides of the position, each approximately 150 meters long. 1-327 IN BN committed B/1-327 IN and Tiger Force to the flank and rear and C/2-502 IN (-) passed to OPCON 1-327 IN BN. A vicious action ensued throughout the remainder of the day. The VC force, by all indications, was probably a Heavy Weapons Company or a reinforced Rifle Company. The results of the day long engagement were 63 VC KIA (BC) and 60 weapons captured. Of this total, C/2-502 IN (-) accounted for 18 VC KIA (BC) and 20 weapons captured. C/2-502 IN (-) was released from OPCON 1-327 IN BN at 1415H and returned to its base area vicinity CQ050309 at 1515H. The return of C/2-502 IN (-) concluded 2-502 IN BN participation in the engagement. The friendly losses in this operation were: 8 KIA, 43 WIA from 2-502 IN BN. Enemy losses as a result of 2-502 IN BN during this operation were: 1 CIA, 57 KIA (BC), 15 WIA (EST), 15 KIA (EST), 30 weapons captured; including Ak-47's and light machine guns, PRC-10, switch board and a large quantity of LBE. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Operation VAN BUREN, After Action Report 150600H January 1966 – 201200 February 1966)

05 – 06 February 1966

**The Battle of MY CAHN (2) TUY HOA Republic of Vietnam:** As part of Operation VAN BUREN (January & February 1966) B/2-502 IN, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV was conducting a sweep operation in the TUY HOA area of PHY YEN Province. The area we were operating in was primarily rice paddies intersected with a small villages and hamlets. On the evening of 5 February, after a long march and before dusk, CPT Thomas Taylor, our Company Commander, halted the company to prepare our overnight positions. CPT Taylor had selected a small prominent brush covered hill, surrounded by rice paddies for as far as we could see. We dug in and prepared two-man defensive positions circling the top of the hill, our Squad Leader Estevan "CHICO" Alvarado, established fields of fire for each of our positions. The ground was very hard and rocky.

During the dark night on 5 February, the enemy crept up the hill thru the brush and probed our position by throwing hand grenades uphill and we responded by throwing hand grenades downhill. Neither side willing to fire their rifles fearing that the muzzle flashes would give away their exact positions in the dark.

Later that evening, CPT Taylor dispatched 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon on a recon patrol. Word came back later that night that they were in an unmarked mine field and that SGT Pasquale had stepped on an antipersonnel mine and that his foot had been blown off. They were told to probe their way out of it. On the morning of 6 February, well before daylight, CPT Taylor dispatched 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon with orders to stay in the paddies and proceeded to the far side of the village of MY CAHN 2, which was 2-3 clicks from our position on the hill, and to enter and sweep the village at the crack of daylight, pushing anyone fleeing in our direction. The village was surrounded by rice paddies.

At the crack of daylight, an intense fight broke out as the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon tried to enter the village, resulting in the platoon being pinned down in the rice paddies for the better part of the day. Upon hearing the ongoing firefight, intense exchanges of fire by both sides, our Platoon Leader, LT Lawrence Cousins, told us to saddle up and prepare to head to the village. We, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, were deployed online going across the rice paddies, with our squad deployed on the far-left side of the line. As we got closer to the village, word was passed to echelon left into a file formation. The end of the village that we were approaching had a solid hedge of cactus with one opening, a path that we had used to pass thru the cactus in a file, with orders to form up on line again from left to right after passing thru this bottleneck. We had not yet been detected by the enemy forces in the village. We were well below full strength that day due to previous casualties.

After echeloning left and forming into a file formation, I was in the lead position becoming the pointman, followed by the two remaining men in my fire team, plus an attached machine gunner and his ammo bearer, then came Alvarado "Chico" and the rest of our squad followed by the remainder of the platoon. After stepping thru the cactus one or two paces, I could see across several paddies, about 120 meters ahead of me. I saw an enemy combatant with a rifle, he appeared to be sitting on the ground facing away from me and in the direction where our 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon was pinned down at the opposite end of the village. I aimed at the center of his back and fired two aimed shots on semiautomatic, and he disappeared. Immediately to my right front another enemy combatant appeared from the waist upholding a rifle and looking around in my direction. I fired two aimed shots at his chest, and he disappeared. Immediately hostile fire began to be returned and I bolted to the left followed by the remainder of the squad and platoon. Once on the other side of the cactus, we found ourselves amongst a large number of burial mounds and the first of several dikes behind which we took cover, online, facing the village about 120 meters to our front. Very quickly we were fully engaged, receiving heavy machine gun and small arms fire from the village, pinning us behind the grave mounds and the first dike. Above the gunfire, I could hear an RTO's radio. From several thousand feet above us in a command and control helicopter, I heard our Battalion Commander COL Hank "Gunfighter" Emerson state to whomever he was talking to "GET THOSE PEOPLE UP AND MOVING, I CAN'T SEE WHATS HOLDING YOU UP." (No doubt from that altitude he could not see what was holding us up, he did have the option of landing and finding out for himself-an option he did not exercise, he did land at the end of the day and come amongst us)

Word was passed down to Chico and he told me that we were going to fire and maneuver forward by fire teams and that when the covering fire from our troop reached a crescendo, to advance my fire team forward. Each fireteam was to advance forward randomly each time the covering fire from the combined platoon reached a crescendo. I advanced my fireteam under very heavy enemy fire to the next forward dike, behind which we took cover. I was a fireteam leader and had two men and myself comprising what should have been a 5-man fireteam. Aside from my two men I also had a machine gunner and his ammo bearer attached to my fireteam. The ammo bearer was Timothy Hays, a very good friend of mine. After reaching the closest dike and catching our breath for several minutes, I told my fireteam that when the firing reached the next crescendo, that we were going again, and we did. We were running forward in a broken pattern firing as we went, when I heard someone just in back of me get hit. When we gained the next dike, I looked back from where we had come from and saw that Timmy had been hit and was laying out in the open not moving. I also noted that the machine gunner had not moved forward with us as we assaulted and that he had not left from our starting position, he was not even firing his machine gun. I said to the new guy in my fireteam, "Why don't you go out and get him" in reference to Timmy and he replied, "Why don't you go get him". I said, "I will" and put my rifle down and took off my backpack. I ran



back from the direction we had come from and when I reached him, I took his backpack off, got hold of him by his LBE harness and dragged him forward towards the enemy to cover of the dike where the rest of the fireteam was putting out covering fire. I sat Timmy up with his back to the dike. He was unconscious and blowing bubbles thru his uniform shirt from several holes in his shirt front, frothy lung shots. He was gone in a minute or two. I reached into Timmy's shirt pocket and took out a 5 pack of Salem cigarettes and was lighting one when the new guy in the fireteam, Wayne Linville asked me how I could do that. I told him that Timmy was a friend of mine and that he would have wanted me to help myself. I told him to take Timmy's clips as I thought that he might need them before the day was over. There was now 3 of us and we continued moving forward when appropriate until we came to and took cover in the enemy fighting trench at the very edge of the village. Lying there dead in the bottom of the trench was the first NVA that I had shot at when coming thru the cactus. He was lying face down with a trickle of blood coming from a small hole in the back of his head. I rolled him over and his skull looked like a hollowed-out grapefruit, the shot cleaned everything just leaving his bottom jaw attached. I had aimed at the center of his back.

The trench was very narrow, and we had to take off our backpacks in order to be able to turn around in them. The section of the trench that we were in was about 35 feet long with right angles at both ends. Linville was at one end and I was at the other with my third trooper in the middle. I had arrived in the trench with a jammed rifle. There was a palm tree on my end of the trench and a machine gun was steadily firing into it and into the berm formed from excavating the trench. I kept hollering to stop firing that we were Americans but to no avail. After what seemed like a long time, 1 minute maybe, it stopped firing and I peeked up from the trench to see who was firing on us, thinking it was a fellow platoon member. About 30 meters from me I saw 3 enemy combatants sitting upright on the ground behind a very old machine gun, like the water-cooled ones, it had a small inverted funnel at the bottom of what I would guess to be the water jacket. My rifle was still jammed, I took a fragment grenade, pulled the pin, let the spoon go and counted 2 before throwing it high in the air. I immediately did this with a second frag. I then moved about 15 feet down the right angle of the trench and peeked over the berm. The machine gun was still there but nobody was visible. It was set up in about a 3 feet high grass area so I would not have been able to see the bodies. Doubt they would flee without taking the machine gun with them.

U.S. fire was now coming from behind the graves and the first dike once again as the assault had failed in the face of withering fire from the enemy. I got a cleaning rod from Linville and was lying back on my pack with the dead guy at my feet, trying to clear my rifle, when a shot entered into the side of the trench about 6" above my chest. It had come from a small hole in the very peak of a hooch about 30 feet from the trench. The hole was to allow smoke to exit the hooch when it cooked inside. It could not have been an aimed shot as one would not have been able to get his head above the barrel to look down it, the hole being in the very peak. Before I got my rifle cleared, there was an explosion and I received shrapnel wounds to the upper right side of my arm, not life threatening. (VA found two pieces of shrapnel in my right ankle in 2005 that I wasn't aware of).

A short while later, I could hear the changing sound of a SPAD (A1-E Skyraider) as it transitioned from level flight into a dive. Its flight path was from in back of the graveyard, overflying our troops behind the graves and the 1<sup>st</sup> dike and was coming straight at us, 120 meters forward of everybody else and right at the edge of the village. While staying as low as possible, we waved our arms to get the pilots attention, as we were obviously in the target area. He released a canister of napalm well behind our troops in the graveyard and it came straight at us, tumbling end over end, making a sound like "Whoop-whoop-whoop". The SPAD overflew us and wagged his wings as he pulled up out of his bomb run acknowledging our presence, much to our relief. The napalm flew over our heads and hit about 50 meters forward of us, just where we needed it, setting a lot of hooches on our end of the village on fire. They wouldn't be coming across that ground to get us. The new guy, Linville said that he could see some enemy coming down the trench on his side and wanted to know if he could shoot. I suggested he throw a grenade; I didn't want to give our exact location away. He threw a grenade and then wanted to know if he could go down the trench to retrieve weapons. I told him to stay put, I don't think that he fully appreciated the position that the 3 of us were in. This was just before the napalm strike. The SPAD came back for 2 more passes and worked our front with cannon fire. I could see the spent casings coming across the paddies towards us but they caused us no harm.

We spent the best part of the day in that trench, upwards of 7 hours. Later in the afternoon, Linville got my attention and I moved down to his end of the trench. Just on the other side of a very thin bamboo treeline, about 18-20 enemy combatants appeared out of the nowhere and seemed to be milling around in confusion about 35 meters in front of the 3 of us who were now on line, in the trench facing them. I told the other 2 not to shoot unless I did, as the odds didn't look good and I was undecided as to whether to engage them. Up to the point we had defended ourselves on a need be basis, no longer being the aggressors. I saw an NVA with a radio on his back thru the thin line of bamboo and I took a bead on him, still undecided whether we should engage them. (I was afraid my rifle might jam again). The NVA with the radio on his back was facing away from me, he turned his neck in my direction and made eye contact with me. I shot at that time, aiming dead center at the radio on his back. He went down, and we started pumping aimed rounds into them on semiautomatic. We shot until they were all down, I don't believe that a single round was fired back at us as it was over so quickly. We could hear some very distressed sounds coming from the wounded. (I learned many years from my Platoon Leader, LT Cousins, that these were probably what was left of a group of enemies that had been in the paddies and had ambushed our 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon when they landed by helicopter in the paddies to our left. They had apparently pulled back from the paddies to the edge of the village right in front of us. This group had killed our 1SG, nearly cutting him half with a .50 Cal machine gun.)

About an hour later, fellow troopers appeared right beside the narrow bamboo treeline where we had engaged the group that had fought our 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon in the paddies. We alerted them to let them know that there were enemies about 20 feet on the other side of the bamboo line from where they were. We quickly got out of the trench and joined them, about 12-14 of them, they were what was left of our 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon, the ones that had been ambushed in the paddies. We crossed the thin bamboo treeline and entered among the group that the 3 of us had engaged. We dispatched the wounded. The fighting had quieted down somewhat by this time and we quickly covered the 120 meters to rejoin the rest of our company, or what was left of it. The first person that I came across was my squad leader, "Chico" Alvarado. He had been shot 4 times



and had already been attended by the medic. I knelt down beside him, noting the morphine syrette in his lapel, and spoke to him. He smiled up at me and said something that I didn't understand (Chico recovered fully)

Things quieted down as darkness approached, and what remained of the enemy slipped away into the paddies. After the medevacs got our seriously wounded out shortly before dark, there were a lot fewer of us remaining that had started this day on the hill. Our numbers had been cut by close to 40%. We spent a rather long uneventful night once again behind the graves and the 1<sup>st</sup> dike, our original starting position. Our artillery continued to fire into the village all night long as they had throughout the day. The following morning, we were deemed to no longer be an effective fighting force and ordered to return to the small hill where we had started from. We were relieved by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 327<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry; a sister battalion who continued the battle for several more days through a string of villages. We later learned that we had trapped 4 NVA companies and 1 VC Company (Over 500 enemy) between our 2 understrength platoons, comprising of about 60 paratroopers.

It was my honor to have served with these men who shirked no task and distinguished themselves with such overwhelming courage in the finest tradition of the AIRBORNE. (By George R. Bassett (E-4) Fire Team Leader in 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Bravo Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Infantry, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division; Relating to his participation in these events in the best of his memory and with the utmost respect to the men who served alongside of him; 27 January 2014)

05 – 06 February 1966

**The Battle of MY CAHN (2) TUY HOA Republic of Vietnam:** As part of Operation VAN BUREN (Jan & Feb 1966). B/2-502 ABN was conducting sweep operations in the TUY HOA area. The area we were in was primarily rice paddies interspersed with small villages and hamlets. On the evening of 5 Feb, after a long march and before dusk, CPT Thomas Taylor, our Company Commander, halted the company to prepare our overnight positions. CPT Taylor had selected a small prominent brush covered hill, surrounded by rice paddies for as far as we could see. This area was the "rice bowl" of Vietnam. Two-man defensive positions were prepared circling the top of the small brush covered hill, and I established fields of fire for each of my squad's positions. I remember helping dig my defensive position with my steel helmet, the ground was very hard and rocky.

During the dark night of 5 February, the enemy crept up the hill thru the brush and probed our positions by throwing hand grenades uphill and we responded by throwing grenade's downhill. Neither side willing to fire their rifles for fear of the muzzle flashes pinpointing their exact position in the dark. Although reported otherwise, I do not believe that we received any mortar fire that night.

CPT Taylor dispatched 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon on the patrol later that evening. Word came back later that the patrol leader, SGT Pasquale, had stepped on an antipersonnel mine and that his foot had been blown off. Well before daylight on the morning of 6 February, CPT Taylor dispatched the third platoon with orders to proceed to a village located 2-3 clicks from our location and to enter it from the far side at the crack of daylight. They were to sweep the village from the far side heading towards our location. That village, MY CAHN 2, was surrounded by rice paddies.

At the crack of daylight, an intense firefight broke out as the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon tried to enter the village, resulting in the platoon being pinned down in the paddies for the better part of the day. Upon hearing the ongoing firefight, our platoon leader, LT Lawrence Cousins, told us to saddle up and prepare to head to the village. He deployed us online going across the vast rice paddies, with my squad deployed on the far-left side of the line. As we got closer to the village, word was passed to echelon left into a file formation. The end of the village that we were approaching had a solid hedge of cactus with one opening, a path that we had to use to pass thru the cactus in file, with orders to form up on line again from left to right after passing thru this bottleneck. We had not been detected by the enemy forces in the village yet, or they were very well disciplined and were waiting for us to come into their killing zone. We were well below full strength that day.

My squad was the first to pass thru the opening in the cactus, led by my pointman, SP4 George Bassett, he was also one of my 2 fireteam leaders. After stepping carefully thru the cactus one or two paces, SP4 Bassett fired two shots on semi auto, and before I could get up to the front of the squad to see what was happening, he fired two more rounds. I later found out he had dropped two-armed, black clad VC. The jig was up at this point and our platoon rushed thru the opening. Once on the other side of the cactus, we found ourselves amongst a larger number of burial mounds and the first of several dikes behind which we took cover, online, facing the village about 120m to our front. Very quickly we were fully engaged, receiving heavy machine gun and small arms fire from the village, pinning us behind the grave mounds and the first dike. These guys were ready for a fight. From where I was positioned, I could see the bunkers and trenches where the NVA were dug in. My utmost concern was to position myself where I could control my squad. It was a very difficult situation as the volume of enemy fire was quite intense.

Orders came down to go forward, firing and maneuvering by fireteam, starting on the left. I told my fireteam leaders to advance their fireteam forward as appropriate, when the covering fire from our platoon reached a crescendo. SP4 Bassett went forward with his 2-man fireteam and an attached machine gunner and ammo bearer – Timothy Hayes. His fireteam was eventually to become entangled with the NVA in their trench system and not to be seen again until late afternoon. The fire and maneuver exercise failed, and we were pinned down behind the graves and dikes from where we had started. A fierce volume of fire was still coming from the other end of the village where our third platoon was still engaged with the enemy and had been since the crack of daylight.

To my immediate right was CPT Taylor, SFC Price, SSG Black, another company officer and their RTO's. Another Sergeant present that I believe to be SGT Victor Scurry, very recently of the 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV. He wore the 82<sup>nd</sup> patch on his right shoulder as he had participated in the Dominican Republic conflict.

While exchanging fire with the enemy, I noted one of our troopers laying between our position and the enemy position. It appeared that he had attempted to reach the village edge seeking better cover during the fire and maneuver operation,



but instead ran into the entrenched enemy. He was laying out in the middle of the rice paddy, not moving, and presumed dead. I thought I saw him move his arm as if asking for help, it now appeared that he could possibly be alive. I requested covering fire from the others around me. I tapped a Sergeant (whom I believe to be SGT Scurry) and without hesitation we left the protection of the dike in an adrenaline-fueled dash to retrieve the trooper (who was laying in the open and exposed to further enemy fire) and got him to protective cover and aid. The other Sergeant took one arm and I took the other arm and dragged him back to the secured dike. PFC Walter Piper Jr. had passed either before we got to him or while we were pulling him back to the secure dike. I had probably witnessed PFC Piper taking his last breath. PFC Walter Piper was a black paratrooper, the only black Soldier to die that day from Bravo Company. (PFC Walter Piper Jr.; Spokane, Washington was very well liked and highly thought of by his fellow troopers).

When we exposed ourselves to go to PFC Piper's aid, the volume of enemy fire intensified. I experienced the pain in my lower right abdominal area. After retrieving PFC Piper, and upon closer examination of myself, I discovered that my ammo pouches had been shredded by bullets and I noted a small trickle of blood present on my shirt. After regaining my composure, I headed to where one of our machine guns was located. That machine gunner and his ammo bearer PFC Timothy Hays; were attached to SP4 Bassett's fireteam and were supposed to have gone forward with him and his fireteam. The machine gunner did not go forward or fire his machine guns. PFC Hays went forward with the fireteam as he was supposed to and was KIA before the fireteam reached the NVA trench line. With the machine gun not engaged, I told the gunner to move aside and I took over the gun. Positioned behind the machine gun, I observed a khaki uniformed NVA headed from higher ground towards the edge of the village. I adjusted fire, hitting him several times, he kept going and jumped into a bunker. Quickly, I reached for an available M-79 grenade launcher, adjusted the sight and fired one round. The round landed short with a loud boom. I immediately reloaded, fired, this explosion was muffled, indicating that it found its mark. I maintained my position on the gun waiting for any NVA that might exit the bunker. Very shortly, a khaki uniformed NVA exited the bunker, I immediately engaged him, hitting him several times. He continued on his way and disappeared from sight. Thought crossed my mind that maybe he was drugged up?

I ordered the machine gunner to accompany me and started forward with him. Firing and maneuvering left, I noticed our machine gunner was not with us. I once again maneuvered back, found the machine gunner and headed forward again. I noticed hesitation on his part, and I spoke a few words of encouragement to him and calmed him down. I selected a firing position for him to shoot from where he could best provide supporting fire and explained to him his left firing position limits. I didn't want him shooting into SP4 Bassett's fireteam, as they were well forward from us. I maneuvered to the left attempting to catch up with my squad. As I approached a wooded dike, which connected to the dike that I was on, I was shot in my right femur, the pain was almost Unbearable-I let out a loud yell. I rolled myself, rifle in hand, back behind the dike. I could see the NVA and I engaged them until a bullet entered my left index finger and exited under my thumb. At this point I was helpless, I rolled myself back behind the dike, but not before being shot in my left femur, I was shot four times in about 40 minutes. I laid there until a very brave medic arrived and tended to me. I vaguely remember this brave medic that made my pain bearable. I told him to get down as he hovered over me while treating my wounds. He disregarded my warnings and was shot in the collarbone area. When he was hit, I saw his collar bone stand up straight thru his uniform shirt. The morphine he administered to me worked quickly. I was safe behind the dike, but very seriously wounded. I believe it was about 1000-1100 hours. From where I laid, I could hear battle raging on and was very aware when the air support arrived on the scene. I could feel the hot breeze from the napalm. Seems like forever before the medivacs were able to get me and the other wounded out. The area was too hot for them to have any reasonable chance of getting in and out without being shot down. It was almost dark when I arrived at the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital. I was really hurting by then. They undressed me at the hospital, exposing my abdominal wound, it looked more serious that I had first thought. I felt extremely weak by this time, and thoughts of home and my family occupied my mind. I ask to see a chaplain. I had the most comforting and inspirational moment I could have every hoped for, I felt a flood of relief when my mind finally accepted that I was safe and would no longer walk in harm's way. I thought of my men who were still in a very dangerous situation and hoped that I had fulfilled my duties as their leader.

For me, the war was over, my freedom bird awaited me. It was not the way that I would have wanted to board it, but it was a ride home, medical flight. Once they positioned us-me into the planes makeshift beds (stretchers) I could see many other fellow wounded Soldiers who would be making the return flight to the USA with me.

I remember our Brigade Commander, General Pearson presenting me with the Purple Heart Medal, that's all I remember, not even the flight home. My first awakening memory was of a visit by a chaplain. My hospitalization and journey to recovery would present another set of challenges to be overcome. I went onto full recovery, remaining in the Army until retiring and lead a full and productive life. "GOD BLESS AMERICA" (By Estevan "CHICO" Alvarado MSG (R) Squad Leader, 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Bravo Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Infantry, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division; Relating to his participation in these events in the best of his memory and with the utmost respect to the men who served alongside of him; 27 August 2014)

05 February 1967

**Operation GATLING II:** This operation commenced in BINH TUY Province, NW of PHAN THIET at 0645H with 2-502 IN BN and 2-7 CAV (-) following B-52 strikes on suspected locations of Headquarters, Military Region VI. 2-502 IN BN conducted airmobile assault from Bao Loc to selected LZ's in zones, closing at 0945H and commenced search and destroy operations in zone.

During the period of 05-08 February all units conducted thorough search and destroy operations in zone. While contact in the AO was light, several large rice caches, base camp areas and communication equipment and documents were discovered and destroyed or evacuated for intelligence exploitation. On 08 February at 0700H, 1BDE terminated offensive operations in observance of the TET cease fire. All units assumed a defensive posture astride known or suspected enemy lines of communications and conducted vigorous reconnaissance/defensive patrolling to minimize VC/NVA military exploitation of the TET stand-down. During the TET stand-down period which lasted through 12 February at 0700H, 16 separate VC/NVA initiated contacts were made within the Gatling AO. Effective 15 February at 2400H, Operation GATLING II was terminated. (HQ, 1BDE, After Action Report; Operation GATLING I and II; March 1967)



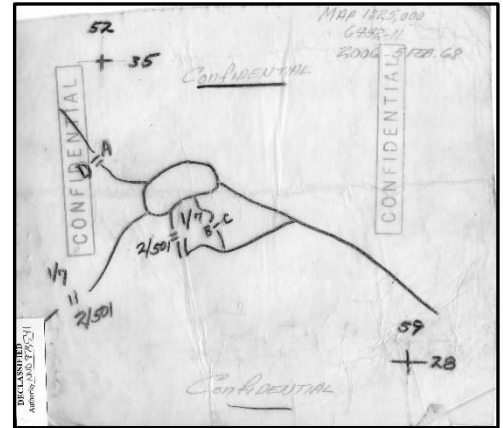


05 February 1968

During the early morning hours the NPD of A/1-502 IN was heavily engaged by a reinforced NVA company. Heavy contact from 0326 hours till 0930 hours, when enemy broke contact. Patrols were sent out to assess the situation. Contact made with estimated NVA platoon. 5 NVA KIA (BC). Company sized sweeps sent out resulting in heavy contact and 20 more NVA KIA (BC). A/1-502 IN and B/1-502 IN extracted. D/1-502 IN made negative contact. The 1-502 IN BN set up NDP's around QUANG TRI for the night. Results: Friendly: - 33 WIA, 1 KIA; Enemy: 0 WIA, 25 KIA (BC) 100 KIA (Estimated); Captured: 2 MG's, 2 AK-47, 1-82mm and 1-60mm Mortar.

05 February 1968

Throughout the day 2-501 IN BN elements and equipment conducted movement departing PB to LZ EVANS. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 05 February 1968)



05 February 1968

**Operation SAN ANGELO:** A/2-502 IN became OPCON to II FFV forward for a security mission Vic XS810945. (HQ, 2-502 IN: Operation SAN ANGELO, Combat After Action Report; 17 February 1968)

05 February 1969

**Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** D/1-502 IN moved from LZ SALLY to FSB T-BONE. A/1-501 IN became OPCON to 1-502 IN BN. A/1-501 IN conducted RIF from T-BONE to YD642187. At 1420 hours in the vicinity YD644191 the pointman was attacked by a tiger. There were negative US casualties and the tiger was wounded.

05 February 1970

1-502 IN, Recon team 1 and 2 at location 715054 found 5 sets of fresh tennis shoe tracks on trail. Also discovered was 1 foxhole used in the last 24 hours. Medivac was called in to A/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon for man requiring stitches in his finger. TET cease fire went into effect, all units on defensive posture.

05 February 1970

**U.S. Army Helicopter UH-1H Tail Number 68-16441 Incident Number:** 70020524. KIA: HEFEL, DANIEL HENRY Name: Daniel Henry Hefel Rank/Branch: E4/US Army Unit: HHC, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division Date of Birth: Home City of Record: Guttenberg IA Date of Loss: 05 February 1970 Country of Loss: South Vietnam Loss Coordinates: 163045N 1072824E (YD494093) Status (in 1973): Returned POW Category: Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground: UH1H Other Personnel in Incident: Tom Y. Kobashigawa, John W. Parsels (returned POWs); James M. Lyon (missing) REMARKS: 730327 RELSD BY PRG SYNOPSIS: At 1530 hours on February 5, 1970, Capt. James M. Lyon, pilot, Capt. John W. Parsels, copilot, SP5 Tom Y. Kobashigawa, crew chief, and SP4 Daniel Hefel, door gunner, were flying a UH1H helicopter (serial #68-16441) on a maintenance mission from HUE to PHY BAI, South Vietnam. When the aircraft was about 18 miles northwest of HUE CITY, the helicopter caught fire and crashed (due to a malfunction). Capt. Lyon was thrown clear of the aircraft and was burned extensively over his body and part of his right leg. His leg was severed four inches below the knee. The other crew members were also injured and could not take evasive action. They were captured at 1630 hours by NVA troops and spent the night near the crash site. Throughout the night, the crew members heard their pilot yelling and moaning in pain. At 0600 hours, Capt. Lyon moaned and then a shot was heard from his position about 30 feet from the aircraft wreckage. No other outcry from Capt. Lyon was heard, and the others believed that he had been killed by the guard. Two weeks later, Capt. Parsels was told by 1Lt. Lee Van Mac (an NVA commander at "Camp Farnsworth") that Capt. Lyon died from his wounds and was buried at the crash site. 1Lt. Lee Van Mac gave Capt. Parsels the personal effects of Capt. Lyon, including his ID card and several photos which appeared to be of Lyon's wife. In late March 1973, Parsels, Hefel and Kobashigawa were released from prisons in North Vietnam. In their debriefings, all three concurred on the story that Lyon had apparently been shot. They considered it a mercy killing, because their pilot had been so seriously injured that they doubted that he could survive.

06 February 1966

Southwest of TUY HOA, at CANH TINH, elements of the 2-502 IN BN closed with a battalion sized contingent of well trained and highly disciplined North Vietnamese regulars. The enemy was within 100 meters, with clear fields of fire, and defending from highly sophisticated emplacements in and around the village. Bitter fighting continued until late into the night. During the long battle, incidents of hand to hand combat and fire fights at 5 to 10 meters' range were frequent. The mission of the paratroopers was to close with the destroy the enemy. The Viet Cong lost 64 KIA (BC), while friendly casualties were light, 8 KIA. Despite the initial advantages of the enemy in number of positions, the valor of the 2-502 IN BN the unit a decisive victory in the battle of CANH TINH.

06 – 08 February 1966

2-502 IN BN and support forces mission was to continue surveillance over routes of egress and avenues of approach into TAOR GOLD to protect rice harvesters and deny VC access to rice harvest areas; to continue aggressive RECONDO patrolling to detect and fix VC Forces and/or facilities for exploitations using CHECKBOARD concept of operations.

The 2-502 IN BN (-) conducted CHECKBOARD Operations in TAOR GOLD with B/2-502 IN operating in the South-Eastern Sector. After suffering 2 WIA casualties from AP mines, B/1-502 IN, Recon platoon (-) was instructed to wait for



daylight and then move to its subsequent location. While conducting, this daylight moves, Recon platoon (-) became engaged in the vicinity CQ087287 with a VC Force estimated initially to be one (1) VC platoon, and subsequently estimated to be a VC Company. This engagement developed into a major operation when a second platoon from B/2-502 IN moved overland to reinforce the RECONDO elements in contact and exploit by hitting the VC Force on its Northern Flank. The third rifle platoon of B/2-502 IN then conducted a helicopter assault vicinity CQ087287 to block the Southern and Western flank of the VC Force. Each platoon subsequently became engaged developing the outline of the VC position. During this period the first of thirteen (13) sorties of Tac Air Strikes hit the target area. Although the VC Force was now contained; B/2-502 IN lacked sufficient combat power to overrun it and C/2-502 IN (-), consisting of two (2) rifle platoons and Company HQ conducted a helicopter assault to the South, vicinity CQ87287 with the mission of sweeping North and blocking retreat or reinforcement of the trapped VC Force. The VC Force, solidly entrenched with mutually supporting AW positions, fought tenaciously and professionally throughout the ground action and air strikes. The fierce defense together with the recovery of an apparent PAVN IA body was an indication that the engaged enemy force was, in fact, the 95<sup>th</sup> PAVN Unit reporting in the area. Later intelligence reports confirmed that PAVN identity. B/1-327 IN was alerted for possible employment, prepared for a heliborne assault and passage of OPCON to 2-502 IN. B/2-502 IN, and C/2-502 IN (-), linked at 1850 hours effectively ending further resistance of the trapped PAVN Force. B/1-327 IN began its helicopter lift, arriving on the LZ secured by B/2-502 IN, at approximately 1845 hours. A Task Force, consisting of B/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN (-), and B/1-327 IN, Battalion XO commanding, was organized swept the battlefield and secured a perimeter in the area of engagement at approximately 2000 hours on 06 February. No further action took place during the night. The results of the engagement were 39 VC KIA (BC), 15 VC KIA (EST), and 15 VC WIA (EST). Various types of equipment and several weapons were taken. Most of the bodies found wore uniforms and black leather belts with starts on the buckles, an additional indication that they were PAVN. At 0845 hours on 7 February. B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN (-) conducted a sweep to return to Battalion Base Area. B/2-502 IN returned directly west with no encounters on the way and closed in its base area at 1030 hours on 07 February. C/2-502 IN (-) swept wide to the south to search an area from which sniper fire was received on 06 February and encountered another well entrenched VC Force vicinity CQ090291 estimated initially to be one (1) Platoon. C/2-502 IN (-) maneuvered aggressively, developed the action, and closed off three (3) sides of the position, each approximately 150 meters long. 1-327 IN committed to B/2-502 IN and Tiger Force to the flank and rear and C/2-502 IN (-) passed to OPCON 1-327 IN BN. A vicious action ensued throughout the remainder of the day. The VC Force, by all indications, was probably a Heavy Weapons Company or a reinforced Rifle Company. The results of the day long engagement were 63 VC KIA (BC) and sixty (60) weapons captured. Of this total C/2-502 IN (-) accounted for 18 VC KIA (BC) and 30 weapons captured. C/2-502 IN (-) was released from OPCON 1-327 IN BN at 1415 hours and returned to its base area vicinity CQ050309 at 1515 hours. The return of C/2-502 IN (-) concluded 2-502 IN BN participation in the engagement. The friendly losses in this operation were: 8 KIA, 43 WIA from the 2-502 IN BN. Enemy losses as a result of 2-502 IN BN during this operation were: 1 CIA, 57 KIA (BC), 15 WIA (EST), 15 KIA (EST), 30 weapons captured including AK 47's and light machine gun, PRC/10, switch board, and a large quantity of LBE. (After Action Report, HQ, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry; 12 February 1966)

- 06 February 1968 1-501 IN BN, providing security for Seabee's repairing Highway 1, encounter a command-detonated mine. The platoon sent out patrols to look for Sapper who triggered it. Found the detonator wire and battery, but no triggerman.
- 06 February 1968 Elements of 2-501 IN BN conducted movement throughout the AO (B/2-501 IN, C/2-501 IN, D/2-501 IN, E/2-501 IN and Recon). Minor activity throughout the day; negative results. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 06 February 1968)
- 06 February 1968 1-502 IN BN continues search and destroy operations southeast of QUANG TRI, Very light contact with negative results.
- 06 February 1969 **Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** C/1-502 IN conducted a RIF to FSB BASTOGNE and then moved by truck to LZ SALLY. The rest of the 1-502 IN BN continued its security missions and conducted RIF operations and saturation patrols.
- 06 February 1969 In three contacts west of FSB QUICK, A/2-502 IN killed two and captured three weapons. Also, southeast of the Citadel, recon troopers of the 1-501 IN BN engaged three VC in a bunker, killing them and taking a weapon. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)
- 06 February 1970 D/1-502 IN, 2<sup>ND</sup> platoon reported movement outside their NDP at 786107. They set off two claymores and requested illumination. Neg results. TET cease fire ends 1800 hours.
- 07 February 1968 B/2-501 IN conducted movement to AO NICK at 0757H. The rest of the battalion elements conducted movement throughout the AO. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 07 February 1968)
- 07 February 1968 1-502 IN BN continued search and destroy operations SE of QUANG TRI with scattered heavy contact throughout the day. D/1-502 IN reinforced by Recon and B/1-502 IN made contact with estimated NVA reinforced companies. Results: 25 NVA KIA (BC); Friendly 6 WIA, 2 KIA; Companies moved to NDP's by dark, estimated 100-150 NVA KIA during the day.
- 07 February 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** B/2-502 IN became OPCON to MACV HQS for a security mission vicinity XS810945. At 1200 hours, 2-502 IN BN began road march to AO DAN to the east of BIEN HOA escorted by a platoon of A/2-11 CAV. The move was uneventful and at 1350 hours 2-502 IN BN and G/2-11 CAV rendezvoused to form TF DAN vicinity YT133123. At 1630 hours, the C&C ship spotted 1 VC. Recon was deployed resulting in 1 VC Captured. VC was classified as a CHIEU HOI from the 48<sup>th</sup> VC BN. (HQ, 2-502 IN: Operation SAN ANGELO, Combat After Action Report; 17 February 1968)



- 07 February 1969 **Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** The 1-502 IN BN continued security of FSB BASTOGNE, FSB VEGHEL and FSB T-BONE. A/1-501 IN conducted RIF operations to LZ SALLY and was released OPCON to 1-502 IN BN.
- 07 February 1970 A/1-502 IN BN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon participated in an Air Drop exercise to protect Air Force personnel on the ground and to recover equipment from the test. The test was to see if a new beacon system could direct an accurate air drop of supplies during adverse weather conditions during low visibility, rain, or fog. They dropped 6 loads and the platoon was able to find them, which made the test successful.
- 07 February 1970 A/1-502 IN at location 773046 found remains of 1 NVA dead about 6 months. Also, located 1 NVA pistol belt, 1 ammo pouch with 2 magazines of AK rounds, 1 poncho, 1 canteen and cups and 1 cooking pot. An emergency resupply test was conducted with A/1-502 IN (-) recon. The recovered all 6 bundles in satisfactory condition.
- 08 February 1968 B/2-501 IN requested medevaced at 1319H and completed Medevac at 1407H. The rest of the 2-501 IN BN continued with offensive operations to locate and destroy enemy forces in JEB STUART AO and in the area SE of QUANG TRI, NW of HUE. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 08 February 1968)
- 08 February 1968 1-502 IN BN continued search and destroy operations southeast of QUANG TRI, light contact was made during the day. Battalion received message from Brigade "Aerial observation and other sources gave 1-502 IN BN credit for 250 KIA (BC) for period 04 thru 08 February 1968." Results: Friendly 82 WIA 12 KIA; Enemy 6 WIA/POW 305 KIA (BC) 100 KIA (Estimated)
- 08 February 1969 FSB VEGHEL closed as the 2BDE began to phase out its operations against enemy supply routes out of the A SHAU. The 1BDE's O-Deuce continued to RIF deeper into the 4th NVA Regiment base area southeast of PHU LOC. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)
- 08 February 1969 **Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** B/1-502 IN moved from FSB VEGHEL to LZ SALLY. The 1-502 IN BN HQ and TAC CP conducted a move from FSB VEGHEL to Omaha and LZ SALLY.
- 08 February 1970 C/1-502 IN found 35 dud frags between bunkers 10-11 at FSB BIRMINGHAM while laying wire. They blew them in place.



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

---

3 x Distinguished Service Cross  
 28 x Silver Star Medal (6 x Posthumously)  
 6 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1 x Posthumously)  
 13 x Bronze Star Medal (12 x Posthumously)  
 50 x Purple Heart Medal (33 x Posthumously)  
 3 x Air Medal  
 1 x Army Commendation Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
 4 x Prisoner of War Medal  
 133 x Combat Infantryman Badge

02 February 1966 SP4 Sammy Veach (2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in connection with military operation against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital, General Order Number 14; 07 January 1966)

02 February 1966 PFC Ovra Pericins (2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in connection with military operation against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital, General Order Number 14; 07 January 1966)

02 February 1966 SGT Jesse T. Bailey Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gun wound to the head received in hostile ground action in the PHU YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



02 February 1968 The following Soldiers from HHC, 2<sup>nd</sup> BDE:  
 SP4 Carl E. Durham                      SP4 Gale E. Hunt                      SP4 Roosevelt Perkins  
 Was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge in the South Vietnam. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, Special Orders Number 33; 2 February 1968)

02 February 1968 The following Soldiers from HHC/1-502 IN:  

LTC Bertram J. Bishop**	1LT Timothy B. Jeffrey	1LT Tilahman R. McLemore	1LT James W. Mathews
2LT Albert C. Mata	1SG Cecil J. Cash*	SSG Danny Singletary Jr.	SSG Valreese C. Chase
SGT Bruce H. Matthews	SGT Fred A. Bowen	SGT Robert P. Jackson	SGT Luis A. Rivera
SGT Roger Schumacher	SGT Donald O. Squires	SP4 John A. Dees	SP4 William M. Eagleson
SP4 Benjamin J. Baynes	SP4 Tai Y. Chiu	SP4 Melvin B. McWhorter	SP4 Rueben M. Phillips
SP4 Milo E. Stasiak	SP4 James F. Shirley	SP4 Phillip P. Matto	PFC Allen E. Tingwald

 Was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge in the South Vietnam. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, Special Orders Number 33; 2 February 1968)

02 February 1968 The following Soldiers from A/1-502 IN:  

PFC Vincent J. Redmond	PFC Edward A. Rexinger	PFC Miranda A. Rodriguez	PFC William H. Rollins
PFC Edward Scharrenerg	PFC William H. Schenck	PFC Leslie B. Smith	PFC Russell A. Smith
PFC Izear Sneed	PFC Jerry L. Surveyor	PFC Stephen Thomas	PFC Nestor Vargas Guzman
PFC Nash Q. Verano	PFC Rodolfo Villafranco	PFC Valentine B. Vollmer	PFC Donald S. Waite
PFC Larry J. Weisbarth	PFC James O. West	PV2 Sonnie R. Stephens	SP4 Randall L. Saunders
SP4 Floyd E. Schneider	SP4 Vernon P. Sims	SP4 Raymond L. Soules	SP4 Benjamin J. Terejko
SP4 Mark A. Tyndall Jr.	SP4 Richard Vilcek	PFC Larry L. Aldridge	PFC Washington Alexander
PFC Charles Allen	PFC Jerry Anderson	PFC Lawrence Andiorio	PFC Craig A. Arndt
PFC Thomas J. Barrett	PFC Calvin R. Billis	PFC William J. Bowers	PFC Hosea L. Bridgeman
PFC George E. Brown	PFC John T. Brown	PFC Thomas L. Canopy	PFC Tomas Castaneda
PFC Karl R. Cochran	PFC Donald A. Coffin	PFC Larry E. Crissman	PFC Alan L. Darling
PFC Clyde I. De Mello	PFC Matthew Du Rousseau	PFC Clifford Engle	PFC Daniel E. Ewashenko
PFC Linsey P. Ewell	PFC Angel Febres-Mercado	PFC Michael A. Gritman	PFC Claude C. Houser
PFC Samuel B. Hudson	PFC Donald J. Kosnick		





Was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge in the South Vietnam. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV, Special Orders Number 33; 2 February 1968)

02 February 1970



SP4 Donald E. Bartek (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 while he was on guard duty when he was mistaken for a hostile force and fired upon by friendly fire at FSB BIRMINGHAM in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

03 February 1966



SGT Richard C. Youngbear (A/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 to body and face received in hostile ground action during an assault on night position vicinity TUY HOA in the PHU YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

03 February 1968



SP4 James B. Brandon (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds received while on a CH-46 which was hit by ground fire 4km South-Southeast of PHU BAI AIRFIELD in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. SP4 Brandon was admitted to a military hospital where he later died.

03 February 1968



PFC James E. Malone (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 when hit by small arms fire while on combat operation during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking HUE City, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 February 1966



2LT Frankie L. Wallace (A/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 to chest and leg received in hostile ground action in the PHU YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 February 1968



CPL Ernest L. Jacobs Jr. (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operation during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking HUE City, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 February 1968



SGT Andrew L. Dawson (C/1-501 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 unit engaged hostile force in firefight during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking HUE City, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 February 1968



PFC Val G. Allard (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 from multiple fragment wounds while on a combat operation when engaged hostile force in firefight during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking HUE City, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



04 February 1968



PFC Roy L. Winer (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking HUE City, in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 February 1968



SP4 Richard E. Harner Jr. (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking HUE City, in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 February 1968



SP4 James Dziencilowski (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 hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation during TET 1968 in support of USMC retaking HUE City, in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 February 1968

The following Soldiers from D/1-502 IN:

- |                        |                      |                          |                        |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| PFC John E. Birman     | PFC Larry T. Bowden  | PFC Raymond Borwin       | PFC Thomas L. Callis   |
| PFC Donny G. Calton    | PFC Alvin Carr       | PFC Franklin A. Cing     | PFC Arturo Diaz        |
| PFC Herbert W. Dillion | PFC Ronald L. Eagle  | PFC Michael Eldridge Jr. | PFC Roger A. Evans     |
| PFC Williams R. Evans  | PFC Paul Frazier     | PFC Gilbert M. Dohogn    | PFC Clifton Garner     |
| PFC Norman R. Giroux   | PFC Johnie Gooden    | PFC Larry L. Grice       | PFC William R. Grun    |
| PFC John J. Hanley     | PFC Donald S. Harris | PFC Edward M. Heiser     | PFC John R. Herrelson  |
| PFC Gary L. Hobbs      | PFC Jerry D. Jones   | PFC Ronald W. Kimball    | PFC Glen C. Kunde      |
| PFC Richard N. Laplant | PFC Samuel J. Learn  | PFC John Lee Jr.         | PFC Joseph P. Massey   |
| PFC Ronald L. McKnight | PFC James E. McLean  | PFC Eugene C. Mellem     | PFC Randolph J. Moreno |
| PFC Miguel Negrete     | PFC Joseph A. Negron | PFC Kenneth T. Novel     | PFC Edward J. Novorsky |
| PFC Daniel R. O'Toole  | PFC Salvador Perez   | PFC Kenneth G. Reed      | PFC John E. Ringgold   |
| PFC Gilbert Rosa       | PFC Thyрман Rouse    | PFC Timothy F. Sandberg  | PFC David A. Sexton    |
| PFC Thomas W. Sheridan | PFC Peter W. Smith   | PFC Bruce H. Snider      | PFC Raymond St. Calir  |

Was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge. (DA, HQ 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; Special Orders Number 35; 04 February 1968)

04 February 1970

SP5 Albert W. Ott (HHC/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.

04 February 1970

SP4 Robert D. Souder (HHC/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.

04 February 1971

SSG Alden Bell (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. (1-501<sup>st</sup> Infantry Unit History)

05 February 1966

The following Soldiers from 2-502 IN:

- SP4 Andrew Lewis                      SGT John Rasquale                      SP4 Willie Calhoun

Was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in connection with military operation against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital, Genera Order Number 14; 07 January 1966)

05 February 1968



SP4 Ronald L. Means (B/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 gunshot wound received while on combat operation when engaged hostile force in firefight attack on NDP 5km E-NE of QUANG TRI City in the QUANG TRI, Republic of Vietnam.



05 February 1970



CPT John W. Parsels (HHC/2BDE) was awarded the Air Medal and Prisoner of War Medal. CPT John W. Parsels was part of crew that At 1530 hours on February 5, 1970, CPT James M. Lyon, pilot, CPT John W. Parsels, copilot, SP5 Tom Y. Kobashigawa, crew chief, and SP4 Daniel Hefel, door gunner, were flying a UH1H helicopter (serial #68-16441) on a maintenance mission from HUE to PHY BAI, South Vietnam. They were captured at 1630H by NVA troops.

05 February 1970



SP5 Tom Y. Kobashigawa (HHC/2BDE) was awarded the Air Medal and Prisoner of War Medal. SP5 Tom Y. Kobashigawa was part of crew that At 1530 hours on February 5, 1970, CPT James M. Lyon, pilot, CPT John W. Parsels, copilot, SP5 Tom Y. Kobashigawa, crew chief, and SP4 Daniel Hefel, door gunner, were flying a UH1H helicopter (serial #68-16441) on a maintenance mission from HUE to PHY BAI, South Vietnam. They were captured at 1630H by NVA troops

05 February 1970



SP4 Daniel H. Hefel (HHC/2BDE) was awarded the Air Medal and Prisoner of War Medal. SP4 Daniel H. Hefel was part of crew that At 1530 hours on February 5, 1970, CPT James M. Lyon, pilot, CPT John W. Parsels, copilot, SP5 Tom Y. Kobashigawa, crew chief, and SP4 Daniel Hefel, door gunner, were flying a UH1H helicopter (serial #68-16441) on a maintenance mission from HUE to PHY BAI, South Vietnam. They were captured at 1630H by NVA troops.

06 February 1966



SP4 Joseph D. Guerrero (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound of the head received in hostile ground action in the vicinity MY CAHN, 23km S-SW of TUY HOA City, in the PHY YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

06 February 1966



PFC Timothy L. Hayes (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to the chest received in hostile ground action in the vicinity MY CAHN, 23km S-SW of TUY HOA City, in the PHY YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

06 February 1966



SSG Steven P. Mollohan (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to right arm and upper neck received in hostile ground action in the vicinity MY CAHN, 23km S-SW of TUY HOA City, in the PHY YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

06 February 1966



PFC Walter Piper Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to the chest received in hostile ground action in the vicinity MY CAHN, 23km S-SW of TUY HOA City, in the PHY YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

06 February 1966



SGT Roy E. Thomas (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to right arm pit received in hostile ground action in the vicinity MY CAHN, 23km S-SW of TUY HOA City, in the PHY YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



06 February 1966



1SG Alex E. Vaczi (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to left arm and right and left side received in hostile ground action in the vicinity MY CAHN, 23km S-SW of TUY HOA City, in the PHY YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

06 February 1966

SP4 George Basset (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, General Order Number 147; 27 MAY1966)

06 February 1966

The following Soldiers from 2-502 IN:

PFC James Wilson	PFC Carl Lopez	PFC James Dowling	SP4 Frank Hill
SP4 Michael Buchanan	SP4 Todd Betzer		

SGT Estevan Alvarado (2/327 IN)

Was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in connection with military operation against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital, General Order Number 14; 07 January 1966)

06 February 1966

PFC James Cobb (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. PFC Cobb while on a patrol around 0930 hours in TYYEN, Vietnam was struck in the left hip by machinegun bullet fired by hostile forces. (85<sup>th</sup> Evac Hospital, General Order Number 14; 19 February 1966)

06 February 1970



CPT James M. Lyon (HHC/2BDE) as a Field Artillery Unit Commander (Pilot) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received and the POW Medal while on a maintenance mission on 5 February 1970, while flying a UH1H Helicopter from HUE to PHU BAI, Republic of Vietnam. When about 18 miles northwest of HUE City, the helicopter caught fire and crashed (due to a malfunction), in the vicinity of YD494093. CPT Lyon was thrown clear of the aircraft and was burned extensively over most of his body, and a portion of his right leg four inches below the knee was severed. The other crew members CPT John W. Parsels (Co-Pilot), SP4 Tom Kobashigawa (Crew Chief), and SP5 Daniel H. Hefel (Door Gunner) were also injured at the time of the crash and could not take any evasive action. They were captured at 1630 hours by North Vietnamese troops and spent the night near the crash site. CPT Parsels reported during his "Homecoming" debriefing that CPT Lyons yelled and moaned in pain after the crash and during the night. At 0600 hours, the next morning he heard CPT Lyon moan and then he heard a shot fired from CPT Lyon's position about 30 feet from the aircraft wreckage. CPT Parsels heard no further outcry and believes that CPT Lyon was killed by the guards. Two weeks later he was told by 1LT Le Van "MAC" (An NVA Commander at "Camp Farnsworth"), that CPT Lyon died from his wounds, and was buried at the crash site. 1LT Le Van "MAC" gave CPT Parsels CPT Lyon's personal effects, which included his identification card and several photos which appeared to be his wife (NFI). In late March, 1973, Parsels, Hefel and Kobashigawa were released from prisons in North Vietnam. In their debriefings, all three concurred on the story that Lyon had apparently been shot. They considered it a mercy killing, because their pilot had been so seriously injured that they doubted that he could survive.

Curiously, the Vietnamese have not returned the body of Capt. James M. Lyon, nor have they been forthcoming with information concerning him. Tragically, Capt. Lyon has been a prisoner of war for nearly 20 years - alive or dead.

Even more tragic are the thousands of reports that continue to flow in indicating that some hundreds of Americans are still prisoner in Indochina. It's long past time we brought our men home. (The same information was provided by SP4 Kobashigawa and by SP5 Hefel during their debriefings).

CPT James M. Lyon was previously reported missing in action of 5 February 1970 and changed to 02 May 1973 due to information received from returned prisoners of war. NOK notified on 2 May 1973.

06 February 1970



1LT Russell A. Shields (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds while on combat operation when hostile force was encountered during patrol 10 miles southwest of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 February 1966



SSG Carlos Betancourt-Mojica (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to face received in hostile ground action in the vicinity MY CAHN, 23km S-SW of TUY HOA City, in the PHY YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.





07 February 1966



SGT David B. Garcia (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to head received in hostile ground action in the vicinity MY CAHN, 23km S-SW of TUY HOA City, in the PHY YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 February 1966



SP4 Sylvester Jackson Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to head and left shoulder received in hostile ground action in the vicinity MY CAHN, 23km S-SW of TUY HOA City, in the PHY YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 February 1966



SGT Alexander Montoya (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to the right side received in hostile ground action in the vicinity MY CAHN, 23km S-SW of TUY HOA City, in the PHY YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 February 1966



SP4 Duane V. Olson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to head received in hostile ground action in the vicinity MY CAHN, 23km S-SW of TUY HOA City, in the PHY YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 February 1966

The following Soldiers: SSG Lloyd Robert (B/2-502 IN), SP4 Phillip Rice (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (85<sup>th</sup> Evac Hospital, General Order Number 14; 19 February 1966)

07 February 1968



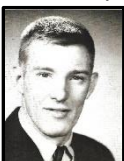
SP4 Raymond Brown (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in firefight 5km N-NE of HAI LANG in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 February 1968



PFC Alfred Urdiales Jr. (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in firefight 5km N-NE of HAI LANG in the QUANG TRI Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 February 1970



SGT Kenneth R. Lasseter (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered during a night ambush engagement northwest of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



07 February 1970



SP4 Robert H. Goosen (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal and Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received which resulted from multiple fragment wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. SP4 Goosen was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired on 13 March 1970.

08 February 1966



SP4 Clarence Galloway (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound of the chest received on 7 February in hostile ground action vicinity MY CAHN, 23km S-SW of TUY HOA City in the PHU YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 February 1969



SP4 Donald L. Kipp (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 from gunshot wounds / boobytraps while on combat operation when engaged hostile force west of HUE in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 February 1969



PFC Robert D. DeBoard (D/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 while on combat operations when he was hit by fragments from a short friendly artillery round directed at a hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 February 1969



SP4 Joseph O. Strickland (D/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 while on combat operations when he was hit by fragments from a short friendly artillery round directed at a hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



# STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

02 February 1966

PFC Juan Sanchez Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. PFC Sanchez was a member of an element consisting of a wire laying team and one squad from the Recondo platoon which had been given the mission of laying a section of wire. As the element approached a small village it was suddenly brought under heavy fire from an enemy ambush. Private Sanchez immediately began to fire his machine gun into the enemy positions only to have it jam after several short bursts. Realizing how precarious the situation was becoming, Private Sanchez charged through the murderous fire and obtained a pistol from his Squad Leader and again with complete disregard for his own personal safety returned through the fire to secure the right flank. Private Sanchez again exposed himself to the intense enemy fire, firing a rocket launcher which he had been carrying into one of the enemy machine gun positions, killing several of the enemy soldiers and knocking out the machine gun. Private Sanchez then returned to his machine gun, broke it down, and corrected the malfunction. When the machine gun was again put into operation condition Private Sanchez began directing suppressive fire into the enemy position. After a short period of time, Private Sanchez was wounded in the leg but refused medical aid and began to secure his equipment so that it would not get into enemy hands. At this time Private Sanchez observed that one of his comrades had been wounded and lay in exposed area. Private Sanchez, disregarding his own safety and wounds, crawled to the side of his wounded comrade and dragged him to an area where he could be evacuated. Private Sanchez's outstanding display of courage and his devotion to duty are within the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, IFFV; General Orders Number 153; 11 February 1967)

02 February 1967

SFC Camilio Gonzalez (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself while acting as platoon leader on a mission to relieve other friendly elements heavily engaged with the enemy. As he approached the battle area, his platoon suddenly received intense Viet Cong small arms and automatic weapons fire causing several casualties. Realizing that further efforts to advance would result in numerous losses, Sergeant Gonzalez called for reinforcements and an air strike. After directing the air strike, he organized his platoon for an assault. Because of the well-fortified Viet Cong positions, he was forced to stop short of the objective. Observing that two squad leaders had been wounded, Sergeant Gonzalez reorganized his platoon and started forward again. After moving approximately 20 meters, they received intense hostile fire and sustained additional casualties. He then set up an extraction point and supervised the evacuation of the wounded. After the wounded were evacuated, Sergeant Gonzalez assembled his battle-weary platoon, and once again assaulted the enemy fortifications. Sergeant Gonzalez, at the head of his platoon, charged forward and ran 50 meters across the open rice paddy, oblivious of the withering fire that engulfed the battlefield and that tore away his equipment and knocked off his helmet. His men, spirited by this almost unbelievable act of heroism, assaulted behind their platoon sergeant and routed the enemy from its prepared defenses. Sergeant Gonzalez' extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military services and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, IFFV; General Orders Number 474; 30 May 1967)

03 February 1966



SGT Richard C. Youngbear (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 3 February 1966 while serving as fire team leader of a reconnaissance patrol in the vicinity of TUY HOA, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours, while on guard on the patrol's perimeter, Sergeant Youngbear detected a hostile patrol that had approached to within ten meters of his position under concealment of darkness. Sergeant Youngbear, realizing that he had no time to alert the whole patrol, immediately engaged the insurgents with a deadly volume of automatic weapons fire. Although wounded in both legs by the Viet Cong fire, he courageously engaged the insurgents. As two of his men were coming to help him he shouted for them to pull back and take cover. Although hit several more times, Sergeant Youngbear continued firing, forcing the now disorganized Viet Cong to concentrate their fire on him. This enabled the rest of the small patrol to get in better firing positions to repel the hostile assault. Inspired by Sergeant Youngbear's fighting spirit against seemingly insurmountable odds, the patrol was able to repulse the attack. After the fierce fight, the patrol found Sergeant Youngbear mortally wounded with six dead Viet Cong around him. Had it not been for his devotion to duty, courage, and willingness to sacrifice his life, the entire patrol might have been taken by surprise and overrun. Sergeant Youngbear's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV; General Order Number 1906; 28 March 1966)

03 February 1968



SP4 Lawrence E. Mize (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 February 1968. Specialist Mize distinguished himself while serving as a medic with the 1st platoon of Company A 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry 101st Airborne Division on an operation near HUE, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Mize was with members of the 1st platoon on an airmobile mission south of HUE when the helicopter was hit by automatic weapons fire from the enemy, forcing the ship to crash. The grounded helicopter was soon in flames and was again taken under enemy fire. The aircraft was evacuated, except for one man wounded by enemy fire and bleeding severely while still strapped to his seat. With complete disregard for his own safety, under enemy fire and with full knowledge that the burning aircraft might explode at any moment, Specialist Mize returned to the helicopter and treated the wounded man. Specialist Mize's quick and heroic action saved the wounded man's life. Specialist Mize's exceptional valor is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 383; 17 April 1968)



03 February 1968



2LT John R. Rodelli (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 February 1968. Second Lieutenant John R. Rodelli distinguished himself while serving as Platoon Leader of the 1st Platoon of Alpha Company 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Lieutenant Rodelli was with his platoon on a serial mission in a CH-47 helicopter when the aircraft came under direct fire, severely wounding one of his men and tearing into the starboard engine of the helicopter, thus disabling it. Told by the pilot that the helicopter was going to crash Lieutenant Rodelli quickly organized a perimeter defense to be established immediately upon contact with the ground. His calm manner and precise orders served well to prepare his men in advance and quell the fear that immediately rose with the news of the impending crash. Once on the ground the platoon evacuated the helicopter and formed a perimeter defense to return the enemy fire. With enemy automatic weapons fire coming in, Lieutenant Rodelli calmly placed his men and directed the fire, at the same time calling in a Medevac helicopter, and radioing back for another CH-47 helicopter to come in to pick up his platoon. Then under enemy fire Lieutenant Rodelli rushed back inside the inflamed aircraft along with a medic to help treat the wounded man who was still strapped to his seat and bleeding severely. Provided with excellent covering fire, the Medevac picked up the wounded man, and the requested CH-47 helicopter landed to evacuate the rest of the platoon. With outstanding professional skill and exceptional bravery under fire, Lieutenant Rodelli directed his men aboard the helicopter while keeping the enemy no more than thirty-five meters distant, pinned down. In their defense, Lieutenant Rodelli's men killed at least two enemy soldiers while suffering no casualties themselves. The successful defense and evacuation of his platoon as well as his personal conduct is testimony to Lieutenant Rodelli's outstanding heroism and high degree of professional skill under fire. Second Lieutenant Rodelli's extraordinary heroism is in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 443; 18 April 1968)

04 February 1966



2LT Frankie L. Wallace (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Second Lieutenant Wallace distinguished himself on 4 February 1966 while leading a squad size patrol on a routine search of several villages in the Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1430 hours as Second Lieutenant Wallace's squad approached a village, they were suddenly engaged by small arms and automatic weapons fire by an estimated Viet Cong squad. Exposing himself to the deadly insurgent fire, Second Lieutenant Wallace led an assault on the hostile positions. The assault was so aggressive that the Viet Cong were forced to withdraw. Second Lieutenant Wallace then led his patrol across an open rice paddy, skillfully executing fire and movement in pursuit of the insurgent force. The Viet Cong squad joined an estimated platoon size force who were well entrenched. Second Lieutenant Wallace directed effective artillery fire and air strikes on the hostile positions. When the supporting fires lifted, Second Lieutenant Wallace led his squad in an assault and was met by intense automatic weapons and mortar fire which forced him to withdraw. In the withdrawal, one fire team leader fell wounded.... Without hesitation, Second Lieutenant Wallace ran in to the open rice paddy to aid his wounded comrade and was wounded in the leg before he could reach him. Unmindful of his wound, Second Lieutenant Wallace got up and continued toward the wounded man. As he approached the stricken soldier, he killed two Viet Cong who were also attempting to reach the wounded man. Fully exposed to the intense Viet Cong fire concentrated on him, he aided the wounded soldier. Second Lieutenant Wallace was mortally wounded by hostile automatic weapons fire while assisting his wounded comrade to safety. Due to his courage, inspiring example, and his leadership, he was instrumental in saving the life of a fellow soldier and accounted for twenty-seven Viet Cong killed. Second Lieutenant Wallace's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United State Army. (HQ, USARV; General Orders Number 3694; 12 June 1966)

04 February 1966

CPT Henrik D. Lunde (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 4 February 1966 while serving as company commander during a mission to reinforce a squad size reconnaissance patrol that had made contact with a well-fortified Viet Cong platoon near TUY HOA, Republic of Vietnam. As the lead elements of Captain Lunde's unit neared the battlefield, they encountered heavy automatic weapons fire from their front and left flank. Captain Lunde immediately ordered his platoons into an assault line. As the platoons were advancing by fire and movement across open rice paddies, it became evident that the reconnaissance patrol would be caught between the heavy fire of the Viet Cong and friendly elements. After an unsuccessful attempt to contact the platoon radio operators, Captain Lunde immediately moved from his position and by short rushes maneuvered through the hostile fire directed at him until he reached the center platoon. Since the platoon had lost several essential leaders, he regrouped the platoon, regained the momentum of the assault, and led the troops forward. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he then ran 200 meters across an open field through another barrage of Viet Cong fire until he reached his right flank platoon. After coordinating his own flank elements with those of another company on his right, the Viet Cong force was finally defeated with 27 casualties. Captain Lunde's extraordinary heroism against a hard-core force of Viet Cong 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 2468; 22 April 1966)

04 February 1966 –  
04 January 1967

SP4 Charles W. Campbell (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for distinguishing himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period of 04 February 1966 to 04 January 1967. 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 way 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 Army and reflect great credit on him and on the military service. (Citation)





04 February 1966



PFC Michael Baldinger (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1-OLC) for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. PFC Baldinger distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 4 February 1966, in the Republic of Vietnam. While conducting a combat operation, elements of Private Baldinger's company were heavily engaged with an estimated reinforced company of North Vietnamese Army regulars southwest of TUY HOA, Republic of Vietnam. They were met by extremely heavy small arms fire from the entrenched Viet Cong. Unable to move further into the area, they began firing into the enemy's position. Suddenly a cry was heard that a medic was urgently needed. Without hesitation, Private Baldinger left his relatively secure area and ran forward in an effort to reach the wounded men. He ran through an open rice paddy, completely exposed to the withering enemy fire. After reaching the area, he began to administer first aid to the wounded. For one hour, Private Baldinger could be seen crawling from one man to the next, even though he himself was completely exposed to the now extremely accurate enemy fire. His actions undoubtedly saved the lives of several Americans that day. Private Baldinger's devotion to duty and personal courage 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; 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1451; 14 July 1967)

04 February 1968



CPT Gordon H. Mansfield (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. Captain Mansfield distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 4 February 1968 as commanding officer of an airborne infantry company on a search and clear operation near HAI LANG. When his company came under devastating enemy fire, he immediately maneuvered his elements into positions for an attack. Receiving word that one platoon had been pinned down by enemy automatic weapons fire; he led a second platoon into position for a frontal assault upon the enemy. When the attack stalled in the face of ravaging fire, he led five men to the enemy's flank. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he led a savage charge upon the enemy position that completely destroyed it. Captain Mansfield repeatedly exposed himself to enemy weapons fire to evacuate his wounded men. While moving the casualties to safety, he was seriously wounded. Refusing aid, he continued to direct the evacuation of the wounded and coordinated with an adjoining company for aid. Only when he was certain that his men were safe did he agree to his own evacuation. Captain Mansfield's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV; General Orders Number 2945; 20 June 1968)

04 February 1968

PFC DeForest S. Conner (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Private First Class Conner distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 4 February 1968 as a rifleman of an airmobile infantry company conducting a search and clear operation in the HAI LANG area. His platoon was advancing toward a village believed to be an enemy stronghold when it was suddenly taken under intense hostile automatic weapons fire from the right flank. Private Conner noticed that the fire seemed to be coming from a large enemy bunker adjacent to the concrete house. He jumped up and ran to a position ten meters from the enemy emplacement. He was wounded in the side during this maneuver, but he refused aid and began to fire into the fortification, allowing his platoon time to deploy for the engagement. He next attempted to throw a grenade into the bunker to destroy it. He was shot in the right arm. Disregarding his safety, he switched the grenade to his left hand and made an accurate throw. The explosion stunned the North Vietnamese Army soldiers in the bunker. Private Conner continued to place suppressive fire on the position and was wounded a third time. Realizing that the bunker would have to be completely demolished to eliminate its fire, he dashed forward, exposed to a hail of bullets, and tossed a grenade inside the emplacement which killed all its occupants. Unassisted, he then crawled to the rear for medical treatment. Private First Class Conner's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV; General Orders Number 3645; 29 July 1968)

05 February 1966

SP4 James C. Bennett (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself from 5 February 1966 to 6 February 1966 while serving as a medical aidman in the Republic of Vietnam. On the night of 5 February 1966, Specialist Bennett's platoon found itself situated in a Viet Cong minefield and had two casualties from detonated mines. Specialist Four Bennett, with complete disregard for his safety, ran through the minefield and administered first aid to the wounded men. On the following morning when his platoon attacked the village of CANH TINH, they received intense automatic weapons and small arms fire that wounded three men. Again, exposing himself to intense hostile fire, Specialist Four Bennett went to their assistance and administered lifesaving first aid. After treating the wounded men, he pulled one of the men to safety and directed the evacuation of the other two men. When another man was wounded, Specialist Four Bennett again braved the hostile fire by running forty meters directly towards a Viet Cong machine gun position to aid the casualty. Approximately five meters from the wounded man's position, Specialist Four Bennett was wounded three times in the leg. Disregarding his own wounds, he crawled to the side of the wounded man and administered first aid. When the medical evacuation helicopter arrived, Specialist Four Bennett refused to be evacuated and continued with the platoon on the operation. Four hours later the platoon seized the village. While reorganizing the platoon, three men were wounded. Although suffering from pain, he went to the aid of the wounded, and was hit twice by mortar fragments. Disregarding his wounds, he pulled a wounded man across fifty meters of open rice paddies to safety. Despite his protest, he was evacuated for medical treatment. Specialist Four Bennett's courage and devotion to duty saved the lives of seven men within a twenty-four-hour period. His in impeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior hostile 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 2931; 17 May 1966)



05 February 1968



CPT Paul M. Pritchard (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 5 February 1968. Captain Pritchard distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic actions near QUANG TRI, Republic of Vietnam. Captain Pritchard's company conducted an attack on a well dug-in enemy force of estimated Battalion size. The attack lasted for seven hours and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. During the entire action, Captain Pritchard continuously exposed himself to the heavy fire in order to control his units and direct supporting fire. His personal courage and the example set by him inspired his men and was a key factor in the company's successful attack on a strong enemy position. Captain Pritchard's extraordinary heroism 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, 101<sup>st</sup> AIR CAV DIV; General Orders Number 4570; 11 August 1968)

06 February 1966



CPT Robert C. Murphy (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while Commanding Company C, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. On 6 February 1966, Captain Murphy, his command group, and one reinforced rifle platoon were deployed by helicopter to complete an encirclement of an entrenched Viet Cong company in the village of CANH-TINH, Republic of Vietnam. On two occasions en route to their objective, this unit was subjected to intense and accurate sniper fire. Captain Murphy remained exposed to direct airstrikes and artillery fire into the insurgent positions in order to enable his unit to complete their objective. As Captain Murphy and his comrades approached the village, they came under deadly grazing machine gun fire. Upon coordinating with the other unit commander to launch a company attack, he led his troops in an assault through a murderous hail of bullets to storm the insurgent trenches. The Viet Cong fell back upon facing the attacking force. A vicious house-to-house battle followed. The Viet Cong, defending a series of fortified bunkers, pinned down one of the leading elements. Realizing that the momentum of the assault was faltering, Captain Murphy seized the initiative and charged through the intense hail of fire to destroy a bunker and kill two insurgents. Inside the village, a machine gun began firing at Captain Murphy. With great courage, and under the covering fire of another man, he again charged the hostile position, destroying the bunker and killing four more Viet Cong. He then recognized and consolidated his forces. The success of the operation was marked by his professional ability and courage. Captain Murphy's extraordinary heroism and gallantry in action are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. (HQ, USARP; General Orders Number 151; 14 July 1966)

06 February 1966



CPT Robert C. Murphy (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as commanding officer on an assault in the village of CANH TINH, Republic of Vietnam. While enroute to their objective, Captain Murphy's unit received intense hostile fire from well-fortified Viet Cong positions and was pinned down immediately. Captain Murphy immediately called for air support and artillery fire. He then repeatedly exposed himself to the hostile fire to effectively direct air strikes and artillery fire upon the Viet Cong emplacements. This enabled his force to continue to the objective under the cover of suppressive supporting fire. As Captain Murphy and his force approached the village of CANH TINH, they received deadly grazing machine gun fire. At this time, Captain Murphy, with complete disregard for his safety, conducted a frontal assault through a hail of Viet Cong fire, breached the hostile perimeter, and stormed the insurgent emplacements. The Viet Cong withdrew and a vicious house to house battle ensued. On one occasion, Captain Murphy's force was pinned down by direct Viet Cong machine gun fire. Dauntlessly, Captain Murphy rushed through the fire, destroyed the bunker with a hand grenade assault, and killed two Viet Cong. Inside the village, another machine gun opened up on Captain Murphy. Again, undaunted by the fire, Captain Murphy assaulted the hostile emplacement and neutralized it with well-placed hand grenades, killing four Viet Cong. Through his fearless example and courageous leadership, the village was seized, and the Viet Cong routed. Captain Murphy's unimpeachable valor and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV; General Orders Number 2599; 29 April 1966)

06 February 1966



1SG Alex E. Vaczi (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while participating on a search and destroy operation at CANH TINH, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1800 hours, his unit received an intense volume of machine gun fire from well-concealed and heavily fortified Viet Cong positions near the village of CANH TINH. Realizing the imperative need to locate and eliminate the hostile emplacements as quickly as possible to minimize casualties to his unit, First Sergeant Vaczi moved about the battlefield and placed his troopers in positions from which they could effectively engage the Viet Cong that he was able to locate. In one instance a well-concealed machine gun fired on the left flank of his unit. To locate this hostile machine gun bunker, he braved almost certain death by dangerously exposing himself, and then delivered extremely accurate fire on the hostile emplacement to force the Viet Cong to abandon the position. Despite the protests of all those around him, First Sergeant Vaczi persisted in exposing himself to the hostile fire while locating and directing effective fire on the Viet Cong positions. He continually encouraged and inspired his men to meet the hostile fire with a determined aggressiveness. While moving from one man to another, First Sergeant Vaczi was mortally wounded. Even though he sacrificed his own life, his leadership inspired the platoon to locate and effectively engage the concealed hostile positions. First Sergeant Vaczi's gallant actions on the field of battle 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 1819; 23 March 1966)



06 February 1966

SSG Andrew J. May Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as a platoon sergeant during a reconnaissance operation near TUY HOA, Republic of Vietnam. While moving toward their objective, Staff Sergeant May's squad received intense hostile fire. Staff Sergeant May deployed his men and continued forward. As his squad advanced, two troopers were wounded. Staff Sergeant May immediately threw grenades at the hostile position, killing a Viet Cong. With complete disregard for his safety, he braved hostile fire while assisting a wounded comrade. Carrying the injured man, he moved across open rice paddies to an evacuation point. Undaunted by the Viet Cong fire, he returned to his squad and gave the order to withdraw. He then took one man with him to provide covering fire while he moved to the other wounded trooper and managed to extract him. Later, he led an element into the village of CANH TINH. While entering the area, his squad was again subjected to hostile fire. During the course of action, Staff Sergeant May assaulted a house occupied by a Viet Cong sniper and killed him with a well-placed grenade. Moving to the rear of the house, he encountered another Viet Cong in a bunker. Unhesitatingly Staff Sergeant May pulled another grenade from his belt and threw it into the bunker, killing the insurgent. Staff Sergeant May's courageous actions inspired his men to successfully complete their mission. His extraordinary heroism 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 5771; 22 September 1966)

06 February 1966



MAJ Donald B. Schroeder (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as task force commander of a battalion size force which was engaged with a Viet Cong force defending the well-fortified village of CANH TINH, Republic of Vietnam. Major Schroeder, while receiving hostile fire, courageously moved about the battlefield with complete disregard for his safety. On one occasion, he moved across seventy-five meters of open area to ensure that all of his elements were coordinated. Major Schroeder then contacted the company commander of a reserve company and personally guided him into his sector. Throughout the remainder of the night, Major Schroeder calmly reported the developing situation of his task force. He directed aggressive patrols in pursuit of elements that were trying to break contact and cleared scattered pockets of resistance remaining in the village. His actions during the assault served as an inspiration to all and contributed immeasurably to the overwhelming victory. Major Schroeder'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 4602; 13 Jul 1966)

06 February 1966



SP4 Duane V. Olson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while participating on a search and destroy operation at CANH TINH, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1000 hours, Specialist Four Olson's unit was dispatched to relieve a friendly element that was pinned down by Viet Cong fire. As the platoon approached the friendly element, they came under intense sniper and machine gun fire and were pinned down. Specialist Four Olson detected a slight movement approximately one hundred meters away. Realizing that he could not place effective fire on the hostile targets from his present position, Specialist Four Olson picked up his machine gun and, without orders, he and his assistant rushed across a small clearing to a better position. He then fired into the hostile position and killed one of the snipers. While advancing on a Viet Cong machine gun position, his comrade was wounded. Specialist Four Olson quickly rendered first aid to his wounded assistant and began firing to enable him to crawl to safety. As Specialist Four Olson attempted to reload his machine gun, the Viet Cong concentrated a deadly volume of fire on his position, and mortally wounded him. Because Specialist Four Olson had drawn the hostile fire on himself, the platoon was able to maneuver, eliminate the machine gun position, seize the village, and inflict numerous casualties on the Viet Cong. Specialist Four Olson's valor in close combat against a numerically superior hostile 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 1871; 26 March 1966)

06 February 1966

PFC Fount V. Smith (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. PFC Smith, with his unit, was helilifted to aid in the attack on a heavily fortified village. After ten minutes on the ground Private Smith's unit sustained several casualties and the situation became critical. Private Smith, without orders, began a one-hundred-meter crawl directly toward the enemy, although he was receiving heavy fire and was in grave danger. Upon reaching a trench, Private Smith began throwing hand grenades into the enemy positions. The Viet Cong spotted him and began throwing grenades back. Undaunted, and with complete disregard for his own life, Private Smith began picking up Viet Cong grenades and throwing them back. Soon Private Smith was out of ammunition and grenades and had no call for more. His comrades, some one hundred meters away, were unable to help him for almost ten minutes. Private Smith then received several grenades that were thrown to him by his comrades in the rear. After again expending all his grenades Private Smith called for more but was unheard since all friendly forces were heavily engaged. He then rejoined his comrades and urged them to return to his previous location. Private Smith accounted for at least twelve enemy killed and paved the way for the assault which, together with actions of other friendly forces, routed a well-armed enemy force from its prepared defenses. Private Smith's actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the American fighting man and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, IFFV; General Orders Number 77; 24 January 1967)





06 February 1966



LTC Henry E. Emerson (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as commander of a battalion which was engaged with a well-trained and heavily armed Viet Cong battalion near CANH TINH, Republic of Vietnam. After directing the tactical deployment of his elements, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson became airborne in an H-13, a light observation helicopter, to continue the effective control of his maneuvering assault troops. While performing this courageous act, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson's aircraft received intense automatic weapons and small arms ground fire. Despite this, he remained over the battle area, pin-pointed hostile emplacements, and analyzed the developing situations. Late that afternoon, the Viet Cong launched a heavy assault on the friendly force. At this time, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson landed his aircraft on the fire swept battlefield and personally directed the fire of his troops while repeatedly exposed to intense hostile fire. During the course of action, Lieutenant Colonel Emerson, with complete disregard for his personal safety, further exposed himself to Viet Cong fire while directing the medical evacuation of wounded. His outstanding devotion to duty, personal bravery, and leadership contributed immeasurably to the overwhelming defeat of the Viet Cong in that area. Lieutenant Colonel Emerson's gallant 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, USARV; General Orders Number 2479; 26 April 1966)

06 February 1966

2LT James B. Craig (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as a platoon leader during a search and destroy mission at CANH TINH, Republic of Vietnam. While approaching a village shortly after midnight, the lead element entered a minefield and a soldier stepped on a min. For the next four hours, Second Lieutenant Craig led his men out of the minefield. Although another man stepped on a mine, he continued to encourage his men until all were safely out of the minefield. In the early morning his platoon suddenly received intense Viet Cong fire and sustained a few casualties. Realizing that further efforts to advance would result in numerous losses, Second Lieutenant Craig called for reinforcements and an air strike. After directing the air strike, he organized his platoon for an assault of the village. Because of the well-fortified Viet Cong positions, he was forced to stop short of the objective. Observing that two squad leaders and the platoon sergeant had been wounded, Second Lieutenant Craig reorganized his platoon and started forward again. After moving approximately 20 meters, they received intense hostile fire and sustained additional casualties. He then set up an extraction point and supervised the evacuation of the wounded. After the wounded were evacuated, Second Lieutenant Craig assembled his battle-weary platoon, assaulted the village, and routed the Viet Cong defenders from their prepared defenses, Second Lieutenant Crag's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was 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 4864; 21 July 1966)

06 February 1966



1SG Robert C. Melton (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as a First Sergeant during a company assault on the village of CANH TINH, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1400 hours, as First Sergeant Melton's company moved from a riverbed, a Viet Cong force unleashed a devastating volume of automatic weapons fire from well-fortified bunkers. First Sergeant Melton immediately joined the company assault line, exposed himself to the intense Viet Cong fire as he moved from man to man, shouting words of encouragement, and directed fire on the hostile emplacements. First Sergeant Melton's inspiring leadership motivated the men and caused them to keep the assault line moving aggressively. When they neared the village, First Sergeant Melton rejoined the command element and assisted in the control of the unit. As they moved across a clearing, he discovered a seriously wounded soldier. Despite the intense Viet Cong fire, First Sergeant Melton carried the wounded man 35 meters to the safety of a dike. When two companies were pinned down by intense hostile fire from mutually supporting Viet Cong bunkers, First Sergeant Melton moved aggressively to within 10 meters of one bunker, threw a grenade into it, killed four Viet Cong, and destroyed the bunker. He then placed suppressive fire on the other bunkers while the elements of the companies advanced and destroyed the bunkers with hand grenades. Later, First Sergeant Melton organized the two elements into one unit and destroyed a final bunker. First Sergeant Melton's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a hostile 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 2996; 20 May 1966)

06 February 1966



SP5 Ronald J. Raney (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966, while serving as a member of a company during a combat operation near the village CANH TINH, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Five Raney was moving with the company command element when a radio operator was seriously wounded in an open field. Immediately Specialist Five Raney rushed seventy-five meters across the open field to the casualty. Although he was constantly exposed to intense sniper fire, Specialist Five Raney rendered first aid and carried the man back to safety. Within minutes, two men were seriously wounded. Despite intense hostile fire, he ran across a log bridge, picked up the injured soldiers, and helped them across one hundred meters of open rice paddies to a medical evacuation site. While directing the approach of a medical helicopter, the insurgents placed intense fire into the intended landing zone. Specialist Five Raney then, with great professional ingenuity, waved the helicopter away, constructed two poncho rafts and, while swimming beside them, floated both casualties down river to a more secure landing zone. During the ensuing assault on the village of CANH TINH, Specialist Five Raney, though completely exposed to enemy fire, treated three more men and carried them to safety. Later, a man was wounded two hundred meters to his front. Disregarding the hostile fire. Specialist Five Raney ran through the open area, picked up the man, and carried him to a tree line. Through Specialist Five Raney's gallant efforts and devotion to duty, the lives of six men were saved. His unimpeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior hostile 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 2938; 17 May 1966)





06 February 1966



SSG Steven P. Mollohan (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as weapons squad leader on a search and destroy operation near CANH TINH, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1100 hours, his unit received an intense volume of machine gun fire from well-concealed and heavily fortified Viet Cong positions near the village of CANH TINH. Staff Sergeant Mollohan unhesitatingly took the squad nearest him and maneuvered toward the insurgent's flank. He inspired the troopers to follow his aggressive example as they began to assault the hostile positions. However, the Viet Cong shifted some of their fire to the advancing squad, and the momentum of their assault faltered. Staff Sergeant Mollohan then quickly moved from man to man, while completely exposed to the hostile fire, and established fire superiority over the insurgents. As the battle progressed and the platoon was maneuvering, Staff Sergeant Mollohan again exposed himself to intense hostile fire too direct medical aidman to the wounded. In one instance he ran across fifty meters of open rice paddy and pulled one of his wounded men to protective cover of a paddy dike so medical aidman could administer aid to him. As a new maneuver element advanced toward the Viet Cong trenches, one of Staff Sergeant Mollohan's machine guns jammed with a ruptured cartridge in the chamber. Realizing the importance of the fire power at this critical moment, Staff Sergeant Mollohan ran from man to man to find a cleaning rod to clear the chamber of the jammed machine gun. While exposed to the intense hostile fire that was concentrated on him, he was mortally wounded. His tremendous stamina, exemplary leadership, and personal courage contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Staff Sergeant Mollohan's gallant actions on the field of battle 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 1835; 25 March 1966)

06 February 1966

PFC Thomas C. Gorham (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while participating on a search and destroy operation near TUY HOA, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1830 hours, Private First Class Gorham's squad was moving along a creek bed carrying wounded personnel to a helicopter extraction site, when suddenly they received intense hostile fire from Viet Cong entrenched positions on both sides of the creek. Reacting immediately to the situation, Private First Class Gorham ran through an open area, braved the hostile fire, hurled grenades, and fired his M-16 furiously. As a result of this action, Private First Class Gorham overran an entrenched machine gun position, and killed two Viet Cong. Later, with complete disregard for his personal safety while receiving intense hostile fire, Private First Class Gorham made a bold frontal assault on a nearby house and succeeded in destroying the insurgent position and killing three Viet Cong. Private First Class Gorham's actions accounted for five Viet Cong being killed, five weapons being captured, and prevented heavy casualties in his squad. His unimpeachable valor in close combat against a hostile 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 1998; 1 April 1966)

06 February 1966



CPT Thomas H. Taylor (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 6 February 1966 while serving as commander of an airborne rifle company during a search and destroy mission at the village of CANH TINH, Republic of Vietnam. When elements of his company made contact with a large Viet Cong force, Captain Taylor immediately dispatched reinforcing elements and skillfully directed them into positions encircling the insurgent force. After assessing the battle from a helicopter over the insurgent position, he rejoined his company. As he made several attempts to move through the open rice paddies to join his most heavily engaged platoon he was met by increasingly heavy fire. Although he was unable to move, he continued to direct his platoon leaders and the deployment of another element to reinforce his encirclement of the village. As Captain Taylor moved forward through intense fire, he personally carried one of his wounded troopers to the casualty collection point. When one of his comrades was fatally hit and fell into a swift running river, Captain Taylor recovered the body of his dead comrade. After rejoining his element, he led an assault on an insurgent position and captured a machine gun. He then directed his scattered elements in the sporadic fighting throughout the night. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the decisive victory over the Viet Cong force. Captain Taylor's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile 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 5308; 11 August 1966)

06 February 1966



SP4 Gregory Floor (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. SP4 Floor distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 6 February 1966 while on a reconnaissance patrol reconnoitering a valley west of the MY CAHN village. As the patrol was moving through the valley, the point man suddenly triggered a Viet Cong mine, wounding himself. Without regard for his own safety, Specialist Floor moved cautiously toward the wounded trooper. Putting the man on his back, Specialist Floor succeeded in bringing him to safety. Once outside the mined area, he began to administer first aid to the wounded man. While he was working on his comrade, another trooper detonated a mine, and he also lay wounded in the mined area. Again, Specialist Floor, without hesitation, placed the life of his comrade above his own as he moved into the mined area and carried the wounded Soldier approximately one hundred meters to safety. Specialist Floor's devotion to duty and personal courage 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, 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 583; 3 September 1966)



07 February 1966

1LT James E. Beitz (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while serving as platoon leader during a combat assault on the village of MY CAHN, Republic of Vietnam. As his platoon neared the village, it received intense hostile fire from a well-fortified bunker. Unhesitatingly, First Lieutenant Beitz deployed his platoon and directed a maneuver element to flank the hostile bunker. As the squad moved across an open area towards the village, they became pinned down by hostile fire. When a fire team leader was seriously wounded and exposed to the intense Viet Cong fire, several unsuccessful attempts were made to recover the wounded soldier. First Lieutenant Beitz, with complete disregard for his safety, while receiving hostile fire, crawled to the wounded soldier. Although he was seriously wounded while performing this heroic act, First Lieutenant Beitz secured a rope to the wounded man's body and began moving the casualty to safety. As he progressed, a hostile bullet severed the rope and because of the intensity of the Viet Cong fire, First Lieutenant Beitz was forced to abandon his rescue effort. He then withdrew his men and called in artillery fire. As he covered his unit's withdrawal, he was again wounded by hostile fire. First Lieutenant Beitz's unimpeachable valor in the face of 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 2998; 20 May 1966)

07 February 1966

SP4 Monte F. Cox (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while serving as a medical aidman during a combat mission near the village of MY CAHN, Republic of Vietnam. As Specialist Four Cox's platoon crossed a canal enroute to their objectives, they encountered intense small arms and machine gun fire. During the initial volley of fire, several casualties were sustained. Unmindful of the intense hostile fire, Specialist Four Cox moved across an open rice paddy to render first aid to his wounded comrades who were twenty meters from the entrenched Viet Cong. Having treated one man, he crawled to within five meters of a Viet Cong machine gun position to administer medical treatment to another wounded trooper. Immediately after rendering first aid, he picked up the man and carried him seventy-five meters through intense hostile fire to a covered position. Specialist Four Cox then returned, administered first aid to another wounded man, picked him up, and carried him across the same field through intense hostile fire. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Specialist Four Cox again returned through fifty meters of completely exposed battlefield to reach the wounded, treat their wounds, and direct others to carry them to cover. When all the wounded were evacuated Specialist Four Cox left the battlefield. Through his courage, outstanding professional ability, and devotion to duty, he saved the lives of at least four American soldiers. The heroic actions of Specialist Four Cox 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 2003; 1 April 1966)

07 February 1966



1SG Robert C. Melton (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while participating in a company assault on a Viet Cong village near MY CAHN, Republic of Vietnam. During the initial attack on the village, First Sergeant Melton courageously moved through intense hostile fire to within fifteen meters of a Viet Cong machine gun bunker to carry a wounded man to a covered position for treatment. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he returned to the scene of the vicious fighting three additional times to evacuate casualties. When reinforcements arrived and began suffering casualties, First Sergeant Melton again moved onto battlefield to within ten meters of a hostile automatic weapons position to carry a seriously wounded man to safety. Throughout the battle, he exposed himself to intense hostile fire while recovering his wounded comrades and directing the fires of his men. First Sergeant Melton's actions were instrumental in saving many lives and enabled his company to complete its mission. His unimpeachable valor and devotion to duty in close combat against a numerically superior hostile 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, USARV; General Orders Number 2005; 1 April 1966)

07 February 1966



CPT Robert C. Murphy (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while serving as company commander during a search and destroy mission near MY CAHN, Republic of Vietnam. When the lead elements of his company received sporadic sniper fire on the approach to the village, Captain Murphy immediately deployed his troops and initiated an assault on the Viet Cong positions. As the assault line neared the hostile emplacements the insurgent force unleashed a concentrated volume of automatic weapons fire from well-fortified bunkers. After ordering his troops to withdraw, Captain Murphy exposed himself to the deadly fire, skillfully directed effective air strikes on the Viet Cong positions, and supervised the evacuation of casualties. After nightfall, Captain Murphy personally led a small patrol to a position within five meters of a Viet Cong machine gun to extract the body of a fallen patrol leader. On the following morning, Captain Murphy led a successful assault on the village. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immensely to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. Captain Murphy's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile 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 2995; 20 May 1966)

07 February 1966



SP5 Ronald J. Raney (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for distinguishing himself on 7 February 1966 while serving as company senior aidman while participating in an assault on a Viet Cong village near MY CAHN, Republic of Vietnam. During the initial attack on the village, Specialist Five Raney's company sustained several casualties. Specialist Five Raney without regard for his personal safety, rushed to within five meters of a Viet Cong machine gun bunker to render first aid to two wounded soldiers. Realizing the need for their immediate medical evacuation, Specialist Five Raney again braved the hostile fire, carried one of the men to safety, and directed others to carry the other men to cover. When friendly reinforcements sustained several casualties while overrunning hostile bunkers, Specialist Five Raney again returned to the battlefield. Although completely exposed to hostile fire, he continued to administer first aid to his comrades, and refused to leave the battle area until all casualties were treated and evacuated. Specialist Five Raney's actions accounted for the saving of seven lives. His unimpeachable valor and devotion to duty in close combat against a numerically superior hostile 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, USARV; General Order Number 2001; 1 April 1966)



07 February 1970



SGT Kenneth L. Lasseter (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam of 7 February 1970. Sergeant Lasseter distinguished himself while serving as a team leader in the 2d Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, while conducting an ambush northwest of the city of HUE, Republic of Vietnam. Shortly before midnight, Sergeant detected movement to the front of his position and moved to an area of limited cover to observe the situation. Discovering an enemy force rapidly advancing and about to overrun his position, he acted immediately. Engaging the enemy force with small arms fire and shouting instructions to his men, he drew the enemy's attention to his location. He remained at his open site and fired hand illumination to reveal the enemy force. Being unable to gain fire superiority, the enemy force broke contact. As it fled, Sergeant Lasseter was stuck down fatally wounded. His gallantry and sacrifice undoubtedly saved the lives of all his men, accounted for the killing of three enemy soldiers and the capture of three enemy weapons, and contributed immeasurably to the accomplishment of his appointed mission. Sergeant Lasseter'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, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2981; 17 March 1970)



# 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  
RVN: Republic of Vietnam  
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

