



STRIKE

Weekly History



Est. 1941

May 8th – May 14th 2016

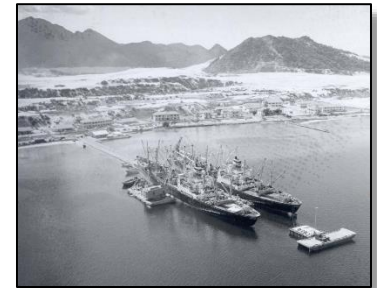
Issue: 55

Brief History of the 502nd and 2nd Brigade

The 502nd, or “five-oh-deuce”, was activated July 1, 1941 at Fort Benning, Georgia as the 502nd parachute infantry battalion, as an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assaults. The 502nd entered combat in World War II on June 6, 1944, by jumping into Normandy, with allied forces landing on D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. Between 1945 and 1964. A major reorganization took place on 3 February 1964, when the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne was activated at Fort Campbell, replacing the 1st Airborne Battle Group, 501st Infantry Regiment. The reorganization from the battle groups to brigades and battalions placed two battalions of the 502nd in different brigades of the 101st.



The 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry was in the 1st Brigade with 1-327th and 2-327th Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam and arrived at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam on 29 July 1965, they were commanded by the most notable commander LTC Hank “The Gunfighter” Emerson.



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



In September 1980, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry regiment deployed to Sinai as a peacekeeping for Operation BRIGHT STAR. The unit was first U.S. forces in the region since World War II.



In 1982, Task Force 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry deployed to Panama in support of Operation KINDLE LIBERTY to demonstrate U.S. ability and resolve to defend the Panama Canal in the light of spreading pro-Soviet/Cuban influence in Nicaragua and Central America.

1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry deployed to Egypt again in September 1982 to enforce Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel by serving on the Sinai Peninsula as part of the Multinational Force and Observers.



May 1984 through a complex “reflagging” process the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 502nd were placed under the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT). With this reorganization the Brigade adopted the regimental motto, “STRIKE!”

On 5 June 1984, 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry deployed to Sinai, Egypt at part of Multinational Force and Observers from July to December 1985. On December 12, 1985 at 0645 the DC-8-63 charter carrying 248 passengers and a crew of 8 crashed just after takeoff from Gander International Airport, Gander, Newfoundland, Canada. All on board perished as a result of the impact of the post-crash fire.



In the late summer of 1990, the “STRIKE” Brigade moved to Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Desert Shield to deter a possible Iraqi invasion. On February 25, 1991 the “STRIKE” Brigade participated in the largest helicopter air assault in military history to establish FOB Cobra.

During Operation Desert Storm, the 2nd Brigade and 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) cut the enemy’s lines of communications, struck deep into his country, threatened a lethal strike against his capital and shut off his escape. The Brigade redeployed to Fort Campbell in March of 1991.



Between 1993 and 2001 the Brigade participated in multiple peacekeeping mission to include: Operation Safe Passage (Panama), Jungle Operations Training Center (Panama), Bosnia-Herzegovina (QRF) Stabilization Force 6 (SFOR6), Kosovo and Republic of Macedonia as part of NATO’s Kosovo Force.

The STRIKE Brigade deployed to Iraq in support of OIFI (2003), OIF 05-07 (2006) and OIF 07-09 (2007). The Brigade received multiple awards and decoration during these operations. During this period in 2004 the “STRIKE” Brigade went through another transformation. With the inactivation of 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry and reflagged as 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment and also transformed from an Infantry Brigade to a modular Brigade Combat Team with adding 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion and 526th Brigade Support Battalion.



The STRIKE Brigade deployed to Afghanistan in support of OEF X-IX (2009), Security Force Advisor Team (SFAT) (2010), Security Force Advisory Team (2012), OEF XV.



STRIKE Brigade also transformed once again in 2014 with the loss of 1-320th FA which joined 2-320th FA and 3-320th FA to make the up the Division Artillery (DIVARTY) and 1-26th IN joined STRIKE Brigade.



During this week, in the span of 72 years since the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941 as the 502nd Parachute Battalion, an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assault, the following are from After Action Reports, Staff Duty Logs, and Personal Accounts.

- 08 May 1968 2d Brigade ambush a position established 6 km north of Hue, along a known enemy LOC, observed 20 NVA moving toward the canal. The platoon from B/1-502 allowed the enemy to move well within the killing zone, then violently executed the ambush employing claymore, SA, AW, and M-79s. A first light sweep of the area revealed a total of 17 NVA killed and 6 weapons captured during the night action.
- 08 May 1968 1-502 continued RIF and security missions of An Lo and QL #1. Alpha Company made contact at YD715294. Cordoned the village and called in air strikes. Bravo Company sprung an ambush on 30 NVA with organic weapons. First light revealed 16 NVA KIA (BC). "C" Company suffered 2 KIA and 2 WIA from sniper fire.
- 08 – 13 May 1969 **Operation Apache Snow:** The 2d Bn, 501 Inf moved from an AO surrounding fire support base whip to a new AO adjacent to and overlooking the northern A Shau Valley. The Battalion Command Post was located on FSB Airborne. After the initial combat assault of the Bn (-) into LZ Green at YD296017 on 10 May 1969, each of the three assaulting companies moved out to assigned objectives.
- Subsequent RIF operation saw the three maneuvering companies close to objectives in the vicinity of YD284031 and then conducting a battalion size RIF operation toward the northwest. When all elements were clear of their objectives, each company continued to conduct RIF and search and destroy operations within the assigned AO.
- As the AO assigned to the 2-501 expanded, each company was assigned an area to search. The preponderance of contacts during the entire operation was with small local security forces of 4-5 personnel or with trail watchers. Only two contacts involved larger than squad size elements. The first contact occurred the morning of the 13th of May at FSB Airborne in the vicinity of YD355070. At 0330 hours FSB Airborne came under very heavy mortar fire of 82mm, 60mm, and RPG fire. Approximately two reinforced infantry and sapper companies assaulted the perimeter from the northeast and northwest. Alpha Company repelled the attack which lasted two hours. Conventional artillery direct fire was employed along with "Spooky" and 81mm mortar fire resulting in 32 NVA KIA (BC) US casualties were 13 KIA and 16 US WIA. (HQ, 2-501 IN; Combat Operation After Action Report, Operation Apache Snow, 22 June 1969)
- 08 May 1969 **Operation BRISTOL BOOTS:** A series of OPCON shifts took place: 1-327 and 2-502 became OPCON to the 2d Brigade while 1-502 and 1-501 became OPCON to the 1st Brigade. In addition, the area of operation was expanded to include a reconnaissance zone along the Laotian Border and Base Area 607. As the maneuver elements of the 1st Brigade moved into this area the enemy withdrew to the west into Laos. (HQ, 101st Airborne (Airmobile), Operational Report – Lessons Learned. Dated 20 August 1969)
- 08 May 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** A/2-502 continued sweep operations to the north when they initiated contact with enemy at 1000 hours. An estimated enemy platoon employing grenades, small arms and machine gun fire pinned down the first platoon. The second platoon was brought up as reinforcements and the enemy displaced. Contact with the enemy was again established as A Company continued to assault up the ridge. ARA was employed with one bird taking automatic weapons fire forcing it to break station and force land at FSB Blaze (YD535020). Both pilots were medevac'd. Contact with the enemy was maintained until 1300 when the enemy again displaced leaving behind six bodies and 7 AK-47's. Two US Soldiers were killed during the contact. B Company continued screening operations south of FSB Shock while C and D Companies patrolled the ridge south of Hill 714.
- 08 May 1971 **Operation LAM SON 720:** An ARVN unit located at Co Pung and the STRIKE Force Battalion were extracted back to FB Jack (VIC YD 4928) to prepare for insertion on the following day into the area west of OP Checkmate and north of FB Veghel. (2-502 IN Unit History, 1971)
- 09 May 1968 Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry found 15 NVA KIA (BC) from air strike at 724294. Charlie CA'd to YD715302 and made heavy contact, suffering 2 KIA and 3 WIA. Established ambushes around the area of contact and captured 1 NVA who crawled up to one of the positions while trying to escape. Delta made moderate scattered contact during the day and killed 8 NVA (BC). Recon found 3 NVA KIA (BC) in a grave at YD723311. Results: Friendly 2 KIA, 2 WIA; Enemy: 26 NVA KIA (BC), 1 POW
- 09 May 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** A/2-502 IN pressed toward the top of Hill 882. An enemy force put at approximately 40 enemy in a bunker complex of 20 to 30 bunkers, engaged the 1st Platoon with fragmentation grenades, RPG's and satchel charges. The platoon withdrew and was reinforced by the 2nd Platoon. After employing heavily artillery and ARA support, the two platoons again attacked the enemy position. After several hours of bitter fighting, the enemy withdrew leaving 27 NVA KIA. The platoon leader of A Company's point assault platoon was killed in action with 12 WIA. The Battalion displaced to FSB Veghel and closed FSB Shock. C Company was moved by air to the top of Hill 714 and given the mission of sweeping west to Hill 882. D Company continued sweeping west of Hill 714.



- 09 May 1970 At 1030, vicinity YD495954, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry received small arms and RPG fire and fragmentation grenades from an estimated 12-15 enemy in bunkers. The company returned fire and withdrew as artillery, ARA, gunships, and air strikes were employed. A sweep of the area revealed 18 NV KIA. US casualties were one KIA and 12 WIA.
- 09 May 1970 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry (-) redeployed in the division AO vicinity FS/OB Gladiator and Granite with Charlie and Delta Company returning to battalion control. Alpha Company remained at Camp Evans to augment security and reequip.
- 09 – 18 May 1971 **Operation LAM SON 720:** The returned to OP Checkmate and the surrounding AO lasted only ten days. During the period of timeframe, the Battalion patrolled the area surrounding FB Veghel.
- 10 May 1968 Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Airborne Infantry made contact with an NVA reinforced platoon 9 km north of Hue. Co C immediately employed heavy volumes of organic weapons fire as the enemy struggled to disengage. Co C maneuvered, pursuing the withdrawing enemy until by mid-morning the NVA platoon was trapped against the Pha Tam Ciang bay. Heavy volumes of artillery and tactical air were employed on the trapped enemy force which, together with the fires from airborne troops, resulted in 21 enemy killed.
- 10 May 1968 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry continued RIF and security missions in AO and made moderate to heavy contact. Charlie Company had a running fight with 2 NVA snipers that led into a village where they received heavy fire that killed their point man and prevented his recovery. Air strikes were called in and caused 10 NVA to leave their bunkers and run into Charlie's positions. Results: Friendly: 1 KIA, 1 WIA, and 1 MIA (KIA); Enemy: 11 NVA KIA (BC). Delta Company made contact at 715328 and called for an Air strike. After the strike a sweep of the area revealed 13 NVA KIA (BC). Recon found 8 NVA KIA (BC) at 720296, killed by Air strikes, the day before.
- 10 May 1968 **Operation DELAWARE:** At 0530, TAC CP (2-502nd) vic. YD576171 received 41 rounds of incoming 82mm mortar fire from approx. coordinate YD578153; engaged with Artillery and mortars. Results: 4 US WHA (Minor). At 1050, A/2-502 vic. YD538121 engaged enemy sniper with SA and swept contact area. Results: 1 NVA CIA, 1 AK-47 CIA. At 2000, TAC CP received approx. 25 Rounds of 82mm mortar fire from YD582158; engaged with Artillery and mortars. Results: 2 US WHA (Minor).
- 10 May 1968 Col. Cushman observes an NVA prisoner captured by 2nd Brigade being interrogated pointing at the Eagle Patch of a nearby trooper, and asked the interpreter what he was saying. The interpreter's reply was "He is saying that little bird is real mean" An arch is built over the Brigade TOC with the new Brigade motto: "That Little Bird is Real Mean"

10 May – 07 June 1969

Operation APACHE SNOW: Intelligence gained prior to Operation APACHE SNOW indicated that elements of the 6th, 9th, and 29th NVA Regiments were using the Northern A Shau Valley as a primary line of communications for movement of material and infiltration of troops to enemy units throughout I Corps Tactical Zone. The mission given to the 3d Brigade and 1st ARVN Regiment was to conduct airmobile assaults into the Northern A Shau Valley in conjunction with the 9th Marines and 3d ARVN Regiment to destroy the NVA/VC forces, obstruct enemy routes of egress into Laos, interdict enemy lines of communication, and to locate and destroy enemy caches.

Prior to D-Day, the 1st and 3d ARVN Regiments and the 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, constructed three mutually supporting fire bases in and around the Northern A Shau Valley – FB Bradley (YD 278122), FB Airborne (YD 355070), and FB Currahee (YC 399949). On D-Day 10 May, following TAC Air, artillery, and ARA preparations five maneuver battalions (three US – 1-506 (-), 2-502 (-), and 3-187; two ARVN – 2-1 (-), and 4-1) were inserted into five separate landing zones along the Laotian Border in the Northern A Shau Valley. Following the insertion all maneuver battalions initiated reconnaissance in force operations to the east and northeast toward the Valley floor. The insertion of an additional ARVN battalion was accomplished when 2-1 ARVN (-) combat assaulted and secured FB Tiger (YD 253090). The following day 3-1 ARVN Battalion combat assaulted into the Valley to support the other maneuver battalions in their reconnaissance in force operations.

At 111645H, Bravo Company, 3-187 began to receive heavy small arms and machine gun fire from the ridges of Hill 937 marking the beginning of the ten-day battle for Dong Ap Bia Mountain. Heavy contact was experienced by the 3-187 Infantry and 1-506 Infantry (redirected to support 3-187 assault on Hill 937) as both battalions assaulted the heavily fortified enemy positions of Dong Ap Bia. On 19 May, Alpha Company, 2-506 Infantry was combat assaulted into the Northern A Shau Valley and became OPCON to 3-187. The following day 2-3 ARVN Battalion combat assaulted into the Valley to add additional support to the attack.

With the support of TAC Air, artillery, and ARA throughout the ten-day period, the 3-187 Infantry with A/2-506 OPCON, 2-501 Infantry, 1-506 Infantry, and 2-3 ARVN successfully assaulted and drove the 7th and 8th Battalions of the 29th



10 – 21 May 1969

The Presidential Unit Citation (Army) was awarded to the following assigned and attached units of the 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, United States Army, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division:

1st Battalion, 506th Infantry
2d Battalion, 319th Artillery
2d Battalion, 501st Infantry
3d Battalion, 5th Cavalry
3d Battalion 187th Infantry
Company A, 2d Battalion, 506th Infantry
Company D, 2d Battalion, 506th Infantry
Companies A and B, 158th Aviation Battalion
Company C, 326th Medical Battalion
Troop A, 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry
Battery C, 1st Battalion 83d Artillery
Battery C, 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery
Battery C, 2d Battalion 11th Artillery
Battery C, 4th Battalion, 77th Artillery
25th Public Information Detachment
Tactical Air Control Party, 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron, United States Air Force
1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions, 3d Regiment, 1st Infantry Division Army of the Republic of Vietnam
Battery A, 11th Artillery Battalion, Army of the Republic of Vietnam
Battery A, 12th Artillery Battalion, Army of the Republic of Vietnam
Battery B, 34th Artillery Battalion, Army of the Republic of Vietnam

For action during the period 10-21 May 1969 the foregoing assigned and attached units of the 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy in the vicinity of Dong Ap Bia Mountain, A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. The 3d Brigade commenced Operation APACHE SNOW by striking at the enemy on his ground. For four days the enemy harassed the men of the Brigade with mortar, rocket-propelled grenades, and small arms fire. Undaunted by this enemy action, the units of the 3d Brigade continued to uncover huge amounts of enemy stores and equipment and to destroy his forces. After pinpointing a stronghold on Dong Ap Bia Mountain, the Brigade launched a series of determined attacks during the ensuing eight days to drive the well trained and equipped enemy from his entrenched positions. Each day the enemy continued to infiltrate reinforcement to help repel the determined American and Vietnamese forces. After eight days of intense combat, units of the Brigade broke through the enemy defense and overran his bunker complexes. The battle continued for another 36 hours while the men of the Brigade searched for and destroyed all remaining pockets of enemy resistance. During the 12 days of battle the 3d Brigade and attached units eliminated more than 500 enemy troops, seized large quantities of weapons, explosives, and other military equipment, and captured tons of rice. The determination, devotion to duty, undomitable courage, and extraordinary heroism demonstrated by the members of the 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and attached units, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon them and the United States Army.

10 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: D/2-502 was inserted south of Hill 882 and passed through A Company which was then extracted. No enemy contact was made on this day.

11 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR II: The 2-502 conducted an airmobile assault into NORMANDY AO, 20 kilometers to the west of Duc Pho. From 4 LZ's elements began Search and Destroy operations toward the east, discovering many signs of recent enemy activity. In the valleys, there were neat farms and well-tended fields of mountain rice and in the hills, large VC/NVA base camps were discovered, and storage hootches containing food and clothing were hidden in the woods near trails. The enemy appeared to be east of the STRIKE FORCE, and only minor contacts were made until the 15th.

11 May – 2 August 1967

Operation MALHEUR I-II.

Locations: I Corps: Quang Ngai Province; Song Ne and Song Tra Cau valleys; Duc Pho; Minh Long; Mo Duc; FSB Champs.

Type/Objective: Search and Destroy designed to keep Route 1 open to the Binh Dinh Provincial border and to assist in the area's revolutionary development programs.

Units: USA – Task Force Oregon - 25th Infantry Divisions; 3d Brigade (1-14th IN, 1-35th IN, 2-35 IN); 101st Airborne Division 1st BDE: 1-327th ABN, 2-327th ABN, 2-502 ABN); 19th Light Infantry Brigade (2-1st IN, 3-21st IN, 4-31st IN); NVA/VC – 2d NVA Division.

Event: 18 June – Second platoon of A/3-21st IN (196th LIB) ambushes an NVA unit 16 miles south of Chu Lai. Two Americans are WIA, two NVA KIA, and two captured.

Casualties: U.S. casualties are from the 101st Airborne only; other figures not included in source documents. NVA/VC totals are for the entire operation. U.S. – 45 KIA, 433 WIA; NVA/VC – 869 KIA, 80 POWs.

11 May 1968

1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry had light contact during the day, and Charlie Company recovered their MIA (KIA) and found 1 NVA KIA (BC)



11 – 12 May 1968

Operation DELAWARE: At 0600, A/2-502 vic. YD539124 engaged NVA squad along trail with SA. Enemy did not return fire, but yelled and ran around confused, as though trying to surrender; enemy retreated leaving behind 3 NVA KIA and weapons. When A Co. fired a claymore from its NDP, it heard the enemy fleeing and one individual groaning near the perimeter. At 0800, TAC CP (2-502) receives approx. 18 rounds of incoming 122mm rockets from southeast. Division LRRP's spotted firing location and called gunships on the target. Results: 1 US KIA, 4 US WHA (Minor), 1 Back hoe damaged. At 2330, the A36 element received an organized probe by an unknown size force. When one of A Co's M-60's opened up on 1 NVA, the enemy returned fire with an RPD, knocking out the M-60 position. A Co. requested gunship and during their last pass one or two rockets went astray, wounding 17 friendly personnel in an ambush position approximately 300 meters from the contact area. On 120900 May, while moving to an LZ to affect Medevac, A36 engage an enemy squad size force with SA. Total results: 3 US KHA, 1 US KIA, 3 US WHA, 16 US WIA, 9 NVA KIA, 6 AK-47's, 1 SKS, 1 M-2 Carbine, 1 RPG Captured.

11 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry began the sweep north with no enemy sightings. Charlie Company continued their operations on Hill 714. They began movement to the west to the saddle (YD502072) connecting Hills 714 and Hill 882. Alpha Company began operations to the southwest of FSB Veghel, while Bravo Company continued screening, the mission they assumed until the end of the period.

12 – 14 May 1968

1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry had light contact during the days as the Battalion continued the RIF and security missions in the AO. On the 14th, Recon and Bravo Company operating with PF's from Quang Dien, killed 1 NVA (BC), 2 VC (BC)

12 – 13 May 1969

FSB AIRBORNE: While being manned by artillery batteries protected by elements of 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry the base was attacked by the 6th NVA Regiment supported by 46 men from the K-12 Sapper Battalion. The bloody fight which followed left 27 American dead and at least 61 wounded. NVA losses were not accurately known since the attackers had, as usual, taken as many of their dead with them as was possible, but 39 NVA bodies were left behind. C/2-329 ARTY and A/2-501 IN had borne the brunt of the attacks.

12 May 1969 –
14 August 1969

Ten days after the inauguration of Richard M. Nixon, the communist leadership resolved to test his will and the will of the American people. COSVN Directive Number 71 ordered the North Vietnamese Army and its supporting local forces to maximize American combat casualties while disrupting lines of communications and disabling the pacification programs.

In 1969, more than 11,500 American servicemen (and one woman) died in Vietnam, nearly half of them in the first four months of Nixon's presidency. The year's best-known combat action was the battle for Ap Bia Mountain (Hill 937), known as the battle of Hamburger Hill. But over one hundred miles to the south in Quang Tin Province, a little-known but highly significant set of military events unfolded. Shortly after midnight on May 12, 1969, under cover of a moonless sky, two regiments of the 2nd NVA Division with support of local and regional units, a force of perhaps more than 2,500 soldiers, launched an offensive in the eastern third of Quang Tin Province, now part of present-day Quang Nam. This enemy force quickly gained control of nearly 80 percent of the targeted area, and threatened to overrun and capture several key allied military installations, including the provincial headquarters at Tam Ky. The U.S. Army's 23rd Infantry Division, the Americal, was responsible for this tactical area of operation, but proved no match for the well-prepared, highly motivated, and determined enemy. On May 14, a Tactical Emergency was declared when the Americal called for help.

In the pre-dawn hours of May 15, land lines were busily ringing and FM radios loudly squawking as the plea from the Americal began to be answered. The 101st Airborne Division hastily prepared plans to send a brigade task force south to Quang Tin Province. Clerks, cooks, supply personnel, truck drivers, and other rear-echelon types were rousted from their beds. At 4:30 a.m., division staff met with 1st Brigade staff. Aviation crews were called into briefings while two infantry battalions and the two artillery batteries that supported them were ordered to prepare for extraction from the field and transport to the Camp Eagle/Phu Bai area. Dense early morning fog nestled in the valleys around fire support bases Pike and Lash in the southern end of the A Shau Valley near the border with Laos. As the sun began to illuminate the verdant peaks and ridges of the Truong Son Mountain Range, artillerymen readied their 105mm howitzers, shell canisters, powder bags, and firing projectiles in huge rope nets to be slung beneath Chinook helicopters. Meanwhile, grunts from the 1st Battalion, 501st, and the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry regiments boarded Huey helicopters at landing zones around the area of operations. These units belonged to the 2nd Brigade, but were placed under operational control of the 1st Brigade. In turn, for the duration of Operation Lamar Plain, the 1st Brigade would become OPCON of the Americal.

Charlie Company, 1/501st, was on FSB Pike providing security. Around 9:25 a.m., Alpha Company arrived from the field, and within the next hour its sister companies were there as well. The men knew little, if anything, about the events that were unfolding. But rumors were rampant. Had the war suddenly ended? After more than three months in the A Shau Valley, were the grunts finally going to get that well-deserved stand-down at Eagle Beach on the South China Sea? Before long, the words "Tam Ky" and "Americal" began to circulate among the men. They realized that something big was going on down south. In the east was the distant but unmistakable sound of in-bound helicopters. The men scrambled to their feet to put on their rucksacks. As they braced themselves for the wind and dust storm of rotor wash, flights of the big twin-rotor CH-47 Chinooks arrived at the firebases. Before long, the big choppers were headed east with their carbo-loads of men, equipment, and supplies. Operation Lamar Plain was underway.

Meanwhile, folks in the rear prepared for deployment to Tam Ky as they loaded all available trucks and Jeeps with ammunition, tents, equipment, rations, and all things necessary to support an airmobile brigade task force. Support units also prepared for the trip to Quang Tin Province. These included a maintenance company, a medical company, a signal company, a company of combat engineers, and a forward support and supply element. Aviation crews, which had been working since before first light, boarded their helicopters and headed south. These included an air cavalry troop, a battery of aerial rocketry artillery, an assault helicopter company, an assault support helicopter company, the brigade aviation unit, and a company of medical evacuation helicopters.



After arriving at the Phu Bai airbase, the infantrymen waited to board Air Force C-130 and C-123 transport planes. While they waited, they had hot showers, ice cream, cold sodas, and were entertained by Donut Dollies. The men were given new jungle boots, fatigues, and boonie-hats. They traded damaged weapons for good ones. The division's top brass joined the XXIV Corps commander, along with the division band, to see the troops off.

Tam Ky lies about 40 miles south of Da Nang. Located in the coastal plain, the town is a market center where people come to buy and sell fruits, vegetables, and fish. By mid-afternoon on May 15, 1969, the little airstrip south of Tam Ky was the focus of activity as transport planes from Phu Bai touched down and offloaded men, vehicles, and equipment. While old men and women squatted on their haunches, crowds of noisy wide-eyed children gathered to stare through the barbed-wire fencing that surrounded the airstrip. Young men and boys raced about on motorbikes spooking water buffalo and chickens. The air was clouded with red dust, diesel fumes, and smoke. Darkness fell, but planes continued to arrive throughout the night. As the first day of Operation Lamar Plain drew to a close, nearly 80 tons of supplies and equipment and 751 soldiers from the task force had been delivered to Tam Ky.

While men and materiel continued to arrive the next day, the Screaming Eagles wasted no time going after the enemy. Two 105mm howitzer batteries were transported from Tam Ky to fire support bases Young and Professional. By early afternoon on May 16, they began preparatory fires. As mid-afternoon approached, the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, minus Alpha Company, made a combat assault north of LZ Professional and began to conduct reconnaissance in force to the south. Temperatures soared over 100 degrees, and there were many heat casualties.

As the infantrymen began their RIF, they began to find well-established enemy huts, hootches, bunkers, and trenches—some of which had been occupied as recently as the night before. The air cavalry and brigade aerial recon teams also discovered many enemy installations while facing withering fire from .51-caliber machine-gun positions. During the next two weeks, virtually every aircraft assigned to the operation received damage from ground fire, and many were shot down. Infantry contact with the enemy was light for the first two days in the field. However, it was only being a matter of time before that changed.

On the morning of May 18, Bravo Company, 1/501st Infantry began to climb Hill 187, north of LZ Professional. As the third platoon reached the summit, several enemy mortar rounds rained down. As the remainder of the company, joined by recon and mortar platoons, reached the top, a command post was established. Soon thereafter, enemy mortar crews had the CP bracketed. One round fell on each side and a third directly hit the CP. The company commander, Capt. John C. Pape, and the senior medic, Spec 4 Russell Lane Jett, were killed in the blast, while the commander's RTO and five others were wounded. Mortar rounds continued to fall on Hill 187 until late afternoon, eventually killing four men and wounding 18.

Shortly after Bravo came under siege, Charlie Company began receiving intense small-arms and machine-gun fire while following a trail north of Hill 187. The first and third platoons tried an assault on enemy positions atop a small hill. The second platoon was defending the company CP and also engaged with the enemy. The assault on the little hill failed; the men pulled back. There were wounded, and ammo and water were running low. It became essential to secure the area so that a resupply helicopter and medevac could come in. Shortly after the men pulled back, a flight of Douglas A-1E Skyraiders, or "spades," rolled in and passed directly overhead, dropping 500-pound bombs onto the enemy position. Charlie Company eventually secured the hilltop, and the dead, one seriously wounded, and heat casualties were evacuated. As the men began to dig in for the night, they surveyed the surreal scene around them. Melted napalm hung from splintered, blackened vegetation. Tree stumps smoldered. Bomb fragments—ugly jagged chunks of steel—littered the landscape. The stiffening bodies of dead NVA soldiers lay close by. The air smelled of combat and death. The men of Charlie Company would call this hill Ghost Mountain.

The 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry entered the action on May 19 when they established a command post at Hau Duc. Meanwhile, their infantry companies and recon and mortar platoons conducted combat assaults by helicopter west of Professional and southeast of Tien Phuoc. The object was to seize the high ground surrounding Professional, and take the pressure off of the firebase and district headquarters at Tien Phuoc. Contact with the enemy was generally light and sporadic until May 21 when 1/501 units, northeast of Hill 187, made contact in the early morning. Fighting continued throughout the day as two companies and the recon platoon were ambushed. The fighting was concentrated around a small hill where the enemy occupied well-concealed spider holes, trenches, and steel-reinforced concrete bunkers.

By mid-afternoon, Delta Company was scattered south and east of the hill. They were badly shot up and pinned down by heavy enemy fire. Worse, the location of one of their platoons was unknown. Recon also was hurting after losing its platoon leader, platoon sergeant, and several other men, leaving a Spec 4 rifleman in command. Bravo assaulted the enemy hill position from the northeast and sustained many casualties. They collected the dead and wounded, and set up a CP and aid station.

Charlie Company, in reserve, was ordered to assault the hill late that afternoon. The third platoon stood up on line, shoulder-to-shoulder, and before the command to charge could be given, the enemy opened fire. Immediately, second platoon was ordered into the fight and the two platoons charged across a rice paddy toward the hill. Several men fell wounded in the paddy, and more at the base of the hill as from above, the enemy fired mortar, machine gun, and rocket-propelled grenades. As the men leaped over a stone wall and began to advance up the hill, the first platoon and company CP also came under attack. The enemy tried to encircle them.

Murderous fire brought down several more of Charlie Company's men. But using grenades and fire and maneuver, they reached a second stone wall. Then they were fired on from every direction. Enemy soldiers wearing grass and tree limbs as camouflage rose up from spider holes and trenches and charged from behind. The fighting became very close, often hand-to-hand. There were many acts of personal courage. After taking out several enemy bunkers with light anti-tank weapons and spraying rifle and machine-gun fire into the trees where enemy soldiers had tied themselves with ropes, the



101st moved further up the hill toward a third stone wall, behind which there was a continuous line of spider holes interconnected by tunnels. To the left and right, behind the wall, were bunker and tunnel complexes. Each time a bunker was taken out, more enemy soldiers crawled through the connecting tunnels and trenches, pulled their dead away, and replaced them in the firing positions. The beleaguered grunts finally fought their way to the top of the hill and destroyed the last of the enemy bunkers. They were exhausted, nearly out of ammo and water, and without radio contact with the CP. The two platoon leaders, Don Gourley and Dan O'Neill, made the decision to recover their wounded and withdraw from the hill. After getting the wounded off the hill, Gourley led a group back up the hill to recover the dead, but the tactical situation prevented their recovery efforts. Only with the help of guys from Bravo's third platoon were they able to police up their weapons and equipment, and get their wounded to a makeshift assembly area and aid station. Helicopters, under enemy fire, took out the wounded well into the night. Evacuation of the remaining wounded and recovery of the dead were the priorities the next morning. During the day's fighting, the 1/501st had 12 men killed in action and 49 wounded. Over the next dozen days, the enemy stalked the 101st units with well-placed mortar and sniper fire. Aircraft losses continued steadily. During this period, 18 men were killed and 54 were wounded. A 24-hour cease-fire was declared for May 30, Buddha's birthday.

On June 2, B Troop, 2/17th Air Cavalry inserted its aero-rifle platoon onto Hill 376, Tien Loc Mountain, for a reconnaissance mission. The undermanned platoon consisted of 18 men, including a medic and two Kit Carson scouts. They soon came under small arms fire and were ordered to turn around and go down the other side of the mountain. The two men at the lead were wounded in an ambush and the rest of the unit was pinned down. The medic, Joseph Guy La Pointe, rushed forward to help the two wounded men. La Pointe was hit but continued to administer aid until enemy grenades landed on his position, killing all three men.

As the battle continued into the afternoon, two more cavalymen were killed and several others wounded. The C&C helicopter was shot down over the battlefield. The situation remained precarious. Bravo Company, 1/501st moved onto Hill 376 to relieve the beleaguered cavalry platoon. The next morning, June 3, two more infantry companies and the recon platoon from the 1/501st arrived. For the next nine days, the Screaming Eagles moved up and down the ridgelines assaulting enemy bunkers, often facing murderous machine-gun fire, mortars, and grenades. By the time they left Hill 376 on June 12, they had suffered 23 killed, 34 wounded, and one missing in action. In addition, a helicopter crew of four men from the 101st Aviation Battalion and a passenger were killed in the area, while elements of the 1/46th Infantry suffered casualties south of Hill 376. After a month of bitter fighting in which neither side gained an advantage, Operation Lamar Plain reached a turning point. It became a game of chasing an enemy that avoided contact while moving toward its sanctuaries deeper in the interior. Operations intelligence identified possible base camps and other enemy locations. Some were the subject of combat assaults, only to find the enemy had moved out ahead of assaulting units. Other locations were the targets of B-52 air strikes.

Then, in late June and early July, the 1/502nd Infantry started to make contact around Hau Duc. They found many enemy trails and a large transportation route. They also located enemy huts and a medical complex in which supplies were cached.

On the morning of July 8, Alpha Company, 1/502nd Infantry made a grueling march to a location about 3 km northeast of Hau Duc. There, in a fallow rice paddy, they were supposed to rendezvous with a resupply helicopter. Capt. Chuck Scribner ordered his third platoon to move forward and recon the area before putting out two squads as perimeter security. As those two squads advanced, the lead squad discovered a line of commo wire. When they reported their finding, they were ordered to follow the wire, which led to a small hootch. With a man on each flank, the squad leader stepped forward and fired into the hootch, killing three NVA soldiers.

The lead squad then turned around and moved back down the trail. Suddenly they heard intense rifle and machine-gun fire. The second squad was caught in an ambush with the enemy positioned on the right side of the trail, and a pair of machine guns, one located on each side, firing directly down the trail. Enemy mortars located on higher ground supported the ambush.

Under intense fire, the ambushed squad maneuvered to form a small defensive position, and desperately fought amid a hail of mortar and RPG fire. Meanwhile, the enemy flanked the lead squad under cover of mortar fire. A fierce firefight ensued. During the confusion of battle, some of the men became separated from the squad while others fell wounded or dead. Late in the afternoon, Alpha's three dead and five wounded were evacuated by helicopter to Chu Lai. The enemy finally broke off the fighting at around 8:00 p.m. There was no radio contact with the two cut-off platoons. Thirteen men were declared missing in action.

During the night, the enemy searched some of the bodies of the missing Alpha Company soldiers; some were still alive and feigned death. Toward morning the enemy recovered and buried their dead, and began to move out of the area. They left behind some snipers and a small harassment force.

Early on the morning of July 9, Bravo Company, 1/502 arrived to secure the area while members of Alpha Company began a search for their missing men. An air cavalry Loach pilot spotted Ted Brenner, Duane Scott, and John Hanie, three of the missing men. The pilot, Luther Lassiter, landed his chopper. Scott and Hanie crawled inside the cockpit while Brenner hopped onto a skid. The overloaded chopper labored to lift off, but Lassiter managed to gain altitude and fly the soldiers to Hau Duc. When Lassiter returned to the area, he rescued a fourth soldier, Julius Bray.

Troops searching on the ground found two men, Kenneth Walker and Nelson Lucas, alive but wounded. By late morning, the bodies of six soldiers were recovered. The body of the thirteenth missing man, Sgt. James Manning, was not found until the following day.



For the remainder of Operation Lamar Plain, the Screaming Eagles continued to chase the enemy and engage whenever possible. Most of the operation was by then confined to the southern portions of the tactical area. Because the enemy had mostly broken up into many groups of fewer than ten soldiers, the operational tactics changed from RIF to saturation patrols, many of them in the vicinity of Fire Support Base Boxer. These patrols revealed extensive bunker and tunnel complexes, hospitals, classrooms, and other enemy structures. Many graves containing enemy soldiers killed by artillery and air strikes also were discovered. During this latter stage of the operation, 24 American soldiers and airmen were killed and 58 were wounded.

Early in the afternoon of August 11 an Air Force C-130 departed Tam Ky with a load of grunts from the 1/501st Infantry. They arrived at Camp Evans and were taken home to LZ Sally via trucks. Over the next three days, transport flights, vehicle convoys, and helicopters continued to take the Screaming Eagles home, and Operation Lamar Plain officially ended at 8:00 a.m. on August 14, 1969.

Sandwiched between the fighting at Ap Bia Mountain during Operation Apache Snow and the siege of Firebase Ripcord during Operation Texas Star the following year, Operation Lamar Plain was one of the last extensive operations conducted by the 101st Airborne Division against the North Vietnamese Army. Lamar Plain received little media attention, however, even though 126 men died, 404 were wounded, and it occurred because of a tactical emergency.

Even today, few people outside of those who participated in Lamar Plain know anything about it. The families of many of the men who died in the fighting during Lamar Plain believed that their loved ones died on Hamburger Hill, and many of the soldiers' obituaries reflect that.

The men who fought in Operation Lamar Plain are proud that they came to the aid of another military unit in a time of crisis, allowing that unit to recover from its losses and eventually return to normal combat operations. (Bitter Fighting in Quang Tin: Operation Lamar Plain; By Roger Ables)

12 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Recon Platoon and elements of the 3rd Platoon, A/326 ENG repelled onto the top of Hill 882 to cut an LZ. The last helicopter into the area received small arms fire, forcing the chopper to land at FSB Shock and seriously injuring the pilot. ARA was employed, and the engineers once again began the dangerous and arduous task of blasting the LZ under enemy fire. Delta Company continued their sweep north to the top of Hill 882 with no enemy contact. Two bunkers were found and destroyed, and two enemy bodies killed by air strikes were found. Twenty-four M-16 rifle magazines were found on and around the bodies indicating the enemy had used M-16 rifles. No weapons were captured, however. Charlie Company continued to move west.

Alpha Company combat assaulted to the top of Hill 882 on the LZ prepared by the engineers. They joined forced with the Recon Platoon and began movement along the ridge line to the east to line up with Charlie Company in the saddle. Delta Company, having cleared the ridge to the top of Hill 882, began a sweep back to the south.

12 May 1970

The 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry moved to Phy Bai Combat Base to conduct battalion refresher training and returned to operational control of the 2nd Brigade.

13 May 1967

Operation Malheur: One company of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry was engaged by an estimated VC compared size force resulting in 1 U1S KHA, 5 US WHA, loss of 2 M-16 rifles, 13 VC KIA (C), and 2 individual weapons and 12 Chicom hand grenades captured. Eleven other light contacts by the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 2 US WHA, 16 VC KIA (C), 16 detainees and 5 individual weapons, including 2 M-16 rifles, captured. Three light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 6 VC KIA (C), 1 detainee, 10 individual weapons, including 1 M-79, captured and the discovery of a weapon cache containing 34 individual weapons and 1 12.7mm Chicom machine gun. Five light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry resulted in 5 VC KIA (C) 1 detainee, and 2 individual weapons captured. Troop A, 2d Squadron (Airborne), 17th Cavalry conducted an airmobile cordon and search operation in a hamlet to the south of CAPENTAN Base resulting in 2 detainees. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation Malheur (MACV/RCS/J3/32)

13 May 1968

Paratroopers of Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry and Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry completed a successful cordon of Co Thap village eight miles northwest of Hue. The infantry surrounded an NVA battalion suspected of protecting a nearby enemy regimental headquarters and were joined by members of A/2-17 CAV. The two-day battle resulted in 38 NVA killed and 11 weapons captured.

13 May 1968

Operation DELAWARE: At 1215, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Recon Platoon vic. YD594177 engaged tow NVA.VC along trail with SA. Received return fire from approximately platoon size enemy force. Recon withdrew across a stream after capturing one NVA/VC with documents. Results: 1 NVA/VC Captured.



13 May 1969

Operation APACHE SNOW: On the morning of 13 May, at 0330H Fire Base Airborne was assaulted on three sides by elements of the 806th NVA Battalion and the K12 Sapper Battalion supported by 82mm mortar and RPG fire. FB Airborne (YD 355072) is located on the eastern lip of the A Chau Valley on the north end of a long ridge running parallel to the Valley, and was defended by Alpha Company, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, and three artillery batteries – C Battery, 2-11 Artillery (4 tubes 155mm), C Battery 2-319 Artillery (4 tubes 105mm), and a composite battery (4 tubes 105mm) from B and C Batteries, 2-319 Artillery.



After infiltrating through the concertina wire on the north side of the perimeter the attacking force systematically crisscrossed the northern portion of the fire base tossing satchel charges and grenades in the bunkers they encountered. By 0500H, the enemy attack had lost impetus and the men of Airborne drove the attacking force from the hill killing forty of the sappers, while suffering twenty-two killed and sixty-one wounded. In addition, five howitzers were either damaged or destroyed. (HQ, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile); Operational Report – Lesson Learned, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) for period ending 31 July 1969; 09 December 1969)

13 May 1969

FSB Airborne: At 0330hrs on this morning a burst of AK-47 fire signaled the attack for the North Vietnamese Forces. Heavy enemy mortar and rocket propelled fire erupted followed by an all-out VC/NVA infantry attack. The American Forces held FSB Airborne and the attack was over by 0530 hrs when North Vietnamese forces withdrew. The US Forces suffered 22 killed in action and 61 wounded on Firebase Airborne. The enemy losses were 39 killed and 2 POW's. (Article from PFC Cleabern Hills Dedication Service program)



13 May 1970

The 3rd Battalion, 3rd Regiment (ARVN) moved by air from Camp Sally to FS/OB Veghel to join the 1st Brigade conducting offensive operations against elements of the 29th NVA Regiment in the mountains southwest of Hue. The three ARVN companies combat assaulted form FS/OB Veghel with Companies Alpha and Bravo, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, into two landing zones south of the Rau La River. The ARVN companies conducted patrols to the south and the two US companies conducted patrols north toward the river.

14 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR: One company of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry contacted an enemy force of unknown size in well-fortified, dug-in positions, resulting in 8 US KHA and 36 WHA. Seven other light contacts by the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 8 VC KIA (C) and 3 individual weapons captured. Two light contacts by the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 3 VC KIA (C). Eight light contacts by the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry resulted in 14 VC KIA (C) and 6 individual weapons captured. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation Malheur (MACV/RCS/J3/32)

14 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: While sweeping to the west in the vicinity of YD504071 the 2nd Platoon of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry engaged 10 to 15 enemy. The enemy returned fire with RPG's, small arms and mortars. The enemy fled to the south leaving behind four bodies. One US Soldier was killed in the engagement.

14 May 2003

1-502 IN, after securing Haditha Dam for over three weeks, rejoins the Brigade and assumes joint presence patrols and stability operations in downtown Mosul.

14 May 2006

Operation Desert Scorpion. 1-502 IN recovered a downed aircraft recovery mission near Rushdi Mulla. At 1735 1-502 IN Commander and XO are informed that the 2BCT TOC has reported a possible Fallen Angel from Special Operations Forces (SOF) conducting operations in 1-502IN AO. The Commander Alerts D/1-502 IN commander and the Battalion QRF to come to REDCON 1 in order to prepare for search and recovery operations. The commander also orders B/1-502 IN to prepare a platoon to insert into the crash site by foot. Between 1745 and 2045, the Brigade and Battalion organize for recovery operations. 3/B/1-502 IN, led by LT Fisher and SFC Gebhardt, move by vehicle to a permanent checkpoint, and prepare to conduct foot insertion and linkup with SOF at the crash site. 2BCT re-tasks Strike Iron Claw and elements of the 526 BSB to conduct recovery – the end state for initial phase is to position assets at PB Yusufiyah until ground C2 and coordination is complete with MND-B and SOF. At 2055, Strike 3 (LTC McLamb) confirms conditions at the crash site and linkup communication plan with SOF; he subsequently authorizes 1-502 IN to initiate foot movement to the crash site. D/1-502 IN (-) and the recovery assets move forward to PB Yusufiyah, with orders to SP at first light in order to re-clear Mullah Fayyad Hwy to linkup with 3/B/1-502 IN at the crash site. At 2318 SOF passes control of the crash site to 3/B/1-502 IN and departs with the remains of the crew.

At 0600 on 15 May D/1-502 IN SP for the crash site. At 0658 D/1-502 IN reports Buffalo NMC from IED strike on Mullah Fayyad Hwy; Talon 6 and Talon 5 decide to recover the assets back to PB Yusufiyah – the Buffalo is mission critical for clearing the route to the platoon and crash site. 2BCT and 2-101 BTB organize patrol to move forward with a second Buffalo to Camp Striker. Between 0830 and 1300, the BCT and 1-502 IN reorganize the recovery team and begin the second attempt to clear Mullah Fayyad Hwy. One platoon of D/1-502 IN is designated to secure the length of the route into the site in order to eliminate enemy opportunities to re-seal the route after the team passes through. D/1-502 IN and an AWT from 1-4 AVN conduct a coordinated attack on an IED emplacement team emplacing IEDs at a key intersection



along the insertion route. BDA: 2 enemy KIA, one WIA (later succumbs to his wounds), and one IED support vehicle destroyed.

At 1930, D/1-502 IN reports a Husky damaged in the vicinity of Rushdi Mullah and requires another recovery asset and flatbed to move forward to recover. Talon 6 dispatches one platoon from D/1-502 IN under control of the Company XO, along with a flatbed, to the damaged Husky. As of that afternoon, 3/B/1-502 IN initiated self-recovery of the aircraft debris, and used a combination of farm tractor, bongo truck and hand litter to move the wreckage forward to the D/1-502 IN front element. Linkup is accomplished at 2030; 3rd platoon resupplies water from D/1-502 IN and begins ground extraction to their start point. By 2145, all elements of D/1-502 IN and Brigade troops return to FOB Mahmudiyah.

14 May 2008

The Iraqi Army with Coalition over watch began another clearance of Shulla. This iteration of OPERATION STRIKE SILVER JETS called for the complete isolation of Shulla and the JRK. 1-75 CAV Squadron received attachments from 1-64 AR and 4-10 CAV for this operation. Part of the effort required the Iraqi Army to seize key terrain along Creek Rd, specifically the Office of the Martyr Sadr (OMS), an ice factory and the Shulla VOTECH center. Elements of 2/22/6 IA seized all of these objectives under heavy fire. However, it became apparent that they would not be able to hold these objectives and had started to withdraw from the OMS under constant and heavy fire from small arms and RPG. The IA Corps, Division and Brigade commanders located jointly with the coalition Brigade and Squadron Commanders had given the order to withdraw. 2/101 BCT Commander ordered the Squadron to secure their withdrawal and the mechanized platoon and tank platoon attached from 1-64 AR moved to and secured Creek Rd to enable the Iraqi forces in the OMS to complete their withdrawal. Upon assessing the situation, the Squadron Commander made the decision to reinforce and hold the OMS as it had been JAM-SG's center of gravity throughout the fighting since March. B/4-10 CAV, attached for this operation, was ordered to re-seize the building and wait for reinforcements from

C/1-75 CAV. By 1400, the OMS was firmly back in ISF possession with elements of C/1-75, B/4-10, and B/1-64 reinforcing the building and securing the routes to and from the objective. This enabled the ISF to retake the ice factory and the Shula VOTECH. The capture of a JAM-SG physical and psychological center of gravity by the ISF was the turning point in fighting against JAM-SG in Northwest Baghdad. Its transformation to an ISF COP marked the end of JAM-SG control of Shula and the JRK and the beginning of a wholesale evacuation of JAM-SG leadership in Northwest Baghdad.



During this week, in the span of 72 years since the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941 as the 502nd Parachute Battalion, an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assault, the following awards were awarded to members of 2BCT and the 502nd IN Regiment or those assigned to the Brigade during operations.

3 x Distinguished Service Cross (2 x Posthumously)
24 x Silver Star Medal (5 x Posthumously)
11 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1 x Posthumously)
9 x Bronze Star Medal (9 x Posthumously)
71 x Purple Heart Medal (50 x Posthumously)
1 x Army Commendation Medal
2 x Died of Non-Hostile injury or illness

08 May 1966



SP4 Robert McCaig (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received in hostile ground action in the province not reported, South Vietnam.

08 May 1966



PFC Stephen J. Steriti (Pictured) (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds to the head in hostile ground action in the province not reported, South Vietnam.

08 May 1968



SP5 Ellis L. Faircloth (A/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation when engaged hostile force in firefight in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 May 1968



CPL Michael J. Ford (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by fragment from hostile anti-tank round in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

08 May 1968



SGT John F. Moran (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds while on combat operation when engaged hostile force in firefight in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



08 May 1969



CPL Dwayne R. Pickart (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation when encountered a hostile force in the Quan Nam Province, South Vietnam.

08 May 1969

SGT Miguel E. Briaes (C/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation when encountered a hostile force in the Quan Nam Province, South Vietnam.

08 May 1969



PFC Arturo Pelajio (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when area came under rocket attack by a hostile force in the Quan Nam Province, South. PFC Pelajio was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on the VSI list, and later expired.

08 May 1970



SGT Wayne K. Smith (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation on Hill 882, NW of FSB Veghel when hostile force was encountered in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 May 1970



SP5 Peter F. Nolan (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation on Hill 714, NW of FSB Veghel when a hostile force was encountered in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

09 May 1968



SSG Everett S. Jones (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on combat operation when engaged hostile force in firefight in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

09 May 1969



1LT Bruce D. Dick (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation when encountered a hostile force in the Quan Nam Province, South Vietnam.



09 May 1969



CPL Jimmy L. Henry (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the Quan Nam Province, South Vietnam.

09 May 1970



1LT Roy L. Richardson (A/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation on Hill 882, NW of FSB Veghel when a hostile force was encountered in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

10 May 1966



SGT Willie J. Peppers (HHC/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 wounds to his chest received in hostile ground action in the Province Unknown, South Vietnam.

10 May 1968



SP4 Larry G. Patterson (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation when engaged hostile force in firefight in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

10 May 1968

PFC Shelby E. Cooley (C/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 and burns received while on combat operation when engaged hostile force in firefight in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

11 May 1966



2LT William F. Otto (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple gunshot wounds to his body near Bu Gia Map in hostile ground action 36km W-SW of Bu Prang Airfield in the Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam.

11 May 1966



SP4 Wayne M. Traylor (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of gunshot wound to back near Bu Gia Map in hostile ground action 36km W-SW of Bu Prang Airfield in the Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam.

11 May 1966

PFC Andrew C. Evans (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound to thigh near Bu Gia Map in hostile ground action 36km W-SW of Bu Prang Airfield in the Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam.



- 11 May 1966 SP4 Leslie Hereford (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, General Order Number 147; 27MAY1966)
- 11 May 1968 SGT Edward Walker (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received while at command post when post came under hostile mortar attack in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 11 May 1969 SP4 Heinrich Ruhlmann (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragments while on a combat operation when an artillery round directed at a hostile force landed in the area in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.
- 11 May 2008 1LT Daniel Luckett (1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat while he was serving as the platoon leader for 1/A/1-502 when his vehicle was struck by an EFP while travelling on RTE Senators. The blast immediately amputated his left leg below the knee and half of his right foot. 1LT Luckett remained calm and helped direct his platoon as they conducted MEDEVAC procedures using JSS Hurriya 2 as the HLZ. He was then taken to Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he made his recovery, returning to 1-502 in February of 2009.
- 11 May 2008 SSG Erik Hoyle (2-101 BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat while he was traveling in was attacked by an EFP. SSG Hoyle received shrapnel wounds to his legs as a result of the explosion on the Buffalo he was traveling in.

11 May 2008



SPC Patrick O'Neill (2-101 BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat SPC Patrick O'Neill is presented with a Purple Heart by Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody during a presentation ceremony at Walter Reed Army Medical Center July 25, 2008 in Washington, DC. SPC O'Neill was injured by an EFP while conducting a route clearance mission in Baghdad, Iraq.

11 May 2008

PVT Jonathan Lewis (2-101 BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat when he received shrapnel wounds to his back as a result of the explosion on the Buffalo he was traveling in.

11 May 2008

PFC Eric Johnson (1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat when his platoon was conducting transportation of two Soldiers to FOB Justice from Kadhimiya COP. PFC Johnson was the gunner in the second vehicle of the convoy when it was struck by an EFP to the front side of the vehicle. He sustained a ruptured ear drum and shrapnel to the face.

11 May 2008



CPL Jessica Ellis (2BSTB), 24, of Bend, Oregon; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in her death when her vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq. CPL Ellis was not originally supposed to be on mission at the time; however, she volunteered to go out to assist with the route clearance.

12 May 1968



SGT Robert M. Fletcher (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on combat operation when engaged hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

12 May 1968



SGT John E. Laipple, (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds when hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



12 May 1968



CPL Charles D. Dorman (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds when hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

12 May 1968



SP4 Richard W. Van Blarcom (A/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 wounds when hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

12 May 1968



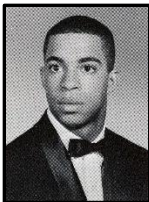
PFC Richard L. Lohse (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds when hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

12 May 1968



PFC Charles W. Harbert (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds when hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

12 May 1969



SP4 Olen W. Smith (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam.

12 May 1969

CPL Richard L. Hopkins (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while at a defensive position when he was mistaken for a member of a hostile force in the Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam.

13 May 1967

PFC Carl R. Konopa (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal & Purple Hear (Posthumously) for military merit wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of injuries sustained while as a passenger in a helicopter (UH-1D 65-10056) which crashed into a mountain due to mechanical failure in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.

13 May 1968

PFC Octavio Molina-Rosario (A/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



13 May 1968



SP4 David A. Garcia (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms gunfire in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 May 1968



CPL Marvin G. Tozour (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from burns received while on combat operation when engaged hostile force in firefight in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. CPL Tozour was admitted to a military hospital in Vietnam, placed on the VSI list where he later expired.

13 May 1968

SP4 Nelson Santiago-Aponte (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds while on combat operation when encountered hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. SP4 Santiago-Aponte was admitted to a military hospital in Vietnam where he later expired.

13 May 1969



SGT Oscar D. Boydston (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Herat (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at an artillery firing position while at FSB Airborne, 7km N-NW of A Luoi Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 May 1969



CPL Robert R. Malecki (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at FSB Airborne, 7km N-NW of A Luoi Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 May 1969

CPL Ernest L. Gordon (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Herat (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at an artillery firing position while at FSB Airborne, 7km N-NW of A Luoi Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 May 1969



SP4 Samuel C. Tharpe (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at an artillery firing position while at FSB Airborne, 7km N-NW of A Luoi Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



13 May 1969



SP4 Carl F. Arbogast Jr. (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at FSB Airborne, 7km N-NW of A Luoi Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 May 1969



SP4 Donald J. Corbett (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Herat (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at an artillery firing position while at FSB Airborne, 7km N-NW of A Luoi Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 May 1969



PFC Cleabern W. Hill Jr. (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Herat (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at an artillery firing position while at FSB Airborne, 7km N-NW of A Luoi Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 May 1969



SP4 Ira J. Sturgeon (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other causes (unknown) while at an artillery firing position while at FSB Airborne, 7km N-NW of A Luoi Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 May 1969



PFC Lynn C. Swanson (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from other causes (unknown) while at an artillery firing position while at FSB Airborne, 7km N-NW of A Luoi Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 May 1969

PFC William D. Poole Jr. (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from other causes (unknown) on FSB Airborne, in the Thua Thien Province.

13 May 1969

PFC James M. Thompson (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds while at an artillery firing position while at FSB Airborne, 7km N-NW of A Luoi Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 May 1969

PFC Odell D. Beasley (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at an artillery firing position while at FSB Airborne, 7km N-NW of A Luoi Village when area came under ground attack by hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

13 May 1969

The following Soldiers: SGT Kenneth E. Counts, SP4 Thomas W. Johnson, SP4 Walter T. Givens, PFC William F. Robershaw, PFC Charles G. Coghlan, PFC Ray E. Moon (A/2-501 IN); SP4 Willie C. Harrington, PFC Mark L. Weston (E/2-501 IN); SP4 James E. Miller (C/2-319 ARTY) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 6335)



13 May 1969

PFC William L. Hayden (E/2-502 IN) died as a result of non-hostile causes when he drowned in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 May 2006



SPC Ronald W. Gerbur (B/1-22 IN), 23, of Delavan, Illinois; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations in Baghdad.

14 May 1967

The following Soldiers: SP5 Lee C. Pugh, PFC Douglas Calderwood (HHC/2-502 IN); 1LT George R. Tillman, PFC Michael McNamara (A/2-502 IN); SP4 Boyd D. Pearson (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 886)

14 May 1969



CPL Leslie L. McCorkle (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam. CPL McCorkle was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on the VSI list and later expired.

14 May 1970



SP4 Boyd D. Pearson (C/2-502 IN) for wounds received in action in earned him the Purple Heart. (U.S. Total Army Personnel Command; Permanent Orders 9-14, 17 January 1995)

14 May 1970

SSG Ronald E. Schmidt (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds on Hill 714, NW of FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

08 May 1966

SGT Donald E. Bear (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Bear distinguished himself on 8 May 1966 during a search and destroy mission near Bu Gia Map, Republic of Vietnam. While enroute to join the rest of the company, Sergeant Bear's platoon received intense hostile fire from a well-fortified Viet Cong force. After observing his platoon leader in a precarious position struggling to free himself from some tangled vines while directly in the line of hostile fire, Sergeant Bear charged and silenced a Viet Cong position. Although he was exposed to the Viet Cong fire, Sergeant Bear succeeded in reaching his platoon leader. Later while pursuing the withdrawing Viet Cong, his platoon ran into a second Viet Cong position. Acting as point man, Sergeant Bear began to reconnoiter the area by fire and forced the hidden insurgents to fire prematurely. Although wounded, SGT Bear continued to fire on the Viet Cong positions which were only 50 meters away. As a result, he prevented an ambush. Sergeant Bear's extraordinary heroism 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.

08 May 1966



SP4 Robert L. McCaig (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four McCaig distinguished himself on 8 May 1966 while serving as point man during a search and destroy mission along a narrow jungle trail near the Cambodian border in the Republic of Vietnam. With keen alertness, Specialist Four McCaig detected a Viet Cong ambush consisting of at least two machine guns and several individual positions. Specialist Four McCaig aggressively assaulted the first Viet Cong machine gun, firing from his hip, killing one insurgent and forcing the other crew members to flee. While charging the second machine gun, he was critically wounded. Although bleeding profusely, Specialist Four McCaig crawled toward the insurgent position firing his weapon until he died. His valiant actions disrupted the Viet Cong ambush and prevented numerous casualties. Specialist Four McCaig's devotion to duty and extraordinary heroism 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.

08 May 1966



PFC Stephen J. Steriti (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. Private First Class Steriti distinguished himself on 8 May 1966 while serving as point man during a search and destroy mission along a narrow jungle trail near the Cambodian border in the Republic of Vietnam. With keen alertness, Private First Class Steriti detected a Viet Cong ambush consisting of at least two machine guns and several individual positions. Private First Class Steriti aggressively assaulted the first Viet Cong machine gun, firing from his hip, killing one insurgent and forcing the other crew members to flee. While charging the second machine gun, he was critically wounded. Although bleeding profusely, Private First Class Steriti crawled toward the insurgent position firing his weapon until he died. His valiant actions disrupted the Viet Cong ambush and prevented numerous casualties. Private First Class Steriti's devotion to duty and extraordinary heroism 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.

09 May 1970



1LT Roy Lee Richardson (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. First Lieutenant Richardson distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 9 May 1970 while leading a platoon in search of suspected enemy positions near an allied fire support base. As the platoon advanced through the area of operations, they were suddenly ambushed by a well-concealed enemy force utilizing hand and rocket-propelled grenades. Lieutenant Richardson immediately began moving through the enemy fire to deploy his men into defensive positions and direct aerial rocket artillery on the hostile force. As the enemy fire intensified, the lieutenant moved forward to rescue a critically wounded comrade. Although under constant enemy attack, Lieutenant Richardson continuously maneuvered through the fusillade to place suppressive fire on the enemy while inspiring his men to sustain their defensive efforts. As the contact continued at an intense level, Lieutenant Richardson was mortally wounded by the hostile fire. First Lieutenant Richardson's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 4826 (October 14, 1970))

09 May 1970



SP4 Edward Matyjasik Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 9 May 1970. Specialist Matyjasik distinguished himself while serving as a radio-telephone operator in Company A, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during a reconnaissance-in-force operation in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While inspecting an area that was the target of an earlier air strike, Specialist Matyjasik's platoon came under hostile small arms, automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade fire. When his platoon leader was critically wounded, Specialist Matyjasik immediately administered emergency treatment while continuing to monitor his radio. He relayed coordinating instructions to the elements of the platoon, enabling them to mount a counterattack. Specialist Matyjasik kept his superiors informed on the changing tactical situation, and assisted in moving his wounded platoon leader through the enemy fire to a protected position. Specialist Matyjasik'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. (Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), General Orders No. 9263 (August 13, 1970))



10 May 1966

SP4 George N. Kirtley (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Kirtley distinguished himself on 10 May 1966 while serving as a medic during a combat mission near Bu Gia Map, Republic of Vietnam. When a platoon sustained numerous casualties during a vicious battle, Specialist Four Kirtley immediately ran through intense hostile fire to the aid of his comrades. Since he was unable to move the injured men, because of the intense Viet Cong fire, he moved from position to position on the fire swept battlefield and administered first aid. When the large Viet Cong force threatened to overrun his position, Specialist Four Kirtley delivered suppressive fire on the attacking insurgents. Although the Viet Cong maneuvered within fifteen meters of his position, he refused to abandon his stricken comrades. When the remainder of the platoon arrived and sustained an additional casualty, Specialist Four Kirtley again exposed himself to the hostile fire to assist the injured man. Assured that all casualties had been treated, he then moved to the body of a dead comrade, defended his body, and denied the Viet Cong his equipment and weapon. Specialist Four Kirtley'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.

10 May 1966

SFC Lawrence N. Koontz (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. SFC Koontz distinguished himself on 10 May 1966 while serving as platoon sergeant on a combat operation near Bu Gia Map, Republic of Vietnam. While moving toward their objective, the lead element of his platoon received intense hostile fire. Platoon Sergeant Koontz ran to the front of his platoon to reorganize his men. During the course of action, he dauntlessly exposed himself to direct Viet Cong fire while carrying a fallen comrade from the killing zone. Shortly after this, the Viet Cong launched a determined assault on his position. Braving almost certain death, Platoon Sergeant Koontz immediately charged the assaulting Viet Cong and killed three insurgents at extremely close range. Aggressively continuing his assault, Platoon Sergeant Koontz singlehandedly repelled the Viet Cong attack. After establishing a hasty defense, he personally led five men in an assault to expand the perimeter. The Viet Cong fire became more intense and Platoon Sergeant Koontz was seriously wounded. Although in great pain he refused medical attention and continued to direct his troops in their assault. Through his heroic efforts, Platoon Sergeant Koontz was most instrumental in routing the insurgents. His 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.

10 May 1966

SGT Richard M. Burt (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Burt distinguished himself on 10 May 1966 while serving as squad leader of a platoon on a combat operation near Bu Gia Map, Republic of Vietnam. While moving toward their objective, Sergeant Burt's platoon received intense hostile fire and sustained two casualties. Unhesitatingly Sergeant Burt charged forward to assist in the extraction of his fallen comrades. As he attempted to evacuate a wounded man, the Viet Cong launched a determined assault on his position. Completely exposed Sergeant Burt concentrated a deadly volume of suppressive fire on the insurgents. He then successfully established and defended a small perimeter forward of the wounded men. While receiving intense hostile fire, he then organized his men and personally led them in an aggressive assault on the Viet Cong emplacements. Through his heroic efforts, Sergeant Burt was most instrumental in routing the insurgents. His 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.

10 May 1966

SGT Roy J. Roedel (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Roedel distinguished himself on 10 May 1966 while serving as a member of a platoon on a combat operation near Bu Gia Map, Republic of Vietnam. While moving toward their objective, Sergeant Roedel's platoon received intense hostile fire and sustained several casualties. Dauntlessly, Sergeant Roedel charged through intense hostile fire and fought furiously to protect his fallen comrades. He overran and totally destroyed one Viet Cong position. During the course of action, Sergeant Roedel, with complete disregard for his safety, braved the deadly Viet Cong position. During the course of action, Sergeant Roedel, with complete disregard for his safety, braved the deadly Viet Cong fire as he helped carry his wounded platoon sergeant to safety. He then took charge of the embattled platoon, quickly organizing them into an effective fighting unit, and placed the squads in a position where they effectively engaged the insurgents. During the ensuing battle, Sergeant Roedel repeatedly exposed himself as he moved from position to position to redistribute ammunition. His impelling leadership and aggressive spirit contributed immeasurably to the success of the operation. Sergeant Roedel'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.

10 May 1966

SGT Roy E. Romans (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Romans distinguished himself on 10 May 1966 while serving as squad leader of a platoon on a combat operation near Bu Gia Map, Republic of Vietnam. While moving toward their objective, Sergeant Romans' platoon received intense hostile fire and sustained two casualties. Unhesitatingly Sergeant Romans charged forward to assist in the extraction of his fallen comrades. As he attempted to evacuate a wounded man, the Viet Cong launched a determined assault on his position. Completely exposed, Sergeant Romans concentrated a volume of suppressive fire on the insurgents. He then successfully established and defended a small perimeter forward of the wounded men. While receiving intense hostile fire, he then organized his men and personally led them in an aggressive assault on the Viet Cong emplacements. Through his heroic efforts, Sergeant Romans was most instrumental in routing the insurgents. His 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.



10 May 1966

CPT Walter R. Brown (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. Captain Brown distinguished himself on 10 May 1966 while leading a task force during a combat operation near Bu Gia Map, Republic of Vietnam. While maneuvering to a rendezvous point in Viet Cong occupied territory, Captain Brown's lead element received intense hostile fire. Captain Brown immediately ran forward to direct the deployment of his men. As the battle continued, he exposed himself to the hostile fire to call the medics and his radio operator forward. When his radio operator moved to safety after being wounded, the radio was left in the open. Captain Brown ran into the clearing through the Viet Cong fire, secured the radio, and ran for cover. He then contacted his air support and skillfully directed air strike on the insurgent positions. As the Viet Cong assaulted to evade the air strikes, Captain Brown fearlessly charged into the attacking Viet Cong and forced them to withdraw. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. Captain Brown'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.

11 May 1966



2LT William F. Otto (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. ON 11 May 1966, Lieutenant Otto, a member of Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, was participating in a search and destroy mission when they captured a Viet Cong who revealed that a four-company ambush was set forward of the company along their axis of advance. To foil the ambush, Lieutenant Otto placed a point squad well to the front of his platoon that was the company's lead element. Approximately 0900 hours, Lieutenant Otto's platoon came intense small arms and automatic weapons fire from the front. Lieutenant Otto rushed forward, braving the insurgent fire to estimate the situation. He then placed two squads on line to assault the well-entrenched Viet Cong and again braved the hostile fire fearlessly moving along the assault line to direct his squad leaders. The platoon attempted an assault but was pinned down as the insurgents unleashed a devastating volume of fire. Lieutenant Otto called for artillery fire and airstrikes. With professional skill, he called artillery fire to within 30 meters of his position making a direct hit on a machine gun emplacement; however, this failed to destroy it. Realizing that the bunker must be destroyed, Lieutenant Otto again personally braved the fire and crawled to within 15 meters of the machine gun bunker. Disregarding the danger from other machine gun emplacements in the immediate area, he arose and threw a grenade into the bunker destroying the gun and crew. Being fully exposed so he could throw the grenade, another machine gun mortally wounded him. Lieutenants Otto's courage in actual combat served as an inspiration to his men and was instrumental in overcoming the hostile insurgents. Lieutenant Otto's extraordinary heroism and supreme sacrifice are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. (HQ, U.S. Army Pacific, General Order Number 200; 25 August 1966)

11 May 1966

PFC Andrew C. Evans (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. PFC Evans distinguished himself on 11 May 1966 during a search and destroy operation near the Cambodian border in the Republic of Vietnam. Private First Class Evans was a member of the flank security when the leading element received intense fire from extremely close range. One man was seriously wounded by the initial volume of fire and fell in an open area. Private First Class Evans with complete disregard for his safety dashed into the open area and dragged the fallen trooper to safety. Since the platoon was unable to maneuver due to the intense hostile fire, Private First Class Evans aggressively assaulted a Viet Cong position. As he rushed through the dense vegetation firing from his hip, he killed an insurgent and wounded another before being mortally wounded himself. Following the superb and inspiring example set by Private First Class Evans, his comrades aggressively assaulted and overran the insurgent positions. Private First Class Evans' 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, U.S. Army Vietnam, General Order Number 4026; 21 June 1966)

11 May 1966

CPT Henrick O. Lunde (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. CPT Lunde distinguished himself on 11 May 1966 while serving as commanding officer of a task force on a search and destroy operation near Bu Gia Map, Republic of Vietnam. While moving toward their objective, the lead elements received intense hostile fire from a large Viet Cong force. After determining the main line of resistance, Captain Lunde moved to the front of his force to enable him to better direct their retaliatory fire. Realizing that the insurgent positions overlapped his flanks, he committed a portion of his reserve force to the left flank. Although repeatedly exposed to intense hostile fire, he moved along his front line to better apprise himself of the situation on the right flank. During the course of action, a platoon leader was killed. Unhesitatingly, Captain Lunde moved through the bullet swept area to the platoon which was engaged in a vicious firefight. With complete disregard for his safety, he moved among his men, inspiring them and rallying them to defend their positions. He then returned to the center platoon and began to skillfully direct friendly air strikes and artillery fire. While moving forward by fire and movement, he continued to adjust artillery fire until he was within twenty-five meters of the bursting radius of the exploding rounds. After assuring himself that all his forces were in position, Captain Lunde directed and led a coordinated assault on all fronts against a well disciplined and entrenched Viet Cong force. Through his heroic efforts, the insurgents were routed. 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.

11 May 1966

SSG Jose S. Laguana (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. SSG Laguana distinguished himself on 11 May 1966 while serving as a squad leader during a search and destroy mission near Bu Gia Map, Republic of Vietnam. After moving approximately 1000 meters in Viet Cong occupied territory, Staff Sergeant Laguana's squad received intense hostile fire from an estimated platoon. Although exposed to intense Viet Cong fire, he organized his squad and directed suppressive fire on the insurgent positions. He then maneuvered up and down the assault line to encourage his men and supply them with ammunition. Staff Sergeant Laguana personally killed two Viet Cong during the engagement. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. Staff Sergeant Laguana'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.



11 May 1966



SFC Joseph W. Rounseville (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. SFC Rounseville distinguished himself on 11 May 1966 while serving as acting platoon leader during a search and destroy mission near Bu Gia Map, Republic of Vietnam. While moving his platoon through dense jungle and into an assault position, Platoon Sergeant Rounseville received intense hostile fire. He immediately maneuvered his platoon up a hill against an estimated Viet Cong squad which was supported by a machine gun. Platoon Sergeant Rounseville repeatedly exposed himself to the hostile fire by moving along the assault line and directing his men. He then led his platoon forward while firing his weapon and throwing hand grenades. Platoon Sergeant Rounseville killed at least three Viet Cong, and his platoon completely routed the insurgents from their fortified positions. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Platoon Sergeant Rounseville's extraordinary heroism 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.

11 May 1966

1LT Karl L. Beach (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. 1LT Beach distinguished himself on 11 May 1966 while serving as executive officer flying overhead reconnaissance for his company which was conducting a search and destroy operation near Bu Gia Map, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0900 hours, the company made contact with a large Viet Cong force. During the course of action, First Lieutenant Beach descended onto the battlefield by a rope which was attached to a medical evacuation helicopter. Immediately upon landing, First Lieutenant Beach began to organize and supervise the evacuation of the dead and wounded. After leading a detail forward to retrieve the casualties, First Lieutenant Beach braved hostile fire while carrying two fallen comrades to a covered position. After this he moved wounded personnel to a more secure area and provided ammunition resupply to the platoons. Throughout the day, First Lieutenant Beach moved throughout the battle area, while exposed to hostile fire and encouraged the engaged troopers. Through his courageous actions, he saved the lives of two wounded and contributed immeasurably in routing the insurgents. First Lieutenant Beach'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.

11 May 1966

PFC Luis A. Aguila (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. PFC Aguila distinguished himself on 11 May 1966 during a search and destroy mission near Bu Gia Map, Republic of Vietnam. As his unit was moving through the dense jungle, it suddenly received intense hostile fire from a well-entrenched Viet Cong force. Observing that an insurgent machine gun was hampering the assault, Private First Class Aguila maneuvered through the intense fire to a position approximately 30 meters from the Viet Cong emplacement. When one of his hand grenades fell short of the target, Private First Class Aguila moved even closer to the position, threw a second hand grenade, destroyed the machine gun and killed the two Viet Cong defenders. Through his courage and determination, he contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. Private First Class Aguila'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.

11 May 1966



SP4 Wayne M. Traylor (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam. SP4 Traylor distinguished himself on 11 May 1966 during a search and destroy mission near Bu Gia Map, Republic of Vietnam. His platoon had maneuvered within 30 meters of a camouflaged and well-fortified Viet Cong force when they received intense hostile machine gun fire which effectively pinned them down. At this time, Specialist Four Traylor leaped to his feet, ran through a barrage of hostile fire, and assaulted the Viet Cong machine gun emplacement. He killed three insurgents before being seriously wounded himself. Bleeding profusely, he refused to seek cover or medical attention and placed suppressive fire on the Viet Cong until he died from his wounds. Specialist Four Traylor's extraordinary heroism 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, U.S. Army Vietnam, General Order Number 4035; 21 June 1966)

11 May 1968



MAJ Leonard Williams (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 11 May 1968, while serving as Battalion Surgeon for the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry. Major Williams was present at the tactical command post when they came under an intense 122mm rocket attack. As time first rockets hit and a cry for a medic rang out, Major Williams, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, rushed from his bunker and began moving toward the position of the wounded troops. In his haste to get to the wounded personnel, he completely disregarded his helmet and flack vest. Despite being knocked down several times by concussion from incoming rockets, Major Williams was able to reach the position and began treating the wounded. Throughout the attack Major Williams moved from position to position administering aid to the wounded troopers and dragging the more seriously wounded men to safety for further treatment. Though wounded while shielding the wounded personnel with his own body, Major Williams continued in his work. Never once showing concern for his own personal safety, he managed to treat all wounded men and pull them to cover. Major Williams' outstanding display of gallantry in action and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st Air Cav Div, General Order Number 4204; 31 July 1968)



11 May 1968

SGT Grady L. Towns Jr. (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 11 May 1968. Sergeant Towns distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader with Company D, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. On the evening of the cited date, Sergeant Towns led a ten-man patrol from company's night defensive perimeter to set up an ambush along a well-used trail leading out of the mountains. After the patrol had been in position for approximately four hours, Sergeant Towns observed movement to his front and counted thirty North Vietnamese troops walking down the trail in file formation. Seeing that his men were already alerted, he waited until the last possible moment to allow a large number of the enemy to enter his killing zone. The ambush was initiated when one of the enemy discovered a Claymore mine and attempted to cut the wire. In the fighting which followed, Sergeant Towns remained in an unprotected position to direct the fire of his men against the numerically superior enemy force. When the enemy discovered the friendly ambush position, they maneuvered around to the flanks. Sergeant Towns immediately ordered his men to withdraw, while he remained behind under the increased volume of hostile fire to give counter fire for his element. Without regard for his own safety, he continued to fire upon the enemy until all of his men had safely withdrawn. Sergeant Towns' 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.

13 May 1969



SFC George W. Parker Jr. (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Platoon Sergeant Parker 1969 when Fire Support Base Airborne came under intense mortar and rocket grenade attack, followed by an enemy sapper assault on the perimeter. With the first incoming rounds, Sergeant Parker rallied his mortar crews and commenced firing illumination and high-explosive rounds on the hostile fire that rained around his mortar emplacement, Sergeant Parker made his way to the platoon leader to warn of the ground attack on two sides of the compound. Suddenly a rocket-propelled grenade struck one of the mortar emplacements and knocked it out. Running to the position, Sergeant Parker immediately set up the mortar tube and started firing on the enemy. Although a satchel charge thrown at his position momentarily stunned him, he continued his mission, often exposing himself to the enemy barrage to obtain re-supplies of ammunition. On one of his trips to the munitions stockpile, he was attacked by four sappers armed with satchel charges, and he eliminated them with a well-thrown grenade. Through his courageous example, the Fire Support Base successfully repelled the enemy attack. Platoon Sergeant Parker'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, General Order Number 477, February 20, 1970)

13 May 1969

SGT Roger J. Barski (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Barski distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry at Fire Support Base Airborne, in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. During the early morning hours of the cited date, the base was attacked with heavy mortar fire. Simultaneously, a group of North Vietnamese sappers penetrated the perimeter, throwing satchel charges through doors and bunker apertures. The First Platoon's sector of the perimeter bore the brunt of the initial main sapper attack, and the platoon leader and platoon sergeant were seriously wounded in the initial conflict. Sergeant Barski immediately took charge and rapidly set up a makeshift defense. Suddenly an enemy mortar round knocked out the friendly mortar used to provide illumination. Sergeant Barski realized the enemy force was preparing to overrun his platoon again, and that the absence of illumination was to the advantage of the advancing enemy. Realizing his platoon would be helpless in the face of a human wave assault; he left his cover and dashed for the supply of boxed star parachute flares located in the Command Post bunker. Despite the heavy enemy mortar fire, which was landing within the entire perimeter, he managed to reach the needed flares. As he maneuvered back toward his platoon, he encountered two North Vietnamese soldiers in his path. He fired at the enemy, killing one and wounding the other. He then provided continuous illumination by hand flares until a flare helicopter arrived. The heavy enemy attack was eventually repulsed. His heroic actions, with complete disregard for his own safety, were responsible for preventing his platoon from being overrun. Sergeant Barski's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



13 May 1969

PFC Vick L. Burnette (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 May 1969. Private Vick distinguished himself while serving as a mortar gunner in Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during combat support operations in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, Fire Support Base Airborne was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army Regulars. The enemy force consisted of an infantry element, mortar section, and sapper squads. Waves of insurgents stormed the perimeter from two sides and immediately penetrated the barbed wire and defensive positions of the bunker line. Enemy Soldiers combed the fire base, hurling satchel charges and engaging in hand to hand combat with men in night defensive positions and mortar crews. A satchel charge exploded beside Private Burnette, amputating his leg below the knee. Despite the loss of his leg, he continued to engage the enemy with his weapon. Maintaining a heavy volume of fire, he blocked the path for the enemy to pass his position and gave the mortar crews enough time to assemble and prevent the mortar section from being overrun. He continued to pinpoint the locations of the attacking enemy to his fellow Soldiers, even though in great pain and steadily weakening from loss of blood. Private Burnette'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.



13 May 1969



SFC George W. Parker Jr. (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Parker distinguished himself while serving as platoon sergeant of the mortar section of Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during combat support operations in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, Fire Support Base Airborne was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army Soldiers. The enemy force consisted of an infantry element, mortar section, and sapper squads. The enemy force assaulted the perimeter from two sides under the cover of a heavy mortar barrage. The enemy Soldiers penetrated the perimeter line obstacles and immediately engaged the night defensive positions of the fire base. Supported by the infantry, sapper squads moved among bunkers and mortar positions, hurling satchel charges and engaging in hand to hand combat with the defenders. In the immense confusion, Sergeant Parker moved among his mortar crews utilizing his M-16 rifle to cover his advance. While assisting a mortar crew, an exploding satchel charge knocked him unconscious. Upon regaining consciousness, he continued to direct mortar crews in the firing of illumination and high explosive mortar rounds. In the process, he was knocked down three additional times by exploding satchel charges. Sergeant Parker's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

13 May 1969

PFC William D. Poole (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operation involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Private First Class Poole distinguished himself while serving as assistant machine gunner with Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A had just moved to Fire Support Base Airborne in order to secure the area prior to moving into the northern part of the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. During the early hours, a barrage of mortar rounds began to fall on the partially completed camp, many of them smashing into bunkers manned by friendly troops. Simultaneously, a wave of North Vietnamese sappers pierced the perimeter, heaving satchel charges through the bunker apertures. The friendly forces were caught by surprise by the attack, but fought back heroically. Private Poole was serving as an assistant machine gunner for the Second Platoon and when the platoon defenses were threatened by a wave of satchel-carrying sappers, the machine gunner directed fire into the battalion size enemy force attempting to keep the sappers at a distance where the deadly satchel charges could not be employed. During the ground fighting a deluge of mortar rounds impacted within the perimeter. At a critical point in the action. Private Poole's weapon ran low on ammunition. He reacted immediately to the emergency and abandoned the comparative safety of his bunker to crawl toward the ammunition dump twenty meters away. Enemy mortars continued intent on reaching the much needed ammunition. Although a burst of shrapnel hit him he continued to crawl until he reached his goal. As he was moving back toward his bunker with the ammunition, a mortar round exploded to his immediate front. Though mortally wounded Private First Class Poole tossed the belts of ammunition and the machine gun was able to continue issuing sustained fire. Private Poole'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.

13 May 1969



SGT Thomas L. Roehm (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Roehm distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A was in the process of fortifying Fire Support Base Airborne, in the mountains west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, the base was hit by a combination mortar barrage and sapper assault launched by elements of three North Vietnamese battalions. Sergeant Roehm directed the activities of his squad against the advancing insurgents, successfully thwarting repeated enemy attempts to overwhelm his position. The platoon's Command Post bunker was then hit with multiple mortar rounds. Sergeant Roehm rushed to the battered Command Post position, ignoring the rounds exploding all around him. He applied lifesaving first aid to the wounded members of the group until the platoon medical aidman arrived. He then attempted to establish communication with the company Command Post but the platoon radios had been damaged beyond repair in the mortar strike. He then maneuvered to nearby Company E, where he realized that he was the only noncommissioned officer left in the sector. He immediately began to reorganize the remnants of the area's perimeter defense. He personally led his men against the sappers who had penetrated the perimeter, killing several of the enemy with his M-16 rifle. After reestablishing security in his sector, he assisted in the defense of the rest of the fire base by openly through the enemy fire in the process. Late in the action, he personally directed the evacuation of the wounded personnel. Sergeant Roehm's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 7820; 29 June 1969)

13 May 1969

PFC Roger A. Veis (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Private Veis distinguished himself while serving as a mortar gunner in Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, at First Support Base Airborne, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, the fire base was attacked by an estimated North Vietnamese Army Battalion. The enemy force consisted of an infantry element, a mortar section, and sapper squads, assaulting the fire base from two sides. Within minutes, the insurgents passed through the perimeter line defense, and close combat began in bunkers and mortar positions. Private Veis continued to fire illumination round throughout the attack. During the attack, he was knocked away from his mortar tube three times by exploding satchel charges, only to crawl back and again begin to fire from his position. Even though wounded, he continued to fire the mortar and was an inspiration to his fellow Soldiers. Private Veis' 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.



13 May 1969

SGT Anthony J. Branco (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Branco distinguished himself while serving as a mortar squad leader in Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, at Fire Support Base Airborne, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, the fire base was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army Soldiers. The insurgents fought through the perimeter and spread throughout the fire base, throwing satchel charges and firing automatic weapons. Despite the enemy fire and shrapnel from exploding mortar rounds, Sergeant Branco remained at his mortar position, firing illumination rounds into the early morning darkness. A satchel charge thrown within a few feet of this mortar tube wounded the ammunition bearer. After Sergeant Branco moved the wounded ammunition bearer to a safe location and administered first aid, he had the double task of supplying the mortar tube with ammunition and firing the illumination rounds. Although the early morning darkness hindered visibility, he made several trips to the ammunition storage point. In the process of carrying an armful of ammunition to the mortar position, he received shrapnel in his hip. Despite the painful shrapnel wounds, he was determined to have the mortar position remain operational. He succeeded in maintaining almost continuous illumination over the fire base until daylight arrived. Sergeant Branco's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 8454, 8 July 1969)

13 May 1969

SGT Joseph A. Palazzolo (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Palazzolo distinguished himself while serving as a radar team leader in Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during combat operations in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, Fire Support Base Airborne was attacked by an estimated North Vietnamese Army battalion. The enemy force consisted of an infantry element, mortar section, and sapper squads. Sergeant Palazzolo and his radar team were thrown from their bunker by an explosion which destroyed the radar bunker. Only after his own men had been taken care of did he allow himself to be treated for his wounds. Even though hampered by fragmentation wounds, he returned to the bunker line where he personally silenced an enemy soldier with his own weapon. He refused to give up fighting until the attack terminated. Sergeant Palazzolo's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st AB DIV, General Order Number 8550, 10 July 1969)

13 May 1969

SP4 Richard A. Powell (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Specialist Powell distinguished himself while serving as a mortar gunner in Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, at Fire Support Base Airborne, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, the fire base was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army Soldiers. The insurgents fought through the perimeter and spread throughout the fire base throwing satchel charges and high explosives. Despite enemy automatic weapons fire and shrapnel from exploding mortar rounds, Specialist Powell continued to fire illumination rounds over the fire base. He was thrown from his mortar tube three times by explosions, but each time he returned to the mortar tube and kept his mortar crew operating flawlessly, despite the early morning darkness which hindered visibility. Although he was wounded by shrapnel and could no longer operate the mortar tube, his determination to keep the mortar position operational supplied the fire base with almost continuous illumination throughout the attack. His efforts contributed immeasurably to the successful defense of the fire base. Specialist Powell's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 8567, 10 July 1969)

13 May 1969

CPT Alan J. Spoors (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Captain Spoors distinguished himself by valorous actions while serving as Commanding Officer of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, during combat operations in the A Shau Valley, southwest of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, Fire Support Base Airborne was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army Soldiers. Throughout the battle, Captain Spoors moved to the defensive positions checking the conditions of the men and their supplies of ammunition. He made several trips to ammunition storage points, securing hand grenades, small arms ammunition, and illumination rounds. Although under intense fire, he could be found at the point of heaviest enemy resistance giving advice, making corrections, and laying down suppressive fire with his M-16 rifle. The consistency at which he appeared at the location of heaviest fighting was a display of courage and intelligent leadership. Captain Spoors' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 7841, 29 June 1969)

13 May 1969

SGT Edward C. Wicks (E/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Wicks distinguished himself by valorous actions while serving as a fire direction leader in Company E, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, during combat support operations in the A Shau Valley, southwest of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, Fire Support Base Airborne was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army Soldiers. From his position in the Fire Direction Control Center, Sergeant Wicks observed the progress of the attack. He studied the enemy pattern of assault and maintained constant radio contact with helicopter gunships and land-line communication with mortar crews. At times, he had to utilize his M-16 rifle to defend his position as the insurgents threw satchel charges and hand grenades at his bunker. He adjusted the fire of circling gunships on enemy positions just outside the fire base perimeter, foiling several attacks. His accurate calculations to mortar crews brought illumination flares directly over enemy squads rushing the fire base, leaving the enemy force vulnerable to the friendly forces. Sergeant Wicks' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 8551, 10 July 1969)



13 May 1969

SGT Kenneth E. Counts (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Counts distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions while serving as a team leader in Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A was in the process of fortifying Fire Support Base Airborne, in the mountains west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Early in the morning of the cited date, the fire base was hit by an intense enemy mortar attack and sapper assault launched by elements of three North Vietnamese Army Battalion. Sergeant Counts grabbed his M-16 rifle and ran out of his bunker. Observing a burning bunker to his front, he moved through the intense fire to the flaming structure and pulled out a friendly Soldier who had been blinded by the fragments from exploding satchel charges. He carried the wounded man to a secure bunker and immediately returned to action. He again saw an enemy sapper preparing to engage another friendly bunker, and he silenced the insurgent before he could employ the satchel charge. He then aided in the evacuation of the wounded Soldiers to a rear area. Sergeant Counts' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 8456)



13 May 1969

SP4 Robert C. Farabee (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Specialist Farabee distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, at First Support Base Airborne, Republic of Vietnam. Early in the morning on the cited date, the fire base was hit by a combination mortar attack and sapper assault, launched by elements of three North Vietnamese Army Battalions. Specialist Farabee reacted swiftly to the sapper threat and rushed outside his bunker while under direct small arms fire. He spotted two enemy sappers crawling through the wire and opened fire on them with his M-16 rifle, mortally wounding both. He continued to engage the insurgents in the First Platoon sector while medical aidman treated the seriously wounded personnel. When the last man was evacuated, he left his position and maneuvered to the howitzer area. For the duration of the battle, he helped load and fire the weapon, inflicting heavy casualties upon the North Vietnamese attackers. Specialist Farabee'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 State Army.

13 May 1969



PFC Cleabern W. Hill Jr. (A/2-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (Posthumously) for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Private Hill distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A was in the process of fortifying Fire Support Base Airborne, in the mountains west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Early in the morning on the cited date, the base was hit by a combination mortar and sapper attack mounted by elements of three North Vietnamese Battalions. The sappers poured over the First Platoon's bunker line, intent upon swarming inside the perimeter before the friendly element could defend itself. The members of the First Platoon, bearing the full brunt of the initial assault, fought valiantly to delay the enemy onslaught. Private Hill held his position in one of the hard pressed bunkers, leveling intense small arms fire against the advancing sapper waves. He continued to fight until an enemy mortar round hit his bunker, mortally wounding him. His stubborn persistence provided the rest of the friendly force with valuable moments to brace themselves for the enemy ground assault. Private Hill's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 9054; 19 July 1969)

13 May 1969

PFC Odell D. Beasley (E/2-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Private Beasley distinguished himself while serving as an ammunition bearer in Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during combat operations at Fire Support Base Airborne, in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, the fire base was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese's Army Soldiers. The enemy force assaulted the fire base from two sides, with infantrymen and sapper rushing the perimeter under a heavy mortar attack. At the beginning of the battle, Private Beasley immediately assumed his duties as an ammunition bearer for his mortar position. Despite enemy automatic weapons fire and shrapnel from enemy mortar rounds, he completed several trips through the early darkness to an ammunition storage point securing illumination rounds. During the engagement, an ammunition bearer in an adjacent mortar position was wounded and unable to continue supplying the needed ammunition. Private Beasley realized the seriousness of the situation and doubled his trips to the ammunition point, supplying illumination rounds for the shorthanded mortar position as well as his own. In the process of securing another load, Private Beasley was mortally wounded when an enemy satchel charge exploded near him. Private Beasley's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 9055; 19 July 1969)

13 May 1969



SP4 James E. Miller (C/2-319 ARTY) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Specialist Miller distinguished himself while serving as a cannoneer for the Fifth Howitzer Section, Battery C, 2d Battalion, 319th Artillery. During the early morning hours of Fire Support Base Airborne, twenty-five miles southwest of Hue, Republic of Vietnam, Specialist Miller's battery came under heavy ground attack by an estimated battalion size enemy force. He immediately began firing his M-16 rifle at the attacking insurgents. After firing several magazines of ammunition, he manned his howitzer and began firing illumination for visibility and direct fire at the insurgents. When the position was overrun, he moved to the inner perimeter where he again began firing his M-16 rifle at the hostile force, driving them from the perimeter. Although wounded in the ensuing battle, he moved through a mortar and rocket attack in order to help the more seriously wounded to cover. Specialist Miller's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 9567, 24 July 1969)



ACRONYMS

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

