



STRIKE

Weekly History



Est. 1941

May 15th – May 21st 2016

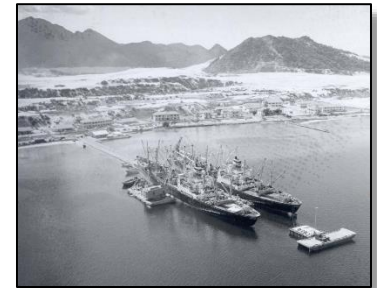
Issue: 56

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.

15 May 1965

The 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry was reorganized under the Department of the Army TOE 7-35F. Headquarters and Headquarters company was organized under TOE 7-36F, and Rifle Companies "A", "B", "C" under TOE 7-37F. Some months later, "D", and "E" companies were added with "E" company being a Combat Support Company containing the 81mm mortars and 90mm recoilless rifles. Each rifle company consists of 3 rifle platoons with M-60 machine guns and M-79 grenade launchers being organic to the individual platoons. This basic organization was used with some modifications in training and combat.

A Reconnaissance Platoon was organized in the Battalion and assigned to "E" company. The Reconnaissance Platoon was unique in that it was designed to work as a highly mobile rifle platoon or in six-man reconnaissance teams. It was employed under direct control of the Battalion Commander.

15 May 1966

On 15 May 1966, the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division conducted operation "Austin VI", a search and destroy mission against the Viet Cong in Phouc Long Province, near the Cambodian border, where an estimated battalion size unit of North Vietnamese regulars were operating. PFC Rodger Lyle (Huntington, West Virginia) "C" Co. helping to clear trees and bush from area so helicopters can land to resupply their unit.



15 May 1966

On 15 May 1966, the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division conducted Operation "Austin VI", a search and destroy mission against the Viet Cong in Phouc Long Province, near the Cambodian border, where an estimated battalion size unit of North Vietnamese regulars were operating. PFC Michael Baldinger (New Haven, Connecticut), Medic of "A" Company, treats a wounded Viet Cong captured by a recon patrol.



15 - 17 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR II: 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Recon Force ambushed 15 VC, killing 6 and capturing an 82mm mortar tube and 1 SKS. The following day Alpha Company ambushed 4 VC, killing 2 with weapons, and Bravo Company followed up with 2 more that afternoon. Late that night of 16 May the Recon perimeter on the major trail in a deep valley was heavily probed. One round of friendly artillery fire unfortunately fell in the Recon position causing several casualties. Some additional casualties were caused by enemy grenades and several enemy bodies were later found just outside the perimeter. One of the dead enemy had been killed in a hand to hand encounter. On 17 May Charlie Company, 2nd Platoon ran into a battalion-size fortified base camp on hill 399, apparently still occupied by a considerable force, and was forced to pull back a short distance to evacuate casualties and bringing in supporting fires. Before reinforcements, including Alpha Company 1-327th, could be brought to the aid of the 2nd Platoon, the enemy evacuated the camp.

15 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR II: one platoon of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry contacted an estimated VC battalion size force with automatic weapons and mortars in fortified positions. Continuous artillery and tactical air strikes were called in against the enemy positions and mortars, upon the insertion of a reinforcing company, 1 UH-1D helicopter sustained a direct mortar round and was destroyed. Results of the contact were 3 US KHA, 34 US WHA, 1 UH-1D destroyed, 7 UH-1B damaged, 5 UH-1B damaged and 20 VC KIA (C). Five other light contacts by the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 2 US WHA, 5 VC KIA (C) and 2 individual weapons captured. One platoon of the 2^d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry contacted an estimated VC platoon size force resulting in 4 US WHA, 6 VC KIA (C) and 5 VC KIA (P). Four other contacts by the 2^d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 6 VC KIA (C), and 1 VC KIA (P). Seven light contacts by the 2nd Battalion 502nd Infantry, resulted in 2 US WHA, 9 VC KIA (C), 1 detainee, and 2 individual weapons, 1 82mm mortar tube and 23 82m mortar rounds captured. (Combat Operation After Action Report, Operation Malheur (MACV/RCS/J3/32)

15 - 17 May 1968

The 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry had light contact as the Battalion was credited with 6 VC KIA (BC) and 2 VC POW.

15 May 1968

Operation DELAWARE: At 1605, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry, 4th Platoon received MG fire from estimated enemy squad and returned fire and swept area. Charlie Company's Commander, CPT Anderson was killed in action. Results: 1 US KHA, 2 NVA KIA, 1 RPD, 1 AK-47, 1 RPG-7 Captured.



15 May 1969

Operation BRISTOL BOOTS: was terminated prematurely as the 1st Brigade, with 1st Battalion, 50st Infantry and 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, and was redeployed to Tam Ky where it became OPCON to the Americal Division in Operation LAMAR PLAIN. Throughout the twenty-one-day operation contact was light and sporadic. It was determined that no large concentrations of enemy forces or installations were in the Ruong Ruong Valley. Results of the operation were: 7 NVA KIA, 1 POW, and 16 individual weapons captured. Friendly losses were 5 KIA and 34 WIA. (HQ, 101st Airborne (Airmobile), Operational Report – Lessons Learned. Dated 20 August 1969)

15 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: 1st Brigade TF organizing and deploying from the 101st Airborne Division AO to the Americal Division AO in QUANG TIN (P). At 0045H, the 1st Brigade received a verbal warning order from the 101st Airborne Division to move with two battalions, 1st Battalion, 50st Infantry and 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, and designated support elements to the Americal Division currently operating in southern I Corps; the first element of the brigade were to be prepared to depart by air NLT 151200H May 69 from the PHU BAI Departure Airfield (DAF). The 1st Battalion, 50st Infantry and 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry were alerted to move to PZ for extraction from the AO commencing at first light; concurrently, the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry was alerted to assume security of all fire bases in the AO upon extraction of the 1st Battalion, 50st Infantry and 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry. At 0400H, representatives from the 101st Airborne Division met with the 1st Brigade and coordinated the deployment of the brigade, to include division assets to accompany the brigade, and support to be furnished by the division. At 0830H, the 1st Brigade liaison team arrived at Americal Division Headquarters in CHU LAI and was briefed by the general staff, thereby effecting preliminary coordination between brigade and division staff representatives. At 1415H, the Commanding Officer, 1st Brigade, reported to the Commanding General, Americal Division, and the 1st Brigade feel under OPCON of the Americal Division. The Arrival Airfield (AAF) was TAM-KY S and brigade elements began to arrive that afternoon with the TAC CP, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry and Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 320th Artillery closing by 2130H. At 2345H, the 1st Brigade TF staging area received 5-7 rounds of 60mm mortar fire with negative results. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)



This photo is at the Tam-Ky airfield as elements of the 1st Brigade started arriving.

15 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: 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 roused 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 Infantry, 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, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, 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 cargo loads of men, equipment, and supplies. Operation Lamar Plain was underway. (Bitter Fighting IN Quang Tin, Roger Ables.

15 May 2008

Operation Strike Silver Jets Strike Brigade Isolates Special Groups Criminals in Shulla NET 15 May 08 to prevent the repositioning and reinforcement of SGC into Sadr City and deny safe havens to displaced SGC leadership. The intent is to deny SGC freedom of movement, deny the ability to move accelerants and resupply their forces, and prevent the establishment of safe havens within the Strike AO. Through five distinct phases (Shaping, Interdiction, Isolation, Transition, Exploitation), end state is defined by four critical points: Security- SGC movement is disrupted and safe havens in Shulla and the JRK are denied, ISF have freedom of maneuver and are willing to establish a permanent presence in Shulla, the population has decreased their active/passive support to the SGC; Government-Iraqi population in Shulla and the JRK is supportive of the Gol with the Shulla NC



continuing to provide for the needs of the people of Shulla and the JRK; Economy-Local economic opportunities are improving as competitive advantages are developed in selected industries; Services-Key infrastructure remains intact, operating at near capacity, Shulla NC provides basic services to the Iraqi People.

16 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR I: Eight light contacts by the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry resulted in 1 US KHA, 9 VC KIA (C), 6 detainees and 4 individual weapons, 1 rocket launcher, 2 rockets and 2 grenades captured. A light contact by the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry resulted in 1 VC KIA (C) and 1 individual weapon captured. Fourteen light contacts by the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry resulted in 6 US WHA, 14 VC KIA (C), 4 detainees, and 8 individual weapons captured. (Combat Operation After Action Report, Operation Malheur (MACV/RCS/J3/32))

16 May –
13 August 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN:

Locations: I Corps: Quang Tin Province; Base Area 117; Tam Ky; LZs Professional and Rustler.

Type/Objective: Search and Destroy into enemy Base Area 117, approximately 45 miles south of Da Nang.

Units: U.S. – 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) (1-46th IN), 101st Airborne Division: 2d Brigade (1-501st IN, 1-502 IN); NVA/VC – 2nd NVA Division.

Events: 21 May – 1-46th IN (Americal) engages an enemy force of unknown size near Phuoc An 12 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Losses: in the five-hour firefight: U.S. – 7 KIA, 19 WIA; NVA/VC – 6 KIA.

Events: 8 July – A/1-502nd IN squares off against an estimated NVA company near Hau Duc, approximately 20 miles southwest of Tam Ky.

Losses: U.S. – 9 KIA, 7 WIA; NVA/VC – 4 KIA

Casualties: Totals for Lamar Plain. U.S. – 105 KIA, 333 WIA; NVA/VC – 524 KIA, 11 POWs.

16 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: The 1st Brigade TF continued to deploy from the DAF at PHU BAI to the AAF at TAM-KY S and the 1-501 Infantry conducted a CA into the AO. At 0830H, the 1-502 IN and 2-320 Arty (-) began movement by air from DAF to the AAF. At 1200H the 1st Brigade TF assumed OPCON of the 1-46 Infantry and C/1-14 Arty which were located at LZ Professional (BT173077). The 1-46 Infantry continued to conduct local reconnaissance in force operations in the vicinity of LZ Professional. At 1445H, C/2-320 Arty completed an air move from TAK-KY S to LZ Young (BT188158) where it established a firing position with a battery from the 2d ARVN Div, secured by forces of the 5th ARVN Regt. At 1454H, 1-501 Infantry conducted a CA into an LZ to the southwest of LZ Young and commenced RIF operations to the south toward LZ Professional. At 1745H, B/1-501 Inf vic. BT259156 engaged three enemy Soldiers with small arms fire; the enemy south and the element pursued with negative results. At 2230H, the remainder of the 1st Brigade TF combat elements closed into TAM-KY S; also at that time, the AAF staging area received 10-15 rounds of 60mm mortar fired resulting in three US lightly wounded. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)

16 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: 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. (Bitter Fighting In Quang Tin, Roger Ables)

16 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: at 0428, vicinity YD487065 and enemy sapper platoon launched an attack against the northwestern sector of Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry night defensive position, seven minutes later they received RPG, automatic weapons, and small arms fire from the east and west of their position. Moving under cover of a heavy rainstorm the enemy attacked, employing mortars, B-40 rockets and small arms. Fire was returned by small arms and claymores. A USAF Flareship was employed to provide illumination. The enemy broke contact and fled to the east and west. At 0521 three enemy walked east about ten minutes apart from each other in the vicinity of YD490068 and encountered the Recon Platoon in an ambush location. The first enemy soldier was killed by a claymore and the second two by M60 and other small arms. The three enemy were killed, and two AK-47's and 1 RPG launcher were captured. US Losses were four KIA and 22 wounded.

17 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR: a Light contact by the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 1 US WHA and 12 detainees. Two light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 1 VC KIA (C) and 1 individual weapon captured. Eleven light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry resulted in 6 US WHA, 7 VC KIA (C), 1 detainee and 5 individual weapons captured. (Combat Operation After Action Report, Operation Malheur (MACV/RCS/J3/32))

17 May –
31 July 1968

The 101st ACD conducted Operation NEVADA EAGLE. In this operation, the 101st ACD coordinated rice denial operations in Thua Thien Providence and conducted offensive operations to defeat NVA/VC forces and to destroy enemy base camps and installations. The 1st Bde, 101st ACD continued RIF operations in the area vic Hwy 547 and 547A; the 2d Bde 101st ACD continued RIF operations in the coastal plains north and east of Hue and provided security and support for rice collection; and the 3d Bde, 82d Abn Div continued security of fire bases astride Hwy 547 and conducted RIF operations along the entry and exit routes to the coastal plains. (Operational Report of 101st Air Cavalry Division for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1))



17 May 1968

1st STRIKE paratroopers of the 1st Brigade completed their phase of Operations Delaware, designed to block the main enemy supply route leading out of the A Shau valley toward Hue. The airborne the Battalion killed 318 NVA, captured three prisoners and 121 weapons during the 28-day operations. Delaware was characterized by the capture of several large caliber ammunition caches, the loss of which further limited enemy capabilities in providing fire support for large scale operations, according to Division intelligence sources. The interdiction of Route 547 was also realized during this operation, completely cutting off its use by enemy forces as a resupply route.

17 May 1968

Operation DELAWARE: 2-502 effectively accomplished its mission during Operation DELAWARE. During phase I it only established a mini-firebase near LZ VEGHEL, however, this was all that was needed. The BN pushed west and south along Hwy 547 and 547A overcoming all enemy resistance in its path. When the contacts became scarce the BN deployed into its new area, effectively established it firebase and conducted reconnaissance in force operations into New Base Area. In both phases the enemy sustained significant losses, particularly in equipment and intelligence documents.

Results of Operation DELAWARE:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>Equipment Lost or Destroyed</u>
US	13	1	99	2 M-16

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>VC CIA</u>	<u>NVA CIA</u>	<u>C/S Wpns CIA</u>	<u>Ind Wpn CIA</u>	<u>Rice Dest.</u>
ENEMY	43	1	2	2	37	2300lbs

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

Authorized:	920
Assigned:	801
Present for Duty:	755
Not present for duty:	46

Casualties for Operations were as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>INRHA</u>
HHC	1	0	1	0	2	0	0
A Co.	4	2	0	0	27	0	0
B Co.	3	0	0	0	49	0	1
C Co.	5	0	0	1	15	0	1
D Co.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E Co.	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Total	13	2	1	1	99	0	2

17 May –
25 June 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: Phase I was conducted. RIF operations commenced with little significant action. B/2-502 ran into a small delaying action almost daily but failed to locate any large base camp areas or caches.

17 May 1971

Operation LAM SON 720: One Team of 2-502 IN Recon Platoon air assaulted into FB Shock (Vic 5105). On the same day 3rd Platoon, C Company observed and engaged three NVA's.

18 May –
4 June 1967

Operation MALHEUR I: The 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry battalion commander felt that it was likely that the enemy would be found on the heavily forested slopes of Hill 424 (BS 705322) caught between the eastward sweep of the STRIKE FORCE and the western push of the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry. Consequently, a coordinated attack was planned with Bravo Company in the center driving over the hill from west to east, Alpha Company clearing the lower slopes on the south flank and Charlie Company positioned to attack from the north and east. During the morning Bravo Company encountered what appeared to be an enemy medical unit on the north western slope of Hill 424 and aggressively pursued, killing eight and capturing one nurse. This successful action tended to make the lead platoon of Bravo, and the CIDG platoon working with them, overconfident and as a result during the afternoon they were split into several groups and pushed ahead of the company. This set the stage for one of the three largest engagements in which the STRIKE FORCE has participated in over a year. Through the remainder of the afternoon and into the rain sodden dark night, in an improbable location on the steep eastern slope of Hill 424, the enemy held his ground in a heavy engagement with elements of all 3 companies of the STRIKE FORCE. The conflict began when LT Booth in command of the Bravo Company, 1st Platoon sent a squad and part of the CIDG platoon to secure an LZ on the east side of 424. This patrol encountered a large enemy force that was well dug in and armed with automatic weapons, as it moved down a ridge. 6 Americans were killed and the 6 others wounded; the CIDG were scattered, some being captured and others escaping. As LT Booth moved to reinforce with the rest of his element, he was taken under fire. The Company commander with two more platoons of Bravo Company arrived from the northwest and also became heavily engaged. Alpha Company in a brilliantly aggressive action swept through what appeared to be a part of the same forces south of 424, capturing a machinegun, and then turning to block the enemy escape. Meanwhile, Charlie Company made a very rapid move to the south and a slashing counter attack into the enemy's north flank. This action accounted for eleven enemy Soldiers and probably turned the tide in favor of the STRIKE FORCE.

Bravo Company continued in contact throughout the rainy night, by morning the enemy had abandoned his positions and in spite of the tight ring composed of four companies, disappeared. A thorough police of the area by all elements revealed



45 VC/NVA KHA, 16 weapons, 12 US KHA, and 38 US WHA. Enemy fortifications on Hill 424 were mutually supporting, many had overhead cover and firing ports low to the ground.

During the rest of May units continued making contact as they moved back into the valleys to the west then east to the edge of the coastal plain. As the SF departed a heavy odor hung in the valley from the large number of bodies, both VC and water buffaloes, that lay rotting in the sun.

The operation concluded on a positive note when Bravo Company uncovered 54 tons of rice and in over 30 hours of hard, hot work, extracted the majority of it to the government control to feed refugees. On 4 June the last elements of the 2nd Battalion, 502nd was lifted back to CARENTAN BASE, to prepare for MALHEUR II.

The final body count for MALHEUR I was 152 VC/NVA killed, and 3 POW and 45 weapons were captured. Friendly losses were 13 US KHA and 65 wounded. Intelligence gathered during the operation indicated that the enemy belonged to the 93rd, 95th, and 97th Battalions, 2nd Regiment, 1st NVA Division; as well as local VC forces in the area.

18 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR: 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry contacted an estimated Battalion sized force (BS710310) armed with numerous automatic weapons and machine guns. The contact was characterized by many small engagements in a two-square kilometer area with friendly and enemy personnel intermingled. The enemy defended from numerous spider holes and fortified positions scattered throughout the area of contact. Artillery and TAC Air supported. Contact lasted six hours and resulted in 12 US KHA, 41 US WHA, 31 VC KIA (C) and 12 individual weapons, 1 machine gun and 1 flamethrower captured. Based on the continued contacts with this Regiment, Regimental strength is probably about 800-900 personnel, with Battalions at a strength of approximately 200. The 2nd VC Regiment is believed to be located southeast of the Tactical Area of Responsibility, vicinity BS 7728 and BS 8044.

18 May 1968

Paratroopers of the 1st and 2nd Brigades and 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division Initiated Operation Nevada Eagle in northern I Corps. It was designed to deny all NVA and Viet Cong forces operating in the area the ability to capture the ripening rice crop growing in the rich coastal plain north and south of Hue.

18 18 May 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: Operations begins to protect the rice harvest and deny the NVA/ VC access to it. Before its completion, 2nd Brigade will have destroyed the 803rd Regiment of the 324B North Vietnamese Army Division.

18 – 19 May 1968

1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry had light contact, received 2 WIA from Snipers.

18 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: The day was punctuated with a series of sharp clashes as enemy activity increased in the AO. At 0700H, Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 16th Artillery engaged and enemy force at BT131163 resulting in 6 NVA KIA; the battery was firing in support of the TIEN PHUOC Popular Forces. At 0710H, B/1-501, vic. BT162123, engaged a single NVA who fled; the unit pursued and captured the wounded enemy who later died. At 1127H, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, vicinity BT152123, began to receive heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well dug-in and bunkered enemy. The element employed artillery and ARA and maneuvered against the enemy throughout the day. That afternoon the enemy position was over-ran, resulting in 8 NVA KIA and 9 IWC. Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, sustained 3 KIA and 1 WIA in the bitter day-long fight. At 1240H, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, vicinity BT178112, again received 82mm mortar fire, resulting in 4 US KIA, including the company commander, and 6 US WIA. At 1605H Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, vicinity BT163124, observed four enemy Soldiers; the element employed artillery accounting for 4 NVA KIA and 1 Weapon captured. At 1735H, Bravo Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry vicinity BT190117 engaged an enemy mortar position with 40mm fire, resulting in 4 NVA KIA. Throughout the day, the enemy resisted the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry in its movement to the south. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)

18 May 1969

Clarification of Events of this day involving C/1-501 IN, 101st Airborne Division. The following account, presumably taken from the 1/501 IN BN or 2d BDE unit history for 18 May 1969 is not accurate in many respects (**Originally came from Combat Operations After Actions Reports, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U)**).

At 1127H, C/1/501, vic. BT152123, began to receive heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well dug in and bunkered enemy. The element employed artillery and ARA and maneuvered against the enemy throughout the day. That afternoon the enemy position was over ran, resulting in 8 NVA KIA and 9 IWC. C/1/501 sustained 3 KIA and 1 WIA in the bitter day – long fight.

I was assigned to C Co, 1/501 on this date as 2d Platoon Leader and participated in this battle. Following is the corrected account of the events of 18 May 1969.

"On the morning of 18 May 1969, C Co moved from its nearby NDP site to a position at the base of a prominent hill. The CP was established at this location, secured by 2d platoon, the reserve element on this date.

1st platoon led by SFC Isaac Heyward was ordered to move to the crest of the hill and establish OPs. Approaching the crest, 1st platoon came under heavy fire from NVA soldiers in well-concealed foxholes and fighting positions. PFC Rudy Rossi fired two rounds from his 90mm recoilless rifle before being killed by small arms fire. PFC John Vollmerhausen was also killed and medic Paul GaNun was mortally wounded by small arms fire in this initial encounter.

The company commander, CPT David T. Gibson ordered 3rd platoon, led by 1LT Daniel O'Neill to assist 1st platoon in taking the hill and this was quickly accomplished without further friendly casualties. Eight NVA were killed on the hilltop and a number of enemy fighting positions were destroyed.



While 1st and 3rd platoons were engaged, the CP remained at the base of the hill and was attacked by a squad-sized NVA unit. An element from 2d platoon saw the attack developing and quickly halted it with rifle fire, hand grenades and an M60 machinegun. Five NVA soldiers were killed and five individual weapons (four AK-47s/1 SKS) were captured.

The CP moved to the top of the hill, which had been secured by 1st and 3rd platoons while 2d platoon remained at the base of the hill for additional security. Late in the afternoon of the 18th, more NVA soldiers were observed maneuvering toward the hill, presumably for a counterattack. Tactical air support was requested and the Vietnamese AF immediately provided two A1-E Skyraiders to assist C Co.

The Skyraiders, bomb-laden from wingtip to fuselage came in low and slow. Their canopies were back and the pilots/observers were leaning out and looking for targets; no Forward Air Controller (FAC) was required. Locating the enemy, the Skyraiders made pass after pass, dropping 500lb iron bombs and firing their .50cal machineguns.

The enemy situation around the hill prevented C Co from doing an extensive bomb damage assessment (BDA). No one who observed the Skyraiders' attacking will ever forget the image of these propeller driven warplanes from another era going into action. (By then 1LT Donald F. Gourley; 2/C/1-501 IN – 1969)

18 May 1969

By D+7 of the Battle for Ap Bia Mountain, the 3-187th Inf had been reinforced with the 1-506th and 2-501st IN BN and an ARVN Bn from the 3rd ARVN Regt. These forces were posted around Hill 937 to seal it off. The Hill had been pounded for 36 straight hours by artillery and air strikes that followed all the other bombardments since the battle began. Two Battalions, the 3-187th and 2-501st, attacked the NVA and by mid-afternoon some platoons had reached the summit but a thunderstorm drenched the hill. Visibility dropped to zero and the mud made for difficult going so the fourth withdrawal was ordered.

18 May 1969

A Shau Valley, Vietnam: A quartet of U.S. 101st Airborne Division troops keep low as they rush a stretcher-borne wounded comrade to a medical aid station during the Battle for Hamburger Hill. (Image by Bettmann/CORBIS)



18 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: The day was punctuated with a series of sharp clashes as enemy activity increased in the AO. At 0700H, B/3-16 Artillery engaged an enemy force at BT131163 resulting in 6 NVA KIA; the battery was firing in support of TIEN PHUOC Popular Forces. At 0710H, B/1-501, vic BT162123, engaged a single NVA who fled; the unit pursued and captured the wounded enemy who later died. At 1127H, C/1-501, vic BT162123, began to receive heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well dug-in and bunkered enemy. The element employed artillery and ARA and maneuvered against the enemy throughout the day. That afternoon the enemy position was over-run, resulting in 6 NVA KIA and 6 IWC. C/1-502 sustained 3 KIA and 1 WIA in the bitter day-long fight. At 1240H, B/1-501, vic BT1786112, again received 82mm mortar fire, resulting in 4 US KIA, including the company commander, and 6 US WIA. At 1605H, C/1-501 vic BT163124, observed four enemy Soldiers; the element employed artillery accounting for 4 NVA KIA and 1 weapon captured. At 1735H, B/2-17 CAV vic BT190117 engaged an enemy mortar position with 40mm fire, resulting in 4 NVA KIA. Throughout the day, the enemy resisted the 1-501 in its movement to the south.

18 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: 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. (Bitter Fighting In Quang Tin, Roger Ables)

18 May 1970

In response to intelligence indicating a possible enemy attack against Phu Bai Combat Base and the Gong Ha Training Center in celebration of the birthday of Ho Chi Minh, Companies Bravo and Charlie, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry passed to the operational control of Phu Bai Base Defense. Alpha Company passed OPCON to the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry to



screen the south of Phu Bai. The 101st Airborne Division observed a cease fire and all offensive operations terminated with units assuming a defensive posture from 181200 to 191200 May.

18 May 1971 –
31 May 1971

Operation LAM SON 720: A/2-502 IN discovers and old bunker complex and approximately 300 pounds of printing type. Delta and Echo (-) combat assaulted into an area in the vicinity of FB Veghel. Delta Company moved onto and secured FB Veghel while the remaining elements of the Battalion conducted "Search and Clear" missions three to five kilometers south of FB Veghel. Prior to the Battalions assault into this AO, a unit of Vietnamese Marines had been operating in this area and had numerous enemy contacts. From the sum of intelligence collected, it was concluded that the NVA had a major base of operations located east of the Song Bo River. The Battalion's mission was to move into the area forcing this base west of the Song Bo, at which time B-52 strikes, FAC airstrikes, and artillery would be dropped on their suspected location. While the 3rd ARVN Regiment was heavily engaged with the 6th NVA Regiment west of the Song Bo River and south of route 547, the "Always First" Brigade moved to secure their eastern flank. Echo Company, 2-502d Infantry secured Dong A Vo mountain while Alpha and Bravo attacked south with extensive fire support. Charlie joined in the final assault on Hill 608. This operation turned out to be a true infantry ground attack.



The combat assaults of the Vietnamese Marines and elements of the 1st ARVN Division into the known location of the 6th NVA Regiment around FB Veghel was heartening to the Strike Force troopers. While the battalion of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division were deployed along a line north and east of FB Veghel, the South Vietnamese Marines and the Army units struck deep into the 6th NVA territory. This was the first time that American units has passed by Vietnamese units in pursuit of the enemy. The combined operation with the 3rd ARVN Regiment at FB Veghel was a perfect example of this. While the Battalion was securing their artillery and headquarters of FB Veghel, the 3d ARVN Regiment attacked the 6th NVA Regiment at Dong A Tay Mountain.

Having completed the operation south of FB Veghel (Vic 5502), companies A, C, D, and E (-) CA'd into the AO north of FB Veghel while Bravo Company continued to secure firebases.

18 May 2010

2nd Brigade Combat Team cases the Brigade and Regimental colors in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan.

19 May 1967

Operation MALHEUR: Light contact by the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry resulted in 1 VC KIA (C), four light contacts by the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry resulted in 3 US WHA and 3 VC KIA (C). Four light contacts by the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry resulted in 2 US WHA, 2 VC KIA (C) and 1 individual weapon captured. A contact by the Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division resulted in 1 US KHA and 5 US WHA. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation Malheur (MACV/RCS/JS/32)

19-21 May 1968

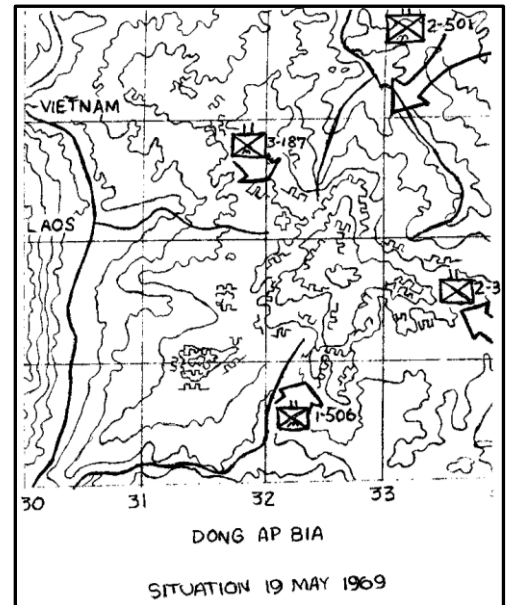
1st Battalion, 501st Infantry cordons Thon Lang and Xa Nau resulting in 65 NVA/ VC KIA and 2 NVA/VC PWs.

19 May 1969

Activity lessoned in the AO as the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry continued to push south toward LZ Professional.

19 May 1969

Assault on Dong Ap Bia "Hamburger Hill – Hill 937: The 2-501 IN and the 2-3 ARVN were deployed into the area to apply pressure from all sides. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, Office of the Commanding General; Summary of Action and Results; 24 May 1969)



19 May 1969

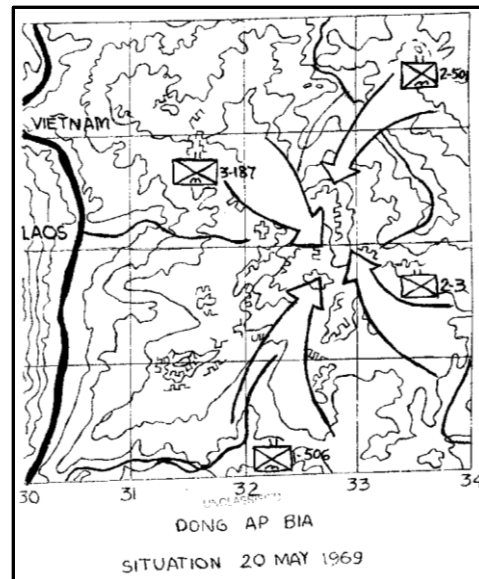
Assault on Dong Ap Bia "Hamburger Hill – Hill 937: On this morning with the 1-506 IN on the south and the 3-187 IN on the north, the enemy positions were subjected to continuous artillery and TAC air fires. The 2-501 IN and the 2-3 ARVN were alerted to prepare to assist in the final sweep of the enemy's fortified positions surrounding the entire ridge line. By late afternoon an additional 175 enemy bodies had been accounted for. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, Office of the Commanding General; Summary of Action and Results; 24 May 1969)

19 May 1969

The 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry and the 2-3rd ARVN were deployed into the area to apply pressure from all sides. (AAR-Hamburger Hill)



- 19 May 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** Activity lessened in the AO as the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry continued to push south toward LZ Professional.
- 19 May 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** 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. (Bitter Fighting In Quang Tin, Roger Ables)
- 19 – 20 May 1970 The 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry completed battalion refresher training and prepared for redeployment into the Division AO. Charlie Company assaulted from Phu Bai Combat Base to FS/OB Brick and prepared to receive artillery. On the 20th the remainder of the battalion moved by air to FS/OB Brick to commence search operations in the Ta Trach River Valley, and passed to the operational control of 1st Brigade.
- 19 May 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** D/2-502 had been extracted from south of Hill 882 and was given the mission of screening north of FSB Veghel. While moving to the east, A/2-502 received fire from a small enemy delaying force. C/2-502 moving to the west to effect a link-up with A Company encountered a small enemy force also acting as a delaying force. The enemy quickly disengaged from contact. One US Soldier was killed, while no enemy bodies could be found.
- 19 May 2006 A/2-101 destroys the Durbin Bridge to prevent AIF from using the Durbin Bridge as a vehicular crossing point, to make the Bridge un-repairable so that forces are not required to provide over watch.
- 20 May 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** Two contacts by the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry resulted in 3 VC KIA (C) and 9 VC KIA (P). A light contact by the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry resulted in 1 VC KIA (C). Two light contacts by the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry resulted in 3 VC KIA (C) and 1 individual weapon captured. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation Malheur (MACV/RCS/J3/32))
- 20 May 1968 As part of Operation NEVADA EAGLE, B/1/501st Airborne, C/2/501st Airborne, D/1/502d Airborne, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division engage an estimated NVA company while conducting a cordon and search of Dong Gi Tay, five miles east of Hue. Casualties: US 12 WIA; enemy 62 KIA.
- 20 – 21 May 1968 Reacting to intelligence reports which indicated increased enemy activity in village of Dong Gi Tay, 8km east of Hue (YD8321), B/1-501 conducted RIF operations to determine the exact location of the enemy. While moving north, B/1-501 engaged an estimated company. Companies A/1-501, C/2-501, and D/1-502 conducted a combat assault into the battle area and quickly formed a cordon around the enemy. B/1-501 was supported by 13 air strikes and 8", 155mm and 105mm artillery fires while exchanging SA/SW fire with the enemy. During 20 May the companies killed 57 enemy and captured 20 weapons. Throughout the night 20-21 May, artillery illumination was provided and at day-break, after silencing mortar fire inside the cordon, B/1-501 and D/1-502 swept through the village. The results of the cordon operation which terminated at 211700MAY68 were: 12 US WIA, 62 NVA KIA, 2 NVA POW, 42 IWC, and 4 CSWC. (Operation Report, Lessons Learned, HQ 101st ABN DIV (AM); 26 December 1968)
- 20 – 21 May 1968 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry continued the RIF operations and security mission of An Lo and QL #1. During these two days only light contact was made. Results: Friendly: 1 WIA; Enemy: 4 VC KIA (BC), 1 VC WIA (Escaped). Delta Company while conducting the road sweep from An Lo to Evans spotted a mine but before they could remove it a civilian bus ran over it. Results: No injuries, bus heavily damaged.
- 20 May 1969 **Assault on Dong Ap Bia "Hamburger Hill – Hill 937:** 4 Battalions executed a coordinated assault on Hill 937. The 3-187th Inf, with A/2-506th Inf attached, assaulted the hill from the north; 1-506th Inf from the south and southwest; the 2/3d ARVN from the southeast; and the 2-501st Inf from the northeast. The 3-187th swept up the hill from the north, while the 1-506th and 2-501st blocked possible routes of escape. The 2/3d ARVN moved onto Hill 937 from the south. By 1200 hours Battalion objectives on the Dong Ap Bia Ridge were taken. The determined enemy resistance disintegrated as friendly forces overran enemy positions resulting in total body count for 20 May was 109. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, Office of the Commanding General; Summary of Action and Results; 24 May 1969)



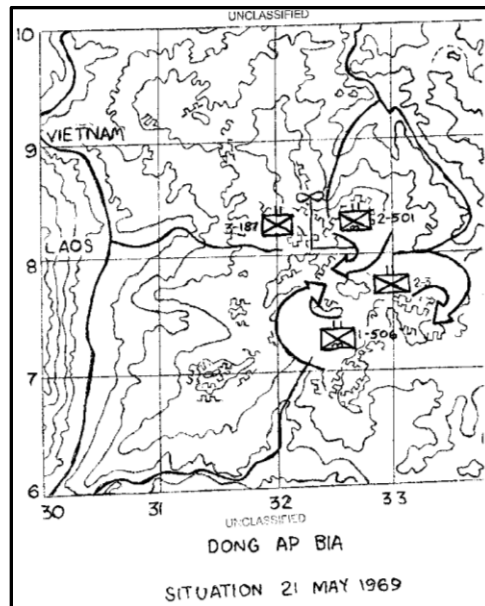
- 20 May 1970 The planned extraction of the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry from vicinity FS/OB Kathryn to Phu Bai Combat Base to conduct battalion refresher training was postponed due to inclement weather.
- 20 May 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** vicinity YD496069, the Recon Platoon and Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry received intense small arms and RPG fire from three sides at 15 meters. The elements returned fire, employed ARA and maneuvered against the enemy. The Recon Platoon began receiving hostile fire on three sides from RPG's, machine guns, and small arms fire. The enemy attempted to cut off the Recon Platoon from Company A. The 3rd platoon of A Company reinforced the Recon Platoon and the combined forces assaulted the enemy positions. A heavy volume of fire was laid down by both sides. The enemy platoon was retreated after an hour, and although many blood trails were found, only one enemy body was left behind. The Recon Platoon sustained three casualties. C Company continued to move toward link up. Contact terminated at 1230 hours as the enemy fled leaving one KIA. US casualties were three KIA and nine WIA.
- 21 May 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** Two light contacts by the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 3 VC KIA (C), and 1 individual weapon and 1 machine gun captured. Three light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry resulted in 4 VC KIA. (C) and 1 individual weapon captured. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation Malheur (MACV/RCS/J3/32)
- 21 May 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** Brigade elements engaged in heavy contact as the 1-501 fought a day long struggle against a determined, well dug-in enemy. At 0500H, C/1-501, vic. BT164115, detected movement outside an NDP and engaged the suspected enemy with M-79 and hand grenades. A first light sweep disclosed 2 VC KIA. At 0642H, B/1-501, vic. BT165108, received intensive small arms and heavy machinegun fire from an enemy force of unknown size. The ensuing contact continued throughout the day. Charlie, Delta Company and Recon/1-501, vic. BT165105, observed 4 NVA with a 12.7mm HMG and engaged the enemy position. At 1000H, D/1-501 joined the bitter fighting by engaging an enemy force in the area. The fighting continued throughout the day as the enemy tenaciously defended from steel-reinforced concrete bunkers. Tactical air, artillery, and Air Cav support was used throughout the fighting, but the ground units remained locked in close combat throughout the afternoon. As the elements disengaged, the enemy left 25 KIA on the battlefield with the 1-501 suffering 12 KIA and 46 WIA in the fight. Contact was scattered elsewhere in the AO as the ground elements began to uncover mute evidence of the effectiveness of the intensive air and artillery strikes throughout the AO. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)
- 21 May 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** 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, 1LT Don Gourley and 1LT 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. (Bitter Fighting In Quang Tin, Roger Ables)

21 May 1969

Assault on Dong Ap Bia "Hamburger Hill – Hill 937: Allied forces swept over the hill to check the enemy base area in detail. After ten days of hard fighting the 3-197th Infantry had earned a well-deserved rest and returned to the coastal plains. The 1-506th Inf secured the abandoned enemy positions while the 2-501st Inf conducted RIF operations to the west. The 2/3d ARVN conducted RIF operations to the east. Friendly reconnaissance of the area encountered only isolated and sporadic resistance. An additional 59 enemy killed were discovered and 89 weapons were captured. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, Office of the Commanding General; Summary of Action and Results; 24 May 1969)



21 May –
7 June 1969

Throughout this period enemy contact decreased and discoveries of enemy caches increased as enemy elements withdrew from the area into Base Areas in Laos. 2-501 in conjunction with A Troop, 2-17 CAV following the capture of Dong Ap Bia began pursuit operations west to the Laotian Border in order to destroy the remaining defenders of Hill 937. On 22 May, 2-506 with elements combat assaulted into FB Airborne and conducted extensive search and reconnaissance in force operations in and around FB Airborne to locate NVA Warehouse 54, known to exist in the area.

21 May 1970

The 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry moved by air from FSB Eathryn to Phu Bai Combat Base and began preparation for battalion refresher training. The battalion passed from the operational control of the 1st Brigade to OPCON of the 2nd Brigade. The 3rd Brigade assumed responsibility for the portion of the Three Forks area of the Song Bo River vacated by the extraction of the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry as Bravo Company 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry moved by air from FSB Rakkasan to FSB Kathryn to provide security for the firebase and conduct local patrolling. The 1st Brigade continued combined operations southwest of Hue with the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry and the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Regiment ARVN conducting operations against elements of two battalions of the 29th NVA regiment in the vicinity of FSB Veghel.

21 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: In the morning a white team and pink team were employed to scout the gap between A/2-502 and C/2-502. The white team bird took several hits from enemy positions east of A Company, forcing it to land. The pink team LOH was also hit by enemy fire and forced to land. The bird had to be extracted, but there were negative casualties. At 1900, Alpha and Charlie Companies were linked up.



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.

2 x Medal of Honor Recipients (1 x Posthumously)
6 x Distinguished Service Cross (2 x Posthumously)
31 x Silver Star Medal (8 x Posthumously)
15 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
3 x Bronze Star Medal (3 x Posthumously)
99 x Purple Heart Medal (60 x Posthumously)
3 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
1 x Soldiers Medal
5 x Died of Non-Hostile injury or illness

15 May 1968

CPT Dennis K. Anderson (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 in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



15 May 1969



2LT Bruce Saunders (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received on 13 May 1969 which resulted in his death while at an artillery firing position when the area came under attack by a hostile force at FSB Airborne, 7km N-NW of A Loui Village in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. 2LT Saunders was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on the VSI list, and later expired.

15 May 2006

SPC Chris Hazen (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from hostile action in combat.

15 May 2008

1LT Ryan Chang (1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while laying out C-wire to secure the intersection of ASR Illinois and an unnamed route, an IED detonated on the south side of ASR Illinois, approximately 15 meters from 1LT Chang and SSG Albert's position.

16 May 1967



CPL John C. Silver (C/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 on combat operations when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on patrol near Duc Pho in the Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 May 1967

The following Soldiers: PFC Claude H McCart (HHC/2-502 IN); SP4 Timothy B Sprecker (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received. (General Orders Number 18; 12 June 1967)

16 May 1970



SSG David L. Jones (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force on Hill 882, 13km E-NE of A Loui Village in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

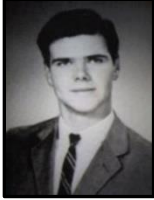


16 May 1970



SGT Billy R. McCullough (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force on Hill 882, 13km E-NE of A Luoi Village in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

16 May 1970



CPL David L. Christopherson (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force on Hill 882, 13km E-NE of A Luoi Village in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

16 May 1970



PFC John R. Mariani (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force on Hill 882, 13km E-NE of A Luoi Village in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

16 May 2006



SSG Santiago M. Halsel (2-502 IN), 32, of Bowling Green, Kentucky; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from an improvised explosive device detonated while he was conducting a dismounted clearance mission during combat operations in Baghdad.

17 May 1967

PFC Raul J. Benavides (HHC/2-502 IN); was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received. (General Orders Number 18; 12 June 1967)

17 May 1968



SP4 Ronnie D. Luman (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire. He was admitted to a Naval Hospital Ship, where he later expired in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

17 May 2006

PFC Brice Patterson (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat. At approximately 0730 during a dismounted clearance of Route Fatboy, PFC Patterson's team was struck by an IED. PFC Patterson sustained lacerations and puncture wounds to his right arm, abdomen, and groin.

18 May 1967



SGT Leon Thornton (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of Duc Pho, in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.



18 May 1967



SFC Oliver A. Ware (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of Duc Pho, in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 1967



CPL William C. Freund (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of Duc Pho, in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 1967



SP4 John W. Hudgens (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of Duc Pho, in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 1967



SP4 Willie R. Griffith (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of Duc Pho, in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 1967



PFC Calvin L. Taylor, (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of Duc Pho, in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 1967



PFC Alvin R. Spider (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile automatic weapons fire while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of Duc Pho, in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.



18 May 1967



SP4 Stanley M. Jamrozy (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of Duc Pho, in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 1967



SSG Roy D. Chitwood (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of Duc Pho, in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 1967



CPL Coil (Carl) Edmond Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile grenade while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of Duc Pho, in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 1967



CPL Florentino C. Barron (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile grenade while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of Duc Pho, in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 1967



PFC Philip J. Olofson (B/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of Duc Pho, in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 1967

The following Soldiers: SP4 William A. Moore (HHC/2-502 IN); SSG Donald G. Matthews, PFC Robert D. Andres, PV2 Harvey E. Campbell, PV2 Charles K. Morgan, PFC George L. Preston, SP4 Carson Walk Over Ice, PFC Sterling R. Webb, PFC Raul Rosales, PFC Daniel E. Macneil (B/2-502 IN); was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while engaged by hostile forces. (General Orders Number 18; 12 June 1967)

18 May 1968



SP4 Charles B. Mason (D/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 in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



18 May 1969



CPL Paul H. Ga Nun (Doc Nun) (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force in the vicinity of hill 187, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 1969

SP5 Hans L. Mills (HHC/1- 501) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force in the vicinity of hill 187, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 1969



CPT John C. Pape (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force in the vicinity of hill 187, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 1969



SP4 Lincoln E. Bundy (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force in the vicinity of hill 187, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 1969



PFC Rudolph Rossi (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force in the vicinity of hill 187, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 1969

SP4 Russell L. Jett (HHC/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force in the vicinity of hill 187, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam. SP4 Jett was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on the VSI list and later expired.

18 May 1969



PFC John M. Vollmerhausen (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force in the vicinity of hill 187, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

18 May 2006

The following Soldiers: SPC David Radzik (B/2-502 IN); SSG Jonathan Ivory (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received as a result of enemy or hostile actions.



19 May 1967



SP4 Dale E. Wayrynen (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when he jumped on a hostile grenade to save the lives of three of his friends while on Hill 424, 13km W-SW of Duc Pho, in the Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam.

19 May 1968

1LT Roger G. Stallard (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in combat in action against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (General Orders Number 240; 10 January 1969)

19 May 1968



SGT Eugene M. Sutton Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms fire while on combat operation when unit came under hostile force at a NDP near FSB Veghel, 15 miles SW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

19 May 1970



SGT Billy R. Lucas (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, Republic of Vietnam.

19 May 2006

SGT Christopher Flores (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received as a result of enemy or hostile action.

20 May 1968



SGT Michael Gillard (D/2-501 IN) died from injuries received when a fire truck pinned him to a bridge he was guarding in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

20 May 1970



CPL Roy L. Carter (A/2-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

20 May 1970

SSG Tony R. Ward (A/2-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

20 May 1970

SGT Ralph T. Mueller (A/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



20 May 1970



SGT Gary W. Gear (E/2-502 IN Recon Platoon) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered while on Hill 882, NW of FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

20 May 1970



CPL John A. Claggett, (E/2-502 IN Recon Platoon) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered while on Hill 882, NW of FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

20 May 1970



CPL Robert E. Cain (E/2-502 IN Recon Platoon) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered while on Hill 882, NW of FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1968

The following Soldiers: SSG Richard A. Paquette and SGT John B. Pond Sr. (C/1-501 IN); SP4 Paul W. Garnine (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received during actions in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st Air CAV DIV; General Order Number 4616)

21 May 1968



SGT Billie R. Acree (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds while at base camp when Camp Eagle on route 546, 8km SE of Hue Citadel came under hostile rocket attack in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1968



SGT Charles P. Brown (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a defense position when hit by fragment from hostile rocket while at base camp when Camp Eagle on route 546, 8km SE of Hue Citadel came under hostile rocket attack in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1968



2LT John P. Brown (HHC/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 base camp when Camp Eagle on route 546, 8km SE of Hue Citadel came under hostile rocket attack in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



21 May 1968



PFC Vincent J. Caravello (Pictured) (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragments wounds while at base camp when Camp Eagle on route 546, 8km SE of Hue Citadel came under hostile rocket attack in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1968

1LT Michael L. Deane (HHC 2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds while at base camp when Camp Eagle on route 546, 8km SE of Hue Citadel came under hostile rocket attack in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. 1LT Deane was admitted to a military hospital, placed on the SI list, then transferred to a Navy hospital ship, and later expired.

21 May 1968



PFC Michael F. Deeny III (A/2-502 IN); was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds while at base camp when Camp Eagle on route 546, 8km SE of Hue Citadel came under hostile rocket attack in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1968



CPL Larry M. Gross (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds while at base camp when Camp Eagle on route 546, 8km SE of Hue Citadel came under hostile rocket attack in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1968



SP4 James Johnson Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from metal fragment wounds while at base camp when Camp Eagle on route 546, 8km SE of Hue Citadel came under hostile rocket attack in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1968



PFC Leonard D. McGinnis (B/2-502 IN); was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds while at base camp when Camp Eagle on route 546, 8km SE of Hue Citadel came under hostile rocket attack in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1968



SSG Jerry E. Spicer (HHC/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 base camp when Camp Eagle on route 546, 8km SE of Hue Citadel came under hostile rocket attack in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



21 May 1968



PFC Charles E. Walthall (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a defense position when hit by fragment from hostile rocket while at base camp when Camp Eagle on route 546, 8km SE of Hue Citadel came under hostile rocket attack in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1969

The following Soldiers: SP4 Richard F. Sengo, SP4 Robert H. Anderson Jr., PFC Walen R. Sumrow (B/1-501 IN); 1LT Valentine J. Zapert, SP4 Roy E. Huckaby, SP4 Gary W. Elliott, PFC Rickey L. Larsen, and PFC Henry F. Ybarra (C/1-501 IN); 1LT Ronald L. Black, SP4 Gerard P. Winka, SP4 Kenneth L. Bowles, SP4 Robert E. Ross, PFC Thomas J. Smith, PFC Paul DiGerolamo (D/1-501 IN); PFC Richard L. Costerisan (E/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 7673)

21 May 1969



SGT LC Carter (D/1-501 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 vicinity of hill 270, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1969

CPL Patrick R. Diehl (C/1-501 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 vicinity of hill 270, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1969



PFC Louis E. Fenceroy (C/1-501 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 vicinity of hill 270, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1969



CPL Michael M. Hatzell (D/1-501 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 vicinity of hill 270, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1969



SP4 Charles E. Hawkins Jr. (D/1-501 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 vicinity of hill 270, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.



21 May 1969



SP4 Edward J. Hogan (Pictured), (D/1-501 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 vicinity of hill 270, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1969



PFC Thomas P. Jackson Jr. (Pictured) (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the vicinity of hill 270, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1969



PFC Lee A. Napier (C/1-501 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 vicinity of hill 270, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1969

SP4 Fletcher J. Nowlin Jr. (HHC/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered. He was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on the SI list and then on the VSI list, and later expired on 03 June 1969.

21 May 1969



PFC Edison R. Phillips (Pictured) (B/1-501) 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 vicinity of hill 270, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1969



SFC Pedro A. Rios (D/1-501 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 vicinity of hill 270, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1969



PFC James I. Sanford (D/1-501 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 vicinity of hill 270, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.



21 May 1969



SP4 Keith N. Starnes Jr. (D/1-501 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 vicinity of hill 270, 6km E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 1970



SGT Larry J. Kirkland (D/1-501 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 he was returning to a night defensive position when he was mistaken for a hostile force and fired upon by friendly force in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

21 May 2010

PV2 Walter Taylor Jr. (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire.

21 May 2010

PFC Daniel Hughes (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with a rocket propelled grenade.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

15 May 1967

1LT Martin W. Tovar (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 15 May 1967 near, Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Tovar, platoon leader of the reconnaissance platoon was moving down a jungle trail when an enemy weapons platoon was observed approaching in the opposite direction. He immediately gave the signal to his men to move off the trail and prepare for a hasty linear ambush. On three separate occasions, under cover of heavy rainfall, Lieutenant Tovar approached to within thirty meters of the enemy while positioning his men. Then, waiting until the critical moment, he triggered the ambush. Lieutenant Tovar, with complete disregard for his own safety, led his men in an assault into the killing zone. Lieutenant Tovar's courageous actions and aggressive leadership enabled his platoon to kill eight enemy soldiers and capture several weapons without a single friendly casualty. First Lieutenant Tovar's outstanding display of gallantry, and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD, General Orders Number 1424; 27 November 1967)

15 May 1968



SFC Onorio R. Romo (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for actions in combat. It has been determined that SFC Onorio R. Romo, is entitled to and was awarded the Silver Star (1st Oak Leaf Cluster) while serving as a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division in the Republic of Vietnam for action on or about 15 May 1968 in the vicinity of Hue and Quang Tri. In the absence of orders, this memorandum will be filed permanently in the military personnel record jacket and the official military personnel file. Personnel qualification records will be annotated to reflect this award. This memorandum confirms General Orders 8451 (November 1968), 101st Airborne Division.

16 May 1967



SFC Edward F. Garrett (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 16 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Platoon Sergeant Garrett, while leading a squad-size patrol, was taken under heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire from the direct front. Sergeant Garrett quickly placed half of the patrol into position and began to maneuver the other half of the patrol into position maneuvering element was taken under a withering hail of automatic weapons fire from an estimated platoon-size enemy element in well concealed and well-fortified positions. On the initial burst of fire every man in the maneuvering element was wounded with the exception of Sergeant Garrett. Sergeant Garrett immediately called for assistance and began to pull to wounded men to safety. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Garrett moved through the vicious enemy fire four different times to pull wounded men to covered positions. Sergeant Garrett had retrieved all but two of the wounded men when the remainder of the platoon arrived. Quickly briefing the platoon leader on the situation, Sergeant Garrett directed them to give him covering fire so he could pull the two remaining wounded men to safety. Again with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Garrett moved through the bullet swept area and brought the two remaining casualties to safety. As a result of Sergeant Garrett's courageous actions, six of his comrades were saved from further injury and possible death. Platoon Sergeant Garrett's outstanding display of valor and intense determination and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD, General Orders Number 1386; 23 November 1967)

16 May 1967



PFC John C. Silver (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 16 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam, Private Silver, while serving as a member of a small patrol, was moving down a mountain trail when the patrol was suddenly brought under a tremendous volume of enemy automatic weapons fire. On the initial burst of enemy fire approximately half of the patrol was wounded and the remainder of the patrol was pinned down. Private Silver observed that one of his comrades had been severely wounded and lay in the area completely exposed to the vicious enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Silver left his covered position and dashed through the withering enemy fire to the side of his wounded comrade. Quickly Private Silver administered medical aid and then picked his wounded comrade up and started to carry him to a safe area. After having traveled a few meters, Private Silver was struck by an enemy bullet and wounded in the chest. Although seriously wounded, Private Silver completely disregarded his wounds and continued to carry his wounded comrade to safety. As Private Silver approached a safe position he was again struck by an enemy bullet and this time mortally wounded. Private Silver's heroic actions resulted in the saving of his comrade's life, even at the cost of his own. Private Silver's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty even at the cost of his own life are in keeping with the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P), General Orders Number 56; 27 June 1967)



16 May 1967



1LT Robert A. Clifford (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 16 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Clifford was assigned the mission of giving assistance to a beleaguered patrol by extracting their casualties and maintaining contact with the enemy until reinforcements could arrive. Upon arriving at the battle scene, Lieutenant Clifford immediately made an evaluation of the situation and maneuvered his platoon into position in order to place suppressive fire into the enemy position. While placing his men into position, Lieutenant Clifford observed a wounded man who was laying in an area exposed to heavy enemy fire. On two different occasions, men were wounded attempting to pull the injured man to safety. Lieutenant Clifford directed his men to give him covering fire while he, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, charged through the bullet swept area to where the wounded man lay, picked him up and carried him to a safe position and administered the needed medical aid. On numerous occasions, he exposed himself to the enemy while directing the fire of his platoon by point out enemy positions. Lieutenant Clifford then called for artillery and supporting fire in order to evacuate the wounded. During the evacuation Lieutenant Clifford and his platoon were brought under a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire, forcing the medical evacuation helicopter to take off before the wounded could be loaded. Immediately, Lieutenant Clifford deployed part of his platoon and personally directed their fire into the enemy positions. He remained exposed while directing the suppressive fire into the enemy positions until the casualties could be evacuated. As a result of Lieutenant Clifford's courageous actions, the lives of numerous men were saved and his men inspired to such a degree that the mission was successfully accomplished. First Lieutenant Clifford's display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty even at the cost of his life are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD, General Orders Number 1347; 23 November 1967)

16 May 1967

SFC Clark Cook (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant Cook distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 16 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Cook, serving as platoon sergeant, was placing his men into a security perimeter when two enemy soldiers were sighted and fired upon. He immediately moved to the position where contact was made and observed one of the enemy soldiers fleeing into the bushes. Sergeant Cook, with complete disregard for his own safety, started running in pursuit of the enemy soldier. For over two hundred meters, he pursued the enemy soldier without being able to get an accurate shot at him. Suddenly the enemy soldier stopped and fired several shots at him and, still remaining completely exposed to the enemy soldier's fire, Sergeant Cook fired his weapon and succeeded in killing the enemy soldier. Sergeant Cook's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 1790; 3 September 1967)

16 May 1970



SSG David L. Jones (A/2-502 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 16 May 1970. Sergeant Jones distinguished himself while serving as an acting platoon leader in Company A, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While set up in a night defensive position; Sergeant Jones' unit came under a concentrated enemy sapper attack. Sergeant Jones returned a heavy volume of suppressive fire on the insurgents and directed his men to their fighting positions. Although wounded during the initial contact, Sergeant Jones moved around the perimeter ensuring that the wounded were treated and that all positions on the perimeter were manned. Observing an enemy position, he crawled forward and engaged the insurgents with accurate rifle fire. While engaging the insurgents, Sergeant Jones was mortally wounded by enemy grenade fire. Sergeant Jones' 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.

16 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 16 May 1970. Specialist Matyjasik distinguished himself while serving as a Rifleman in Company A, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, while defending a night defensive perimeter in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. When numerous heavily armed enemy sappers tried to penetrate his company's defensive perimeter, Specialist Matyjasik, despite being wounded in the initial contact, remained at his fighting position, refusing medical aid. He placed effective fire on numerous insurgent positions and contributed heavily to the defeat of the hostile force. 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. (HQ; 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 9650; 20 August 1970)



17 May 1967

PFC James M. McCormick (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Private McCormick distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 17 May 1967, in the Republic of Vietnam. Private McCormick's platoon had just set up a platoon perimeter for the night when they were attacked by an estimated enemy platoon. Private McCormick's position was the hardest hit with everybody wounded including himself, but with complete disregard for his own safety, he exposed himself to the vicious enemy fire in order to protect his fallen comrades and continued to fire his weapon and throw hand grenades which killed one enemy soldier. Because of his valorous action, Private McCormick was instrumental in repelling the enemy who left behind five dead and saving the men in his position. Although wounded Private McCormick remained in his position on guard until all the other wounded had been taken care of. Private McCormick's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 2368; 13 July 1968)



18 May 1967



SPC Dale E. Wayrynen (B/2-502 IN) (Posthumously) was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Company B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy aggressor forces at Duc Pho, Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam, on 18 May 1967. Specialist Fourth Class Wayrynen's platoon was assisting in the night evacuation of the wounded from an earlier enemy contact when the lead man of the unit met face-to-face with a Viet Cong soldier. The American's shouted warning also alerted the enemy who immediately swept the area with automatic weapons fire from a strongly built bunker close to the trail and threw hand grenades from another nearby fortified position. Almost immediately, the lead man was wounded and knocked from his feet. Specialist Fourth Class Wayrynen, the second man in the formation, leaped beyond his fallen comrade to kill another enemy soldier who appeared on the trail, and he dragged his injured companion back to where the point squad had taken cover. Suddenly, a live enemy grenade landed in the center of the tightly grouped men. Specialist Fourth Class Wayrynen, quickly assessing the danger to the entire squad as well as to his platoon leader who was nearby, shouted a warning, pushed one soldier out of the way, and threw himself on the grenade at the moment it exploded. He was mortally wounded. His deep and abiding concern for his fellow soldiers was significantly reflected in his supreme and courageous act that preserved the lives of his comrades. Specialist Fourth Class Wayrynen's heroic actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the service, and they reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army. (General Orders No. 66, October 27, 1969)

18 May 1967

SP4 Clifford Dinkins (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Specialist Four Dinkins distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 while serving with an airborne infantry unit on a search and destroy mission near Duc Pho. While moving along a jungle trail, the patrol was suddenly subjected to a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire which inflicted several casualties. Observing a wounded comrade lying in the killing zone of the savage fusillade, Specialist Dinkins unhesitatingly raced through a withering hail of bullets to the casualty, pulled him to the safety of an abandoned enemy bunker and administered emergency medical aid. He then saw two Vietnamese troops fall under the intense Viet Cong fire. Heedless of his safety, Specialist Dinkins began to move across the bullet-swept battlefield to their aid but was knocked to the ground and wounded by an enemy grenade. Disregarding his wounds, he gallantly continued his rescue attempt through a curtain of hostile fire. He reached the fallen men, discovered one was dead, and pulled them both back to the bunker. While treating the wounded trooper, he detected three Viet Cong advancing toward his position. He jumped from the bunker and fired deadly bursts from his rifle, killing one insurgent and forcing the others to withdraw. Unnoticed, a fourth enemy soldier had flanked his position and had crawled close enough to throw a hand grenade into the shelter. Specialist Dinkins leaped for the grenade, picked it up and threw it back at the insurgent. The grenade exploded in midair, killing the Viet Cong and seriously wounding Specialist Dinkins a second time. His fearless action in close combat saved the lives of two fellow soldiers. Specialist Four Dinkins' extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number 1050; 9 March 1968)

18 May 1967

SP4 Ronald J. Wright (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Specialist Four Wright distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 while serving as medic of an airborne infantry platoon on a reinforcing mission deep in hostile territory. While moving to relieve the pressure on a sister platoon which was heavily engaged and pinned down by a numerically superior hostile force, his unit was savagely attacked by enemy soldiers firing automatic weapons. As the intensity of the battle increased, Specialist Wright heard a call for help from a wounded comrade. Completely disregarding his own safety, he began working his way toward the man through a hail of murderous fire. The concussion from an exploding grenade knocked him to the ground and stunned him, but he quickly got up and moved to the wounded soldier. He was seriously wounded while administering aid, but he ignored his injury and moved his comrade to safety. Refusing aid for himself, he again dashed through the withering fire to reach another casualty. Despite his own weakened condition, he carried the man back through a curtain of Viet Cong fire and treated the wounded soldier until he could no longer continue. Specialist Four Wright's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number 6350; 10 December 1967)

18 May 1967

SP4 John Hogan (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Services Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Specialist Four Hogan distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 while serving as fire team leader of an airborne infantry platoon on combat operations near Duc Pho. While moving along a ridge line, his company was heavily attacked by a well-entrenched Viet Cong force firing automatic weapons. Seeing a wounded comrade trapped in the open, Specialist Hogan dashed from the rear of the column under a hail of enemy bullets and dragged the man to safety. Grabbing several hand grenades, he charged through the fire now concentrated on him and destroyed one enemy bunker. Heedless of the bullets striking all around him, he charged another bunker and killed the defenders with another hand grenade. He saw a wounded comrade nearby and quickly began carrying him to safety under a barrage of fire. A Viet Cong soldier stood up to fire on him, but he grabbed the wounded man's rifle and killed the insurgent with a deadly burst of fire. After moving the man to the perimeter, he ignored his own safety to grab his rifle and more grenades and again assault the fortifications single-handedly. Firing furiously, he destroyed another bunker with well-placed grenades. Shouting to his fire team to follow, he quickly knocked out another bunker and moved inside to pick up enemy weapons. Leading his men in a fierce charge, he swept through the hostile positions and aided in destroying four more Viet Cong fortifications. Specialist Four Hogan's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number 5387; 22 October 1967)



18 May 1967

SP4 Alan Kent (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Specialist Four Kent distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 while serving with an airborne infantry platoon on a combat mission near Duc Pho. His unit was moving to reinforce a heavily-engaged sister platoon when it was fiercely attacked and pinned down by an enemy force firing automatic weapons. Specialist Kent was painfully wounded in the initial barrage, but he refused aid and dashed through a sheet of enemy fire to reach a fallen comrade and carry him to safety. As his platoon attempted to maneuver against the enemy positions, the intensity of the fusillade increased, inflicted several casualties to the friendly forces and caused the unit to pull back. Specialist Kent saw one of the new casualties trapped in the open and moved across the bullet-swept battlefield to aid him. Finding the man dead, he charged into the face of withering fire and destroyed a nearby enemy bunker with deadly rifle fire and grenades. Automatic weapons fire from another position began raking his location, and he assaulted the second emplacement. After being knocked to the ground and wounded by an enemy grenade, he staggered to his feet, continued his charge on the bunker and demolished it. He then conducted a one-man frontal assault on a machine gun bunker. As a hail of bullets cut down brush and kicked up dirt all around him, he fearlessly pressed the attack and silenced the weapon with a hand grenade. His aggressive charge and devastating fire forced the determined enemy to break contact and flee the battlefield. Specialist Four Kent's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number 911; 28 February 1968)

18 May 1967

SP4 Bobby E. Spears (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Spears distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action while machine-gunner with a small patrol as it moved along a jungle trail and was suddenly engaged by hostile fire. On the initial brutal burst of enemy fire, the point-man was wounded and lay in an exposed area. Disregarding his own safety, Specialist Spears rushed through the hail of enemy fire to reach his wounded comrade and pulled him to safety. He then returned to the area of battle and returned heavy fire to the insurgent positions. As the acuteness of the hostile fire increased, Specialist Spears picked up his machine-gun and charged through heavy enemy fire and grenades to assault an enemy bunker. Upon closing on the bunker, a grenade wounded him; disregarding his wounds, he valiantly continued forward and killed two enemy soldiers. Without hesitation or regard for the intensity of fire, he continued to expose himself to the enemy and assaulted a second bunker. He destroyed that bunker and killed two more insurgents. When ordered to pull back, Specialist Spears remained behind in an exposed position giving covering fire for the withdrawing platoon. Only after the wounded were evacuated and his platoon pulled back to a safe area did Specialist Spears rejoin his unit and allow himself medical aid. Through Specialist Spears' aggressive determination and courageous actions, the life of one individual was undoubtedly saved, two enemy bunkers destroyed, and at least four enemy killed. Specialist Four Spears' outstanding display of unquestionable gallantry; his perseverance, resolute and personal determination while engaged in close combat are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 416; 28 August 1967)

18 May 1967

2LT David V. Booth (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. Second Lieutenant Booth distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic action, personal bravery, and leadership while conducting operations against an armed hostile force on 18 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. While conducting a search and destroy mission, Lieutenant Booth was given the mission of moving to a landing zone and securing it. Working in conjunction with a Civilian Irregular Defense Group Platoon, Lieutenant Booth split up his platoon and sent half of his element with half of the other platoon to the landing zone, the element ran into an estimated Viet Cong company which completely surrounded the element and inflicted numerous casualties with murderous automatic weapons fire. Receiving their call for assistance, Lieutenant Booth immediately set out to relieve and reinforce the beleaguered element, upon arriving at the location of the ensuing battle, quickly maneuvered his element against the enemy's flank. The size of the hostile force was much greater than estimated and they pinned down his small force under intense volume of automatic weapons fire. Realizing the precariousness of the immediate situation, Lieutenant Booth, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, exposed himself to the vicious hostile fire and led an assault on the strong, entrenched enemy positions. The advance was halted by intense fire and he was wounded by grenade fragments. Disregarding his wounds and undaunted by the intensity of the enemy fire, Lieutenant Booth led two more assaults through the increasing hostile fire in a vain attempt to overrun the insurgent positions. Unable to advance or destroy the enemy, he reorganized his element so that the enemy could not flank him. He then courageously held his ground until another platoon arrived. In the renewed battle which followed, Lieutenant Booth successfully led an aggressive assault on the enemy bunkers which resulted in several enemy killed and several weapons captured. Lieutenant Booth's outstanding display of unquestionable valor in close combat is in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 340; 23 August 1967)



18 May 1967



1LT Edward R. Throckmorton (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Throckmorton distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic action while on a search and destroy mission near Duc Pho, he was directed to move his platoon into an area where another platoon was heavily engaged with an enemy element and needed assistance. Quickly moving his platoon through the enemy infested jungle, Lieutenant Throckmorton reached the platoon and began maneuver against the enemy element. As the platoon moved forward they were suddenly assaulted with a tremendous volume of enemy automatic weapons fire. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Throckmorton crawled through the vicious enemy fire to within five meters of two enemy machinegun positions so as to place effective fire into them. One of the enemy soldiers detected him and wounded him with a grenade. Disregarding his wounds and refusing medical aid, Lieutenant Throckmorton aggressively placed suppressive volumes of fire into one bunker killing an enemy soldier and enabling his men to destroy two bunkers. Lieutenant Throckmorton then jumped to his feet and moved through the battle area and purposely exposed himself in order to draw the enemy fire, thus allowing his men to successfully destroy the remaining enemy positions. Lieutenant Throckmorton then moved through the area aiding the wounded and giving encouragement. Only after the last wounded man had been evacuated did Lieutenant Throckmorton allow himself to be given medical attention. As a result of Lieutenant Throckmorton's undaunted courage and decisive actions, four enemy bunkers destroyed and three weapons captured. Lieutenant Throckmorton's outstanding display of unquestionable valor, resolute determination and devotion to duty in close combat are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 317; 22 August 1967)

18 May 1967

1LT Gerald R. Petheram (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. First Lieutenant Petheram distinguished himself by heroic action and personal bravery against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, his platoon came under a tremendous volume of automatic weapons fire from well dug-in enemy positions. Seeing that his platoon was surrounded, he exposed himself to the hostile fire, ran to his lead element and directed their fire until gaining fire superiority. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Lieutenant Petheram again moved through the heavy enemy fire to his other squad, and leading the squad, started to maneuver them to engage the enemy. The advance was halted and they were pinned down by the intensity of the enemy fire. Undaunted by the tremendous amount of hostile fire, Lieutenant Petheram exposed himself to their fire and aggressively assaulted the position, destroying it with grenades. Continuing his valiant effort, he assaulted another enemy bunker, silencing it with small arms fire. Inspired by Lieutenant Petheram's courageous example, his squad quickly attacked the remaining enemy positions and succeeded in forcing the enemy to withdraw in a complete route leaving behind six of their dead, two machine guns, and four other weapons. First Lieutenant Petheram's outstanding display of unquestionable valor, fortitude, and devotion to duty in close combat are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 322; 22 August 1967)

18 May 1967

2LT Jerry R. Barnhill (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Second Lieutenant Barnhill distinguished himself with heroic action while engaged on a search and destroy mission. The first platoon, Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry came under a tremendous volume of automatic and semi-automatic weapons fire from an estimated Viet Cong platoon. Lieutenant Barnhill immediately moved to the front of his element and started maneuvering his element against the enemy positions. As the enemy fire increased, he realized that an enemy machine gun position had to be destroyed before he could effectively engage the enemy. With complete disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Barnhill, with resolute determination jumped up, exposing himself to a hail of enemy fire and assaulted the machine gun position. His valiant effort silenced the machine gun position by killing two enemy soldiers. As a result of Lieutenant Barnhill's decisive and courageous actions, his platoon was able to overrun the enemy positions, routing the enemy who left behind nine dead and eight weapons. Lieutenant Barnhill's outstanding display of unquestionable valor in close combat is in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 318; 22 August 1967)

18 May 1967

1LT John M. Keane (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 18 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Keane distinguished himself when given the mission to move his platoon to an area where another platoon had become heavily engaged and surrounded by an enemy element. Lieutenant Keane quickly organized his platoon and moved them approximately two thousand meters to the scene of the battle. Upon arriving at the battle area, Lieutenant Keane, realizing that darkness was rapidly descending and that he must reach the beleaguered platoon as soon as possible, quickly maneuvered his platoon into position to assault the rear and both flanks of the enemy element. Lieutenant Keane, aware that maintaining strict control would be the key factor in the execution of a successful assault, directed his platoon not to open fire until fired upon. After having moved less than one hundred meters, the platoon was suddenly brought under a withering hail of enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Keane rushed through the heavy enemy fire, giving his men encouragement and directing their fire by pointing out the muzzle flashes from enemy positions. Lieutenant Keane lead and directed the assault into the enemy with such aggressiveness, and his men were so inspired by his courage, that the assault element successfully overran the enemy positions, forcing the enemy to hastily flee the battle area. First Lieutenant Keane's outstanding gallantry, leadership and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 1349; 12 November 1967)



18 May 1967



CPT John C. Pape (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operation against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 18 May 1969. Captain Pape distinguished himself while serving as the Commanding Officer of Company B, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, on a combat operation in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. ON the cited date, at approximately 1500 hours, the Second Platoon of Company B was given the mission of reconnoitering an area for the company's night location. As it moved into the predetermined area, it received eighty-two millimeter mortar fire. Captain Pape, who was with the First and Third Platoons at the time, skillfully maneuvered the entire company toward the suspected enemy positions and forced the unknown size enemy force to break contact and flee. With nightfall approaching, he gave order to stop and set up in a night defensive perimeter. As the company, was digging its night positions, it again received mortar fire. When the initial rounds wounded numerous personnel, Captain Pape, with utter disregard for his own safety, left his entrenched position to help move the wounded men to safety. It was at this time Captain Pape suffered fatal fragmentation wounds. His conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the cost of his own life saved a number of his subordinates from further injury and possible death. Captain Pape's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 9610; 26 July 1969)

18 May 1967

1LT John F. Pavlansky Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Pavlansky distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic action as his platoon was moving along a jungle trail and became engaged with an enemy force concealed in well-fortified bunkers. During the initial contact the platoon sustained numerous casualties from the enemy automatic weapons fire. Lieutenant Pavlansky moved forward through the enemy fire to the point of contact and quickly reorganized his lead elements into a position to lay down an effective base of fire. He exposed himself to the vicious fire with complete disregard for his own safety while moving among the positions directing fire and physically placing his men into position. Several times he purposely drew the enemy fire to enable his men to maneuver. When the platoon suddenly received intense volumes of fire from its flank, Lieutenant Pavlansky organized and personally led three of his men in an assault on the enemy position, knocking it out with grenades. He then shouted to the remainder of his platoon to move forward in the assault. Through his personal courage and inspired leadership, Lieutenant Pavlansky personally led his platoon through enemy positions and destroyed eight enemy bunkers. First Lieutenant Pavlansky's outstanding display of unquestionable valor, determination, and aggressive devotion to duty while engaged in close combat are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 461; 1 September 1967)

18 May 1967

SSG Larry A. Fletcher (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force in the republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Fletcher distinguished himself on 18 May 1967 while conducting a sweeping operation of suspected enemy positions, near Duc Pho. On this date, Sergeant Fletcher's nine-man element was suddenly brought under an intense volume of hostile automatic weapons fire from well-fortified bunkers. Upon initial contact, the point man was wounded, and completely disregarding his personal safety, Sergeant Fletcher went forward and brought him back to safety. After having evaluated the situation, Sergeant Fletcher directed his small element to the left flank and instructed them to lay a base of fire. Observing an enemy bunker approximately fifteen meters to his right flank, Sergeant Fletcher neared the enemy position singlehandedly, disregarding the increased volume of fire being directed toward him. As Sergeant Fletcher neared the enemy position he was he was wounded and knocked to the ground by an exploding grenade. In spite of his wounds, Sergeant Fletcher got back up, continued his assault and succeeded in destroying the enemy position, killing two enemy soldiers. He then proceeded to assault two more enemy bunkers, killing three more enemy. Sergeant Fletcher then returned to his men and quickly reorganized them, making sure that the wounded were treated and evacuated. Only after the last man had been given medical treatment, did Sergeant Fletcher seek aid for his own wounds. Sergeant Fletcher's outstanding display of aggressiveness and consummate personal bravery were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 373; 26 August 1967)

18 May 1967



SP4 Leon Thornton (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 18 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. While serving as radio telephone operator, Specialist Thornton was moving along a jungle trail with the company headquarters group. The lead squad was suddenly taken under a tremendous volume of enemy fire from an estimated platoon size element. The lead squad immediately began to maneuver against the enemy element but was immediately pinned down and found that they were surrounded. The company commander along with Specialist Thornton, his radio telephone operator, upon learning of the precarious position of the squad, quickly moved forward to the beleaguered squad. As the company commander and Specialist Thornton approached the position they were brought under a tremendous hail of enemy fire as two enemy soldiers assaulted them. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Specialist Thornton threw himself in front of his company commander and at the same time returned the enemy fire. Specialist Thornton succeeded in killing both of the enemy soldiers but was mortally wounded. As a result of Specialist Thornton's gallantry and courageous actions two enemy soldiers were killed, two weapons were captured and the life of his company commander was saved through his supreme sacrifice. Specialist Thornton's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty even at the cost of his life are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P), General Orders Number 57; 26 June 1967)



18 May 1967

PFC Lionel Gutierrez (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, Private First Class Gutierrez's platoon was suddenly taken under a tremendous volume of enemy automatic weapons fire. In the initial stages of the fire fight numerous casualties were inflicted. When another platoon moved into the area to assist, they too were brought under intense fire and pinned down. Private Gutierrez moved through the vicious enemy fire with complete disregard for his own safety to an exposed position where he could best give the pinned-down platoon covering fire. Seeing that a wounded man lay in an area exposed to hostile fire Private Gutierrez rushed forward to aid the wounded warrior. Placing himself between the wounded man and the enemy positions, Private Gutierrez began to administer much-needed first aid, while giving the wounded man aid, Private Gutierrez deliberately exposed himself to draw the enemy fire so that he might pinpoint the position. Private Gutierrez continued to expose himself until he located the enemy positions and then succeeded in killing the enemy soldier. Private First Class Gutierrez's unquestionable valorous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD: General Orders Number 1355; 23 November 1967)

18 May 1967



SSG Oliver A. Ware (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 18 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, Sergeant Ware's platoon was suddenly taken under tremendous volume of automatic weapons fire from an estimated platoon size enemy element in well-fortified positions. Sergeant Ware with complete disregard for his own personal safety, exposed himself to the withering enemy fire while directing the fire of his platoon and moving from position to position giving his men encouragement. Numerous casualties had been received by his platoon on the initial burst of fire and Sergeant Ware on numerous occasions exposed himself to the vicious enemy fire to give aid and comfort to his wounded comrades. Sergeant Ware had begun to reorganize his platoon and to maneuver them in an assault on the enemy positions when he was struck and killed by enemy fire. Sergeant Ware's platoon had become so inspired by his actions that they were able to fight their way out of what was later determined to be an enemy ambush of platoon strength. Sergeant Ware's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty even at the cost of his life are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect the utmost credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P), General Orders Number 81; 7 July 1967)

18 May 1967

SSG Roy D. Chitwood (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action: Staff Sergeant Chitwood distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry in action on 18 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. The Recono Platoon of the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry while conducting a combat operation, had established an ambush position along a jungle trail. During the early morning hours, the friendly element was suddenly attacked by an enemy element using automatic weapons and hand grenades. When the attack started Sergeant Chitwood realized that his section was taking the main force of the attack and immediately, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, rushed forward to his sector of the perimeter and began to pull the positions in closer so that his sector would not be overrun. The enemy element, after being beaten back, attacked the friendly perimeter again. Sergeant Chitwood continued to expose himself to the withering enemy fire as he moved from position to position giving his men encouragement and directing effective fire into the ranks of the enemy. As Sergeant Chitwood again exposed himself to the vicious enemy fire while bringing an ammunition resupply to some of his men, he was wounded by a burst of enemy automatic weapons fire. Disregarding his wounds and refusing medical aid, Sergeant Chitwood continued to resupply his men with ammunition and give them encouragement until he was again struck by an enemy bullet and mortally wounded. Sergeant Chitwood's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty even at the cost of his own life are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P), General Orders Number 50; 26 June 1967)



18 May 1967

SFC Thomas K. Bennett (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 18 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. The first platoon of Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, while moving along a jungle trail, suddenly became engaged with an undetermined number of enemy soldiers in well-fortified and well concealed bunkers. Sergeant Bennett quickly reorganized his platoon, maneuvered his squads into position and established security elements. Sergeant Bennett, seeing that his platoon had received several casualties, immediately and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, rushed through the withering enemy fire and began pulling the wounded men to covered positions. After pulling the first man to safety, Sergeant Bennett returned through the vicious enemy fire five different times to bring wounded men to safety; each time he was within twenty meters of the enemy positions. During this time Sergeant Bennett also directed the fire of his platoon by exposing himself to the enemy fire while pointing out enemy positions. Later in the battle, Sergeant Bennett received a report that more casualties had been sustained at the other end of his platoon's positions. Again with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Bennett moved through the heavy enemy fire across the entire front of his platoon's positions and began pulling the wounded to safe positions and giving them medical aid. Sergeant Bennett's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 704; 19 September 1967)



- 18 May 1967 SP4 William A. Moore (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Moore's platoon had been given the mission of assisting a platoon that had become completely surrounded by an enemy company. When his platoon arrived at the scene of the battle, they also became heavily engaged with the enemy element and received numerous casualties. Specialist Moore, the platoon medic, immediately began to pull his wounded comrades to safety and give them medical aid. Specialist Moore observed three wounded soldiers lying in an area completely exposed to enemy automatic weapons fire. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, he rushed through the hostile fire to the first wounded soldier and picked him up. Just as Specialist Moore started for cover he was struck in the leg and wounded by enemy fire. Disregarding his wound, Specialist Moore continued forward, carrying the wounded man until he reached a safe position. Refusing medical treatment, he returned to the bullet-swept area two more times to bring the remaining two men to safety. Still refusing medical aid, Specialist Moore returned to the raging battle and began to take care of the wounded from both platoons as the medic from the other platoon had been seriously wounded. For over an hour Specialist Moore moved through the battle area treating the wounded. On one occasion Specialist Moore moved to within ten meters of an enemy position to aid a wounded man. Specialist Four Moore's outstanding display of valor and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD; General Orders Number 1348; 23 November 1967)
- 18 May 1967 PFC Willie J. Woodard (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 18 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Private First Class Woodard distinguished himself by exceptional valor while on a relief mission when his platoon was suddenly brought under intense volumes of enemy automatic weapons fire which pinned them down. Seeing that most of the grenadiers were casualties and the platoon was in dire need of heavier support, Private Woodard with complete disregard for his own safety jumped from his covered position and ran up and down the line of friendly positions placing effective grenade fire into the enemy emplacements. Upon being wounded he fearlessly continued the one-man grenade barrage on the enemy without heed to his wound or medical attention. As a result of Private Woodard's determined, aggressive assault, the effectiveness of the enemy fire was sufficiently reduced to allow his comrades to move the wounded to cover and then regroup for an assault which routed the insurgents. Private First Class Woodard's outstanding display of unquestionable valor, dauntless determination and devotion to duty in close combat are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect the utmost credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TF Oregon (P); General Orders Number 457; 1 September 1967)
- 18 May 1967 CPT Arthur F. Conlon (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Captain Conlon distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, the platoon moved into a small valley on the edge of a ridge line, and were taken under extremely heavy automatic and semi-automatic small arms fire from an estimated enemy platoon. As the fire fight ensued, Captain Conlon rendered encouragement to his men and positioned them in strategic places. As the platoon moved on line to assault the enemy, Captain Conlon, with complete disregard for his own safety, exposed himself to the enemy fire, as he pointed out enemy positions to the attacking platoon. At one point the platoon became pinned down by an enemy soldier and Captain Conlon personally assaulted the enemy soldier's position killing him with effective small arms fire. Captain Conlon's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 1264; 4 July 1967)
- 18 May 1967 SSG Donald G. Mathews (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. SSG Mathews distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, Sergeant Mathews, the squad leader for the point squad, was given the mission of moving his squad across an open rice paddy to secure the tree line so the remainder of the platoon could move across. Approximately half way across, the squad was taken under a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire. On the initial burst of enemy fire, Sergeant Mathews and four of his men were wounded. Sergeant Mathews received a serious wound in the arm that rendered his arm useless. Quickly applying a tourniquet to his arm, he grabbed his weapon and began placing fire into the enemy positions. He suddenly detected an enemy Soldier preparing to throw a grenade into his squad's positions. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Mathews jumped to his feet completely exposing himself to the heavy enemy fire and killed the enemy Soldier. Sergeant Mathews continued to expose himself to the enemy fire while directing effective machine gun and grenade fire into the enemy positions. As a result of Sergeant Mathews' actions, two enemy were killed and one automatic weapon was captured. Sergeant Mathews' devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army (HQ, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 1678; 19 August 1967)
- 18 May 1967 2LT David V. Booth (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Lieutenant Booth distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Booth's platoon had been placed in a blocking position for another company when approximately twenty Viet Cong soldiers were spotted working their way around the high ground. Lieutenant Booth at the time had two friendly Vietnamese soldiers wearing black pajamas attached to his platoon. Quickly grasping the opportunity, he directed the two Vietnamese soldiers to attempt to lure the enemy soldiers to their location. Placing his men into well concealed positions he gave the word to the Vietnamese Soldiers to attempt to lure the enemy soldiers into the trap. The decoy action was effective and the enemy element unsuspectingly approached the friendly positions. Lieutenant Booth waited until the enemy soldiers were within five feet of his position before initiating the ambush by jumping from his concealed position in full view of the enemy and personally killing two enemy soldiers. Shouting for his men to follow him, he also directed one squad to maneuver to the right flank in an attempt to keep the enemy element from reorganizing and succeeded also in killing two more of the enemy soldiers. Lieutenant Booth's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1331; 7 July 1967)



- 18 May 1967 SSG Mines Elmore Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant Elmore distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Elmore's squad, serving as point squad for a friendly element evacuating casualties to a landing zone, was moving down a jungle trail when the point man halted them to insure they were still on the trail. Immediately, they were brought under a tremendous volume of enemy automatic weapons fire and grenades from well concealed enemy bunker. Wounded and dazed, Sergeant Elmore moved forward firing his weapon, laying down a base of fire and quickly reorganized his squad. Sergeant Elmore, with complete disregard for his own safety, brought up his machine gun and exposed himself to the withering enemy fire while pointing out enemy positions to his men. Suddenly Sergeant Elmore detected an enemy soldier throwing grenades at his squad and without hesitation he jumped to his feet and while fully exposed to the vicious enemy fire, killed the enemy soldier. Sergeant Elmore then began moving his wounded men to a safe area and out of the line of enemy fire. Sergeant Elmore's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1645; 12 August 1967)
- 18 May 1967 SP4 Nathaniel Fells (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operation against a hostile force. Specialist Fells distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 18 May 1967, near Duc Pho, in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Fells' platoon had been employed as forward security while attempting to move the wounded down a steep trail during the hours of darkness. Suddenly the element was taken under a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire from the direct front and flanks. On the initial burst of enemy fire, the friendly element received ten more casualties. With complete disregard for his own safety, Specialist Fells moved forward through the withering enemy fire to the most forward point of contact and began to place extremely effective machine gun fire into the enemy positions. Due to the fact it was so dark, Specialist Fells was able to locate enemy targets by muzzle flashes from their weapons. Specialist Fells continued to place effective fire into the ranks of the enemy killing four and forcing the remainder to flee the battle area leaving behind miscellaneous equipment and weapons. Specialist Fells' devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1520; 26 July 1967)
- 18 May 1967 SSG Donald G. Mathews (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant Mathews distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, Sergeant Mathews, the squad leader for the point squad, was given the mission of moving his squad across an open rice paddy to secure the tree line so that remainder of his platoon could move across. Approximately half way across, the squad was taken under a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire. On the initial burst of enemy fire, Sergeant Mathews and four of his men were wounded. Sergeant Mathews received a serious wound in the arm that rendered his arms useless. Quickly applying a tourniquet to his arm, he grabbed his weapon and began placing fire into the enemy positions. He suddenly detected and enemy soldier preparing to throw a grenade into his squad's positions. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Mathews jumped to his feet completely exposing himself to the heavy enemy fire and killed the enemy soldier. Sergeant Mathews continued to expose himself to the enemy fire while directing effective machine gun and grenade fire into the enemy positions. As a result of Sergeant Mathew's actions, two enemy were killed and one automatic weapon was captured. Sergeant Mathews' devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 1678; 19 August 1967)
- 18 May 1967 PFC Daniel MacNiel (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Private MacNiel distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission, Private MacNiel's squad was suddenly taken under a tremendous volume of enemy automatic weapons fire from well-fortified positions. In the initial burst of fire, all the leaders of the element were wounded. Private MacNiel, serving as radio operator, immediately took charge and began to reorganize his men. Realizing that they were up against a numerically superior element, Private MacNiel immediately radioed for assistance, and then began to organize the withdrawal of his squad. With complete disregard for his own safety, Private MacNiel exposed himself to the withering enemy fire while moving from position to position directing his men to pull back. As the element began to withdraw, Private MacNiel assisted in getting the wounded men to a safe area and returned to the rear of the element to give the remainder of his men covering fire. Private MacNiel remained in the rear of the element until he was seriously wounded by enemy fire. Private MacNiel's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 1649; 12 August 1967)
- 18 May 1967 SP4 Robert F. Shannon (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Specialist Shannon distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967, in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission. Specialist Shannon was acting as point man for the platoon when they approached an open area. Specialist Shannon's fire team was given the mission of moving across the exposed area under the cover of supporting machine gun and grenade fire to secure the far side. As the fire team advanced approximately half way across the exposed area they were suddenly brought under a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons fire wounding all the members of the fire team but Specialist Shannon. With complete disregard for his own safety, Specialist Shannon continued to advance through the vicious enemy fire and personally assaulted the enemy position. As the enemy soldiers started to run, Specialist Shannon rushed after them and succeeded in killing two enemy soldiers and capturing an enemy automatic weapon. Specialist Shannon was solely responsible for overrunning the enemy position and forcing the enemy to withdraw. Specialist Shannon's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 1549; 28 July 1967)



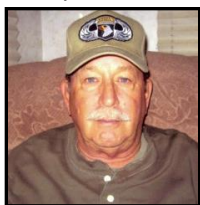
18 May 1967

CPT Lucius V. Reeves (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Captain Reeves distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. After becoming engaged with the enemy, Captain Reeves detached his small command post group from the main element so that he could effectively direct the fighting. On numerous occasions he exposed himself to enemy fire in order to better observe and more effectively direct his maneuvering elements. The enemy element attempted to engage the command post element, but due to Captain Reeves' initiative and anticipation of such a maneuver, he had taken the necessary precautions. Captain Reeves again dashed through the withering enemy fire and began to give aid to his wounded men. By the time the battle area had been cleared and the wounded had been prepared for evacuation, the company started moving down a jungle trail. They were again taken under a murderous volume of enemy fire from well-fortified positions. Captain Reeves, with complete disregard for his own safety, exposed himself to the enemy fire by moving among the positions of his company, giving the men encouragement, and personally giving covering fire while the wounded were pulled to a safe area. Captain Reeves' devotion to duty, and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 1266; 4 July 1967)

18 May 1967

CPT Stephen Silvasy (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operation against a hostile force. Captain Silvasy distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 May 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. When Company B became heavily engaged with a numerically superior enemy element, an immediate call to Captain Silvasy for assistance was made. Captain Silvasy immediately informed his element leaders of the situation and to proceed to the battle area as quickly as possible. The closest element of Company C was approximately fifteen hundred meters from the battle area. Directing his platoons to move as rapidly as possible, Captain Silvasy personally led one of his platoons to assist the stricken element. As the elements of Company C began to arrive at the battle area, Captain Silvasy being one of the first to arrive immediately began to direct his elements against the enemy positions. As the company engaged the enemy element Captain Silvasy on numerous occasions exposed himself to the withering enemy fire while directing effective fire into the enemy positions and moving among his men while giving them encouragement and inspiring them to such a degree that they were able to fight their way through the enemy positions and alleviate the pressure on their sister company. Captain Silvasy's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1644; 12 August 1967)

18 May 1969



1LT Valentine J. Zupert (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 18 May 1969. Lieutenant Zupert distinguished himself while serving as platoon leader of the reconnaissance platoon, Company E, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during a reconnaissance in force operation near Tam Ky, in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. Company B, with the reconnaissance platoon attached, received intense enemy mortar fire. Many were wounded by the initial shelling, among them the commanding officer of Company B. Lieutenant Zupert, realizing that his segment of the perimeter was secured and relatively safe from the shrapnel of the exploding enemy mortars, moved to the company headquarters to assist the acting company commander. Assuring himself that the acting company commander had the situation under control, he left his covered position and went into the area of concentrated enemy fire to treat and evacuate the wounded in his relatively secure portion of the perimeter. Having repeatedly subjected himself to the enemy in evacuating all the wounded, Lieutenant Zupert again ascended to the crest of the hill to adjust aerial rocket determination many lives were saved. Lieutenant Zupert'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 (AM); General Orders Number 14942; 18 December 1969)

19 May 2006

PFC Daniel Hansen (B/2-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for actions in combat. PFC Hansen was traveling to a coalition TCP when his vehicle was struck with an IED. PFC Hansen was outside of the vehicle moving a wire obstacle when the IED detonated. PFC Hansen was knocked down and rendered temporarily unconscious. When he regained consciousness, he found the Truck Commander, his team leader, wounded by shrapnel received to the face and foot. PFC Hansen courageously faced the situation that confronted him. He immediately tended to and dressed his leader's wounds and called Patrol Base Swamp requesting a 9-line MEDEVAC, the senior line medic, and more Soldiers to help secure the site. Realizing that the two interpreters who were being escorted were shaken and scared, PFC Hansen told them to run the 200 meters back to the patrol base. This action put the interpreters out of harm's way and facilitated showing the medic and follow-on forces exactly where to go. Because PFC Hansen immediately requested the MEDEVAC and used his training to treat his team leader's wounds, the NCO was listed as "Not Seriously Injured" by the time he arrived at the hospital. Though shaken up by the blast, PFC Hansen's quick thinking allowed him to call for more Soldiers at the site. They were able to conduct tactical questioning with the local nationals in the vicinity of the site, leading Bravo Company to gain vital information about how IEDs were emplaced in the Company's area of operations. PFC Hansen's actions and quick thinking were well above his grade as he showed courage, leadership, and knowledge and saved the life of a fellow Soldier.

20 May 1970



CPL John A. Claggett (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 May 1970. Private Claggett distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company E, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While approaching an enemy bunker complex, Private (promoted to Cpl posthumously) Claggett's platoon received intense hostile fire. Despite the heavy volume of hostile fire directed against him, Private Claggett maneuvered against the insurgents and returned fire. He moved to an open position and remained there, placing suppressive fire on the enemy until one of his comrades threw a hand grenade into an enemy bunker. Private Claggett then assaulted the bunker nearest him and was mortally wounded by hostile automatic weapons fire. Private Claggett'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.



20 May 1970



SP4 Gary W. Gear (E/2-502 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 20 May 1970. Specialist Gear distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner in Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While approaching an enemy bunker complex, Specialist Gear's platoon received intense hostile fire. Despite the heavy volume of enemy fire, Specialist Gear rushed forward with his weapon and returned suppressive machine gun fire on the enemy positions. Shortly thereafter, Specialist Gear was wounded by hostile fire. Despite his wounds, he continued firing and continued moving forward ahead of the rest of the men. He maneuvered from position to position under hostile fire in spite of his wounds to provide covering fire for his comrades. While maneuvering against the insurgents, Specialist Gear was mortally wounded by a command-detonated anti-personnel mine. Specialist Gear's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV (AM), General Orders Number 8213; 21 July 1970)

20 May 1970



1LT James T. Hill (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (1-OLC) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 April 1970. Lieutenant Hill distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during a reconnaissance mission near Fire Support Base Veghel, Republic of Vietnam. When the forward element of his platoon was ambushed by a well-entrenched enemy force, Lieutenant Hill immediately led an assault on the enemy bunkers, destroying one bunker as his platoon advanced on other enemy positions. Lieutenant Hill then called for and adjusted artillery on the remaining fortifications. His actions contributed greatly to the routing of the enemy force. Lieutenant 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 Orders Number 10386; 12 September 1970)

20 May 1970



SGT James P. Brinker (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (2-OLC) for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 May 1970. Sergeant Brinker distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While conducting an on-line assault on a well-fortified enemy bunker complex, Sergeant Brinker's platoon was pinned down by intense hostile small arms and automatic weapons fire. Maneuvering to an unprotected position, Sergeant Brinker intentionally drew the enemy fire to himself, enabling a comrade to engage the bunkers at close range with hand grenades. Despite the enemy fire, Sergeant Brinker charged a hostile emplacement, quickly silencing it with hand grenades. His actions contributed immeasurably to the routing of the enemy. Sergeant Brinker'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 (AM), General Orders Number 8925; 10 August 1970)

21 May 1967

SFC Edgar C. Burkhalter Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed hostile force. Sergeant First Class Burkhalter distinguished himself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed hostile force on 21 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam, while serving as a member of Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. During a resupply mission one of the resupply helicopters crashed while attempting to take off and several men were pinned under the wreckage. Sergeant Burkhalter, realizing the great danger of the aircraft catching fire with ammunition and explosives aboard, rushed to the aid of the stricken men. As Sergeant Burkhalter neared the wreckage, it started to smoke and then caught fire. With complete disregard for his personal safety and at the risk of his life, he moved to the tail assembly and by sheer strength lifted it and held it until the men were pulled free from the wreckage and to safety. Only then did he set the aircraft down and moved away from the intense heat. Had it not been for Sergeant Burkhalter's courage, two men would have burned to death. Sergeant Burkhalter's heroic actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army (HQ, IFFV, General Orders Number 977; 22 December 1967)

21 May 1969



SP4 Santiago J. Erevia (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Fourth Class Erevia distinguished himself on 21 May 1969 while serving as a radio-telephone operator with Company C, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), during a search and clear mission near Tam Ky City in the Republic of Vietnam. After his platoon had penetrated an enemy defensive perimeter, Specialist Erevia was delegated to remain behind and care for the wounded while the rest of the platoon pushed on against the adversary. As Specialist Erevia began administering first aid to the battle casualties, their position came under heavy fire from a line of enemy bunkers to his left front. Without hesitation, Specialist Erevia crawled from one wounded man to another gathering weapons and ammunition. Armed with two M-16 rifles and several hand grenades, he then rose to his feet and charged directly into the fire of the hostile gun emplacement, discharging suppressive fire on the enemy as he ran. Once near the first bunker, Specialist Erevia edged his way up to the emplacement under intense fire from the other bunkers and unleashed a grenade on its defender. He then maneuvered to the second and third bunkers employing the same tactics and destroyed both fortifications and their occupants with well-placed grenades. His supply of hand grenades now exhausted, Specialist Erevia fought his way to the final bunker, running and firing both M-16 rifles simultaneously, and killed the fortification's defender with point-blank fire. Having single-handedly destroyed four enemy bunkers and their occupants, Specialist Fourth Class Erevia then returned to the soldiers charged to his care and resumed treating their injuries. Specialist Fourth Class Erevia's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army. (General Orders: Headquarters, U.S. Army Vietnam, General Orders No. 4500 (December 22, 1969 * Original Order for DSC; upgraded to Medal of Honor and presented on March 14, 2014)



21 May 1969

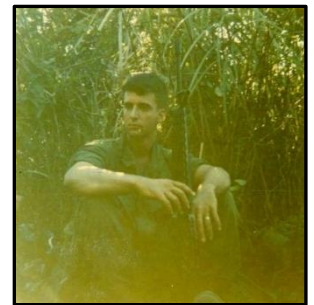
1LT Daniel L. O'Neill (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). First Lieutenant O'Neill distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 21 May 1969 while serving as platoon leader on a search and destroy mission. His unit was ordered to attack a heavily-fortified hilltop position near the city of Tam Ky. A large open rice paddy lay between his position and the objective. Immediately upon initiating the attack, his platoon was subjected to heavy enemy automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade fire. Employing fire and maneuver, he began to move his platoon forward. Realizing that his men were reluctant to move because of the heavy volume of enemy fire, Lieutenant O'Neill began to move up and down the line shouting encouragement. He then took the lead and led his platoon across the rice paddy to the base of the enemy positions. Employing hand grenades and close fighting, his platoon broke through the initial enemy bunkers and continued to ascend the hill. He then realized that his platoon was receiving fire from its flanks and rear as well as from the enemy positions to the front. Temporarily halting his platoon, he directed the destruction of the enemy positions to his flanks and rear with light antitank weapons and hand grenades. He then renewed the assault, called for and redistributed ammunition, and led the final assault to the top of the hill, eliminating the final pockets of enemy resistance. Ordered to withdraw from the hill to reinforce another platoon, he effectively led his men against the insurgents and rescued the besieged elements. Lieutenant O'Neill'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. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 499 (February 22, 1970))

21 May 1969

SP4 James P. Glemser (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Specialist Four Glemser distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 21 May 1969 while serving as a radio telephone operator during a search and clear operation near the city of Tan Ky, Quang Tin Province. While maneuvering against well-fortified North Vietnamese bunker complexes, his patrol came under intense small arms and automatic weapons fire. As his platoon advanced, an enemy soldier hurled a grenade from his spider hole towards Specialist Glemser and his platoon sergeant, seriously wounding the sergeant. Amid intense enemy fire, Specialist Glemser crawled towards the casualty. After reaching the wounded man, he applied a dressing to his wounds and dragged him to a safer position. Then, Specialist Glemser assaulted the enemy soldier's spider hole, successfully eliminating the foe. Returning to the wounded sergeant, Specialist Glemser carried him 100 meters across a fire-swept rice paddy to the safety of his team's perimeter. Specialist Four Glemser's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number 2033; 12 June 1971)

21 May 1969

1LT Donald F. Gourley Jr. (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 May 1969. Lieutenant Gourley distinguished himself while serving as platoon leader in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry. Company C was ordered to attack a heavily fortified enemy hill near Tam Ky in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Gourley promptly organized his platoon and deployed it in preparation for the attack. A large open rice paddy lay between his position and the objective. Immediately upon initiating the attack, his platoon received intensive fire from enemy automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenades. Lieutenant Gourley immediately began to move his platoon forward employing fire and maneuver. Noting the reluctance of his troops to subject themselves to the enemy's fire and cross the open rice paddy, he left his covered position and moved up and down the line directing and encouraging his men. He led his platoon across the rice paddy toward the enemy position. Upon reaching the base of the enemy held hill, the insurgents began a heavy barrage of hand grenades, which inflicted numerous casualties. Lieutenant Gourley led the assault on the enemy positions, and the 2nd platoon broke through the first line of enemy entrenchments and continued to ascend the hill. Upon reaching the crest of the hill, his platoon again came under intense fire from additional enemy positions. With the ammunition supply becoming rapidly depleted, Lieutenant Gourley moved from position to position redistributing the remaining ammunition. He then led the final assault to the top of the hill, eliminating the final pockets of enemy resistance. At this time the reserve platoon of his company came under attack and Lieutenant Gourley's platoon was ordered to withdraw from the hill and reinforce another platoon. Remaining behind with a small force, he covered his platoon as it evacuated its casualties and withdrew to reinforce the second platoon. The enlarged unit was able to repel the enemy attack. At this time Lieutenant Gourley realized that one of his men was missing. Having determined that the man was lying wounded about a third of the way up the initial objective, he moved to the open location of the wounded man and brought him safely back. Lieutenant Gourley's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 15088; 22 December 1969)



21 May 1969

SGT Elmer O. Neises (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 May 1969. Sergeant Neises distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, near the city of Tam, Ky, Republic of Vietnam. During a search and clear mission, Sergeant Neises subjected himself to the hostile fire as he rushed an enemy position and destroyed it with hand grenades. Sergeant Neises, seeing that the enemy force had his platoon in a cross fire, he picked up several anti-tank weapons and advanced on an insurgent machine gun position with two of his fellow Soldiers. He crawled toward the position despite receiving hostile fire and placed suppressive fire on the insurgents, allowing his comrades to destroy the hostile positions. His courageous actions during the intense enemy contact contributed greatly to the success of the mission. Sergeant Neises' 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 (AM); General Orders Number 4933; 4 May 1970)



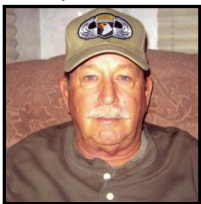
21 May 1969

SSG Kenneth E. Buesing (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 May 1969. Sergeant Buesing distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during search and clear operation near Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam. While maneuvering against a heavily fortified North Vietnamese Army bunker complex, two platoons of Company C were subjected to heavy machine gun fire from the left flank. Volunteering to neutralize the enemy position, Sergeant Buesing crawled through intense enemy bunker. When two light anti-tank weapons silenced the hostile machine gun but failed to neutralize the bunker, Sergeant Buesing again subjected himself to enemy small arms fire to crawl closer to the bunker and destroy it and its occupants with hand grenades. Sergeant Buesing's action saved the lives of many of his comrades and enabled his element to advance. Sergeant Buesing'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 (AM); General Orders Number 4981; 06 May 1970)

21 May 1969

SP4 Michael C. Tomaszewski (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 May 1969. Specialist Tomaszewski distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company D, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during a search and clear operation near Tam Ky in Quan Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Tomaszewski was maneuvering with his unit against a well-entrenched enemy force occupying a hillside position. Suddenly his element was subjected to the intense fire of an enemy bunker complex, and several men were wounded and remained open to hostile fire. Specialist Tomaszewski then led his machine gun team forward in an attempt to place suppressing fire on the enemy. Crawling forward into the heavy enemy fire, he placed his life in the hands of the determined insurgents in order to maneuver his men. While he provided covering fire, the other men of his platoon evacuated the wounded to safety. With this accomplished, the men of Company D attempted to assault and destroy the enemy positions. In the ensuing battle, Specialist Tomaszewski's platoon leader was wounded and evacuated. Immediately assuming command, he led his men against the insurgents throughout the remainder of the day and kept command of his platoon until a new platoon leader was assigned several weeks later. His outstanding courage and professional leadership were an inspiration to all his men and undoubtedly contributed to the saving of many lives as well as being a major factor in the success of the assault on the enemy positions. Specialist Tomaszewski'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 (AM); General Orders Number 14828; 15 December 1969)

21 May 1969



1LT Valentine J. Zapert (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 May 1969. Lieutenant Zapert distinguished himself while serving as platoon leader, reconnaissance platoon, Company E, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during a reconnaissance in force operation near Tam Ky, in Quan Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Zapert volunteered to take his platoon and relieve Company D, which had sustained numerous casualties while engaging a well-entrenched enemy force. While attempting to reach the company's location, Lieutenant Zapert's platoon suddenly came under intense enemy machine gun fire. Reacting immediately, he charged through the heavy fire and silenced the enemy position, killing the three-man crew and capturing the weapon. Utilizing several of his men in this position, he directed them to place suppressive fire upon the enemy as he and the remainder of his men went forward. While advancing on Company D's location, Lieutenant Zapert was wounded by an enemy hand grenade, which temporarily impaired his vision and hearing. Ignoring his wounds, he subjected himself continually to the intense fire as he directed evacuation of the dead and wounded. As he directed medical evacuation operations, he was again wounded in the leg by small arms fire. Quickly bandaging his wound, he evacuated the casualties to a secure area beyond the reach of enemy fire. Only when all of the men had been treated and evacuated did he agree to leave the field of battle. His personal bravery and dynamic leadership resulted in the killing of several enemy, the capturing of a large caliber enemy crew served weapon, and the saving of many lives. Lieutenant Zapert'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 (AM); General Orders Number 15207; 30 December 1969)



21 May 2010



The following Soldiers: SGT Geoffrey Emschweiler and SGT Evan Rea (A/1-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while stationed at COP Senjaray, Kandahar Province, executed their roles as team leaders with exceptional intestinal fortitude, and personal courage while under heavy enemy fire. While patrolling west along a route in Senjaray, SGT Rea's team came under intense and accurate fire from multiple enemy positions. Without hesitation SGT Rea maneuvered his fire team under direct enemy machine gun fire to a covered position and engaged enemy positions. SGT Rea prioritized targets and instructed his grenadier to engage an enemy RPG team, neutralizing the threat and preventing further RPGs from being fired on friendly positions.

While other elements of his squad were under heavy contact from an enemy ambush, SGT Emschweiler directed his team to engage multiple enemy positions, denying them the ability to maneuver. While SGT Rea's fire team was engaged with enemy positions, three enemy personnel attempted to flank his fire team from the west. SGT Rea quickly noticed the enemy movement and began firing at the area the enemy was trying to reach. After he realized that the enemy was dangerously close to flanking his position, SGT Rea put his own life in danger by maneuvering on the enemy and throwing a hand grenade. The hand grenade landed between the enemy personnel, which effectively repelled their assault.



SGT Emschweiler took it upon himself to emplace and lead elements of the Afghan National Police force, directing their fire on enemy positions. While elements of the squad were breaking contact, SGT Emschweiler directed his team to provide a heavy volume of fire, which allowed ISAF forces to maneuver northeast toward Senjaray. With disregard for his own life, SGT Emschweiler provided suppressive fire so his Soldiers could break contact to better covered and concealed positions. SGT Rea's actions contributed significantly to repelling the enemy ambush and prevented enemy forces from maneuvering on his squad. His display of courage, bravery, and lethal action changed the tempo of the battle. SGT Emschweiler's situational awareness and determination resulted in ISAF forces providing precision fire on Taliban positions. Because of his actions, the Afghan forces rallied together and successfully broke contact from the enemy ambush with no casualties.

21 May 2010



PFC Joshua Conley (A/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor while distinguishing himself with valor and exemplary duty performance as a rifleman during the defense of Pir Mohammed School. He is assigned to 3rd platoon; Company A, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment at Combat Outpost Senjaray. While improving defensive fighting positions at Pir Mohammed School after a rocket propelled grenade attack to a guard tower, PV2 Taylor was maintaining security down a canal to the south and was gravely wounded by an enemy sniper. PFC Conley immediately returned fire, suppressing the enemy sniper and gaining fire superiority. PFC Conley then moved under enemy fire to PV2 Taylor's position and displayed extraordinary intestinal fortitude and strength while dragging PV2 Taylor to a covered and concealed position. After moving PV2 Taylor to cover, PFC Conley conducted casualty assessment and began buddy aid. PFC Conley administered a pressure dressing to the wound further controlling the bleeding. Once bleeding was controlled, PFC Conley assisted in moving PV2 Taylor to the platoon casualty collection point for further care and evacuation.

21 May 2010



SGT Michael Craddock (A/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor while distinguishing himself with valor and exemplary duty performance as a fire team leader assigned to 1st platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, under direct enemy fire during combat operations in Senjaray. While patrolling along an eastern route in Senjaray SGT Craddock was providing over watch from his truck when the Pir Mohammed School came under fire. During this time SGT Craddock and his truck also came under direct and indirect fire from the enemy. SGT Craddock instructed his truck not to fire on the enemy when he realized that Afghan civilians were directly in the line of fire between his truck and the enemy. SGT Craddock took it upon himself to dismount the truck and move the local nationals out of the line of fire. SGT Craddock single handedly bounded 35 meters to cover, provided suppressive fire and evacuated 15 Afghan civilians out of immediate danger while under heavy accurate small arms fire. SGT Craddock bounded back 20 meters to another location and again suppressed the enemy, allowing all 15 civilians to move over a wall to safety. SGT Craddock continued to engage the enemy once the local nationals were safe, and is credited with killing or wounding four enemy combatants before remounting his truck.



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

