



STRIKE

Weekly History



Est. 1941

May 29th – June 04th 2016

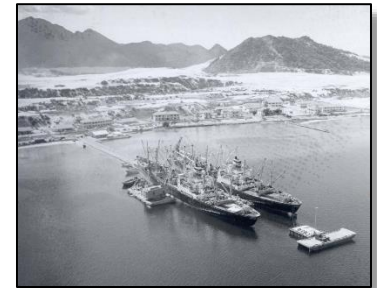
Issue: 58

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.

29 May 1967

Operation MALHUER: 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry contacted an unknown sized enemy force in fortified positions resulting in 8 US KHA, 14 US WHA, 6 VC KIA (C), 2 VC KIA (P) and 4 individual weapons and 1 machine gun captured. Ten other light contacts resulted in 3 US KHA, 5 US WHA, 2 VC KIA (C), 3 VC KIA (P), 31 detainees and 3 individual weapons, 1 rocket launcher, 1 telephone and 1500 NVA uniforms captured. One light contact by the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry resulted in 1 VC KIA (C) and 1 individual Weapon captured. Four light contacts by the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry resulted in 1 US WHA, 12 VC KIA (C), and 3 individual weapons captured. Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry terminated operational control to the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and returned to CARENTAN Base to prepare for future employment in NORMANDY AO.

29 May 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: 2nd Brigade continued to press the search in the AO as the enemy apparently chose to avoid contact. At 1135H, D/1-501 IN, vicinity BT164117, found 2 NVA KBAS. At 1700H, A/1-501 IN vicinity BT183113, found 1 NVA KIA by napalm. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)

29 May 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: 2-502 IN BN continued to operate in the new AO with negative contact unit the morning of this day. The second Platoon of Delta Company, while still in their NDP, YD599102, was engaged by enemy RPG's and small arms. Delta Company took one US KIA, four WIA, and one scout dog killed. A Sniper team was left behind and later in the day killed one NVA Soldier.

29 May 2010

1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), officially took control of operations in the Zharay District within the Kandahar Province during a Transfer of Authority ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Wilson.



A Transfer of Authority ceremony, or TOA, occurs when an existing unit hands over its control and responsibilities of the area of operations to an incoming unit. On this day, the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, relinquished its control and responsibility of the Zharay district.

"The men and women of the First STRIKE on this historic day assume responsibility to protect the people, strengthen the local government and help build a stronger economic environment in East Zharay," said LTC Johnny Davis, commander of First STRIKE, while addressing the audience of US and Canadian Soldiers, Afghan National Security Forces and the local leaders of the Zharay district. "We stand ready to assume the mission."

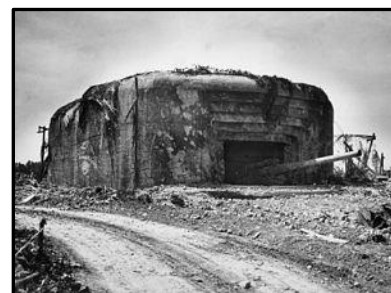
First STRIKE is deliberate with its intentions in Zharay, putting emphasis on their partnership with their Afghan counterparts, while looking to improve the overall quality of life within the district.

"Our goals here in Kandahar are to join forces and to fight shoulder to shoulder with the [Afghan National Army] and the [Afghan National Police] to make the government of Afghanistan better than what it is right now," said CSM Brandon Haywood. "Some of the things we are doing now that the TOA is complete, is improving on our footprint force protection and ensuring our Soldiers are protected."

The battalion did not hesitate in pursuing its end-state goal and has already carried out operations with Afghan forces. "They're already working with us and we've already conducted two missions with the ANA and the ANP in the area of Zharay," said Haywood. "That's our priority, join forces and work with them in everything we do."

30 May 1944

The four-gun artillery battery at St. Martin de Varreville, one of the 502nd's D-Day objectives, is destroyed on a night bombing mission by the RAF. This would not be realized until 0100 on 6 June when Frank Lillyman of the 502 Pathfinders makes a recon of the objective.



30 May 1967

Operation MALHUER: Two light contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 3 VC KIA (C) and 1 individual weapon captured.



- 30 May 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** As part of Operation NEVADA EAGLE, the 2-17 CAV, two companies from the 1-501 IN BN, plus the 3/3 ARVN Regiment working for the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division made contact during a cordon and search of Le Xa Dong, seven miles east of Hue. Casualties: US 6 WIA; enemy 142 KIA and 46 POW.
- 30 May 1968 Because of intelligence reports indicating that rice was being stored in the area north of the village of Phuong Quan Cua, 8km north of Hue (YD6532), D/1-502 IN conducted RIF operations into the area and captured 36.5 tons of rice. The rice was evacuated and delivered to the district chief of Quang Dien. (Operation Report, Lessons Learned, HQ 101st ABN DIV (AM); 26 December 1968)
- 30 – 31 May 1968 In response to intelligence reports, a combined operation at 1430H, B/1-501 IN was alerted to conduct a combat assault into the eastern side of the hamlet, and at 1523 Bravo Company established a blocking position vicinity YD880230. The 2-17 CAV attacked again, as LFT gunships flew over and covered likely avenues of escape to the west. As nightfall came, 2-17 CAV was not able to attack through the hamlet, so C/1-502 IN was lifted into the western side of the hamlet and a tight cordon was formed around the enemy's positions. Throughout the night continuous illumination and artillery was provided to prevent the enemy's escape. At daybreak, 2-17 CAV elements and 1st Platoon, C/1-501 IN swept through the village and destroyed the remnants of the enemy forces and resistance. The enemy losses during the combined operation were as follows: 142 NVA KIA, 46 PW, 69 weapons captured. Of these enemy losses, ARVN forces were responsible for 51 NVA KIA, 27 PW, and 35 IWO. Friendly losses were: 6 US WIA, 2 PF KIA, 2 PF WIA. (Operation Report, Lessons Learned, HQ 101st ABN DIV (AM); 26 December 1968)
- 30 May 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** C/2-502, 2nd Platoon combat assaulted into a hot LZ at YD643060. Although a heavy volume of fire was received there were no casualties.
- 30 May 2010 TALON 6 and TALON 7 met with MAJ Mir Agha and SGM Mir Weis from the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police, Operational Mentor and Liaison Team and toured the COP manned by Company B/1-502nd. SFC Stone (B/1-502nd) identified enemy avenues of approach and the security problem sets faced by COP Fitzpatrick. Numerous abandoned compounds and grape huts allow the enemy firing positions supported by avenues of approach concealed in tree and wadi lines. Two likely staging locations were identified within 600 meters of Fitzpatrick where Taliban cache weapons used to attack the COP.
- 31 May 1968 The 1-502 IN BN results from 19 December 1967 to 1 June 1968: Friendly: 59 KIA, 393 WIA; Enemy 852 KIA (BC), 250 KIA (EST), 129 WIA/POW
- 31 May 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** Action flared briefly in the AO as the units continued to search for the enemy and 1-502 IN BN staged in the field for the combat assaults on the following day. At 1025H, D/1-051 IN, vicinity BT163115 received small arms fire from an unknown size of enemy force. The element returned fire and maneuvered against the determined enemy force. The enemy resistance was overcome and 6 NVA KIA were found with Delta Company suffering 2 US KIA and 3 US WIA (E). (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)
- 31 May 2001 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment deployed to Kosovo and Macedonia and received the mission to interdict NLA rebel supply lines from Kosovo to Macedonia. Throughout the summer, Soldiers from the 502nd disrupted and practically brought to a halt the resupply operations of Muslim rebels fighting in Macedonia.
- 31 May 2003 B/2-502 air-assaults into Al Fallujah, Iraq and joins the 2nd Squadron, 3rd ACR as they struggled to secure the most violent city in the Sunni Triangle, which had recently suffered from a string of attacks on multiple convoys which left several U.S. Soldiers dead. Within days of arriving, Bravo Company suffered their only KIA, PFC Brandon Oberleitner, as a nighttime patrol came under combined RPG and small arms fire. Five other Soldiers were wounded as Bravo Company Soldiers reacted bravely, subduing the enemy and evacuating their casualties to safety. The Company returns to Brigade control on 07 Jul 03.
- 01 June 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** Four light contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 5 VC KIA (C) and 1 individual weapon captured. A booby trapped grenade activated by 2-502 IN BN resulted in 1 US WHA.
- 01 June 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** As part of Operation NEVADA EAGLE, B/1-501 IN BN, B/2-501 IN BN, plus Alpha Troop and Bravo Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, working for the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division conduct a cordon and search 10 miles east of Hue. Casualties: US 5 KIA, 36 WIA; enemy 104 KIA and 56 POW.
- 01 June 1968 The 1-502 IN BN had light contact. Bravo Company caught 2 VC coming out of a bunker (2 VC KIA (BC)). Delta Company ambushed 6 VC, 1 VC KIA. Later found 2 more trying to run away. Results: 2 VC KIA.
- 01 – 04 June 1968 On 1 June a combined operation involving US and ARVN troops commence an attack on the village of Trung Phuong. 1.6 km east of Hue (YD9419). Alpha Troop and Bravo Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry and TF 7, 1st ARVN Inf Div attacked on Parallel axis to engage enemy forces which were reported in the area by intelligence reports. Contact was maintained throughout the afternoon of 1 June and a cordon was established around the village during early evening. The results of the battle were 8 US WHA, 38 VC KIA, 3 PU and 20 weapons captured. AT daybreak the companies swept through the village and continued to attack to the south toward the village of Vinh Phu (YD9716). Near Vinh Phu the combined forces engaged an enemy company and after heavy contact established a cordon around the village on the night of 2 June. During the



night continuous illumination was maintained, and in the morning TAC Air and artillery continued to hit the enemy. PSYOP teams appealed to the enemy for surrender. On 3 June 50 VC surrendered and on 4 June a sweep through the village resulted in the capture of 3 PWs. The results of the cordon operation of Vinh Phyu were: 5 US KIA, 28 US WHA, 66 VC KIA, 53 PWs and 57 weapons captured. (Operation Report, Lessons Learned, HQ 101st ABN DIV (AM); 26 December 1968)

01 – 04 June 1968

The 2-17 CAV cordons Trung Phuong, Thon Moc Tru, and Thon Trung Ha resulting in 235 NVA/VC KIA, 77 NVA/VC POWs, 114 individual and crew served weapons, and 15,000 lbs. of rice captured. This was the last cordon operation for 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

01 June 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: The enemy still avoided contact as evidenced by minimum activity throughout the AO. At 1015H, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, vicinity BT162111, found two graves containing the remains of 2 NVA KIA by artillery or air. At 1200H, 1st Brigade initiated the operation with the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry conducting combat assaults into SONG TRAM Valley LZ vic. BT165005, closing Companies A, B, and C at 1247H. There was negative enemy contact and all elements began RIF operations northeast along separate axes. At 1215H, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry vicinity BT164109 observed one enemy hiding in a bunker; the element engaged the bunker with hand grenades killing one VC. (Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN (U) 15SEPT1969)

01 June 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: 2-502 IN BN continued to secure FSB Bastogne and conducted saturation and ambush patrols in the AO. Delta Company remained OPCON to 2nd Battalion 327th Infantry Battalion.

June –
November 2008

Operations Widomaker Quarterbacks, Linebackers, Kickers. The focus of **Operation Widomaker Quarterbacks** was to defeat the Special Groups within the Jowadeen, Kateib, and Rahmanyah areas. C/1-75 CAV, "Chaos Company," led the way in this operation and was responsible for severely disrupting the enemy. From the beginning of the operation in June until its relief in place in November 2008, Chaos successfully detained fourteen Special Group members and confiscated three enemy weapon caches consisting of rifles, machine guns, and IED making materials. B/1-75 CAV, "Bonecrusher Troop," focused on defeating the Special Groups in Northern Ghazaliyah in **Operation Widomaker Linebackers**. Bonecrusher established a new Joint Security Station in Northern Ghazaliyah in support of the operation. Bonecrusher Troop used their new JSS to provide a more local presence and increase the level of security in Northern Ghazaliyah and effectively deteriorated the Special Group's ability to conduct operations. During the operation Bonecrusher detained eighteen Special Group members including some of its top leadership upon their return from Iran. Two weapon caches that included machine guns and IED making materials were also confiscated. **Operation Widomaker Kickers** was 1-75 CAV Squadron's effort to defeat Sunni insurgents and AQI in its AO and was led by A/1-75 CAV, "Apache Troop" in the southern portion of Ghazaliyah. Sunni insurgents and AQI within the Squadron AO was severely disrupted by Apache Troop. Focused HUMINT collection and extensive use of technical targeting led to the numerous detentions that severely disrupted the enemy and prevented them from effectively reorganizing. From June 2008 until its relief in place in November, Apache Troop captured over forty AQI operatives. Apache Troop also found twelve enemy weapon caches consisting of sniper rifles, rifles, machine guns, mortar and artillery rounds, and IED components

01 Jun 2006

Operation Vital Strike. 2-502 IN conducts Operation Vital Strike to eliminate AIF safe havens and their secure lines of communications. The mission results in the location of two caches.

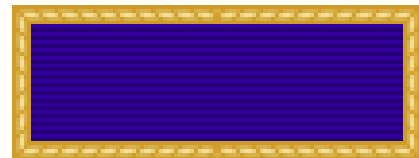
02 June 1966

OPERATION HAWTHORNE begins with the 2-502 IN BN displaced from Pleiku to DAK TO by CV-2 aircraft and convoy.

02 June 1966

(1st BDE "2-502nd Infantry" Actions for Presidential Unit Citation) The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and attached units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in action against a hostile force in Dak To, Republic of Vietnam, during "OPERATION HAWTHORNE", 2 through 20 June 1966. "OPERATION HAWTHORNE" began on 2 June 1966 when the Brigade was directed to relieve the beleaguered mountain outpost of Tou Morong. The 1st Battalion (Airborne)

327th Infantry teamed up with elements of the 24th Tactical Zone Command (42d Army of the republic of Vietnam Regiment and the 21st Ranger Battalion) to accomplish this phase of the operation. Intelligence reports received at Brigade Headquarters indicated a major enemy drive was under way to overrun the Central Highlands. At 0230 hours on the morning of 7 June 1966, and estimated North Vietnamese battalion of the 24th North Vietnamese Army Regiment savagely attacked an artillery position in the valley west of Tou Morong. The position was manned by Battery B, 2d Howitzer Battalion (Airborne), 320th Artillery; Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry; and elements of Company A, 326th Engineer Battalion. The charging enemy was able to penetrate the artillery's perimeter. The battle that had the winner-take-all climax saw the valiant Americans secure their weapons and fire point-blank into the still charging North Vietnamese Army ranks. As dawn brought light to the exhausted warriors, 86 enemy bodies were counted, 13 of them inside the artillery position. After relieving the Tou Morong outpost, the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, moved north. Another bitter battle erupted, this time engaging all three of the infantry companies of the Battalion at one time, each in a separate fire fight. As the battle raged, the Battalion's elite Tiger Force was hard hit and almost overrun by an estimated two companies of heavily armed, well trained North Vietnamese Army Regulars. On 7 June 1966, the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, was helilifted into a blocking position where it began to sweep south to link up with its heavily engaged sister Battalion. Throughout the battle, the enemy strength was fixed as a well-trained North Vietnamese Army Regiment. Their heavy weapons were strategically placed in sturdy bunkers which were spread out along the fingers and draws of the mountainside. As the battered but courageous 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry companies regrouped and the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, continued their relentless attack from the south, a decision was made to have B-52 Bombers strike Dak Tan Kan Valley before the Brigade moved in for the final kill.



"OPERATION HAWTHORNE" was one of the most viciously contested battles of the Vietnam War. Day and Night the battle raged, moving from bunker to trench line, to spider hole, to bamboo thicket, to stream bed, and finally to victory. At the conclusion of "OPERATION HAWTHORNE" the 24th North Vietnamese Army Regiment was rendered ineffective as a fighting unit, suffering 1200 casualties by body count and estimate. By comparison, friendly casualties were 48 dead and 239 wounded. A major North Vietnamese offensive to seize the North Central Highlands was blunted. Throughout "OPERATION HAWTHORNE" the extraordinary heroism, dogged determination, gallantry, and indomitable spirit with which the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, successfully accomplished all assigned missions were in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon all members of the Brigade who participated in this remarkable combat action.

02 June 1968

The 1-502 IN BN RIF with PF's, Bravo Company joint RIF with PF's, vic. YD7140. Found that almost all of the gates entering the village were BBT with grenades. These grenades were blown in place. As they swept through the village they received light contact and returned fire wounding 1 VC who fled. They also blew several BBT's in place but 1 PF was killed when he stepped on a 105mm BBT.

02 June 1969

Activity increased in the AO as the units reported scattered enemy contact with the Aero-Rifle Platoon of Bravo Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry becoming decisively engaged by a numerically superior enemy force and being reinforced later in the day by Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry. At 0740H, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, vicinity BT182996, captured 1 NVA with an AK47 during the conduct of an area sweep. At 0915H, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, vicinity BT180009, engaged 5 VC with small arms the enemy broke contact and fled leaving behind 1 VC KIA. At 1000H, Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, vicinity BT180002, found a grave containing 1 VC KBA, and at 1015H, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, vicinity BT181001, found one grave with 1 NVA KBA. At 1230H, the Aero-Rifle Platoon, Bravo Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, was inserted into an LZ, vic. BT210128 to conduct ground reconnaissance in the area. The area had been a source of ground fire throughout day with numerous reported incidents. Immediately after moving from the LZ, the platoon came under heavy fire from a well-concealed enemy force. Gunships, ARA and tube artillery were all employed in support. The supporting fires were lifted and the platoon moved forward in the assault. The platoon was met with withering fire that inflicted moderate casualties and pinned down the element. Air and artillery were employed at close range and the decision was made to insert a reaction force to extricate the trapped platoon. At 1440H, a platoon from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry was inserted into the LZ to link-up and relieve the pressure on the Aero-Rifle Platoon. At 1550H, the C&C, Bravo Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, vicinity BT202129, was hit by 12.7mm AA fire and forced down, seriously wounding the artillery LO aboard. The crew and aircraft were recovered without further incident. At 1700H, B/1-501 enroute to the relief of the Aero-Rifle Platoon, vic. BT202127, engaged an enemy force firing from bunkers. The company quickly returned fire and reduced the enemy bunker accounting for 2 NVA KIA and 3 IWC; the unit suffering 1 US WIA. At 1745H, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry closed into the LZ thus completing the relief and reinforcement. The situation was stabilized and the Aero Rifle Platoon became OPCON to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry for the night. The fighting had been extremely bitter through -out the afternoon and the outnumbered platoon had been pinned down a majority of the time from the well concealed and bunkered enemy. The unit had accounted for 6 NVA KIA and 1 IWC and had suffered 5 US KIA and 4 US WIA (E). Else-where in the AO, at 1400H, B/1-46, vic. BT205070, engaged an unknown size enemy force with artillery, accounting for 3 NVA KIA.



Members of Companies B and D, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, take a break from jungle fighting east of Tam Ky

02 - 12 June 1969

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

As the battle continued into the afternoon, two more cavalymen were killed and several others wounded. The C&C helicopter was shot down over the battlefield. The situation remained precarious. Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry moved onto Hill 376 to relieve the beleaguered cavalry platoon. The next morning, June 3, two more infantry companies and the recon platoon from the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry arrived. For the next nine days, the Screaming Eagles moved up and down the ridgelines assaulting enemy bunkers, often facing murderous machine-gun fire, mortars, and grenades. By the time they left Hill 376 on June 12, they had suffered 23 killed, 34 wounded, and one missing in action. In addition, a helicopter crew of four men from the 101st Aviation Battalion and a passenger were killed in the area, while elements of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry suffered casualties south of Hill 376. (Bitter Fighting In Quang Tin, Roger Ables)

02 June 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: C/2-502 while securing an LZ detonated a booby trap wounding seven men.

02 June 2006

Operation Regular Strike. 1-22 IN along with 3/1/6 IA conducted this intelligence driven Operation to target an IED cell in Hawr Rajab. Ultimately, the units severely disrupted the operations of the terrorists while simultaneously warning the insurgents operating in AO Regular that there are no safe havens to operate from.



02 June 2010

1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment Commander, LTC Johnny Davis held the first security shura with the new Zharay District Governor Karim Jan. Karim Jan introduced himself to the elders of Zharay and expressed his thanks for their nomination. He stated he wants a security shura implemented in the district. Some of the rules he laid out were: members must be on time; attend all meetings; if there are three unexcused absences the member will be dismissed. The target is to have a unified shura, working toward a common goal. Karim Jan said he wants the shura to be an example for all of Kandahar, and he asked for their continuing support. He said they will resolve their own problems, together, and there will be no need to go to the Provincial Governor for help. He finished by saying that if the shura doesn't like his job performance, he will resign. Karim Jan also stated that the shura members are servants of the people.



03 June 1968

The 1-502 IN BN continued operations with Alpha Company securing An Lo and conducted RIF with 1st Platoon of PF's at vicinity YD6231. PF's attacked and killed 3 BC and had 3 WIA. Bravo Company combined operations and sweep of area resulted in 1 WIA from fire at vicinity YD7132 and 3 NVA KIA in bunkers at vicinity YD7131, by H/G. Recon 1KIA, 105mm BBT.

03 June 1969

The 1-501IN BN combat assaulted two more companies into the area, encountering light enemy resistance. At 0900H, D/1-501 conducted a CA into an LZ vicinity BT203126 and initiated RIF operations to the southeast. The Aero-Rifle Platoon was extracted at the conclusion of the CA. At 0915H, A/1-501 conducted a CA into the same LZ and closed the entire unit at 0931H; the unit then conducted RIF operations to the northeast. At 1240H, B/1-501, vicinity BT208128, received small arms fire from two enemy soldiers who immediately fled; the element returned fire with negative enemy assessment and suffered 1 US WIA.

03 June 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: 3rd Platoon of A/2-502 at YD568119 engaged one enemy moving southwest with negative results.

04 June 1967

Operation MALHEUR: The 2-502 IN BN (-) terminated operations in NORMANDY AO and conducted airmobile extractions to CARENTAN Base.

04 June 1968

The 1-502 IN BN continued operations and road sweep. Bravo Company at CA to vicinity 699288 and conducted S&C operations with negative contact.

04 June 1969

Action increased sharply as the 1-501 IN BN continued to search the area. The 1-502 IN BN continued RIF to the northeast toward the 5th ARVN Regiment with negligible enemy contact. At 1455H, a HU1H from A/101 AHB vicinity BT265125 was hit by an unidentified type explosive round from an undisclosed location and crashed, killing all five passengers aboard. The mysterious incident was immediately investigated but the findings were inconclusive. At 1555H, fighting erupted in the 1-501 IN BN area as B/1-501, vicinity BT206124, received heavy small arms and machine gun fire from an unknown size enemy force; B/1-501 returned fire and employed air and artillery against the enemy. Simultaneously, D/1-501 vicinity BT207123 received mortar and machine gun fire from a concealed enemy force; the element returned fire. The fighting continued throughout the afternoon as both elements attempted to find and fix the well-hidden enemy. Contact was broken with no decisive results; B/1-501 accounted for 1 NVA KIA and 1 IWC and suffered 1 US KIA and 1 US WIA, while D/1-501 suffered 1 US KIA and 6 US WIA. At 1745H, A/1-502, vicinity BT210029, tripped an unknown type booby-trap resulting in 2 US WIA.

04 June 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: 2nd Platoon of A/2-502 killed one NVA/VC and captured an AK-50.



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.

8 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
1 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
2 x Bronze Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
31 x Purple Heart Medal (28 x Posthumously)

29 May 1968

PFC Obbie Johnson (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from pneumonia contracted as a result of wounds while he was on guard duty when he tripped causing the rifle he was holding to accidentally discharge in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

29 May 1970



SSG Lawrence A. Bierbaum (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.

29 May 1971



CPT Thomas G. Blair (A/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 Ta Trang River Valley 10 KM North of Ruong Ruong, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. CPT Blair was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired.

30 May 1969



SGT Edwin E. Dotter (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death from multiple fragmentation wounds 7km west of A Luoi Village in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

30 May 1969

SP4 Louis Johnson (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death from multiple fragmentation wounds 7km west of A Luoi Village in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

30 May 1969



PFC Robert L. Watt (Pictured) (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death from multiple fragmentation wounds 7km west of A Luoi Village in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

30 May 1969



PFC Craig M. Simeone (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

30 May 2006

SPC Bobby R. West (D/1-22 IN), 23, of Beebe, Arkansas; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when an improvised explosive device detonated during dismounted patrol operations in Baghdad.



30 May 2010

SPC Martin Torres (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his unit with a rocket propelled grenade.

31 May 1968



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

31 May 1968



CPL Jeff Mulkey (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from wounds received while on combat operation when engaged hostile force in a firefight in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

31 May 1969



CPL Johnny M. Pilsner (D/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds 5km E-SE of Tien Phuoc in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

31 May 1969



SP4 Philip A. Pratt (D/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds 5km E-SE of Tien Phuoc in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

01 June 1968

SGT Thomas G. Hughes (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds received while on combat operation when engaged by a hostile force in a firefight in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. SGT Hughes was admitted to a military hospital, placed on the VSI list and transferred to a Naval Hospital Ship, where he expired shortly thereafter.

01 June 1968

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

01 June 1971



1LT James R. Saxon (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds 7km W of Phu Loc in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

01 June 1971



CPL Don M. Ramsey (B/2-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds 7km W of Phu Loc in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

01 June 1971



SP4 Robert D. McKinney (D/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when a booby trap detonated 15km S-SE of Phu Bai Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



01 Jun 2008

PV2 Joseph Tabb (1-22 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received. PV2 Tabb was the dismount element in the back of B32 Bradley Fighting Vehicle (BFV). While the convoy was heading down Route Jets, getting ready to head north on Route Vernon, B32 was struck by an Explosively Formed Projectile (EFP). The EFP impacted the left side of the Bradley just between the turret and the troop compartment, detonating one and a half of the BRAT tiles and penetrating through the road wheels and side skirts. The EFP penetrated the hull and the Bradley caught on fire. The B6M MRAP conducted CASEVAC, where they found that PV2 Tabb was injured during the blast with substantial damage to his right ear and multiple lacerations to his face and body.

02 June 1968



SFC William W. Hence (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds during a cordon at Trung Phuong-Vinh Phu 10 Miles East of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

02 June 1968

PFC Audron L. Smith (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds during a cordon at Trung Phuong-Vinh Phu 10 Miles East of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

02 June 1968



CPL Edward L. Sizelove (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds during a cordon at Trung Phuong-Vinh Phu 10 Miles East of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

02 June 1968



PFC Thomas J. Harbour (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

02 June 1970

CPL Daniel W. Harrison (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

03 June 1966



PFC Melvin T. Nishiyama (C/2-502 IN) was awarded was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound to neck received in hostile ground action in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

03 June 1968



SP4 Nickolas Szawaluk (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds during a cordon at Trung Phuong-Vinh Phu 10 Miles East of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

03 June 1968



SGT Luis A. Lopez-Ramos (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 fragments from a hostile rocket wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

03 June 1969

SP4 Fletcher J. Nowlin Jr. (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received on 21 May 1969 from small arms gun fire wounds in the vicinity of hill 270, 6 KM E-SE of Tien Phuoc, in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

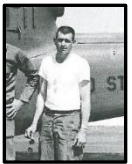


04 June 1966



PFC Denton W. Crocker Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

04 June 1969



SP4 Roy P. Gargus (HHC/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arm gun fire wounds 9km East of Tien Phuoc in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

04 June 1969

CPL Gary W. Silman (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds 9km East of Tien Phuoc in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

04 June 1969

Forest "Snuffy" Smith (D/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam during an ambush from a hail of 60mm mortars and 50 calibers heavy machine gun fire on Hill 376.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

29 May 1967

PFC Donald C. Pryor (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. Private First Class Pryor distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. On this date, Private Pryor was serving as a rifleman with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry. While on a patrol, Private Pryor and his squad were taken under a tremendous volume of hostile fire from an enemy force of undetermined size. Private Pryor was hit and knocked to the ground in the initial burst of fire, sustaining a painful wound. As the intensity of the hostile fire increased, Private Pryor realized that the tactical situation of his squad was deteriorating. Though dazed and bleeding, he quickly bandaged himself and stopped the bleeding. Then, with complete disregard for his personal safety, Private Pryor singlehandedly assaulted the enemy position, unmindful of the increased hostile fire being directed at his movements. He successfully overran the enemy position, killing two soldiers, wounding several others and capturing two enemy weapons. By his exceptionally valorous actions, outstanding display of aggressiveness and profound dedication, Private First Class Pryor has distinguished himself and has reflected great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TFO; General Order 323; 22 August 1967)

29 May 1967

SSG James H. Carpenter (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 29 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Carpenter distinguished himself while leading his squad down a trail in dense jungle foliage. An estimated enemy squad pinned down his squad with intense fire. Realizing his need for decisive action, Sergeant Carpenter, with complete disregard for his own safety, exposed himself to the murderous fire and assaulted the enemy positions. In the ensuing assault, Sergeant Carpenter killed one enemy soldier and, while still exposed to the hostile fire, pursued and captured another. His squad, inspired by his courage and daring, followed suit and assaulted the remaining positions routing the enemy who left behind three dead, three weapons, and one prisoner. Staff Sergeant Carpenter's unquestionable valor, resoluteness, and dauntless determination in close combat are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TFO; General Order 285; 21 August 1967)

29 May 1967

SSG Robert P. Sherman (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant Sherman distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 29 May 1967, in the Republic of Vietnam. While leading a patrol, Sergeant Sherman's platoon was moving through dense jungle foliage when they were suddenly brought under heavy volume of enemy fire. On the initial burst of fire, one member of the patrol was wounded and lay in a exposed area. As the intensity of the enemy fire increased, Sergeant Sherman realized that the wounded man was in great danger of being hit again. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Sherman left his covered position and rushed through the withering enemy fire to the aid of his wounded comrade, pulling the man to a covered area and quickly administered the needed medical aid. Sergeant Sherman quickly reorganized his patrol and personally led them in an assault upon the enemy positions. All during the assault, Sergeant Sherman continually exposed himself to the heavy enemy fire while giving his men encouragement and directing their fire by pointing out enemy targets. Sergeant Sherman'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 1356; 8 July 1967)

30 May 1968



Colonel Cushman (2nd BDE CDR) earned the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself on 30 May 1968 while serving as Brigade Commander, Second Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, on a combat operation with 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry in the village of Thon Le Xa Dong, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. The Second Squadron, 17th Cavalry, which was under the operational control of the Second Brigade, made contact with an enemy force in the western end of the village. By noon it was evident that a strong enemy force was occupying the village. Colonel Cushman was over the battle area in a light observation helicopter, and sensing an opportunity to encircle and destroy the enemy force, he ordered a rifle company from a nearby battalion to be combat assaulted into a position north of the village. He then persuaded Army of the Republic of Vietnam authorities to order an infantry battalion to a cordon and blocking position west and northwest of the village. Despite hostile fire throughout the battle area, he remained aloft personally directing devastating air strikes and artillery fire, and on many occasions joined United States and Army of the Republic of Vietnam commanders on the ground to determine the situation, give them counsel, and arrange for their support. Disregarding the hazards of night flight in the light observation helicopter, Colonel Cushman stayed aloft for several hours after darkness, counseling his commanders, adjusting cordon positions, and insuring flare ship and artillery support. During the night the trapped enemy attempted in vain to break out of the ring of troops. The following morning the systematic destruction of the enemy force was completed. Included among the enemy losses were the command groups of a battalion and regiment. These losses coupled with the large number of enemy casualties and prisoners rendered the enemy battalion and its regimental headquarters ineffective as remnants of the force fled to the mountains. This action, which was the tenth in a series of successful cordon operations conducted by the brigade under Colonel Cushman, brought the total enemy losses in these ten operations to eight hundred and twenty killed and two hundred captured, with remarkably light casualties. Colonel Cushman's 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.



30 May 1969

SP4 Louis Johnson (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in actions while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 30 May 1969. Specialist Johnson distinguished himself while serving as an automatic rifleman for Company B, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. On the night of the cited date, Company B was conducting ambush patrols near Dong Ap Bia Mountain on the western border of the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Johnson's Platoon moved into an ambush site along a trail and began its wait. At approximately 2215 hours, several North Vietnamese troops were spotted moving toward their position. When the enemy troops were within range, the element's claymore mines were detonated, killing four of the North Vietnamese. Several troopers were sent out to check the results of the ambush and were immediately taken under fire by other enemy troops. Under automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire, the ambush platoon was pulled back to the main company night defensive position. Upon arriving at the night defensive positions, it was determined that several troopers had been left behind during the ambush withdrawal. Without regard for his own safety, Specialist Johnson volunteered to lead a relief force back in an attempt to locate the missing men. The relief element quickly moved out with Specialist Johnson in the lead. Several minutes later they made heavy contact with the enemy force which was attempting to prevent the rescue of the missing men. Specialist Johnson immediately began to lead the maneuver elements in an effort to knock out the enemy machine gun fire which was severely endangering the members of his fire team. While moving to an advantageous position, he was struck in the chest by shrapnel from an enemy rocket propelled grenade and mortally wounded. Specialist Johnson'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 9231; 21 July 1969)

June 1944

1LT Jack F. Dulaney (I/502) earns the Silver Star for leading his platoon against three MG-42 MGs, receiving multiple wounds near Houseville, France.

01 June 1968

CPT William D. Huges (B/1-502 IN) earned the Silver Star Medal (1-OLC) for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 1 June 1968. During the early evening hours as Company B was preparing a night defensive position near the village of Thon Duong Son, Quang Dien District, Republic of Vietnam, an unknown size Viet Cong force launched a mortar attack, resulting in eight friendly casualties. Captain Hughes with complete disregard for his own safety, directed his men into safe fighting positions and directed his artillery forward observer as to where the enemy fire was coming from so that effective artillery fire could be placed upon the enemy. When the enemy withdrew Company B pursued and the following afternoon made contact. Captain Hughes was with the point platoon. He moved around from position to position directing his troops in the fire fight which followed. Three hours later contact was made with the remaining Viet Cong squad. Again Captain Hughes was with the point platoon and directed the fire and movement of the squads which quickly overcame the enemy. Captain Hughes' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Order Number 8632; Amended 27 May 1969, General Orders Number 5832)

03 June 1966

SGT Darrell E. Sharp (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself on 3 June 1966 while serving as a squad leader during a combat mission near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. While providing security for an artillery battery, Sergeant Sharp's unit was attacked by a Viet Cong force using mortar weapons. When directed to attack the insurgent positions, Sergeant Sharp led his squad through intense Viet Cong fire up a steep ridge. As the troopers advanced forward, the platoon sergeant was wounded by a hand grenade. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Sergeant Sharp immediately assumed command of the platoon. During the ensuing battle, he killed two Viet Cong and threw a hand grenade into an insurgent emplacement, destroying the bunker and killing two more Viet Cong. As a result of his aggressive actions, the Viet Cong were taken by surprise and the two friendly squads successfully withdrew. After administering first aid to his wounded platoon sergeant, Sergeant Sharp led his squad back to the platoon sector and resumed his assigned duties. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Sergeant Sharp's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number 5767; 21 September 1966)

04 June 1969

1LT Paul D. Wharton (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 4 June 1969. Lieutenant Wharton distinguished himself while serving as the Artillery Forward Observer in Company D, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), during a search and clear operation near Tam Ky, in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Wharton left his covered position to go to the aid of a rifle squad which was sustaining heavy casualties from intense automatic weapons and from mortar fire. Openly and willingly subjecting himself to the enemy fire, Lieutenant Wharton ran across an open area swept by machine gun fire to reach the beleaguered squad. Upon reaching the squad, he rallied the men, directed them to return fire, treated the wounded and then led the squad back to the company perimeter. Having accomplished this, he again exposed himself to adjust artillery fire on the enemy, thus allowing the wounded to be evacuated. Lieutenant Wharton'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.



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

