



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) "STRIKE HISTORY" 15 February – 21 February 2015



22 – 27
February 1967

Operation FARRAGUT IV:

All units were moved to the vicinity of TAC CP by helicopter, ending Phase I of Farragut IV. That afternoon, the 2-502 airlifted to Song Mao to prepare for Phase II. On arrival at Song Mao airstrip, the companies set up a bivouac in an area covered by dry brush, and there a mishap occurred which cost STRIKE FORCE dearly. A cooking fire got out of control, and immediately spread over a wide area, engulfing rucksacks, weapons, ammunition, hand-grenades, 60mm mortar rounds, and LAW's. Efforts to put the fire out failed, and troops began trying to carry equipment out of the danger area across a dirt road. Captain Steve Sylvasy, CO of Charlie Company, was right in the middle of the fire trying to supervise removal of LAW's and mortar ammunition, when the first large explosion was triggered by heat. Captain Sylvasy received severe shrapnel wounds in his chest and stomach, putting him out of action for over two months. Everyone moved across the road, and for the rest of the night sporadic explosions kept all personnel at a safe distance from the remains of the fire. The next day resupply operations began, and by 24 February the 2-502 was once again ready to conduct operations against the enemy.



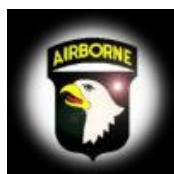
The sudden and unexpected mission that initiated Phase II of FARRAGUT IV was to assist an ARVN Ranger Battalion which was heavily engaged with an estimated battalion size VC Main Force Unit in the Di Linh-Bao Loc area on Highway 20. Two ARVN relief columns had been ambushed, and a MACV Advisor Team was missing, believed captured. Local ARVN officials claimed adamantly that the VC were withdrawing to the west. Other sources indicated a possible move to the south and east. Playing a hunch the Battalion Commander committed only one company to the west of Di Linh and two to the south and east. A feature of this operation was the very rapid deployment of the STRIKE FORCE over a distance of over 70 km without any prior recon.

The first indication of trouble was received at the Brigade at approximately 1230 hours and the Battalion was in position by dark.

Southeast of Di Linh, Charlie Company ambushed 4 VC on the morning of the 25th, killing 2 and capturing 1. The POW stated that he was an intelligence squad member belonging to C 200 Battalion, and that 3 other Battalion size forces were in the Di Linh area. Acting on his information Bravo Company was air-lifted to interdict the suspected withdrawal route of one of the main force units. That evening a platoon of Bravo Company was caught in a three-sided ambush by an estimated company armed with heavy automatic weapons. The enemy did not



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withdraw, and fighting was extremely heavy throughout the night. Gunships and illumination were employed, but fighting was too close-in to utilize the gunships effectively. The enemy finally withdrew on the early morning of the 26th, leaving 9 VC KHA and 5 weapons. US losses were 1 KHA and 8 US WHA.

No other contacts were made with the enemy, and the 2-502 was extracted by helicopter to Song Mao on 27 February.

22 February 1968

S3, 2d Bn (Abn), 501st INF (Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log "Declassified") (0100-2400);

0100: A Co. receiving incoming Mortar Rounds.

0315: A Co. has had movement in their location. Some S/A incoming fire negative casualties.

0720: Kilo and Log ship arrived; 80rds of 81mm were loaded to go to 81mm mortar platoon, 90mm & ammo for B Co.

0818: BN perimeter receiving sniper fire from Northern part of woods vic. 693 223; C Co. is sweeping this direction

0835: A Co. repushes VC heading toward CP. Take him under fire

0836: Have a squad in that area – threw grenades, may have got them

0910: 1st Lift B Co. on LZ

0845: Delayed Entry: Fr S3 to Bde 3: Lot of sniper fire going on our area. Have to clear and secure area before B Co. can come in. Objective area is too big to clear. Have to sweep part where sniper fire is coming from.

0850: Delayed entry to Bde: Have killed 1 NVA sniper

0918: 2nd Lift B Co. Complete

0930: 3rd Lift B Co. on ground now.

0935: 4th Lift B Co. complete

0940: Fr 3: C Co. has 3 WIA; need Medevac, 2 in the leg, 1 in the neck. Fr DOW R O.1 U 1.7 Medevac requested, aircraft 928 evacuate in 5 min.

1010: Medevac w/one litter patient complete from C Co.

1049: Fr TAC CP: Have 2 WIA, that should be evacuated, 3 more that have got to secure LZ

1115: Still working w/C ready to clear up objective 7 in 30, will move to 8 with B and A Co.

1117: 3 WIA have been evaced – 3 are remaining, 1 cannot get to yet, so far 6 from C Co. 1 from recon. (Medic)

1145: Fr Rcn: Have killed 1 NVA sniper, am getting 4 KIA's from C Co out now.

1150: Co has almost completed clearing 7 to the North, cleared 1 man north of it at the woods. Fr BDE use M79. D 1/7 Cav is pulling down from the North.

1155: Fr Recon: Have picked up 4 KIA's from C Co. Recon has 3 WIA (1 Medic) C Co. has 4 KIA and 6 WIA, C Co. going to sweep the remainder of the northern part of our AO.

1215: Fr Bn CO: for today, C Co. has 4 KIA, 6 WIA, Recon has 3 WIA. C Co. has 7 NVA, B, A Recon has 1 POW

1220: B Co. receiving SA from our left, has some indirect splashes 200-300 to right.

1225: A Co. receiving mortar fire on left flank, about 50 meters 60 or 81 meters

1225: To Bde: Last Medevac complete 1145

1225: To Bde S2: Have 3 more wpsns to report 2 – M2 carbines, RPG Rd 3, AK-47 rounds 16, 136 – 5.56, 46 rounds of .30 Cal, 1 Chinese stick grenade.

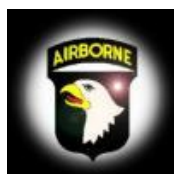
1307: Fr B Co to S3: Don't get area until in contact; see a lot of people off my left running east.

1345: S3 got contact with FAC, ceiling good enough for strike

1346: A & B moving on line to move to RJ8. Recon is in position to secure South flank.



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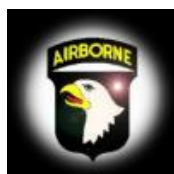


1400: Bunkers being destroyed by engineers in vic. of OBJ 7
 1403: A Co. starting to receive fire
 1405: B Co. in contact with sniper and small arms
 1430: A Co. has 1 KIA and 3 WIA
 1433: B Co. receiving M-60 from left flank
 1445: Medevac requested for B Co.
 1450: B Co. has 1 WIA, need Medevac now.
 1509: B & A Co. will try to start moving. A center plot reached woods where enemy loc.
 1510: Medevac complete
 1520: Fr A Co: If Recon will engage bunker on my right, I can get another element in there.
 1530: A Co. about 75 meters in the wood have left center (declassified portion) in the woods right flank still cannot get in and going to try to get in the woods and in that location.
 1535: Firing broke out heavy again, B Co. in the woods
 1535: Fr Co to C Co: Go in OBJ 8, and A & B, go around A Co's right flank.
 1546: Fr Co: Need log bird to pick up POW, same equipment for captured equipment, KIA not ready for pick up.
 1547: B Co: 30 Body Count at this time.
 1550: A Co. moving up on the right getting RPG's but are driving on into OBJ 8
 1550: Fr B Co: Need Medevac for 3 personnel
 1557: FR A to B Co: Civilian say VC are heading toward B Co.
 1600: A Co. here VC crawling out of the grass behind them. Recon Platoon is going to move against them.
 1615: A Co. receiving fire from his rear, in the high ground, will fire M79 and try to flush them out.
 1630: Recon securing ground site: A Co. receiving fire, recon getting fire between OBJ 7 and present location. A Co. getting lots of fire from field, fire coming from open field from the north.
 1655: D Co, CP, 81mm Plat displacing to vic. only 8 now.
 1712: B Co. has 5 WIA to be evaced
 2020: Casualties today: A Co. 3 KIA, 2 WIA; B Co. 14 WIA (2 not evacuated) total 16; C Co. 4 Kia, 6 WIA; Recon 3 WIA 2 not evaced total of 5. Body count B-16, C-7, Rcn-1; POW's C-1, Recon 2; Wpns Captured today: 3 AK47, 1 LMG, 200 rounds of AK47, 136 rounds of 5.56, 11 blocks of TNT, 400 rounds of 7.62, 1 AP Mine, one Chicom stick mine.

22 February 1968 1-502 IN Battalion continued search and destroy operations and security QL #1 southeast of Quang Tri. Operations by Alfa resulted in 2 KIA by grenade attacks during security of LZ Jane. Bravo while sweeping, made heavy contact with Charlie getting ambushed while moving to Bravo's aid. Delta was also in heavy contact during the day. Results: 5 KIA, 32 WIA and 12 NVA KIA (BC), Estimated NVA battalion area.

22 – 23 February 1971 **Operation Jefferson Glen:** All STRIKE Force units were moved to FB Birmingham to stage for an upcoming operation to the South of FB Normandy. STRIKE Force personnel were resupplied with food and ammunition, had their equipment checked, replaced and/or repaired. This period also enabled the troops to rest, get hot food, and entertainment with a floor show provided on the Re-arm Pad. The troops also made frequent use of the Hue Trach River to bathe and clean-up.

23 February 1945 After two months of combat time, the 502nd is taken off the line and sent back to Mourmelon, France.



- 23 February 1968 1-502 IN BN search and destroy operations continued with security QL #1. Scattered light contact made with 2 WIA by BBT.
- 23 February 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** At 1530, A/2-502 Vic AT910914 engaged 2 VC on trail, results: VC fled north, 1 US WHA.
- 24 February 1942 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment is constituted.
- 24 February 1968 1-502 IN Battalion search and destroy operations continued with security of QL #1. Scattered light contact made with 1 WIA by BBT.
- 24 - 28 February 1971 **Operation Jefferson Glen:** A/2-502 IN combat assaulted into the new Area of Operations. As Bravo Company was preparing to combat assault, the Battalion Commander was notified to cancel the existing operation and prepare to move to Quang Tri Province to come under the operational control of the Third Brigade. The mission was to support Lam Son 719. Alpha Company was brought back to FB Birmingham and with much haste; preparations were made to move north. Coordination at all levels had to be effected and preparations immediately made to move the battalion north. With thorough planning and massive effort, all obstacles were overcome, and on the morning of the 25th, STRIKE Force, relocated to CP at Mai Loc and moved and moved the companies into the AO ten miles to the southwest of Quang Tri.
- At Mai Loc the remaining days of February were spent “digging in” and fortifying the compounds. Troops shelters were built, mess buildings and latrines were erected, and a command post for the bunker line was established. A comprehensive logistic system was set up using three widely separated resupply points. Thus, continuous comfort service support was provided for all field elements throughout the vast area of operations.
- February 28th, ended Operation JEFFERSON GLEN for the STRIKE Force troopers as the last week of February ushered in Operation LAM SON 719.
- 24 – 25 February 1971 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry was air lifted to Dong Ha Combat Base and received a warning order to move on 25 February to A-1, B-1, and A-2. The move was completed and operations were resumed in that area. During the reporting period a light mortar platoon was organized in Bravo and Charlie Companies. These elements consisted of one 81mm mortar tube and fifteen to twenty men. The platoon remained in the Co's area of operation and conducted daily patrols. Its purpose was to provide the Company Commander with fire support under his direct control.
- 24 February 1991 The 502nd crosses into Iraq to begin the ground phase of Operation DESERT STORM. The regiment and the 101st would go as far north as the Euphrates River during the campaign. The following day Strike Brigade participates in the largest helicopter air assault in military history to establish FOB Cobra. After 100 hours, the ground phase of Operation DESERT STORM is over.



24 February 2008

OPN Dili – 1/B/2-502 IN and 3/B/2-502 IN with the IA conduct OPN Dili, a cache sweep that nets 4 caches consisting of over 800 lbs. of HME, 11 RPGs, various mortar rounds, and a significant amount of AT-Mines. A large amount of Counterfeit ID-making materials are found in a marketplace known to be used as an AQI safe haven. The operation significantly disrupts AQI's supply of IED munitions in the area.



25 February 1968

1-502 IN Battalion provided security of QL #1 and bridge (460400) in preparation for 26 February operations.

25 February 1968

Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON: At 0840, B/2-502 vic. AT912944 found 5 claymore type mines all destroyed in place.

25 February 1969

C and D Cos. of 2/502 combat assaulted into LZ Red. In four contacts, 3/187 killed two enemy and captured two weapons southwest of FB Brick. The 2nd Brigade initiated a combined cordon southeast of Sandy, with elements of 1/501, 1/502, C/2/34 Armor, ARVN troops, RFs, PFs and National Police. Elsewhere, B/2/501 engaged three NVA, killing one and capturing two AK-47s, one carbine, a 60mm mortar tube and 10 mortar rounds.

25 February 1991

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 enemies 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.

26 February 1968

1-502 IN Battalion cleared and secured assigned section of QL #1 and conducted combat assaults with 3 companies. During the period, light combat was experienced and Alfa NDP was probed by sappers. Results: 7 NVA KIA (BC) and 2 WIA, 2 KIA.

26 February 1968

Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON: At 1205, C/2-502 detonated a trip wired grenade at coordinate AT904953 with a result of 3 US WHA. At 1630, Recondo elements vic. AT929904 found one fresh grave, exhumed results 1 VC KIA.

26 February 1969

B/1/502 captured two tons of paddy rice in the combined cordon near Sandy. A combined cordon was established along the west bank of the Song Bo south of the An Lo Bridge by 3rd Brigade and ARVN elements.

26 February –
April 1971

Operation LAM SON 719: During the next six week the STRIKE Force Battalion conducted operations against enemy forces in Quang Tri Province. On 26 February 1971 the STRIKE Force Battalion combat assaulted into AO Green, located east of the city of Quang Tri. Initially, the Battalion conducted reconnaissance in force (RIF) operations over the entire area of operations. These RIF operations were used to provide an assessment of the area and gain intelligence. There is no doubt that the combined operations of the 2d Battalion,



502d Infantry and RF/PF forces of Quang Tri Province, coupled with aggressive artillery fire planning, pushed the enemy south across the Quang Tri River.

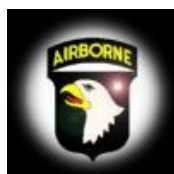
While Bravo and Charlie Companies were conducting aggressive reconnaissance in the jungle canopy, the Reconnaissance Platoon located elements of an NVA Rocket Artillery Battalion in the Quang Tri Rocket Belt. Bravo Company was immediately lifted into the Rocket Belt and established Ruby II as an outpost while Charlie Company worked along the Quang Tri River in small reconnaissance boats. Additional intelligence indicated a need for additional forces. Therefore, the STRIKE Force was deployed into the Rocket Belt. "As a result of the Rocket Belt operations, no major enemy attack ever developed against Quang Tri City, during Operations Lam Son 719" (Quote: MG Tarpley, CG, 101st Abn Div, 13 April 1971.)

In the meantime, the Artillery "Tiger Plan" caused a member of the local sapper force company to Chieu Hoi. Information from the Chieu Hoi revealed that the Headquarters of an enemy sapper unit was located between the Quang Tri River and the Da Krong River. Their mission was to provide intelligence on U.S./ARVN units that could be utilized by their special combat elements. The battalion jumped on this lead and got an extension of the already large AO and kicked off Operation Bald Eagle. (The STRIKE Force Battalion's AO now covered 605 square miles.)

Alpha and Delta companies were inserted into AO Bald Eagle. Alpha Company's first two aircraft into the LZ received fire but the fire was quickly suppressed by the escort gunships. On the third day of the operation, Delta Company initiated contact with an NVA unit. Alpha Company was brought up to block the enemy's withdrawal and reinforce the action, while artillery, ARA, and flame were poured into the contact point. Again, the next day Delta Company engaged the enemy in a bunker complex. After close in fighting with LAW's and hand grenades, one NVA Soldier surrendered. Meanwhile, Alpha Company discovered valuable documents in another area of the enemy base camp. The POW and captured documents provided extensive intelligence on the enemy unit, its AO, strength, weakness, and propaganda mission. (The NVA POW had been in South Vietnam on 17 days.) Based on the POW's information an extensive artillery fire plan was initiated against the confirmed targets. Following three days of artillery fire a combined US/ARVN reconnaissance intelligence raid was launched to wrap up the operation.

During the last week of March the battalion learned through reliable intelligence sources, that an NVA unit was moving into Cam Lo District. Again, STRIKE Force extended the AO and conducted another combined US/ARVN operation north and west of Cam Lo. Charlie Company assaulted and swept east while two RF companies came under intense B-40 rocket and automatic small arms fire. As Charlie Company accelerated their movement to the contact point, artillery, ARA, and air strikes using napalm were directed on the enemy. Charlie Company got into the action and routed the enemy using small unit fire and maneuver. (One NVA was carrying a letter which was post marked in Vinh Linh, four days before the day he was killed. Vinh Linh is 35 miles, as a crow flies, across the DMZ in North Vietnam.) Information from a POW captured by Charlie Company caused the battalion to stay overnight in the area and pursue the operation further. The next day Charlie Company located the NVA Regiment's base of operations which included heavily fortified bunkers, watch towers, weapons, and ammunition and supply caches. This operation proved to be of immediate importance to the Cam Lo District forces.

During early April the Battalion received indications of an enemy build up and extensive movement in the area north and east of Firebase Ann. In reaction to this; Alpha Company, three reconnaissance teams, and a sniper team were



inserted into the area. The workings of these units provided much intelligence on the enemy movements in the area. After a reconnaissance team had made contact and developed the situation it was learned that one of the enemy KIA was a company commander of an enemy operating in Trieu Phong District, Quang Tri Province. Many documents were gathered and reported. Notification was made to the Quang Tri Province Advisers and the results of this intelligence had far reaching effects on the VC/NVA units in the area.

It must be recognized that the ARVN bore the heavy fighting across the border in Laos. Certainly, the hard battles of the ARVN Rangers, the ARVN Airborne Division, and the 1st ARVN Division supported by air from the 101st Airborne Division, contributed in a major way to the success of Lam Son 719. Lam Son has added to their confidence and experience and materially aided Vietnamization.

Nevertheless, it was STRIKE Force Soldiers who accomplished the 2-502 IN mission. Valuable intelligence could not have been gathered without the detailed, patient and careful scouring of the jungle by the Infantrymen of the 2-502 IN.

Lam Son 719 rapidly drew to an end in early April as Mai Loc was used as a redeployment point. Thousands of pieces of equipment and men were moved into the area as operations in the west were closed out. The BN CO became the Regional Commander and had the awesome task of tactically situating and protecting all these men and material. The airstrip at Mai Loc obtained the appearance of a major supply depot, for at times there were a hundred of more aircraft of all types in the area.

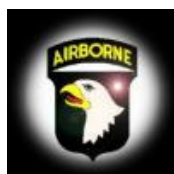
However, to insure noteworthy completion of our part of Lam Son 719, RCN Team 2 detonated two claymore mines when they detected movement outside their perimeter. This command detonated ambush netted 3 NVA KIA, 1 AK-47, 1- 9mm parabellum pistol, numerous documents, and a couple of days at Eagle Beach for Team 2. A Company not to be outclassed, discovered a cache site on April 7th, that contained 30 individual weapons, (SKS, Mausers, and rifles) and 4 crew served weapons (BAR's).

The following day the battalion started its move back to Camp Eagle for stand down. On April 9th the entire battalion was relocated at Camp Eagle for a nine day refresher stand-down. Stand-down time proved to be great booster of morale for the "men in the bush". The battalion had gone 100 days without a stand-down and the relaxation was sorely needed as well as much deserved.

Emphasis in training was put on tactics and skills that would be used in the upcoming operation. High speed extraction techniques, field SOP, Medevac, Comsec, employment of ARA, Arty, and Air Strikes, and safety classes were presented to the men in the battalion. Still there was time allotted for athletics, Commanders time, administrative time, and general free time. Entertainment was readily available as movies were shown every night and some of Vietnam's best floor shows were presented to the battalion.

During the stand-down the battalion was honored by a visit from the Division Commander, Major General Tarpley. At a ceremony on the STRIKE Force Parade Grounds, the 2d BN, 502d IN, "STRIKE FORCE", received the Presidential Unit Citation for actions in an operation during August 1970 in the vicinity of "Comeback Ridge" and FB Barnett.

On April 17 the Battalion returned to the field. This time the TOC located at FB Jack. Most of the remaining time in April was spent getting ready for Operation



Lam Son 720, and the returned into the "Big Valley". (2d Battalion, 502d Infantry; Unit History, Approved by LTC John C. Snodgrass, IN, Commanding)

26 February 2010

STRIKE Brigade's ADVON begins movement to JRTC at Fort Polk, La.

27 February 1966

Long range recon team of 1st Brigade, 101st Abn Div, prepare for "Operation Harrison" near Tuy Hoa, RVN. The troops will be moved by helicopter into Viet Cong territory to gather vital information needed for the success of the operation. Troops of the 2nd Bn, 502nd INF, 101st Abn Div, were moved by helicopter to an area near Tuy Hoa, RVN, during Operation "Harrison", a search and destroy mission. Here, UH-1D helicopters prepare to land to move troops to operation area.



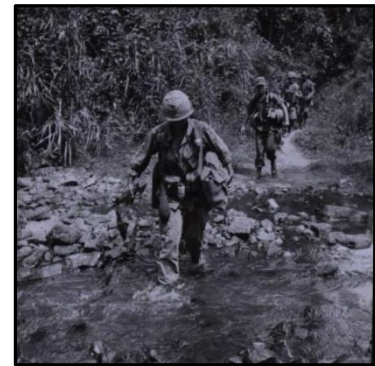
27 February 1966

Long range recon team of 1st Brigade, 101st Abn Div., prepare for "Operation Harrison" near Tuy Hoa, RVN. The troops will be moved by helicopter into Viet Cong territory to gather vital information needed for the success of the operation. UH-1D helicopters loaded with personnel of 2nd Bn., 502nd INF, 101st Abn Div., fly over small Vietnamese village on way to combat area during "Operation Harrison" near Tuy Hua.



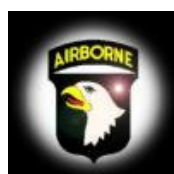
27 February 1966

Long range recon team of 1st Brigade, 101st Abn Div., prepare for "Operation Harrison" near Tuy Hoa, RVN. The troops will be moved by helicopter into Viet Cong territory to gather vital information needed for the success of the operation. Personnel of "C" Co., 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf., 101st Abn Div., cross a small stream searching for the Viet Cong near Tuy Hoa, RVN, during "Operation Harrison".



27 February 1966

Long range recon team of 1st Brigade, 101st Abn Div., prepare for "Operation Harrison" near Tuy Hoa, RVN. The troops will be moved by helicopters into Viet Cong territory to gather vital information needed for the success of the operation. Personnel of "C" Co., 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf., 101st Abn Div., move through rough terrain searching for the Viet Cong near Tuy Hoa, RVN during "Operation Harrison".



27 February 1966

Long range recon team of 1st Brigade, 101st Abn Div., prepare for "Operation Harrison" near Tuy Hoa, RVN. The troops will be moved by helicopter into Viet Cong territory to gather vital information needed for the success of the operation. Troops of "C" Co., 502nd Inf., 101st Abn Div., move downhill side near Tuy Hoa, RVN, during Operation "Harrison", searching for the Viet Cong.



27 February 1966

Long range recon team of 1st Brigade, 101st Abn Div., prepare for "Operation Harrison" near Tuy Hoa, RVN. The troops will be moved by helicopter into Viet Cong territory to gather vital information needed for the success of the operation. (L-R) Pfc William Riddick (Norfolk, Virginia) and Pfc Charles Gipson (Brewster, Alabama) of 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf., at observation post at Bn CP during "Operation Harrison", a search and destroy mission against the Viet Cong.



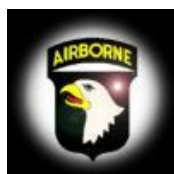
27 February 1966

Long range recon team of 1st Brigade, 101st Abn Div., prepare for "Operation Harrison" near Tuy Hoa, RVN. The troops will be moved by helicopter into Viet Cong territory to gather vital information needed for the success of the operation. Pfc Leo Beaulieu (Augusta, Maine), 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf., 101st Abn Div., moves equipment from pack after arrival into operation area near Tuy Hoa, R VN, during "Operation Harrison", a search and destroy mission against the Viet Cong.



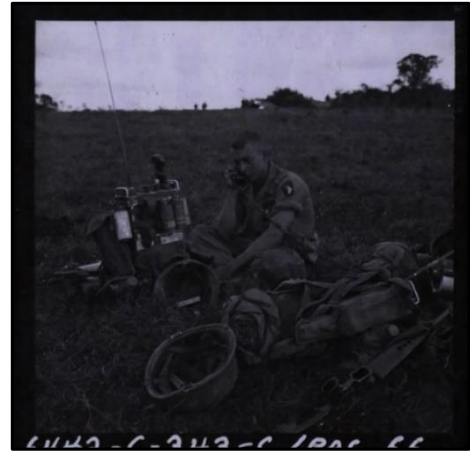
27 February 1966

Long range recon team of 1st Brigade, 101st Abn Div., prepare for "Operation Harrison" near Tuy Hoa, RVN. The troops will be moved by helicopter into Viet Cong territory to gather vital information needed for the success of the operation. SP4 Clarence Baker (New Hope, Alabama), "C" Co., 502nd Inf., 101st Abn Div., gives captured Viet Cong suspect a drink of water from his canteen. The Viet Cong was captured near Tuy Hoa, RVN, during "Operation Harrison".



27 February 1966

Long range recon team of 1st Brigade, 101st Abn Div., prepare for "Operation Harrison" near Tuy Hoa, RVN. The troops will be moved by helicopter into Viet Cong territory to gather vital information needed for the success of the operation. During "Operation Harrison" near Tuy Hoa, RVN, a radio operator from 2nd Bn., 502nd Inf., 101st Abn Div., checks with other companies in the search and destroy mission against the Viet Cong.



27 February 1967

Pfc Salvatore Ambrico (Brooklyn, New York), a member of the Long Range Reconnaissance Team, Co "C", 502nd INF Bn, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, fills a canteen from a stream during "Operation Harrison", a search and destroy mission against the Viet Cong in the Tuy Hue area.



27 February 1966

Long range recon team of 1st Brigade, 101st Abn Div, prepare for "Operation Harrison" near Tuy Hoa, RVN. The troops will be moved by helicopter into Viet Cong territory to gather vital information needed for the success of the operation. 1st Sgt Theofilo Macias (Clarksville, Tennessee), 2nd Bn, 502nd Inf, 101st Abn Div, with pony used by the battalion as an ammunition bearer during "Operation Harrison" near Tuy Hoa, RVN. The pony had been captured from the Viet Cong.



27 February 1968

1-502 IN Battalion continued search and destroy operations southeast of Quang Tri and cleared and secured QL #1. Two combat assaults resulted in heavy contact by Bravo and light contact by Charlie. Results: Friendly 12 WIA; 2 NVA KIA (BC)

27 February 1968

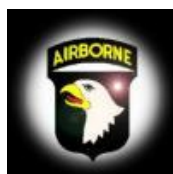
Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON: At 1240H, C/2-502 reported friendly convoy had a truck hit a pressure mine, results: 2 US WHA, 1 2 ½ ton truck damaged.

28 February 1968

1-502 IN moved to FSB Nora, 14 km northwest of Hue. The Battalion began operations in new AO and Charlie occupied positions for preparation for LZ Sally.

28 February 1969

The month drew to a close with an important day in 101st Airborne history: Operation Nevada Eagle terminated at midnight. On the last day of Nevada Eagle, four enemy were killed and one crew-served weapon was captured. 2/502 and 3/187 continued to probe deeper into enemy base areas. In rocket belt RIF operations, D/1/502 captured a complete 60mm mortar. Also terminating with



Nevada Eagle was the 3rd Brigade's operation as elements of 1/506 discovered four enemy dead. In the 36-day operation, Screaming Eagles accounted for 40 enemy killed, one prisoner and 46 individual and 10 crew-served weapons captured.

28 February 1970 Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Platoon departed FB Normandy for an in-country 3 day R&R at Eagle Beach which was actually only a day and a half due to a call to return to FB Normandy for a combat assault and stand by as ready reserved/rapid reaction force.

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.

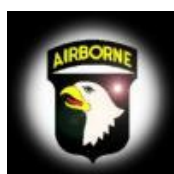
10 x Silver Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
 8 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
 3 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
 1 x Army Commendation Medal
 62 x Purple Heart Medal (29 x Posthumously)
 1 x Died of Non-Hostile wounds or injury

22 February 1968 The following Soldiers: PFC Walter Easley, and PFC Walter L. Johnson (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and four wound received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230)

22 February 1968 The following Soldiers: SP4 John R. McCleaf Jr., SP4 Tommy Guzman Jr., and SP4 Brian M. Eckert (HHC/2-501 IN); 2LT John R. Rodelli, SP4 Charles S. Quash, SP4 Chanucey M. Fisher, and PFC Stanley G. Williams (A/2-501 IN); SFC Guillermo E. Lanzo, SGT Keith A. Guthrie, SGT James A. Clark, SP4 Ronald L. Massey, SP4 Francis E. Templeton, SP4 David E. Nelson, SP4 Rodney L. Carlson, SP4 Edward M. Titus, PFC Howard E. Farmer, and PVT Bryon R. Walter (B/2-501 IN); SSG John Pool (C/2-501 IN); PFC Jimmy Urbiztondo-Montano (E/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and four wound received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230)

22 February 1968 The following Soldiers: SSG Vernon L. Campbell, PFC Charles R. Hedricks (B/1-502 IN); 2LT Edward D. Chandler and SP4 Eddie J. Prater (C/1-502 IN); SGT Jeffrey R. Lighton, SP4 Jack R. Taylor Jr., and SP4 Samuel L. Learn (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and four wound received during action in combat. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 230)

22 February 1968 The following Soldiers: PFC Jerry W. Smith (A/2-501 IN), SP4 Samuel L. Anderton (B/2-501 IN), PFC James A. Koch (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



22 February 1968



SP4 Charles W. Cline (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

22 February 1968

The following Soldiers: SP4 Michael S. Collins (Pictured) (HHC/2-501 IN); SGT Jon A. Julia (A/2-501 IN); SGT Fred Reaves Jr., PFC Cornelius Pressley (Pictured) (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation in support of USMC retaking Hue City, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



22 February 1968

The following Soldiers: SP4 Edward Zamora (C/1-502 IN); SGT Roland P. Levesque (D/1-502 IN) earned 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.



22 February 1968

SP4 James S. Combs (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

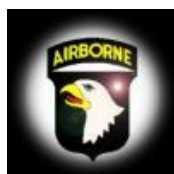
22 February 1968



PFC Joe M. Neill (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

22 February 1968

PFC Herman McGee (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.



22 February 1968



SGT Richard E. Toney (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam on 31 August 1970.

22 February 1969



SP4 Dale C. Fisher (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from misadventure (friendly fire) wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

22 February 1970



SP4 Jerry K. Brighter (D/1-501 IN) earned 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.

23 February 1968



PVT David R. Lehr (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

24 February 1968



CPL Alfred S. Najar Jr. (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, or mortar wounds in the Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam.

24 February 2008



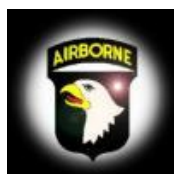
SPC Micheal Phillips (1-502 IN), 19, of Ardmore, Okla.; earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when his vehicle encountered and improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq.

24 February 2008

1LT Eric Giannaris (2/B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when 2/B/1-502 IN was escorting an engineer convoy to JSS Hurriya. 1LT Giannaris' vehicle was struck by a two array explosively formed projectile, roughly 5 meters away from the vehicle. He was diagnosed with a head concussion, perforated ear drum, and smoke inhalation.

24 February 2008

2LT John D. Waltrin (B/1-502 IN) for his heroic actions during combat operations he receives the Army Commendation with Valor.



24 February 2008 SPC Joseph C. Strong (HHC/1-502 IN) SPC "Doc" Strong performed medical aid and shielded a casualty without regard for his own safety. For his heroic actions during combat operations he received the Army Commendation with Valor.

24 February 2011 PFC Rigoberto Soto (C/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire.

25 February 1967 PFC William J. Franks (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Lam Dong Province, South Vietnam.

25 February 1969



The following Soldiers: 1LT Phil D. Johnson and SP4 Truman J. Walsh (Pictured) (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

25 February 2006

CPT Markello Dotson (HHC/2BCT) actions in combat earn him the Purple Heart. CPT Dotson was conducting daily operations in the 2nd Brigade MiTT TOC when an 82mm mortar round impacted inside the TOC. He received minor shrapnel wounds to the face and neck during the incident. Immediately after the round impacted inside the TOC and through smoke and dust, CPT Dotson began to low crawl toward SSG Yocom-Delgado to get accountability and check for injuries.

SSG Katherine Yocom-Delgado was also wounded in action while on duty as the MiTT TOC NCOIC. She was manning the radios when the 82mm mortar round impacted inside the MiTT TOC within ten meters from her position. The impact from the mortar round threw SSG Yocom-Delgado against a table which she hit her head on then fell to the floor. SSG Yocom-Delgado then got back up, called in the mortar strike to Talon Mike and requested medical support. With a consistently calm composure, she recalled MiTT elements and maintained communications with Talon. When CPT Dotson made it to SSG Yocom-Delgado, she realized he was injured so she began treating his injuries. Through limited visibility she could not find any First Aid dressing, so she ripped her undershirt apart and used it to apply digital pressure to CPT Dotson's injuries. SSG Yocom-Delgado received the Army Commendation award for her actions.



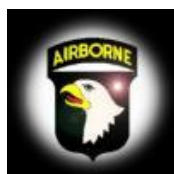
26 February 1968



PFC Dennis J. Kromrey (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

26 February 1970

SGT David S. Reid (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



26 February 2011

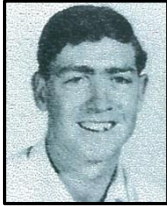
SGT Daniel Bartlett (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with grenades.

27 February 1968



PFC Jimmy M. Trollinger (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

27 February 1970



PFC Freddie C. Defoor (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

27 February 1970

The following Soldiers: MAJ Wood R. De Levil (1-OLC) (HHC/1-502 IN); CPT Alvin Hennigan and PFC William G. Cox (B/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.

27 February 1971



CPL Zbigniew J. Dalenta (C/1-502 IN) earned 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.

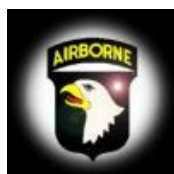
28 February 1970

SP4 Larry E. Dailey (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

28 February 1978



SP4 Earl E. McCarty (B/1-501 IN) died while on a military mission when an artillery round fired by a friendly force impacted the area, in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

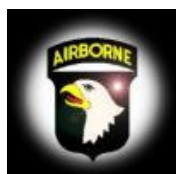
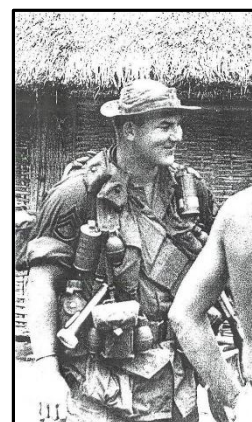
22 February 1968

CPT David W. Reiss (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 February 1968. Captain Reiss distinguished himself while commanding Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry during an assault on a heavily fortified enemy position three kilometers west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The enemy position consisted of well-fortified bunker complex, linked by an intricate trench system, and manned by an estimated North Vietnamese Company. The approach routes to the position, which skirted a small village, were very poor and as a result the attack had to be made over a route which afforded very little cover. The assault began in conjunction with Bravo Company, Company A on Bravo's right, and from the outset Captain Reiss positioned himself in an open rice paddy in order to better control his own company and from where he could better observe the enemy. He gave no indication that he was even aware of, much less concerned about, the intense enemy fire streaming into the paddy in the form of machine gun, automatic rifle, and small arms fire as well as rocket propelled grenades which continually slammed into the area. The volume of fire steadily increased and the rockets became incessant rather than frequent. Still Captain Reiss' only concern was directing his company and destroying the enemy as he himself remained dangerously exposed all the while. At one point a platoon was pinned down by murderous fire, so that is where Captain Reiss went, ignoring the extreme danger as he shifted men and weapons bringing devastating firepower of his own on the enemy, and all the while inspiring his men by courageous presence in the bullet-swept zone. This inspiration was the spark necessary to build up the momentum of the platoon and the entire attack as it got rolling and swept over the enemy positions, thus enabling the company to complete its mission. The final assault which carried the enemy position may well not have been possible were it not for Captain Reiss' forceful and inspiring leadership. Captain Reiss' gallantry in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



22 February 1968

SSG Charles J. Maguire (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 February 1968. Staff Sergeant Maguire distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader with the first platoon of Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry, during a combat operation approximately four kilometers northwest of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Maguire's squad came under heavy enemy fire while moving with the company. At that time he skillfully maneuvered his squad to a more advantageous position from which he was able to pour a devastating amount of fire into enemy lines. IN the meantime, a number of his men had been wounded, and Staff Sergeant Maguire, with utter disregard for his own personal safety, exposed himself to the still intense enemy fire in order to help evacuate these men. Again and again he returned under heavy fire to bring back the wounded and, despite



the severity of the enemy fusillade, he returned to his lines only after all the wounded had been cared for and brought out of the line of fire. Upon returning to his men, Staff Sergeant Maguire's squad was completely suppressed. His unreserved courage and unsurpassed skill were an inspiration and lasting example to his men. Staff Sergeant Maguire's exceptional valor is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

22 February 1968



2LT John R. Rodelli (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 February 1968. Second Lieutenant Rodelli distinguished himself by heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force while serving as a platoon leader while Company A, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry was on a combat operation near Hue, Republic of Vietnam. The company had come under heavy fire from a series of fortified positions held by an estimated enemy company. Second Lieutenant Rodelli, realizing the importance of knocking out the fortified enemy positions to free the company's progress, led the lead elements of his platoon against the enemy's positions disregarding his own safety. Even though sustaining heavy automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire, Second Lieutenant Rodelli fearlessly led his men across an open field. Under his masterful direction of fire, and great personal courage, Second Lieutenant Rodelli's Platoon overran the tough enemy position. This courageous act enabled the rest of the company to move forward unhindered and free to accomplish their mission. Second Lieutenant Rodelli's unhesitating courage and dedication to his unit's mission were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

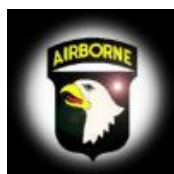
22 February 1968



CPT Jackie Justice (HHC/1-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism while participating in aerial flight in the Republic of Vietnam on 22 February 1968. Captain Justice distinguished himself while serving as Battalion S-3 Officer of the 1st Battalion (Airborne) 502d Infantry in the Command and Control ship in support of a combat operation near Quan Tri, Republic of Vietnam. Company B and Company C of the Battalion had intensive contact with the enemy. Company C had two wounded men in front of enemy bunkers situated in a rice paddy, and could not be reached by friendly forces because of the intensive fire from the enemy. The Battalion Commander ordered the Command and Control ship to make low, slow passes directly in front of the Viet Cong bunkers. Although the aircraft received numerous hits from the insurgent positions, it continued making passes at the bunkers. Captain Justice's placing fire on the bunkers with his M16 rifle from the aircraft, contributed immeasurably to the extraction of the wounded Company C men. Captain Justice'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.

22 February 1968

PFC Albania Small (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in the Republic of Vietnam, on 22 February 1968. His actions, without regard for his own safety, reflect great credit on himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. (DA, HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 73; 23 December 1987)



23 February 1968

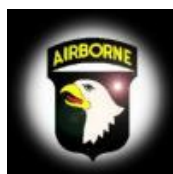


2LT Robert H. Adams JR. (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 23 February 1968. First Lieutenant Adams distinguished himself while serving as platoon leader with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry. Company A was providing the rear security for a battalion size assault on a North Vietnamese Regimental base camp north of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. As the battle grew in intensity, the attacking force began receiving heavy rocket propelled grenade and sixty millimeter mortar fire from the right flank. Company A was instructed to move to the area and silence the enemy resistance. As Lieutenant Adams moved his platoon toward a hedgerow, the platoon came under heavy rocket propelled grenade and machine gun fire from the concealed enemy force. Knowing that to delay might be disastrous; he led his platoon in a headlong dash to the hedgerow. Apparently noting the Lieutenant Adams was the rallying force in the unit, the enemy concentrated a furious burst of fire on him, destroying his rifle in his hands. He stopped momentarily, picked up the grenade launcher of a wounded man, and again resumed his assault on the enemy. With his men following him, the enemy positions were overrun and the platoon, more slowly now, pursued the fleeing enemy. After an hour of continuous fighting, Lieutenant Adams had succeeded in reaching his objective and the company began to set up a defensive perimeter. Very soon though, sniper fire began to erupt from within the perimeter and Lieutenant Adams, with several other, attempted to locate the snipers. He soon discovered that there were three North Vietnamese in a small area. Concealing his movement with smoke grenades, Lieutenant Adams crept forward in a low crouch and as the smoke cleared, found himself almost face to face with the surprised enemy. He quickly shot all three of the enemy soldiers and finally was able to declare the area secured. Second Lieutenant Adams' 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.

23 February 1968



CPT Dennis J. Gillem (C/2-501 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 23 February 1968. Captain Gillem distinguished himself while serving as Company Commander of Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, on combat operations near the village of Chua Thieu Mu, Republic of Vietnam. The company, led by the third platoon as point element, was engaged in a large sweep designed to drive the insurgents from their fortified positions. As they moved out the third platoon came under intense enemy fire. Captain Gillem immediately moved forward from his rear position to the forward most element of the platoon to assess the situation. After making his assessment, Captain Gillem again moved across the bullet swept fields to the second platoon to personally direct its movements. Despite the heavy fire and with complete disregard for his own welfare, Captain Gillem moved with the forward element of the platoon in order to effectively control the flanking attack on the enemy. Through informants captured during the sweep it was determined that an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese lie in and wait to ambush the company. Because of the overwhelming numerical superiority and the close proximity to the enemy, Captain Gillem chose to withdraw in order to call in effective artillery fire. Captain Gillem personally directed all elements of the company in an orderly withdrawal and in spite of the intense enemy fire, remained in place until his assurance that all elements of his command had withdrawn. Captain Gillem's courageous actions during the engagement, without regard for his own safety, enabled the company to drive the enemy from the fortified positions. His leadership and personal direction were an inspiration to his men and rallied confidence in their abilities. Captain Gillem's exceptionally gallant actions reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



25 February 1967

1LT David M. Belding (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 25 February 1967 near Song Mao, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Belding's platoon was air-lifted into an area where a blocking action was to be set up. After landing, the platoon left the landing zone and moved down a jungle trail. Approximately eleven hundred meters away from the landing zone, the point man encountered three hostile soldiers. Both elements began firing at the same time. Lieutenant Belding quickly deployed the platoon and started maneuvering them toward the enemy force when the right flank erupted into a hail of hostile fire. Before he could affect a reorganization of his platoon, to cope with the fire from the right flank, the left flank also came under heavy fire. Receiving fire from three sides, Lieutenant Belding began to move the platoon to the rear so that the men could replenish their ammunition, which was stored back at the landing zone with the rest of the equipment. A small element of insurgents had maneuvered behind them, leaving the friendly platoon completely surrounded and cut off from their source of supply. With total disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Belding rushed through the intensive hail of fire and began directing the fire of his men. After identifying the targets, Lieutenant Belding called in artillery and exposed himself to the hostile fire. After calling in air strikes he moved through the area, under fire, giving aid to the wounded and comforting them as best he could. The air strikes coupled with the renewed efforts of the platoon, resulted in the retreat of the enemy forces. Lieutenant Belding then directed the preparation of a landing zone for the evacuation of the wounded personnel. Lieutenant Belding's heroic actions while engaged in close combat with a numerically superior hostile force 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.

25 February 1967

SP5 Dolfey Jenkins (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 25 February 1967 near Song Mao, Republic of Vietnam. As Specialist Five Jenkins' company moved along a jungle trail, they were suddenly engaged by an estimated reinforced enemy platoon. As the battle progressed, elements of the enemy succeeded in maneuvering and encircling the friendly platoon. As the intensity of the enemy fire increased, the majority of the platoon became pinned down and several casualties were sustained. When Specialist Jenkins heard his comrades shouting for a medic, he immediately, and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, charged through the withering enemy fire to the location of a wounded man. On two different occasions Specialist Jenkins braved the intense fire as he crawled approximately twenty meters in front of his perimeter and pulled wounded men to a safe area and gave them medical aid. On the second trip, Specialist Jenkins was forced to drop his medical bag, but immediately upon reaching a covered position, he again returned through the withering fire and retrieved his medical supplies. For more than two hours, Specialist Jenkins moved through the battlefield, treating the wounded and constantly exposing himself to the enemy fire. Specialist Five Jenkins' outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

25 February 1967

PFC Donald H. Moon (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for action in combat. Private First Class Moon's platoon was conducting a search and destroy mission when it suddenly became engaged in a fire fight with an estimated platoon-size enemy element. The platoon was receiving a tremendous volume of enemy fire from three sides. When a friendly machine gun position was threatened to be overrun, because an enemy grenade had wounded the gunner and assistant gunner, Private Moon, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, charged across fifty meters of open terrain through the withering enemy fire to the aid of his wounded comrades. As enemy soldiers continued to advance on the friendly machine gun position, Private Moon stood fully exposed



to the enemy fire and placed effective fire into the ranks of the enemy while a medic pulled the two wounded men to a safe area. His actions saved the lives of his two wounded comrades and stopped the enemy element from breaking through the perimeter and undoubtedly prevented a major disaster. Private Moon's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

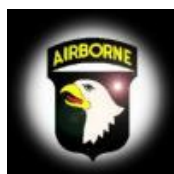
25 February 1967



PFC John W. Hudgens (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against an armed hostile enemy on 25 February 1967 near Song Mao, Republic of Vietnam. After landing on a landing zone the third platoon of B Company 502d (Airborne) Infantry had moved approximately eight hundred meters when they became heavily engaged with a numerically superior enemy element estimated to be a reinforced enemy platoon. Private Hudgens exposed himself to the enemy fire in an effort to place more effective fire into the enemy positions. Both the squad leader and the fire team leader being wounded, Private Hudgens began to direct the fire of his fire team. Private Hudgens along with one of his comrades assaulted two enemy positions. When his comrade was seriously wounded, Private Hudgens continued forward with complete disregard for his own personal safety and knocked out both enemy positions, killing two enemy soldiers. Private Hudgens then dragged his wounded comrade through seventy-five meters of bullet swept terrain to a safe area. Private Hudgens again with complete disregard for his own personal safety crawled through fifty meters of vicious enemy fire to direct the fire of a machine gunner by personally pointing out an enemy machinegun position. While returning to his position Private Hudgens was struck in the knee and wounded. Refusing medical aid Private Hudgens crawled to the perimeter where he was wounded again while distributing ammunition to his men. Again with complete disregard for his own personal Private Hudgens refused to be evacuated and crawled to the most forward point of the perimeter where he succeeded in killing another enemy soldier who was attempting to throw a grenade into a friendly position. Private Hudgens' outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and United States Army.

25 February 1967

SSG Josiah Blue Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 25 February 1967 near Di Linh, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission southwest of Di Linh, the third platoon of Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry came under an unusually heavy volume of hostile fire from an estimated reinforced North Vietnamese weapons platoon. Staff Sergeant Blue quickly tried to lead his squad through the fire in a flanking movement but was halted by the intense fire from an enemy machinegun position. Realizing the situation had become critical, he had his men withdraw and set up a perimeter with the rest of the platoon. While withdrawing, Staff Sergeant Blue, with complete disregard for his own safety, ran back through the increasing enemy fire to retrieve a wounded comrade and carried him back to safety. During the ensuing two hour battle, Staff Sergeant Blue moved from position to position throughout the perimeter pointing out targets, aiding the wounded and shouting words of encouragement. He also manned a machinegun position and killed two hostiles and wounded a third. When another machine gunner took his place, Staff Sergeant Blue exposed himself again to enemy fire and destroyed an enemy machinegun position with a hand grenade which killed both occupants. His courageous acts were instrumental in helping his platoon rally and hold off a numerically superior enemy force for two hours until help arrived. Staff Sergeant Blue's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty against a numerically superior hostile force is 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.



25 February 1967

PFC William J. Franks (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for action in combat. Private First Class Franks' platoon, while on a search and destroy mission near Ban Me Thuot, was suddenly brought under a tremendous volume of enemy fire from an estimated company size element in fortified positions. As the platoon moved forward in the assault, Private Franks observed an enemy machine gun position to his front that was placing murderous fire on an element of his platoon. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Franks exposed himself to the enemy fire and began firing his weapon into the enemy position. Realizing that his fire was not effective and that he must act quickly, Private Franks jumped up and charged the enemy position, firing as he ran. When Private Franks was approximately twenty meters from the enemy machine gun he was struck by an enemy bullet and knocked to the ground. Getting on his feet Private Franks continued to assault the enemy position until he was struck by another enemy bullet and mortally wounded. As a result of Private Franks' courageous actions the enemy position was destroyed and many lives were saved, Private Franks' outstanding gallantry in action and his avid devotion to duty even at the cost of his life are within the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

27 February 1968

CPT Paul M. Pritchard (HQ/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 27 February 1968. Captain Pritchard distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 27 February 1968 while serving as a Company Commander during a combat operation in the vicinity of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Upon receiving word that one of his



elements had become pinned down by heavy enemy fire, Captain Pritchard led a squad size force across one hundred and fifty meters of open terrain to try and relieve them. Although he and his men received heavy enemy fire, he managed to give the pinned down element covering fire so they could withdraw. Afterwards Captain Pritchard remained forward to direct artillery fire and Aerial Rocket Artillery on the enemy. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Captain Pritchard's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 3266)

28 February 1966

SFC Lawrence N. Koontz (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (1-OLC) for actions in combat. SFC Koontz, Platoon Sergeant of the "Recondo" platoon Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, was given the mission of securing a landing zone deep in Viet Cong infested jungle prior to a battalion size operation the following day. With a South Vietnamese Army platoon attached to his force late in the afternoon of 28 February 1966, Sergeant Koontz moved toward his objective 8000 meters away. After moving approximately 3000 meters, the two point squads suddenly came under hostile fire. Sergeant Koontz quickly and expertly led two squads from the rear around the embattled front squads in an effort to out-flank the enemy. Shortly after moving toward his new objective, his element came under a murderous hail of enemy fire. With his element and the point squads pinned



down by automatic weapon and machine gun fire, Sergeant Koontz organized an assault on the entrenched enemy. When this failed and it became apparent that his whole force was surrounded, Sergeant Koontz grabbed an M60 machine gun and tried to infiltrate the enemy defenses. As he rose and ran for the tree line, he became the target of several enemy automatic weapons. Forced to crawl, Sergeant Koontz continued his daring assault and reached the enemy lines. His ammunition expended, and the enemy regrouping for a charge, Sergeant Koontz then returned to his platoon. He again started out by himself, with a fresh load of ammunition, this time assaulting a weaker portion of the enemy defenses. His men, inspired to great heights by this extraordinary act of gallantry, rushed forward and overran the bewildered Viet Cong. Sergeant Koontz, not satisfied with simply freeing his platoon from enemy fire, pursued the fleeing, disorganized enemy. Still carrying the machine gun, Sergeant Koontz killed three Viet Cong who tried to make a last ditch stand against the inspired, aggressive paratroopers.

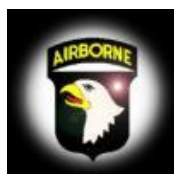
After extraction of the wounded, the Recondo platoon then Recondo platoon then reorganized and continued their mission toward the landing zone. Shortly before reaching the main objective, Sergeant Koontz inadvertently stepped on a punji stake. However, he told no one of his injury and refused medical aid. As the Recondo platoon approached the landing zone, it again came under hostile fire from a small group of huts. Sergeant Koontz braved the withering fire to position himself close enough to effectively call artillery fire on the determined enemy. After the artillery was lifted, he again personally led an assault on the Viet Cong. Although limping quite noticeably and obviously in great pain. Sergeant Koontz was able to overrun the enemy and thus secure the landing zone for the forthcoming assault. Through his untiring efforts and conspicuous gallantry, the mission was accomplished, and the battalion was able to land without incident. Sergeant Koontz's avid professionalism and personal intrepidity were unparalleled. His actions are in keeping with the highest standards and traditions of the military service and reflect immeasurable credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

***STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

A major reorganization took place on 3 February 1964, when the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division 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 was in the 1st Brigade with 1-327th and 2-327th Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam 1965, in was most notable commanded by 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, 2nd Brigade deployed by C-141 aircraft to the Republic of Vietnam. Over the next five years, soldiers of the "Ready to Go" Brigade participated in twelve campaigns, compiling a distinguished combat record as well as an enviable reputation for success in the rehabilitation of a war-torn nation. The President of Vietnam personally decorated the colors of the Brigade three times, twice with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and once with the RVN Civic Action Honor Medal. The Brigade redeployed to Fort Campbell in April, 1972.

In 1984, with the reorganization of the Combat Arms Regimental System, the 2nd Brigade became the parent headquarters for the 1st, 2nd, and 3d Battalions of the 502nd Infantry Regiment. With this reorganization, the Brigade adopted the regimental motto, "Strike."



ACRONYMS

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
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
PT: 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
TOC: Tactical Operations Center
WIA: Wounded in Action
WHA: Wounded by Hostile Action
WNHA: Wounded by Non-hostile Action
"V": Valor
VC: Viet Cong

