



STRIKE

Vietnam War Weekly History



August 13th – August 19th, 2017

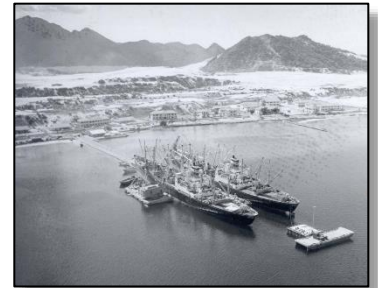
Issue: 61

Brief History of the 501st, 502nd and 2nd Brigade (101st ABN DIV)

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.



During this week, in the span of 8 years since the 501st Infantry Regiment, 502nd Infantry Regiment and 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division deployed in support of the Vietnam War the following are from After Action Reports, Staff Duty Logs, and Personal Accounts.

13 August 1967

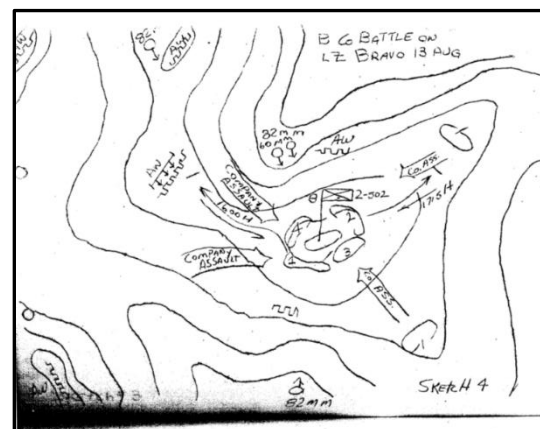
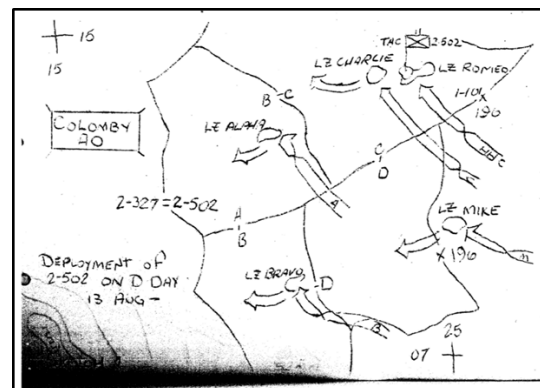
Operation HOOD RIVER: Operation HOOD RIVER terminated at 0730H as the 2-327 IN BN and 2-502 IN BN conducted airborne assaults from field locations to Gohr AO (Base Area 117), initiating Operation BENTON. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation HOOD RIVER; 11 December 1967)

13 August 1967

Operation BENTON: At 1700 hours near BT210088 B/2-502 IN was engaged by an unknown size enemy force. The enemy employed rockets, rifle grenades, machine guns, and small arms fire. B/2-502 IN returned fire and called for artillery. As the company attempted to maneuver, it was met with intense enemy fire and the company consolidated their position and requested Air Force C-47 aircraft with miniguns ("Spooky"). The enemy continued to attack with small arms until 2350H. He then employed 60mm mortars, 40mm rocket launcher fire and rifle grenades and two companies attacked the perimeter. B/2-502 IN countered with small arms, machine guns, gunships and "Spooky." The fire fight continued until 0155H, 14 August 1967, when the enemy broke contact was 35 enemy killed (Confirmed); 11 AK-47's, 5 SKS, 2 RPD machine guns and several Chicom grenades captured; 5 US Killed and 15 wounded. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report Operation BENTON; 28 September 1967)

13 – 14 August 1967

Operation BENTON: This day ended Operation HOOD RIVER and the start of Operation BENTON, which took place some 35 kilometers to the north. Operation BENTON was initiated with a battalion (+) air-mobile assault from VEHEL AO into five LZ's in COLOMBY AO on the afternoon of the today. The TAC CP was established and secured by the Recondos and the Mortar Platoon, and all companies closed on their LZ's and began to sweep west. At this point a major contact began to take shape for the STRIKE FORCE. At 1600H, B/2-502 IN led off its extensively mined LZ to the NW by the 1st platoon, which began receiving heavy enemy fire 200 meters out. This fire consisted of rockets, rifle grenades, machine gun (RPD) fire, and small arms fire. One of the first rockets to explode hit the Platoon Leader, wounding him fatally (he died of wounds several days later). The 1st platoon answered the fire and called for Artillery, but the enemy was well dug into concealed positions, forcing the troopers to break contact and pull back to the LZ with the wounded. The 2nd platoon, at 1715H, moved 200 meters to the NE, where it also was stopped by enemy fire. After engaging the enemy force in a heavy firefight, the 2nd platoon was ordered to return to the LZ, and the whole company began digging in for the night. During this time, RANGER joined B/2-502 IN, and medevac choppers began removing the wounded. Without exception, medevac and ammo resupply ships were greeted with automatic weapons fire from surrounding enemy positions. Starting at 1800H, the perimeter was brought under strong enemy fire from the north, west, and south. Rifle grenades began to fall inside the perimeter, but there was no ground attack at this time. Firing slacked off at 2000H, and the wounded were evacuated. At 2350H, B/2-502 IN began receiving 60mm and 82mm mortar rounds from the north, NW and south. This was followed by rockets, rifle grenades, and machine gun fire, and at 0100H the first ground attack, and estimated VC Company, hit the 3rd platoon from the SE. This attack was broken up by gunships, artillery, and Air Force mini-guns mounted on a C-47. Another company-size assault from the NE was turned back before it got within hand-grenade range of the perimeter. The main ground attack came from the west, and two enemy companies advanced to within five meters of the perimeter before the 1st and 4th platoon beat them back. At 0145H the enemy began a general retreat, collecting his dead and wounded. Moderate firing continued until 0315H, then enemy activity ceased. At daybreak, a police of battlefield found 35 enemy dead and 18 weapons, plus large amounts of ammunition and equipment. Friendly losses were 19 WHA and 2 KHA; no equipment was lost to the enemy. B/2-502 IN is being recommended for valorous unit award for this action. (HQ, 2D Battalion, 502d Infantry After Action Report; 5 September 1967)



13 – 14 August 1967

Operation BENTON: 2-502 IN BN with 1 Company MIKE Force DS continues search and destroy operations in assigned AO. At 1015H vicinity BT212113 C&C A/C spotted 1VC; results 1VC (BC) SRS 4-14. A/2-502 IN continues to search and destroy in assigned AO. At 1845H vicinity BT209129 found hootch complex; results destroyed SRS3-13. At 1105H vicinity BT201120 contact with 2VC; result 1 VC (BC), 1 AK47, 1 Mauser SRS 5-14. At 1530H vicinity BT201117 contact with 1VC; results 1VC (BC), 1 Carbine SRS 6-14. B/2-502 IN continues to search and destroy in assigned AO. Continuation of SRS 2-13; results 19US WIA, 2 US KIA, - enemy losses, 35NVA (BC), 11 AK47, 5 SKS, 2 RPD's, 3 Chicom grenades, assorted ammo, and clothing (SRS 2-13). At 0605H vicinity BT203094 received sniper fire called Artillery; results negative, SRS 1-14. At 1330H vicinity BT208090 found 1 body; results 1VC (BC) (By Arty) (SRS-6-14). C/2-502 IN continues to search and destroy in assigned AO. At 0900H vicinity BT231133 received sniper fire; results 1VC (BC), picked up 1 old man 2 children SRS 2-14. At 0936H vicinity BT221137 contact 2VC; results 1 VC (BC) SRS 3-14. TAC CP at BT238142, with Heavy Mortar platoon continues to provide close supporting fires for TAC CP, and C/2-320 ARTY, and run patrols in the vicinity of same, MIKE force continues to search and destroy in assigned area. (SITREP NO: 225, MAJ David P. Perrine, S-3)

13 August 1968

The 1-502 IN BN moved two companies to FSSE, TAM KY to assume a security mission.

13 August 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAINS: A/1-502 IN and B/1-502 IN returned to control of the 1-502 IN BN. The entire battalion remained at Tam Ky preparing to move to LZ Sally.

13 August 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: C/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon (-) at location 774046 found three fighting positions showing no signs of recent use. Recon location at 875996 engaged one VC/NVA with negative results. C/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon at YD727059 engaged four NVA resulting in one NVA POW, one NVA KIA, three NVA field packs, two AK-47 rifles, five AK-47 magazines and some documents.

13 August 1970

The 2-502 IN BN passed from the operational control of the 1BDE to the 3BDE and moved from Camp Eagle to FS/OB Barnett and vicinity. The mission of the battalion was to secure the firebase and conduct search and attack patrols in the area. This move released the 2-1st Regiment (ARVN) to assault from Barnett to an LZ five kilometers west of FS/OB O'Reilly, and begin reconnaissance in force operations, moving to the west. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 October 1970)

13 August 1970

Shortly after the insertion into the FS/OB Barnett area, A/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon and the Recon platoon made contact with enemy forces resulting in six NVA KIA, one US soldier killed and three wounded. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 October 1970)

13 August 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: 2-502 IN BN moved from Camp Eagle to FSB Barnett. Upon arrival at their LZ, A/2-502 IN found two dead NVA, and shortly afterward received incoming 60mm mortar fire. 2-502 IN BN, Recon platoon also found action, killing four NVA and having one US KHA along with 3 US WIA.

13 August 1970

2-502 IN BN begins Operation COMEBACK RIDGE in the Khe TA Laou Valley, Quang Tri Province.

13 August 1971

Pink Team and FAC vicinity YC853021 engaged 4 bunkers and destroyed them. One confirmed enemy KIA by helicopter. (1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry; Annual Supplement to the History; 1 January 1971 – 31 December 1971)

14 August 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: The 1BDE terminated Operation LAMAR PLAIN as the 1-502 IN BN and last elements of the Brigade Headquarters departed TAM KY Airstrip by C-130. All elements returned to OPCON of the 101st ABN DIV upon arrival at CAMP EAGLE. Operation LAMAR PLAIN officially terminated at 141200HAUG 1969.

14 August 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAINS: At 0800H Camp Pereira was closed and at 0900H the first elements of the 1-502 IN BN departed Tam Ky airfield by C-130 for Camp Evans. The trail party closed LZ Sally at 1840H. The battalion returned OPCON to 2BDE upon arrival at Camp Evans.

14 August 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAINS: After 90 days, the 1BDE ends its Operation LAMAR PLAINS and returns from the Americal Division AO to Camp Eagle. On the same day Operation Kentucky Jumper draws to a successful conclusion. Highlighted by three operations in the A Shau Valley, the Division-wide operation is hailed as a significant contribution to the pacification effort by blocking the traditional enemy routes into the population centers of Thua Thien Province. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 3); Fall 1969)

14 August 1969

Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE: 1-502 IN BN began Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE, a reconnaissance in force and multiple ambush patrol operations. The battalion's mission was to conduct refresher training and then to conduct an airmobile assault into the assigned area of operations, to locate and destroy enemy elements, installations and caches. Conduct an air move from field locations to FSB Birmingham and assume security of FSB Birmingham, FSB Arsenal, FSB Arrow and Pohl Bridge. The battalion was to provide liaison teams at Nam Hoa District and Huong Thuy District. Enemy contact during this operation was very light. Enemy forces that were spotted were in small groups of 5 or less. The NVA and VC did not operate extensively in the area of operations. The battalion did a considerable amount of work in improving fortifications and operations at FSB Birmingham and Pohl Bridge. During this operation elements from the battalion trained and went on joint operations with RF/PF's. Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE was concluded on 28 September.

14 August 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: B/1-502 IN reported hearing movement at the river vicinity 701097. At first light VR produced signs of recent activity.

14 August 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: A/2-502 IN found a bunker complex with one dead NVA and equipment including a typewriter and a mimeograph machine.



14 August 1970

'Boot Hill' gets 71: CAMP EVANS – To the men of B/1-502 IN it is called "Comeback Ridge," but to the 71 North Vietnamese Soldiers who died there recently it would be more appropriately labeled "Boot Hill, East."

The 101st troopers, operating 40 miles northwest of Hue, gave the ridge its name because each time they went to clear the enemy out, the NVA would move back in. It all began several weeks ago when an element of B/1-502 IN detected movement around its night defensive position.

"At first, they were just probing our defenses," said Lieutenant Chad Heaton, Orderville, Utah, a company platoon leader. "But about five in the morning they moved in from all sides."

For the 3BDE troopers, however, repelling the first attack was not the end as they enemy made two more frantic attacks to overrun the Screaming Eagles' position.

"I was very proud of the way our men acted," continued Lieutenant Robert McCann, West Holp, N.D., Co. B Commanding Officer. "Everyone did his job and kept his cool."

"We had great artillery support that night," pointed out Spec. 4 Michael Moore, Adamsville, Tenn. "We would walk it in close to our position, then move it back out again, giving us great coverage. The artillery boys expended more than 2,200 rounds and believe me, it was appreciated by us."

When the last NVA attack failed, a sweep at dawn uncovered 46 enemy dead and one wounded detainee. However, for B/1-502 IN the victory was short-lived. Three days later aerial reconnaissance discovered enemy troop concentrations in nearby ridgelines.

"We pretty well know what to expect this time," commented LT Heaton, "and we came prepared with two sections of Cobra gunships and a "White Team" consisting of two Light Observation Helicopters (LOW) and supporting air strikes."

"The enemy was well dug in with fortified bunkers," added LT McCann. "So, we just went from bunker to bunker clearing them out." When the smoke had cleared, 25 North Vietnamese who had returned to "Comeback Ridge" is not the only action his 2nd Bn, has seen.

"As soon as we arrived," he said, "we made immediate contact and outside of one 18-hour period we had contacts with the enemy."

"However, during this period we killed 86 of the enemy, had two detainees, found seven crew-served weapons, destroyed 216 bunkers and acquired huge supplies of enemy equipment."

When speaking of the enemy forces around FSB Barnett, LT. Col. Shay observed that the NVA troops were "very well equipped, fed, trained and highly motivated." (The Screaming Eagles Magazine, Vol. 20, September 14, 1970)

15 August 1967

Operation BENTON: A/2-502 IN killed 2 BC and captured 3 weapons in 2 small contacts, and all units discovered many signs of recent enemy activity in the AO. Snipers were active, and accounted for 1 or 2 US WHA per day, not only from the maneuver elements but from the TAC CP as well. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report; Operation BENTON; 5 September 1967)

15 August 1967

Operation BENTON: At 1500H, C/2-502 IN at BT216137 received sniper fire from several directions, spotted 1 BC wearing black PJ's; results 1 VC (BC) KIA and 1 US WHA. At 1850H, C/2-502 IN at BT219136 had contact with 2VC; results 2 VC (BC) KIA, 2 rucksacks with assorted equipment and clothing, 1 Chicom grenade. (HQ/2-502 IN Daly Staff Journal or Duty Officer Log; DA FORM 1594; 15 August 1967)

15 August 1969

Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE: 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV, begins Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE along Route 1 in Thua Thien Province. (Weider History Group: Vietnam War the Battle for Vietnam, 40 years today – A Vietnam War Timeline)

15 August 1969

Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE: 1-502 IN BN conducted refresher training at LZ Sally in preparation for Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE. B/1-501 IN was OPCON to 1-502 IN BN to provide security at Eagle Beach.

15 August 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: 1-502 IN white team discovered three to four bunkers at 685115 and a bunker 48 hours old at 762051.

15 August 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: Heavy contact began early in the morning and lasted throughout the night and the next day. At 0715H a white team received small arms fire, resulting in one US Air Crewman wounded. At 1245H, B/2-502 IN sighted eight enemy at a distance. At 1443H, B/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon received mortars and small arms fire. A sweep revealed 1 NVA KIA and miscellaneous ordnance. At 1855H, FSB Barnett received 12 rounds of mortar fire with six rounds impacting within the perimeter. At 1930H, B/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon with D/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon received mortar fire resulting in 3 US WIA from B/2-502 IN and 2 US WIA and 1 KCS WIA from D/2-502 IN.

15 – 16 August 1970

On the night of the 15th at vicinity YD171319, three kilometers west-southwest of FS/OB Barnett, B/2-502 IN, 2nd platoon and B/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon and D/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon, while in their NDP, engaged in a night long battle with an estimated company size enemy force. At first light a search of the area on 16 August, revealed 34 additional enemy killed in the contact area, a large number of bunkers and significant amount of enemy equipment and supplies. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 October 1970)



- 15 August 1971 Pink Team vicinity YC877932 fired into small bunker complex and had secondary explosions. Another bunker complex vicinity YC876934 received small arms fire. Negative results. (1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry; Annual Supplement to the History; 1 January 1971 – 31 December 1971)
- 16 – 18 August 1966 **Operation JOHN PAUL JONES:** Between 16 and 18 August, the 1-327 IN BN and 2-502 IN BN relieved the 2nd ROK Marine BDE in place.
- 16 August 1967 **Operation BENTON:** A/2-502 IN discovered a weapons cache and repair shop, containing 19 individual and crew-served weapons, plus large amounts of ammunition. Less significant caches were discovered by other elements, and sporadic contacts with small enemy units continually added to the body and weapons count. On the evening of the 16th, the TAC CP was probed by several small enemy units, strength unknown. The TAC CP returned a tremendous volume of fire, and employed mortars, gunships and flare ships in the defense. The probe broke off. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report; Operation BENTON; 5 September 1967)
- 16 August 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** 1-502 IN BN white team discovered a bunker at 757053. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon found 15-20 fighting positions and a bunker with recent use.
- 16 August 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** In the morning while still in darkness, the B/2-502 IN, 2nd platoon and 3rd platoon and D/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon repulsed three ground attacks resulting in one US Soldier killed, 11 US Wounded, 13 enemy killed and 20 enemy killed by artillery. Numerous weapons and ordnance were captured. Later the same morning, the Recon platoon was engaged by an unknown size enemy force resulting in one Kit Carson Scout wounded. At 1100 hours, C/2-502 IN combat assaulted into a hot LZ, receiving RPG and small arms fire, grenades and satchel charges. The results were two STRIKE Force troopers wounded, one NVA killed and one captured, along with numerous ordnance and weapons. At 1700 hours the B/2-502 IN, 1st platoon found six bunkers with one RPD machine gun, 2 AK-47's, 1 telephone, 1 enemy body and several documents including a map. Total for the day were 1 US KIA, 13 US WIA, 1 KCS WIA, 15 NVA KIA, 20 NVA KBA, and 1 NVA POW.
- 17 – 30 August 1966 **Operation JOHN PAUL JONES:** The command of the 2-502 IN BN was relinquished by LTC Henry E. Emerson and assumed by LTC Frank L. Dietrich. At 0930H, 2-502 IN BN relief of 2nd KMB in security of Tuy Hoa South Airfield. C/2-502 IN came under OPCON of 1BDE as TF Bravo securing Highway 1 and Vung Ro Bay. Relief of 2nd KMB was completed on 181145H August.
- During this period the 2-502 IN BN executed an intensive small unit weapons training and tactics program concurrent with security mission. The Recondo platoon continued its "Stay Behind" mission in Ky Lo Valley under the OPCON of 1BDE until 24 August when it returned to Tuy Hoa South and 2-502 IN BN control. While under the 1BDE OPCON the Recondo platoon sighted numerous groups of mixed NVA and VC personnel and killed 4 NVA (BC) troops.
- On 29 August TASK FORCE MC FADDEN (comprised of 2 platoons of A/2-502 IN, a platoon of B/2-502 IN, the Recondo platoon, and 2 PF platoons) swept a suspected VC agricultural area vicinity CQ1636.
- On 20 August, 2-502 IN (-) was lifted into Phong Hau-1 AO to provide a blocking force for elements of the 18B Regiment escaping to the south. A/2-502 IN conducted RECONDO CHECKERBOARD operations northeast to Xuan Son (1) with negative contact; B/2-502 IN continues to secure BDE (-) perimeters; C/2-502 IN moved south-west to search high ground north of Ngan Dien vicinity CQ897471 with negative contact; Recondo platoon conducted a heliborne assault from vicinity Phong Hau-1 to Cam Thac (2) vicinity CQ999396 and swept north to CQ005447 with negative contact. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report; Operation JOHN PAUL JONES; 10 September 1966)
- 17 August 1968 A/1-502 IN received 60mm mortar fire, vicinity YD6133. They called for artillery but first light check proved negative assessment. B/1-502 IN secured An LO Bridge and worked with Rome plow.
- 17 August 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** PF forces found several bunkers and a variety of fighting positions. The 1-502 IN BN continued Operation TEXAS STAR with no significant events in the twenty-four-hour period.
- 17 August 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** B/2-502 IN, 1st platoon while on a search and clear operation near FSB Barnett, searched a bunker complex which had been the target of heavy artillery and aerial rocket artillery bombardment on the previous day and found hospital facilities, a .30 caliber machine gun, ammunition, clothes, equipment, documents and a map and discovered 34 NVA dead. At 1400H, B /2-502 IN was in contact with no results. The Recon platoon received incoming 60mm rounds with no casualties.
- 17 August 1970 Troopers of B/2-502 IN while on a search and clear operation in an area near FSB Barnett, which had been the target of heavy artillery and aerial rocket artillery bombardment on the previous day, discovered 34 NVA dead and captured on .30 caliber machine gun. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 3); Fall 1970)
- 18 August 1968 Contact was light with B/1-502 IN capturing 2 VCS. 1 VC WIA was brought into CP by his parents. He was evacuated to 22d Surgical.
- 18 August 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** Contact was light, however 2-502 IN BN, Recon platoon engaged an unknown number of enemy killing one. B/2-502 found a small cache, a bunker complex and a high-speed trail.
- 18 August 1970 As estimated company size enemy force reoccupied a bunker complex at YD171319, a location which had been used as an NDP by elements of the 2-502 IN BN, supported by helicopter gunship, ARA, artillery and air strikes, assaulted the position at 0900 hours and secured the hill mas at 1330H. Twenty-five enemy were killed in the assault. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 October 1970)



19 August 1967 **Operation BENTON:** B/2-502 IN engaged an unknown size enemy force in the vicinity of BT190098, and suffered 10 US WHA and 1 US KHA. Artillery and TAC Air Strikes were called in, and body count of 9 VC obtained with no weapons. The LRRPs came under 2-502 IN BN OPCON at this time, but continued operations in their own AO, which contiguous to that of the STRIKE FORCE. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report; Operation BENTON; 5 September 1967)

19 August 1968 C/1-502 IN detained 3 VCS while conducting RIF operation, vicinity YD6334. While moving VCS to an LZ, one VCS detonated a BBT, injuring all 3 VCS and 2 US. D/1-502 IN received several mortar rounds at FSB Georgia, resulting in 1 US WIA.

19 August 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** A tracker team discovered a bunker about two weeks old and several fresh tracks in the area of 779106. C/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon sighted three NVA/VC moving into a bunker vicinity YD738073 and called in artillery with negative results. D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon found several pieces of NVA equipment at 881024.

19 August 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** Activity was heavy with B/2-502 IN clearing an enemy company from the same ridge where its B/2-502 IN, 2nd platoon and 3rd platoon had fought three days prior. The ensuing action resulted in one US Soldier Killed and five wounded, along with 15 enemy KIA, 10 killed by artillery and one NVA captured. Captured weapons included 1 - RPD, 2 - B40 rocket launchers, 12 - AK-47's, 1 - 82mm mortar tube and 1 - 9mm pistol.

19 August 1970 In continued operations around FSB Barnett, "Strike Force" troopers of B/2-502 IN engaged an estimated enemy company with small arms fire and called for artillery support, aerial rocket artillery and Air Force air strikes resulting in 25 NVA killed and one enemy Soldier detained. In addition, 12 AK-47 rifles, two RPG launchers and various enemy supplies were captured. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 3); Fall 1970)



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

1 x Medal of Honor (1 x Posthumously)
1 x Distinguished Service Cross
25 x Silver Star Medal (4 x Posthumously)
17 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (3 x Posthumously)
6 x Bronze Star Medal (6 x Posthumously)
24 x Purple Heart Medal (20 x Posthumously)
1 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
3 x Died of Non-Hostile Injuries or Illness

13 August 1967



SP4 Ronnie D Beets (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in action from multiple fragmentation wounds while on combat operation 11km E-SE of Tien Phuoc in the Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 August 1967

CPL Danny L. Ingles (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile automatic weapons fire 11km E-SE of Tien Phuoc in the Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 August 1967



SGT Johnnie H. Patterson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when he was hit by hostile small arms fire 11km E-SE of Tien Phuoc in the Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 August 1967



2LT Thomas Petramalo (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in action from multiple fragmentation wounds while on combat operation 11km E-SE of Tien Phuoc in the Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 August 1968



1SG Philip R. Fink (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile booby trap in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. 1SG Fink was admitted to a military hospital, placed on the VSI list, and later expired.

13 August 1968



CPL Michael W. Sinibaldi (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



13 August 1969



PFC Michael J. Holloway (C/1-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes when he drowned while checking Sampans at Pohl Bridge, RTE 547 at Perfume River 8 KM South of HUE in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

13 August 1970



CPL Russell L. Bahrke Jr. (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

14 August 1966



1LT Robert B. Hadden (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds received in hostile ground action in the Phu Yen Province, Republic of Vietnam.

14 August 1967

SGT Alexander Jackson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on perimeter defense when he was hit by hostile small arms fire 11km E-SE of Tien Phuoc in the Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.

14 August 1968

CPL Richard M. Samoray (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

14 August 1969



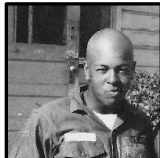
PFC Michael H. Deragon (A/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes when an M16 accidentally discharged at LZ Sally, 13km W-NW of HUE Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 August 1966



SGT Derrell K. Sharp (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death as the result of gunshot wound to the head received in hostile ground action in the Phu Yen Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 August 1966



PFC Fred D. Smith Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths from gunshot wound to left side of chest received in hostile ground action 9km E-SE of Tien Phuoc in the Phu Yen Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 August 1967

SSG James L. Coachman Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.



15 August 1968



SGT Phillip J. Essig (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when the area came under hostile mortar attack in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 August 1970

SP4 David L. Williams (B/2-502 IN) action in combat earned him the Purple Heart Medal. By virtue of wounds received due to enemy action, near Camp Evan, Republic of Vietnam. (Naval Hospital, USS Sanctuary AH-17; 1650 31-70: 3 Sept 70)

15 August 1970



SSG Frederick E. Huttie III (D/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 August 1968



CPL Crawford Jackson Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, mortar wounds while on combat operation when encountered hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 August 1969



CPL Rodney D. Little (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when mistaken for a hostile force and fired upon by a friendly force in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 August 1969



CPL Thomas D. Jones (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when mistaken for a hostile force and fired upon by a friendly force in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 August 1969



PFC Charles L. Troxel (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when mistaken for a hostile force and fired upon by a friendly force in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 August 1969

SSG Samuel H. Pierce Jr. (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when mistaken for a hostile force and fired upon by a friendly force in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 August 1968



SP4 Willard G. Bellomy (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from an explosive device while on combat operation when hit by fragments from a hostile booby trap in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. SP4 Bellomy was admitted to a military hospital ship, placed on VSI list and later expired.



19 August 1968



SP4 Eugene A. Lunn (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for military merit. SP4 Lunn died from Non-hostile causes from an accidental self-destruction in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

19 August 1970



CPL Frank R. Fratellenico (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death during a fire fight when he was about to throw a hand grenade when he was wounded, causing him to drop the activated device, which at that time he smothered the grenade with his body, sacrificing his life to protect his fellow soldiers from the blast at FSB Barnett, 8km S-SE of Ba Long Airfield in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

19 August 1970



PFC Jerry J. Tucker (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received while on combat operation when hit by hostile automatic weapons fire while on S&D operations approximately 10km SE of Tien Phuoc in the Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

13 August 1967



LTC Ralph Puckett Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (1-OLC) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Lieutenant Colonel Puckett distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 13 August 1967 while serving as Commanding Officer of an airborne infantry battalion on combat operations near Duc Pho. Shortly after elements of his unit were heavily engaged by a hostile battalion, Colonel Puckett landed in the battle zone to coordinate defenses and to assess the battlefield situation. Disregarding his own safety, he moved across a heavily mined area to the point of the most ferocious fighting to direct and inspire his men against the hostile force. Other elements were savagely attacked with intense mortar fire, so he decentralized the command post to reduce the chance of entire command element being hit. To do this, he personally occupied a foxhole position. He exposed himself to withering fire throughout the night to visit the men in their positions and to encourage and inspire them with his personal bravery and firm determination to overcome the overwhelming onslaught of the fanatical force. He heard cries for help during an intense mortar barrage later that night and dashed through a hail of flying shrapnel to give aid. He personally carried the two wounded soldiers back to safety and used his skill and experience as a truly professional soldier to treat their wounds. When rescue helicopters came in, he repeatedly refused extraction for himself and directed that the casualties be evacuated. With bullets striking all around him, he remained in the open to rally his fatigued men through the long night by sharing every phase of the battle with them. His fearless leadership and aggressive, determined actions in the face of grave danger inspired his men to fight furiously throughout the night and obtain a decisive victory over the numerically superior Viet Cong attackers. Lieutenant Colonel Puckett's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV; General Orders Number 6075; 24 November 1967)

13 August 1967



SP4 Ronnie D. Beets (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 August 1967, while serving as a member of Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Specialist Four Beets was serving as a machine gunner with his platoon when it came under extremely heavy attack while moving from Landing Zone White near Chu Lai. He manned a position on the perimeter, putting effective fire upon the enemy. During the night, the numerically superior North Vietnamese Army force mounted a full-scale attack with mortars, rockets, grenades, automatic and small arms fire. Specialist Beets' position became a prime target, and he was seriously wounded in both legs by grenades and rockets. When the medic came forward to treat him, he refused treatment and told the medic to roll him over to this gun. Once in position, although in great pain, he again began to fire upon the enemy. He remained in position under the withering hail of enemy fire with complete disregard for his safety and injuries, until the enemy had been beaten back. Only then did he allow himself medical treatment. In the morning, six enemy bodies were found with twenty meters of his position. Specialist Beets' outstanding display of heroism in action and his devotion to duty were in the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, IFFV; General Orders Number 983; 23 December 1967)

13 August 1967

SGT Alexander Jackson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Jackson distinguished himself by exceptional valor and personal sacrifice when his company was brought under a determined attack by an estimated reinforced North Vietnamese battalion. The enemy rapidly attempted to overrun the company by hurling themselves at the perimeter. Sergeant Jackson's position was brought under the initial burst of fire and he was wounded in the chest by rocket fire. Realizing that the perimeter was about to be penetrated, Sergeant Jackson, disregarding his wounds and exposing himself to the enemy fire, maneuvered his squad into a position where they could place effective fire on the enemy. Noticing three insurgents, one carrying a rocket launcher, approaching his squad's flank and realizing the precarious situation developing, Sergeant Jackson, with utter disregard for his own safety, charged forward through the murderous fire and killed the three enemy soldiers with a hand grenade before the rocket launcher could be used. Seeing a member of his squad lying wounded outside the perimeter, he once again exposed himself to the vicious fire and rushed to the wounded man's aid. As Sergeant Jackson pulled the man to safety, he was mortally wounded. Sergeant Jackson's outstanding display of valor and dedication to duty in close combat against a numerically superior hostile force were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflected the greatest of credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TFO; General Orders Number 657; 13 October 1967)

13 August 1967

PFC Benjamin F. Kemp (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967, near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. After conducting an airmobile assault into a mined landing zone, 2nd platoon of Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, moved through the open to a tree-line. Approximately thirty meters from the trees, they came under intense automatic weapons fire from a North Vietnamese Army Platoon. The point man was wounded from the initial burst of fire. Observing his platoon sergeant having trouble moving the man, Private First Class Kemp, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, jumped from his concealed position and ran through the intense enemy fire to aid his fallen comrade. He then carried the man through the withering fire and through a minefield to a Medevac helicopter. Upon his return to the battle area, Private Kemp was wounded by an enemy grenade. Disregarding his wound and the heavy enemy fire, Private Kemp again aided a wounded man and carried him through the enemy fire and minefield to be evacuated. Private Kemp's coolness and undaunted courage on the battlefield was instrumental in inspiring his platoon to route a superior enemy force which left behind 35 dead and numerous weapons. Private First Class Kemp's outstanding display of gallantry in action and aggressive devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD; General Orders Number 1385; 25 November 1967)



13 August 1967

1LT Donald Nemetz (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Nemetz was attached to Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry when the company was brought under vicious and repeated attacks by a North Vietnamese Army battalion. On three separate occasions, during three determined attacks by the enemy, Lieutenant Nemetz moved through devastating hostile fire to exposed positions to call in effective artillery support. To accurately call in support, Lieutenant Nemetz remained exposed to concentrated automatic weapons fire being directed at him and, on another occasion, he braved enemy rocket and mortar fire on his position to call in close artillery support. Due to Lieutenant Nemetz' fearless personal courage and his superb ability, the enemy was driven off in each instance. Lieutenant Nemetz called in a total of 835 direct support artillery rounds into the enemy positions; 35 enemy dead were found within five feet of the perimeter. First Lieutenant Nemetz's unquestionable valor was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (DA, HQ, AD; General Orders Number 1524; 2 December 1967)

13 August 1967

1SG Hugh M. Smith (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. Shortly after the last elements of Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry had reached a landing zone, the point platoon was brought under a tremendous volume of enemy automatic weapons, rocket, and rifle grenade fire. As the intensity of the battle increased it was necessary for the artillery forward observer to call for artillery fire around the perimeter. Realizing that the forward observer would be unable to effectively adjust the artillery fire by himself, First Sergeant Smith, with complete disregard for his own safety, rushed through the intense enemy fire to an exposed position where he could assist in adjusting fire. Almost immediately, First Sergeant Smith was brought under sniper and grenade fire and wounded. Disregarding his wounds and his safety, First Sergeant Smith remained in his exposed position and returned the enemy fire, killing three enemy soldiers while he continued to relay information to the forward observer and adjust artillery fire. During the later stages of the battle it was necessary to get three emergency ammunition resupplies for the company. First Sergeant Smith immediately took charge of the distribution of the ammunition to some of the positions. When the medical evacuation helicopter was able to land, he personally directed the evacuation of all the casualties. First Sergeant Smith's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his intense devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD; General Orders Number 1387; 25 November 1967)

13 August 1967



SGT Johnnie H. Patterson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Patterson distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action and personal sacrifice as he was leading his squad down a jungle trail and was ambushed by an enemy element of undetermined size. Sergeant Patterson immediately maneuvered his squad into a position to gain fire superiority. While directing the effective fire into the ranks of the onrushing Viet Cong, he detected several enemy soldiers moving forward to his immediate front, two of them were carrying a rocket launcher, the insurgents quickly set up a defilade position. Realizing that any maneuver he might make against the enemy was ineffective, Sergeant Patterson courageously exposed himself to the intense enemy small arms fire in an attempt to hurl a grenade into their stronghold. Seeing his grenade fall short, Sergeant Patterson, with complete disregard for his own safety, leaped from his covered position and charged the enemy through a hail of fire; he tossed a grenade into the enemy positions which killed two of them and caused the others to flee. While making his way back to his squad, he was mortally wounded. Sergeant Patterson's display of unquestionable valor and his extreme dedication to duty while engaged in close combat were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflected the utmost credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TFO; General Orders Number 658; 13 September 1967)

13 August 1967

SP4 John E. Ross (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. On that night, an estimated enemy battalion launched a heavy attack on Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry and unleashed a tremendous volume of automatic weapons, grenades, and rocket fire into the friendly positions. In the initial stages of the attack, one of the friendly machinegun positions received three direct hits from rockets. Specialist Four Ross, upon hearing the wounded men calling for a medic, immediately, and with complete disregard for his own safety, charged through the intense enemy fire to the disable machinegun position where five men lay wounded. Disregarding the heavy concentrated fire, the enemy was playing on the machinegun position, Specialist Ross began to administer the needed medical aid and pulled the men, one by one, to covered positions, during the night-long battle, Specialist Ross constantly moved through the heavy enemy fire, treating the wounded and giving his comrades encouragement. When the platoon started running low on ammunition, Specialist Ross began to resupply the positions with the needed ammunition, all the while he continued to treat the wounded and keep a constant vigil on those who had already been wounded. Specialist Four Ross' outstanding display of gallantry in action and his intense devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD; General Orders Number 1416; 27 November 1967)



13 August 1967

SP4 Louis A. Simmons (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Simmons distinguished himself by gallant action when his platoon came under heavy enemy attack and received numerous casualties. Observing a wounded comrade who lay in an area exposed to the enemy fire, Specialist Simmons immediately, and with complete disregard for his own safety, rushed through the withering hostile fire to the aid of the man. Upon reaching the wounded man, Specialist Simmons discovered that he had stopped breathing. Immediately, he started to administer mouth to mouth resuscitation when an enemy grenade exploded and wounded him. Disregarding his own wounds and the fire being directed at him, Specialist Simmons displayed unparalleled courage as he continued in his life saving task until he had revived the man. Still refusing medical aid, Specialist Simmons continued to move through the vicious fire to give aid to the wounded; each time placing himself between the wounded and the enemy's position to shield the wounded from further injury. Specialist Four Simmons' unquestionable valor, fortitude, and complete unconcern for his own life in the saving of others were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD; General Orders Number 1356; 23 November 1967)

13 August 1967

PV2 Lyle B. Wahlberg (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967, near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Private Wahlberg distinguished himself when his platoon came under intense enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own safety, Private Wahlberg moved through murderous enemy fire to within ten feet of the enemy's position to retrieve the wounded point man. When his fire team leader was wounded and evacuated, Private Wahlberg immediately displayed exceptional ability as he took command of the beleaguered force and reorganized and rallied the fire team. When one of his men broke under the strain of the fierce combat, Private Wahlberg moved through intense enemy fire to the man's position. He quieted the man, reassured him, and restored the man's confidence and fighting ability. Through-out the engagement Private Wahlberg displayed a fierce determination as he relentlessly resisted the enemy's attack. Private Wahlberg's leadership, personal courage, and ferocity on the battlefield were an inspiration to his men and greatly assisted his platoon in defeating a numerically superior North Vietnamese Army force. Private Wahlberg's unquestionable valor, aggressive determination and devotion to duty while engaged in close combat are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD; General Orders Number 1420; 27 November 1967)

13 August 1967

PFC Martin Guillen (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 August 1967, while serving as a member of Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Private Guillen, a machine gunner, was with his platoon when it was attacked by a North Vietnamese Army Force. He placed steady, accurate fire upon the enemy, and his position soon became a prime target. He steadfastly remained at his gun in spite of the numerous assaults launched upon his individual position. He succeeded in killing several of the enemy during these assaults but received several wounds from grenades in the legs, arms, and face. His gun was badly damaged by the grenade explosions as well. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he exposed himself to the withering hail of enemy fire and put his gun back into action. He refused medical aid, resumed his vicious fire upon the enemy, and for four hours succeeded in driving back enemy assaults. In the morning after the enemy had withdrawn, twenty-two enemy dead were found within thirty-five meters of his position. Private Guillen's outstanding display of personal courage and devotion to duty has been in the highest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, IFFV; General Orders Number 976; 22 December 1967)

13 August 1967

1LT Robert H. Berry (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Berry, a platoon leader, was inserted with the rest of the company by airborne assault onto a completely bare and mined hilltop. The company was met by a North Vietnamese Army battalion which immediately attacked with automatic weapons, heavy machine guns, and mortars. Lieutenant Berry, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, exposed himself to the withering hail of enemy fire as he recovered wounded and personally positioned his men in the perimeter. During the remainder of the day and throughout the night, Lieutenant Berry's platoon bore the brunt of numerous enemy attacks. Lieutenant Berry remained cool and calm throughout the battle, directing fire, adjusting artillery, and pinpointing targets. During the assaults, he moved from his position to positions on the perimeter supplementing his platoon's fire with his rifle and hand grenades. When a particularly heavy mortar attack and a following assault were launched, he adjusted artillery to within thirty meters of his position. Lieutenant Berry's daring bravery, sound judgment, and active participation in the battle was instrumental in his company's ultimate victory over a numerically superior force. First Lieutenant Berry's outstanding display of gallantry and his devotion to duty were in the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD, General Orders Number 1412; 27 November 1967)

13 August 1967

SGT Richard H. Fouse (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. As the last elements of Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry reached a landing zone, the first platoon moved out as point platoon. A short distance down a hill the platoon was suddenly brought under a heavy volume of enemy automatic weapons and rocket fire. The platoon leader was injured in the initial stage of the battle and was unable to retain command of the platoon. Without hesitation, Sergeant Fouse took command and positioned the machineguns and established a defensive perimeter. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Fouse exposed himself to the hostile fire while directing artillery fire and moving throughout the perimeter giving his men encouragement and directing their fire. Sergeant Fouse personally supplied covering fire which killed two enemy soldiers while his men pulled the wounded platoon leader to a safe area. Sergeant Fouse's heroic actions, dedication and devotion to duty are keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD; General Orders Number 1315; 20 November 1967)



13 August 1967

SP4 Ronald Jackson (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. When the last elements of Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry had reached a landing zone, the point platoon started moving down a hill when they triggered a squad-size enemy ambush. Several casualties were inflicted, one of these being the platoon leader who was seriously wounded. Specialist Jackson, serving as platoon medic, rushed forward with complete disregard for his own personal safety, and began to administer much-needed medical aid. Specialist Jackson, although completely exposed to the vicious enemy fire, began to move the casualties to covered positions. Numerous times Specialist Jackson returned to the battle area to pull wounded men to safety and give them medical aid. On one occasion, as Specialist Jackson moved through the bullet swept battle area, he observed an enemy soldier preparing to shoot a friendly casualty. Again, with complete disregard for his own safety, Specialist Jackson charged the enemy soldier and killed him before he could shoot the wounded man. Specialist Jackson then gave the wounded man medical aid and carried him to safety. For the remainder of the night's long battle, Specialist Jackson continued to give aid to his wounded comrades and undoubtedly saved many lives. Specialist Four Jackson's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his intense devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflected the greatest of credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD; General Orders Number 1343; 23 November 1967)

13 August 1967

SFC Robert E. Jones (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967, near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. After making an airmobile assault into a mined landing zone, the second platoon of Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry moved across an open area towards a tree line. When they were approximately thirty meters from the tree line, the platoon came under intense automatic weapons fire from a North Vietnamese Army platoon. After assisting the platoon leader in deploying his troops, Platoon Sergeant Jones, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, moved through the murderous enemy fire to the point-man who had been wounded and laid in an exposed area. As Sergeant Jones reached the wounded man, the enemy directed their fire at him. Remaining in his exposed position, Sergeant Jones threw a hand grenade which knocked out an enemy machinegun and killed the gun crew. After moving the wounded man to cover, Sergeant Jones moved throughout the platoon pointing out enemy targets, throwing grenades and shouting encouragement. While doing this, Sergeant Jones was wounded by an enemy grenade. Undaunted, he continued to encourage his men. Because of his outstanding display of courage, Sergeant Jones' platoon was able to route a superior enemy force that left behind twenty-two dead and numerous weapons. Platoon Sergeant Jones' outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflected the greatest of credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD; General Orders Number 1342; 23 November 1967)

13 - 14 August 1967



CPT Ronald G. Odom (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile enemy of 13 and 14 August 1967 near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1700 hours on 13 August 1967, Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, conducted a helicopter assault into an area north west of Chu Lai. Shortly after the last elements of the company had landed, a platoon moving down the hill from the landing zone was suddenly taken under heavy enemy automatic weapons fire. Captain Odom immediately directed the platoon to pull back to the landing zone where he quickly organized a company perimeter defense. Shortly after, an estimated insurgent Battalion initiated a full-scale attack on the friendly positions. As the enemy element began to place a tremendous volume of automatic weapons, mortar, rocket, and rifle grenade fire into the friendly positions, Captain Odom exposed himself to the heavy enemy fire while moving among his men's positions giving them encouragement and directing their fire by pointing out enemy positions. For over thirteen hours the battle raged and Captain Odom directed extremely effective supporting fire from artillery, gunships, and flare ships. The determined enemy element continued to assault the friendly positions with human wave assault teams time and time again. Numerous times Captain Odom with complete disregard for his own personal safety, dashed through the bullet swept area and pulled wounded men to safety and gave them medical aid. During the entire battle Captain Odom displayed such a high degree of heroism that his men became so inspired by his action that they were able to successfully defend their positions from the determined enemy force. When the battle ended and the enemy element withdrew, thirty-five enemy dead were counted, eighteen automatic weapons were captured, and also two machine guns and two rocket launchers. Captain Odom's outstanding display of gallantry in the face of insurmountable odds, is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, TFO; General Orders Number 509; 04 September 1967)

13 August 1967

1LT Theodore S. Orvold (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against an armed hostile enemy of 13 August 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Orvold, a platoon leader, was participating in an airmobile assault made by his company. The landing zone was mined, and as the platoons began to move away from it, they were brought under murderous small arms, automatic weapons, and machine-gun fire from a North Vietnamese Army battalion. One of the platoons was pinned down by the initial burst of fire, and suffered several casualties. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Orvold personally led his platoon into the intense enemy fire, relieved the pressure and allowed the platoon to recover its wounded and withdraw to a covered area. Lieutenant Orvold moved to within ten meters of the enemy's position, personally assaulting the positions with hand grenades and bursts from his rifle. His individual aggressiveness and personal courage resulted in the death of four of the enemy, and the silencing of a machinegun and several other automatic weapons. As the platoon began to move back to the perimeter, Lieutenant Orvold observed one of the wounded to his front who was under fire from other enemy positions. Again, without regard for his own safety, he moved through the heavy sniper fire and recovered the wounded man. Once in the perimeter, Lieutenant Orvold moved among his positions, directing fire and maintaining fire discipline. Throughout the night, which was filled with enemy attempts to overrun the perimeter, Lieutenant Orvold constantly exposed himself to fire while he rallied his men, directed fire, and adjusted artillery. His personal aggressiveness in battle and his superb leadership were instrumental in the ultimate victory won by his company. Lieutenant Orvold's unquestionable valor was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD; General Orders Number 1417; 27 November 1967)



13 August 1967



2LT Thomas Petramalo (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Second Lieutenant Petramalo distinguished himself by his unparalleled determination and person sacrifice. During a heliborne assault Lieutenant Petramalo's platoon encountered an enemy minefield in the landing zone. The platoon began to probe the minefield and cautiously maneuver through it when they were brought under extremely heavy automatic weapons fire. The enemy fired from three directions and pinned the squad down. With complete disregard for his own safety, Lieutenant Petramalo rushed forward through the hail of hostile fire to the front elements of his platoon and led them through the minefield to a covered position. Still exposed to the enemy fire, he moved from position to position directing covering fire for the remainder of the platoon as they crossed the open minefield. Realizing that he was engaging with a numerically superior force, Lieutenant Petramalo once again braved the intense fire to reach his radio telephone operator and call in effective artillery supporting fire. Seeing that one of his men lay wounded in an area exposed to enemy fire, ran forward to the aid of the wounded man. At this time Lieutenant Petramalo was mortally wounded. Lieutenant Petramalo's unquestionable display of valor and his devotion to duty while engaging a numerically superior hostile force in close combat were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TFO; General Orders Number 659; 13 September 1967)

13 – 14 August 1967

1LT Thomas J. Courtney (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 and 14 August 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. As First Lieutenant Courtney's company prepared to move from a landing zone after an airmobile assault, it was attacked by a North Vietnamese Army Battalion armed with grenades, mortars, heavy machineguns and automatic weapons. Lieutenant Courtney was instructed to maneuver his platoon to another portion of the hastily constructed perimeter to assist a platoon who had borne the brunt of the initial attack. After Lieutenant Courtney stood up, exposing himself to the withering enemy fire, and calmly threw two grenades into the machine gun position which badly damaged the gun and killed two enemy soldiers. The enemy element then commenced a flanking maneuver. Observing this, Lieutenant Courtney, again with no regard for his own safety, picked up a machine gun and moved through the devastating fire completely exposed. He engaged the flanking enemy from a position well forward of the perimeter and his effective fire forced the hostile force to withdraw, leaving several dead and wounded. His aggressive spirit and courageous deeds rallied the men in both platoons and were instrumental in the ultimate victory over a numerically superior North Vietnamese Army force. First Lieutenant Courtney's unquestionable valor was in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD; General Orders Number 1402; 27 November 1967)

13 August 1967

SP4 Danny L. Ingles (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (Posthumously) for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Specialist Ingles distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Ingles was walking point for his platoon when they were suddenly brought under attack by an estimated reinforced North Vietnamese army battalion. Seeing one of his comrades wounded in the initial burst of fire, he immediately left his covered position and with complete disregard for his own safety, charged through the enemy's intense hail of fire to aid his badly wounded comrade. After administering medical aid to him, Specialist Ingles picked him up and started toward a landing zone with him. The enemy immediately concentrated their fire on Specialist Ingles. As he was approaching the landing zone, the intense enemy fire increased to such a degree that Specialist Ingles was pinned down and mortally wounded while shielding his wounded comrade from the incoming mortar and small arms fire. Specialist Ingles' devotion to duty and personal courage 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, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 1753; 29 August 1967)

13 August 1967

SP4 Jimmy D. Hale (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Specialist Hale distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet NAM. Specialist Hale's platoon was moving through dense jungle terrain when it came under extremely intense enemy fire from a numerically superior enemy force. Several of the platoon's members were wounded and lying in an exposed area being raked by enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own safety, Specialist Hale rushed through the enemy's withering hail of fire and removed the wounded to safer location. A medical evacuation helicopter was called but the only suitable landing zone was on the far side of a field that the enemy had mined. Again, with no regard for his own safety, Specialist Hale volunteered to carry the wounded to the landing zone for evacuation. Each time he carried a wounded man to the evacuation helicopter, he had to expose himself to the devastating enemy fire as well as negotiate a deadly minefield. His fearless courage and heroic actions insured immediate evacuation and medical care for the wounded. Specialist Hale's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 2446; 01 November 1967)

13 August 1967

SP4 Charles N. Mitchell (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile for. Specialist Mitchell distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. While on a search and destroy mission, Specialist Mitchell's platoon came under extremely heavy enemy fire. As the battle continued, his platoon depleted its ammunition supply to a dangerously low level. Specialist Mitchell unhesitatingly volunteered to return to a landing zone and get more. In order to reach the landing zone, he had to cross a bullet swept mine field. Still under intense hostile fire, he inched his way through the deadly obstacle to the supplies. His return trip was no easier but the extreme confidence he reached his unit with the ammunition. He repeated this harrowing task several times during the course of the battle, and was personally responsible for the steady fire power that his platoon was able to maintain until the enemy withdrew. Specialist Mitchell's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2428; 31 October 1967)



- 13 August 1967 SP4 Benjamin Williams (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Specialist Williams distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. Specialist Williams' platoon suddenly came under intense enemy automatic weapons fire and small arms fire. His platoon had expended much of its ammunition in the battle and the nearest supplies were located near a landing zone that was covered by the murderous enemy fire. Specialist Williams volunteered to go to the landing zone for the resupplies and, with complete disregard for his own safety, he moved through the withering hail of enemy fire to the supply point and returned with a much-needed ammunition supply. Upon seeing two comrades that were wounded, he rushed into the fire swept area and administered lifesaving medical aid to them. He then led them through an enemy minefield to a medical evacuation helicopter, insuring their quick and safe evacuation. As a result of Specialist Williams' heroic actions, his platoon was able to maintain a steady and uninterrupted volume of fire on the enemy which led his platoon to ultimate victory over the determined enemy forces. Specialist Williams' devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2445; 01 November 1967)
- 13 August 1967 PFC Manny C. Garcia (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Private Garcia distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. While Private Garcia's platoon was moving to give aid to a sister platoon, it was taken under heavy enemy automatic weapons fire from the rear. With complete disregard for his own safety, Private Garcia rushed through the heavy enemy fire to an exposed position in the rear of his platoon and began placing suppressive fire into the enemy position, silencing it. His actions enabled his platoon to continue to move forward and accomplish their mission without sustaining any casualties. Private Garcia's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2696; 26 November 1967)
- 13 August 1967 SGT David V. Laswell (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant Laswell distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. Sergeant Laswell's platoon came under an extremely heavy attack by an enemy company armed with rockets, mortars and heavy machine guns. Sergeant Laswell and his fire team were securing one flank of his platoon from the rear. With complete disregard for his own safety, he stood up and exposed himself to the withering hail of enemy fire and engaged the enemy force with hand grenades and burst of fire from his weapon. In spite of the devastating fire which the enemy placed on him, he repelled the attacking force. His heroic actions completely halted the enemy maneuver and undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades. Sergeant Laswell's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2423; 31 October 1967)
- 13 August 1967 PFC William R. McCeney (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Private McCeney distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. Private McCeney was moving along a jungle trail with his platoon when it suddenly came under an intense volume of enemy fire. Several of the platoon members were wounded in the initial burst of enemy fire. Even though the entire platoon was pinned down by the heavy enemy fire, Private McCeney with complete disregard for his own safety, picked up his machine gun and ran through the blistering enemy fire to a position which would enable him to best place effective fire on the hostile force. Once in position, he put the gun into action and began pouring out steady and accurate fire on the enemy. By his fearless actions and personal bravery, his platoon was able to gain fire superiority over the enemy and completely defeat them. Private McCeney's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2450; 01 November 1967)
- 13 August 1967 SGT Thomas F. McCarthy (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant McCarthy distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. Sergeant McCarthy's platoon became heavily engaged with a well dug in enemy force placing effective machine gun and automatic weapons fire on them. IN the initial burst of enemy fire several friendly casualties were sustained. Medical evacuation helicopters were called in by the only landing zone was approximately one hundred meters from the platoon through an area known to be mined and heavily covered by enemy fire. When the helicopters came in, Sergeant McCarthy began carrying one of the wounded to it for evacuation. With complete disregard for his own safety, he moved through the mined area that was being sprayed with extremely heavy enemy fire. He made the trip through the treacherous area of five times, insuring the safety of the wounded and their immediate evacuation. Sergeant McCarthy's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2422; 31 October 1967)
- 13 August 1970 SGT Michael T. Riddle (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 August 1970. Sergeant Riddle distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant in Company C, 1st Battalion [Airmobile], 502d Infantry, during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While leading a reconnaissance patrol, Sergeant Riddle's unit came under intense hostile fire from an unknown enemy position. Unable to detect the exact location of the enemy, Sergeant Riddle deliberately drew enemy fire toward himself so that his squad could spot the source. Spotting the cave from which the hostile fire was coming, Sergeant Riddle maneuvered forward, directing suppressive fire and throwing grenades at the aggressors. His actions were instrumental in silencing the enemy position and routing the enemy force. Sergeant Riddle'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.



15 August 1966

PFC Wayne Leathers (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force. Private First Class Leathers distinguished himself on 15 August 1966 during a search and destroy mission near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. As his unit was maneuvering through the dense jungle terrain, it suddenly received intense Viet Cong fire from a cave. During the initial engagement, two soldiers were mortally wounded. When he attempted to pull the casualties to cover, the Viet Cong began to deliver fire directly at him. Nevertheless, he continued until he was wounded by Viet Cong grenade fragments. Although he was wounded and in great pain, Private First Class Leathers, with complete disregard for his safety, jumped to his feet, charged the insurgent position, and killed one Viet Cong. He then approached the cave and pointed his weapon through an aperture and fired. As a result, he killed two more Viet Cong and silenced the insurgent emplacement. Through his courage, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Private First Class Leathers' extraordinary heroism in close combat against a hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV; General Orders Number 5862; 30 September 1966)

15 August 1967

SP5 James L. Coachman Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 15 August 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Five Coachman distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions and personal sacrifice. While moving his squad down a jungle trail, they were assaulted by a North Vietnamese platoon. Specialist Coachman's squad received heavy fire from both flanks and was pinned down. As the fire fight raged, the two closest positions to him were attacked by a human wave assault of a North Vietnamese squad. Realizing that his two positions were greatly outnumbered, he courageously burst from his covered position and, exposing himself to the hostile fire with utter disregard for his own safety, personally assaulted the on-rushing enemy soldiers. Specialist Coachman physically made contact with three of the enemy and subdued them. Continuing forward, he aggressively engaged the enemy with suppressive fire and grenades. Before he fell mortally wounded, he successfully overran the position and killed four of the enemy. Specialist Five Coachman's undaunted courage and outstanding display of gallantry in close combat against a numerically superior force has distinguished him and reflected the utmost credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TFO; General Orders Number 669; 15 September 1967)

15 August 1967

SGT Dennis W. Patrick (A/2-502 IN) was awarded Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant Patrick distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 15 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. While on a search and destroy mission, Sergeant Patrick's element began to receive a heavy volume of enemy small arms fire and was pinned down. His platoon immediately began to return a heavy base of fire. When one of the machineguns had extinguished all of its ammunition, Sergeant Patrick realizing the immediate need for more ammunition, and went into action. He located several hundred rounds of ammunition, and with complete disregard for his own safety, maneuvered through seventy-five meters of fire swept open area to the machinegun position, succeeding in resupplying it with the needed ammunition. The next day while maneuvering with a recon element, his element was once again brought under intense enemy fire and pinned down. Sergeant Patrick again came to the aid of a machinegun that was running low on ammunition. A utility ship was called in to kick out a resupply of ammunition. The resupply when kicked out, landed between the friendly positions and the enemy positions. Once again with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Patrick, rushed through the vicious hail of enemy fire to recover and distribute the ammunition. Sergeant Patrick'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 ABD DIV, General Order Number 2859; 22 December 1967)

16 August 1967

1LT Leonard G. Anderson Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor of heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Lieutenant Anderson distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 16 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. While directing in medical evacuation helicopters to extract his wounded personnel, Lieutenant Anderson's platoon was suddenly brought under a vicious hail of enemy automatic weapons fire. Observing that a gunship strike was needed immediately, Lieutenant Anderson, with complete disregard for his own safety, crawled through the vicious enemy fire to a strategic position on higher ground. From this location, Lieutenant Anderson, while exposing himself to the withering enemy fire, successfully directed artillery and gunship attacks on the enemy positions. As he made his way back to the main body of his platoon, he was again brought under a hail of enemy fire. Still exposing himself, he directed his platoon's fire and movement, and then personally led an assault on the enemy positions which resulted in three enemy killed. Lieutenant Anderson's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2681; 25 November 1967)

16 August 1967

PFC Michael Grimes (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (Posthumously) for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Private Grimes distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 16 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. Private Grimes' reconnaissance team suddenly became heavily engaged by an enemy element and pinned down. The friendly element immediately attempted to maneuver against the enemy but was unable to move very far until becoming pinned down again. The friendly element received no casualties but several civilians in the immediate area were struck by the enemy fire and wounded. Private Grimes, with complete disregard for his own safety, rushed through the heavy enemy fire to the location of the wounded civilians and began to administer medical aid to them. As the medical evacuation helicopter landed to evacuate the civilians, it was also brought under heavy enemy fire. Again, with completed disregard for his own safety, Private Grimes moved through the intense hostile fire and carried the civilians to the helicopter where they were safely evacuated. He then assisted in resupplying the friendly positions with ammunition. Private Grimes' devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2350; 25 October 1967)



19 August 1967

PFC David B. Cornelison (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Private Cornelison distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 19 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. Private Cornelison's platoon was ambushed by a numerically superior enemy force armed with automatic weapons and mortars. One of Private Cornelison's machine guns was put out of actions and several of his comrades were wounded. He observed three wounded troopers to his front who were under intense enemy fire and, with complete disregard for his own safety he crawled through the withering hail of enemy fire and successfully moved the wounded to a safer location. From his position he could observe the devastating effects of the enemy fire and realized that the inoperative machine gun had to be placed back into action. Again, he moved through the treacherous enemy fire to the machine gun, organized two other men near the gun, placed the gun into operation and directed the machine gun fire on the enemy. He constantly exposed himself to the hostile fire and pointed out the enemy targets for his comrades. Private Cornelison's bravery undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his fellow comrades while his initiative and leadership greatly assisted his platoon in gaining fire superiority over the enemy which led to their ultimate defeat. Private Cornelison's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2449; 1 November 1967)

19 August 1967

SGT Nathaniel Fells (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1-OLC) for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant Fells distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 19 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. Sergeant Fells' platoon came under an extremely heavy attack from an enemy force of undetermined size armed with automatic weapons, small arms, grenades launchers and mortars. Sergeant Fells, with complete disregard for his own safety, picked up his machine gun and ran through the withering hail of enemy fire to a position where he could effectively place fire on the enemy. From this position, he succeeded in killing two enemy Soldiers and disabling an enemy machine gun. He then observed an enemy Soldier with a grenade launcher who had inflicted numerous casualties on his unit. Sergeant Fells moved through the murderous enemy fire to a position where he engaged the enemy Soldier and killed him. Throughout the battle, Sergeant Fells constantly exposed himself to the enemy while moving across the bullet swept area to different positions. His heroic actions assisted his platoon in gaining an ultimate victory over the enemy force. Sergeant Fells' devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2427; 31 October 1967)

19 August 1967

SGT David V. Laswell (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (2-OLC) for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant Laswell distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 19 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. Sergeant Laswell's platoon suddenly came under intense enemy automatic weapons, mortar and grenade fire. With complete disregard for his own safety, he remained in an exposed position and directed his squad to a position where they could best engage the enemy. Two of his squad members had been wounded in the initial stages of the battle and were lying in an exposed area that was receiving intense enemy fire. Sergeant Laswell then moved through the withering hail of enemy fire and pulled the two wounded men to a safer position. He returned to his squad and directed their fire on the enemy and offered them words of encouragement. Shortly thereafter he observed an enemy squad moving to a position where it could attack the flank of his platoon. Sergeant Laswell took immediate actions and led his squad through the intense hostile fire and repulsed the enemy maneuver, killing two of the enemy and wounding two other. His heroic actions and leadership saved his platoon from many casualties and greatly assisted it in gaining an ultimate victory over the enemy forces. Sergeant Laswell'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 State Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2424; 31 October 1967)

19 August 1967

1LT Theodore S. Orvold (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Lieutenant Orvold distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 19 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. Lieutenant Orvold's platoon was called to support a sister platoon that had been ambushed by the enemy. Upon arriving at the battle area, Lieutenant Orvold, although under intense enemy fire, personally positioned his men to repel the enemy attack. With complete disregard for his own safety, he exposed himself to enemy fire while moving among his positions directing the fire of his men. As a result of his heroic actions and superlative judgement, his platoon completely routed the enemy positions. His platoon accounted for three enemy Soldiers killed and several other wounded. Lieutenant Orvold's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2426; 31 October 1967)

19 August 1967



PFC Jerry J. Tucker (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (Posthumously) for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Private Tucker distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 19 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. Private Tucker's platoon was preparing to move from a landing zone when they were taken under an intense volume of enemy automatic weapons and small arms fire, pinning them down. Realizing that the enemy attack had to be subdued and fire superiority gained, Private Tucker, with complete disregard for his own safety, leaped from his concealed position twenty meters to his front. From his new position, he directed effective fire at the enemy and again completely exposing himself, threw a grenade into the enemy position, killing three enemy Soldiers. Private Tucker then returned to his original position through the intense enemy fire and observed a sniper taking the platoon with devastating fire. He engaged this sniper and killed him, but he was then brought under fire by another sniper and mortally wounded. His actions and personal bravery greatly assisted his platoon in gaining fire superiority and routing the enemy. Private Tucker's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1773; 2 September 1967)



19 August 1967

SSG John P. Wetherwax (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1-OLC) for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant Wetherwax distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 19 August 1967 in the Republic of Viet Nam. Sergeant Wetherwax's platoon was in a night defensive perimeter when they came under heavy attack by an enemy force of undetermined size armed with automatic weapons and grenade launchers. Sergeant Wetherwax was wounded in the initial burst of enemy fire and lying in an exposed area. With complete disregard for his own safety, he retrieved his weapon and began returning the enemy fire, causing even heavier enemy fire on his exposed position. He bravely moved through the intense hostile fire to his squad, reorganized it and began to direct their fire. Observing a wounded man to his front, he again moved through the intense enemy fire and pulled the man to a safer area. He then assisted his platoon leader in calling friendly artillery fire on the enemy positions. Only after the enemy had been completely routed from their positions did he allow his wounds to be treated. Sergeant Wetherwax's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2425; 31 October 1967)

19 August 1967

1LT Thomas J. Courtney (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connections with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Courtney distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic actions on 19 August 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Moving with his patrol to reconnoiter a group of huts, they were suddenly brought under a tremendous hail of enemy automatic, small arms and mortar fire which pinned them down. Calling down for artillery, which he adjusted to destroy the mortar position and crew, Lieutenant Courtney exposed himself to the deadly fire as he moved among his men, directing their fire and pin-pointing targets. Under heavy fire, he manned a machinegun and accurately pointed out targets with his fire. After defeating the North Vietnamese Army platoon, he cared for his wounded and evacuated them. Lieutenant Courtney's courage, leadership, and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, AD; General Orders Number 1439; 29 November 1967)

19 August 1970



CPL Frank R. Fratellenico (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Medal of Honor (Posthumously) for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a rifleman with Company B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy aggressor forces at Fire Base Barnett, Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam, on 19 August 1970. Corporal Fratellenico's squad was pinned down by intensive fire from two well-fortified enemy bunkers. At great personal risk Corporal Fratellenico maneuvered forward and, using hand grenades neutralized the first bunker which was occupied by a number of enemy soldiers. While attacking the second bunker, enemy fire struck Corporal Fratellenico, causing him to fall to the ground and drop a grenade which he was preparing to throw. Alert to the imminent danger to his comrades, Corporal Fratellenico retrieved the grenade and fell upon it an instant before it exploded. His heroic actions prevented death or serious injury to four of his comrades nearby and inspired his unit which subsequently overran the enemy position. Corporal Fratellenico's conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity at the cost of his life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army. (General Orders No. 37, September 6, 1974)

19 August 1970



SFC Wallace Gainey (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 August 1970. Sergeant Gainey distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant in Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. While assaulting an enemy bunker complex, Sergeant Gainey directed the suppressive fire of his men. Subjecting himself to intense enemy fire, he repeatedly maneuvered to his wounded comrades and carried them to safety. His actions were instrumental in silencing the enemy positions and enabled the wounded to received medical attention as soon as possible. Sergeant Gainey'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 11809; 24 September 1970)

19 August 1970

SGT James F. Hartwig (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 August 1970. Sergeant Hartwig distinguished himself while serving as a Team Leader in Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Hartwig was called upon to provide fire support during an assault on an enemy-occupied ridge line. When his platoon reached the ridge line, they received grenade and automatic weapons fire from a heavily-fortified enemy position. Although sustaining shrapnel wound, he refused medical attention and continued to assist in directing the assault until the enemy had been driven from the hill. Sergeant Hartwig'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.

19 August 1970

SSG James A. Woods (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 August 1970. Sergeant Woods distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. During an assault on an enemy occupied ridge, Sergeant Woods led his squad through an intense barrage of enemy fire. While maneuvering among his men, directing and supervising their actions, Sergeant Woods placed effective suppressive fire and threw numerous hand grenades at the enemy emplacements. His actions contributed greatly to silencing the enemy positions. Sergeant Woods' 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 11803; 24 September 1970)



19 August 1970

LT James L. Sanders (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 August 1970, in the Republic of Vietnam, Lieutenant Sanders distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 502nd Infantry, during combat operations in Quang Tri Province. While assaulting an enemy bunker complex, Lieutenant Sanders crawled to the lead element and directed artillery and air support on the enemy emplacements. Subjecting himself to intense hostile fire, he maneuvered among his men, directing their suppressive fire. His actions were instrumental in directing accurate artillery and air support which aided in silencing the enemy positions. Lieutenant Sanders' 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

ACAV: Armored Cavalry
AD: Americal Division
AD: Airborne Division (Would be after numeric numbers)
AO: Area of Operations
ARA: Aerial Rocket Artillery
ARCOM: Army Commendation Medal
ARVN: Army of the Republic of Viet Nam (also known as the South Vietnamese Army (SVA))
BDE: Brigade
BN: Battalion
BSM: Bronze Star Medal
BBT: Booby Traps
CA: Combat Assault
CANOPY: Heavily Wooded Terrain
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
RF: Regional 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
USARV: United States Army Vietnam
USARPAC: United States Army Pacific
WIA: Wounded in Action
WHA: Wounded by Hostile Action
WNHA: Wounded by Non-Hostile Action
"V": Valor
VC: Viet Cong

