



STRIKE

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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.

26 March 1966

Personal Account of Friendly Fire Incident Tuy Hoa, Vietnam; by George R Basset (E-4) Fire Team Leader & Point Man-2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, Co B, 2/502 Abn. Inf., 101st Airborne Division. I will relate my participation in an event that took Place at Tuy Hoa, Viet Nam on March 26, 1966:

We were operating as a company sized unit high in the mountains of Tuy Hoa, Phu Yen Province, in search of the 95th NVA Regiment with orders to engage and destroy them. On March 24, one of the men in my fire team, PFC James Campbell, slipped and sustained injuries to his back and claimed that he could not walk. He was unable to urinate and the medic suspected a ruptured bladder. Due to the terrain and the proximity to the enemy there was no way to get a helicopter in to extract him. We were instructed to construct a litter and carry him, which we did. Our goal was to gain the rice paddies that were 5000-6000 meters away, where our company would be extracted by helicopter. We were traveling in a company sized unit, with a recon squad on point, followed by 2nd platoon, then us, 1st platoon, with 3rd platoon bringing up the rear. Campbell was a member of our squad and it became our responsibility to carry him. We were short of men, having lost several not long before, including our Squad Leader, Estevan "Chico" Alvarado, who had been shot 4 times on 6 Feb. and evacuated to the U.S. We had 4 men on the litter, myself and Pfc James Hudspeth on the front with Pfc Ben Chavez and another trooper on the other end. We were high in the mountains and descending down a saddle, following a small game trail with a steep rocky mountain face to our immediate left. We had been carrying Campbell for 1 1/2 days at that point and could see our goal, the paddies, from our high vantage point about a mile to our front. Gunfire to our front suddenly erupted to be shortly followed by more gunfire from about 100 meters above us from the side of a rock-strewn mountain to our left. We all went to the ground in place and returned fire despite not knowing from exactly where we were being shot at from among the rocks. We had an artillery Forward Observer traveling with us (I shall not name him) and he immediately called for the artillery to fire a white phosphorus air burst to adjust their fire from. After the air burst, he made his calculations and told them to fire for effect. The artillery battery, consisting of 5 105-millimeter artillery pieces then fired for effect. The FO shouted "shot out" and we all hugged the ground as closely as we could. Very shortly thereafter, I heard an indescribably sound that I had never heard before or since in my life. The closest way that I can describe it would be like laying between a set of railroad tracks and have a high-speed locomotive pass over you. Suddenly there was a tremendous explosion, branches, debris, dust, smoke and shrapnel were flying among us and newly wounded men were screaming. My ears were ringing and I sat up immediately and the first thing that I noted was that one of the nearby troopers was examining his rifle as it had a piece of smoking shrapnel the size of the palm of your hand wedged in the flash suppressor. Troopers were hollering but I couldn't hear them clearly. Lt. Cousins RTO was on the radio trying to get the CP to tell the FO to "Check fire". He could not transmit as the speaker cord has been severed by the shrapnel. The RTO had been wounded and gave up trying to use the radio. I saw PVT Campbell get up off the stretcher and run like hell??? My hearing started to improve and Lt Cousins ran by me and told me to "Help that Man". I looked for Hudspeth that had been lying next to me and couldn't find him. I heard a voice screaming from a nearby ravine "Get it off me, get it off me" I descended into the ravine and could hear where the screaming was coming from but could not see the person as the ravine where the screaming was coming from was filled with purple smoke. PFC Wayne Linville accompanied me into the ravine despite having a shrapnel wound to the leg. I went into the smoke and saw a trooper, PFC Hudspeth, and grabbed him by his LBE and pulled him from the smoke and noted that his face and head were severely burned. Most of the damage coming from a purple smoke grenade that he wore on his LBE right suspender. The smoke grenade had burned the side of his face to the bone. The device was still burning when I ripped it off. It was with great difficulty that I dragged him up onto the trail, Linville was not able to assist due to his wounds. After gaining the trail with Hudspeth, I noted that his leg had been cutoff between the ankle and the knee but was not bleeding, just a white bone stub sticking out of the amputated limb. I rolled him over to check for other wounds and found that one of his buttocks had been blown off. Linville made a spontaneous cry of surprise that Hudspeth's leg had been cut off and it was at this point that Hudspeth knew that he was in bad shape. I stayed with him while a medic worked over him but I believe that he knew that he was dying and he asked me to make sure that his mother got his camera. (not long before, he had received a letter from his wife letting him know that she had filed for divorce and it really galled us to know that she would be getting his military insurance) A1E Sky raiders showed up on the scene and silenced any further fire from the mountain side with napalm. I believe that 11 men were wounded and several killed as a result of one arty round hitting a tree directly above us. It took several hours to patch up the wounded, make stretchers and collect all the gear. The decent was now even slower than it had been before and it took quite a while to reach the paddies. I was amazed to see one of the seriously wounded NCOs (Archuletta) helping to carry one of the stretchers. He had a severe gunshot wound to the jaw and his head had been wrapped with so many bandages that the only visible part of his face that you could see was his eyes. I can't remember what became of Campbell after he bolted off the stretcher and ran. Medivac choppers were circling the paddies below waiting for our arrival. Due to the number of casualties and the seriousness of their wounds they had several surgeons on board. Hudspeth died from loss of blood on the chopper in route to the medical facility. From that day on whenever an artillery fire mission was called in and word was shouted "Shot out" I trembled as did others that were there that day. From this time forward, I recall very little. My tour was up in early June, 1966, and I returned to Ft. Campbell and shortly after my arrival, I was assigned as an enlisted orderly to Maj General Ben Sternberg, Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division. The duty was "push" with many perks that came with the assignment. Within two months I became bored and applied to return to Viet Nam as a door gunner on a huey chopper. The paperwork took months and by the time it was approved, I had only two months remaining on my enlistment in the army. I extended my enlistments for another 10 months in order to be able to complete a full year tour as a door gunner. Upon arriving in



Viet Nam for my second tour, I was assigned to the 170th Assault helicopter Co. in Pleiku, 26 miles from the Cambodian. Part of our duties was to clandestinely insert and extract SOG recon teams into and out of Cambodia.

- 26 March 1968 The 2BDE begins 100 days of cordon operations in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.
- 26 – 28 March 1968 The 1-501 IN BN cordons Thon Thua Hoa, resulting in 31 NVA KIA, 18 VC KIA, and 5400 lbs. of rice captured.
- 26 March 1968 The 1-502 IN BN, CPT Greg Mills established a small 4.2 mortar site at FSB Lyon. C/1-502 IN was flown in to guard FSB Lyon and B/1-502 IN was in the valley to the West of FSB Lyon 629223 (hill 285) in heavy contact with the enemy. An error in adjustment of the 4.2 mortar fire resulted in heavy casualties. Retired LTG Cushman, 2BDE Commander at the time, recalled this as the worst memory of his military career.
- 26 March 1968 B/1-502 IN operating along a trail in the hills six miles south of LZ Sally, made contact with an estimated enemy platoon. As First Strike's mortar platoon was firing 4.2 inch rounds into the jungle ahead of the column, a fire direction miscalculation placed several rounds directly on the company commander's command group near the head of the column. I was in the air at the time and took my Huey C&C ship into a tiny cleared area by vertical descent and ascent. Along with dust-off helicopters we were able to get the dead and wounded out. To the great grief of all concerned, B/1-502 IN lost 11 KIA and 19 WIA. (2D BRIGADE/101ST TASK FORCE IN VIETNAM; FORTY YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (March 23-29, 1968); By LTG (then COL) John H. Cushman)
- 26 March 1968 The 2BDE was planning to move its command post to Camp Evans where we would take charge of areas of operations of brigades of the 1CD which were to move northward to a major operation west of Quang Tri, relieving the besieged US Marines at Khe Sahn. We would be joined in our new AO by the 3BDE, 2-327 IN BN, but would leave behind the 1-501 IN BN, attached to the 3BDE, 82AD, just arrived from Fort Bragg. The 3BDE/82AD would take over LZ Sally.
- With the loss of too many fine troopers to sapper's just days before, and even more to the 1/502's mortar accident, and with little to show from our air assault and search and destroy operations, recent days had been discouraging. But on March 27, the 1/501 launched an operation that would begin a new phase for the 2d Brigade. It was to be our first "cordon," or "encirclement." (2D BRIGADE/101ST TASK FORCE IN VIETNAM; FORTY YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (March 23-29, 1968); By LTG (then COL) John H. Cushman)
- 26 – 27 March 1968 The 1/501 IN BN learned that part of the 810 VC local force battalion had just moved to the vicinity of a hamlet, Thuan Hoa, on the west bank of the Perfume River. US Navy patrol boats, with whom the 1/501 were in contact, made a similar report. LTC Wayne J. Prokup, battalion commander, had already laid on a two-company combat assault, supported by the 188th Assault Helicopter Co. Redirecting its objectives, he launched in the early morning.
- By noon A/1/501, having moved again by helicopter, was approaching Thuan Hoa from the west. D/1/501 then air assaulted to a hot LZ to the hamlet's south; the 1/501 recon platoon was lifted into position to the north. Artillery, gunships, and three airstrikes had supported the 1/501. Wayne Prokup and I could see that, with Navy patrol boats in the Perfume River, we had the enemy encircled. But night was coming on, and the surrounded enemy might slip away. So we called on USAF C-47's to drop flares so that the encircling troopers could see. During the night escaping enemy were killed or driven back, after bringing up Psyops loudspeakers to broadcast surrender appeals without result, the 1/501 with artillery and air support took the hamlet. Results: 2 US KIA, 19 US WIA; 31 NVA KIA, 3 NVA POW, 22 VC KIA. This action would be followed by similar 2d Brigade encirclements.
- Meanwhile in the mountains fifteen miles to the southwest of LZ Sally, the 2/501, supported by artillery and tactical air strikes, had been in heavy contact with the 9th Battalion, 90th NVA Regiment. The brigade journal reported: "Enemy assessment 7 NVA KIA, Friendly losses: 1 KIA, 10 WIA." (2D BRIGADE/101ST TASK FORCE IN VIETNAM; FORTY YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (March 23-29, 1968); By LTG (then COL) John H. Cushman)
- 26 March 1969 A/1-502 IN with Recon OPCON continued to patrol the area of Dong A Tay and found 2 NVA KIA, and a quantity of equipment. B/1-502 IN moved by air to FSB Veghel and exchanged missions with C/1-502 IN which moved to Dong A Tay and conducted a RIF to the southeast. D/1-502 IN conducted a RIF to the northwest and discovered a large quantity of NVA ammunition and equipment in an abandoned base area.
- 27 March 1966 **Operation FILLMORE:** A/2-502 IN continued search and destroy operations in vicinity of a Viet Cong hospital at CQ145265. They found 10 Viet Cong KIA (BC) and 2 Viet Cong WIA, at 0555H vicinity CQ144264. They continued to search caves and suspected enemy positions in the area.
- Bravo Company closed into the battalion base, vicinity CQ128298 and remained in battalion reserve. Charlie Company remained in position vicinity CQ092252 ready to exploit B-52 strike. RECONDO Platoon moved to vicinity CQ149230 to exploit B-52 strike in area QUEBEC and prepared LZ vicinity CQ168232 for future operations. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report; Operation FILLMORE; 18 May 1966)
- 27 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN:** B/2-502 came under OPCON to 2-327.
- 27 March 1968 D/2-501 (Delta Raiders) engaged an estimated NVA company size force, well dug in within a bunker complex, later confirmed to be the HQ of the 9th BN 90th NVA Regt. Heavy volumes of small arms and automatic weapons fire was employed by the enemy. Results - 1 US KIA, 7 US wounded in action - George Parker, Nick Saxiones, David W. Martin, Robert B. Washington, Robert Brockman, 2LT. William D. Loftin, Richard Buzzini. 14 NVA killed in action.
- 27 March 1971 C/1-501 IN, 1st platoon received fire from a platoon force with machine gun. Results 3 US WIA.



27 March 1971 C/1-501 IN vicinity XD940590 received unnumbered 82mm rounds rocket and small arms fire. Resulting in 6 US WIA.

27 March 1971 C/1-501 IN received 5 more 82mm rounds. Resulting in 3 US WIA.

27 March 1971 C/1-501 IN receive unknown number of 82mm rounds vicinity XD943552. Results 2 US KIA and 1 US WIA.

28 March 1967 **Phan Rang to Khanh Duong:** The 2-502 IN BN moved by C-130 and motor convoy to Khanh Duong, a village northwest of Ninh Hoa in Khanh Hoa Province. The convoy carried the material needed to establish a base camp at Khanh Duong, and 2-502 IN BN, with the mission of securing the new brigade base, began patrolling the surrounding area and planning for Operation SUMMERALL. Khanh Hoa Province is classified as Central Highlands, and most of the 2-502's operations were conducted in very mountainous terrain during the rainy season. This combination of conditions put a considerable strain on troops and equipment, especially during the campaign on Hon Ba Mountain against Regiment 18-B.



On arrival in Khanh Duong, the 1st Brigade assumed the mission of road security for Route 21. This task initially fell on the 2-502 which had C Company, 2-327, under its OPCON for this purpose. The military security along a portion of Route 21 allowed traffic to proceed from Duc My to Khanh Duong without paying VC road tolls, and helped bring the Montagnard Villages near the highway under RVN control. (Picture of Khanh Duong Airfield)

28 March 1968 Rifle companies of the 1-501 IN BN made contact with elements of the 803rd NVA Regiment. Delta Company paratroopers swept an area two and one half miles north of Hue. Stiff enemy resistance indicated a sizable force in the area. The Battalion sweep, aided by Naval gun fire, artillery and air strikes, netted 24 NVA killed, 10 AK-47's and eight SKS carbines captured. (Rendezvous with Destiny Volume 1, Number 2; July 1968)

28 March 1968 The 1-502 IN BN continued search and destroy operations and experienced several change in command personnel. The following changes were conducted: MAJ Shachnow to BN S-3, CPT Greenhouse from D Co. to BN S2, CPT Speedy from C Co. to BN Asst. S3, 1LT Wise to C Co. as CO., and A/1-502 IN OPCON to 3d Marine Division.

28 March – 15 April 1968 **Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN:** Phase II: The 2-502 IN BN had to devote most of its effort in preparation of FSB Bastogne. Initially C/2-502 IN and Recon were sent out into assigned AO's with both making daily small contacts with the enemy. The remainder of the 2-502 IN BN concentrated on building the defenses of FSB Bastogne and providing security for the three different sized artillery units. C/2-502 IN was replaced by A/2-502 IN in the SE and made the first major contact with enemy, drawing B/2-502 IN to its aid. Afterwards A/2-502 IN returned to the TAC-CP and B/2-502 IN continued combat operations in the AO. C/2-502 IN replaced B/2-502 IN in the AO orientated to the West and continued combat operations until the end of Phase II. All companies were given convoy security missions along Hwy 547 into Bastogne, with C/2-502 IN springing an enemy ambush. Convoys were made to Bastogne mainly to bring in the heavy artillery pieces and the heavy engineers equipment. Additional units of communications and artillery were deployed to Bastogne eventually doubling the size of the FSB. During Phase II only limited combat operations could be conducted, because the FSB had to be constructed. Also due to its size it took two companies to secure it however more major contacts were made with the enemy during this phase. All companies securing Hwy 547 for convoys, had the use of the platoon from A/3-5 Cav, thus greatly increasing their firepower and mobility. The Cavalry platoon was also used to reinforce the Recondos once and B/2-502 IN once during their major engagements. Phase II ended 160001 April when the 1-101 ABN DIV began Operation DELAWARE. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Combat Operations After Action Report; Operation JEB STRUAT/CARENTAN; 25 April 1968)

28 March 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** (2-502 IN) In the afternoon an LZ was prepped for the insertion of the reconnaissance platoon. Once on the ground, the Platoon discovered the bodies of two NVA who had been killed by Artillery. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)

28 March 1971 A/1-501 IN vicinity XD965457 received small arms fire while landing at LZ, also received 82mm or rockets. Results 3 US WIA.

29 March – 29 April 1967 The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (1/327 IN BN, 2/327 IN BN, 2/502 IN BN, A/2-17) begins **Operation SUMMERALL**, a search and destroy mission in the highlands of Darlac, Khanh Hoa and Phu Yen Provinces, between Buon Ea Yang and Khanh Duong. US losses are 7 killed and 43 wounded, enemy losses are 72 killed and 11 POWs.

29 March 1968 The 1-501 IN BN conducted a cordon operation four and on-half miles northwest of Hue. When an NVA platoon located in the village began to fire on them, air strikes and supporting artillery fire were called in. By early afternoon, the NVA broke contact and the paratroopers began a sweep of the village. Thirty-three bodies were found as well as 20 weapons. (Rendezvous with Destiny Volume 1, Number 2; July 1968)

29 – 31 March 1968 The 1-502 IN BN continued search and destroy operations in Quang Dien District and defense of An Lo Bridge and LZ Sally. Very light contact was made with negative results.

29 March 1969 At 2015H at coordinates YD526227 (9K Northeast of Hue City) CPA 3-1-8 while proceeding to ambush site, via check points, leading element point man observed movement at coordinates YD831229 moving towards enroute ambush unit and immediately set up a hasty ambush site at coordinates YD826227. Spurge ambush with small arms and M-79 fire the ambushed unit illuminated the area with M-79 alum and a green star cluster, while 3-1-8 called for artillery alum, During



the waiting period, 3-1-8 received small arms fire but did not return small arms because their actual ordered a cease fire, possibility of ambushed unit being USA. After established identification with green star cluster, 3-1-8 moved in to assist with Medevac and LZ landing. 3-1-8 the returned to harbor site. Results: One (1) USA/KIA, two (2) USA/WIA. (From 3rd Combined Action Group CMD Chronology)

29 March 1971

Operation LAM SON 719: "Geronimo's" of D/1-501 IN discovered two enemy caves while on search and clear operations northwest of Quang Tri in support of Operation Lam Son 719. The caves contained 35 – 82mm mortar rounds, 82 – 82mm mortar fuses, 50 – 60mm mortar rounds, nine 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, a quantity of pull-type fuses, and various other enemy equipment. (Rendezvous with Destiny Magazine, Winter/Fall 1971)

30 March 1968

Seven and one-half miles east of Hue, D/2-501 IN found 31 NVA killed in a previous day's action in their area of operation (AO). (Rendezvous with Destiny Volume 1, Number 2; July 1968)

30 - 31 March 1968

D/1-501 IN first new objective was to clear out and eliminate a large NVA unit entrenched in a small farming village located about three miles' northeast of Hai Lang and just north of the boundary between Quan Tri and Tua Tien Provinces. D Company (consisting of its Headquarters element of about 6 and three Platoons of about 25 each) arrived near the outskirts of the village late in the afternoon on the 30th. The village stood out clearly; it was surrounded by a vast expanse of rice paddies. The NVA, dug in and fortified, were certainly prepared to defend the village and its nearby cemetery. Since they were surrounded, they had no choice.

A short time after arrival at the village outskirts, D Company Commanding Officer decided to conduct small-unit probing attacks to ascertain the strength and strong points of the NVA. The several probing attacks in the late afternoon and early evening proved one sure thing for the CO and the D Company paratroopers; the NVA were ready to fight and to fight hard since there was little hope for most of them to sneak away and escape.

The CO established the plan of attack which called for an assault by two Platoons at first light the next morning. The attack plan was direct and simple (there were few, if any, options considering the fact that the village was isolated out in the rice paddies) with two Platoons comprising the initial attack element. The remaining Platoon, as standard procedure, was to stand by in reserve. In D Company, the CO established the reserve Platoon on a daily rotational basis between the three Platoons. As such, the 1st Platoon's turn as reserve was on March 31st. The 2nd and 3rd Platoon would then comprise the initial "first light" assault elements with the 2nd Platoon on the right and the 3rd on the left.

The village, as noted previously, was isolated out in a vast rice paddy area. The village was typical Vietnamese farming enclave with its adjacent and traditional Vietnamese cemetery above 50 yards from its outskirts.

Off to one corner of the village and along the left side (the left side being from the direction of the attack) of the cemetery was a shallow drainage ditch with scrub bamboo and other brush growing in it. As planned, the vegetated ditch was to serve as the dividing line between the two attacking Platoons.

On March 31st, at first light soon arrived for the paratroopers of Delta Company and the attack by the 2nd and 3rd Platoon on the village would commenced. The NVA were quick to respond to the assault on their positions. The paratroopers faced intense rifle, machine gun and rocket propelled grenade fire from the entrenched NVA. In spite of the heavy enemy fire facing the (which resulted in several wounded-in –action casualties to their ranks), the 2nd and 3rd Platoons made slow but steady progress toward their objectives. The 3rd Platoon initially cleared out several enemy positions firing at them from the drainage ditch. Alternatively taking cover where available and laying down suppressing fire the Platoon began maneuvering toward the small farm structures at the village edge. Upon receiving instructions from the CO, the 3rd Platoon temporarily held its position while the 2nd Platoon dealt with an unexpected strong enemy resistance at the cemetery. The 3rd Platoon maintained its position and exchanged concentrated fire on the enemy at their defensive positions within the village. This action drew the village bound NVA's total attention. They were unable to provide support to the NVA that was stiffly engaging the 2nd Platoon as it approached the cemetery. The grave sites were ideal for defensive fighting positions and on the morning of March 31st, the NVA put them to good use.

With courageous and skilled leadership, the 2nd Platoon Leader maneuvered his paratroopers who placed withering fire on the enemy at their grave site fortifications. The accurate and concentrated fire from their rifles, machine guns and grenade launchers kept the enemy down allowing effective use of hand grenades and more careful maneuvering. After more than two hours of this tactic, the 2nd Platoon eliminated several enemy grave site positions along the edge of the cemetery and closest to its line of attack. Finally, the tables of the battle for the cemetery had slowly started to turn in the 2nd Platoon favor. From the beginning of the attack at first light and throughout the period leading up to the taking the first few grave site enemy positions there was no question that the 2nd Platoon was a "well-oiled" fighting machine as it engaged NVA with each paratrooper doing his job in a first-class resolute manner.

By this time the battle for the village had moved well into mid-morning. With the few initial grave site positions now in the 2nd Platoon's control and with the limited protection they provided, it was able to engage the stubborn NVA in fire and maneuver actions going from one grave site to another adjacent grave site eliminating the NVA in each as progress was achieved.

30 – 31 March 1968

D/1-501 IN BN, 2nd platoon, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division; During the last week of March 1968, D Company moved to the north of the town of Hai Lang which was located at the northern edge of Thua-Tien Province and about ten miles south of the city of Quan Tri. Hai Lang, situated on the coastal plain about five miles' inland from the South China Sea, served as a regional and inter-provincial traffic hub (Route 1 – A major north/south highway passed through) for distribution of agricultural products (mainly rice) grown in the area and for products from the nearby ocean fishing boats.



From the beginning of the TET Offensive that started in the dark early in the morning of January 31, 1968, D Company, along with its sister companies of the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, was engaged in continuous day and night combat with regular North Vietnamese Soldiers (NVA) in and around Hai Lang. By the end of March, the NVA in Hai Lang and the area surrounding it were eliminated. It was time for the Battalion to move out to new areas where enemy forces were concentrated and to engage them in combat. Experience from the initial TET battles and the battles throughout the months of February and March, taught the D Company paratroopers well. D Company, with first-class leaders, was battle hardened. D Company was skilled in combat discipline, teamwork and tactics; it was eager to engage the NVA in the battle at any time.

A short time after arrival at the village outskirts, the D Company Officer (CO) decided to conduct small-unit probing attacks to ascertain the strength and strong points of the NVA. The several probing attacks in the late afternoon and early evening proved one sure thing for the CO and the D Company paratroopers; the NVA were ready to fight and to fight hard since there was little hope for most of them to sneak away and escape.

The CO established the plan to attack which called for an assault by two Platoons at first light the next morning. The attack plan was direct and simple (there were few, if any, options considering the fact that the village was isolated out in the rice paddies) with two Platoons comprising the initial attack element. The remaining Platoon, as standard procedure, was to stand by in reserve. In D Company, the CO established the reserve Platoon on a daily rotational basis between the three Platoons. As such, the First Platoon's turn as reserve was March 31st. The Second and Third Platoons would then comprise the initial "first light" assault elements with the Second Platoon on the right and the Third on the left.

The village, as noted previously, was isolated out in a vast rice paddy area. The village was a typical Vietnamese farming enclave with its adjacent and traditional Vietnamese cemetery about 50 yards from its outskirts.

Off to one corner of the village and along the left side (the left side being from the direction of the attack) of the cemetery was a shallow drainage ditch with scrub bamboo and other brush growing in it. As planned, the vegetated ditch was to serve as the dividing line between the two attacking Platoons.

On March 31st, the first light soon arrived for the paratroopers of D Company and the attack by the Second and Third Platoon on the village commenced. The NVA were quick to respond to the assault on their positions. The paratroopers face intense rifle, machine gun and rocket propelled grenade fire from the entrenched NVA. In spite of the heavy enemy fire facing them (which resulted in several wounded-in-action (WIA) casualties to their ranks), the Second and Third Platoons made slow but steady progress toward their objectives. The Third Platoon initially cleared out several enemy positions firing at them from the drainage ditch. Alternatively taking cover where available and laying down suppressing fire it began maneuvering toward the small farm structures at the village edge. Upon receiving instructions from the CO, the Third Platoon temporarily held its position while the Second Platoon dealt with an unexpected strong enemy resistance at the cemetery. The Third Platoon maintained its position and exchanged concentrated fire on the enemy at their defensive positions with the village. This action drew the village bound NVA's total attention. They were unable to provide support to the NVA that was stiffly engaging the Second Platoon as it approached the cemetery.

A Vietnamese cemetery consists of numerous gravesites that are at ground level. A grave is covered with a durable concrete seal and is set on a thick concrete slab. Each grave is further surrounded by a low (about 3 feet high) decorative masonry railing supported by numerous decorative masonry posts and religious symbols. The grave sites were ideal for defensive fighting positions and on the morning of March 31st, the NVA put them to good use.

With courageous and skilled leadership, the Second Platoon Leader maneuvered his paratroopers who placed withering fire on the enemy at their grave site fortifications. The accurate and concentrated fire from their rifles, machine guns and grenade launchers kept the enemy down allowing effective use of hand grenades and more careful maneuvering. After more than two hours of this tactics, the Second Platoon eliminated several enemy grave site positions along the edge of the cemetery and closest to its line of attack. Finally, the tables of the battle for the cemetery had slowly started to turn in the Second Platoon's favor. From the beginning of the attack at first light and throughout the period leading up to the taking of the first few grave site enemy positions, PFC Danny Stephens, along with his Second Platoon comrades, performed his duty as a rifleman with determination, skill and courage. There is no question that on the morning, the Second Platoon was a 'well-oiled' fighting machine as it engaged the NVA with each paratrooper doing his job in a first-class and resolute manner.

By this time the battle for the village had moved well into mid-morning. With the few initial grave site positions now in the Second Platoon's control and with the limited protection they provided, it was able to engage the stubborn NVA in fire and maneuver actions going from one grave site to another adjacent grave site eliminating the NVA in each as progress was achieved.

It was during the mid-morning period of the battle among the cemetery's masonry structures that PFC Danny Stephens, while providing intense suppressing fire on the NVA, received an instantly fatal single shot to his upper chest.

PFC Stephens had taken cover in one of the grave site positions. Lying prone, he was covered on most sides by the stone posts and railing of the low enclosures that defined the borders of this particular grave site. Enemy forces were within 30 to 50 yards of the Second Platoon line. As the squad on his right engaged the enemy by throwing hand grenades at the enemy positions to their front, PFC Stephens provided effective suppressive fire on the enemy while his comrades were throwing the grenades. He was doing everything correctly; ran, not exposing himself unnecessarily, shielding himself behind available cover and firing at the enemy. Unfortunately, an enemy rifleman was able to engage his position through a very narrow field of fire and by firing only inches above the ground.



After driving the enemy from the cemetery by late morning, D Company's attack halted to regroup and re-arm. During this lull the enemy engaged the cemetery area with what were estimated to be 60-mm mortars. The Second Platoon Leader and his Radio Telephone Operator (RTO) and several other members of the Platoon were wounded. The NVA mortar attack essentially blunted the attack on the village. The CO then decided to pull the two assault Platoons back and to establish a cordon around the village.

After the cordon was established, the CO called for artillery fire to pound the village and the NVA in it. The artillery fire softened the area for the remainder of the day and throughout the night. That night, a squad from the First Platoon successfully set-up and ambush at a trail along a dike leading out of the village. They made contact and early the next morning, while policing the ambush site, they found, among other fallen NVA, one wounded enemy who was taken prisoner.

As was after the case, the few NVA that remained in the village and who survived the battle and the artillery exfiltrated during the night.

Early the next day, D Company was able to enter the village without any enemy resistance. (After Action Report written by: David A. Lamenzo (former 1LT and former D Company XO and Third Platoon Leader))

- 31 March 1968 The last day of Operation Carentan saw no let-up in the relentless search for enemy Soldiers and local Viet Cong in the Hue area. Fifteen miles northwest of the imperial city, airborne artillerymen from the 1-321 ARTY were called by an aerial observer and immediately trapped 85-100 NVA Soldiers in an open field with accurate fire. Thirty of the NVA were killed. Six and one-half miles west of Hue, members of the 1-501 IN BN encountered a well-positioned enemy company. They called in air strikes that resulted in several secondary explosions. A quick search of the area uncovered 18 enemies dead. During the operation, 861 enemies were killed. The total weapons and munitions captured included 186 individual and crew-served weapons, while 1,027 rocket, mortar, and artillery rounds were kept from the enemy. More than 41,000 rounds of small arms ammunition and 45 hand grenades were captured, along with nearly 17 tons of rice and grain.
- 31 March 1968 **Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN:** At 0905H, C/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon at vicinity YD607086 engaged squad sized enemy force. Results: 4 US WHA, 7 NVA KIA Captured: 1 RPG, 2 AK-47, 2 SKS and documents. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Combat Operations After Action Report; Operation JEB STRUAT/CARENTAN; 25 April 1968)
- 31 March 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** Operation Randolph Glen drew to a close. It proved to be a fitting operation with which to initiate the New Year. Success of the operation is attested to by the impressive statistics compiled by the battalion during the period. Sixty-three enemy were killed, fifty-two individual weapons were captured, along with nine crew-served weapons. (2-502 Unit History of the Strike Force, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)
- 31 March 1971 The 1-501 IN Recon platoon vicinity XD913546 found a gunny sack with 20 60mm rounds, 4 charges, 1 chicom claymore. These items were found on trail oriented north to south.
- 31 March 1971 A/1-501 IN, 1st platoon vicinity XD987444 was moving south west when the element tripped MA which was placed by another US unit. Results 3 US WIA.
- April 1968 During the first week of April the 2-501 IN BN was securing Wunder Beach vicinity YD4955 and FSB Hardcore vicinity YD450510. (HQ, 101st AIR CAV DIV; Operation Report; Period Ending 30 April 1968)
- April 1971 **Operation LAM SON 720:** In the early April it became obvious that the NVA was making extensive use of the A Shau Valley to move troops, equipment, and supplies. The 1st Brigade was assigned the overall mission of disrupting the enemy's logistic system and impeding his use of the A Shau Valley area. The Brigade Commander elected to employ airmobile raid tactics with rapid operations of a short duration. For five days the companies patrolled the area around FB Jack and took turns refining rappelling techniques at FB Jack. (2-502 Unit History, 1971)
- 01 April 1968 Paratroopers of the 1st and 2nd Brigades, 101st Airborne Division and the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division launched Operation Carentan II in the same AO as Carentan I. (Rendezvous with Destiny Volume 1, Number 2; July 1968)
- 01 April 1968 A/1-502 IN OPCON to 3d Marine Division. The other units conducted normal operations with negative results.
- 01 April 1968 The 2-501 IN BN deployed to Utah Beach North of Hue and subsequently established Firebase Hardcore southwest of this area. During the operations in, this area over 60 NVA were killed.
- 01 April 1970 **Operation TEXA STAR** commenced with renewed efforts in the Vietnamization of combat operations in northern Military Region 1.
- 01 – 30 April 1971 During this period the 1-501 IN battalion conducted search and clear operations in its assigned area of operation. The battalion occupied FB T-Bird III vicinity XD970539 operations were under the 3rd Brigade as we were OPCON to them until 09 April 1971. Alpha 2-502 was OPCON to our operation and conducted a security mission along QL 9 until 04 April 1971. The battalion moved to Mai Loc on 08 April by air and then to Phu Bai for a three day standdown for refitting, organization and resupply for the next mission. Memorial Services were conducted on 10 April 1971 in the battalion area. On 11 April the battalion moved by truck to FB Tomahawk and Alpha Company occupied and secured the firebase. The companies departed along L 1 and walked into their assigned AO's. On 13 April Delta Company and Charlie Company 4th Platoon moved to Da Nang by air to secure reserve ammo dump. The remainder of the period the battalion conducted search and clear operations around FB Tomahawk.
- 01 April 1971 D/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon found a high-speed trail from the top of Razorback to the valley floor.



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.

2 x Distinguished Service Cross (1 x Posthumously)
3 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
1 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
139 x Bronze Star Medal (17 x Posthumously)
80 x Purple Heart Medal (55 x Posthumously)
1 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
1 x Good Conduct Medal (1 x Posthumously)
1 x Died of wounds
3 x Died from Non-Hostile Injury/Illness
1 x Military Merit Medal (1 x Posthumously)
1 x Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm (1 x Posthumously)

26 March 1966



PFC James L. Hudspeth (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds to his chest, neck and back when hit by fragments from an artillery round in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1966

The following Soldiers: PFC Ronald Jones, SGT Robert D. Torry, PFC Wayne Linville, PFC Ernie Turpin, PFC Christopher McTyre, and SSG Ray Archuletta (2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8th Field Hospital; General Order Number 33; 29 March 1966)

26 March 1968



SGT Philip J. Krek Jr. (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



PFC Edwin L. Armstrong (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



SP4 Jack E. Derrico (B/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 fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. Difficulty was encountered in identifying due to the nature of wounds.

26 March 1968



PFC Wayne D. Krueger (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



26 March 1968



PFC John R. Horton (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



PFC Hoyle Terry Jr. (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



2LT Philip C. Benn (B/1-502) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



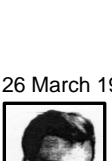
SP4 Glen D. Hubbard (B/1-502) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



PFC Roger M. Link (B/1-502) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



PFC Joe W. Smith (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received when his unit engaged hostile force in a firefight while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



PFC Alvin R. Gible (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds while on combat operation when engaged by hostile force in a firefight in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



SP4 Don J. Yelverton (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received while on combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in a firefight in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



26 March 1968



SGT John H. Barnes (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received while on combat operation when a hostile force was engaged in firefight in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



SP4 Ronald J. Ymbras (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in action in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ; 101st ABN DIV; General Order No: 11443; 31 December 1968)

26 Mar 1968



SP4 Ernesto S. Perea (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds while on combat operation when engaged by hostile force firefight in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



PFC Wayne E. Risner (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds while on combat operation when engaged by hostile force firefight in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

26 March 1968



CPL Craig P. Averill (B/2-501 IN) died from respiratory insufficiency due to pneumonia secondary to metal fragment wounds received while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile booby trap on 20 March 1968 in the Thuan Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. CPL Averill was admitted to a military hospital on 20 March 1968 and later expired on 26 March 1968.

26 March 1970



SGT Joe A. Escandon (E/1-501 IN) died as a result of burns received while at an artillery firing position when the round he was handling accidentally detonated on 24 March 1970, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1966



PFC Ronald W. Jones (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of a massive chest wound received when hit by friendly artillery fire while on a evacuation patrol; death is the result of hostile action in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1966

The following Soldiers: SP4 Leonard Frank and SGT Frederick R Myers (2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 8th Field Hospital; General Order Number 33; 29 March 1966)

27 March 1968

CPL Clifford L. Williams (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from metal fragment wound received when hit by fragments from hostile mortar round while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



27 March 1968

The following Soldiers: George Parker, Nick Saxiones, David W. Martin, Robert B. Washington, Robert Brockman, 2LT. William D. Loftin, Richard Buzzini were award the Purple Heart Metal for military merit and for wounds received in the Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1968



PFC Harvey G. Adair (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wound received while on combat operation when hit by fragment from a hostile grenade detonated in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1968



SGT John H. Barnes (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds while on combat operation when a hostile force was engaged in firefight on 26 March 1968 in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1968

PFC Lawrence R. Lopes (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wound received while on combat operation when hit by fragment from a hostile grenade detonated in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1968



2LT Franklin N. Giles Jr. (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on combat operation when a hostile force was engaged in firefight in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1969



PFC Ferrol S. Smith (C/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 multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation when hostile forces was encountered in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1971



CPL Thomas P. Olson (C/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 a military mission when the area came under attack by a hostile force 13km N-NW of Ca Lu Airfield in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1971

CPL Glen H. Yell (C/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 a military mission when the area came under attack by a hostile force 13km N-NW of Ca Lu Airfield in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1971

CPL Robert T. Bradley (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gun fire wounds while on a military mission when the area came under attack by a hostile force 13km N-NW of Ca Lu Airfield in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 March 1971



1LT Robert C. Chaudoin (C/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 military mission when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force 13km N-NW of Ca Lu Airfield in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.



27 March 1971



SP4 Paul E. Serven (C/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 military mission when the area came under attack by a hostile force 13km N-NW of Ca Lu Airfield in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

28 March 1970



CPL Sidney E. Rohler (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

28 March 1971

PFC Carl W. Pritchett (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds while on combat operation when area came under attack by hostile force on Cam Lo River 12km N-NW of Ca Lu Airfield in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1968



2LT Michael L. Gandy (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received while on combat mission, crossing river, when unit came under hostile small arms fire 4.5km Northwest of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1968



PFC Jose Medrano Jr. (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on a combat operation crossing a river when hit by hostile small arms fire 4.5km Northwest of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1968

CPL Aniello C. Nunziato (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds and drowned while on combat operation crossing a river when unit encountered hostile small arms fire 4.5km Northwest of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1968



SGT Marvin E. Penry (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of gunshot wounds received when his unit was hit by hostile small arms fire while on combat operation crossing a river 4.5km Northwest of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 march 1968

PFC Harold E. Penson (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds received while on combat mission, crossing river, when unit came under hostile small arms fire 4.5km Northwest of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1968



2LT Frank L. Rodriquez (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of fragment wounds received when he was hit by fragments from hostile mortar fire while on combat operation crossing a river 4.5km Northwest of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



29 March 1968



PFC Manuel Ruiz (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 from metal fragment wounds while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile grenade and mortar round while on combat operation crossing a river 4.5km Northwest of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1968



2LT Gary A. Scott (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on combat operations when hit by hostile small arms fire 4.5km Northwest of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1969



SP4 Roy B. Boyd (C/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 multiple fragmentation wounds in a bunker complex on Bloody Ridge (Dong A Tay) 9km Southwest of FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1969



CPL Glenn T. Shibata (C/1-502 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 in a bunker complex on Bloody Ridge (Dong A Tay) 9km Southwest of FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1969



SSG John J. Clark (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from misadventure (friendly fire) when unit entered CAP 3-1-8 ambush 7KM East of Hue Citadel in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 March 1971



SSG Terrel O. Kimber (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 a hostile force was encountered with small arms fire during assault on ridgeline 13km North-Northwest of Ca Lu Airfield in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1968



SP4 William P. Murphy (HHC/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 as the result of a gunshot wound received when his unit came under hostile fire while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1968



PFC James E. McPherson (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in firefight in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



30 March 1968

1LT Ronald E. Burdette (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in action in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 9394; 14 November 1968)

30 March 1969



SP4 Nelson L. Horchem Jr. (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from hostile small arms fire while on combat operation. He was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on the VSI list, and later expired in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1969



PFC Lawson D. Nelson (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the Thua Thien Province Republic of Vietnam. PFC Nelson was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on the VSI list and later expired.

30 March 1970



CPL George M. Anaya (B/1-501 IN) died while at an artillery firing position when artillery fire from a friendly force landed in his area, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1970



SSG David W. Barrus (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force 16 miles southwest of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1970



SGT Floyd S. Franklin (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force 16 miles southwest of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1970

SGT Gleason C. Helton (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force 16 miles southwest of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1970



SGT Russell C. Hibler (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when the area came under attack by a hostile force 16 miles southwest of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 March 1971



PFC Robert J. Skewes (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds 12km northwest of Ca Lu Airfield, in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.



31 March 1968



SP4 Don J. Yelverton (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds on received which resulted in his death from multiple fragment wounds while on combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in firefight on 26 March 1968 in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

31 March 1968



SP5 Jerry L. Patrick (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death as the result of gunshot wound received when his unit came under hostile automatic weapons fire while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

31 March 1968



SGT Leslie A. Ball (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received when hit by hostile automatic weapons fire while on combat operation in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

31 March 1968



SGT Ezekiel Paige (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 from gunshot wound received while on combat operation when unit engaged a hostile force in a firefight 6.5km northwest of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

31 March 1968



PFC Danny L. Stephens (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Military Merit Medal and the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm (Posthumously). (Letter to Parents; 14 Feb 1969, Signed MG Kenneth G. Wickham, The Adjutant General)

31 March 1968



PFC Danny L. Stephens (D/1-501 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 while on combat operations when engaged hostile force in firefight 6.5km northwest of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

31 March 1968



PFC James O. West (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Good Conduct Medal (Posthumously); PFC West died as the result of apparent drowning which occurred while taking a bath in a river in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam.

31 March 1969



CPL Charlie Hill III (D/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 multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



31 March 1969



SP4 Edward J. Frendling (D/1-502 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 mortar and grenade attack by a hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

31 March 1970



SGT Daniel K. Kohl (A/2-501 IN) died while at an artillery firing position when artillery fire from a friendly force landed in his area, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

01 April –
30 November 1968

The following Soldiers: PFC Spencer Coleman, SP4 Kenneth Cooley, SP4 Donnie C. Cooper, SP4 James C. Conell, PVT James W. Culberson, 1LT Pierce T. Graney, SP4 John A. Gray, SGT Ronald Groothoff, SP4 Juan A. Ibarra, SGT Bruce L. Johnson, PFC Johnny Jones, PFC William S. Kear III, SGT Charles K. Mants, SP4 Jeffrey Miller, SP4 GERAL E. O'Leary, SP4 Conrad Olson, PFC Johnny L. Parker, PFC Donald Payne, PFC Robert L. Peebles, SP4 Thomas Quicksall, SP4 Robert E. Rehder, SP4 John C. Rieck, SP4 Leonard Schroeder, SP4 John Sharatz, SP4 Willie A. Stone, PFC Eugene Suber, SGT Bobby E. Taylor, 1LT Clifton Whittaker, SGT Jimmy C. York, PFC Joe A. Ysias (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with military operations against a hostile force. (HQ, 101st Airborne Division, Special Orders Number 123; 7 January 1969)

01 April –
30 November 1968

The following Soldiers: SP4 Harold E. Ross, PFC James L. Johnston, PFC Eldrew Jones Jr., SP4 Leon J. Kubin, PFC Terry L. Markham, PFC Lanny R. Martin, PFC Robert L. Mason, PFC James H. McLain, SP4 Perez Pedro Oliver, SGT James D. Poindexter, PFC Roy A. Rowlette, PFC Gerald D. Russell, SP4 Daniel A. Warren, PFC Arthur J. Watis, PFC Timothy Youghblood (C/2-501 IN); SGT Roy L. Barber II, SP4 Salvatore Bongiorno, PFC David J. Brown, PFC Dominick Donatone, SGT Robert T. Dunn, SP4 Robert W. Duquette, SP4 Sheldon Eccleston, SP4 David C. Eckrote, SP4 Perfecio Escubedo, SP4 Willard E. Ferrell, CPT Michael H. Feurer, SGT John M. Findley, SP4 James M. Fitzgerald, SP4 Frankie D. Gaines, 1LT Edward L. Hogenauer, SGT Tommy R. Lawley, SP4 Wallace J. Leon, PFC Thoams J. Meeks, SP4 Charles E. Morrow, 1LT Ronald E. Phillips, SP4 Donald P. Pickett, SP4 Henry L. Powers, PFC Curtis D. Rhoton, SGT Samuel P. Royer, PFC Leroy R. Seib, SP4 Leroy L. Sheldon, SP4 Francis T. Sykes, SP4 David P. Thomas, SP4 Arthur Williams Jr., SP4 Scott Wilson (D/2-501 IN); SP4 Douglas Anderson (E.2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection to military operations against a hostile force. (HQ, 101 ABN DIV; General Order Number 125; 7 January 1969)

01 April -
30 November 1968

The following Soldiers: SP4 Marshall L. Moore, SP4 Noah R. Purtee, PFC Ronald Rigo, SP4 Ralph D. Schroeter, SP4 Alexander Vigil, SP4 William Ward Jr., PFC James R. White (E/1-502 IN); SP4 Larry Aldridge, SP5 Edwin H. Barbour, CPT Terrell D. Bridges, CPT James C. Britton, SGM Cecil Cash, SGT Hector Colon-Rios, SP5 Solomon Dezelle, CPT Ivan R. Farris, SP4 William C. Foreman, 1LT Allen D. Gibbs, SP4 Dennis D. Gibson, SFC James Gibson, SP4 David Hopper, SGT Jeffery D. Howe, SGT Victor Hyatt, CPT Timothy B. Jeffrey, PFC Alvin Kellog Jr., SP4 John R. Lazomby, CPT David Leeper, SFC Triveit Lloyd, SGT Ronald E. Long, SGT James P. Mason, SP4 Phillip Matio, SGT Floyd P. McNeill, SP4 Melvin B. McWorter, SP4 Joe E. Mikles, SP4 Jerome Newman, SFC Javier S. Nunez, SP4 Dean W. Ohl, SP5 Richard J. Oliva, SP4 Kenneth A. Osmoe, SP4 Pedro Ramirez Jr. SSG Stephen S. Rivera, SP5 Jorge R. Sanchez, SP4 Craig Sanguinetti, 1LT Gooffrey L. Scanlon, CPT Terran Spiegelberg, and SP4 Francisco Vasquez (HHC/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 130; 7 January 1969)

01 April 1968



PFC Gerard A. Lavigne (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragment wounds while setting up mine in base camp after hostile attack on camp when mine detonated in the Tua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. PFC Lavigne was evacuated to a military hospital in Vietnam where he later expired.

01 April 1969



PFC Robert E. Van Dusen (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 multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



01 April 1971



CPL Peter L. Winter (A/2-501) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a landing zone on a military mission when the area came under mortar attack by a hostile force 17KM East of Luoi in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

27 March 1971



1LT Kenji Takeda (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. First Lieutenant Takeda distinguished himself on 27 March 1971 while serving as a platoon leader during combat operations in Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. While leading a patrol, Lieutenant Takeda's platoon came under intense enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire. Although wounded by the enemy fire, Lieutenant Takeda directed the suppressive fire of his platoon. He then led an assault on the enemy positions, continuing even after being wounded a second time. Through-out the encounter he directed his element's fire, radioed for support, and directed the evacuation of the wounded. His efforts were instrumental in routing the enemy from the area. First Lieutenant Takeda's gallantry in action 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, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 6193; 4 June 1971)

29 March 1968



2LT Michael L. Gandy (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Second Lieutenant Gandy distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 March 1968 as a platoon leader during a search and clear mission on the west bank of the Song Bo River. A three-man scout team was crossing the river in a sampan when it came under an intense barrage of enemy fire, killing one man instantly. The other two men were wounded and sought protection in a bamboo thicket on the river bank. Lieutenant Gandy moved from squad to squad, encouraging his men and directing their fire against the communists. Six of his troops attempted to cross the river to rescue the two casualties by pushing a sampan before them for protection, but were carried downstream by the strong current. Despite the vicious enemy fire, Lieutenant Gandy dropped his equipment, made his way to the river's edge, and swam the seventy-five meters to the other side. Upon reaching the river bank, he found that only one of the scouts was alive. Grabbing hold of him, he began the hazardous swim back through intense hostile small arms and automatic weapons fire. As he approached mid-stream, the scout was hit and disappeared beneath the water. A few seconds later, Lieutenant Gandy was mortally wounded by the enemy fusillade. Second Lieutenant Gandy's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, and the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV, General Orders No. 436; February 7, 1969)

29 March 1968



PFC Stephen W. York (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 March 1968. Private First Class York distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner of Company B, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry during a combat operation along the Song Bo River, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. Before attempting to cross the river, a three-man point team was sent across in advance to secure the far bank. Upon reaching the opposite side of the river, the point team came under intense automatic and small arms fire wounding all three men. Cries for help from the wounded men could be heard from across the river. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Private First Class York volunteered to assist in an attempt to rescue the wounded men. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, and carrying his machine gun, he, along with the other members of the rescue team, began to make their way across the river using a sampan for cover. They proceeded to the center of the river under a hail of enemy fire. Then the strong current caused the sampan to turn around, thereby exposing the rescue team to the heavy volume of fire being directed at them. Supporting his machine gun on the sampan, Private First Class York managed to place effective fire on the enemy positions while exposing himself to their fire, thereby allowing the remainder of the rescue team to effect a withdrawal back to the near bank of the river. Although the rescue attempt did not succeed, in their heroic effort to save their comrades, Private First Class York'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 AIR CAV DIV; General Order Number 3472; 15 July 1968)

29 March 1971



SSG Terrel O. Kimber (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Kimber distinguished himself on 29 March 1971 while serving as a squad leader during combat operations in the Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. While assaulting an enemy occupied hill, Sergeant Kimber's platoon came under an intense barrage of enemy fire. With four men wounded and on radio inoperative, Sergeant Kimber organized the evacuation of the wounded and the withdrawal of the platoon. Exposing himself to the increasing volume of fire, Sergeant Kimber moved to a forward position directing his squad to cover the withdrawal of the rest of the element. After insuring the safety of his platoon, Sergeant Kimber directed his squad to withdraw while he put out devastating suppressive fire on the enemy. As his squad withdrew, Sergeant Kimber was fatally wounded. Staff Sergeant Kimber's gallantry in action 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, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 5446; 1 July 1971)

31 March 1968



PFC Danny L. Stephens (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for distinguishing himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period of 5 January 1968 to 31 March 1968. Through his untiring efforts and professional ability, he consistently obtained outstanding results of the every changing situation inherent in the counterinsurgency operation and to find ways and means to solve those problems. The energetic application of his extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United States mission to the Republic of Vietnam to assist that country in ridding itself of the communist threat to its freedom. PFC Stephens's initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon him and on the military service. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 394; 15 April 1968)



31 March 1969

1LT Timothy P. McCollum (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company D, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. First Lieutenant McCollum distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 31 March 1969 while leading his platoon in the hills south of the A Shau Valley. His company was engaged in a fierce firefight with a North Vietnamese force holding ridge from well-fortified positions. A ravine separating the two opposing forces obviated a direct assault on the enemy's positions. Undertaking an intricate flanking maneuver, Lieutenant McCollum infiltrated his men across the open ravine under heavy crossfire and ascended the heights behind the enemy as the company's main force continued firing on the hostile element's front. After overtly signaling friendly fire away from his position, he initiated a systematic sweep down through the enemy's hillside emplacements. He attacked an enemy bunker and overcame its unsuspecting occupant. An alerted North Vietnamese then turned and fired from his spider hole, seriously wounding an American. Realizing that the wounded man's recovery hinged on immediate evacuation, Lieutenant McCollum enlisted another soldier's aid and together they carried the casualty down the ridge through enemy positions. Their descent was obstructed by harassing fire from a nearby bunker. Lieutenant McCollum destroyed the fortification with grenades. When the wounded soldier had been delivered to safety, he made his way back to his men by the same treacherous route under a storm of machine gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire. First Lieutenant McCollum'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 3418; 7 September 1969)

31 March 1971



PFC Robert C. Saal (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Private First Class Saal distinguished himself on 31 March 1971 while serving as a rifleman during combat operations near Fire Base Veghel, Republic of Vietnam. Upon being inserted into a landing zone that was under hostile fire, Private Saal immediately began to deliver accurate and devastating suppressive fire on the enemy. He assaulted the enemy bunkers and threw hand grenades, forcing them to withdraw. Pursuing the enemy, he engaged them with a continuing burst of suppressive fire. His actions were instrumental in routing the enemy from the area. Private First Class Saal's heroic actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2980; 11 April 1971)

31 March –
01 April 1971

SP4 Robert J. Ivy (A/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with ground operations in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Ivy distinguished himself on 31 March 1971 and 1 April 1971 while serving as a squad leader during combat operations in Quan Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. Coming under an enemy mortar and small arms attack, Specialist Ivy delivered suppressive fire while his squad set up a defensive perimeter from which to better engage the enemy. He continued to engage the enemy until the hostiles were routed from the area. On the following day, his squad again came in contact with the enemy. Quickly organizing his squad, he delivered accurate and devastating suppressive fire which silenced the enemy positions. Specialist Four Ivy'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 2927; 09 April 1971)

01 April –
30 November 1968



SGT William P. Hudek (D/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for distinguishing himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Through his untiring efforts and professional ability, he consistently obtained outstanding results. He was quick to grasp the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever-changing situations inherent in a counterinsurgency operation and to find ways and means to solve those problems. The energetic application of his extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United States Mission to the Republic of Vietnam to assist that country in ridding itself of communist threat to its freedom. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the United States Army and reflect great credit on him and on the military service. (Certificate)



ACRONYMS

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

