



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) “STRIKE HISTORY” 12 October – 18 October 2014



12 October 1968 A/1-502 was still at Phu Vang, with the same mission. B/1-502 and C/1-502 continued RIF operation and ambushes with negative contact. D/1-502 captured 4 VC in vic. YD6629 in bunkers; they also captured 2 M-16, 1 x .45 pistol and a light MG. Recon/1-502 continued RIF and night ambushes with negative contact.

13 October 1968 A/1-502 was operating at Phu Vang. B/1-502 had one and WIA, vic. YD6930 by sniper., they returned fire but had negative assessment. C/1-502 conducted security of An Lo, mine sweep and local patrols and ambushes. D/1-502 receiver SA firs, vic. YD6628. They returned fire with SA, MG and M-79. A sweep of the area produced 4 VC KIA. Recon captured documents from a sampan, vic. YD7233. The VCS in sampan escaped.

14 October 1968 1-502 continued RIF and ambushes with negative contact. The documents found on one of D/1-502 KIA's, of 13 Oct, showed that one of them was a company CO., Hoang Van Trung, of K300B.

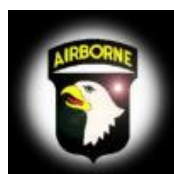
14 October 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Operation Began (2-502 IN); Locations: Thua Thien Province, RVN. Task Organization: A/2-502, B/2-502, C/2-502, Recondos. Battalion Control: 3(-) A/326 Eng. The following changes were made in the task organization during Operation NEVADA EAGLE. (1) A/4-12 CAV OPCON to 2-502 effective 14-26 Oct. (2) Rcn/2-502 OPCON to 7th ARVN Cav Regt effective 21-25 Oct. (3) B/2-502 OPCON to 1-327 effective 25 Oct – 10 Nov. (4) C/2-502 OPCON 2-501 25-28 Oct. (5) E/2-502 OPCON 1-327 30 Oct – 02 Nov. (6) C/2-502 OPCON 1-327 effective 02-05 Nov. (7) D/2-502 OPCON 1-327 effective 02-10 Nov. (8) C/2-502 OPCON 1-327 effective 10-18 Nov. (9) B/2-502 OPCON 1-327 effective 25 Oct – 17 Nov. (10) Rcn/2-502 OPCON 1-327 effective 12-13 Nov. (11) Rcn/2-502 OPCON A/2-502 effective 20-23 Nov. (12) Rcn/2-502 OPCON C/2-502 effective 29 Nov. – 15 Dec. (13) D 20, 30, plus Co. CP/2-502 OPCON 1-327 effective 30 Nov. – 09 Dec. (14) D(-)/2-502 OPCON 1-54th ARVN effective 20 Dec. – 26 Dec. (15) A/2-502 OPCON 1-54th ARVN effective 27 Dec 68 – 05 Jan. 69.

Mission: The 2nd BN (ABN) while in the canopy, the 2-502 conducted RIF operations within assigned AO in order to disrupt enemy's base and staging areas. While in the lowlands, the 2-502 will conduct local patrols, ambushes and insure the security of major bridges and villages along QL 1 in the assigned AO. The secondary mission will be pacification of the area through Medcaps and S5 functions. (AAR 31JAN1969)

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

Authorized:	44 -2-875
Assigned:	37-2-790
Present for Duty:	39-2-745

14 October 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Having completed Operation Somerset Plain, the 2-502nd Infantry returned to Operation Nevada Eagle. This part of Nevada Eagle was conducted in five phases with the mission depending on the sector of the AO being worked. While working in the canopy, units worked in company sized units by setting up patrol bases before sending out platoon size searching elements. Companies were kept within the 105 Artillery fan of the nearest fire base. Companies were also mutually supporting. Resupply cycle in the canopy was usually every five days. In most instances the lack of large LZ's (2 or more ships), precluded the use of CA's and the units usually ended up walking into the



canopy. While working in the lowlands, our responsibility was the security of Bridges along QL1, FSB Roy (ZC057029), and FSB Anzio (YD930075). In addition to security of these installations, the 2-502 IN conducted pacification programs of the population areas within our AO which consisted of local patrols, ambushes, cordons, and civil action projects.

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14 – 21
October 1968

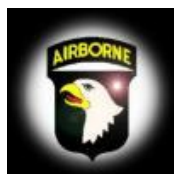
Operation NEVADA EAGLE: Phase I was conducted. At the beginning of this Phase, A/2-502 conducted local patrols (Vic. YD873042), B/2-502 conducted local patrols (Vic. YD670048), C/2-502 secured bridges 3 and 4 (YD949069 and YD967063) and conducted local patrols and ambushes, D/2-502 secured bridge 1 and 3 (YD913117 and YD936103) and conducted local patrols and ambushes, Recon/2-502 conducted patrols and ambushes (Vic. YD886037), and E(-)/2-502 plus the CP was located at FSB Anzio (YD936075). Nothing of significance occurred during this period and ended with A, B, and Recon being extracted from the canopy in preparation for the next phase.

15 October 1968

B/1-502 was the only unit to have contact, they engaged 2 VC in sampans, vic. YD7129, resulting in 2 VC KIA.

15 October 2007

Strike BCT deployed to northwest Baghdad as part of OIF 07-09. The BCT served as part of Multinational Division-Baghdad (1st Cavalry Division until Jan 08 followed by 4th Infantry Division). The BCT served as the main effort for the Division and rapidly partnered with Iraqi Security and government officials to protect the population and disrupt the enemy activity.



15 October 2007

2-502 IN deployed to North Babil and Southern Baghdad provinces serving as the main effort for 4th BDE, 3rd ID as a part of Multinational Division-Central (3rd Infantry Division until Jun 08 followed by 10th Mountain Division). 2-502 conducted a thorough RIP/TOA with 3-509th PIR from Fort Richardson, AK – a battle-tested battalion that had only assumed control of the Area of Operations two months prior to the Strike Force arrival. A/2-502 IN, main effort for the Battalion, secured JSS Iskandariyah, partnering with the Iskandariyah IP's. B/2-502 IN assumed PB's Copper and Diyarah, while D/2-502 secured JSS Haswah. C/2-502 IN and HHC/2-502 IN base from FOB Kalsu, conducted operations into the volatile Chaka agricultural regions.



15 October 2007

1-320 FAR assumed responsibility for ADOC operations for Camp Liberty, securing over 70,000 personnel, 7 ECPs, and three Iraqi muhallas. A/1-320 FAR assumed responsibility for base security at FOB Justice, and partnered with 1/6 IA to conduct security and stability operations in Kadhamiya. Detachments of the battalion conducted EOD escort operations across the Strike AO.



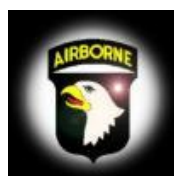
15 October 2007

526 BSB deployed to Baghdad as part of OIF 07-09. The BN served as the primary resupply, maintenance, and medical asset for 2BCT, MITT teams, JSS's, and other outlying units. Riva Ridge TMC treated over 35,000 patients, pushed over \$2,000,000 CL VIII Medical Supply to 46 external customers' while stocking an additional \$1,000,000 of CL VIII. Constant improvement was made to the facility by adding a separate mental health building to allow an easier and private route for care, separate physical therapy building allowing adequate room for rehabilitation, and expanding the helicopter pad for safer extraction and loading of patients. The Maintenance Section was instrumental in repairing deadlined vehicles expeditiously and rapidly performing services on over 100 vehicles. The Specialty Shops provided support to FOB Liberty, regardless of the unit. The Transportation Section conducted over 200 resupply missions, pushing various classes of supply to Northern Baghdad. They maintained a fully stocked SSA that supported all of 2BCT and other military units located on FOB Liberty.



15 October –
15 November 2010

CTF Gad Zawak conducted Operation Gad Zawak Nesan to expand the influence of GIRoA and improve security in the Kandahar Province. CTF Gad Zawak worked with ANSF to deny insurgent access to the population in the Horn of Panjwa'i and set the conditions for the foundation of GIRoA led governance in the area with the intention that this would allow for the local population to return to their homes.



15 - 21 October 2012

ANSF mission command of independent operations. 3/201 Brigade began OPN SARBOZ 2, the clearance of MSR Vermont from Naghlu to Tagab district to maintain freedom of movement and to set the conditions to transition of CP security to ANCOP. For this operation, Corps advisors had focused the ANA Corps TOC on battle-tracking to provide Corps leadership with a COP. The Corps TOC was tracking FLOT of ANA units north of 45 Northing along MSR Vermont, and the units were currently clearing IVO Walikheyl 11km south of FOB Tagab.

After 4 months of planning, the first elements of 2/201 ANA Brigade arrived at FOB Joyce to begin preparing the site for the reception of the Brigade HQ. 110 Soldiers of 2 Brigade GSU advanced party consisting of the Garrison Support Unit (GSU) G3 and personnel from the clinic, fire station, security, and religious sections began occupation and priorities of work for the receipt of the main body in the coming weeks. 8 x living containers from Red Hills arrived at Sarkani bringing the total number of CHUs to 53 containers.

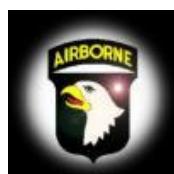
FOB/COP transfer. On 15 OCT 12, TF MW transferred responsibility for Nangalam base to 6/2/201 ANA Kandak. On 19 OCT 12, 3/1/201 ANA Kandak assumed responsibility for COPs Pirtle-King and Bari Alai.

ANSF Realignment. The consolidation of combat power continued at FOB Bostick. 80 Soldiers from 2/3/1/201 ANA Kandak and HQ/3/1/201 ANA Kandak along with 2 x D30 howitzer sections arrived at FOB Bostick that morning. 3/1 Kandak conducted reception operations with the Soldiers which included records screening and biometric enrollment. 2nd Company completed reception operations and staged to prepare for movement to assume the 'horseman' OPs in the next 24 hours. The 5 CSS Kandak followed the 3/1 Kandak patrols to the FOB and delivered CL I & V to account for the increase of Soldiers at the base. Throughout the next 48 hours, the artillery sections established firing capability and prepared for live fire training that weekend.

1/201 ANA Brigade Realignment. MG Waziri and BG Noorullah conducted an engagement with the PGOV this day in Laghman. MG Waziri met GOV Mojadeedi during a recent trip to meet with the NAC at BAF. The Corps Commander's objective was to officially welcome the new PGOV to Laghman, to provide examples of good civ-mil coordination & cooperation in other provinces, and to discuss the future of Laghman. The Corps and Brigade Commander only briefly discussed realignment, and their focus was on the establishment of ALP in Bad Pak to permit the consolidation of the 2/1 Kandak in the Alisheng Valley. The PGOV stated that during his short time in Laghman, he readily noticed the overwhelming support that the ANA provided in the province. He noted that BG Noorullah's initiative to use ANA horizontal engineers to repair potholes demonstrated the flexibility of the ANA, and he acknowledged that road improvements and larger development projects were not a provincial focus. The PGOV also stated that as he makes his way through the province, he would work through District governors to encourage tribal & village leaders to identify areas of instability, encourage participation in their security, and provide focus for future ANSF operations.

15 - 21 October 2012

Deh Doshanbeh clearing operations. OPERATION FIESTA FAREWELL II (clearance of Deh Doshanbeh and Baraki Barak) was conducted with 1/4/203 and 4/4/203 KDKs from 17-18 OCT 12. This operation was conducted unilaterally by the Kandaks with nothing significant to report.



16 October 1968

1-502 had negative enemy contact on this day. It was, however, an important day as it was the day we assumed security of FSB T-Bone. B/1-502 was lifted to FSB T-Bone at 1600H.



17 - 18 October 1968

1-502 conducted TIR missions, ambushes and eagle flights, failed to develop contact.

18 October 1943

The 502nd PIR disembarked the SS John Ericsson at Liverpool, England. They settled into quarters in the Chilton Foliat and Denford near Hungerford, Berkshire which would be the 502nd Soldiers home for the next seven months.



Back: Lt. Harold Hoggard, Lt. George Cody, Lt. Maurice Lagrave
Front: Lt. Wally Swanson, Capt. Richard Davidson, Lt. Samuel Nickels

The Five-O-Deuce's troopers continued their rigorous training

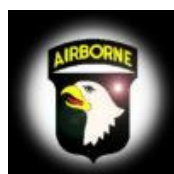
which included 15-25 mile hikes and daily close combat exercises. Instructions were given in a wide variety of items from First Aid, Map Reading, Chemical Warfare, and the use and firing of German weapons. The company and battalion size parachute drops were also rehearsed during this period. This rigorous training regime would not have been possible without the Able Company officers; Lt. Samuel B. Nickels, Jr., the Able Company Executive Officer, Lt. Wally Swanson, Lt. George R. Cody, Lt. Delmar D. Idol, 2nd Lt. Joseph P. Smith, and others.

18 October 2010

The Panjwa'i Push: The horn of Panjwa'i is the northern region of a Kandahar district lying between the Arghandab and Dowrey Rivers. The area had not seen US forces in years and was Taliban infested. Advancing into the terrain in support of Operation Dragon Strike was the newest addition to Combined Task Force Strike; 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), also known as Leader Rakkasans.



"The horn of Panjwa'i is the last bastion of hope for the Taliban right now and they thought they were untouchable in there and we have touched them in every corner of that horn," said Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Crabtree, CSM of Leader Rakkasans. "The best news of all is the people that are hungry and ready to see US out there and more importantly, they're ready to see the Afghan National Army.



The Rakkasans battalion was partnered with three ANA Kandaks and had its four companies conducting missions in the horn. Each company had its own focus inside the horn. Company B, named “The Bulldogs” operated in the eastern part of the horn called Zangabad. Company D, named “The Dragons” operated in the central area called Talukan and Company A, named “ABU” operated in the western part of the horn called Mushan, while Headquarters and Headquarters Company, named “Hatchet” was set up along the south of the horn with Observation and Firing Points to overwatch the region and eliminate Taliban during retreat.

“As scouts, our mission is to set up OPs and observe the horn while the line companies operate to clear Taliban out,” said Sgt. 1st Class Nathanael Greene, a platoon sergeant with Hatchet. “We’re just trying to push Taliban out and get the local populace to turn to our side.”

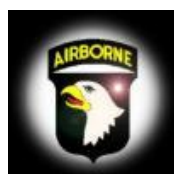
The headquarters for Leader Rakkasans was in the Maiwand district on Forward Operating Base Ramrod; about 10 miles northwest from the horn and due to Improvised Explosive Devices spread throughout the routes in Panjwa’i by Taliban forces, US and ANA troops conducted their missions at night by air assault.



“Without being able to push by air they would not be able to get into the horn,” said Sgt. 1st Class John Wagenkanecht, the FOB Ramrod Helicopter Landing Zone operator with Hatchet. Most of the roads are filled with roadside bombs and the battalion does not have enough route clearance patrol teams to support clearance for mounted patrols on the roads and dismounted patrols in the fields, said Wagenkanecht.

About 2200 “Strikeasans” and ANA Soldiers air assaulted into the horn; with three battalions of the Strike Brigade at the north eastern Panjwa’i border, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment to the northwest in Maiwand and Hatchet Company covering the entire south, Taliban in the horn was surrounded and was at its tipping point.

“How we came in here, we surprised the enemy,” said Lt. Col. Robert Harmon, Leader Rakkasans commander. “The several things leading up to the conditions we see right now and the method on how we came in here, on their terrain, has put (Taliban) off. It is really up to us now on which way we go.”



18 October 2010



Combined Task Force STRIKE Soldiers 2LT Dainis Butners, a native of New York and a combat engineer platoon leader with Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and PFC John Krecek, an infantryman in Company A, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) secure an area called Mushan inside the Horn of Panjwa"i on Objective Mississippi, Oct. 18. The push into the Panjwa"i horn is a part of Operation Dragon STRIKE and has the STRIKE and Rakkasans Brigades working together.

During this week, in the span of 72 years since the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941 as the 502nd Parachute Battalion, an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assault, the following awards were awarded to members of 2BCT and the 502nd IN Regiment.

- 1 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
- 2 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 12 x Purple Hearts (2 x Posthumously)
- 4 x Non-Hostile Illness or Injury

12 October 2010



SPC Matthew Powell, 20, of Slidell, LA., died of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to Company A, 526th Brigade Support Battalion.

13 October 1968



PFC Richard J. Price (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



13 October 2010 The following Soldiers: SGT Trenton Tafolla and SPC Tyrone Scott (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

13 October 2010 SGT Nathan Wade (A/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

14 October 2010 The following Soldiers: SPC Benjamin Fisher, PFC Charles Thomas, PFC Jack Weiland and PFC Robert Smith Jr. (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

15 October 1970 CPL Allen J. Smith (A/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty while at a firing position when an artillery round detonated for unknown causes; in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

15 October 1971 SP4 Ralph N. Lee (A/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty while on a combat operation when the area came under attack from an unknown source; in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

17 October 1966 SP4 Horton S. Coker Jr. (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire to the head in the Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.



17 October 1968 SP5 James P. Mason (HHC/1-502 IN) drowned while passenger on a military helicopter on a naval gunfire adjustment mission when a helicopter which crashed into the sea and sank shortly after takeoff from a US Naval Ship, in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

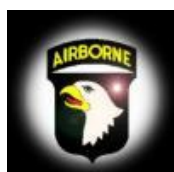


17 October 2010 SPC Justin Dawkins (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire.

18 October 1944 PFC Cecil E. Harry (A/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during WWII in Holland, France.

STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

15 – 25 October 2010 SGT Christopher Holland was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor when he distinguished himself through exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy as a combat engineer squad leader attached to 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team. His heroic actions during movement with Troop B, 1-75th Cavalry prevented the loss of life for Coalition Forces. SGT Holland's clearance of improvised explosive devices ensured mission success and eliminated the defenses against Troop B.



Troop B moved to a long-term patrol base and conducted reconnaissance and security patrols in vicinity of Siah Choy, Kandahar Province. The establishment of the patrol base put Troop B directly in an in-depth enemy defensive IED belt. Through the course of 10 days of combat operations, SGT Holland found 28 IEDs emplaced to injure or kill Coalition Forces. During these patrols, he searched avenues of approach and alleyways throughout the area and identified many of the devices manually that Troop B Soldiers might have encountered.

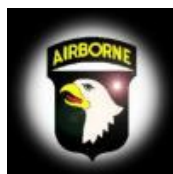


Due to the rugged terrain and unavailability of a Talon robot, SGT Holland often disarmed or rendered IEDs safe by manually placing explosives near the initiator or charge. Regardless of the danger, SGT Holland continued without concern for his own safety. He identified and neutralized enemy trip-wire and pressure-plate devices that hindered Coalition Forces' mobility. SGT Holland worked tirelessly to reduce the enemy obstacles and defeat their defenses. He collected evidence wherever possible, bringing 20 pressure plates and 23 wire and power source components to 1-75th Cavalry S-2 for exploitation. The evidence that SGT Holland collected provided valuable intelligence against the Taliban and identified a new trip wire device that the enemy utilized.

SGT Holland risked his life repeatedly to ensure the safety of Coalition Soldiers and he knowingly positioned himself in harm's way to clear and secure routes for Coalition Forces. His selfless disregard for his own safety and the steadfast nature of his IED reduction destroyed the enemy's defensive belts. SGT Holland's elimination of 28 IEDs saved the lives of Soldiers and allowed mission success for Troop B, 1-75th Cavalry Squadron in Siah Choy.

17 October 1968

MAJ Paul F. Wertz (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (5-OLC) for heroism in connection with ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 17 October 1968. Major (then Captain) Wertz distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer of Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, during combat operations near the village of Phu Loc, Republic of Vietnam. While the company was engaged in a large sweep designed to route the enemy from fortified positions, an element came under heavy hostile fire. After assessing the situation, Major Wertz moved forward through enemy automatic weapons fire to personally direct the besieged element's flanking attack. Through informants gathered through the sweep, it was determined that an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army regulars intended to ambush the company. Due to the enemy's numerical superiority and proximity, Major Wertz elected to withdraw his men and call in effective artillery fire. He personally supervised an orderly withdrawal of his company and, despite heavy enemy fire, stayed in the area until assured that all elements were safely withdrawn. Major Wertz'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 Order Number 15323, 20 December 1970)



18 October 2010



PV2 Eric Griego (A/1-75 CAV) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor and Purple Heart when he distinguished himself with Troop A, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, through exceptionally valorous conduct during a complex enemy attack by continuing to suppress the enemy after receiving a life threatening gunshot wound in order to allow his section to reach a covered position. Partnered with 1st Company/2/3/205 Corps ANA, Troop A conducted clearance operations in Siah Choy, Zharay District, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. These clearance operations were intended to disrupt Taliban control and establish GIRoA influence in the area. During this operation, PV2 Griego's platoon established a patrol base in southern Siah Choy and conducted blocking operations along east to west running routes north of the Arghandab River.

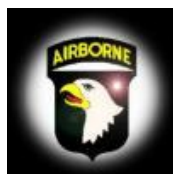
In order to block these routes from enemy use, PV2 Griego's section was positioned in a small wadi which overlooked the area in order to interdict personnel and prevent the enemy from utilizing the Siah Choy area. Throughout the day, the blocking position received sporadic small arms fire from local enemy elements.



In early evening, as PV2 Griego's fire team prepared to return to their patrol base, the element came under heavy small arms and machine gun fire from three different enemy fighting positions on the south side of the Arghandab River. At the time of contact, four members of PV2 Griego's section were outside of the cover of the wadi in preparation for movement. Another team remained in the wadi to continue operations and interdict traffic in the area.

As PV2 Griego immediately fired on the enemy force and maneuvered towards a covered firing position in the wadi, he was struck by a gunshot through the neck and right lung. PV2 Griego fell to the ground briefly but stood back up and continued to return fire at the enemy positions. At the time of his injury, several members of the section were pinned down in the open with a heavy amount of incoming enemy fire. The sheer volume of effective friendly fire from PV2 Griego, his fire team, and the ANA machine gun team forced the enemy to break contact within minutes of initiating the engagement.

Despite his wounds, PV2 Griego continued to suppress the enemy allowing the rest of the section to maneuver to covered positions. The actions of PV2 Griego and his section enabled Coalition Forces to break the enemy attack and continue operations in the Siah Choy area. Without regard for his own safety, PV2 Griego's immediate actions in the enemy kill zone enabled him to return effective fire and ensure his section reached covered positions. Furthermore, PV2 Griego continued to engage the enemy in spite of his own injuries. Upon the conclusion of enemy contact, PV2 Griego was immediately evacuated by air to medical care in Kandahar due to the seriousness of his wounds sustained in the initial gunfire.



***STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

A major reorganization took place on 3 February 1964, when the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division was activated at Fort Campbell, replacing the 1st Airborne Battle Group, 501st Infantry Regiment. The reorganization from the battle groups to brigades and battalions placed two battalions of the 502nd in different brigades of the 101st. The 2nd Battalion was in the 1st Brigade with 1-327th and 2-327th Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam 1965, in was most notable commanded by LTC Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson. The new 2nd Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry.

December 1967, 2nd Brigade deployed by C-141 aircraft to the Republic of Vietnam. Over the next five years, soldiers of the "Ready to Go" Brigade participated in twelve campaigns, compiling a distinguished combat record as well as an enviable reputation for success in the rehabilitation of a war-torn nation. The President of Vietnam personally decorated the colors of the Brigade three times, twice with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and once with the RVN Civic Action Honor Medal. The Brigade redeployed to Fort Campbell in April, 1972.

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

