



## 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AASLT) “STRIKE HISTORY” 01 March – 07 March 2015



March 1943

502nd PIR took part in division maneuvers in Southern Pines.

March – April 1969

**A Shau Valley:** During this period, five Battalions of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division including A Company and the rest of 2/501<sup>st</sup>, air assaulted into the A Shau Valley. Combat assaults and fast moving reconnaissance in force quickly determined the NVA were avoiding contact and moving its main forces back across the border. The operation yielded many large caches, one that included 14 trucks, 600 brand new SKS rifles, ChiCom radios and field telephones.



March 1968

2-501<sup>st</sup> Battalion operations were characterized by aggressive daylight patrols and sweeps and numerous night ambushes in the area of the West of Hue. Although numerous booby traps were encountered initially, and enemy body counts of fourteen were not uncommon for the night ambushes, enemy contact decreased as the month passed. The enemy was successfully repelled from the villages adjacent to Hue and forced out into the densely vegetated foothills.

March -May 2006

**Operation Glory Light:** Disrupt AIF and deny them access from Fallujah to Shakaria Triangle, through the use of Sadr Yusufiyah. 2-502 IN led the assault into Sadr Yusufiyah. 1-502 IN prevented the AIF from fleeing to the South from Sadr Yusufiyah. 1-320 FAR fielded MiTT teams, assisting ISF in search efforts and combat operations across the area of operations. At the end of the mission, Strike BCT found 28 IEDs and 20 caches were seized. The BCT established Patrol Base Warrior as a base of continuous operations in the Sadr Yusufiyah area.

March 1982

XVII Airborne Corps designated the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment as the replacement unit to be sent to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt for a six-month tour of duty with Multinational Force and Observers (MFO). Supporting the American commitment to the peacekeeping force established under the terms of the 1979 Egypt-Israeli peace treaty, the Screaming Eagles and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division from Ft. Bragg alternated six month tours of duty.

01 March 1968

1-502nd Battalion began operations in Quang Tri district from FSB Nora, An Lo Bridge and continued construction of FSB Sally. Alfa moved to Ap Lai Xa (YD 638310) where they had made heavy contact on 29 Feb 1968. They found no enemy but villagers stated that there had been approx. 200 NVA/VC in the village and that they had been up most of the night dragging off their dead. Delta made



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light contact in vic. YD 642298 and Battalion CO's C&C ship used to kill 16 NVA. Results: 16 NVA KIA (BC) by Strike's C&C. (1-502 Unit Annual Historical Supplements)

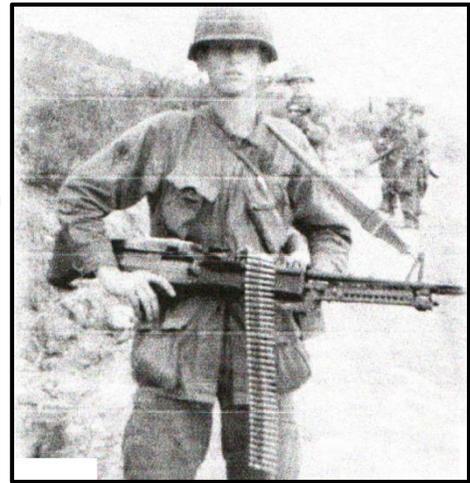
01 March –  
26 March 1968

U.S. intelligence reports warned in early 1969 that North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops were busy stockpiling weapons and ammunition in key areas of South Vietnam's Northern provinces. The NVA viewed one such area, the A Shau Valley, as a relatively safe haven from which they could launch an attack on Hue, some 26 miles to the northeast. The 28-mile-long A Shau Valley, located in rugged country in southwestern Thua Thien province along the Laotian border, branched off from the Ho Chi Minh Trail and provided a natural thoroughfare toward Hue and Da Nang. The A Shau ran south down the Laotian and Cambodian border areas to some 37 miles from Saigon.

As of March 1969, it was apparent to U.S. commanders that NVA troops were on the move into the area. Maj. Gen.

Raymond Davis, then-commander of the 3rd Marine Division, said the Communists had hacked a road to within 17 miles of Hue. Davis said the road, if extended another four miles, would have allowed the NVA to bring their 122mm guns within range of the former imperial capital.

The goal for U.S. forces, therefore; was clear: prevent the NVA from using the valley as a staging area for an attack on Hue and the coastal provinces, as the Communists had done the previous year during the Tet Offensive.



Above: Dave Nesbitt, holding an M-60 machine gun, pauses while on patrol on Jan. 1, 1969, the day before his 21st birthday. Nesbitt was later wounded at Dong A Tay on March 20.

On March 1, 1969 the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Bn., 502nd Infantry launched the first of three operations (Massachusetts Strikes; Apache Snow and Montgomery Rendezvous) designed to drive out or destroy NVA forces in the valley. Working from the southern end, the unit's A, B, and C companies moved north.

On March 12, C Company assaulted an area near Fire Support Base (FSB) Veghel, a U.S. position in the central valley that had been abandoned the previous year, to establish a landing zone for the battalion. Awaiting the troopers was the 816th NVA Battalion. Fighting from about 4:30 p.m. through the night, C Company soldiers secured the base, losing 2 KIA while killing 12 NVA. The rest of the NVA troops tied some four miles southwest to the 2,640-ft. Dong A Tay Mountain, described as a "round, squat hill with a large razorback ridge flowing out of it to the north."

Initially, U.S. commanders thought the enemy force guarding the area around FSB Veghel was only squad-sized, and after it was cleared thought it might be a company. But soldiers in the field knew differently.

"The first couple of nights near Dong A Tay, we could hear the ticking of generators in the background of our radio communications," said 1st Lt. John Eastham, commander of 2nd Plt. B Co. We knew then we had something big."

### The Noise Was Ungodly'



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On the morning of March 19th, American commanders called in Air Force fire-power to blast NVA troops out of their labyrinth of bunkers on Dons A Tay. 1st Lt. Ed Donaldson, who commanded 2nd Plt, A Co., recalls an Air Force jet dropping a 10,000-pound "daisy cutter" bomb (used to clear landing zones) on the hilltop. Immediately thereafter, 2nd and 3rd Platoons led the attack.

"We were running into delaying contacts as we moved toward the hill," "Every so often we would get contact from two or three NVA. But we kept getting pressured by division to get to the top, so we didn't chase them."

Lt. John Sorge, who commanded 3rd Platoon, recalled that his unit suffered his first casualties. "My platoon sergeant Sandy Muhlengraft was the first one wounded and my RTO (radio telephone operator) Lawrence Olive was the first KIA," Sorge said.



Above: RTO Lawrence Olive and LT John Sorge. Olive became the 1<sup>st</sup> KIA at Dong A Tay.

Donaldson says his platoon saw "bunkers everywhere" as they moved forward. Upon reaching the top of Dong A Tay, "we noticed commo wire and there were clothes and other debris up in the trees," that he surmised was caused by the huge daisy cutter explosion. "Just then a couple of NVA went running down a ridge, and my guys, who were real aggressive, went after them," Donaldson said. "I yelled at them to return but it was too late."

An NVA ambush lay in wait. "The whole jungle erupted," he recalled. "We got pinned down on a little saddle on a very narrow ridge." Donaldson called in artillery fire, estimating that 1,700 rounds—some landing only 25 yards from 2nd Platoon's position—blasted the hilltop for the next three hours.

"They laid down a wall of steel," he said, "We would've been in a lot worse shape if not for the artillerymen." Freddy Baker, a rifleman with A Company who was awaiting a helicopter for a planned R&R leave, says he was ordered back to his platoon when the shooting started. "The noise was ungodly," Baker said. "Arty, machine guns, rifle fire. RPGs, as well as gunships and jets. I remember the F-4 Phantoms releasing their ordnance and you could see it tumbling right toward you."

Dave Nesbitt was a 21-year-old specialist 4 serving with A Company's 1st Platoon. He says he and another soldier were digging foxholes when they heard small-arms fire erupt down the ridge from them. "He jumped up, grabbed his M-16 with only one magazine and ran down toward the firing," Nesbitt, a VFW member of Post 3034 in Sumter, S.C., said. "It was a very bad mistake. I helped retrieve his body the next day."

Nesbitt was wounded the following day, March 20, when "a big ball of fire from a mortar or command-detonated artillery round" exploded as he manned an M-60 machine gun behind a tree. He remembers a couple of his fellow troopers pulling him up the hill and out of firing range where A Company's 1st Platoon medic, James "Doc" Feliciano, could apply first aid.



"I had a hole in my knee big enough to put in a grapefruit," said Nesbitt, who later had his knee fused together instead of amputating his leg. Feliciano recalls Nesbitt as the last casualty he treated that day. "Wally Morrow gave me cover fire as I worked on Dave," said Feliciano, a VFW life member from New York. "Besides an ambush in Tam Ky in July 1969, this operation was the worst for me. We were making contact daily and it was pretty hectic."

### 'The Best Thing I Ever Did in My Life'

The next two days, March 21-22 were particularly bad for B Company when it lost seven KIAs. On March 21, 1st Lt. William Dent, who commanded 3rd Platoon, was wounded in an ambush and later died. "I put him on a chopper alive," said B Company 1st Sgt. Royce Burkett, a life member of VFW Post 6018 in Fayetteville, N.C. "He had three bullet holes in him. I guess he must have lost too much blood. I remember him asking me to secure his Ranger knife."

Burkett, also a Korean War vet, was wounded March 22 when fragments from an RPG hit him in the head, leg and arm. "It knocked me back into a bomb crater," he said. "I had blood sloshing around in my boots, but I didn't think my condition was bad enough to be evacuated then. I spent that night on the hill and was medevac'd out the next day. I spent 45 days in the hospital with an infection."



Above: LT John Eastern and Radio Operator SPC Dean Smith

Casualties were taking such a heavy toll on B Company platoons that Spec. 4 Dean Smith, an RTO with 1st Platoon, remembers a fellow RTO, Spec. 4 Robert E. McAferty, walking point for a squad because all other point men had been wounded.

"He walked past me and down a trail," said Smith, a former five-time commander of VFW Post 2494 in Irving, Texas. "All of a sudden I heard him screaming, 'they're all around us, and then hell broke loose. It sounded horrible?'"

Smith says his unit later found McAferty's lifeless body tied to a tree. Donaldson says A Company secured the hilltop on March 24. He was then ordered to take command of Recon Platoon. "It was the most intense time of my year in Vietnam," said Donaldson, who became a lawyer and judge as a civilian. "It also was the best thing I ever did in my life."

The next day, B Company would make the final push to move the NVA off Dons A Tay,

### 'Jane Fonda Stuff Found in Bunker'

Around 10:35 a.m. on March 25, 2nd Platoon discovered a deserted NVA hospital bunker complex that Eastham said contained Communist propaganda leaflets depicting U.S. POWs and "Jane Fonda stuff," like blankets and towels sent by sympathetic Americans.

According to the book Hamburger Hill by Samuel Zaffiri, soldiers found a list "of medicines that had been shipped to the hospital, followed by the words: 'Donated by your friends at the University of California at Berkeley: '"



At 11 a.m., 1st Platoon soldiers discovered a small bunker complex, and three were killed "instantly" upon entering it. It is unclear how they died, but 1st Sgt. Burkett believes the bunker was booby-trapped. The other four soldiers who died that day—from both 1st and 2nd Platoons—were killed by sniper fire.

Firefights continued throughout the afternoon as 2nd Platoon moved to reinforce 1st Platoon. By 6:30 p.m., the enemy had broken contact with B Company. All seven Americans killed March 25 were from B Company's 1st and 2nd Platoons. Overall, from March 19-25, 1st Battalion's official death toll shows 20 U.S. KIA. According to daily after-action reports, 1st Battalion members had 39 WIA while killing 56 NVA troops.

"It was most certainly the worst day of my Vietnam tour," said Eastham, a member of VFW Post 201 in Waterbury, Conn. "I think about it every day."

B Company was airlifted off Dong A Tay on March 26. But more bloody battles awaited U.S. troops in the A Shau Valley, 1st Battalion had merely fulfilled the first objective in a campaign that would last throughout the summer of 1969. (Dong A Tay: A Costly Victory in the A Shau Valley; By Tim Dyhouse)

- 01 March 1969 The first day of March was also a red-letter day for the 101st as the Division-wide Operation Kentucky Jumper started. D/2-501 conducted a combat assault south of FB Tennessee to construct FB Whip. A/1-327 accounted for the first enemy killed during operation Kentucky Jumper when the paratroopers engaged two VC, killing one and taking his weapon. Elements of the 1st and 3rd Brigades began assuming new positions in expanded AOs in preparation for a combined forces thrust by the 2nd Brigade and ARVN troops deep into the A Shau Valley – Operation Massachusetts Striker. The 101st Airborne was going back into the valley, hopefully to strike a fatal blow to the enemy.
- 01 March 1969 Operation Kentucky Jumper, succeeding Nevada Eagle, begins. A 2nd Brigade thrust into the A Shau Valley, Massachusetts Striker, also begins, but is hindered by bad weather. (Rendezvous With Destiny (Summer 1969); Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary)
- 01 March 1969 The 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division begins Operation MASSACHUSETTS STRIKER in the southern A Shau and Rao Nai Valleys on Thua Thien Province, vicinity of Route 548.
- 01 March 1969 The 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion launched the first of three operations (Massachusetts Striker, Apache Snow and Montgomery Rendezvous) designed to drive out or destroy the NVA forces in the valley. Working from the southern end, the unit's A, B, and C Companies moved north.
- 02 March 1942 The 502<sup>nd</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR) was activated at Fort Benning, Georgia from the 502<sup>nd</sup> Parachute Infantry Battalion. MAJ Howell was promoted to Colonel but left the same month to command the parachute school at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; he passed the regiment's command to COL George Van Horn Moseley Jr. who came from a long line of West Point Graduates. Like the other airborne regimental commanders of his day, COL Moseley made enormous demands on his troops as well as himself.
- 02 March 1968 2nd Brigade closes its CP at LZ Jane and moves to LZ Sally, eight miles north of Hue.
- 02 March 1968 1-502nd Battalion continued search and destroy operations and made light contact throughout the day. Booby-Traps caused 3 WIA. (1-502 Unit Annual Historical Supplement)



- 03 - 06 March 1967 **Operation FARRAGUT IV:** The third phase of this Operation began, taking place to the northwest of Song Mao in Binh Thuan Province. Several minor contacts resulted in 4 VC KHA and 5 weapons captured. In addition, one, large tiger was shot just before extraction to Song Mao on 6 March. This ended FARRAGUT IV, a rather unrelated series of operations involving no major engagements. While at Song Mao, the S-5 section of the 2-502 held number of sick-calls for indigenous civilians, and assisted in movement of refugees to Song Mao refugee center. Food-stuffs, clothing, and soap were distributed, including rice and grain that had been captured from the enemy in the field. A vigorous leaflet and poster campaign was conducted in near-by hamlets, and 50 detainees were taken to Phan Rang for questioning. Of these, 18 were confirmed as VC, 21 as VC suspects, and 4 as draft-dodgers.
- 03 March 1968 Battalion continued search and destroy operations from An LO Bridge to (YD 671311) Ap Duc Trong. Bravo and Charlie made heavy contact from village and called for all available fire support and pulled back. After heavy contact for 4 hours, B&C were withdrawn by air. During extraction battalion commanders C&C received heavy fire wounding battalion CO, his RTO, battalion S-2, and command pilot. Battalion S-2 DOA at Evans. (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)
- 03 March 1991 Cease Fire terms accepted by Iraq at Safwan Airfield.
- 04 March 1968 1-502nd IN Battalion continued search and destroy operations and conducted joint sweep with PF's Vic. An Lo Bridge. Results: 2 NVA KIA (BC). Recon made light contact had 2 Soldiers wounded. (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)
- 04 March 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** At 0245, A/2-502 vic. AT924926 a large explosion damaged bridge, road impassable. Engineers reconstructed and opened by 041200 Mar.
- 04 – 13 March 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** 2-502 (STRIKE Force) Battalion returned en masse to Camp Eagle for a well-deserved period of training and stand down. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)
- 04 March 1970 A/2-502 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was attacked while they were in their NDP by a sapper squad; Alpha lost one KIA and eight WIA.
- 05 March 1968 1-502nd IN Battalion continued search and destroy operations with light contact, 1 Soldier WIA from punji pit. (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)
- 05 March 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** C/2-502 was relieved in place by a unit of the 1/5 Marine at 1550H and deployed by motor convoy to Gia Le Base. At 1945, A Co. vic. AT923926 engaged 2 or 3 VC with small arms. Sweep at first light revealed 1 ChiCom Claymore and 300 feet of copper wire. At 2300h they received a single sniper round, result 1 US WHA.
- 05 March 1991 The 502<sup>nd</sup> with fire support teams from the 1-320<sup>th</sup> FA leaves FOB Viper by Blackhawk and returns to TAA Campbell near Rafha.
- 05 March 2003 Strike 6 and planning staff arrives at Kuwait in what would later become Operation Iraqi Freedom I. Within 10 days the entire Brigade was completely in theater. The Strike Brigade fought as part of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division and participated in Stability and Support Operations in Al Samawah and Al Nasiriyah. It conducted the longest air assault in military history to seize the bridge at Al Kifl.



06 March 1991 Units from the 502<sup>nd</sup> IN Regiment departs TAA Campbell by C-130 to King Fahd International Airport and Camp Eagle II. After the 502<sup>nd</sup> departure, forward observers and fire support teams are re-attached to the 1-320<sup>th</sup> FA.

06 March 1968 D/1-502 IN made heavy contact at 1313hrs vic. YD698304 (W-Shaped village) Delta broke contact at 1612hrs and were extracted from hot LZ after using all available fire support on village. Estimated 2 reinforced companies in the village, results Friendly: 5-KIA, 25-WIA, 2-MIA; Enemy 58-KIA (BC) Confirmed by aerial observation. (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)

06 March 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** At 1000H, 2-502 was relieved of TAOR by the 1/5 Marines and began movement to close Gia Le Base. Result of operation was an extensive Search and Destroy and saturation ambushing was conducted with only sporadic contact with local force units. Contact was negative with main force VC/NVA units. Casualties as follows:

	<u>KHA</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>NBC</u>
US	0	11	9
	<u>VC KIA</u>	<u>DETAINEE</u>	<u>WPS CAPTURED</u>
ENEMY	5	1	3 AK-47's 1 SKS 1 60mm Mortar 1 RPG

06 March 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** 2-502 was relieved of TAOR by the 1/5 Marines and began to close Gia Le Base. Results of the operation were 5 x VC KIA, 1 x POW, 3 x AK-47's, 1 x SKS, 1 x 60mm Mortar, and 1 x RPG captured. US Casualties: 11 x WIA.

The Battalion personnel strength at the end of Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON was as follows (MTOE II – 60):

Authorized:	778
Assigned:	657
Present for Duty:	589
Not Present for Duty:	68

The assigned strength was 84% of the authorized strength. The present for duty strength was 90% of the assigned strength.

Casualties for Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON were as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>INRHA</u>	<u>NONE BATTLE DEATH</u>
HHC	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
A Co	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
B Co	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
C Co	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	6	0	2	1

06 March 1991 Units from the 502<sup>nd</sup> IN Regiment departs TAA Campbell by C-130 to King Fahd International Airport and Camp Eagle II. After the 502<sup>nd</sup> departure, forward observers and fire support teams are re-attached to the 1-320<sup>th</sup> FA.

06 March 2008 **OPN Nanos 2.5** – 3/C conducts a Joint Operation with the IA from Latifiyah to seize caches and Sunni militia key leaders. The operation nets the seizure of 25 artillery rounds varying in size from 97-120mm, over 350 rounds of 23mm AA ammunition, and two Jaysh-al-Islami operatives including the driver and the personal assistant to the #1 JAI leader in all of Southern Iraq, both of whom are



wanted by the IA for murder. The operation brings out the links between the SOI programs and militias continuing to build weapons stockpiles and conduct illegal activities in the area. It forces the Sunni Militia Jaysh-al-Islami (JAI) to call a meeting with SOI sheiks in the area five days later. As a result of OPN Nanos 2.5, 3/C supported by two OH-58D's captures the #2 and #3 leaders in JAI for Southern Baghdad on 11 Mar 09.

06 -  
25 March 2010

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team completed a rotation at Fort Polk's Joint Readiness Training Center in Louisiana. The rotation placed the STRIKE Brigade in a deployed scenario simulating the Afghan theater. The brigade adopted the saying "shonna ba shonna" (shoulder to shoulder) while learning the benefits and importance of operating with their Afghan counterparts. Upon arrival back to Fort Campbell, the STRIKE Brigade was tactically ready for its deployment to the Kandahar Province.



07 March 1968

1-502nd IN Battalion continued search and destroy operations and made 3 Company size C/A's resulting in moderate contact. Bravo recovered the bodies of the 2 MIA from D/1-502 IN, results: Friendly: 1-KIA, 1-WIA, 2- MIA to KIA; Enemy 30 KIA (BC) (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)

07 March 1968

**Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN:** Operation Began (2-502 IN); Locations: Hoa Province, RVN; Task Organization: A/2-502 IN, B/2-502, C/2-502 IN, Recondo/2-502, 3 (-)/A/326 ENG, 6/2-320 ARTY (105), Mortar Platoon IPW, 181 MI Detachment. The following changes were made in the task organization during the operations: (1) 1<sup>st</sup> CAV assumed OPCON 2/502 effective 0001Mar & released OPDON181800 Mar. (2) 2/502 assumed OPCON C/1-327 effective 091415H Mar & released OPCON 111635 Mar. (3) 2/502 assumed OPCON LRRP Team from Div effective 161300 Mar & released 280800 Mar. (4) 2/237 assumed OPCON A/2-502 effective 231025 Mar. & released 28 08000 Mar. (5) 2/327 assumed OPCON B/2-502 effective 271025 Mar & released 2808000 Apr. (6) 2/502 assumed OPCON 1 Plt A/3-5 Cavalry effective 280800 Mar. & released 160001 Apr. (7) 2/502 assumed OPCON B/1-502 effective 151510 Apr. & retained control over it at the end of operation. (8) 2/502 assumed OPCON A/2-327 effective 1515H Apr and released OPCON effective 160001 Apr.

Mission: Phase I: H-hour D day 2-502 deploys by vehicle to assigned AO conduct combat operations in zone, be prepared for further employment west on order. Phase II: 2-502 established and secured FSB Bastogne vic. YD6109 to accommodate one Battery each light, medium, and heavy artillery.

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

Authorized:	773
Assigned:	692
Present for Duty:	630
Not present for duty:	64

During Phase I extensive combat operations were conducted by all the maneuver elements, with only several major contacts.



07 – 28  
March 1968

**Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN:** Phase I: During this phase 2-502 maintained security of the rock crusher site/TAC-CP by rotating the companies into the TAC-CP. On 10 March the first significant contact was made involving A Co., C Co., and Recon. From this time to the end of phase I significant contacts were made by B Co. and C Co. on combat operations against enemy in bunker positions. Artillery DT's and H&I were used extensively; however gunships were seldom used due to scarcity of the Division. The terrain was mountainous with thick jungle and tall canopy on the western portion of the AO. In the north there were high barren mountain ridges. On 23 March, A Co. came under OPCON 2-327. B Co. was also put under OPCON to 2-327 on 27 March. Phase I ended on 28 March when the 2-502 minus A and B Co. were heliborne into FSB Bastogne and A Co. and B Co. were returned to 2-502 control.

**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 502<sup>nd</sup> IN Regiment.**

2 x Silver Star Medal  
1 x Bronze Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
26 x Army Commendation Medal  
29 x Purple Heart Medal (22 x Posthumously)  
1 x Prisoner of War  
2 x Died of Non-Hostile wounds or injury  
1 x Died of Wounds

March 1945

PFC Vern W. Maughan (502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during WWII in Belgium, Germany.

01 March 1966



SP4 Bruce L. Marosites (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.

01 March –  
31 July 1969

The following Soldiers: PFC William R. Ingle, PFC Joseph E. Lehmer, PFC James A. Sgroi (C/1-501 IN); 1SG Paul C. Purcell, SFC Juan Jose, PFC Charles C. Sergeant (D/1-501 IN); PFC Calvin W. Bailey, PFC Jerome F. Favours, PFC Paul Hernandez, SP4 Phillip E. King, SP4 Thomas M. Ray, PFC Leslie Skelly, PFC Wilbur Steward, SGT Norman M. Takeoka, PFC Lionel S. Tatsutani, PFC Clifton J. D. Walker (E/1-501 IN); SSG Alfred F. Bustin, SP4 Ronald A. Feiertag, SP6 Wallac Nakandakari, PFC Robert Ramirez, SP4 Ernest L. Taintor (HHC/1-501 IN); SP4 Victor G. Brothers, PFC Gregory H. Bucknor, PFC Steven L. Tropic, PFC Thomas J. Wells, PFC Larry C. Williams (D/2-501 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious achievement. (HQ 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM), General Order Number 10612; 16 August 1969)



02 March 1978



SSG Robert L. Platt Jr. (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) and the Prisoner of War Medal for military merit for action on 10 June 1967 while as a member of a ten-man patrol on a search and destroy mission operating about five miles southwest of the City of Mo Duc in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam. During the patrol, the team was ambushed and then PFC Platt was reportedly wounded in the shoulder. When the patrol withdrew under fire, PFC Platt was carried a short distance when the man carrying him was wounded and PFC Platt was again wounded in the back. At this point, PFC Platt was left behind.

After the patrol regrouped, search operations were begun and continued until 16 June. During the search, items were found that were believed to belong to PFC Platt, but he was not found. A captured enemy document indicated that an individual whose first name was Robert had been captured and died the next day from wounds. This report was not specific enough to classify PFC Platt as a prisoner of war. Subsequently, Vietnam acknowledges that SSG Platt had been captured alive and classified as missing in action and was posthumously promoted to Staff Sergeant. Remains and body has not been recovered.

03 March 1968

The Following Soldiers: CPL Henry Norfleet Jr., CPL James E. Williams, and SP4 Ernest E. Fawks (C/1-502 IN), PFC Richard L. Borgman (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in AP Duc Trong, 10km NW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

03 March 1968



CPT Frank R. Dimmitt (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from a gunshot wound received while passenger of helicopter when hit by hostile small arms fire, in AP Duc Trong, 10km NW of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

03 March 1986

SP4 Paul F. Newman Jr. (C/1-501 IN) died from small arms fire wounds received on 06 April 1968.

03 March 2006

SPC Kamsart Thong (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat while at the TCP on the intersection of Route Slipknot and Janbi Run, at around 1030, SPC Thong was hit with sniper fire from an undetermined location. The bullet struck him in the lower leg.

04 March 1944



PVT Harry S. Scott (502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death during WWII in England.



04 March 1968



SGT Anthony E. Reed (A/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam

04 March 1970



SFC Rudolfo R. Alura (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

04 March 2008

SGT Clifford Ritter (1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from actions in combat while conducting a resupply mission moving south when the lead vehicle was struck by an EFP. SGT Ritter was evacuated to Riva Ridge Medical Facility where he was diagnosed and treated for multiple cuts, bruises, and a concussion resulting from the blast. He was later evacuated for further treatment for his concussion.



04 March 2008

PFC Travis Wilds (2-101 BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from actions in combat.

05 March 2006

SPC Ethan John Biggers (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from a sniper fire which resulted in his death after being in a coma until 24 February 2007.

05 March 1968



SP4 Robert R. Criswell (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

05 March 1971



PFC Larry D. Loden (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a military mission when a booby trap detonated 4KM NE of Ba Long Airfield in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

05 March 1971

PFC Gilbert Dowell (A/1-502 IN) died of Non-Hostile causes (Intentional Homicide) as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



06 March 1968



SP4 James D. Guffey (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

06 March 1968

The following Soldiers: CPL Gregory R. Shambaugh (Pictured), SP4 Clinton R. Carpenter Jr. (Pictured), PFC Stephen F. Palazzola, PFC Alvin Carr, PFC Stanley A. Stys (Pictured), SP4 David J. Latraille (Pictured), and SGT Phillip W. Pigford (Pictured) (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in "W" Shape Village in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



06 March 1970



PFC Robert L. Webster (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when hostile fire was encountered in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

06 March 1970

SP4 Walter L. Beckwith Jr. (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

06 March 2006

SFC William Wilson (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from actions in combat while 1<sup>st</sup> platoon was moving down Route Whiskey in order to secure the area for PSD's movement in support of Operation Glory Light. D143 was hit by an IED that was less than 1 meter from the front of the vehicle throwing it into a crater. SFC Wilson received a puncture wound on his right elbow and several minor lacerations.

07 March 1968



SGT Warren G. Tedrick Jr. (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 March 2006

PFC Curtis Phillips (D/1-502 I) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from actions in combat when he was wounded in action by an IED while conducting combat operations. He suffered a severe sprain to the leg.



07 March 2008

SPC Harrison Wooldridge (1-64 AR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from actions in combat.

### **STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):**

01 March 1966

SP4 Robert E. Bean (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for action in combat. SP4 Bean distinguished himself on 1 March 1966 while serving as point man for a squad size patrol during a search and destroy mission near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. While his squad was moving through the dense jungle terrain, the patrol leader stopped his squad to make a map orientation. Since he was the forward security, Specialist Four Bean had already taken cover in the dense foliage. As he lay observing to his front, he spotted fifteen Viet Cong advancing in his direction. Realizing that the Viet Cong would be upon them before he could return to warn his comrades; SP4 Bean, with complete disregard for his safety, single handedly attacked the insurgents. Although he was outnumbered, he caught the Viet Cong by surprise. Charging forward, he killed two and wounded four. After the initial burst of fire, the Viet Cong split into two groups. Later, Specialist Four Bean ran across approximately 100 meters of open terrain and attacked six Viet Cong, killing one and wounding four more. When his squad reached the area, it deployed into an assault line and began delivering suppressive fire onto the insurgent force. Determining that they were outnumbered, the Viet Cong broke contact and fled. Through his courage and determination, Specialist Four Bean contributed immeasurably to the defeat of the Viet Cong force. His extraordinary heroism in close combat against a hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

06 March 1968

SGT Ronald E. Long (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 6 March 1968. Sergeant Long distinguished himself while serving as communications Sergeant on a combat operation in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. On the morning of 6 March 1968, Company D made a combat assault near the village of Ap Nho Lam in search of a suspected North



Vietnamese Army Hospital. Upon entering the village, the company was engaged from three different directions by an enemy battalion with machine guns, rocket propelled grenades, and mortars. The enemy fired from fortified and well camouflaged bunkers. As casualties mounted, Sergeant Long aided in securing a landing zone for medical evacuation, and then returned to the battle. The First Platoon was engaged by hostile fire in a cemetery on the left flank and received heavy casualties from automatic weapons fire raking its positions. Evacuation of the dead and the wounded necessitated crossing open rice paddies directly in the enemy's field of fire. Fully conscious of this, Sergeant Long proceeded across the rice paddies, crawling the greater part of the one hundred and fifty meters to the cemetery. With disregard for his own safety, he dragged and carried the dead and wounded through heavy enemy fire to safety. By late afternoon, Sergeant Long had personally carried six men from the field and continued to aid others despite low ammunition. Sergeant Long'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.



**\*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 502<sup>nd</sup> in different brigades of the 101<sup>st</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade with 1-327<sup>th</sup> and 2-327<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam 1965, in was most notable commanded by LTC Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson. The new 2nd Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1st and 2d Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry.

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

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



## ACRONYMS

AO: Area of Operations  
ARA: Aerial Rocket Artillery  
ARCOM: Army Commendation Medal  
ARVN: Army of the Republic of Viet Nam (also known as the South Vietnamese Army (SVA))  
BDE: Brigade  
BN: Battalion  
BSM: Bronze Star Medal  
BBT: Booby Traps  
CA: Combat Assault  
CANOPY: Heavily Wooded Terrain  
CO: Company  
CP: Command Post  
DSC: Distinguished Service Cross  
DZ: Drop Zone  
FSB: Fire Support Base  
HQ: Headquarters  
IED: Improvised Explosive Device  
IN: Infantry  
KBA: Killed by Air or Artillery  
KHA: Killed by Hostile Action  
KIA: Killed in Action  
KNHA: Killed by Non-hostile Action  
LZ: Helicopter Landing Zone  
MI: Military Intelligence  
MOH: Medal of Honor  
MP: Military Police  
NDP: Night Defensive Position  
NVA: North Vietnamese Army  
OBJ: Objective  
OP: Observation Post  
PAVN: People Army of Vietnam  
POW: Prisoner of War  
PT: Popular Forces  
PZ: Helicopter Pick-up Zone  
Recon Platoon: Reconnaissance Platoon  
RIF: Reconnaissance in Force  
ROK: Republic of Korea  
SA: Situational Awareness  
SIGINT: Signal Intelligence  
SSM: Silver Star Medal  
STRIKE Force: 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
SVA: South Vietnamese Army  
TOC: Tactical Operations Center  
WIA: Wounded in Action  
WHA: Wounded by Hostile Action  
WNHA: Wounded by Non-hostile Action  
"V": Valor  
VC: Viet Cong

