



**2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT)
 “STRIKE HISTORY”
 01 December – 07 December 2013**



01- 31
 December 1944

Transmitted herewith after action report, 502d Parachute Infantry from 1 December to 21 December 1944, with critique notes and conclusion.

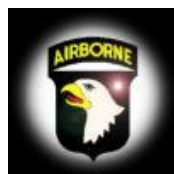
The 502d Parachute Infantry arrived at Mourmelon Le Grande, France, from Holland on 28 November 1944, for a scheduled ten week reorganization and training period. During the period 1 December to 11 December 1944, reinforcements were received, given orientation courses and assigned to units. Show-down inspections were conducted for all personnel to determine shortages of equipment. Training was limited to close order drill and physical conditioning. The period 11 December to 17 December 1944, was devoted to individual and small unit training with emphasis being placed on getting reinforcements fitted into the tactical organization.

On the 17th of December 1944, the Regiment received order to be prepared to move to Bastogne by 1400 hours, 18 December 1944. With less than a twenty-four hour alert, the securing of equipment, ammunition, and rations necessitated an all out effort on the part of every element of the command. The Regiment departed on schedule and arrived at Mande St. Etienne, Belgium, at about 0400 hours, 19 December 1944. Units were assigned a tactical bivouac and at 1500 hours were given an order to occupy a Regimental defensive sector near Longchamps, Belgium. Due to the necessity for speed, on-the-spot decisions had to be made, and assignment of sectors could only be made by map reconnaissance. The defensive sector assigned to the Regiment was over 7000 yards, thus necessitating a thin defensive line with a very mobile reserve. Elaborate counter attack plans were prepared and a high state of alert maintained by all elements of the command. Intelligence information became of utmost importance in order that troops could be shifted quickly to meet only definite enemy threats. The commitment of reserve elements and the reconstitution of the reserve after a counter-attack was the most important command decision that had to be made during the defensive period.

During the period, 19 December to 31 December 1944, the Regiment occupied a 7000 yard defensive sector, repelled two major attacks and several smaller attacks in which ten enemy tanks were destroyed, 193 prisoners captured, and 700 estimated casualties inflicted in addition to the 195 known enemy dead. The Regiment made three counter-attacks sustaining 195 casualties. (HQ, 502nd Parachute Infantry, Office of the Regimental Commander A.P.O. 472 c/o Postmaster; Subject After Action Report, To: The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D.C.)

01 December 1953

Inactivated at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky



01 December 1968 Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry conducted RIF to vic. YD6220, they engaged 3 NVA resulting in 2 NVA KIA and 1 NVA captured, along with 2 AK47, and 1 French MG. Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry was OPCON to 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry conducted security of FSB T-Bone with Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 26 element, OPCON to 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry moved by vehicle from LZ Sally to secure An Lo Bridge. "First Strike", while flying over AO saw a VC. The VC turned out to be wounded and "First Strike" captured and evacuated via log to 326 med. (This POW furnished intelligence very useful in future mountain operations)

01 December 1967 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** Operation Began (2-502 IN); Locations: Lam Dong, Binh Thuan Provinces. Task Organization: A/2-502, B/2-502, C/2-502, Recondos. Battalion Control: 3(-) A/326 Eng, C/2-320 Arty (DS), Mortar Platoon (DS), IPW, 181 MI Detach. The following three changes were made in the task organization during Operation KLAMATH FALLS. (1) ARVN interpreters joined the Battalion and were assigned one to each company after the operation began. (2) 1-327 assumed OPCON A/2-502 effective 091400H Dec. and released OPCON of A/2-502 effective 111030H Dec. (3) 1-327 assumed OPCON A/2-502 effective 111153H Dec and released OPCON A/2-502 effective Dec. Mission: The 2d BN (ABN) – 502d Inf conducted airmobile assaults from Bao Loc into SW portion of assigned AO and prepared to conduct airmobile assaults and subsequent S&D operations to locate and destroy the 145th, 186th, or 482d VC BN's and the MR-6 Headquarters. (AAR 11JAN1968)

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

Authorized:	778
Assigned:	798
Present for Duty:	737
Not present for duty:	61

01 December 1967 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** Phase I; Beginning 010830H Dec 67, 2-502 air assaulted into multiple LZ's and conducted operations to search for and destroy enemy installations and forces, initially in the SW portion of the assigned AO. Emphasis was placed on careful search of all likely sites, particularly draws. Initial air assaults were preceded only by Tac Air and gunship preps.

The Air Assault of the Battalion was executed and the TAC CP location was changed after initial CP elements were on the ground because of unsuitability of terrain for Arty. The TAC CP area was closed at 011745H Dec. The entire insertion was unopposed.

01 December 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** C/2-502 engaged and killed 2 VC/NVA at 2000h Vic. YD977010; also captured 2 AK-47's and misc. equipment.

01 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry found a three foot wide trail Vic northeast at grid YD789054. There were no signs of recent activity. Bravo Company, 2nd Platoon found and eight man sleeping position at grid YD772073.

01 - 26 December 1971 **Operation MONSOON DYNAMIC DEFENSE:** The 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry Commander, LTC John C. Snodgrass received official notification that the 1st Brigade less the 2-327th Infantry was going to stand down. The battalion's stand-down period was to begin on 28 December and end on 17 January. The battalion was to be reduced to an equipment escort detachment of up to 20% of authorized strength to be deployed with equipment to Fort Campbell, for retention in the active army. The outstanding combat record of the "STRIKE Force" was to end with the passing of the year.

Even with the stand-down of the battalion so close, STRIKE Force personnel continued their search for the elusive enemy in the battalions AO. On 5 December, 2d Platoon, A Company observed and engaged with unknown results one NVA Soldier near Hill 500. Two days later on the night of the 7th, a mechanical ambush set up by 2d Platoon, A



Company detonated, killing one NVA Soldier. Equipment found on or near the body was on AK-47 rifle in poor condition, two AK-47 magazines, on e satchel/back pack, one hand made Bowie type knife with sheath, one Chicom compass and Chicom webb gear.

During the same period, a tragic CH-47 crash claimed 34 101st Airborne Division Troopers. D/2-502 IN was placed under Brigade control and was given the mission of securing the crash site located near FB Roy. The company also had the task of recovering the bodies of the dead troopers. Enroute to the crash site one STRIKE Force trooper detonated an old VC booby trap and was wounded. Upon arrival at the crash site, D Company accomplished their mission with efficiency and great dignity.

The last contact between STRIKE Force troopers and the enemy occurred on 17 December when 1st Platoon, A Company observed and engaged one NVA with unknown results in the Valley south of Nui Khe.

The Battalion continued reconnaissance in force operations with all four lettered companies and the Recon Platoon up to the 26th, the last day of operation in the field for STRIKE Force. Thus, the day after Christmas, the STRIKE Force Battalion airlifted out of the OP Apollo Area of Operations and began stand-down operation in preparation for its first trip to the United State since 8 July 1965. (2-502 IN Unit History, 1971)

01 December 2006

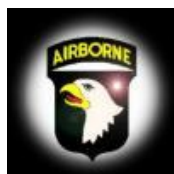
STRIKE holds a Remembrance Ceremony to honor the fallen STRIKE Soldiers from OIF 05-07. The following is the symbolism of the monument: In the center of the monument the country of Iraq is depicted in outline along with the 101st Division Patch and a 502nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), “STRIKE” unit crest with black heart background. A Bald Eagle is superimposed. This represents our enduring presence in South Baghdad, Iraq. STRIKE was the longest serving unit in this region since the war began. Each Battalion from our RCT that suffered casualties is listed as are the names and ranks of each Fallen Eagle. The upper right hand corner is purposely left unpolished. This represents both our unit’s unfinished mission in the War on Terrorism and the fact we returned incomplete as a unit with the loss of our Soldiers.

The Battalions that comprised the 502nd RCT during OIF 05-07 are listed across the center of the memorial base. In each corner the patches of the two US Army Divisions that served as Multi-National Division - Baghdad (MND-B) and commanded the 502nd RCT while in Iraq are depicted in each triangle. The Third Infantry Division commanded from our arrival in September 2005 until January 2006. The Fourth Infantry Division



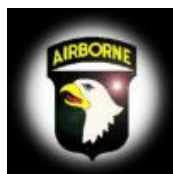
commanded from January 2006 through our re-deployment in September 2006. The two triangles represent both the “Triangle of Death” which included the towns of Mahmudiyah, Yusufiyah and Iskandariyah and the “Shakaria Triangle” which included the towns of Sadr al Yusufiyah, Latafiyah and Mulla Fayad.

The top portion of the main section includes a carved canal system representative of the “Crows Foot” from the Yusufiyah Thermal Power Plant. This intersection of canals



represents a prominent visual landmark associated with the “Shakariya Triangle” and “Operations Glory Light” and “Fallen Eagle.” The Euphrates River from Radwaniya to Jafar Sakar Bridge is carved on the left side; the Tigris River from Baghdad to Salman Pak is carved on the right side. These 2 rivers were our RCT’s western and eastern borders. Our area in South Baghdad was known to the locals as “the land between the rivers.” On the top surface of the base are random canals carved to represent the hundreds of miles of canals that sprawled across our area of operations. These canals are all interconnected and when it rains, the water will pool in the carved canals and serve as a reminder of the struggles we faced and the tears we shed.

- 01-15 December 2011 **Mission analysis and deployment planning.** The STRIKE Brigade staff, working closely with Battalions, developed the initial manning and task organization for TM STRIKE. The staff focused on the manning, equipping, and training of 30 combat advisor teams for the OEF 12-13 deployment. The Brigade also began a series of VTCs and coordination with 3 Brigade, 25th Infantry Division that was currently in N2KL as the Coalition land-owning unit. In addition, the Brigade also established contact with 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division that would conduct Relief in Place with 3/25 IBCT in March 2012. (OEF 12-13 BoV)
- 01-07 December 2012 **201st ANA Corps BSO NoK.** On 4 DEC 12, TASK FORCE MOUNTAIN WARRIOR transitioned security responsibility for Nangahar, Kunar, Nuristan, Laghman, and Kapisa provinces to 201st ANA Corps at FOB FENTY, Nangahar Province, Afghanistan. (OEF 12-13 BoV)
- 01-07 December 2012 **4/203 ANA Brigade engagement with MoD.** BG Raziq, the 4/203 ANA BDE CDR, hosted the Minister of Defense GEN Karimi on 6 DEC 12 at CAMP MAIWAND. He and his staff briefed the MOD on the OPERATION RESPONSIBILITY AND PEACE framework OPORD, garnering additional support for the plan. (OEF 12-13 BoV)
- 02 December 1967 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** A/2-502 Vic AN752502 at 1540H engaged 8VC in black pajamas with weapons. The action resulted in 6 VC KIA (C), 2 VC’s and 2 individual weapons captured with no friendly casualties.
- 02 December 1968 A/1-502 engaged 2 VC, vic. YD6220, resulting in 2 VC KIA, 2 AK47, 2 rucksacks and equipment and documents captured. B/1-502 conducted security of FSB T-Bone with local patrols and ambushes. A/1-502, 26 element and B/1-502, 16 elements, was OPCON to 2/501. C/1-502(-) conducted security of An Lo. D/1-502 and C/1-502, 16 element, Recon/1-502, 1 tank platoon and 2 PF platoons (OPCON to "D") established a cordon, center of mass, vic. YD595390. Several BBT's were encountered, resulting in C/1-502, 16 platoon leader KIA and 2 PF WIA. 2 VC were KIA. 1 VC captured with 2 AK47. The cordon also found 1 60mm mortar, 1 RPG, a MG and approx. 700lbs. of rice.
- 02 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry found a trail at YD772079 and a sandal. Also found a can believed to be used for cooking as it was smudged. On the same trail they found a man made cave three feet wide and three feet deep. Nothing was found in the cave. Trail is 18-20 inches wide and runs NW into the stream. There was no recent activity. Bravo Company, 1st Platoon found one US claymore without wire or firing device, but explosive intact at grid YD785065. At grid YD796066 they found one US claymore without wire, firing device, or explosive, one trip flare, unopened C-ration cans, empty packages and opened envelopes with addresses. Envelopes had complete addresses and unit designations on them. The unit involved was our own Delta Company. Charlie Company, 1st Platoon found a booby trap at YD785052. It had a pressure type firing device and weighed about 10lbs. It was on a trail with no signs of recent activity.
- 03 December 1968 A/1-502 conducted RIF, vic. YD6220. They received sniper fire from the northwest. The fire was returned with negative assessment. A/1-502, 26 elements, OPCON to 2/501. B/1-502 security of T-Bone. C/1-502 conducted security of An Lo Bridge. D/1-502 with Recon, platoon of tanks and PF's continued cordon operations. They found 1



fresh VC grave (KIA by artillery) and 1 bouncing betty mine. PF's killed 2 VC and captured 1 weapon, vic. YD6338.

03 December 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: Recon/2-502 engaged 8 VC/NVA at 2330h (YD986013) and killed 2 and captured 2 AK-47's.

03 December 1969

President Richard Nixon awards three Medals of Honor to former Screaming Eagles. Receiving the award in person at the White House ceremonies is SFC Webster Anderson, a former member of A Btry, 2nd BN (AMBL), 320th AR. Two awards are made posthumously to relatives of SSG Chester Sims, D Co. 2nd BN (AMBL) 501st INF and SP4 Dale Wayrynen, B Co. 2nd BN (AMBL), 502nd IN. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary, Winter 1969)



03 December 1969

“Operation Nevada Eagle” Fifteen enemy were killed, three prisoners taken and seven weapons captured in action throughout the AO. A/1/501 engaged six enemy, killing five and capturing another plus four weapons. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary, Winter 1969)

03 December 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70: Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry 1st Platoon found a 105mm round and blew it up in place.

03 - 16 December 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: There was very little contact as the enemy continued to avoid engagements. 2-502 Battalion continued reconnaissance in force operation in Company and Platoon size elements west of FSB Bastogne. The NDP of Recon Platoon was hit by 82mm mortar fire with no casualties. Several sensors were activated during the 3-16 December along with a few enemy sighting. Artillery was fired on suspected enemy location with unknown results.

04 December 1968

D/1-502 found 2 RPG rounds and 2 AP mines. Shortly after noon the cordon was terminated. Recon conducted move via "hook" from vic. YD5034 to Omaha. From Omaha, they conducted CA to vic. YD6928.

04 December 1969

A Division Artillery aerial recon craft spotted three enemy bodies during a day of light contact. FB Brick, on Leech Island, was closed with the extraction of the Delta Raiders of 2/501. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary, Winter 1969)

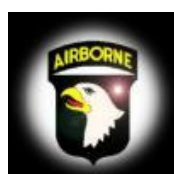
04 December 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70: Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Platoon found a NDP site at YD782062. In the site they found a notebook with information concerning combat assaults, the unit commander's name, names of others in the outfit. It's to believe the notebook belongs to an NCO of Delta Company.

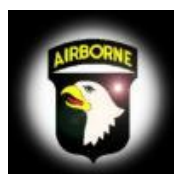
05 December 1967

Operation KLAMATH FALLS: Phase II: The battalion's orientation was directed to the south on as wide a front as possible effective 05 Dec. The TAC CP/2-502 was displaced to the south effective 09 Dec to support the companies push south against the 1-327 IN elements in an attempt to squeeze the enemy in between. Phase III: The battalion was displaced to the NE in an air assault on multiple landing zones with the companies oriented mainly on terrain rather than on specific intelligence of enemy units. Emphasis was placed on thorough search with the companies broken into sub-elements.

Effective 1000H, B/2-502 and C/2-502 reoriented to the south to cut trails and streams on as wide a front as possible in reaction to intelligence indicating this area as a route of egress.



- 05 December 1968 1-502 IN continued normal operations. D/1-502 was the only unit to make contact. They engaged 2 VC vic. YD5934, resulting in 1 VC KIA and 1 AK47 captured. Recon was lifted back to LZ Sally from vic. YD6829, by log bird.
- 05 December 1969 Six enemy were killed and six weapons captured in the AO. Two night ambushes, one near FB Boise by the 2/502 Recondos, and the other near Jeanne by D/1/502, were successful, with three enemy killed. Company A of the 1st Battalion Geronimo's captured two enemy after engaging an unknown size force near Sandy. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary, Winter 1969)
- 05 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** The 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry continued in Operation Jefferson Glen in sector Gulf making maximum use of S/P's and N/A's with negative contact.
- 06 December 1968 A/1-502 (-) moved from vic. YD6120 to FSB T-Bone. A/1-502, 36 elements was lifted via "hook" from LZ Sally to T-Bone. A/1-502 replaced B/1-502 as T-Bone security. B/1-502 RIF from T-Bone to vic. YD6519. While moving into their NDP B/1-502 observed movement vic. YD6417 and called in artillery. A first light assessment proved negative. C/1-502 conducted security of AN Lo Bridge. C/1-502 16 element with 1 platoon of PF's, conducted RIF to vic. YD6132 where they set up a blocking position for 2 platoons of PF's that conducted a CA to vic. YD6134, then swept towards blocking positions. There was negative contact. D/1-502 conducted RIF operations, vic. YD64537. Recon at LZ Sally as RRF for Bde.
- 06 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry found a tunnel and bunker complex at grid YD788064. The tunnel led to five bunkers. Three bunkers are old and two are new being about a month old. At the entrance to the tunnel there were bare foot prints two or three days old. Also in the area were found some carrying cases for rockets or shells. Cases are OD in color about 30 inches long and 5 inches diameter. They are closed at one end and have a snap cover at the other.
- 07 December 1968 A/1-502 secured FSB T-Bone (Pictured) and conducted local patrols and ambushes. B/1-502 conducted day and night ambushes, vic. YD6518. C/1-502 secured An Lo Bridge, security for mine sweep, and conducted local patrols and ambushes. Company "D" conducted RIF to vic. YD6040. They engaged 2 VC resulting in 1 VC WIA and 1 M-26 and rucksack captured. Recon remained at LZ Sally.
- 07 December 1969 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN** began. FSB Rifle (YD862988) served as the base of the operations for the "STRIKE Force Battalion" (2-502 IN) with the maneuver companies located in the canopy to the north and south of the firebase. Joint US/ARVN operations were to play a significant role throughout the following New Year.



07 December 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70: Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry 3rd Platoon, 2nd Squad found five fighting positions two to three months old at Grid YD842048. They formed a V and could possibly have been used for an ambush; there was no recent activity in the area.

07 December 2007

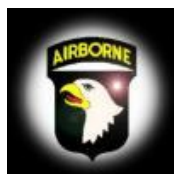
OPN Dolphins II – B/2-502 IN pairs with 2/2/8 IA and conducts OPN Dolphins II, an air assault to isolate and cordon the Jama al-Din mosque, a well-known AQI mosque, in order to seize al-Qaeda leaders. The initial chalk, led by 1LT Jeremy Arias, 3/B/2-502 IN takes effective fire from a nearby house upon infill. Once 3/B establishes the cordon, the IA push through and secure the individuals inside the mosque. 1/B, in coordination with the IA, detains a total of 58 individuals for extremist activity. It takes two lifts of 5 x UH60's to exfil back to FOB Kalsu with the detainees. Approximately 15 are taken into CF custody while another 35 are kept by the IA. The operation is a great success, capturing several AQI leaders and disrupting AQI coordination and efforts in the area for months to come.

07 December 2010 –
28 February 2011

CTF STRIKE conducted Operation Dragon Wrath (Amaliat Ajdaha Khashamgine) in order to deny insurgents access to historical engagement areas south of Highway 1 and to the majority of the population. The operation was conducted in three phases: building engagement areas to disrupt insurgents along south to north running axes of advance from the Horn of Panjwa'i to Zharay; killing or capturing insurgents who are returning to historical locations in Zharay in order to prevent effects on Highway 1 and the populace; and preparation and transition of offensive operations to 3/10 Mountain in order to set the conditions for Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) to take the lead and for CTF SPARTAN to maintain the initiative.

Within this operation were several key tasks. All subordinate Task Forces had to complete engagement area development prior to the foliage returning in "the gardens." A critical component of this was the completion of the Security Road which ran all the way from COP Kolk in the east, through Strongpoint Diwar, Sangisar, Lakokhel, and Ghundy Ghar all the way out to COP Azim Jan Kariz in the west. This security road provided critical shaping operations to not only force the insurgents to travel through manned checkpoints but also provided the residents of Zharay with a known, secured route that provided them with increased freedom of movement and ability to transit the district. To reinforce the effects of this road, Task Forces needed to interdict insurgents attempting to bypass the engagement areas, destroy insurgents along with their essential supplies and facilities, and conduct time sensitive intelligence-driven raids. Concomitant with this were continuing efforts to influence the people to secure themselves.

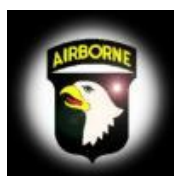
At the end state of this operation, insurgents would be unable to regain their influence over the local population and would be denied the use of key terrain. CTF STRIKE was postured to transition authority allowing CTF SPARTAN to maintain the initiative once the foliage returned. Afghan citizens had freedom of movement along Highway 1 and increased confidence in the capacity of ANSF to provide security, enhanced economic growth, and increased connections to district and local government with the ability to secure themselves against insurgent threats.



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.

4 x Silver Star Medal
 3 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
 17 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
 2 x Bronze Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
 15 x Purple Hearts (4 x Posthumously)
 2 x Non-Hostile Illness or Injury

- December 1944 PFC Edward M. Hunt (502nd PIR) earned the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force while serving with the 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action during the Christmas week siege of Bastogne, Belgium, in December 1944.
- 01 December 1969 – 30 April 1970 The following Soldiers: PFC James Evans, SGT Gordon J. Forrester, PFC Gary Gaglead, SP4 John Gillilano, SP4 Darwin A. Grow, SP4 Sterling Lawrence, SP4 Ernest M. McDaniel, SP4 Thomas North, PFC James O. Riley, SP4 David R. Schmidli, SP4 Mickey Shackelford, PFC Wayne R. Smyly, SP4 James C. Thompson, SGT John E. Upton (A/2-501 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious achievement. (HQ, 101st Airborne Division; General Order Number 5079; 7 May 1970)
- 02 December 1968 SP4 Arthur Williams Jr. (D/2-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received while on combat operations when hit by fragments from hostile rocket propelled grenade in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 02 December 1968 1LT Victor B. Weissman (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received while on combat operation when hostile mine detonated in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 02 December 2005 PFC Jazel A. Roque (A/2-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation with Valor for action in combat.
- 03 December 2005 SPC Lucas Driezen (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while he was driving a M1114 when an IED detonated from the side of the road. Shrapnel came through the floor boards of the vehicle and penetrated his leg.
- 04 December 1966 PFC Lawrence D. Mungin III (B/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty as a result of metal fragment wounds to the left hand and upper chest received while in Base Camp when hit by fragments from a mortar round which detonated in a trash can in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.
- 04 December 2007 PFC Charles Smith (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while on a dismounted patrol, steps on a crush wire victim-operated IED. The IED is made of anti-aircraft rounds to create maximum fragmentation and PFC Smith suffers shrapnel wounds to his legs.
- 05 December 2005 1LT George Morris (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while on a combat dismount patrol in front of a M1114, 1LT Morris encountered an IED in between a small shack in the road. He took shrapnel to his left leg.



05 December 2005 SSG George Fitzke (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was in his vehicle that flipped after the IED blast. 1LT Morris received abrasions to the forehead and leg. He also received rib pain.

05 December 2005 PFC Kampol Paksrilert (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was in his vehicle that flipped after the IED blast. PFC Paksrilert received abrasions to the forehead and a contusion to the right elbow.

05 December 2005 SSG Christopher Givens (2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for actions in combat.

06 December 1970



SGT George E. Bailey (A/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile casualty while a passenger on a military vehicle on a military mission when the vehicle collided with another military vehicle, causing him to be thrown from the vehicle in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

06 December 2005 SPC Joseph Frommer, (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was on a mounted patrol for vehicle resupply operations when his vehicle hit an IED. The vehicle flipped onto its top and was not moveable after the explosion. SPC Frommer was the gunner on the truck and sustained facial trauma and a puncture to left calf.

06 December 2005 SPC Eduardo Lealcardenas (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was on a mounted patrol for vehicle resupply operations when his vehicle hit an IED. The vehicle flipped onto its top and was not moveable after the explosion, throwing SPC Lealcardenas from the vehicle.

06 December 2010 SSgt James Martin earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when an insurgent attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire. He is assigned to 81st Security Forces Squadron, U.S. Air Force, in support of 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment as an MWD handler.

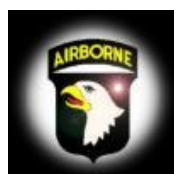
07 December 1967 PVT James A. McKenzie (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Binh Thuan Province, South Vietnam.

07 December 2003



SPC Ray J. Hutchinson (2-502 IN), 20, of League City, Texas; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he was killed when an improvised explosive device hit his vehicle as he was returning from a patrol in Mosul, Iraq.

07 December 2005 SPC Brandon Elston (B/1-502 IN) actions in combat earn him the Purple Heart. For a shrapnel wound received on his neck from an IED.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

02 December 1966

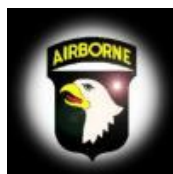
PFC Samuel Piscopo Jr. (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 2 December 1966 near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. Private First Class Piscopo distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action and personal bravery as he and two companions were moving into an observation post when they unknowingly walked into an enemy position and were immediately assaulted with a tremendous volume of enemy fire. In that initial burst of fire, one man was wounded and lay in an exposed area. Private Piscopo, with complete disregard for his own safety, exposing himself to the brutal enemy fire, rushed to the aid of his wounded comrade and pulled him to a relatively safe area. The situation was worsened by the destruction of the wounded man's weapon and the ineffectiveness of the other's grenade launcher due to the close-in fighting involved. The enemy Soldiers, not receiving any return fire, started to move toward the three men in an attempt to possibly retrieve weapons and equipment. Private Piscopo, observing that the enemies were approaching his position, jumped to his feet, and with disregard for his own safety, fearlessly assaulted the advancing ranks of the enemy. Even through receiving intense automatic weapons fire from the startled enemy, Private Piscopo remained in his exposed position dauntlessly engaging the enemy. His determined effort killed two enemy Soldiers and wounded another. As the remaining two Viet Cong began to withdraw and flee from the battle area, he gave chase for a short distance, wounding one of them. As a result of Private Piscopo's courage and determination, the lives of two Americans were saved, two enemy Soldiers killed, two wounded, and three weapons captured. Private Piscopo's impeccable display of valor, his resolute determination and devotion to duty, and his unselfish concern for the life of a fellow Soldier while engaged in close combat against a numerically superior force are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army.

02 December 1966

SSG George T. Royster (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in Action in the Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Royster, after having placed his men into an ambush position, observed approximately twenty-five enemy soldiers approaching from an unexpected direction. Immediately, Sergeant Royster moved his men from their initial position to a more advantageous position. Once Sergeant Royster's men were positioned he maintained strict fire discipline until the enemy was within five meters of his position. When the ambush was triggered, Sergeant Royster moved from position to position giving his men encouragement and exposing himself to murderous enemy fire while pointing out enemy targets. Sergeant Royster moved through bullet swept area time and time again in order to improve his evaluation of the situation. After having determined that only nineteen of the twenty-five enemy soldiers were killed, Sergeant Royster, in a determined effort, charged from his covered area firing his rifle and throwing grenades in a one man assault. Although the enemy was determined and placed murderous fire on Sergeant Royster, he relentlessly assaulted the enemy position, personally killing four enemy soldiers. Sergeant Royster's actions and leadership resulted in his ambush element killing twenty-three of the enemy. Sergeant Royster's outstanding display of leadership and gallantry in action are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

02 December 1966

SP4 John E. Maldon (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in Action in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Four Maldon and four of his comrades were given the mission of securing a river crossing site for the remainder of their company. As the small element approached the river crossing site, they encountered an estimated squad size element of enemy soldiers hiding among some large rocks in a river bed. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Specialist Maldon charged one of the enemy positions firing his weapon and killing two enemy soldiers. He continued to move forward through a murderous volume of enemy fire and charged another enemy position. As Specialist Maldon neared the enemy, he acquired a hand grenade and threw it into the position killing two more enemy soldiers and wounding another. Specialist Maldon continued to advance on the remaining enemy positions placing suppressive fire



into them, thus enabling his four comrades to assault the enemy positions successfully. As a result of Specialist Maldon's actions, four enemy soldiers were killed, several were wounded and four enemy weapons were captured, including a heavy machine gun. Specialist Maldon's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his avid devotion to duty are within the highest military tradition and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

03 December 1968



SGT Jorge B Otero (E/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism on 03 December 1968. Platoon Sergeant Otero distinguished himself while serving as the Platoon Sergeant in the Reconnaissance Platoon of Company E, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, in Quang Diem, Republic of Vietnam. While on combat operations in the sand dunes along the coast, the platoon came under heavy small arms and machine gun fire from camouflaged enemy positions and was pinned down. Platoon Sergeant Otero located on source of enemy fire and began moving toward the bunker. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Platoon Sergeant Otero ran fifty meters through enemy fire until he was close enough to destroy the enemy bunker with hand grenades. Through his courage, he contributed to the success of the mission, which resulted in two enemy killed, one enemy captured, four weapons captured and no friendly casualties. Platoon Sergeant Otero's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 922).

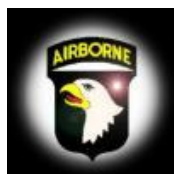
03 December 1968



1LT John F. Hay (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 December 1968. Second Lieutenant Hay distinguished himself while serving as the Reconnaissance Platoon Leader of Company E, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, in the District of Quang Dien, Republic of Vietnam. While on a combat operation in the sand dunes along the coast, the platoon came under heavy small arms and machine gun fire and was pinned down in crossfire. Lieutenant Hay, with complete disregard for his personal safety, attempted to locate the enemy positions. Having located these positions, he moved from position to position, coordinated the supporting fire of his men and maneuvered on the enemy bunkers. Through his courage, he contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission, which resulted in two enemy killed, one enemy captured, four weapons captured and no friendly casualties. First Lieutenant Hay'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 1039, 31 January 1969)

03 December 2005

The following Soldiers: PFC Matthew R. Parker and SSG James Skurzewski received the Army Commendation Medal with Valor; PFC Ian Heatherly and PFC John Applewhite the Purple Heart for military for action. Attack on Gator Swamp – An AQI platoon of approximately 20-25 individuals attacks a Squad (+) element manning what would become the future Joint Patrol Base Gator Swamp at a compound on the outside of Shakaria. Chosen for its strategic over watch of a key bridge leading into the town, A/2-502, the "Gators", had occupied the compound for approximately two weeks rotating Platoon (-) forces through securing it as it was prepped to become a Company Patrol Base. The A/2-502 forces number 13 at the time of the contact with 2 M240B machine guns and one M249 SAW on the top of the building in over watch. At approximately 1350, AQI initiates the attack with RPG fire followed by heavy small arms fire from two school buildings across the canal. The SAF specifically targets the M240B machine gun positions once they make themselves known, and the initial assault from AQI wounds PFC Ian Heatherly and PFC John Applewhite, both of whom earn the Purple Heart. PFC Applewhite suffers shrapnel wounds from an RPG impact and PFC Ian Heatherly is shot through his helmet. The bullet pierces through the Kevlar, clips his head, and continues, lodging itself in the rear portion of the Kevlar. Miraculously, PFC Heatherly's wounds are minor and he is able to continue the fight.



PFC Matthew R. Parker ran to the roof of the patrol base to get to his defensive fighting position. Once he was in position, PFC Parker began locating and suppressing the enemy positions. The Soldier next to PFC Parker, PFC Ian Heatherly, was shot in the head by a sniper round. PFC Parker applied immediate first aid to him until an NCO arrived and assessed the casualty's wounds. PFC Parker then began engaging the enemy, even though he knew that his position was receiving the heaviest of the enemy fires and most of the sandbags were so full of holes that they offered no real protection. For PFC Parker's actions in applying medical attention and suppressive fires, he receives the Army Commendation with Valor.

Eventually, through superior firepower and leadership, the squad's actions convince AQI forces that they will not overrun the compound. The small arms fire from the north quiets down as AQI forces begin to withdraw melting back into the population. Harassing sporadic small arms fire and sniper fire from reed lines approximately 300m out to the east and west assists the AQI withdrawal. The patrol leader, SSG James Skurzewski, A/2-502 IN, authorizes an attack aviation team that has just come on station to fire 2.75mm rockets into the reed lines to the east and west to deny the AQI snipers the terrain. This close air support forces the complete withdrawal of AQI and 45 minutes after the attack has commenced, it is over. SSG Skurzewski, for his leadership under fire and ability to gain fire superiority to repel an outnumbering AQI force, earns the Army Commendation with Valor.

***STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

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

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

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

