



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) "STRIKE HISTORY" 11 January – 17 January 2015



11 - 14

January 1968

1-502 IN Battalion conducted training in preparation for upcoming operations. (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)

11 January 1971

1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, Alpha Company Vic YD494237 found one PRC handset, one copy of resupply list, 2 feet det cord, 2 steel pots, one bandoleer of ammo, three cases of C-Rations, one hand illum, one M-17 protective mask. 3/B Vic YD453149 found one NVA medical kit on a high speed trail which showed recent usage.

11 January 2006

Operation Hat Trick (1-502IN). This mission consisted of a simultaneous ground assault to detain key AIF leadership operating in AO Talon on three different Objectives.

11 January 2006

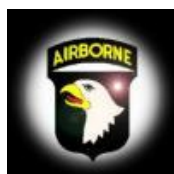
At approximately 1000 a platoon from C/2-502 IN conducted an air assault operation to clear a suspected enemy cache site in vicinity of the power plant. SPC Bickford and PV2 Pavloski were members of a four-man air assault infantry team that was tasked to clear a two-room building. The building was surrounded on three sides by dense reeds in the numerous north to south running canals making the area a prime spot for enemy ambush. As the team moved up to the building they were met with RPK fire from less than 3-meters away. The initial volley seriously wounded the Alpha Team Leader, SPC York, and left him in the open without cover. PV2 Pavloski emplaced himself and laid down suppressive fire with his rifle while SPC Bickford laid suppressive fire with his M249 machine gun. The heavy volume of fire sent the enemy retreating to a canal where they continued to fire upon the team. SPC Bickford attempted to grab a wounded Soldier but was unsuccessful because of the heavy volume of fire and grenade shrapnel. With total disregard for his own safety, PV2 Pavloski stepped out in front of the casualty and directly into harm's way. He then shouted, "get him out," and laid down suppressive fire, allowing SPC Bickford a second, successful attempt to pull the wounded team leader out of the open and safely behind cover so he could receive medical attention. SPC Bickford then assumed the team leader position, gathered up the remaining team members, and continued to fire and maneuver on the insurgent forces while continuing to lay down suppressive fires. Through the course of the battle two members of the platoon were moving through the canal to clear one of the insurgents that were presumed dead. At the same moment, the insurgent rolled over and threw a grenade in the direction of the Soldiers. SPC Bickford echoed, "grenade," and eliminated the enemy threat before he could throw a second grenade. SPC Bickford's quick thinking and action saved the other Soldiers from injury or imminent death. When the mission was complete there were six enemy KIA, two of which were wearing suicide belts, one enemy WIA, and one detainee. The building contained numerous weapons, ammunitions, grenades, detonation cord, pressure plates, blasting caps and IEDs.

12 January 1971

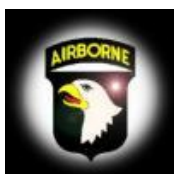
1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, Recon Vic YD483117 found bunker complex and old trail network.



1



- 13 January 1970 **Operation RANDOPH GLEN:** D/2-502 IN took the first prisoner of the New Year. The enemy Soldier had been wounded in a previous contact, after receiving medical treatment from the medics, the prisoner was medevaced to the rear.
- 14 January 1945 3rd Battalion 502 would again suffer the loss of its commander. Lieutenant Col. John Stopka and some of his troopers were advancing through a pine forest along an elevated rail line. Enemy Tanks were advancing along the other side. Someone called in for air support and the planes strafed too close to the friendly positions, resulting in the death of Col. Stopka and thirty other soldiers near Michamps. With that unfortunate incident, the command of the 3rd Battalion was given to Cecil L Simmons who would lead the unit until the end of the war.
- 14 January 1945 LTC John Stopka and thirty troopers from the 502nd are killed in action by an errant friendly bomb strike near Michamps, Belgium. Command of 3/502 is given to LTC Cecil Simmons, former CO of H/502 and RHQ/502.
- 14 January 1968 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry CA'd to LZ Gold (XT, 40km WSW of AN Loc, 11km WSW of FSB Parry, 19km S of Cambodian border, 7km W of Rte 244, 7km NE Suoi Ba Hoa River and site Battle of Suoi Tre, 21 March 1967), in western III Corps, and worked that area until 19 January 1968.
- 14 January 1968 1-502 IN Battalion heli-lifted to LZ Gold. Choppers received ground fire but no contact was made. Perimeter formed. (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)
- 14 January 1971 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry at YD444121 Recon detonated a BBT. Grenade and trip wire device. Results one US WIA. At YD 452119 found Tu Yet carved into tree. 1/D Vic YD472112 found cooking utensils and one bunker located at trail orientated N-S. There were signs of activity within the last 24 hours. Delta Company Vic YD457122 found fifteen pounds of C-4.
- 15 January 1970 1-502 IN Battalion conducted search and destroy mission from LZ Gold. Scattered very light contact made. Neg. results. (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)
- 15 January 1970 Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, found 14 booby traps, 11 of which were made of 60mm mortar rounds.
- 16 January 1968 2nd Brigade ends its "in-country orientation and training phase" and conducts OPERATION NORMANDY in the area around Cu Chi, Vietnam.
- 16 January 1968 During the early morning hours, A/1-502 IN ambush on river, fired on sampan. Results, 4 NVA KIA (BC). During daylight hours, Battalion continued search and destroy operations and captured 3 POW's. Battalion formed into NDP's for night. (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)
- 16 January 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** Operation Began (2-502 IN); Locations: Phuoc Long Province, RVN. 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 changes were made in the task organization during Operation SAN ANGELO. (1) 2-327 assumed OPOCON B Co. effective 221029 Jan. and released OPCON 271600 Jan. (2) 2-17 CAV assumed OPOCON A Co. effective 281000 Jan and released OPOCON 291000Jan. (3) 2-17 Cav assumed OPOCON C Co. effective 291110 Jan and released OPOCON 211600 Jan. (4) II FFV CP assumed OPOCON C Co. effective 051310 Feb and released OPOCON 101000 Feb. (5) MACV HQS assumed OPOCON B Co. effective 071300 Feb and released OPOCON 091750 Feb. (6) On numerous occasions platoon size elements of 2-502 were released from OPOCON to various units on Song Be perimeter for defensive patrolling and ambushes. The BDE LRRP's were



released for OPCON to the 2-502 on numerous occasions for the same type of mission.

Mission: The 2nd BN (ABN) conduct heliborne assault into western portion of assigned AO and established a fire base within 105mm and 155mm supporting distance of SONG BE and conducted search and destroy operations to the East and Southeast in assigned AO. Assumed BDE IAF beginning D+3. Elements of 2-502 relieved 2-327 in place at mini-firebases and BN (-) assumed mission of BDE reaction force and performed security mission at SONG BE. 2-502 tasked as DIV IAF vicinity BIEN HOA-SAIGON. (AAR 17FEB1968)

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

Authorized: 778

Assigned: 687

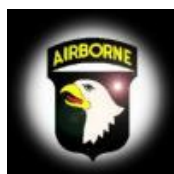
Present for Duty: 610

Not present for duty: 77

- January 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** "STRIKE Force" conducted an unopposed airmobile assault into LZ Green, YU080138. Automatic weapons fire was received on the 17th and 18th with negative friendly casualties, and enemy casualties unknown.
- 16 January 1970 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry scored again while on a recon patrol, this time the Battalion discovered and destroyed 17 enemy bunkers about 4 miles west of Hue. (Screaming Eagle, 1970)
- 16 January 1971 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, Alpha Company found bunker complex YD520234. Delta Company Vic YD460117 found six bunkers.
- 17 January 1968 1-502 IN Battalion continued with search and destroy mission. Light contact during time period. A bunker and tunnel complex was found and destroyed. Results: Enemy: 1 VC KIA (BC); AK - 47 Captured (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)
- 17 – 18 January 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** TAC CP vic. YU080138 received AW fire. Negative US casualties – enemy losses unknown. CH-47 received a few rounds but flew back to SONG BE.
- 17 January 1970 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry found 10 booby traps and a bunker complex with sleeping positions and the 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry found two warheads and a 122mm rocket during a patrol. (Screaming Eagle, 1970)
- 17 January 1971 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry 3/A at Vic YD502214 received 2-3 AK-47 rounds, also found a network of trails covered with footprints. ARA employed with negative results. 1/CP/D found ten booby traps on FB Kathlyn. Res destroyed.
- 17 January 2004 **Operation Final Strike.** 2nd Brigade conducts six simultaneous cordon and search operations based on actionable intelligence and detained the top two targets out of six targeted individuals. All targets were former Fedayeen Saddam leaders.



3



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.

- 2 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
- 2 x Bronze Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
- 2 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 40 x Purple Heart Medal (37 x Posthumously)
- 3 x Died on Non-Hostile injury or illness

11 January 1945 PVT Donald G. Johnson (RHQ/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death in Belgium, Germany.

12 January 1945 PFC Norman V. Girouard (HQ/1-502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during WWII in Belgium, Germany.

12 January 1967 PFC Dennis P. Neely (B/2-502nd 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 unknown, Military Region 2.



12 January 2011 SGT Zainah Creamer (212 MP), 28, of Texarkana, Texas; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously). SGT Creamer died of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked her dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device. She was assigned attached to 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment.

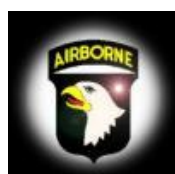


13 January 1945 The following Soldiers: CPL Leo E. Pichler (HQ1/502nd PIR), CPL Kenneth R. Ward (RHQ/502nd PIR), PFC Pasquale J. Dagostino, PFC Francis B. Grosvenor, PFC Donald J. Lenz (A/502nd PIR), PFC Floyd D. Cheatham Jr. [1], PFC Lloyd A. Corder, PFC Armando J. Frulla, CPL Carl H. Inglin, PVT Max W. Lewis, T/5 Domingo Rivera Jr., PFC John F. Webb, PFC Dean W. Gray Jr. [2], (B/502nd PIR), PFC Floyd P. Marquart (C/502nd PIR), 1/Sgt Aime H. Drapeau (G/502nd PIR), PVT Charles R. Davenport, PVT Paul G. Rentz (502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during WWII in Belgium, Germany. (Pictures L-R)



13 January 1970 PFC Henry E. Teasley (B/2-502nd IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

14 January 1945 The following Soldiers LTC John P. Stopka, PVT Robert R. Marcotte (HQ3/502nd PIR), CPL Harry K. Von Dreau (A/502nd PIR), PFC Billie S. Eversole, PFC Peter W. Lynch Jr. (B/502nd PIR), PVT Isaac R. Menchaca (502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death during WWII in Belgium, Germany.

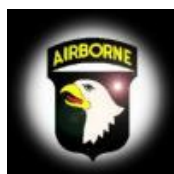


- 14 January 1971 PFC Richard L. Wilson (C/1-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 15 January 1945 The following Soldiers: T/4 Thomas P. Streifel (HQ2/502nd PIR), PFC Gerard C. Gallagher (B/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths during WWII in Belgium, Germany.
- 15 January 1971 CPL Robert E. Sharpe (HHC/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.
- 16 January 1972 CPT Richard J. Hock (HHC/2-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes (Air loss or crash land) as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 16 January 2006 1SG Ralph Haynes, (I/3-3 ACR) actions in combat earn him the Purple Heart. At approximately 1330 after returning from the DFAC at FOB Falcon, 1SG Haynes went into his room and onto his balcony. While there, a mortar round impacted the DFAC approximately 150 meters away. 1SG Haynes moved to go inside when a second mortar round impacted 10 meters away and just under his balcony. 1SG Haynes was blown into the wall next to his door and received shrapnel to the back of his head. He came out of his room, dazed and holding his ears and head.
- 16 January 2006 PFC Matthew Swanson (D/1-22 IN) actions in combat earn him the Purple Heart. PFC Swanson was working in the motor pool when the FOB received a mortar attack. He was injured in the lower right leg.
- 17 January 1945 The following Soldiers: PFC Frank Jantosik (C/502nd PIR), SSgt Geral J. Scheier (F/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths in Belgium, Germany.
- 17 January 1968 SP4 Robert L. Burrell (B/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes (drowned or suffocated) while missing in the Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam.
- 17 January 1970 The following Soldiers: 2LT Warren S. Hall (Pictured), PFC David A. Sweet(Pictured), SP4 Robert H. Miller(Pictured), SGT James E. Lakins (D/1-501st IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wound sustained which resulted in their deaths from a booby trap near Thanh Tan, in the province of Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. (Pictured L-R)



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

- 11 January 2006 At approximately 1000 a platoon from C/2-502 IN conducted an air assault operation to clear a suspected enemy cache site in vicinity of the power plant. SPC Bickford and PV2 Pavloski were members of a four-man air assault infantry team that was tasked to clear a two-room building. The building was surrounded on three sides by dense reeds in the numerous north to south running canals making the area a prime spot for enemy ambush. As the team moved up to the building they were met with RPK fire from less than 3-meters away. The initial volley seriously wounded the Alpha Team Leader, SPC York, and left him in the open without cover. PV2 Pavloski emplaced himself and laid down suppressive



fire with his rifle while SPC Bickford laid suppressive fire with his M249 machine gun. The heavy volume of fire sent the enemy retreating to a canal where they continued to fire upon the team. SPC Bickford attempted to grab a wounded Soldier but was unsuccessful because of the heavy volume of fire and grenade shrapnel. With total disregard for his own safety, PV2 Pavloski stepped in front of the casualty and directly into harm's way. He then shouted, "get him out," and laid down suppressive fire, allowing SPC Bickford a second, successful attempt to pull the wounded team leader out of the open and safely behind cover so he could receive medical attention. SPC Bickford then assumed the team leader position, gathered up the remaining team members, and continued to fire and maneuver on the insurgent forces while continuing to lay down suppressive fires. Through the course of the battle two members of the platoon were moving through the canal to clear one of the insurgents that were presumed dead. At the same moment, the insurgent rolled over and threw a grenade in the direction of the Soldiers. SPC Bickford echoed, "grenade," and eliminated the enemy threat before he could throw a second grenade. SPC Bickford's quick thinking and action saved the other Soldiers from injury or imminent death. When the mission was complete there were six enemy KIA, two of which were wearing suicide belts, one enemy WIA, and one detainee. The building contained numerous weapons, ammunitions, grenades, detonation cord, pressure plates, blasting caps and IEDs.

PV2 Christopher Pavloski, (C/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and the Purple Heart. PV2 Pavloski risked his own life and safety for his fellow comrade. He was instrumental in the success of the mission in eliminating a terrorist cell. His courage under fire and dedication to duty are unquestionable. He not only provided suppressive fire for the team leader to be moved to safety and receive needed medical treatment but continued to fire and maneuver on the enemy. PV2 Pavloski's actions ensured his platoon's success in the mission.

SPC Shawn Bickford (C/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor. SPC Bickford was instrumental to the success of the mission in eliminating a terrorist cell. His courage under fire and dedication to duty are unquestionable.

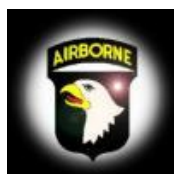
He not only pulled a wounded Soldier to safety allowing him to receive the medical treatment he needed, he continued to fire and maneuver on eight heavily armed insurgents. SPC Bickford's actions ensured his platoon's success in the mission.

12 January 2011



The following Soldiers: SSG Jason Heyboer and SPC William Pickel (D/2-502 IN) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while distinguishing themselves through valorous action. SGT Creamer, a Military Working Dog-Handler attached to Company D, in support of Operation Nalensville II in Nalgham, Afghanistan, triggered a pressure plate IED (PPIED). The subsequent explosion of the device resulted in the bilateral amputation of her legs, along with extensive injuries to her arms, groin, and abdomen. This IED was very well concealed and emplaced in a manner to deceive current explosive detection assets. The threat of secondary IEDs targeting first responders was very high, given the current enemy TTPs in the area. The 3rd platoon, 1st squad leader, SSG Heyboer, was 10 meters from the blast. He ignored any threat of possible secondary IEDs, and was the first on site to begin treatment of the casualty. His disregard for his own personal safety to come to the aid of a fellow Soldier resulted in the casualty immediately receiving medical attention and stabilization.

SSG Heyboer quickly took accountability of his squad ensuring security was maintained around the blast site, ran to SGT Creamer, removed her from the blast hole, and was the first to begin treating her critical injuries. SPC Pickel ignored any threat of possible secondary IEDs and rushed to the site of the casualty to begin treatment. SPC Pickel immediately took control of the situation,



assessing SGT Creamer's injuries and immediately beginning to treat her. SSG Heyboer helped SPC Pickel apply multiple tourniquets, pressure dressings, combat gauze and administered a "fast one" to treat and stabilize the patient. Simultaneously while treating the casualty, SSG Heyboer and SPC Pickel began prepping the aid and litter team issuing specific directions and guidance for movement of the casualty to the HLZ, which was over 300 meters away from the PPIED site.

SPC Pickel quickly organized the mobilization of the casualty to the HLZ, resulting in the casualty being "wheels up" to Level III care at KAF in less than 20 minutes from the time of the initial injury. On meeting the aircraft, SPC Pickel thoroughly briefed the Flight Medic of SGT Creamer's injuries and treatment administered. From the point of injury to the HLZ, SPC Pickel's expertise and timeliness of treatment resulted in the best care that could have been given and the stabilization of the casualty before MEDEVAC could arrive.



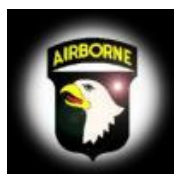
After wheels up on the MEDEVAC, SSG Heyboer continued to lead his squad to successfully complete the mission.

14 January 1945

SSG Willis H. Zwiebel (A/502nd PIR) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action on 14 January 1945 in the vicinity of Michamps, Belgium. SSG Zwiebel led his platoon in an attack on the enemy who were located in well concealed positions in a wooded area adjacent to a high railroad embankment. An enemy machine gun on the railroad controlled the embankment and was delaying the advance of the unit on the left. Leading the remaining six men of his platoon, Sergeant Zwiebel rushed the embankment and made his way to a point opposite his objective. After placing his machine gun in action on the embankment, he led his men into the woods. Due to the aggressiveness of the attack and the confusion resulting among the enemy from the surprise, the enemy was forced to withdraw. During this action, Sergeant Zwiebel and his men accounted for six enemy dead; two wounded, and captured three prisoners. His actions were in accordance with the highest standards of the military service. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 17, 20 February 1945)

15 January 2006

SGT Jeremy McDonald (C/2-502 IN) actions in combat earn him the Purple Heart in addition to the Bronze Star Medal with Valor. SGT McDonald was tasked to set up an over watch position on a likely enemy cache site. SGT McDonald was leading his squad on a dismounted patrol during hours of limited visibility from Route Regal to Route Corvette to reach his over watch position. Charlie Company had never patrolled this area before, which consisted of a bewildering network of dirt canal roads, ankle deep with mud after the previous week's heavy rainfall. At 2000, SGT McDonald noticed a vehicle approximately 200 meters south of his position. SGT McDonald halted the patrol to conduct further reconnaissance because it was unusual to see a vehicle traveling on canal roads after dark. His suspicions were further aroused when he noticed the vehicle driving erratically. Acting quickly and decisively, using the terrain to his advantage, SGT McDonald placed his squad on line utilizing an "S" curve in the road for a hasty ambush. He placed himself near the lead element to conduct a search of the vehicle which was moving toward his position. As the vehicle rounded the "S" curve, SGT McDonald approached the vehicle, shining his tac-light into the driver's side window 5-meters away from the vehicle while the squad over watched. As the interpreter Salah Salih Amir was ordering the occupants out of the vehicle, the driver fired a pistol at SGT McDonald, striking



him in the left bicep. In addition, glass shards from the window struck SGT McDonald in the face and arm. Ignoring these injuries, SGT McDonald closed the distance with the vehicle, firing as he moved. His immediate response to the withering enemy fire was awe-inspiring and his squad followed his lead, firing into the enemy vehicle from their ambush position. The passenger of the vehicle began to fire his AK-47 point blank at SGT McDonald from inside the vehicle, striking him 5 times in the IBA. SGT McDonald reacted with utter fearlessness, continuing to fire his weapon into the enemy vehicle. Another round struck SGT McDonald in the left forearm and a large glass shard struck his face, knocking him to the ground. When he gained consciousness moments later, SGT McDonald continued firing at the enemy from the ground until being dragged to safety by PFC Goldstein and the interpreter. SGT McDonald assisted the first responders in bandaging his wounds; his calm demeanor helping to steady their actions. SGT McDonald closed this inspiring event by continuing to lead his squad in securing the area until being forced to evacuate 45 minutes later. SGT McDonald's actions resulted in three enemy KIA. Discovered in the vehicle were three AK-47's, one sniper weapon, one RPK machine gun, one RPG launcher, one grenade, and various magazines with ammunition for the weapons. Also discovered were one Kenwood two-way radio, \$250.00 U.S. currency, and 21,000 Iraqi Dinar.

***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."

