



2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT)
 “STRIKE HISTORY”
 15 December – 21 December 2013



15 December 1967

2nd Brigade’s colors arrive at Cu Chi base camp, Republic of Vietnam.

15 December 1968

A/1-502 secured FSB T-Bone and conducted local patrols and ambushes. C/1-502, 26 elements was OPCON to A/1-502. They conducted RIF operation from LZ Sally to vic. YD6020, while concluding RIF they heard a SA shot. On investigation, they found freshly cooked rice alongside the trail, vic. YD6121 and later 3 VC. The VC fired on B/1-502 (negative casualties), fire was returned and the VC fled and gunships were called in on suspected locations. Upon searching the area, negative bodies were found, but they did find 3 hooches which contained various gear, ammo, propaganda material and personal effects. Two blood trails were also found. B/1-502 followed the blood trails with negative results. C/1-502 is OPCON to 1/501. D/1-502 secured An Lo Bridge. D/1-502, 16 element, CA'd to vic. YD6019 and became OPCON to B/1-502. Recon/1-502 moved by vehicle from LZ Sally to An Lo where they utilized a super contact team.

15 – 16 December 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A combined operation with the 13th Coastal Group, Phyu Loc District HA S2 section k, the BDE MP's, A/2-502 30, C/2-502 20 & 30, and BN S2 Interrogation Center. The operation was directed toward the large number of sampans moving in the Dam Cau Hai Bay recently. The enemy has been known to use this method of transporting troops and supplies. The concept of the operation was to sweep the Bay at midnight and during the early morning hours with the Coastal Group PBR's and the ARVN Junks acted as a blocking force along the N-S grid lines ZD06. All personnel and sampans were herded into collection point at Bach Thach (H) (ZD038025). Land blocking psns were established to preclude anyone escaping by land at the following locations: A 30 (ZC040025); C 20 & C30 (YC987070) to (ZC0103). The operation started 152030 Dec with a sweep from NW to SE of the Bay (Neg results): a second sweep was conducted 160445Dec resulting in 11 sampans and 52 detainees. 26 Adults were classified as curfew violators. A Medcap was conducted in conjunction with the interrogation. Trained PRU's from Hue were flown in to the JIC on the morning of 16 Dec. The operation was concluded that afternoon.

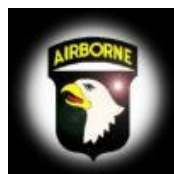
On 15DEC, C/2-502 took responsibility of Bridge 4 and Recon was released from their OPCON, and was given the mission of securing FSB Roy (ZC057029).

15 December 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70: The 81mm mortars section found six 60mm mortar rounds with charges and safety pins at grid YD773091. The rounds were about six months old. Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 2nd Platoon found 15 to 20 fighting positions and a bunker at grid YD845035. The bunker had fields of fire out in front of it. The complex is at least a year old and there were no sign of recent activity. To the west is a north-south stream and to the east a trail that runs NE-SW.

15 December 2005

Iraq General Elections. 2BCT provided force protection material for 27 polling sites in AO Strike and worked with the 4/6 IA BDE to provide security for these sites in the days leading up to the elections. Over 98,000 people visited the voting polls, all of which remained quiet with no incidents. There was a 100% increase in voter turn-out from the October 2005 referendum. 1-502 IN played a large role in preparing, setting conditions for, and securing the elections for 21 of 27 polling sites within AO Strike, while 2-502 prepared and secured 5 of the 27 polling sites.



- 16 December 1944 While resting at Mourmelon Le Grand, the 101st received orders to move northward. The German's had launched a major offensive into the Ardennes region of Belgium, which threatened to break the Allied line and drive to the sea. On the 18th, 380 trucks began moving the division's 11,000 men to its first destination, Werbomont. The division out loaded all of its men within 11 hours. The 502nd was assigned the mission of holding a strong point at Recon on the 19th.
- 16 December 1944 The German Army launches Operation Nordwind, which would become known as the Battle of the Bulge, ultimately leading to the 502nd's holding the north side of the 101st's Bastogne perimeter.
- 16 December 1968 B/1-502 had light contact, vic. YD6119 which they engaged 3 VC resulting in 1 VC KIA and 2 VC WIA. B/1-502 had 1 US slightly wounded. C/1-502 (-) returned to LZ Sally from OPCON to 1/501 via "hook" from FSB Sandy. Recon/1-502 platoon with 2 platoons of PF departed An Lo to RIF, vic. YD6131. C/1-502, 26 elements, conducted Eagle flight from LZ Sally to vic. YD6238. Gunship escort engaged 2 VC with negative results.
- 16 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 3rd Platoon, 3rd Squad found a VC/NVA trail running N-NE at grid YD770012. They estimated about ten VC/NVA used this trail within the last four days.

16 December 2010 The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff spent time with Soldiers of Combined Task Force STRIKE during a visit to Forward Operating Base Wilson, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

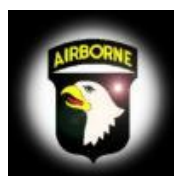


Adm. Mike Mullen pinned 16 awards that included two Bronze Star Medals with Valor, five Army Commendation Medals with Valor and nine Purple Hearts. The Soldiers were excited and honored to receive the awards from the Chairman.

"I mean, I got pinned by Adm. Mullen and it was great," said SPC Matthew Zaragoza, a Buena Park, Ca. native with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). "It was definitely a big honor for me," said Zaragoza, who received a Bronze Star with Valor and a Purple Heart for his actions on Sept. 17, when he continued attacks on insurgents after receiving wounds from enemy fire. Before the Soldiers' award ceremony, Mullen told the STRIKE Brigade he was extremely impressed with the unit's performance and thanked them for their efforts.



"To do what the American people are asking you to do and do it in a way that quite frankly, is better than I've ever seen in the over four decades I've been serving," said Mullen. "We're extremely grateful for that and we just never will forget it."



Traveling with Mullen were celebrities working with the USO on their Holiday Troop Visit. The stars included professional athlete Lance Armstrong, country music singer Kix Brooks and comedians Robin Williams, Kathleen Madigan and Lewis Black. The celebrities shook hands, posed for pictures, signed autographs and expressed their gratitude towards the CTFS Soldiers.

“It’s important for me to come here and physically say thanks, I mean seriously, it’s that important,” said Black. “It makes me feel like I’ve given something back to these guys who give to us.”



Mullen and the USO team then left for Kandahar Airfield to perform for the troops stationed there and greatly lifted the morale of the STRIKE Soldiers.

“Meeting the stars really made my day,” said SPC Charles Parino, a Royalton, Ill. native with STRIKE’s Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion. “It was cool of them to come all the way over here just to say thanks.”

16-31 December 2012

4/203 ANA Commander’s conference. On 17 DEC 12, BG Raziq, the 4/203 ANA BDE CDR hosted all KDK commanders at CAMP MAIWAND to conduct a back brief of the winter campaign plan (OPERATION UNITY OF THE NATION). Each KDK gave a general overview of the enemy situation in their AO, along with their general course of action over the winter along with any current logistical problems.

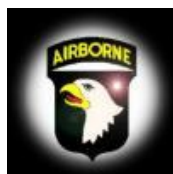
Checkpoint closure. As of 31 DEC 12 37 checkpoints had been closed down, 10 had been identified to be transferred to the MOI, and 11 were still awaiting closure.

17 – 31
December 1944

The Regiment received orders to be prepared to move to Bastogne by 1400hrs, 18 December 1944. The Regiment departed on schedule and arrived at Made St. Etienne, Belgium at about 0400hrs on 19 December 1944. The Regiment was given order to occupy a Regimental defense sector near Longchamps, Belgium. During the period of 19 – 31 December 1944 the Regiment occupied a 7000 yard defensive sector, repelled two major attacks and several small attacks in which ten enemy tanks were destroyed, 193 prisoners captured, and estimated 700 casualties inflicted in addition to the 195 known enemy dead. The Regiment made three counter attacks sustaining 195 casualties.

17 December 1968

A/1-502 conducted security of T-Bone with A/1-502, 16 element RIF to LZ Sally. A/1-502 (-) was lifted via "hook" from T-Bone to LZ Sally. B/1-502 continued RIF operations, vic. YD6121. B/1-502 sprang and ambush, vic. YD6120 against unknown size enemy



element. Illumination and artillery were called in with negative results. C/1-502 (-) was lifted from LZ Sally to FSB T-Bone. C/1-502, 26 element and 2 PF platoons conducted search and clear operation, vic. YD6139. The area had just been swept by 3-5 task force, but C/1-502, 26 element and PF's killed 3 VC and captured 2 weapons. D/1-502 secured An LO Bridge.

17 December 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70: Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry at grid YD775018 was cleaning up at a stream when one NVA came up to the stream. Security Soldiers and NVA spotted each other at the same time. NVA dropped his weapon and fled south down the stream. The Security Soldier engaged him and resulted in one NVA KIA and one AK47 captured and other items the enemy was caring. Also at the same time of contact, members of the platoon saw two other NVA who fled north. They were engaged with negative results.

17 December 1999

The Sabaulauski Air Assault School reopens at its current location.

18 December 1967

Operation KLAMATH FALLS: A/2-502 was air assaulted to the west of the AO and began search and destroy operations to the south. The assault was unopposed. One element of the Recondos was air lifted to secure a downed aircraft for salvage operations. The mission was accomplished and the elements were returned by air to the parent unit.

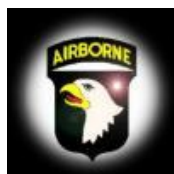
18 December 1968

B/1-502 was lifted via "hook" from vic. YD6221 to An Lo Bridge and replaces B/1-502 on Bridge security. D/1-502 moved via "hook" from An Lo to vic. YD6321.

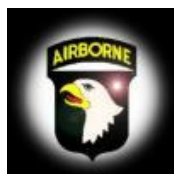
18 - 26

December 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A cordon and sweep at Bat Son (H) (ZD008032) resulted in 3 detainees out of 73 screened. B/2-502 and C 30 affected the cordon after midnight. A PRU team from Hue was flown in the morning of the 19th and screened all the inhabitants of Hamlet. Bat Son (H) is unsecured by either PF and CPA teams or US troops and has been a known supply point for rice gathering parties. D Co. Received SA and RPG fire from their rear while conducting local patrols in the canopy vic. ZO004996 resulting in 5 US WHA. On the afternoon of the 19th the BN received information from members of the Revolutionary Development Committee in Hue that a 20-25 armed VC force would travel through Nam Pho Can (H) YD9604. The RDC provided the BN with five CHU members to assist in intercepting the enemy. B 20 occupied a blocking psn vic. YD958041 while C 20 occupied a blocking psn vic. YD955045 and C 10 conducting a sweep beginning approximately 2200. Result of operation revealed 8 VC/NVA KIA, 5 AK-47, 1 M-1 Carbine, 1 RPG-2, 1 SKS, and 2 WHA form B 20. On the night of 20 December at 2235H vic. YD805104, A 23 engaged 12-15 armed VC/NVA resulting in 2 VC/NVA, 2 AK-47's plus misc. equipment. The next night A 13 at 2345 vic. YD903096 engaged 7 VC/NVA with claymore SA, and grenades resulting in 1-NVA KIA, 1 US WHA, 2 AK-47's, 1 RPG-2 with 2 rounds and misc. equipment. D 10 and D 20 plus to Company CP on 21 Dec. OPCON 1-7 ARVN Cav, D 30 secures FSB Roy. On 22 Dec Recon was inserted vic. YD908082 with mission of patrolling and ambushing. That night Recon engaged 8 VC/NVA resulting in 1 NVA KIA, 1 US, WHA, 1 AK-47 Captured. From 231800 Dec through 251800 Dec, 2-502 observed a cease fire. The enemy used this lull in fighting to gather rice in Phu Bai Village around Bridge 1. On the night of 26 Dec. and morning of 27 Dec, the 2-502 took its toll on the armed enemy rice gathering parties. At 2030 C 23 vic. YD960065 engages 2 VC/NVA killing 3 and capturing 3 AK-47's. Later, at 260155 Dec. vic. YD9133105 A 10 redeployed his three ambushes in order to catch the enemy coming out of the village. At 0155 initial contact yielding 3 enemy dead; then two squads perused the enemy who was fleeing South. Contact was regained intermittently between 0215 and 0340 yielding 4 more enemies KIA. Contact was finally lost at 0340; Artillery Illumination, HE, and Army Air flare ship provided support. Final results: 7 VC/NVA, 1 POW, 5 AK-47's, 1 9mm pistol, 1 RPG round, 300lbs rice and misc. equipment and documents. At 0514 vic. YD983072 Recon engaged 3 VC/NVA moving SW on a trail resulting in 3 VC/NVA KIA, 2 AK-47's, 1 PRG with 2 Rounds and misc. equipment captured. On 26 Dec. Phase IV came to a close with the 2-502 turned over the Bridges to 1-327.



- 18 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** At 0235 hours FSB Birmingham took five incoming rounds of unknown type. Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 3rd Platoon thought they heard the rounds being fired at a specific grid, the same area artillery suspected as being the launch site.
- 18 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** The NVA force triggered a mechanical ambush set by the 2-502 Recon Platoon, resulting in five NVA KIA and two captured weapons.
- 19 December 1967 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** Phase IV: The battalion was reoriented to the west effective 19 Dec. In response to intelligence developed by IFFV LRRPS, the TAC CP moved to occupy the former TAC CP site of the 2-327 IN. Two companies were deployed by foot into the new AO, B Co. in the north and A Co. in the South. The Recondos and C Co. air lifted to the TAC CP and were subsequently inserted into the AO, C Co. by air into the secured landing zone and Recondos by foot to the North. The tree line companies moved to converge on suspected enemy locations on high ground in the NW portion of the AO.
- 19 December 1968 1-502 had another day of light contact. One of D/1-502 ambushes received SA fire. They called in artillery with negative results. B/1-502, 16 element, A/1-502 and Recon/1-502 established cordon around villages to the southeast of AN Lo, along the Song Bo river center of mass, vic. YD6429. The road QL#1 was blocked off by MP's and all traffic checked. The Vietnamese National Police and local PF's swept through cordon. The results were: Detained 180; Classified: 156 – IC, 14 - Draft age men, 4 - Deserters, 6 – VC.
- 19 December 1969 In a bizarre incident B/2-502 reported four enemies dressed as ARVN troops approached their night defensive position early in the evening. One was heard speaking English before opening fire. The disguised enemy fled, breaking contact. Near Phan Thiet, D/3/506 engaged 15 VC and killed three. (Rendezvous With Destiny: Screaming Eagles Vietnam Diary 1969)
- 19 December 1970 Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70: Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry 1st and 3rd Platoon and Alpha Company, 2nd Platoon made a combat assault on top of Hill 943 in the Hai Van Pass area and are OPCON to the 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry.
- 20 December 1944 The 502nd takes up defensive positions north of Bastogne between Champs and Longchamps, Belgium.
- 20 December 1968 Cordon operations were continued the next day with the following results: Detained: 43; Classified: 31 – IC, 10 - Draft age men, 1 – Deserter, 1 - Civil Offender
- 20 December 1969 In response to intelligence, C/2-502 engaged an enemy squad, killing seven and capturing seven weapons, later killing another. (Rendezvous With Destiny: Screaming Eagles Vietnam Diary 1969)
- 20 December 1970 Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70: Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry 3rd Platoon found a booby trap consisting of a 60mm mortar round and a pressure type release at grid YD775029. The round was on the east ridge of an LZ on a trail in the area, which had was one foot wide, heading east and had tracks of three to five people, about five days old. The booby trap was blown in place.
- 21 December 1967 Platoon leaders and platoon sergeants from 2nd Brigade begin accompanying units of the 25th Infantry Division in local operations in the Cu Chi district, Vietnam.
- 21 December 1967 Operation KLAMATH FALLS: C/2-502 was inserted into an LZ secured by A/2-502 and from there moved west into assigned AO. Recondos moved north by foot into assigned AO. A/2-502 found a recently used base camp.

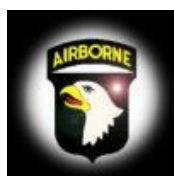


- 21 December 1968 A/1-502 had no actual contact but found one NVA/VC base camp. The bunkers contained 3 rifles, various cooking utensils, food and ammo. They also found 2 fresh graves (VC KIA by artillery) Recon/1-502 and 2 PF platoons conducted search and clear operations, vic. YD6028. They killed 7 VC and captured 3 VC. The VC was all hiding in spider holes and bunkers. Also captured were 3 weapons, ammo, and some documents.
- 21 December 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** Recon/1st Battalion, 502d Infantry team two spotted several people at grid YD78106. They were unable to identify the individuals who seemed to be wandering around the area. Artillery was employed with negative results. Recon team one found old tunnels at grid YD785090. They checked out the area and fifty meters away they found another old caved tunnel. They all ran north or northeast and were at least one year old.
- 21 December 2005 1-22 IN torch party arrives to FOB Striker and makes coordination efforts with 2nd BCT as an attached Mechanized IN BN.

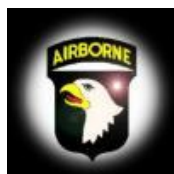
During this week, in the span of 72 years since the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941 as the 502nd Parachute Battalion, an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assault, the following awards were awarded to members of 2BCT and the 502nd IN Regiment.

- 1 x Silver Star Medal
- 2 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 3 x Bronze Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
- 41 x Purple Hearts (10 x Posthumously)
- 1 x Died of Non-Hostile Injuries or Illness

- 15 December 1965 SGT James W. Grey (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Province not reported, South Vietnam.
- 15 December 2005 PFC John Wolch (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was at a blocking position when the position took mortar fire. PFC Wolch jumped into the gunner position of his M1114 to get a better visual of a possible launch site. While looking through his binoculars in the turret, PFC Wolch took debris to his right eye.
- 16 December 1944 Cpl Everett A. Brown (A/502d PIR) was awarded his third Bronze Star for his action on Christmas Day as a large German armored and mechanized force conducted a massive assault through American lines near Bastogne, Belgium. Cpl. Brown, now a LMG squad leader, and the men of Able Company raced to save the crumbling American lines. The 101st established a defensive perimeter around Bastogne to protect the critical road junctions within the city. Able Company was responsible for securing the town of Champs. On Christmas Day, the Germans attacked Champs in force which the Able Company and 1st Battalion troopers repelled.
- 16 December 1968 PFC James M. Ludwig (B/1-502) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from misadventure (friendly fire) in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 16 December 1970 SGT Val C. Robinson (D/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile injury as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 16 December 2005 SPC Gary Grundtisch (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received when he was wounded by an IED while on a convoy.



- 17 December 2005 SSG Felipe Leal Jr. (B/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received as a result of enemy or hostile action.
- 17 December 2010 The following Soldiers: LTC Kevin Douglas, SPC Andrew Gaines and SPC Jarrod Kapp (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received when an insurgent attacked their unit with indirect fire. They are assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment.
- 17 December 2010 The following Soldiers: PV2 Jarred Gardunio and PV2 Coty Murray (C/526 BSB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received when an insurgent attacked their unit with indirect fire.
- 17 December 2010 SPC Amanda Simpson (C/526 BSB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received when an insurgent attacked her unit with indirect fire.
- 18 December 2005 SGT Edward Cervantez (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received while returning to FOB Latafiyah from a patrol the third vehicle in the convoy was making a left turn into the FOB when an IED placed at the entrance road detonated. SGT Cervantez was driving the lead vehicle when a piece of shrapnel came through the front windshield of the vehicle. The shrapnel caused lacerations along his right earlobe and behind his ear down his neck. He also took glass to eyes and burns to his face.
- 18 December 2005 SPC Christopher Polley (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received while returning to FOB Latafiyah from a patrol the third vehicle in the convoy was making a left turn into the FOB when an IED placed at the entrance road detonated. SPC Polley was riding in rear passenger seat of the lead vehicle when the IED detonated, causing him to hit his head. The injury caused temporary loss of consciousness and psychogenic shock to SPC Polley.
- 18 December 2010 SGT Zachary Fraker (C/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received when an insurgent attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.
- 19 December 2005 Soldiers from B/1-502 IN was traveling on Route Fatboy when their convoy hit an Improvised Explosive Device:
- 1LT Jerald Eidson, earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received for shrapnel wound received on his left arm resulting in a fracture from the IED blast.
- SPC Noah Galloway, earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received for shrapnel wounds received on his right arm and thigh, shrapnel wounds received on his left arm and left leg, resulting in both being amputated, all resulting from an IED blast.
- PFC Ryan Davis earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received from shrapnel wounds on his left thigh from an IED blast.
- 19 December 2005 Soldiers from HHC/1-502 IN was traveling along Route Jackson when their convoy hit an Improvised Explosive Device:
- SGT Aaron Houser earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received when he was wounded while conducting counter-IED operations. He was within 15 feet of an IED explosion.
- SPC Robert Kitelinger earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received when he was wounded while conducting counter-IED operations. Soldier was within 10 meters of an IED explosion.



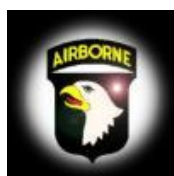
PV2 Matthew Hazen earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received when he was wounded while conducting counter-IED operations. He was within 10 meters of the IED explosion.

- 19 December 2005 SSG Johnnie V. Mason, 32, of Rio Vista, Texas; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death when he was killed in Al Mahmudiyah, Iraq when an IED detonated near his HMMWV while on a combat patrol with HHC/1-502 IN. SSG Mason was an EOD Technician assigned to 717th Ordnance Company, 184th Ordnance BN, 52nd Ordnance Group (EOD), Ft Campbell, Ky.
- 19 December 2005 PV2 Gilbert Njuguna (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received when he was wounded while conducting counter-IED operations. He was within 15 feet of the IED explosion.
- 19 December 2010 PFC Conrado Javier Jr. (I/3-2 CAV), 19, of Marina, California; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in his death from wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his vehicle with an improvised explosive device.
- 19 December 2010 The following Soldiers: SGT Jonathan Nwaoha, SGT Kampol Paksrilent and SPC Benjamin Huff (I/3-2 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from when an insurgent attacked their mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.
- 20 December 1944 The following Soldiers: PVT Larence E. Laster (B/502nd PIR), and 1LT Lamoy D. Clark [1] (H/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.
- 21 December 1944 The following Soldiers: SSgt Ivan A. Bauer (Hq2/502nd PIR), PFC George W. Firor (H/502nd PIR), and PFC Joseph J. Lappin (SVC/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.
- 21 December 1968 SGT Edward C. McHenry (B/1-501 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 Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 21 December 2010 PFC Christopher Kurtz (A/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

- 15-20 December 2007 The following Operation resulted in 8 Purple Hearts and 1 Army Commendation Medal with Valor. **OPN Dragoon** – As a part of the larger OPN Marne Rugged, 1/C/2-502 IN, 2/C/2-502 IN, 4/D/2-502 IN and MTR/2-502 IN execute OPN Dragoon, attacking west of Iskandariyah to the Euphrates River in a division effort to clear remote AQI strongholds. On 15 December, all elements SP. Early movement is delayed by two events - 1/C finds a 155mm IED along a major ASR, causing the primary route to go black, and 2/C's lead vehicle, equipped with a mine roller, is hit by a local national vehicle, severely damaging the roller and requiring them to return the vehicle to FOB Kalsu for a substitute. Both elements reach their OPs over watching the objective late in the afternoon and take up positions until 17 December. On 17 December, 2/C attacks into the town of Khidr, expecting to encounter a platoon-minus sized AQI element. On the route in, the lead vehicle in the convoy hits a victim-operated IED consisting of multiple 125mm rounds. The IED shears off the engine-block of vehicle and wounds five 2/C Soldiers - **PFC**



Joshua Curtis, PFC Milton Milam, SPC Kyle Emery, PFC Zachary Tenholder, and SSG Jacob Nestor. The IED strike destroys the road and makes it impassable and the attack is halted as C/2-502 IN secures the vehicle for recovery and attempts to find a bypass. 1/C/2-502 and 2/C/2-502 reach Khidr the following day, establish Sons of Iraq checkpoints, and begin sweeps of the surrounding area. 1/C locates a VBIED prepped for use and HME while 2/C sweeps a cemetery and finds various artillery rounds with HME. 4/D/2-502 spends the day securing the original objective with MTR/2-502, who have emplaced and registered their systems in support of the C/2-502 elements. On 19 December, the C/2-502 elements take up blocking positions as the main effort shifts to a large-scale air assault conducted by A/2-502 - **OPN Tundra**. On 20 December, all elements of OPN Dragoon get the order to return to base. 2/C, moving back toward FOB Kalsu, strikes another victim-operated IED consisting again of multiple 125mm rounds, this time on the second vehicle in the convoy. This time, **SGT Benjamin Biddle, CPL Wesley Leon-Barrientos, and PFC Jonathan Molina**, again all 2/C, are wounded and earn Purple Hearts. The PLT medic, **SPC Justin Gindhart**, reacts quickly, disregarding possible secondaries and rushing forward to get into the vehicle to treat the three wounded Soldiers. His quick thinking, medical expertise, and bravery under dire conditions save the life of CPL Leon-Barrientos and earn him the Army Commendation Medal with Valor.

19 December 1944

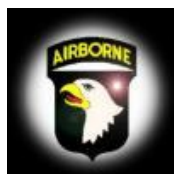


PFC James J. Corr (502d PIR) earned the Silver Star Medal while serving with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself by gallantry in action. On 19 December 1944 in the vicinity of Recogne, Belgium, while acting as flank patrol for his battalion, he was recalled to the column. While returning he observed a cleverly camouflaged enemy machine gun emplacement manned by seven enemy Soldiers. Realizing the serious threat this gun presented to the main body and aware of the lack of time in which to warn the battalion, Private First Class Corr attacked the position alone. Although he drew intense fire, he boldly returned the enemy fire. While crawling to within hand grenade range of the enemy installation, he narrowly escaped injury from several enemy-thrown grenades. During this single-handed assault, he killed two of the enemy with one grenade, and by vigorous personal assault, captured the remaining five. His courage aggressiveness exemplifies the highest standards of the military service.

21 December 1968



1LT John F. Hay (E/1-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor (1-OLC) for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 December 1968. First Lieutenant Hay distinguished himself while serving as the Reconnaissance Platoon Leader of Company E, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, during a reconnaissance mission near the village of Ap Tay Hoang, Republic of Vietnam. The reconnaissance Platoon was searching a suspected enemy location when it came under heavy small arms fire. Lieutenant Hay and a squad leader immediately began firing and maneuvering in order to approach the enemy position from the flanks. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Lieutenant Hay moved through the enemy fire to gain a position closer to his objective. After several minutes of maneuvering, Lieutenant Hay successfully flanked the enemy position and rushed it with the squad leader, destroying it with hand grenades and small arms fire. Through his courage, Lieutenant Hay contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission which resulted in three enemy casualties and no friendly losses. 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 1894, 4 March 196)



***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."

