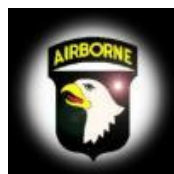




**2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AASLT)**  
**“STRIKE HISTORY”**  
**24 November – 30 November 2013**



- 24 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Alpha Company, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry was moved to Bridge 1, Bravo Company took Bridge 2 and 3, Charlie Company took Bridge 4, Delta Company took FSB Roy.
- 24 November 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry continued Operation Jefferson Glen and is still OPCON to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. Use of S/P's and N/A's had negative results.
- 25 November 1968 Enemy contact continued light, as Nevada Eagle accounted for seven enemy killed and 28 weapons captured. A combined forces sweep by the 3rd AVRN and elements from the 2nd Brigade revealed a large cache, including three crew-served machine guns. (Rendezvous with Destiny (101st ABN DIV); Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary; Winter of 1968-69)
- 25 November 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry moved back to FSB Arsenal today and was relieved as the Divisions ready reaction force. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 506<sup>th</sup> Infantry assumed responsibility for Rakkasan and its area of operation at 1135 hours. The move to FSB Arsenal was completed without incident.
- 26 November 1968 Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry was lifted via "hook" to FSB T-Bone and conducted RIF to vic. YD6219. Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry conducted security of T-Bone with local patrols and ambushes. Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry was released from OPCON to 2d Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry and lifted from FSB Birmingham to LZ Sally. Delta Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry had contact at YD6120 with 1 VC, with negative assessment. Delta Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry later moved via "hook" to AN Lo Bridge and assumed mission of securing bridge.
- 26 November 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry continued Operation Jefferson Glen using S/P's and N/A's with negative results.
- 26 November 2008 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry was awarded Meritorious Unit Commendation with the following citation: During the period Oct. 1, 2005 – Sept. 20, 2006, the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, and its subordinate unit performed exceptionally meritorious service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit's professionalism and dedication went beyond the call of duty, and contributed immeasurable to the success of the mission. The 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment's outstanding performance of duty is in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon the unit, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army.
- 27 November 1968 Delta Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry engaged 1 VC, vic. YD6218 while on RIF operation. Results: 1 VC KIA. Later in the day, they found 5 graves (results of earlier contact in area) Recon, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry and PF's, killed 4 VC and captured 1 VC and 5 weapons, vic. YD6536.; Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry was OPCON to 2/501.
- 27 November 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon found a dud US bomb at grid YD829078. Request EOD Team.



27 November –  
5 December 1971

On November 27, 1971, WO Joseph Savick, (C/159<sup>th</sup> AVN BN) had just returned from emergency 32-day leave. A seasoned pilot, he had been in country for over 9 months and was well respected by all. But fate is sometimes fickle.

Early morning on the 28<sup>th</sup>, Savick and his co-pilot WO Jerald Carter had flown their Chinook helicopter (68-15866) to Mai Loc for a load pickup. Once there, they found that the load wasn't ready and returned to DaNang after refueling at Corregidor. The round trip flight was smooth and there was no mention of any problems with the aircraft.

At 1100 hrs, the 159<sup>th</sup> received notice that they were to provide aircraft for an administrative troop movement for the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry of the 101<sup>st</sup>. Both Savick and Carter were briefed on the mission – From LZ 401 at DaNang, move the troops to Corregidor pad at Camp Eagle. Along with Savick/Carter, three other crewmen climbed aboard: Michael Crawford, the Crew Chief; Willie Oaks, who would be the door gunner; and Raymond Trujillo, who had decided at the last minute to go along to help out. Behind them were 29 Soldiers from HHC and A Companies of the 1-327<sup>th</sup>. Just another day in Nam.

Ready to go at high noon, the Chinook sat on the pad waiting for the OK to lift off...but it sat for 20 long minutes due to bad weather. Light rain, fog, and drizzle were clinging to the sky, but nothing that WO Savick wasn't used to. At 1230 hrs the radio crackled from Capt Robbins "Playtex 866, you're ready to launch". Their weather was overcast at 800 feet, and visibility at 5 miles.

Up and away, One hour later, at 1328 hrs, the Hue tower received a call from Playtex 866 that they were declaring an emergency. They gave their bearing but no mention as to what was going on. Hue frantically tried to reach them, but to no avail. Playtex 866, with 34 men aboard, was of the air.

Within 15 minutes the 101<sup>st</sup> Division was alerted. Calls went out to the DaNang and Phu Bai to check their strips for a Chinook. Nothing. The 159<sup>th</sup> sent up an LOH to start searching for it. At 1430, the 196LIB at DaNang dispatched two more aircraft and 10 minutes later the 11<sup>th</sup> CAG put two more on standby. Word went out to the Recovery Control Center at Monkey Mountain, but at 1545 they reported that there was no signal. Full force was put into the military machine.

Another call went to the Coastal Surveillance Center in DaNang, and RF/PF units between the Hai Van Pass and Phu Bai were told to be on the lookout for Playtex 866. The USS Epperson (Destroyer) was directed to proceed to the general area and assume a search pattern. Two Vietnamese Junks and two more of their Navy craft also assisted in the search and rescue effort four long days and nights, aircraft, and ships scoured the area everywhere. The weather got worse with low visibility, high winds, and choppy seas. What could have happened to them?

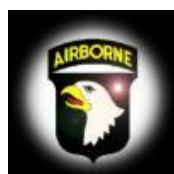
At 0830 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, 1971, the call finally came in. An OH-6A from the 2<sup>nd</sup> BN AVN said they sighted wreckage of the CH-47. But the weather still wasn't cooperating. The overall search was called off, and plans put into place for recovery teams to move in. Visibility got worse, and the monsoon rains continued. By 1650 D Company, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry was able to be airlifted in about 2 clicks from the site. The next morning team from Grave Registration and the Accident Board linked up with Delta Company, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry to move towards the crash site. It would take two more days of cutting through the mountainous jungle to get there at 0830, December 1971, 7 days after the crash.

The aircraft was located 650 feet up the mountain, and was completely demolished. Located in a creek bed, it had hit a 50 degree slope with such impact that it caused its fuel cells to rupture resulting in a flash fire. There were no survivors or any indication that anyone had survived. 29 Soldiers from 1-327<sup>th</sup> and 5 Crewmen were lost. The official



investigation showed that the Chinook had taken a single hit, creating spilling, or loss of adhesion, causing it to fall apart. This single disaster would go down in the history books as the second worst helicopter crash during all of Vietnam.

- 28 November 1968 Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry conducted security of An Lo Bridge. Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry conducted security of T-Bone, with B16 OPCON to 2d Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry. Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry was OPCON to 2d Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry. Delta Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry killed 2 NVA, and captured 1 AK47 and 3 magazines and found 5 graves vic. YD6218. Recon, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry conducted RIF from vic. YD6433 to AN Lo.
- 28 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Charlie Company, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry closed out FSB Quick and took control of Bridge4 from Recon, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry
- 28 November 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** Bravo Company 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon found a 155mm round at 818086. They did not blow it for lack of qualified personnel. They also found an officer's type briefcase containing pay vouchers dated 1970 and other papers including a personal letter.
- 28 November 1971 **Operation MONSOON DYNAMIC DEFENSE:** The last contact of November happened when 2d Platoon, Alpha Company, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry observed and engaged with unknown results, 1 NVA Soldier moving along a ridgeline east of Hill 500. In addition to the contacts, STRIKE Force personnel continued to observe and monitor numerous indications of enemy presence in the battalion AO such as freshly made footprints on trails and streambeds, bunker complexes, light shining at night, and numerous activations. (2-502 IN Unit History, 1971)
- 28 November 2005 **Operation Wish Bone.** The operation consisted of a company Air Assault which resulted in the discovery of a series of large caches consisting of 11 500lb aerial bombs, VBIED construction site, and numerous suicide explosive belts.
- 29 November 1968 Delta Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry was the only unit to have contact with 1 man KIA by sniper. Delta Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry searched the area thoroughly but the enemy had fled.
- 29 November 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** While crossing a river, Bravo Company, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon had one man drown vic. YD913085.
- 29 November 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry continued Operation Jefferson Glen in sector Gulf making maximum use of S/P's and N/A's with negative results.
- 30 November 1945 502d PIR Inactivated in France.
- 30 November 1968 Delta Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry was the only unit to make contact; they engaged 3 VC vic. YD5640. The enemy fled leaving their rifles and equipment. They sighted 5 more VC but all were out of SA range.
- 30 November 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70:** Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502d Infantry move by air to LZ's secured by Delta Company, which then moved by air to FSB Arsenal and assumed responsibility for the Firebase.



30 November 2011

OEF 12-13 deployment warning order. STRIKE Brigade Leaders received an initial warning order to deploy a portion of the Brigade to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) 12-13. In October 2011, the Brigade recently completed ARFORGEN reset from the OEF 10-11 deployment. The Brigade was directed to man, equip, train and deploy 39 combat advisor teams, 30 from the Brigade and 9 additional teams from First Army and 162d Brigade at Ft Polk. The mission was to advise and assist Afghan National Security Forces (army, uniformed police, and border police) to build the capabilities necessary to allow them to assume responsibility for security operations and transition them to independent operations.

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

1 x Distinguished Service Cross  
1 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor  
1 x Bronze Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
16 x Purple Hearts (4 x Posthumously)  
2 x Non-Hostile Illness or Injury  
1 x Died of Wounds (16yrs, 7mo., 6days after being wounded)

24 November 2003

SFC Luis Rodriguez (HHC/ 2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when the Medic platoon of HHC/3-502 IN were traveling in a three vehicle convoy with nine medics and one doctor, en route to the Mosul hospital to facilitate the reconstruction of the hospital and ensure funds provided by CF were being used properly. Just after departing the hospital at approximately 1000, the last vehicle of the convoy was struck by an IED near the front passenger door, immediately limiting the vehicle's ability to move. SFC Rodriguez, the Platoon Sergeant, who was sitting in the front passenger seat, lost his leg immediately from the blast. A firefight ensued just after the explosion occurred. A separate convoy coming from the other direction led by CPT Daniel Morgan assisted with the firefight and casualties. Once they gained fire superiority, SPC Perez applied the tourniquet to SFC Rodriguez's leg and he was loaded into a truck which took him to the CSH at the airfield. Half way to the airfield, SFC Rodriguez heard more gunfire, which he later learned was SFC Mulvaney clearing the route in order to make it to the CSH in time to save him. At the CSH, SFC Rodriguez had COL Anderson, MG Petraeus, and CPT Morgan by his side. SFC Rodriguez was able to call home to tell his wife the news, but she heard it from CPT Morgan before she realized he was serious. Shortly thereafter, SFC Rodriguez was sent to Germany and ultimately to Walter Reid until April 2004 for medical treatment.

24 November 2005

SGT Nathan Loper (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from shrapnel wounds received on his forehead and left arm from an 82mm mortar round.

24 November 2005

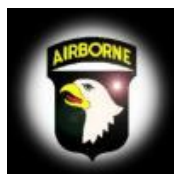
SPC Jeremy Caldwell (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from shrapnel wounds received on his left thigh and left leg from an 82mm mortar round.

24 November 2005

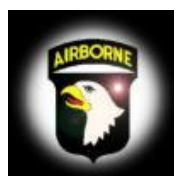
PFC Ricky Belcher (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from shrapnel wounds on his left arm and left leg from an 82mm mortar round.

25 November 1986

PFC Thomas L. Gates (B/2-501 IN) died from wounds received on 09 April 1970 from small arms gunfire wounds during combat action in the A Shau Valley, 24 Mile W-SW of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



- 25 November 2010 PVT Robert Winterheld (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when an insurgent attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire.
- 26 November 2005 SGT Thomas Charon (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received as a result of enemy or hostile action.
- 27 November 2010 SPC Logan Hastings (A/2BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.
- 28 November 1967 PFC Gary B. Jones (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action as a result of meningitis and cerebral spinal fluid secondary to fragment wound received while on a combat mission when hit by hostile mortar round in the Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.
- 28 November 2010 The following Soldiers: SGT Brandon Fry and SPC David Schauer (E/1-187 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when an insurgent attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.
- 29 November 1968 The following Soldiers: CPL Jesus E. Gomez Jr. and PFC Heriberto Blanco (C/2-501 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 Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam. (Pictured L-R)
- 29 November 1968 SP4 Terryl G. Partsafas (D/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 29 November 1968 SP4 Vestie T. Driggers (B/2-502 IN) died from Non-Hostile injuries when he drowned while on combat operation when crossing a river in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 29 November 2005 PV2 Gerard Wroblewski (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting a route clearance mission an IED detonated along Route Peggy. He was in the turret of an M1114 when shrapnel from the blast hit his neck and face. The blast also caused his eardrum to rupture.
- 29 November 2007 SSG Adam Rhein (1-64 AR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was on a joint patrol with the IA when a static VBIED exploded. He was struck in the IBA and neck area by shrapnel (no penetration on either account), and was disoriented from the blast. He sustained a concussion and received a CT scan for traumatic brain injury.
- 29 November 2007 SPC Cedrick Richardson (1-64 AR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was struck by a controlled detonation blast while dismounting his vehicle. He sustained shrapnel wounds to his left leg.
- 30 November 1971 SP4 Harry M. Vandiver Jr. (D/2-501 IN) died from malaria at Cam Ranh Army Complex as a ground casualty in the Khanh Hoa Province, South Vietnam.



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

25 November 1968

1LT John M. Walsh (B/2-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat on 25 November 1968. First Lieutenant Walsh distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader with Company B, 2d Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry, while on a combat operation south of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Company B was moving up very steep and thickly vegetated hills when the lead element encountered sniper fire from its front and sides. First Lieutenant Walsh immediately began leading his platoon in an assault, firing his M-16 rifle and shouting his commands to his element leaders. First Lieutenant Walsh led his men through the assault without sustaining any injured troopers and mortally wounded three North Vietnamese Soldiers. When the lead element reached the enemy position, they discovered trails of blood leading up the mountain. The element followed the blood trails up the mountain into a small, platoon sized base camp. There the men found thirty-seven SKS rifles and three AK-47 rifles. Lieutenant Walsh organized a search of the area and discovered numerous documents. Then he ordered the destruction of the enemy food supplies and buildings. First Lieutenant Walsh'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. (Headquarters, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN Division; General Orders Number 229; 10 January 1969)

29 November 1968

SGT William R. Hofstrom (C/2-501 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Star for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Sergeant Hofstrom distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 November 1968 while on a search and clear operation south of Hue. On reaching the base of a hill, his element came under heavy enemy automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade fire. When the point man and the platoon leader were wounded in the initial volley, Sergeant Hofstrom braved the barrage to pull them to safety. Realizing that the unconscious platoon leader was gagging on his own tongue, Sergeant Hofstrom immediately rendered first aid to prevent his strangulation and then carried him to the safety of a hill crest. He then immediately ran back through the fusillade to retrieve the point man. When both men were safe, he organized the remaining men to remove additional casualties and manned an M-60 machine gun to cover their efforts. Sergeant Hofstrom's extraordinary heroism 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. (Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 3078 (August 12, 1969))

### **\*STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

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

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

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

