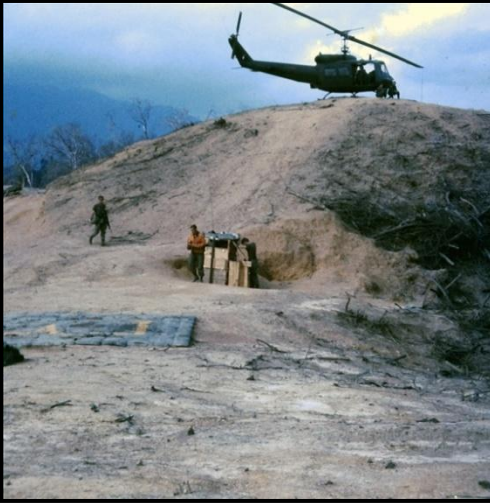
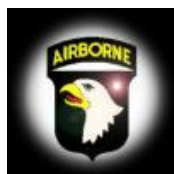




## 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AASLT) “STRIKE HISTORY” 26 January – 01 February 2014



- 26 January 1968 2nd Brigade Task Force establishes new CP at Hue-Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam.
- 26 January 1968 2d Battalion (Abn), 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry was airlifted to Hue in northern I CTZ, RVN. The Battalion CP was located in the vicinity of what was called Camp Eagle.
- 26 January 1969 The 2nd Brigade operation continued with air assaults into LZ Son. IN the area, the CO of the 101st AHB spotted several NVA and a 37mm antiaircraft gun. Delta Company gunships were called in, resulting in two NVA killed and the AA gun destroyed. IN the 3rd Brigade operation, C/2-502 discovered a cache of 24 SKS rifles, three RPDs, one RPG launcher, 30 60mm mortar rounds and 30 RPG rounds in an elaborate hut-bunker complex in the mountains west of Camp Evans. The 1st Brigade’s operation continued near FB Quick II with light contact. The 2-502nd Recondos engaged an NVA platoon, killed two, and later found a cache of four weapons. (Rendezvous with Destiny, Screaming Eagles Vietnam Diary: Spring 1969)
- 26 January 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** 2-502 IN Battalion returned back to FSB Rifle and established the tactical operations center. The firebase was a jointly occupied firebase with ARVN and Strike Force troopers. The area of operations was split with the US responsible for the section north of FSB Rifle and the ARVN’s responsible for the south. There was little evidence of recent enemy activity in the area surrounding FSB Rifle throughout the end of January and early February. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)
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- 26 January 2005 1-320 FA awarded Meritorious Unit Commendation in support of military operations from March 19 – Oct. 19, 2003. The battalion distinguished itself in executing close supporting fires over a 1200 km distance against a numerically superior force. The daring courageousness of the Soldiers assigned to “Top Guns” greatly assisted 2d Brigade in the liberation of numerous major cities to include Al Hillah, An Najaf, and Karbala, as well as the clearing of south Baghdad and Mosul. The battalion continued to perform non-standard stability and support operations within the city of Mosul.
- 27 January 1968 2-501 IN (2d BDE), went into its positions and that day A and B Companies 1-501 conducted company-sized heliborne assaults and extractions in areas near LZ El Paso – seeking enemy contact in operations for six or seven hour durations. The 1-502 OPCON to CAV’s 1<sup>st</sup> BDE was on “Base Security” at LZ’s Sharon and Betty, near Quang Tri to the North.
- 27 January 1971 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry had a routine medivac. One man had a cut on his face.
- 28 January 1968 1<sup>st</sup> CAV moved 1-501 IN and 2BDE CP to LZ Jane, relieving the 1-5 CAV BN there.



- 28 January 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** A/2-502 while OPCON to 2-17 CAV vic. YU104076 exhumed two graves resulting in 2 VC KIA. At vic. YU122065 A Co. engaged an unknown size enemy force resulting in 1 NVA KIA and capturing 2 AK-47 assault rifles.
- 28 January 1969 Three contacts by 2-502nd in the 1st Brigade operation were reported, with two enemy killed. The point man of Charlie Company engaged five VC, who fled leaving behind two weapons. Elsewhere in the AO, seven enemies were killed. (Rendezvous with Destiny, Screaming Eagles Vietnam Diary: Spring 1969)
- 28 January 1971 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry moved to FB Arsenal but due to bad weather only one half of the move was completed. Alpha Company OPCON to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry.
- 28 January 2005 1-502 IN awarded Meritorious Unit Commendation in support of military operations from March 19 – Oct. 15, 2003. The battalion played a crucial role in the success of 2nd Brigade and the 101st Airborne Division in defeating Iraqi military and paramilitary forces, ousting the regime of Saddam Hussein. During the operation, the battalion defeated enemy forces in the cities of Al Hillah, Al Kifl, An Najaf, Karbala, south Baghdad, and Mosul. Throughout combat operations, the Battalion seized thousands of weapons, military equipment and ammunition, while liberating the cities of An Najaf to Baghdad. 1-502 IN linked up with Special Operations Forces in northern Iraq and secured the Haditha Dam and the H-1 airfield. When offensive operations ended, the battalion conducted stability and support operations in Mosul, Iraq. 1-502 IN made northern Iraq safe through vigorous patrolling and cordon and searches. Additionally, the battalion improved Iraqi quality of life through civil affairs projects. The battalion's efforts allowed the Division to bring peace and stability to northern Iraq.
- 29 January 1968 The BDE was ordered to make their move a day earlier than planned, if the BDE didn't move as planned they would've been at LZ El Paso during the TET. 2-501 would join the BDE at LZ Jane but meanwhile it would move to the CAV's new base at Camp Evans to perform perimeter security.
- 29 January 1969 STRIKE Force troopers accounted for three enemy killed near FB Quick II. Near Phan Thiet, 3/506 paratroopers killed three VC. (Rendezvous with Destiny, Screaming Eagles Vietnam Diary: Spring 1969)
- 29 January 1971 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry move to FB Arsenal was completed. Charlie Company Vic YD775035 discovered one spider hole. Negative recent enemy activity.
- 29 - 31 January 2011 Operation Night Wolf, conducted by 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, partnered for the first time with Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP), found a deadly enemy firmly entrenched in the grape orchards of western Zharay. The combined teams of Soldiers from Companies G, I and HHC along with their ANCOP partners cleared five villages in southeastern Maiwand and western Zharay.
- 30 January 1968 TET Offensive of 1968: The outbreak of the TET Offensive, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade continued to move north and joined the heavy fighting in the battle for Quang Tri with the 1<sup>st</sup> CAV. After Quang Tri was cleared, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade and the 1<sup>st</sup> CAV moved south to set up blocking forces in the countryside around Hue, while US Marines and ARVN forces fought to retake the city from the NVA. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade cleaned out pockets of enemy resistance between Hue and Quang Tri and intercepted NVA units attempting to reinforce the former Imperial City.
- 30 January 2006 **Operation River Harvest** (3/3 ACR). 1-2 CDO and 3/3 ACR conducts a combined raid in Sayafia to detain or destroy AIF in order to prevent AIF activities. This is the only Operation 3/3 ACR conducts while assigned to 2BCT. The operations resulted in 13 detainees, four of which were on the squadron's target list.



30 -31 January 1968

The 1-501, A/1-321, and HHC BDE, Signal, and MP Platoons left LZ El Paso by truck convoy in the early morning. They traveled through Hue and up Highway 1. SFC Timothy O'Connor of 1-501 wrote in his book, "Blood Brother, There were numerous villages along the way... (It was TET, the Chinese New Year) and the people... were having a good time. When we reached Hai Lang we turned left... and came to a large sized hill... LZ Jane. Each company was assigned a sector of the perimeter. I called the platoon together and told them that 'Charlie is watching us so let's dig our bunkers deep.'"

The massive NVA/Viet Cong countrywide offensive known as TET 1968 began tonight.

Combined North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong forces attack Saigon, 36 of 43 provincial capitals, and 64 district capitals to begin the Tet Offensive. From the brigade journal:

0405 1-501: A Co receiving 3 incoming mortar rounds, C Co receiving small arms fire.  
0410 1-501: E Co reports incoming mortar rounds.  
0412 1-501: D Co reports 4 incoming mortar rounds, 4 WIA, one machine gun position took a hit.  
0415 1-501: C Co reports 1 enemy KIA  
0440 1-501: C Co reports 11 enemy KIA, all carrying demolition kits.  
0455 1-501: D Co reports 2 enemy KIA, C Co reports 12 enemy KIA total  
0540 1-501: D Co estimates having received 20 rounds of RPG-2 fire; A Co estimates 4 rounds of PRG fire; C Co spotted enemy in the wire, set of claymores and observed 3 secondary explosions presumably from satchel charges. As a result of these explosions and small arms fire, C Co reports 12 VC KIA and 2 VC WIA POW and D Co reports 2 VC KIA.

Information was passed down that 1-502, securing LZ Sharon and LZ Betty had not been attacked this night.

31 January 1968

A Platoon from C/1-502 conducts a combat air assault onto the roof of the US Embassy in Saigon in order to retake the embassy if it fell to the VC Sappers. Upon landing they reinforced the beleaguered MPs and Marines guards who had been battling the enemy attack.

31 January 2005

3-502 IN awarded Valorous Unit Award for battles in Karbala against Fedayeen Saddam insurgents attacking 3rd Infantry Division supply lines from April 5 – April 6, 2003. Immediately upon approaching the outskirts of the city, the lead element of the task force came under intense rocket propelled grenade and machine gun fire from a prepared and determined enemy. Still separated from the city by nearly 1 km of open ground, close air support was called in, followed by a devastatingly accurate combination of attack aviation, battalion mortar and artillery fires. While still under withering fire, all elements of the battalion continued advancing toward the city. Through sound tactical execution and bold leadership, 3-502 IN fought its way into the city with undaunted courage, closing with and inflicting heavy casualties upon the fanatical Fedayeen Saddam with a fierce and indomitable fighting spirit. Overhead, Kiowa Warrior pilots from 2-17 CAV displayed phenomenal courage and utter disregard for their own safety while observing and adjusting indirect fires, and placing their own fire on key enemy strong points, facilitating the advance of the task force within the city. Fierce fighting continued throughout the day, along with the treatment and evacuation of friendly casualties, but the intrepid acts of so many brave Soldiers resulted in the battalion inexorably closing in on their objective while destroying all enemy that lay in their path.

February 1971

**Operation Jefferson Glen:** The STRIKE Force entered 1971 still engaged in Operation Jefferson Glen with the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade. The CP remained on OP Checkmate located on Hill 342 approximately 10 miles Southwest of Hue City. Checkmate was a show place and a source of pride to the STRIKE Force Battalion. It boasted such luxury features as plank sidewalks, hot showers, (for those ambitious enough to carry the water), hard surface



chopper pads, a barber shop, neatly painted structures and even a television for evening viewing in the briefing room. The bunkers were manned by personnel who for various reasons could not perform in the canopy. These Soldiers included temporary and permanent physical profiles, excess cooks, commo personnel, and the like. Their performance was evidence of their pride in the battalion and these were the Soldiers who built and defended “The Hill”.

Heavy and frequent rains characterized early 1971 as the monsoon dragged to and end. In the canopy, the “grunt” lived a wet, chilly and uneventful existence through January. Resupply was not regular as aircraft were frequently grounded by bad weather. Few combat assaults were conducted and movement on the ground was kept to a minimum. The area of operations through January and most of February remained the same as the last three months of 1970 – from Sang Bo River to 8 kilometers east and north from FB Veghel about 12 kilometers. Constant patrolling produced extensive coverage of the area effectively denying the enemy a base of operations. One measure of success is the fact that TET, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year celebration, passed quietly without any attacks on Hue City – scene of bloody conflict during TET of 1968. The North Vietnamese were then heavily engaged in Cambodia which diverted their attention from traditional targets of previous years. Whatever the reasons might have been, it was both satisfying and a relief that TET 1971 passed without incident.

The number one concern of the STRIKE Force rear area at Camp Eagle was the “Get set for TET” program. The bunker line was improved as much as possible despite a shortage of materials and manpower. A Battalion reaction platoon staged several practice alerts for reinforcement of the bunker line. Bunker in the cantonment area were improved to provide greater protection in the event of an attack.

The men of Company “A” took credit for the only contact of January. While moving towards an LZ, the element observed and engaged three NVA at close range. The action resulted in two enemy KIA without friendly casualties. One AK-47 rifle was captured. Company “A” found 3 recent graves the next day and reported signs of activity and movement around their position but has no further contact with the enemy.

Early in February the “STRIKE Force” gradually worked into security operations. Charlie Company joined Delta Company in securing the road from OP Checkmate to FB Veghel. Recon Platoon secured the road east of FB Bastogne and Alpha Company secured the road east of FB Birmingham. Bravo Company was digging up a tunnel complex near the Song Bo.

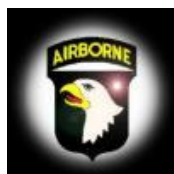
Gradually the 2-502d Infantry’s AO was extended to cover all the area East of the Song Bo, South from the 12 grid line approximately ten kilometers and East past FB Birmingham for kilometers. The basic mission in this new AO was to secure Route 547 in support of operations to the West.

Also at this time the companies were moved individually to Camp Eagle for 36 hours stand downs. Delta Company, because they were securing FB Veghel was excluded from these abbreviated stand downs.

“Jump CP” was saying used quite often at the TOC at OP Checkmate. The Battalion was put on numerous contingency plans and each time a jump CP was readied to meet communications and command requirements. (2-502d INF Unit History)

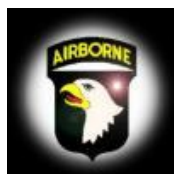
01-02 February 1968

1-501 IN had operated out of LZ Jane to relieve the ARVN district chief at his compound at Hai Lang. During the afternoon of 02 February the CG, 1<sup>st</sup> CAV DIV, MG Tolson, had told COL Cushman that the next day that there BDE would move the BDE’s command post to Camp Evans and take command of the 2-501, which was still split between Hue-Phu Bai and Camp Evans, and that they would leave the 1-501 IN at LZ Jane to be OPCON to the CAV’s 1<sup>st</sup> BDE.





- 01 February 1968 A/1-502 and D Co Platoon and the recon platoon, was sweeping the area between LZ Sharon and LZ Betty who were engaged in a four hour fire fight, supported by the CAV's gunships, killing 35 and captured 2 NVA, captured an 82 mm mortar, two .50cal, and one light machine gun and many individual weapons. Four US Soldiers were killed, including A Co's commander, CPT Holland, and there 1SG. 1-502 continued with the sweeps and ambushes. The TET Offense caught the 2-501 with its move to Camp Evan only partially completed and with the rest of the Battalion yet to move due to poor flying weather, intensive enemy anti-aircraft fire, and low C-47 availability.
- 01 February 1968 **Operation SAN ANGELO:** A/2-502 conducted a recon in force in AO Mary west of SONG BE. At 1230H vic. YU120164 they engaged 3 VC on a trail resulting in 1 VC KA and capturing 1 AK-47 assault rifle. At 1427H vic. YU116055 A Co. engaged approximately 40 VC in fortified positions. The enemy employed B-40 rockets and automatic weapons fire. A Co. maneuvered to the flanks and swept the position with the following results: 16 VC KIA, 4 US WHA, 1 US KHA, 2 Medevac ships shot up, 2 AK-47 assault rifle captured, 24 82mm mortar rounds captured, 1 Chicom grenade and miscellaneous military equipment captured.
- 01 – 04 February 1971 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry occupied FB Arsenal and conducted operations in the area. Bravo Company provided security for the FB and also conducted nightly ambushes.
- 01 February 2004 STRIKE Brigade redeploys to Fort Campbell after serving 12 months in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I.
- 01 February 2005 2-502 IN awarded Meritorious Unit Commendation in support of military operations from March 19 – Sept 23, 2003. The battalion played a crucial role in the success of 2nd Brigade and the 101st Airborne Division in defeating Iraqi military and paramilitary forces, ousting the regime of Saddam Hussein. The battalion was key to the defeat of enemy forces in the cities of Al Kufa, An Najaf, Karbala, south Baghdad, and Mosul. Throughout combat operations, they seized thousands of weapons, military equipment and ammunition, as it liberated the cities along its path, before settling in the northern city of Mosul. During stability and support operations in Mosul, the battalion continued to make its mark through vigorous patrolling, cordon and searches and civil affairs projects. The unit efforts allowed the Division to bring peace and stability to northern Iraq as well as improve the quality of life of the Iraqi people.
- February - March 2006 **Operation Safe Passage.** Joint combined air assault operation to disrupt AIF plans against Ashura pilgrims. 1-502 IN conducts Operation Safe Passage, a combined joint raid with ISF units to disrupt AIF operations at suspected terrorist training camps and allow the safe pilgrimage of Ashura observers.



February 2006

**Operation Gallant Eagle** 1-502 conducts a sequential Air Assault from two different FOBs to prevent AIF egress to the southeast from Sadr Al Yusufiyah. This Operation played an integral part in preparing and setting the conditions for future operations in AO Strike.

**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.**

3 x Silver Star Medal  
5 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor  
3 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor  
7 x Bronze Star Medal (7x Posthumously)  
31 x Purple Heart (11 x Posthumously)  
1 x Non-Hostile Illness or Injury

26 January 1969 SP4 Joseph J. Saitta (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in combat in the Republic of Vietnam. (Purple Heart Citation)

26 January 2008



SSG Robert Wilson (A/1-502 IN), 28, of Seattle, Washington; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when an IED detonated while he was conducting a dismounted patrol in Hurriya, Baghdad along Route Senators.

26 January 2008

CPT Howard Rice (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he was conducting a mounted and dismounted route clearance patrol on Route Senators. The patrol was struck by an IED. CPT Rice was later transported to 86th CSH and was diagnosed and treated for a concussion and ruptured eardrums resulting from the intensity of the blast.

26 January 2008

SSG Adam Rhein (1-64 AR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received.

27 January 1971

SP4 Calvin E. Milam (A/1-501 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor (Posthumously) for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.

27 January 2006

SGT Shane Ford (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting a mounted patrol, SGT Ford's M1114 was struck by an IED. The door on the TC side of the M1114 flexed causing blunt trauma damage to SGT Ford's right leg.

27 January 2008

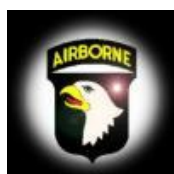
SSG James Slayton (1-64 AR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received.

27 January 2011

SPC Thomas Crowder (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire. He is assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment.

28 January 1966

SP4 Thomas R. Devlin (C/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes while on a night combat operation as point man when he encountered a friendly patrol. The other point



man of that patrol opened fire and hit and killed him in the Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

28 January 2006

1LT Jason Shuff (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during a combat patrol, 1LT Shuff was walking by an unexpected IED site when an IED exploded. He lost hearing in his left ear. He received a perforated ear drum and bleeding from the ear.

28 January 2006

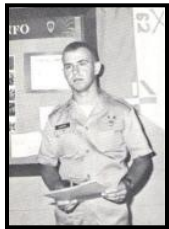
SPC Justin York (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while he was on an air assault mission and during ground movement the platoon encountered small arms fire and indirect fire. He sustained a femoral fracture, chest abrasions, and a peppered bicep, lacerations to his head, and a possible broken tibia and fibula from the gunshot wound.

29 January 1969



The following Soldiers: PFC Dennis C. Eshleman (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

29 January 1970



1LT Joe H. Rufty (D/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

29 January 2006

PFC Christopher Tovar (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting an observation position on Route Temple, they were engaged by one Rocket Propelled Grenade. PFC Tovar was on the roof of the house pulling over watch of the area and took shrapnel to his left thigh.

29 January 2006

SGT Jason Amos (A/526 BSB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while he was a part of a convoy conducting a barrier emplacement mission. The convoy received mortar fire on two occasions. Upon returning to Camp Stryker, a vehicle in the convoy struck an IED. During the first mortar attack, SGT Amos was slightly wounded in the left leg by shrapnel.

29 January 2008

SPC Brad Griffin (4-10 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while maintaining security at a checkpoint at approximately 1135; an IED was detonated, causing injuries to several Soldiers.

29 January 2008

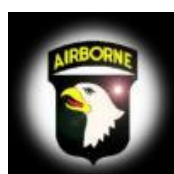
SPC Tyler Gucwa (4-10 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while maintaining security at a checkpoint at approximately 1135; an IED was detonated, causing injuries to several Soldiers.

29 January 2008

SPC Daniel Watson (4-10 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while maintaining security at a checkpoint at approximately 1135; an IED was detonated, causing injuries to several Soldiers.

29 January 2008

PV2 Timothy Collins (4-10 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while maintaining security at a checkpoint at approximately 1135; an IED was detonated, causing injuries to several Soldiers.



29 January 2008

CPL Kriste Edwards (4-10 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while maintaining security at a checkpoint at approximately 1135, an IED was detonated, causing injuries to several Soldiers.

30 January 1969

PFC Steven E. Frederick (C/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

31 January –  
01 May 2006

SPC Matthew D. Dye (A/1-75 CAV) earned the Army Commendation Medal with Valor.

01 February 1968



The following Soldier: PFC John T. Brown, PVT Larry E. Wittler (Pictured), and SGT James E. Hamilton (A/1-502nd IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death from small arms fire wounds in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

01 February 1968

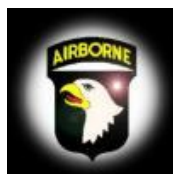


CPT Joseph P. Holland (A/1-502nd IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their death from multiple fragmentation wound in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

01 February 2006

3/B/1-502 was given a mission to conduct a cordon and search at a suspected safe house and to check out a possible cache site to the southwest of the safe house in south Rushdi Mulla. The platoon requested a fire team from 1st platoon to assist. SFC Blaisdell (PL), SPC Scott (RTO), SSG Whelchel, SPC Strobino, SPC Richardson, SPC Reilly, SSG Arnold, SPC Shockey, SPC Owens from 3/B/1-502 and 1LT Norton, SGT Diaz, SPC Gregory, SPC Doss, and SPC Babineau from 1/B/1-502 moved out. When they were 300 meters from the target house, 1LT Norton and his element broke off to over watch the suspected cache point and ambush anyone who tried to get to the cache site from the house.

At the location of the suspected cache site, 1LT Norton and his element noticed two to three males flee in a blue Kia vehicle to the northwest. They searched the house that was at the given cache location and found anti-Coalition propaganda. Meanwhile, the cordon and search was being completed. When the target house was secure, SSG Arnold along with SPC Shockey and SPC Owens conducted a hasty TCP on the road running north/south approximately 150 meters from the target house. SFC Blaisdell, SPC Scott, SSG Whelchel, SPC Strobino, SPC Richardson, and SPC Reilly continued to search the yard and barn with shovels and metal detectors. SFC Blaisdell, SPC Richardson, and SPC Scott then went to the house next door to ask questions about the target house. While en route back to the target house, they began to receive a barrage of small arms fire from the northwest which was being directed at SSG Arnold's TCP location. SSG Arnold and SPC Shockey were pinned down behind a berm and couldn't get positive identification on the firers. 1LT Norton's element took indirect and automatic fire from the northwest as well. SFC Blaisdell, SPC Richardson, and SPC Scott went to the roof to get better eyes on. SPC Scott reported the small arms contact to TCP 5 for relay to Bulldog Main, then ran up to the roof to join SSG Whelchel. SSG Arnold suppressed fire while SSG Whelchel moved his element (SPC Strobino, SPC Reilly, and SPC Owens) across the road to flank them. SFC Blaisdell, SPC Richardson, and SPC Scott crossed the road behind SSG Arnold's support-by-fire position with SPC Shockey and SPC Owens. SSG Whelchel's element pushed up to the rear of the house where the enemy was located. SPC Strobino jumped the fence and opened fire. SSG Whelchel followed him with SPC Reilly just behind. They engaged and killed three insurgents. The fourth

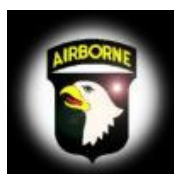




insurgent moved to the front of the house. SSG Welchel threw a grenade and they moved up to a truck near the insurgents. When they got there, the insurgent was firing on them so they returned fire. SPC Strobino then moved along the side wall of the house and was preparing to throw a grenade around the corner. When SPC Strobino was preparing his grenade, the insurgent shot around the corner and hit him in the leg. SPC Reilly and SSG Welchel were engaging the insurgent who then threw a grenade which injured the two of them. A firefight ensued between the insurgent and SSG Welchel while SPC Reilly moved to cover. SSG Welchel moved to take cover behind the truck. The insurgent shot another burst at SPC Strobino. SSG Welchel fired at the insurgent's leg under the truck, hitting him several times. SFC Blaisdell and SPC Richardson moved to pull SPC Strobino to safety. When they got him behind the wall, the insurgent threw another grenade and moved into the house. SSG Welchel and SPC Reilly sustained shrapnel wounds in the firefight. SFC Blaisdell, SPC Reilly and SPC Scott performed first aid on SPC Strobino. SPC Scott called in the MEDEVAC for a litter-urgent SPC Strobino and an ambulatory SPC Reilly. SFC Blaisdell had 1LT Norton pull security until he was called forward. SSG Welchel was sent to link up with SSG Arnold and push him forward to pull security. SSG Welchel threw a grenade in the front door of the house. 1LT Norton linked up with them and pulled security on the south side of the house. SFC Blaisdell ran out and marked the PZ with a VS-17 panel and prepared SPC Strobino for extraction. SPC Strobino was carried to the MEDEVAC bird and SFC Blaisdell briefed the crew chief on his injuries. SPC Strobino and SPC Reilly boarded the aircraft.

When the MEDEVAC bird left, SSG Welchel threw another grenade at the house. He then moved to a wall in front of the house with SGT Diaz who engaged the house with M203 HE rounds and SPC Doss who sprayed the front of the house with his SAW. They pulled back when Longbow (CAS) came on station, who then made 2 ½ runs with 30mm. All elements returned to the house and SFC Blaisdell ordered all personnel to engage the house until a magazine had been expended. SFC Blaisdell then moved SSG Arnold's element (SPC Owens and SPC Shockey) to the door and they entered the house. 1LT Norton and his men provided support by fire. SSG Arnold, SPC Owens, and SPC Shockey were prepared to move in. The stack entered and SSG Arnold noticed blankets over most of the 5-6 doorways inside the first room. SSG Arnold fired into the doorways in succession. When he fired into the third door, the fourth insurgent began shooting from that location. SPC Owens was hit multiple times and SPC Shockey was hit once by the insurgent. SFC Blaisdell ordered them to get out. SPC Richardson, SPC Shockey, and SFC Blaisdell pulled SPC Owens out of the house and across the street to 1LT Norton's location while SSG Arnold threw a grenade into the house before pulling back. 1LT Norton, SPC Diaz, and SPC Gregory then carried him to the Casualty Collection Point and began first aid. SPC Scott called in another MEDEVAC for SPC Owens and SPC Shockey. Although SPC Shockey appeared unaffected, he had received a flesh wound to his hip area. SPC Owens received chest and leg wounds with entry and exit points, all of which were bandaged by 1LT Norton and his men. SFC Blaisdell ran out and marked the PZ with a phoenix beacon. At this point, SPC Owens was breathing and had a pulse. He was also responsive to SFC Blaisdell talking to him as he was loaded onto the bird. SPC Shockey was also slightly wounded and had to be ordered onto the bird because he wanted to stay and fight.

Longbow was requested to destroy the building. Bulldog 7 was en route with reinforcements from the south. Longbow took several hours to get clearance and could not seem to acquire the target house. The Soldiers put a strobe on the target house and lazed the house with several PEQ-2 optics. SFC Blaisdell, SPC Richardson, and 1LT Norton ran to the target house and threw a phoenix beacon on the roof. There was a fire at the front of the house and the same target house was acquired earlier, however Longbow still could not acquire. Finally, SFC Blaisdell ran up next to the house and got an eight digit grid to pass to Longbow. By then, Bulldog 7 arrived and clearance was given to shoot the house. Three hellfire were launched and the house was destroyed. The fourth insurgent was killed.



In total, elements of First Strike destroyed an AIF mortar team with four AIF KIA, one Tech vehicle, one 60mm tube, four AK-47's, one PKC, one RPG 7, two sets of Russian night vision equipment, two satchel charges, one pipe bomb, detonation cord, and several rounds of AK, PKC, RPG, grenades, and 60mm ammunition.

“...My men fought hard that day. All the training came in play and paid off. .... I lost one of my men that day ... but I don't regret any of the actions I took. We did what our job is, close with the enemy and destroy them.” –SFC Philip B. Blaisdell, 3/B/1-502 PL

**SPC Anthony C. Owens** (B/1-502 IN), 21, of Conway, South Carolina, earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when his unit was attacked by enemy forces using grenades and small-arms fire in Baghdad.

**Jay Strobino** (B/1-502 IN) earned the Silver Star Medal for actions in combat while serving as a Team Leader during a mission in Rushdi Mulla, Iraq. SPC Strobino's exceptional dedication to mission accomplishment, tactical and technical competence, and unparalleled ability to perform under fire and while injured, contributed immeasurably to the success of his unit in Rushdi Mulla. SPC Jay Strobino also earns the Purple Heart for wounds sustained as a result of enemy or hostile action.

The following Soldiers: **SSG Christopher Arnold and SFC Blaisdell** (B/1-502 IN)) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor.

**SSG Joseph Whelchel** (B/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and the Purple Heart for military merit and for wound received from shrapnel wounds received on his left hamstring muscle, right gluteus muscle, and an abrasion near his left eye.

**SGT Roman Diaz** (C/1-502 IN) medic while serving with 1/B/1-502 IN, earned the Army Commendation with Valor when he volunteered to go to Rushdi Mulla with 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, one of the most volatile areas in all of Iraq. Even after the mission had ended, SGT Diaz volunteered to stay in the town until the area was secure. SGT Diaz performed first aid on the wounded Soldier, carried him 75 meters to a CCP, and then an additional 100 meters to the MEDEVAC LZ.

**SPC Kirk Reilly** (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received for shrapnel wounds received to his left leg.

**SPC David Shockey** (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received for gunshot wound received on his left hip/lower back.

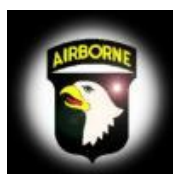
01 February 2006

An element of 1-502 IN was conducting a reconnaissance patrol when their convoy struck Improvised Explosive Device:

1LT Garrison C. Avery (1-502 IN), 23, of Lincoln, Nebraska; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received when he was killed by an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV in Baghdad.

SPC Marlon A. Bustamante (1-502 IN), 25, of Corona, New York; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received when he was killed by an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV in Baghdad.

PFC Caesar S. Viglienzone (1-502 IN), 21, of Santa Rosa, California; earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received when he was killed by an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV in Baghdad.



01 February 2006

SGT Daniel Carrick (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from shrapnel wounds received on his right hand from an IED blast.

01 February 2006

SPC Lazaro Lopez (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from contusions received on his right thigh and calf from an IED blast.

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

26 January 1969



SP4 Joseph J. Saitta (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 26 January 1969. Specialist Saitta distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman in Company B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, near the city of Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam. During a search and clear mission, Specialist Saitta's 32403 platoon came under intense enemy automatic weapons fire. In the initial burst of fire, one man was seriously wounded. Specialist Saitta, with complete disregard for his own safety, moved forward with another soldier through the intense enemy automatic weapons fire to the location of the wounded man lying in the direct line of enemy fire. Crawling through the intense enemy automatic weapons fire, he reached the second wounded man, who was in an open area. On several occasions, Specialist Saitta used his body as a shield to protect the wounded Soldier from the enemy fire. After administering first aid to him, he carried the wounded Soldier to the rear of the area and was instrumental in completing his successful evacuation. Specialist Saitta'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, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Order Number 3991; 30 Apr 69)

27 January 1966

1LT David C. Johnson (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. 1LT Johnson distinguished himself on 27 January 1966 while acting as company commander in a search and destroy operation of a suspected Viet Cong base camp in the village of Phu Qui, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Johnson was maneuvering his company to attack the Viet Cong village when they received intense small arms and automatic weapons fire from well-fortified hostile positions. Lieutenant Johnson from his position saw that half of his left flank platoon was pinned down by hostile fire on open terrain. Realizing their extreme danger, Lieutenant Johnson, with complete disregard for his personal safety, ran one hundred meters across the bullet swept rice paddies to the beleaguered platoon. While completely exposed to the intense hostile fire, he ran from man to man and personally directed them in a fire and movement assault. Lieutenant Johnson's aggressive fighting spirit inspired his men to increase their efforts and was most instrumental in overrunning the Viet Cong force. His unimpeachable valor in close combat against a hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

28 January 1970

SGT Jesse Gomez (C/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 28 January 1970. Sergeant Gomez distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company C, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, near Fire Support Base Rifle, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Gomez's squad was serving as lead squad for the Third Platoon when it encountered a squad of enemy Soldiers. The two lead men placed effective fire upon the enemy position, causing them to flee rapidly. Sergeant Gomez immediately reorganized heavy automatic weapons fire; he quickly identified the enemy location and directed his men in placing effective suppressive fire upon it. His timely and effective action prevented many friendly casualties and resulted in the capture of one wounded insurgent, four AK-47 rifles and other enemy equipment. Sergeant Gomez'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, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; G. O. No. 3050; 20 Mar 1970)



01 February 1967

1LT David A. Remanaric (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. 1LT Remanaric's platoon was conducting a search and destroy operation near Phan Bang when it was suddenly brought under a murderous volume of enemy automatic weapons fire from an estimated reinforced enemy squad in a fortified position. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Remanaric charged through the withering enemy fire to the most forward point of contact. Quickly making an estimate of the situation and reorganizing his platoon, Lieutenant Remanaric placed his platoon on line and assaulted the enemy position. Throughout the assault, Lieutenant Remanaric exposed himself to the enemy fire while moving from man to man giving them encouragement and pointing out enemy targets. After the platoon had overrun the enemy position, it was again brought under a murderous volume of enemy automatic weapons fire. Again with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Remanaric charged the enemy position while firing his weapon and succeeded in routing the enemy. Realizing that his wounded comrades must have needed medical aid, Lieutenant Remanaric called for and adjusted artillery fire in order that the casualties could be evacuated. Lieutenant Remanaric's outstanding gallantry in action and his avid devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

01 February 1968



LTC Howard H. Danford (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 1 February 1968. In response to the treacherous TET offensive, element of the 101st Airborne Division were ordered to react to the enemy attack. Lieutenant Colonel Danford unhesitatingly answered this call with his airborne battalion. At the height of the crisis, he quickly marshaled his forces and, with audacity and daring, led his men in an assault into the Bien Hoa area. Under unrelenting sniper fire and mortar and rocket attacks, Lieutenant Colonel Danford adeptly deployed his forces in coordinated attacks, counterattacks, and classic sweeps in Bien Hoa, at Ton Son Nhut Air Base and around General Westmoreland's MACV Headquarters. These maneuvers were violently executed and contributed immeasurably to turning the tide of the battle by routing the enemy and by affecting the end of the destruction of property and minimizing the casualties to civilians. Lieutenant Colonel Danford seemed to be everywhere, encouraging his men under fire. By his complete disregard for his personal safety and by seeming to ignore the enemy rocket and mortar fire, he was able to inspire the men in his battalion to victory over the numerically superior and well armed hostile enemy force. Lieutenant Colonel Danford's sense of duty to his men and mission together with his valorous leadership were decisive in this action. His outstanding display of heroism and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

**\*STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

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

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

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

