



**2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT)
 “STRIKE HISTORY”
 5 January – 11 January 2014**



05 January 1968

1-502 IN Battalion continued search and destroy missions around Cu Chi. Bravo linked up with a tank unit and returned to area of contact to find MIA. Body found and identified as missing man. Other companies had negative contact and returned to Cu Chi for night. Change: 1 MIA to 1 KIA (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)

05 January 1969

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: The 2-502 successfully accomplished its mission as evidenced by the following below:

	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>KNHA</u>	<u>WHA</u>
US	2	1	18	4

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VC KIA</u>	<u>VC KBA</u>	<u>VC POW</u>	<u>Returnees</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Weapons</u>
ENEMY	43 (BC)	7 (BC)	1	1	1872	58

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

Authorized:	43-2-869
Assigned:	41-2-790
Present for Duty:	39-2-745

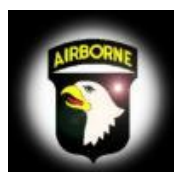
The Battalion received 33-1-271 replacements during this reporting period.

During this time period, the following awards were recessed:

Silver Star	8
Bronze Star “V”	35
Bronze Star	274
ARCOM “V”	11
ARCOM	248
Air Medal	1
Soldier Medal	1
CIB	148

05 January 1970

Operation RANDOLPH GLEN: A single enemy was engaged by an OP from C/2-502 resulting in one confirmed body count and one weapon captured. While in a night defensive position, C/2-502 had several enemy approach their position. When the enemy tripped a trip flare, he was engaged by small arms fire. The enemy returned fire and fled, leaving one dead behind. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)



05 January 2011

As part of Operation Dragon Descent, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment conducted a series of air and ground assaults across all of Kandahar Province. Company H and 4th Company 6/3/205 air assaulted into the town of De Maiwand, the seat of the Taliban shadow government in Maiwand, and a historical training area



for the insurgency. During this mission, Operation Air Wolf, Company H came under heavy enemy fire four times in a 12-hour period, each time returning fire, gaining fire superiority and forcing Taliban to flee from the engagement. This mission resulted in the reported elimination of a mid-level Taliban commander.

06 - 07 January 1968

Operation KLAMATH FALLS: STRIKE Force elements oriented on extraction pickup zones and on January 7th were extracted by air to Bao Loc for stand-down. The mission of finding and destroying the 145th, 186th, and 482d VC Battalions and the MR-6 political headquarters was not accomplished even though extensive search and destroy operations were conducted. Base areas were found and destroyed but no enemy unit designations were determined and no significant enemy forces were engaged.

Results of Operation KLAMATH FALLS:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>WIA</u>
US	3	2	2	24	3

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VC KIA</u>	<u>VC POW</u>	<u>Wpns Ind.</u>	<u>Rice Dest.</u>	<u>Base Inst. Dest.</u>	<u>Hospital Complex Dest.</u>
ENEMY	8 (C)	1	6	12 Tons	12	1

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

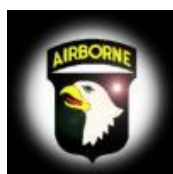
Authorized:	778
Assigned:	668
Present for Duty:	601
Not present for duty:	67

Causalities for Operations were as follows:

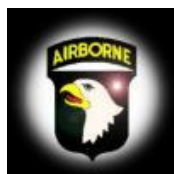
<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>INRHA</u>
HHC	0	2	0	3	2	0
A Co.	2	0	2	13	0	2
B Co.	1	0	0	5	1	0
C Co.	0	0	0	3	0	0
Total	3	2	2	24	3	2

06 January 1968

1-502 IN Battalion continued training and remained in perimeter of Cu Chi. During the night hours movement heard around perimeter. At 21:30 hrs. A light was shined on a bunker and a sniper shot one man Results: 1 WIA (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)



- 06 January 2010 Brigade and Battalion Leader Teams deployed to Fort Polk, Louisiana in support of the Leader Training Program exercise. While at Fort Polk, the BCT's leadership planned for two missions; one for the deployment to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in March 2010 and the second for the deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in May 2010.
- 07 January 1968 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry conducted heli-borne lift to LZ X-Ray, at the foot of the Chu Pong Mountain in the Ia Drang Valley on the Cambodian border and site of the first major battle of the American War in Vietnam (1st CAV DIV, Nov 1965) some three years earlier. It made no contact there and departed 10 January 1968.
- 08 January 1968 1-502 IN Battalion conducted search and destroy mission vicinity of LZ X-Ray. No contact made. (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)
- 09 January 2012 Home station training. TM STRIKE task organized into 30 combat advisor teams and began training at Fort Campbell, KY in preparation for deployment to OEF 12-13. TM STRIKE took the next 72 days to conduct home station training and a mission readiness exercise (MRE) at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) Fort Polk, LA. Much of the home station training focused on Big 5 fundamentals, basic maneuver, call-for-fire and air-ground integration training, mandatory predeployment training, and advisor and language skills training.
- 10 January 1968 1-502 IN Battalion conducted movement back to and closed on Cu Chi. No contact. (1-502 IN Unit History; Annual Supplement)
- 10-12 January 2008 **OPN Nanos II** – 2-502 launches Brigade (-) Operation Nanos II, involving all three platoons from C/2-502 IN, SCTS/2-502 IN, 3/D/2-502 IN, the 2-502 BN TAC, two EOD teams, a route clearance team, four IA companies from 2/8 IA, and an IA SF Platoon. The operation aims to clear the AQI agricultural stronghold of Chaka 4 once and for all and simultaneously establish Sons of Iraq programs to maintain stability in the area.
- Deception operations begin day's prior, convincing AQI forces in the area that a much smaller operation will take place in the northern portion of Chaka 4. AQI forces, in preparation, emplace a large amount of IEDs covering nearly every mounted and dismounted avenue of approach from the north. 3/C/2-502 together with an IA Special Forces platoon from 3/2/2/8 IA conduct the feint attack from the north with the battalion TAC in follow on. 2/C/2-502 and SCTS/2-502 together with multiple IA companies comprise the main effort and attack east to west across the majority of the region, taking the AQI forces by complete surprise. 1/C/2-502 air assaults, establishing an outer cordon on the west side of the region, while 3/D/2-502 moves in, dismounts, and takes up blocking positions to the south. Finally, in the northeast, a strong SOI program in Chaka 3, consisting of heavily-fortified checkpoints every 200m, completes the block. Unbeknownst to CF until later, Jaysh-al-Islami, a rival Sunni militia to AQI, reinforces the SOI program there once they realize a major attack against Al-Qaeda is underway.
- The attack commences at dawn and in the north, 3/C and attached IA platoon find themselves in a near-minefield. SSG Jonathan Showen, 2nd squad leader for 3/C, finds the first IED of the operation by sheer accident, kicking crush-wire instead of stepping on it. He misses detonation by millimeters on a concealed AT-mine turned in to face dismounts that would have likely taken out nearly half of his squad. Less than 15 minutes later and one kilometer away, **PFC William Cook**, the youngest Soldier in the Brigade, received the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when he stepped directly on a pressure-button IED consisting of 2 x 57mm AA rounds while conducting a dismounted route clearance. The blast takes one of his legs and sends shrapnel into his other leg and lower back, earning him the Purple Heart. Shortly after PFC Cook's MEDEVAC, 3/C locates four total IEDs and cannot continue to press forward without reducing the obstacles. 2-502 IN battalion commander, LTC Michael Getchell, "Widowmaker 6", and battalion command sergeant major, CSM Kevin Benson, "Widowmaker 7", move forward from the BN TAC and linkup with the platoon leader



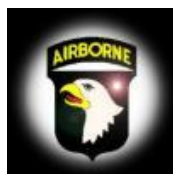
for 3/C, 1LT Gregory Dieterich, to assess the situation. No sooner than they move forward another IED detonates, this time 200m south of their position, at their BN TAC. The blast sends both LTC Getchell and CSM Benson running back to their convoy. The vehicle of MAJ Gregory Bell, the battalion S-3, is struck by a command wire IED consisting of multiple 155mm artillery rounds. The IED strikes the 17th vehicle in the convoy to head down the lone route in the north and shears off the entire engine block, completely disabling the vehicle. **SPC William McClellan** and **SGT Mason Jump**, both HHC/2-502 IN, are wounded in the blast, earning them the Purple Heart for military merit and wounds received.. PFC William McClellan will later succumb to his wounds at Walter Reed Army Hospital.

Meanwhile in East Chaka 4, SCTS/2-502 and 2/C/2-502 are spread thin trying to provide tactical over watch on nearly four IA companies that are sweeping rapidly across several kilometers worth of territory in East Chaka 4. A scout weapons team consisting of two OH-58D “Kiowa” helicopters from 10th Mountain Division, on station for 2/C, takes contact two kilometers ahead of their advance and fires a Hellfire missile on the canal line, neutralizing the enemy threat. The battalion scouts, led by 1LT Dan Stephens, find, mark, and bypass two IEDs as their own IA counterparts locate a VBIED factory. The IA unearth a large cache consisting of a significant number of artillery and mortar rounds, more than 1,000 feet of detonation cord, a large tank full of explosives, several sets of stolen IA and IP body armor, Saudi Arabian Wahhabist propaganda, and banners and flags of the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), an umbrella organization that claims several Sunni militias including AQI as members. 2/C and their IA forces locate an AQI house used for operations that has been booby-trapped with large amounts of HME – they request and receive authorization for the Scout Weapons Team to engage the house. When the effects are less than hoped, two 500-lb. bombs are dropped from an F-18 overhead, leveling the home and the threat to CF and IA troops. The helicopter team overhead continues to report a large number of enemy individuals fleeing deeper into Chaka 4, many of whom are concealing weapons under their jackets.

Back in North Chaka 4, the IED strike on the battalion TAC prompts LTC Getchell to request an additional EOD team to be dedicated for the duration of the northern attack. The brigade approves this and the team arrives within an hour and a half, working diligently to reduce the large number of IED’s 3/C has found and marked. Just as they finish up and the attack is about to get back underway, the IA SF platoon leader, Mulazem Muhammad, attempting to recon the other side of a main canal, uses an un-cleared footbridge and steps on another pressure button IED consisting of multiple 57mm rounds. He loses an entire foot in the blast, suffers shrapnel wounds, and a third Air MEDEVAC is needed. The loss of their beloved platoon leader renders the IA SF platoon combat ineffective and the attack with 3/C in the north reaches a standstill.

2/C/2-502 and SCTS/2-502 finish their sweep across multiple objectives and faced with little IED resistance, reach their LOA on the west side of Chaka 4. Unknown to CF at the time, a force of approximately 20 AQI, including a foreign fighter known only as “the Egyptian” to the locals, falls back to a school in the northwest and takes up positions to mount a final defense, if it becomes necessary. At approximately 1500, faced with the main effort clearing their objectives all the way to the west and the loss of a well-respected platoon leader in the north, the 2/8 IA BDE Commander orders all forces to return to Mahawil. Faced with the decision to turn north to close the gap between 3/C and 2/C without the IA, CPT Raub Nash, company commander for C/2-502, orders all forces to withdraw with the IA. Within two hours, all main effort forces will return to the main supply route and exfil by 1700. Over 100 detainees are taken by the IA in the operation and coordinating their exfil and processing back at the IA compound/FOB Kalsu takes a significant amount of time.

At around 1600, F/526th recovery assets arrive to recover the battalion S-3 truck that has been blown up and is blocking the lone route in the north. They recover the vehicle onto a PLS and get turned around to return to FOB Kalsu when rain sets in. The rain quickly slickens all of the dirt roads including the lone route in the north and as they attempt to



exfil, the EOD JERV MRAP, near the front of the convoy, slides off the road, blocking in the IA platoon and 3/C. The battalion TAC, in front of the EOD team, is able to get out and returns to the FOB while 3/C coordinates with the F/526 recovery assets to try to pull the JERV out.

Unsuccessful, 3/C requests an M88 recovery vehicle and is told one cannot be pushed out until first thing the following morning. The rain continues to fall, the roads continue to worsen, and 3/C and the IA SF Platoon hunker down for the night. SGT Brandon Bird, forward observer for 3/C, and 1LT Gregory Dieterich, platoon leader for 3/C, spend the majority of the night putting a good fires plan in place, calling for 155mm Illumination, and coordinating air assets (OH-58Ds, AH-64s, and CAS) that are pushed from brigade and battalion to the stranded element. 1SG Edward Meyers, company first sergeant for C/2-502 who is on the ground with the stranded platoon in the north, spends the night requesting and coordinating for a much-needed fuel resupply.

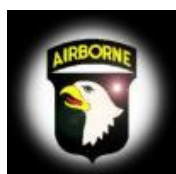
At first light, 1/C SP's with the M88 recovery vehicle. They escort it in and it begins attempting to recover an M1151 from the EOD team that has rolled and flipped. At approximately 1200, the recovery of the M1151 is complete. 3/C begins to clear the route back to the M88 and locates a booby-trapped RPG round IED along the route, likely thrown in behind them by enemy forces during the night. The EOD team, still stuck with 3/C, moves to and conducts a controlled detonation on the IED as 3/C finishes clearing the route. Incredibly, the temperature drops low enough and the rain turns to flurries of snow for a little more than two hours, which does little to help morale.

A team of local leaders from the neighboring Chaka 3 SOI program and former Chaka 4 residents attempting to take back their homes from AQI links up with 1LT Dieterich, platoon leader for 3/C. They report that the force of 15-20 AQI holed up in the school just to the south of their position, moving under cover of darkness, escaped to the west during the night once the cordon with 1/C was lifted. They also report that the SOI program in Chaka 3 took 10 prisoners from the previous day's operation – all individuals who attempted to flee out of Chaka 4 and into Chaka 3. 1LT Dieterich attempts to radio back to coordinate the prisoner handover but a patrol cannot be spun up to conduct the handover.

The M88 starts down the route to the EOD JERV, makes it approximately 250m, slides off into a ditch, and becomes stuck itself. SFC Johnny Smith, platoon sergeant for 3/C, spends approximately an hour attempting to get it out while 3/C requests a second M88. SFC Smith coordinates the fuel resupply as 3/C uses up the huge store of fuel in the M88. One of the Soldiers, PFC Martin, is accidentally covered in diesel during refuel, requiring his exfil back to the FOB that night with 1/C. Night sets in and brigade relays back that the earliest they can push out a second M88 is in the following morning. 3/C, the IA, and the EOD team hunker in for another night.

The need for multiple M88's, an original brigade-level asset, as well as the casualties taken and CAS dropped from the previous day pushes the continuing recovery operation up to division level and the status is checked on regularly by MND-C during the daily Battle Update Brief. COL Thomas James, "Vanguard 6," commander of 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, decides to do what he can to support the stranded element.

At approximately 2200, a team of UH-60's en-route to FOB Kalsu locates 3/C and the IA SF Platoon and begins hovering overhead. Unable to make radio contact with the ground element because they had copied the wrong frequency, the team of UH-60's begins spot-lighting vehicles in 3/C to attempt to determine that they are okay. This causes panic in some of the squad leaders of 3/C who are not anxious to give away their position and lose their visibility. Finally, the UH-60's make radio contact. "Sorry for the spotlight," they announce. "Just wanted to make sure you were okay down there – Vanguard 6 asked us to check in and see if there was anything you needed."



Approximately 10 minutes later, a set of CH-47's begins hovering over the 3/C position. The call is similar - "Just checking in to make sure you all are okay. Vanguard 6 asked us to personally do so to see if there's anything you need out here." Not wanting to deal with the potential of a downed Chinook, 1LT Dieterich thanks and sends the CH-47's on. By now the entire platoon is awake and the message across vehicle intercoms is clear - Vanguard 6 is aware of the situation and doing what he can to look out for the Soldiers. No fewer than 12 teams of aircraft check in with the platoon that night.

With AH-64's on station for over 6 hours, the platoon fires more than 20 Illumination rockets through the night, attempting to keep the enemy off guard. At first light, 2/C this time is sent out with the third M88, a fueler, and a gator loaded with fuel cans, which is what battalion has war-gamed as the best solution to conduct a much needed fuel resupply on the extremely narrow and slick roads. Two squad leaders, SSG Jacob Nestor and SSG Timothy Douglas and the platoon leader of 2/C, 1LT Brian Roberts, unwilling to let Soldiers take greater risk than themselves, mount the Gator with a SAW and drive it in on the tracks of the M88 as the rest of the squad dismount-clears the road in front of the M88. They make it in, conduct linkup with 3/C, and begin resupply of the platoon. The M88 makes it down to the first M88 and as soon as the winch is hooked up, the end of the locking pintle shears off, making it unusable and worthless and leaving the first M88 and the JERV still stuck. 3/C radios for a third M88. Incredulous, 4/3 BSB repeats the request to clarify one a third is needed, but the request still stands.

That night, 1/C with a third M88 is sent out to conduct a Relief in Place of 3/C. This time, the third M88 is manned by the Battalion Maintenance Tech, CW2 Randall Whetsell, who personally promises LTC Getchell to have everyone out by nightfall. He works with a purpose and gets the JERV unstuck, which allows the platoons to continue moving. With the help of a local national and his bulldozer procured by 3/C, the IA SF platoon and 3/C are able to pull themselves out and make it back to the hardball road. Chief Whetsell's promise turns out to be good and by 0100 Jan. 13, 2008, all elements are recovered from Chaka 4 and on their way back to FOB Kalsu, effectively bringing Operation Nanos II to an end.

Memorable Quotes:

"We will use your assets but it is important to remember - this is our operation."
- 2/8 IA BDE Commander at the battalion Combined Arms Rehearsal Jan. 9, 2008.

"You are fine - they just rang your bell a little."
- LTC Michael Getchell to MAJ Gregory Bell, who was slightly agitated after having his M1151 blown up

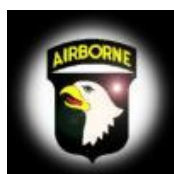
"What I want to do and what we have to do are two very different things."
- SSG Jeffrey Watts, SL for 3/3/C to SFC Johnny Smith, Platoon Sergeant for 3/C when asked what he wanted to do to gauge his squad's ability to continue after one of his squad members stepped on an IED in front of the rest of the squad.

11 - 14 January 1968

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

11 January 2006

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



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 Distinguished Service Cross
- 2 x Silver Star Medal
- 2 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
- 46 x Bronze Star Medal
- 32 x Purple Hearts (23 x Posthumously)
- 1 x Died of Non-Hostile Injuries or Illness

05 January 1944

PVT Reo K. Niles (C/502d PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths in Belgium, Germany.

05 January 1945



The following Soldiers PVT James W. Drummond (HQ/3-502nd PIR), PVT George H. Emberlin, PFC Orville E. Hamon, SGT Louis C. See (B/502nd PIR), PFC Melvin E. Laubach, PFC Irven P. Pottorff, and SGT Lawrence J. Silva (D/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths in Belgium, Germany.

05 January 1967



PFC Reinaldo L. Delgado (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

05 January 2011

PV2 Cory Meyer (A/1-320 FA) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

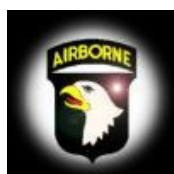
06 January 1967



PFC Ronald W. Parker (A/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

07 January 1945

T/4 Vernon A. Goodmanson (D/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death in Belgium, Germany.



07 January 1969

The following Soldiers: SP4 Larry Aldridge, SP5 Edwin H. Barbour, CPT Terrell D. Bridges, CPT James C. Britton, SGM Cecil J. Cash, SGT Hector Colon-Rios, SP5 Solomon Dezelle, CPT Ivan R. Farris, SP4 William C. Foreman, 1LT Allen D. Gibbs, SP4 Dennis D. Gibson, SFC James Gibson, SP5 David Hopper, SGT Jeffrey D. Howe, SGT Victor Hyatt, CPT Timothy B. Jeffrey, SP4 Alvin B. Johnson, PFC Alvin Kellog Jr., SP4 John R. Lazomby, SP4 Jerome Newman, SFC Javier S. Nunez, CPT David H. Leeper, SFC Trivett Lloyd, SGT Ronld E. Long, SGT James P. Mason, SP4 Phillip Matio, SGT Floyd P. McNeill, SP4 Melvin B. McWorter, SP4 Joe E. Mikles, SP4 Dean W. Ohl, SP5 Richard J. Oliva, SP4 Kenneth A. Osmoe, SP4 Pedro Ramirez Jr., SSG Stephen S. Rivera, SP5 Jorge R. Sanchez, SP4 Craig Sanguinetti, 1LT Gooffrey L. Scanlon, CPT Terran Spiegelberg, SP4 Fancisco Vasquez (HHC/1-502nd IN); SP4 Marshall Moore, SP4 Noah R. Purtee, PFC Ronald Rigo, SP4 Ralph D. Schroeter, SP4 Alexander Vigil, SP4 William Ward Jr, PFC James R. White (E/1-502nd IN) were awarded the Bronze Star Medal for actions in combat in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; G.O. Number 130; 7 January 1969)

07 January 2006

SGT Marshall Webb (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting a patrol, SGT Webb dismounted his M1114 and was beginning to conduct 5 and 25m searches when an IED partially detonated approximately 3-5 meters away from SGT Webb. He received shrapnel wounds to his right leg.

07 January 2006

PV2 Shay Thomas (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received while conducting a patrol, PVT Thomas dismounted his M1114 and was beginning to conduct 5 and 25 searches when an IED partially detonated approximately 3-5 meters away. He received wounds on his left leg.

09 January 1945

The following Soldiers: PFC Herbert Sommer (G/502nd PIR), PVT Walter J. Winzek (502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their deaths in Belgium, Germany.

09 January 1967

PFC Robert W. Barton Jr. (C/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile illness from Malaria as a ground casualty in the province not reported, South Vietnam.

09 January 1970

PFC Vennie L. Smith (HQ/2-502nd IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

10 January 1945

The following Soldiers: PFC Danny D. Hatton (H/502nd PIR), PVT Clarence C. Eckert, PVT Andrew T. Hroma (I/502nd PIR) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in their death in Belgium, Germany.

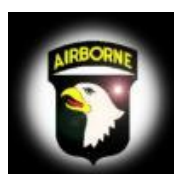
10 January 1967



The following Soldiers: PFC Alan D. Whitlock (Pictured), PFC Henry J. Stuckey (B/2-502nd IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in the Kontum Province, South Vietnam.

10 January 1969

SP4 William B. Offerdahl (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received resulting in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



10 January 1970



The following Soldiers: CPL Dennis F. Kabara, CPL Neile C. Mackay (A/1-501st IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wounds sustained which resulted in their deaths from small arms fire in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

11 January 1945

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

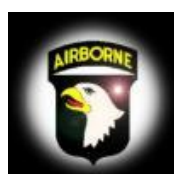
STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

09 January 1967

SP5 Everett Bagley Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 9 January 1967, near Kentum, Republic of Vietnam. During the hours of darkness on that night, the Reconnaissance Platoon had established an ambush position along a jungle trail when an estimated reinforced enemy squad was detected entering the killing zone. When the ambush was triggered, four men of the friendly element were wounded and remained in an exposed area. Upon receiving word that casualties had been inflicted on the friendly element Specialist Five Bagley, with complete disregard for his own safety, moved through heavy enemy fire while attempting to locate his wounded comrades in the darkness. Locating the first wounded man, Specialist Bagley immediately administered the needed medical aid and pulled the man to a safe area. Specialist Bagley then continued to move through the bullet-swept area until he had located and treated the three remaining wounded men and had personally carried them to covered positions. On Two occasions, Specialist Bagley drew fire from the enemy while using his flashlight in order to give the more seriously wounded emergency medical treatment. One time, while using his flashlight to treat the wounded, Specialist Bagley was struck in the head by grenade fragments and wounded. Despite his wounds and the heavy enemy fire, Specialist Bagley continued to give medical treatment until all the wounded were safe. Specialist Five Bagley's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

10 January 1945

CPL Leslie M. Belden (HHC/3-502d PIR) was awarded The Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion, 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 10 January 1945. Corporal Belden's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division, and the United States Army. (HQ, Third U.S. Army, General Orders No. 100 (May 11, 1945)



10 January 1967

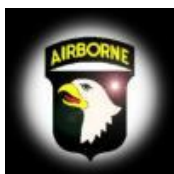
SFC Hyde L. Taylor (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. Platoon Sergeant Taylor's platoon, while on a search and destroy mission, was suddenly brought under a murderous volume of enemy fire. As Sergeant Taylor began to maneuver his platoon against the enemy position, two of his men were wounded. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Taylor rushed 25 meters through withering enemy fire to aid his wounded comrades. As Sergeant Taylor administered medical aid, he observed three enemy soldiers attempting to assault the flank of his platoon. Realizing the lives of his wounded comrades were in jeopardy and his platoon was in serious danger Sergeant Taylor, again with complete disregard for his own personal safety, jumped up and charged the enemy soldiers, firing his weapon and causing them to flee the battle area. As a result of Sergeant Taylor's actions, several lives were saved, numerous casualties were prevented and the platoon was able to make a successful assault on the enemy position. Sergeant Taylor's outstanding gallantry 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.

11 January 2006

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

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

SPC Shawn Bickford (C/2-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor. SPC Bickford was instrumental to the success of the mission in eliminating a terrorist cell. His courage under fire and dedication to duty are unquestionable. He not only pulled a wounded Soldier to safety allowing him to receive the medical treatment he needed, he continued to fire and maneuver on eight heavily armed insurgents. SPC Bickford's actions ensured his platoon's success in the mission.



***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."

