

2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) "STRIKE HISTORY" 09 September – 15 September 2012



09 September 1968

1-502 had very light contact. B/1-502 sprang an ambush on 2 VC, vic. YD6035, resulting in 2 VC KIA.

09 September 1968

A sweep of the flooded coastal plain by troopers from the 2nd Brigade gathered 15 detainees. Airborne infantrymen aboard choppers were able to remove stranded suspects on the coastal plain, as "Bess' left the area in watery confusion.

10 September 1968

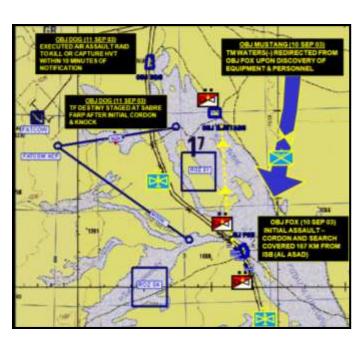
Operation VINH LOC begins. This cordon and search operation was conducted by elements of the 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (1-501 Inf), the U.S. Navy, and forces from the 54th ARVN Regiment and the 7th ARVN Cavalry Squadron around Vinh Loc island about 15 miles east of Hue. Captured VC told their interrogators that more than 80 percent of the communist infrastructure on the island was wiped out during this operation. Casualties: U.S. 2 KIA, 9 WIA; enemy 154 KIA, 370 POW (including 116 members of the infrastructure) and 56 ralliers.

10 September 1968

A/1-502 continued RIF, vic. YD6630, finding 5 tons of rice, killing 1 VC in a bunker and capturing 2 VCS. A/1-502 engaged 5 VC, vic. YD6730 from ambush, with Negative results. C/1-502 moved to FSB Mongoose, OPCON to 1/501. D/1-502 moved to An Lo Bridge to assume bridge security.

10 - 11 September 2003

Operation Grierson I. 2-502 IN participates in an air assault mission with TF Destiny, 2-17 CAV and 101st Airborne Division Pathfinders, over 402 kilometers/251 miles in order to disrupt the activities of suspected former regime loyalists. The mission



results in the detention of 78 personnel, the capture of large weapons







cache and \$60,000 in sequentially numbered U.S. bills, as well as several million dollars of Iraqi Dinar.

11 September 1943

The SS Strathnaver and its passengers, the 502nd PIR, is forced to make an emergency port call at St. Johns Newfoundland for repairs. During this time salt water was discovered in the ships freshwater tanks. This would delay the 502nd's deployment 44 days.

11 September 1968

A/1-502 conducted RIF, vic. YD6631. B/1-502 sprang and ambush, vic. YD6133 on 2 VC, resulting in 1 VC KIA, this VC was tax a collector. B/1-502 also had security of Rome plow and RIF operations with negative contact. C/1-502 was OPCON to 1/501. A/1-502 secured An, local patrols around bridge, they detained 1 VCS. Recon/1-502 ambushed 3 VC, killing 1, vic. YD7031

12 September 1968

A/1-502 engaged 2 VC in a bunker, vic. YD6729, 1 VC KIA and 1 VC POW. They had contact with 2 or 3 VC, twice more but negative assessment. B/1-502 continued Rome plow security and RIF operations with negative contact. C/1-502 was OPCON 1/501. D/1-502 continued security of An LO. Recon/1-502 captured 1 VC, vic. YD7233.

13 September 1968

A/1-502 continued RIF operation, vic. YD6731, capturing 1 VC. While on Rome plow security, B/1-502 received SA fire, vic. YD6332. A cordon was formed around the village and artillery was called in. A sweep of the area resulted in 9 VC KIA and 10 VC POW, and several weapons. One of the POW's was the CO of the H319th and another cadre finance officer was captured.

13 September 2003

"We were on a night patrol to eliminate some criminal activity (black market propane) reported in sector. Our two vehicles passed through a narrow street where the second vehicle got ambushed. They threw improvised grenade type devices that were packed with ball bearings. The first bounced into the bed of the truck where the men immediately jumped out. The explosion went off, ripping the right side of the HMMWV apart. SSG Greg Chapman, HHC/3-502, led his men to cover and concealed positions and began scanning for targets. The enemy was on the roof ducking and throwing and shooting. The driver of the second vehicle attempted to jump out when another explosion went off inside the driver compartment at his feet. The guys received sporadic gunfire and 6-8 explosions all on one vehicle. I heard the contact and got a report immediately that we had casualties, number unknown, and they were in an ambush.

The trail vehicle was destroyed and we had a serious casualty still on the ground. Communications between vehicles were on ICOMs (two-way radios). SSG Charles Everheart, the squad leader, led the lead vehicle to put down an over watch and base of fire as his team hauled ass back into the kill zone. SPC Joe Thomas engaged an oncoming high-speed vehicle, causing the vehicle to retreat and depart the area. SGT Luis Morales, the team leader, jumped out from the lead vehicle onto the







second vehicle and retrieved our casualty. Smoke from the explosions in the narrow street billowed up and visibility was getting worse. NVDs were not of any value. Young Soldiers communicated with their laser devices to target enemy on the roofs.

The enemy lobbed 6-8 explosive devices, which were blowing up every 3-5 seconds. SGT Morales retrieved our serious casualty under sporadic fire and put on an improvised tourniquet, continuing to direct Soldiers to locations. SSG Everheart, while under contact, still had the wherewithal without direction from me to zero out the COMSEC on their radios in the vehicle.

SSG Chapman collected up the men to exfiltrated the kill zone when the last explosion went off, taking him down. He continued to consolidate his men and get them on the exfiltration vehicle. SPC Morrone, the radio operator, calmly continued to inform me as I moved my Quick Reaction Force (QRF) into the area. I designated a link-up site to meet the ORF and ambulance for further evacuation. When we finally looked at our casualty, we realized we needed Aerial Medical Evacuation (AEROMEDEVAC). We were in the middle of an urban area and were surrounded by traffic. I directed the QRF, led by SFC William Clark, to push everyone out 200 meters in every direction and begin clearing the roofs. I realized we were not getting out of here by ground quickly enough due to traffic volume so I used an intersection that would barely fit a Blackhawk helicopter. We were having MEDEVAC bird issues for some reason but within seconds some guy came up on the net and said, "I'll get him." It turned out he was not even a MEDEVAC pilot. Man, seeing the crew chief brought tears to my eyes. The value of human life and their willingness to come down in that intersection that was three times smaller than size required for a UH-60 PZ/LZ was a sight to see in combat. My 1SG, Ray Fulks, ran out and brought the bird down right on top of him, causing him to roll across the intersection – after he fell in a hole. We got the casualty on the bird immediately. The helicopter was on the ground less than 30 seconds. During this time, I realized I still needed to move our other WIAs by ground, since the Blackhawk was not a MEDEVAC bird it would not have room for wounded. I called more of my Company out of the Command Post and told them to block off traffic at our previously noted operational check points. We took off out of the area with an open road like we were the Secretary of Defense.

Two of the WIAs were returned to duty within 48 hours. The other lost his leg 4 inches down from his right knee. The doctor briefed me and my medical Platoon Sergeant, SFC Luis Rodriguez that the improvised tourniquet placed on him by SGT Morales under contact saved his life.

After the casualty evacuation was complete, I sent forces back into the area to retrieve the downed vehicle. I was not going to allow them to have the satisfaction of capturing any equipment. When we arrived back on the scene within an hour of the ambush, the Iraqi Police had cordoned off the area and were protecting the site. They did this on their own, not because I called for them to help us. This is a testament to the progress the Second "Strike" Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (AASLT) has made in Mosul.







My men arrived on the scene and immediately secured the area and hooked up the vehicle for recovery. Simultaneously, the police and my Soldiers scoured the area for witnesses. Numerous people apologized for the actions of the attackers. We just completed a survey of the area and this neighborhood was the most satisfied and happiest with our presence in my Company sector. We received three names of the attackers within two hours of the attack, thanks to the cooperation of the Iraqi Police and the citizens of Mosul. Numerous police and citizens offered to survey the houses for suspects for us, since it would be hard for us to do so. I advised the citizens that they did not need to do that but any word on the location of the suspects would be greatly appreciated. That same night I wrote a letter to the neighborhood explaining what my Soldiers were doing and I did not understand why people would attack us after we just caught criminals taking advantage of them. I told them we would not be deterred or frightened by anyone and asked for any information on the attackers.

Over the next 48 hours, we received much information on individuals, leading to our capture of the suspected planner and executor of the ambush against my Soldiers. Despite the raid against the suspected attacker, we (the Soldiers who were attacked) followed up the next day in the neighborhood and handed out toys and stuffed animals to mothers and children to ensure we maintained the relationship with the community. As far as I know, this is one of the few times where a unit that was attacked caught the prime suspect of the attack against the unit itself. This was accomplished only because of the cooperation between U.S. forces, Iraqi Police, and the citizens of the neighborhood itself.

Do not let the reports fool you. There is progress and cooperation in Iraq and the Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (AASLT) demonstrated this on September 13, 2003. They displayed skill and fortitude in combat as they were ambushed and followed up the next day in winning the hearts and minds of Iraqi's during stability and support operations (SASO). Everyone must know that these young men and women balance this every day and success is possible." - Daniel S. Morgan, CPT, Infantry Commanding HHC/3-502 IN

13 September 2010

CTF STRIKE conducted Operation Tund Baad, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment partnered with 6/3/305 Kandak to clear Objective Knoxville and Objective Johnson City to deny insurgents a safe haven and build COP Kandalay.



By eliminating the areas
that insurgents use as safe havens as well as diminishing support for their
activities, CF and ANSF are able to better protect the towns, which enable
the district governance to develop projects and promote economic growth.

1-502 IN was successful in the building of COP Kandalay. The success of the operation was marked by the increased confidence of ANA







and ANP in their ability to destroy the enemy. The overall success of the operation has had a positive effect on the locals of the area as they are now confident they can safely travel on Highway 1.

14 September 1968

B/1-502 continued cordon, calling in artillery and air strikes. Final results for the day were 8 VC KIA, 11 VC POW, 4 VCS. The other units continued normal activity with negative contact.

15 - 17

September 1968

1-502 continued RIF operations, Rome plow operation, and security of An LO Bridge. The enemy was evasive and there were only two light sniper contacts, with negative assessment. The units continued to encounter BBT and find small caches.

15 September – 16 October 1968

1-327 Inf and 2-502 Inf conducted an airmobile combat assault into the Dong Truoi. Mountain south of Hue. For the next 32 Days, the two battalions conducted extensive company-size RIF operations to locate and destroy the enemy forces indicated to be in the area. The combat assault of the two battalions was conducted in response to an increasing number of agent and sniffer reports, which indicated the enemy's presence in the Dong Truoi Mountains (YD8097). In addition interrogation of the large number of PW's and Hoi Chanhs gathered by the 2nd BDE during its cordon operations in Vinh Loc, confirmed the presence of five infantry battalions of the 4th and 5th NVA Regt's in the Truoi Mountains area. During the period 15 Sept – 16 Oct, the two battalions maintained continuous pressure on the enemy forces and, during the frequent contacts with squad to platoon size enemy forces, killed 78 NVA and captured 11 POW's, 32 individual weapons, and 3 crew-served weapons. This operation served to keep at least five enemy battalions off balance and caused them to displace towards the southwest, thus relieving pressure on Da Nang, on OL #1 form Phu Bai to Hai Van Pass, and on Phu Loc District. The operation also prevented enemy reinforcement and recovery from his losses in Phu Vang, Phu Thu, and Vinh Loc Districts.

During this week, in the span of 71 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, 501st IN (Vietnam) and the 502nd IN Regiment (*See STRIKE HISTORY NOTE).

- 1 x Distinguished Service Cross Medal
- 2 x Silver Star Medal
- 3 x ARCOM with Valor
- 1 x Bronze Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
- 22 x Purple Heart Medal (8 x Posthumously)
- 1 x DOW/Non-Hostile Injuries







09 September 1970 SGT Wilford A. Young (C/1-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes from Air loss or crash over land in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

09 September 2010 The following Soldiers: PFC Dexter Mitchell and PFC Mark Hatchett (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroically distinguishing themselves by exceptional valorous conduct in the face of the enemy,

09 September 2010



1LT Todd Weaver (A/1-502 IN), 26, of Hampton, Virgina; was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

10 September 1966 PFC Alfred L. Stonehouse (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds during in the Phu Yen Province, South Vietnam.

10 September 1968 The following Soldiers: PFC Alan J. Meisheid (A/1-501 IN); SP4 Patrick D. Fay (B/1-501 IN); PFC Daniel L. Carr (C/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds during in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

11 September 2010 The following Soldiers: SGT Andrew Rose and SGT Trenton Wieties (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their unit with a rocket propelled grenade.

11 September 2010 The following Soldiers: SSG Andrew Miller and PFC John Bach (B/1-66 AR) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

The following Soldiers: MSG Thomas L. Forbes (HHC/2-502 IN), CPL Thomas E. Francis and PFC Calvin L. McDavis (A/2-502 IN earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from other explosive device wounds in the Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.

12 September 2006 SSG Eric Schmeiser (B/1-75 CAV) actions in combat earn him the Purple Heart. For wounds sustained as a result of enemy or hostile action.

12 September 2010 The following Soldiers: SGT Joshua Goheen and PFC Michael Leos (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their dismounted patrol with a grenade.







13 September 1968 MAJ William R. Hale (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operation involving conflict with an armed hostile force, during combat operations near Ap Cao Xa, Republic of Vietnam.

15 September 1966 1LT Leslie D. Kennedy (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force on a reinforcing mission near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam.

15 September 1970 LTC Arvid E. West Jr. (HQ/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action at Fire Support Base Blitz, Republic of Vietnam.

15 September 2010 1SG George Fitzke (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while participated in the assault to seize Objective Jackson, the first objective of the Operation Dragon Strike Campaign.

15 September 2010 The following Soldiers: SSG Derek Dodd and SPC Mark Baidinger (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their unit's dismounted patrol with an 82mm recoilless rifle.

15 September 2010 SSG Joseph Roberts (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

15 September 2010 The following Soldiers: SSG Ivan Vitanov, PFC Ronnie Gentry Jr. and PFC Jeremy Moser (G/3-2 CAV) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked their unit's mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device.

15 September 2010 PFC Michael Schrantz (B/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart from wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit's convoy with an improvised explosive device.

STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

09 September 2010



The following Soldiers: PFC Dexter Mitchell and PFC Mark Hatchett (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroically distinguishing themselves by exceptional valorous conduct in the face of the enemy, PFC Mitchell as an RTO, PFC Hatchett as an ammo bearer.

PFC Mitchell and PFC Hatchett's heroic and selfless actions during combat operations contributed to the success of the company's mission. At approximately 0713 hours, enemy fighters ambushed the dismounted patrol in which they were traveling. The enemy's near ambush severely wounded an ANP Soldier near PFC Mitchell and PFC Hatchett's position.









Despite the intensity of enemy fire impacting all around their position, PFC Mitchell and PFC Hatchett emerged from cover to move the wounded Soldier and dress his wounds. After successfully applying a tourniquet to the wounded Soldier's arm, PFC Hatchett assisted in buddy carry of the wounded for approximately 50 meters to the company's casualty collection point. PFC Hatchett's selfless actions directly

contributed to keeping the severely wounded Soldier alive and conscious. PFC Mitchell continued to keep the wounded Soldier conscious, sent up accurate reports to the company, and returned fire on an advancing enemy.

PFC Mitchell and PFC Hatchett's selfless actions directly contributed to keeping the severely wounded Soldier alive and conscious. The wounded Soldier was evacuated to higher-level medical care.



13 September 1968



MAJ William R. Hale (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operation involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 September 1968. Major Hale distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action while serving as Company Commander, Company B, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, during combat operations near Ap Cao Xa, Republic of Vietnam. Major Hale, then Captain Hale, was leading his unit on a reconnaissance of a contested area when the second platoon was caught in a hail of enemy fire from well-concealed ambush positions. After a swift but prudent assessment of the situation, he moved quickly to overcome the enemy's advantage by immediately directing the second platoon into positions to initiate suppressive fire. Then, with complete disregard for his personal safety, he led his element into the battle. Oblivious to the volume of fire, he occupied a vulnerable position in order to gather his forces in preparation for an advance against the enemy. Major Hale's conspicuous bravery reinforced the morale of his troops and, through at an initial disadvantage, enabled his outnumbered men to seize the initiative against the enemy. Maneuvering into a cordon around the enemy, Major Hale methodically pursued them to their eventual defeat. Nineteen Viet Cong insurgents were killed and twenty captured, yet no friendly casualties were incurred due to Major Hale's extraordinary bravery in close combat against a numerically superior force. Major Hale's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, ant the United States Army.

15 September 1966

1LT Leslie D. Kennedy (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. First Lieutenant Kennedy distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 15







September 1966 while serving as platoon leader of an airborne infantry platoon on a reinforcing mission near Tuy Hoa. When a sister platoon was savagely attacked and pinned down by a numerically superior Viet Cong force firing machine guns and automatic weapons, Lieutenant Kennedy immediately led his platoon to relieve the beleaguered friendly force. Upon arrival at the battle site, his unit made heavy contact with the enemy and was pinned down by intense enemy fire. Lieutenant Kennedy observed a machine gun placing a heavy barrage on his men and began crawling toward its position to destroy the gun. When he had crawled within ten meters of the hostile emplacement, an enemy automatic weapon began firing at him from his left flank. Completely disregarding his own safety, he stood up in the ravaging hail of bullets and charged that position, silencing the weapon and killing two Viet Cong soldiers. The enemy machine gunner detected his actions and immediately unleashed a fierce barrage on him. With bullets striking all around him, he charged across the open battlefield into the face of the enemy weapon and singlehandedly destroyed the position and its three occupants with rifle and grenade fire. His fearless leadership inspired his men to spontaneously attack and overrun the determined insurgents, forcing them to flee. First Lieutenant Kennedy'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. 6373 (December 11, 1967))

15 September 1970

LTC Arvid E. West Jr. (HQ/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 September 1970. Lieutenant Colonel West distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer of the 1st Battalion [Airmobile], 502d Infantry, during a hostile mortar attack at Fire Support Base Blitz, Republic of Vietnam. Heedless of the heavy volume of impacting mortar rounds, Lieutenant Colonel West left the safety of the tactical operations center in an effort to reach a gun position which was not returning effective fire because of damage sustained by the initial enemy barrage. As Lieutenant Colonel West moved through an exposed area, he received painful shrapnel wounds from an impacting mortar round. Despite his wounds, he continued on to the gun position where he reorganized the crew and began directing fire which silenced the enemy mortars. With the help of his radio-telephone operator, Lieutenant Colonel West attended to the wounded and refused evacuation until the last of his men were removed to safety. Lieutenant Colonel West'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.







15 September 2010



1SG George Fitzke (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor while participated in the assault to seize Objective Jackson, the first objective of the Operation Dragon Strike Campaign. After several days of clearing enemy held village clusters south of Combat Outpost Terminator and having encountered several IEDs and recoilless rifle attacks, Company B was tasked to control the northern entrance to the "Super Wadi" in order to facilitate the construction of a blocking obstacle. An element of Company B, being commanded and controlled by 1SG Fitzke, moved mounted off marked routes near a previously cleared path to the mouth of the super wadi to establish an overwatch position to facilitate further movement of engineer assets into the wadi the following day.

En-route to this position, 1SG Fitzke's vehicle struck an IED which caused significant damage to his vehicle and ejected an ANA soldier who did not properly secure himself in the rear of the vehicle. Fully knowing that this area was assessed as a high risk IED area that had been the target of a Python breaching charge in the previous days, 1SG Fitzke, with complete disregard for his personal safety, dismounted the vehicle to assess and treat the ANA casualty and assess the rest of the vehicle crew.

After stabilizing the wounded Soldier, he proofed the lane out of the enemy IED field and supervised the evacuation of the casualty and the recovery of the damaged vehicle. 1SG Fitzke's bravery and quick action prevented further injury or loss of life to Soldiers and his expert direction

of a high-risk, night vehicle recovery facilitated the exfiltration of the vehicle from a pre-planned enemy kill zone that was impacted by 82mm recoilless rifle fire and upon exploitation was found to contain several additional large IEDs. Despite being injured by the IED blast, 1SG Fitzke remained on site to overwatch the objective facilitating future operations for the battalion's main effort elements.



*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.







In 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 wartorn 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."





