



**2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AASLT)  
“STRIKE HISTORY”  
24 April – 27 April 2013**



24 April 1968

**Operation DELAWARE:** At 0640, C/2-502 vic. YD542029 engaged an unknown size enemy force in the killing zone of its ambush. When C Co. went to check results, the enemy counterattacked. Results: 1 US KHA, 1 US WHA, 2 NVA KIA, 1 AK-47, 1 SKS CIA. At 1125, Vic. YD542029 our C&C/utility helicopter received AK-47 and HMG fire from suspected coordinate YD542033 after departing C/2-502 LZ on a resupply mission. The utility ship from 1-327, acting as escort ship, observed our helicopter spinning and smoking and finally bursting into flames as it went down. The 1-327 helicopter was also hit by enemy fire but was able to make a forced landing on LZ Veghel, where it was secured by Recon platoon. Attempts to locate the other helicopter had negative results: Results: 1 US WHA, 5 US MIA (1 from 2-502)

24 April 2006

**Operation WILLING EAGLE:** 2-502 IN. Prohibit AIF from using the Yusufiyah Thermal Power Plant as a staging area and to assess the power plant to determine the operational feasibility for future restoration and connection to the Baghdad power supply.



25 April 1957

Relieved from assignment to the 101st Airborne Division; concurrently reorganized and re-designated as the 502d Infantry, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System.

25 April 1970

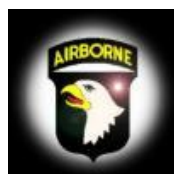
**Operation TEXAS STAR:** 2-502 IN STRIKE Force Battalion moved into the new AO west of Song Bo River with a combat assault of the Reconnaissance Platoon on Hill 714 (YD508082). The lift birds began taking fire upon insertion, approximately 300 meters south of the LZ along the ridge line. Cobra gunships covering the CA were employed along with tube artillery with unknown results. Upon completion of their mission that day, the Reconnaissance Platoon was extracted. Again the lift ships received fire from approximately the same area.

25-27 April 2006

**Operations STRIKE FURY and SWAMP FOX:** Simultaneous 72-hour operations conducted by 1-22 IN to disrupt AIF activity in AO Regulators.

26 April 1968

**Operation DELAWARE:** At 1235, B/2-502 vic. YD540028 along Route 547, engaged an enemy platoon in bunkers employing RPD's, RPG's, and AK-47's near newly constructed FSB Veghel. At 1335, the unit began to receive 82mm mortar fire. The terrain was thick and uphill to the bunkers, precluding a flanking movement by C/2-502 coming to reinforce. With the support of a platoon of C Co., B Co. began to sweep the contact area and overrun the bunkers. Contact was broken at 1500. Results: 4 US KIA, 27



US WHA, 16 NVA KIA, 1 Mosin-Nagant, 4 AK-47's, 2 RPG's, 1 RPD, 3 SKS, 4 M-16, 7 B-40 Rockers, 3 Rifle grenades CIA.

26 April 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** Based on enemy activities on 25 April, the Reconnaissance Platoon was again inserted on Hill 714 and received fire upon landing on the LZ. A platoon of B Company, who had been preciously alerted as a reaction force for the Reconnaissance Platoon, was inserted in support of the Recon Platoon. A white team from the 1BDE Aviation Platoon was employed as the Recon Platoon began a sweep along the ridge line to the south. The low bird received fire from an estimated enemy platoon, damaging the craft and forcing the aircraft to land. While sweeping the area, the Recon Platoon located five bunkers, reinforced with two feet of overhead cover. Two enemy engaged the Recon Platoon as they searched the bunkers. The enemy quickly broke contact and fled the area. The Recon Platoon followed a blood trail but was unable to locate the body.

27-30 April 1966

The 1/327 and 2/502 of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division begin Austin III, a search & Destroy operation in the La Nga Valley of Binh Tuy province, III CTZ.

27 April 1968

**Operation DELAWARE:** C/2-502 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon vic. YD536027 engaged an unknown sized enemy force bunkers. The maneuvered elements on the enemy and requested gunship support. The gunships could not fly due to the weather co C Co. pulled back and called in Artillery. The following day at 1500, after receiving the additional fire power of two 50 cal. MG's and a 106 RR, C Co. again initiated the attack into the previous day's contact area, securing the area at 1640. The area contained 15 bunkers with overhead coverage. Results: 1 US KHA, 7 US WHA, 1 M-16, 1 M-16 LIA, 10 RPG rounds, and 300 rounds of AK-47 ammunition CIA.

27 April 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** Recon Platoon (2-502 IN) continued sweeping south, reinforced by the remainder of B Company. At 0715 hours, they were engaged by an estimated enemy squad in reinforced bunkers. The enemy employed small arms against the platoon, killing one and wounding four before disengaging. A sweep of the area produced one enemy killed and an AK-47 captured, along with 100 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition and assorted medical supplies. At 1430 hours the Recon Platoon and B Company encountered a large enemy bunker complex. The contact lasted for two hours. The enemy, fighting from reinforced bunkers, employed automatic weapons, RPG's and small arms against the friendly forces. With the help of ARA and artillery, the friendly forces were able to overrun the complex while losing only one man. The enemy fled the area leaving behind 1 NVA body, 3 AK-47 rifles and 1 RPD machine gun. The bunker complex consisted of 55 mutually supporting bunkers with thick overhead cover. Security was set up for the night in order to allow for an extensive search of the area the next day. C Company was designated to conduct a combat assault south of B Company and sweep north. The initial lift bird into the LZ (YD519056) received fire and forced down on the LZ, thus preventing the landing of additional aircraft. The initial mission was aborted and C Company was inserted north of B Company as reinforcements. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of D Company was air assaulted onto the location of the downed aircraft to secure it until it could be extracted the following day.



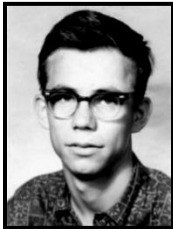
**During this week, in the span of 71 years since the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941 as the 502nd Parachute Battalion, an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assault. The following awards were awarded to members of 2BCT, 501<sup>st</sup> IN (Vietnam) and the 502<sup>nd</sup> IN Regiment (\*See STRIKE HISTORY NOTE).**

- 1 x Medal Of Honor
- 1 x Distinguished Service Cross
- 3 x Silver Star (2 x Posthumously)
- 2 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
- 1 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
- 33 x Purple Heart Medal (25 x Posthumously)

24 April 1968 PFC Joseph R. Bennett (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from burns and wounds received while on combat operations while unit was engaged by hostile forces in a firefight in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

24 April 1968 SGT Russell F. Deitchler (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operations when hit by fragments from a hostile rocket in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

24 April 1968



SP5 Dale L. Lambert (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while a passenger on a military aircraft (UH-1D tail number 66-16490) on a combat operations when the aircraft was hit by 23mm anti-aircraft hostile fire and the aircraft crashed and burned while departing FSB Veghel. SP5 Lambert went down in a helo incident on 24 April and was not recovered until September 1968, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

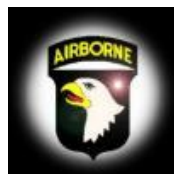
24 April 1968 1LT Roger G. Stallard (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received in action in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ; 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Order No: 11443; 31 December 1968)

24 April 2006 The following Soldiers: SPC Fabian Reyes and PFC Christian Sistrunk (B/1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received as a result of enemy or hostile actions.

24 April 2006



SSG Metodio A. Bandonill (B/1-75 CAV), 29, of Honolulu, Hawaii; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq.



24 April 2008

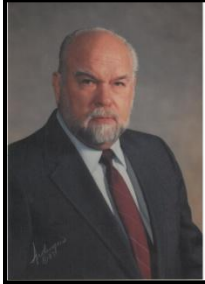


SSG Shaun Whitehead (2-502 IN) 24, of Commerce, Georgia; earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he encountered an improvised explosive device while on a dismounted patrol near Iskandariyah.

24 April 2011

SPC Eric Richardson (A/2BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with small arms fire.

25 April 1967



1SG Frederick C. Brander (A/2-501) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 25 April 1968. First Sergeant Brander distinguished himself while serving as First Sergeant, Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, during a combat operation near the village, the lead platoon of Company A was taken under heavy small arms and rocket propelled grenade fire, wounding two men. With complete disregard for his own safety, First Sergeant Brander went immediately to the platoon in contact and in order to free the element leaders of the platoon for their combat mission, First Sergeant Brander assumed the responsibility for treatment and evacuation of the wounded. Before the fighting had ceased, First Sergeant Brander had evacuated four men to a secure landing zone and supervised the helicopter evacuation. First Sergeant Brander'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.

25 April 1968

PFC Dennis W. Hoff (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Long Khanh Province, South Vietnam.

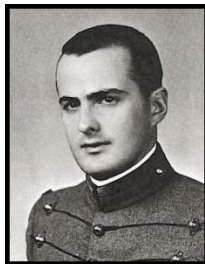
25 April 1969



SGT Ralph L. Cutler (A/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

26 April 1968

The following Soldiers: 1LT Peter F. Donnell (Pictured) (B/2-501 IN); SGT Raymond J. Smith (Pictured), PFC Geoffrey D. R. Saunders, PFC Paul D. Boyett (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gunfire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures from L-R)



26 April 1968

SP4 David A. Brown (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from artillery, rocket, or mortar round wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

26 April 1968



The following Soldier: SP4 Thomas E. Raubolt (B/2-502 IN); PFC Michael T. Evans (Pictured) (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

26 April 1968

SGT John A. Franklin (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from burns received while on a combat operation when he was hit by a blast from a hostile anti-tank round in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

26 April 1968

PFC Robert E. Terrell (C/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when he was hit by fragmentations from a hostile mine in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

26 April 1968

The following Soldiers: CPL Gene M. Burkell (HHC/2-502 IN); PFC Milton A. Lee (B/2-502 IN); PFC Dennis E. Purcell (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gunfire wounds on Hwy 527 vic. FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

26 April 1968

SP4 Terry J. Kenney (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from fragments from a hostile rocket on Hwy 527 vic. FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

26 April 1968

PFC Terry L. Tebbetts (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds on Hwy 527 vic. FSB Veghel, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

26 April 1970

The following Soldiers: PFC Charles R. King (B/2-502 IN); CPT Samuel E. Asher (E/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from artillery, rocket, or mortar wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

27 April 1967

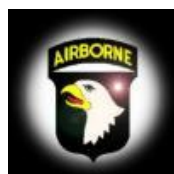
PFC Randy L. Heerdt (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gunfire wounds in the Khanh Hoa Province, South Vietnam.

27 April 1970

The following Soldiers: 1LT Robert S. Hunt Jr., SSG Thomas Farrell, SP4 Donald L. Camp (B/2-502 IN) and PFC David S. Tuey (E/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 95th Evacuation Hospital (SMBL); General Order Number 84)

27 April 1970

SGT Delbert E. Hall (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.





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

26 April 1968

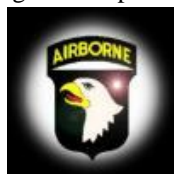


PFC Milton A. Lee (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as radio telephone operator with Company B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), in action against enemy aggressor forces at Phu Bai, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam, on 26 April 1968. As lead element for the company, the 3d platoon received intense surprise hostile fire from a force of North Vietnamese Army regulars in well-concealed bunkers. With 50 percent casualties, the platoon maneuvered to a position of cover to treat their wounded and reorganize, while Private First Class Lee moved through the heavy enemy fire giving lifesaving first aid to his wounded comrades. During the subsequent assault on the enemy defensive positions, Private First Class Lee continuously kept close radio contact with the company commander, relaying precise and understandable orders to his platoon leader. While advancing with the front rank toward the objective, Private First Class Lee observed four North Vietnamese soldiers with automatic weapons and a rocket launcher lying in wait for the lead element of the platoon. As the element moved forward, unaware of the concealed danger, Private First Class Lee immediately and with utter disregard for his own personal safety, passed his radio to another soldier and charged through the murderous fire. Without hesitation he continued his assault, overrunning the enemy position, killing all occupants and capturing four automatic weapons and a rocket launcher. Private First Class Lee continued his one-man assault on the second position through a heavy barrage of enemy automatic weapons fire. Grievously wounded, he continued to press the attack, crawling forward into a firing position and delivering accurate covering fire to enable his platoon to maneuver and destroy the position. Not until the position was overrun did Private First Class Lee falter in his steady volume of fire and succumb to his wounds. Private First Class Lee's heroic actions saved the lives of the lead element and were instrumental in the destruction of the key position of the enemy defense. Private First Class Lee's gallantry at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, the 502d Infantry, and the United States Army. (General Orders No. 13, April 23, 1970)

26 April 1968

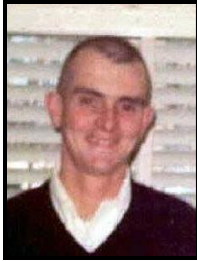


SGT Leon Peoples (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Sergeant Peoples distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 26 April 1968 while leading a fire team on a search and destroy mission in Phu Bai Province. After long hours of exhausting and indecisive battle, Sergeant Peoples' platoon had made little progress in precisely locating the enemy's bunker fortifications in the thick, mountainous jungle. Discontented with his unit's stalemated advance, Sergeant Peoples crawled alone toward the North Vietnamese to reconnoiter their positions. When in sight of the first bunker, he was spotted and turned back by heavy fire. He then gathered his fire team and initiated a flanking maneuver on the enemy bunker. As the team advanced, the enemy opened up on them with streams of automatic weapons fire which held them fast to the ground and wounded many. Sergeant Peoples then drew the attention of the communist firepower by rushing them and dropping behind available cover as he assaulted. With grenades prepared for immediate detonation he made a final spring and dived for cover as the ejected grenades ripped through the hostile stronghold. Detecting a second bunker from which the enemy were placing suppressive fire on his team, Sergeant Peoples stole near the emplacement and unleashed on it several well-placed grenades. After dropping back for re-supplies of ammunition, he again infiltrated the enemy complex under thick fire and crawled without rifle up to a third bunker and eliminated its occupants with grenades. Picking up an enemy weapon, he then began routing the demoralized communists as they frantically retreated. Sergeant Peoples' extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were



in keeping and 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. 3419 (September 7, 1969))

26 April 1970



CPT Samuel E. Asher (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 26 April 1970. Captain Asher distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer of Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during a mortar attack against Fire Support Base Veghel, Republic of Vietnam. During the attack, Captain Asher moved to the base mortar positions to expedite counter-mortar fire and continuously subjected himself to incoming rounds while checking the perimeter. He moved to the most intense area of the attack to encourage each of his men individually and to insure the preparation for a possible ground attack. While moving to one of these positions, Captain Asher was mortally wounded by an incoming round. His actions were decisive in insuring the safety of the lives of the men on the firebase and contributed immeasurably to the firebase's successful defense. Captain Asher'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.

27 April 1970



1LT James T. Hill (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 27 April 1970. Lieutenant Hill distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. During a search and clear operation, Lieutenant Hill's platoon was providing rear security for another company. While moving down a ridgeline, the other unit came under fire from an enemy force using automatic weapons, small arms, rocket propelled grenades, and anti-personnel mines. The forward platoon leader was wounded and Lieutenant Hill immediately took command of the lead two platoons and deployed the men to place effective fire, he called in armed helicopter support and accurately adjusted fire to within twenty-five meters of his own position. Lieutenant Hill then personally led the two platoons in an assault on the enemy positions. Moving from bunker to bunker, he engaged the enemy with rifle fire and hand grenades until the insurgents were routed. Lieutenants Hill'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.

27 April 1970

PFC Steven R. Sandlin (E/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action while engaged in military operation involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 27 April 1970. Private Sandlin distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While on a reconnaissance patrol, Private Sandlin's unit made contact with a numerically superior enemy force and suffered several casualties. Private Sandlin moved among the wounded men, checking their wounds and administering first aid. When the wounded were removed to an area of safety, he provided covering fire. The platoon sergeant was also wounded and Private Sandlin rushed to his position and gave protective fire until he could be removed to a safe area. While moving from one wounded soldier to another giving aid and encouragement, Private Sandlin was mortally wounded by hostile fire. Private Sandlin'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.



27 April 1970



SFC Wallace Gainey (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 27 April 1970. Sergeant Gainey distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant in Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, on operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. During a combat patrol, Sergeant Gainey's unit was engaged by small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well-entrenched enemy force. The platoon leader was wounded in the initial contact, and Sergeant Gainey took charge of the platoon. He deployed his men and subjected himself to the hostile fire as he ran from position to position distributing badly needed ammunition. Sergeant Gainey repeatedly subjected himself to the hostile fire while helping wounded men to safety. When armed helicopters arrived at the contact area, Sergeant Gainey withdrew the platoon a short distance to allow for aerial rocket artillery assaults. When the armed helicopters had finished, Sergeant Gainey led his men in a ground assault and overran the enemy positions. Sergeant Gainey's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Order Number 6574, 10 June 1970)

27 April 1970

1LT Robert S. Hunt (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 27 April 1970. Lieutenant Hunt distinguished himself while serving as a platoon leader in Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during operations in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. While on a combat patrol, Lieutenant Hunt's platoon was engaged by small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well-entrenched enemy force. Lieutenant Hunt quickly deployed his men but was wounded by enemy fire as he maneuvered the platoon. Although unable to walk, Lieutenant Hunt continued to command his men and direct their counterattack until relieved by his platoon sergeant and the platoon leader of another platoon. The actions of Lieutenant Hunt enabled his men to place effective suppressive fire on the insurgents and overrun the enemy positions. Lieutenant Hunt'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.

**\*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."

