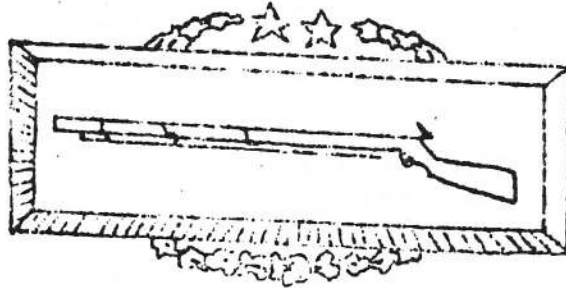
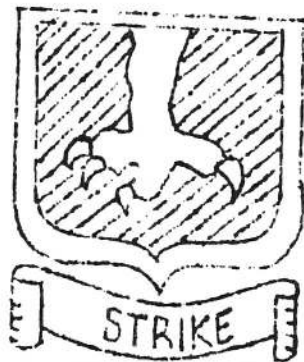


2^D BN 502^D INF

(AIRMObILE)



UNIT HISTORY OF THE STRIKE FORCE



VIETNAM '70

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UNIT HISTORY

2D BATTALION (AIRMOBILE), 502D INFANTRY
1ST BRIGADE, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION
APO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96383

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FOREWARD

The purpose of this history is to present a concise written narrative of all the major accomplishments of the 2d Battalion (Airmobile) 502d Infantry throughout 1970. Accounts of combat operations are factual, based on official records. No attempt has been made to alter the facts in any way.

All figures used are actual figures. Statistics of enemy casualties and losses are based on actual body count or captured weapons count. Approximations are not taken into account in this history.

DEDICATION

This history is dedicated to those members of the Strike Force Battalion who gave their lives so others may live in the freedom for which they were willing to make the supreme sacrifice.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>
Haug, Ronald L	E-5	HHC	13 Feb 70
Burns, John J, Jr	E-4	HHC	11 Feb 70
Davis, Robert	E-5	Co E	11 Feb 70
Cahoon, Morgan L	E-3	Co E	11 Feb 70
Moon, Raymond R	E-4	Co E	11 Feb 70
Peterson, Martin T	E-3	Co E	11 Feb 70
Schuller, Harold W	E-3	Co E	11 Feb 70
Farral, Timothy C	E-3	Co B	11 Feb 70
LaRocca, Vincent M	E-4	Co B	11 Feb 70
Ruiz, Pastor	E-5	Co C	16 Feb 70
Johnson, McArthur	E-4	Co B	18 Mar 70
Knieper, Philip G, Jr	E-3	Co B	20 Mar 70
Lovato, Rudolph D	E-4	Co A	20 Mar 70
Golsh, Stephen A	E-4	Co A	21 Mar 70
Barbaria, Louis J	E-4	Co C	21 Mar 70
Guteknust, John T	E-4	Co A	21 Mar 70
Rohler, Sidney	E-3	Co B	28 Mar 70

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>
Tyner, James A	E-4	Co D	15 Apr 70
Wall, Robert A	E-3	Co D	18 Apr 70
Wisher, Samuel E	O-3	Co E	26 Apr 70
King, Charles R	E-3	Co B	26 Apr 70
Hall, Delbert E	E-4	Co E	27 Apr 70
Sandlin, Steve	E-3	Co E	27 Apr 70
Backman, Robert E	E-3	Co B	28 Apr 70
Rios, Maisonado F	E-3	Co B	28 Apr 70
Stieve, William J	E-4	Co D	29 Apr 70
Horton, Donnie	E-4	Co A	30 Apr 70
Ludvigsen, Leo J	E-5	Co B	2 May 70
Graft, Harold G	E-4	Co B	2 May 70
Witycyak, Glen	E-5	Co C	3 May 70
Miller, Green	E-5	Co A	5 May 70
McKinney, Ivory L	E-3	Co A	5 May 70
Carvajal, Francisco	E-5	Co C	5 May 70
Kulm, Gerald A	E-4	Co C	5 May 70
Malcolm, William E	E-7	Co C	5 May 70
Oakland, Vernon L	E-4	Co C	5 May 70
Warfield, Phillip R	E-3	Co C	6 May 70
Foutz, Kenneth L	E-6	Co B	6 May 70
* Smith, Wayne K	E-4	Co A	8 May 70
Nolan, Peter F	E-5	Co A	8 May 70
Richardson, Roy L	O-2	Co A	9 May 70

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>
Schmidt, Ronald E	E-5	Co C	14 May 70
McCullough, Billy R	E-4	Co A	16 May 70
Christopherson, David	E-3	Co A	16 May 70
Jones, David L	E-6	Co A	16 May 70
Mariani, John R	E-3	HHC	16 May 70
Lucas, Billy R	E-4	Co C	19 May 70
Gear, Gary W	E-4	Co E	20 May 70
Claggett, John A	E-3	Co E	20 May 70
Cain, Robert E	E-3	Co E	20 May 70
Bierbaum, Lawrence	E-6	Co D	29 May 70
Davis, John L	E-3	Co C	2 Jun 70
Morrow, William W	E-5	Co C	22 Jun 70
Chamblee, Jimmie L	E-5	HHC	22 Jun 70
Gaddis, Ralph A	E-4	HHC	22 Jun 70
Clement, Newton S	E-5	HHC	22 Jun 70
Bahrke, Russell	E-3	Co E	13 Aug 70
* Washenik, Gary	E-5	HHC	16 Aug 70
Huttie, Fredrick E	E-5	Co D	16 Aug 70
Fratelleinco, Frank	E-3	Co B	19 Aug 70
Miller, Paul	E-4	Co C	20 Aug 70
Jones, Marshall K	E-4	Co C	20 Aug 70
Johnson, Ben O	E-4	HHC	21 Aug 70
Silverman, Sheldon	E-6	Co A	24 Aug 70
Johnston, William E	E-4	Co E	9 Oct 70

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>
Smith, Allen J	E-3	Co A	14 Oct 70
Jensen, Michael G	E-3	Co D	14 Nov 70
Trygg, Stanley	E-2	Co D	14 Nov 70
Robinson, Wil G	E-4	Co D	5 Dec 70
Kuerten Jeffrey D sp4		?	14 Dec 70

ORGANIZATION

The 2d Battalion (Airmobile) 502d Infantry is one of three maneuver infantry Battalions with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). The Strike Force was employed to Vietnam as part of the 1st Brigade Task Force in July 1965, and since that time has conducted combat operations against the Communist Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Armed Forces in South Vietnam.

On 15 May 1965 the 2-502d was reorganized under Department of the Army TOE 7-35F. Headquarters and Headquarters Company was organized under TOE 7-36F, and Rifle Companies ("A", "B", and "C") under TOE 7-37F. Some months later "D" and "E" Companies were added, with "E" Company being a Weapons Support Company containing the 81mm mortars and 90mm recoilless rifles. Each Rifle Company consists of 3 Rifle Platoons with M-60 machine guns and M-79 grenade launchers being organic to the individual platoons. This basic organization was used with some modification for training and combat.

A Reconnaissance platoon was organized in the Battalion and assigned to "E" Company. The Reconnaissance Platoon was unique in that it was designed to work as a highly mobile Rifle Platoon or in six man reconnaissance teams. It was employed under the direct control of the Battalion Commander.

Throughout 1970 the 2-502d continued to vary its techniques and tactics in its untiring effort to combat the enemy and the environment. The ability to react swiftly was increased as the Battalion matured under the airmobile concept.

OPERATION RANDOLPH GLEN

Thua Thien Province

The Strike Force Battalion opened the new year with a continuation of Operation Randolph Glen. FSB Rifle (YD862988) served as the base of operations for the Battalion with the maneuver companies located in the vicinity to the north and south of the firebase. Joint US/ARVN operations were to play a significant role throughout the new year.

Contacts with the enemy were initially characterized by Strike Force soldiers initiating contact, with the enemy quickly disengaging. C Company initiated the contact of the new year on the 3rd of January when two (2) NVA were killed in an ambush and 2 AK-47's were captured. Again on the 5th of January a single enemy was engaged by an OP from C Company resulting in one confirmed body count and one (1) weapon captured. While in a night defensive position, C Company had several enemy approach. When the enemy tripped a trip flare, he was engaged by small arms fire. The enemy returned fire and fled, leaving one dead behind. The first prisoner of the new year was accosted by D Company on the 13th of January. The enemy had been wounded in a previous contact. After receiving medical treatment from D Company medics, the prisoner was medevaced to the rear.

On the 20th of January, the Strike Force Battalion came under the operational control of the Second Brigade. A joint US/ARVN sweep operation was conducted west of FSB Bastogne (YD620095). The Battalion CP was established in the field and moved with one of the maneuver companies throughout the operation. One enemy was killed by B Company during the operation.

The Strike Force returned home on the 26th of January and once again established the tactical operations center on FSB Rifle. The firebase was a jointly occupied firebase with ARVN and Strike Force troops. The area of operations was split with the US responsible for the section north of FSB Rifle and the ARVN's responsible for the south. There was little evidence of recent enemy activity in the area surrounding FSB Rifle throughout the end of January and early February. On the morning of 11 February at 0115 hours the enemy struck. A ground and mortar attack was launched against FSB Rifle. The attack lasted for approximately 45 minutes. The enemy attacked was repulsed, but not until nine Strike Force soldiers gave their lives in defense of the firebase. Twelve enemy were killed during the attack.

On the 15th of February, the command post of the Strike Force moved from FSB Rifle to Camp Eagle and FSB Rifle was closed. Operations continued in the area north of FSB Rifle with E Company occupying FSB Arsenal (YD812082). Once again the enemy avoided contact with the Strike Force soldiers. There was no enemy contact

for the next three weeks. On the fourth of March the 2-502d returned en masse to Camp Eagle for a well deserved period of training and standdown. Training continued at Camp Eagle throughout the 13th of March. On the morning of the 14th the Battalion returned to the field. Maneuver Companies operated north and west of FSB Pistol (Y0902902) with the Battalion CP secured by D Company located at FSB Pistol. From the first day, the new AO showed definite signs of recent enemy activity. One of the lift ships conducting A Company's assault struck a booby trap on the LZ wounding two soldiers and causing minor damage to the aircraft. On the eighteenth of March, B Company was engaged by trail watchers on two separate occasions. One US soldier was killed during that day. Although a heavy blood trail and AK-47 were found at the enemy location, the body had been dragged away by his comrades. On the 20th of March the enemy showed the first offensive actions since the Strike Force moved into the new area. At first light, B Company began receiving enemy 60mm mortar rounds in their position. No friendly casualties were incurred during the mortar attack. A brigade white team was employed to scout out the suspected enemy mortar sight. At Y0789954 the low bird began receiving hostile small arms fire. The 1st Platoon of B Company moved to search out the area. The Platoon engaged three enemy, killing one and wounding the others. That night just after dark, a reinforced sapper squad attacked the night defensive position of B

Company's third platoon. One soldier was killed before the enemy was driven off. At 0200 hours on the 21st, the night defensive position of A Company's third platoon was hit by an enemy sapper unit. Employing the same tactics as those employed against B Company the previous day, the enemy killed another Strike Force trooper. A sweep of the area revealed two AK-47's and several blood trails, but once again all enemy bodies had been dragged away.

During this period the battalion's airmobility was put to the ultimate test. No firebase was to be occupied for a period longer than ten days. Frequent moves required close coordination among all units. The Strike Force proved itself equal to the task. All moves were made efficiently and on time. On the 23rd of March, FSB Pistol was closed and the battalion CP was relocated on FSB Brick (YC834996).

The Battalion continued to operate north of FSB Pistol, with all units sweeping to the north. While carrying out one of these sweeps, A Company's 2nd Platoon engaged an unknown enemy force in bunkers. Although the enemy put up a heavy volume of fire, they were driven from their defensive position. Left behind were three enemy bodies, one AK-47, one submachine gun and one RPD machine gun.

The Battalion began preparations for operations east of the Song Ta Track River and north of FSB Rifle. On the afternoon of 28 March, an LZ was prepped for the insertion of the reconnaissance platoon. Once on the ground, the Platoon discovered the bodies of two NVA who had been killed by the artillery.

Operation Randolph Glen drew to a close on the 31st of March. It proved to be a fitting operation with which to initiate the new year. Success of the operation is attested to by the impressive statistics compiled by the battalion during the period. Sixty-three enemy were killed, fifty-two individual weapons were captured, along with nine crew-served weapons.

OPERATION TEXAS STAR

Thua Thien Province

Operation Texas Star opened with the Strike Force Battalion occupying FSB Rifle. Contact with the enemy remained light for the first week of the operation. The Reconnaissance Platoon engaged one enemy on the morning of 5 April. Once again the Battalion moved its headquarters, this time to FSB Falcon, a new firebase cut out of triple canopy vegetation by our B Company and one Platoon from A Company, 326 Engineers. Located at YC587988, fire base Falcon served as a new forward base of operations from which the Strike Force could make further strikes into enemy areas of activity. Fire base Falcon was occupied for only four days when, on the eighth of April, the Battalion minus went OPCON to the Second Brigade, and A Company went OPCON to the Third Brigade, occupying FSB Jack.

While operating under control of the 2nd Brigade, the Battalion conducted screening operations throughout the area south of FSB Arsenal (ZD118014). Contact in the area was light. Upon insertion into the area, D Company encountered booby traps on an LZ at YC165942, wounding one soldier. The booby traps were old, and there was no evidence of any recent enemy activity. Recon was the first Strike Force unit to make enemy contact in the new area. Five enemy were engaged by a reconnaissance sniper team, resulting in one enemy killed. ARA was employed as a follow-up.

Once again the Strike Force Battalion moved its area of operations. On the 13th of April the Battalion was released from the control of the Second Brigade and came under the operational control of the Third Brigade. The battalion headquarters was established at FSB Jack, and the battalion's maneuver companies operated in the mountains west of the fire base, screening and interdicting enemy units massing to strike against Camp Evans.

At first light on the morning of 16 April, an unknown enemy force struck the 2d Platoon of D Company. The enemy engaged the Platoon with RPG's and small arms fire before they were driven off. One soldier was killed in the action. On the 17th of April the 2d platoon of D Company reversed the tables, ambushing a small enemy force, killing one and wounding several others.

Having effectively accomplished their mission under the control of the Third Brigade, the 2-502d returned to the 1st Brigade on the 19th of April. The operations center was initially established on FSB Strike (YD577171). The Battalion was to sweep north of Highway 547 west of the Song Bo River. Although intelligence indicated heavy enemy activity in the area, the Strike Force encountered relatively light enemy resistance east of the Song Bo. Headquarters for the operation was reestablished at FSB Veghel, and FSB Strike was closed on 22 April.

The Strike Force Battalion moved into the new AO west of the Song Bo River on 25 April 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.

Based on the previous day's enemy activities and intelligence, the Reconnaissance Platoon was again inserted on Hill 714 on 26 April 1970 and received fire upon landing on the LZ. A platoon of Company B, who had been previously alerted as a reaction force for the Reconnaissance Platoon, was inserted in support of the Recon Platoon. A white team from the First Brigade 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.

The following morning (27 April 1970) the Recon Platoon continued sweeping south, reinforced by the remainder of Company B. 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 Company B 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 supported 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.

On the same day C Company was designated to conduct a combat assault south of Company B and sweep north. The initial lift bird into the LZ (YD519056) received fire and was forced down on the LZ, thus preventing the landing of additional aircraft. The initial mission was aborted and C Company was inserted north of Company B

as reinforcements. The third platoon of Company D was air assaulted onto the location of the downed aircraft to secure it until it could be extracted the following day.

At 0500 hours on 28 April, the night defensive position of the 2nd and 3rd Platoons of B Company was attacked by an estimated enemy platoon. The enemy's initial assault of RPG's and satchel charges was countered with claymore mines, grenades and small arms fire. The contact persisted with the soldiers engaged in close combat until first light when the enemy fled, leaving behind twelve dead. Although several soldiers were wounded during the course of the action, only one was killed. As soon as the medevacs were completed, sweep operations began again to the south. By 0830 the sweep began to show promising results. A bunker complex was located containing bodies of enemy slain during contacts of the past two days. The complex, consisting of 36 bunkers and fighting positions surrounding a large command bunker, contained the bodies of 14 enemy soldiers. A second bunker complex located 200 meters to the south was also discovered. This complex also contained the bodies of enemy soldiers killed during the previous two days engagements. A search of the 35 bunkers uncovered 20 enemy bodies, one RPD machine gun and one AK-47 rifle. The remainder of the day B Company and the Recon Platoon searched the surrounding areas and destroyed the bunkers. C Company moved

south along the ridge toward B Company, searching out the sides of the ridge line and serving as rear security.

At 0955 hours on the 29th of April, the 3rd Platoon of D Company began receiving limited small arms fire in the vicinity of YD519056. ARA was employed. The enemy attempted to split the platoon in two. Fighting for their lives, the Platoon was able to regroup their forces, and by utilizing a large volume of small arms fire and ARA, they were finally able to rout the enemy. The 1st Platoon and CP of D Company were brought in as reinforcements and were employed as a blocking force for B and C Companies operating to the north. Company B continued its sweep south from Hill 714 along the ridge line. At 1400, B Company's 2nd platoon set off a booby trap. Although no casualties were incurred, the booby trap alerted the enemy and the platoon was brought under heavy fire by automatic weapons and 60mm mortars. The initial fire halted the platoon, but reinforcements were brought up, ARA, field artillery and tactical air strikes were employed. At 1505 a combined assault of the bunker complex was made by Companies B and C with the Recon Platoon screening the flanks. By 1550 two bunker complexes had been taken by close in fighting, and the enemy had been routed. Although one U.S. soldier was killed and several wounded, the enemy suffered a solid defeat. A close check of the area revealed 16 enemy bodies, one M-79 grenade launcher, one RPG launcher, one U.S. M-60 machine gun, one PRC 25 radio,

one B-40 rocket and one AK-47. B and C Companies consolidated their forces and evacuated their wounded.

D Company had established two night positions in the vicinity of the earlier morning contact. An OP from the 1st Platoon saw and engaged one enemy. A squad was brought up to check out the area and they were engaged by an enemy squad in bunkers. The initial burst of fire caused one US casualty. ARA was employed and the enemy fled leaving behind one enemy body.

Company C moved through B Company and became the point element on 30 April to continue the sweep to the south along the ridge from Hill 714. At 1400 a large enemy cache was located by C Company. The cache contained the following weapons: 1 SKS, 14 sniper weapons, 19 French submachine guns, 2 shotguns, 4 60mm mortars (complete), 3 30-caliber machine guns, 1 M-60 machine gun (US), and one RPD machine gun. By the end of April the main defenses of the enemy had been eliminated from the top of Hill 714. Although several large bunker complexes had been overrun and destroyed, the enemy forces had merely displaced and broken into smaller units to harass and delay the Strike Force soldier.

On the first of May, D Company and the third platoon of A Company, 326 Engineers began construction of FSB Shock (YD518056) on the ridge line south of Hill 714. The firebase was established in the heart of the area of contact to provide additional fire support to units in contact with the enemy. The engineers, secured by

Company D, worked under severe adverse conditions and enemy sniper fire to complete the firebase in record time. Upon the completion of the firebase, the mortar platoon of E Company and the Battalion commo group established themselves in the heart of the battle area.

On the 2nd of May the 3rd platoon of Company D encountered an enemy squad in bunkers 500 meters northwest of FSB Shock. The platoon received RPG fire, small arms fire and satchel charges from three sides. The enemy attempted to maneuver to cut off the platoon. The 2nd platoon and Company Command group were brought up as reinforcements. The enemy fled the area leaving behind one body and one AK-47 rifle. The 3rd Platoon of Company D sustained only 3 men slightly wounded.

Company C, continuing sweep operations to the south on the 3rd of May, made contact with the enemy at 1140 hours. The enemy encountered were fighting from well dug in camouflaged bunkers. Contact continued in the same location throughout the day, with the enemy giving no evidence of breaking contact. The enemy utilized tree platforms as well as reinforced bunkers. Although C Company kept up a high volume of fire and was supported by ARA and tube artillery, the enemy stubbornly resisted with small arms fire, PRG fire, automatic weapons fire and 51 caliber machine gun fire. Contact was broken by C Company at 1740 to regroup and call in air strikes on the enemy location. At the end of the day, 27

enemy lay dead, while only one soldier of C Company was killed.

To relieve pressure on the units on Hill 714 ridge line and to open the ridge line west of Hill 714 for operations, the 1st Platoon of D Company and elements of the 3rd Platoon, A Company, 326 Engineers were combat assaulted into YD498047 and began expansion of the LZ. Contact with the enemy was initiated just off the LZ. An estimated 5 or 6 enemy firing small arms were engaged and ARA was called in support. . . . The engineers worked diligently to expand the LZ although they were receiving sniper fire throughout the day. At the end of the day one enemy had been killed while there were no friendly casualties. B Company was extracted from Hill 714 to FSB Shock which one platoon secured while the remainder of the Company screened to the south. Air strikes continued to be employed in support of C Company against enemy locations in vicinity of the previous days contact.

At first light on the morning of 5 May, Company C assaulted the enemy bunker complex on two fronts. A fierce battle persisted for approximately an hour before the bunker complex was overrun and the enemy routed. Five enemy bodies were found in the complex along with three weapons. C Company sustained three killed and several wounded during the attack. On the same day, A Company was combat assaulted on the ridge line to the west, on the LZ constructed by D Company and the engineers the previous day. Contact with the enemy was initiated by A Company while moving off

the LZ to the north. An estimated enemy squad with automatic weapons was engaged by the 1st Platoon. ARA was employed in support and they too received enemy automatic weapons fire. The enemy broke contact and fled to the north leaving behind three bodies. Two Strike Force soldiers were killed in the action.

At 0615 hours on the 6th of May, the defensive position of Company C was hit by an NVA sapper element of unknown size. RPG's, AK-47 fire and satchel charges were employed by the enemy, killing one soldier of C Company in the initial burst. Company C returned fire with claymore mines and small arms fire as the enemy fled. At 1100 hours D Company reinforced C Company. A Company continued sweeping north toward the top of Hill 882. B Company maintained their mission of screening the fire base to the south.

On the seventh of May the bunker complex where C Company had fought the enemy was swept by elements of C and D Companies. All bunkers were destroyed with no enemy resistance. A Company, continuing to sweep north toward the top of Hill 882, located two bunkers destroyed by air strikes and several fresh blood trails. The day ended with negative contacts with the enemy.

A Company continued sweep operations to the north when they initiated contact with the enemy at 1000 hours in the morning of 8 May. An estimated enemy platoon employing grenades, small arms and machine gun fire pinned down the first platoon. The second platoon was brought up as reinforcements and the enemy displaced.

Contact with the enemy was again established as A Company continued to assault up the ridge. ARA was employed with one bird taking automatic weapons fire forcing it to break station and force land at FSB Blaze (YD535020). Both pilots were medevaced. Contact with the enemy was maintained until 1300 when the enemy again displaced leaving behind six bodies and 7 AK-47's. Two U.S. soldiers were killed during the contact. B Company continued screening operations south of FSB Shock while C and D Companies patrolled the ridge south of Hill 714.

Again on the 9th of May, A Company pressed toward the top of Hill 882. An enemy force put at approximately 40 enemy in a bunker complex of 20 to 30 bunkers, engaged the 1st Platoon with fragmentation grenades, RPG's and satchel charges. The platoon withdrew and was reinforced by the 2nd Platoon. After employing heavy artillery and ARA support, the two platoons again attacked the enemy position. After several hours of bitter fighting, the enemy withdrew leaving behind 27 bodies. The platoon leader of A Company's point assault platoon was killed in the action. The Battalion displaced to FSB Veghel and closed FSB Shock. Company B assumed the screening mission south of FSB Veghel. C Company was moved by air to the top of Hill 714 and given the mission of sweeping west to Hill 882. D Company continued sweeping operations south of Hill 714.

On the morning of the 10th of May, D Company was inserted south of Hill 882 and passed through A Company which was then extracted. No enemy contact was made on the 10th of May.

D Company began the sweep north on the 11th of May with no enemy sightings. C Company continued their operations on Hill 714. They began movement to the west to the saddle (YD502072) connecting Hills 714 and 882. A Company began operations to the southwest of FSB Veghial, while B Company continued screening, the mission they assumed until the end of the period.

On the 12th of May the Recon Platoon and elements of the 3rd Platoon, Company A, 326 Engineers repelled onto the top of Hill 882 to cut an LZ. The last helicopter into the area received small arms fire, forcing the chopper to land at Fire Support Base Shock and seriously wounding the pilot. ARA was employed, and the engineers once again began the dangerous and arduous task of blasting an LZ under enemy fire. D Company continued their sweep north to the top of Hill 882 with no enemy contact. Two bunkers were found and destroyed, and two enemy bodies killed by air strikes were found. Twenty-four M-16 rifle magazines were found on and around the bodies indicating the enemy had used M-16 rifles. No weapons were captured, however. C Company continued to move west.

A Company combat assaulted to the top of Hill 882 on the LZ prepared by the engineers on the 11th. They joined forces with the Recon Platoon on the 12th, and began movement along the ridge-line to the east to line up with C Company in the saddle. D Company, having cleaned the ridge to the top of Hill 882, began a sweep back to the south.

While sweeping to the west in the vicinity of YD504071 on the 14th of May, the 2nd platoon of C Company engaged 10 to 15 enemy. The enemy returned fire with RPG's, small arms and mortars. The enemy fled to the south leaving behind four bodies. One U.S. soldier was killed in the engagement.

The 15th of May was uneventful. On the 16th of May at 0430 hours, an enemy sapper platoon launched an attack against the northwestern sector of A Company's night defensive position. Moving under cover of a heavy rainstorm the enemy attacked, employing mortars, B-40 rockets and small arms. Fire was returned by small arms and claymores. Due to the adverse weather, no ARA or flareship could be employed. The enemy broke contact and fled to the east and west. Three enemy fleeing to the east encountered the Recon Platoon in an ambush location. The three enemy were killed, and two AK-47's and 1 RPG launcher were captured. A sweep of A Company's perimeter uncovered two enemy bodies, one AK-47 and one B-40 rocket. Four U.S. soldiers were killed during the attack.

Contact for the next three days was negligible by all units until the morning of 19 May. D Company had been extracted from south of Hill 882 and was given the mission of screening north of FSB Veghel. While moving to the east on the 19th, A Company received fire from a small enemy delaying force. C Company, moving to the west to effect a link up with A Company, encountered a small enemy force also acting as a delaying force. The enemy quickly disengaged from contact. One U.S. soldier was killed, while no enemy bodies could be found.

The Recon Platoon, attached to Company A, assumed the point role on the sweep to the east on the morning of 20 May. At 1130 hours on this morning, contact with the enemy was again established. The Recon Platoon began receiving hostile fire on three sides from RPG's, machine guns and small arms. The enemy attempted to cut off the Recon Platoon from Company A. The 3rd platoon of A Company reinforced the Recon Platoon and the combined forces assaulted the enemy positions. A heavy volume of fire was laid down by both sides. The enemy platoon was routed after an hour, and although many blood trails were found, only one enemy body was left behind. The Recon Platoon sustained three casualties. C Company continued to move toward a link up.

On the morning of 21 May a white team and pink team were employed to scout the gap between A and C Companies. The white team bird took several hits from enemy positions east of A Company,

forcing it to land. The pink team LOH was also hit by enemy fire and forced to land. The bird had to be extracted, but there were negative casualties. At 1900 on the 21st of May, C Company and A Company were linked up.

Throughout the 22nd of May, artillery was employed against the known enemy bunkers, utilizing 8", 105 and 155 artillery batteries.

At first light on the morning of the 23rd, the sweep of the bunker complex began. A Company, reinforced by Company C, swept across the complex with no resistance. The artillery had successfully eliminated this enemy force. A complex of 20 bunkers and 12 hootches were secured and the bodies of twelve enemy were uncovered from the rubble. Mortar rounds, small arms ammo, RPG rounds and assorted documents were discovered in the complex area.

On the 24th, the final police of the area was completed and on the 25th of May the Strike Force Battalion relocated its forces in a new AO east of the Song Bo River.

The Battalion continued to operate in the new AO with negative contact until the morning of 29 May. The second Platoon of D Company, while still in their NDF, YD599102, was engaged by enemy RPG's and small arms. D Company took one US KHA, four US WHA and one scout dog killed. A sniper team was left behind and later in the day killed one NVA soldier.

On the afternoon of May 30th, the 2nd Platoon of Company C was combat assaulted into a hot LZ at YD643060. Although a heavy volume of fire was received there were no casualties.

The month ended with no enemy contact for the Strike Force Battalion.

On 1 June, the Battalion continued to secure FSB Bastogne and conduct saturation and ambush patrols in the AO. Company D remained OPCON to the 2d Battalion 327th Infantry.

The next day, while securing an LZ, the second Platoon of Company C detonated a booby trap wounding seven men.

On June 3 the third Platoon of Company A at YD568119, engaged one enemy moving southwest with negative results.

On the 4th of June, the second Platoon of A Company killed one NVA/VC and captured an AK-50.

There was no action in the AO until 6 June when the 3rd Platoon of Company A began receiving sniper fire at coordinates YD567118. The Platoon took one MIA. ARA was employed with unknown results. Later in the day a member of the Platoon detonated a booby trap and was wounded.

D Company returned to the Strike Force on 8 June, while the CP, 1st and 2nd Platoons of Company B became OPCON to the 1-327th Infantry. The 2nd Platoon of Company A found three graves with NVA/VC killed by air strikes. Also a cache was found with a RPD machine gun, AK-50's, 9mm pistol, ammunition and satchel charges plus 150 pounds of rice.

On 9 June in the vicinity of YD572113, the 2nd and 3rd Platoons engaged an enemy squad at close range. The results were one NVA/VC killed and one U.S. MIA. A sweep found 1100 pounds of rice, mortar rounds, small arms munitions and medical supplies.

The next day, the 2nd Platoon of Company A found the body of an enemy soldier.

On 11 June Company A found another enemy killed by artillery. At YD572112 the Company found a hand crank generator, Chinese aiming pole lights, a tool kit for 82mm mortars and AK-47 ammunition.

On 12 June, Company A's third Platoon found a cache containing 600 pounds of rice, four sets of NVA clothes, two books, a 60mm mortar, 12 AK-47's, a RPD machine gun with ammo and two RPG rounds.

There was no further enemy contact or cache findings, and on 21 June the Battalion returned to Camp Eagle for a well deserved rest and undertook refresher training.

On 22 June, Company A and the Battalion CP went OPCON to the 3rd Brigade and secured FSB Shepard until 25 June when they returned to the Strike Force.

The Battalion continued refresher training until 29 June when the Battalion minus Company A returned to AO and occupied FSB Bastogne. Company A continued refresher training.

The month ended with no further enemy contact in the Strike Force AO.

July opened with the Strike Force continuing to secure FSB Bastogne and conducting saturation patrols in the AO. There was no contact until 5 July when the first platoon of C Company received small arms fire with no casualties and unknown enemy casualties.

There was no more significant action until 9 July when the 2-502d Infantry moved by air from FSB Bastogne to Quang Tri, and then to FSB Shepard where they reopened the firebase. The Strike Force continued to operate around FSB Shepard, employing artillery and mortars with their extensive sweeps with negative casualties for the enemy or the U.S.

On 15 July the Strike Force returned to Camp Eagle for refitting in preparation for a new operation.

The Strike Force moved by air from Camp Eagle to FSB Veghel on 17 July. They were inserted in an AO southeast of Veghel and continued to operate there with light contact until 22 July when they returned to Camp Eagle for training and refitting for a new mission.

On 25 July the Strike Force moved by air to FSB Maureen and opened the firebase. The fourth bird in received small arms fire sustaining two hits and no casualties. While on a sweep, the 2nd platoon of Company D found tree markings, a bunker complex

and numerous fighting positions and a pink team received ground fire from a bunker complex. Chicago Peak had begun.

26 July proved to be fruitful. At 0630 hours, D Company found eight bunkers, a wire commo system and four booby traps. At 0700 hours, a white team spotted numerous large bunkers. At 1312 hours, C Company found a tunnel containing two 82mm rounds and two CS 82mm rounds. At 1415 hours, the Recon Platoon found and destroyed four bunkers. At 1426 hours, A Company's third platoon found nine bunkers, three of which were occupied by 3-4 enemy soldiers. A pink team was employed, killing 1 NVA and discovering two more bodies. At 1530 hours, the 3rd Platoon of Company D found 50-70 fighting positions and some AK-47 ammunition.

Throughout the rest of July the Strike Force continued to operate on and around FSB Maureen. Numerous bunkers were found and some small caches. Contact was very light with no U.S. casualties and enemy losses unknown.

August began and the Strike Force continued operations around FSB Maureen with no significant contact. The first four days of August were characterized by little enemy contact and small findings. Company C found an empty tunnel complex. Company B found four graves with dead NVA while the Recon Platoon found 12 bunkers with no recent activity.

On 5 August, A Company received eight rounds of mortar fire which fell 200 meters east of their position.

For the next six days, action in the Strike Force was confined to A Company. On 6 August, Company A found two trail watcher bunkers. The next day they found a tunnel complex with an M-60 machine gun. On the 8th day they found another tunnel, followed by more bunkers on the 9th. On 10 August, A Company's 2nd platoon took incoming direct fire with no casualties.

11 August was uneventful, and on 12 August the Strike Force returned to Camp Eagle to be refitted for a new mission.

On 13 August the Strike Force moved from Camp Eagle to FSB Barnett. Upon arrival at their LZ, A Company found two dead NVA, and shortly afterward received incoming 60mm mortar fire. Recon Platoon also found action, killing four NVA and having one US KHA along with 3 US WHA.

14 August passed quietly with A Company finding a bunker complex with one dead NVA and equipment including a typewriter and a mimeograph machine.

Heavy contact began early the morning of 15 August and lasted throughout the night and the next day. At 0715 on 15 August a white team received small arms fire, resulting in one U.S. air crewman wounded. At 1245 hours B Company sighted eight enemy at a distance. At 1443 the 3rd Platoon of B Company received mortars and small arms fire. A sweep revealed 1 NVA KIA and miscellaneous ordnance. At 1855, FSB Barnett received 12 rounds of mortar fire with six rounds impacting within

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the perimeter. At 1930 E Company's 3rd Platoon with D Company's 3rd platoon received mortar fire resulting in 3 US WHA from B Company and 2 US WHA and 1 KCS WHA from D Company.

On the morning of the 16th, while still in darkness, the 2nd and 3rd Platoons of B Company and D Company's 3rd Platoon repulsed three ground attacks resulting in one US soldier killed, 11 U.S wounded, 14 enemy killed and 20 enemy killed by artillery. Numerous weapons and ordnance were captured. Later the same morning, the Recon Platoon was engaged by an unknown size enemy force resulting in one Kit Carson Scout wounded. At 1100 hours, C Company combat assaulted into a hot LZ, receiving RPG and small arms fire, grenades and satchel charges. The results were two Strike Force troopers wounded, one NVA killed and one captured, along with numerous ordnance and weapons. Later that day at 1700 hours the 1st Platoon of B Company found six bunkers with one RPD machine gun, 2 AK-47's, 1 telephone, 1 enemy body and several documents including a map. Totals for the day were: 1 US KHA, 13 US WHA, 1 KCS WHA, 16 NVA KIA, 20 NVA KBA, and 1 NVA POW.

The next day contact was very light. The 1st platoon of B Company searched a bunker complex and found hospital facilities, a .30 caliber machine gun, ammunition, clothes, equipment and documents, including a map. At 1400 hours B Company was in contact with no results. The Recon Platoon received incoming 60mm rounds with no casualties.

Contact was light again on the 18th, however, the Recon Platoon engaged an unknown number of enemy, killing one. Also, B Company found a small cache, a bunker complex and a high speed trail.

Contact was heavy on the 19th with Company B clearing an enemy company from the same ridge where its 2nd and 3rd platoon had fought three days prior. The ensuing action resulted in one US soldier killed and five wounded, along with 15 enemy killed in action, 10 killed by artillery and one NVA captured. Captured weapons included 1 RPD, 2 B-40 rocket launchers, 12 AK-47's, 1 82mm mortar tube and 1 9mm pistol.

The 20th of August began with C Company receiving a mortar attack resulting in one C Company trooper killed and seventeen wounded, ten of whom were medevaced. Company B searched a bunker complex, engaged two NVA, killing one and capturing one. AK-47 and two machine guns. Further search found an 82mm mortar base plate, bipod and sighting device, miscellaneous ordnance and several documents.

The 1st Platoon of A Company was engaged with RPD and AK-47 fire on the 21st of August, resulting in one US killed and two wounded, both medevaced. FSB Barnett received 12 rounds of 82mm mortar fire with one round inside the perimeter. There were no casualties.

SECRET

The Strike Force continued operations around FSB Barnett on 22 August with light contact. FSB Barnett received 11 rounds of 60mm mortar fire outside the perimeter. LTC Shay spotted four NVA in the open, employing artillery, killing two.

The 23rd of August was characterized by light contact with only helicopters receiving fire with no results. The next day a pink team destroyed one 60mm mortar and killed one NVA. Company A engaged 6 to 7 enemy resulting in 6 US WHA.

A sniper from A Company killed an enemy at 400 meters on the 25th. D Company was in contact from 1102 hours to 1445 hours resulting in one friendly wounded. The next day D Company received 30 to 50 rounds of mortar and RPG fire, with two men receiving minor wounds. A pink team destroyed eight bunkers while A Company killed 1 NVA from ambush.

The 27th of August showed sporadic contact. FSB Barnett took nine rounds of mortar fire with no damage. D Company killed two enemy from ambush and captured two AK-47's. Company A killed 4 NVA in three contacts and captured two weapons. The next day D Company killed 1 NVA, 1 NVA killed by ARA and one AK-50 captured.

FSB Barnett received ten rounds of 75mm direct fire on 29 August, and D Company was again involved in action against an enemy squad resulting in 5 US wounded, 1 NVA KIA and 1 AK-47 captured.

SECRET

On 30 August the Strike Force returned to Camp Eagle for a well earned rest and a chance to catch up on some training.

Operation Texas Star terminated on 5 September and Operation Jefferson Glen began. The final results for Operation Texas Star were: 37 US KIA, 290 US MIA, 288 medevaced. Enemy casualties known are: 228 KIA, 61 KBA and 2 PW's.

The Strike Force once again performed in an outstanding manner, and moved anxiously into Operation Jefferson Glen.

OPERATION JEFFERSON GLEN

Thua Thien Province

The Strike Force Battalion remained at Camp Eagle and conducted refresher training until 6 September, when operations began in a new area of operations around FSB Normandy. There was no enemy contact on 6 September.

The 1st Platoon of B Company spotted 3 to 4 NVA lying in the sun on 7 September. ARA and artillery were employed resulting in three enemy killed. The Strike Force, on 11 September, moved to FSB Veghel with the mission of conducting saturation patrols in the area while closing the firebase for the monsoon season. There had been no enemy contact in the area since 8 September. D Company engaged three NVA, but with no results.

The enemy went into an avoid contact posture and no more contact was made through 25 September. Numerous indications of the enemy were found, but there was negative contact. On 25 September Company B moved to FSB Veghel to help close the firebase because of the oncoming monsoon season.

There was no enemy contact on the 26th, and plans were made to move to FSB Whip. On 27 September the monsoon weather moved in and all units remained in a defensive posture with no enemy contact. Early on the morning of the 28th, the Strike Force Battalion moved to FSB Whip, and began patrol and ambush operations in the new AO. There was one enemy sighted and

several cultivated fields and small caches were found.

On the 29th of September FSB Whip received 26 rounds of 60mm mortar fire with six impacting inside the perimeter causing four US casualties. September closed with no more enemy contact. Company A found an old grave and a freshly cultivated cornfield. C Company found an abandoned tunnel, while D Company found a cultivated field with fence and rodent traps.

October opened quietly as the Strike Force began the month with company size RIF operations in the vicinity of FSB Whip. Bad weather began to move over the AO necessitating resupply by parachute on 3 October. During the same day, D Company engaged three enemy organic weapons. One friendly soldier was wounded, while enemy results were unknown. FSB Whip was closed. The Battalion returned to Camp Eagle for refitting while the forward CP moved to OP Checkmate. On 7 October, the Battalion inserted into the area north of FSB Bastogne to conduct search and clear operations. Search and clear missions continued until 22 October with no enemy contact. The Battalion returned for a standdown at Camp Eagle for the remainder of the month. Contact during the month was extremely light, although evidence was surfaced that the enemy was present in the AO. The weather affected operations as two typhoons interrupted both field and training operations.

On 1 November the Strike Force moved from Camp Eagle, and deployed to FSB Bastogne, expanding the perimeter defense of the firebase. D Company stayed on Bastogne. Soon thereafter line companies began operations west of Bastogne meeting with very light and sporadic enemy opposition until 14 November when D Company had heavy contact with a small enemy force of sappers. Two US were killed and eleven wounded, while enemy losses were unknown. The foul weather continued to affect tactical operations adversely. There were no significant fire-fights during the rest of the month as the Battalion relentlessly searched for the enemy. The Battalion rotated each of its companies for a 24 hour Thanksgiving standdown on FSB Bastogne and OP Checkmate. On the whole, operations were hampered severely by the weather as poor visibility hindered air support.

Again in December there was very little contact as the enemy continued to avoid engagements. The Battalion continued reconnaissance in force operations in Company and Platoon size elements west of FSB Bastogne. On 3 December the NDP of the Recon Platoon was hit by 82mm mortar fire with no casualties. Several sensors were activated during the period 3-16 December along with a few enemy sightings. Artillery was fired on suspected enemy locations with unknown results. On 18 December an NVA force triggered a mechanical ambush set out by the

Recon Platoon, resulting in five NVA killed and two captured weapons. On 23 December the Battalion returned to Camp Eagle for a seven day standdown. On 30 December the Strike Force returned to the canopy to continue to carry the fight to the enemy, drawing down the curtain on yet another highly successful year of combat operations.

SUMMARY

In 1970, the Strike Force Battalion continued to do battle in its best time honored tradition regardless of difficult mountain terrain, heavily canopied hills, adverse weather conditions, and cagey and elusive enemy. Appropriate tactical adjustments were made continuously to overcome all obstacles and carry the fight to the enemy. Under the able leadership of LTC Roy J. Young and LTC Charles J. Shay, the Strike Force Battalion met the challenge well. The enemy lost 402 killed, 2 captured, and 232 individual and crew served weapons captured. These results attest to the fighting ability of the officers and men who served as members of the 2/502d Battalion during 1970.

PASS IN REVIEW

BATTALION COMMANDERS

CAJUN TIGER - 17 December 1969 through 5 May 1970

ROY J YOUNG
LTC, Infantry
Commanding

SHAMROCK - 5 May 1970 to Present

CHARLES J. SHAY
LTC, Infantry
Commanding

COMPANY COMMANDERS

HHC

CPT PHILLIPS, BEN M	8 Sep 69
CPT CORLEY, MILTON D	2 Mar 70
CPT MEIER, BRUCE R	24 Jul 70
CPT RUDDY, MERTON E	20 Nov 70

A Co

CPT O'CONNOR, JOHN T	17 Aug 69
CPT FALKENBERRY, VICTOR	3 Feb 70
1LT HILL, JAMES T	23 Aug 70
CPT OALLAND, GERALD D	30 Sep 70

B Co

CPT McCORMICK, FRANK E	2 Dec 69
CPT SUYDAN, RICHARD M	9 Jan 70
CPT O'CONNOR, DANIEL A	20 Apr 70
1LT McCAN, ROBERT C	1 Aug 70
CPT CLUETT, JOHN H, JR	6 Oct 70

PASS IN REVIEW

COMPANY COMMANDERS

C Co

CPT NAHAS, ALBERT J	12 Aug 69
CPT SCHCONOVER, JAMES F	20 Jun 70
CPT DILLON, GERALD F	24 May 70
CPT LEFIS, EDWARD B	14 Sep 70
1LT BRIDGES, HUBERT, JR	24 Dec 70

D Co

CPT LEGG, JOHN D	17 Sep 69
CPT MAYER, JOHN D, JR	13 Mar 70
CPT GRIFFITH, JOHN S	6 Jun 70
CPT MORRIS, EDWARD L	27 Nov 70

E Co

CPT McCLURE, CLEN E	14 Jun 69
CPT McCONNICK, FRANK E	16 Jan 70
CPT HOLMAN, ROY G	19 Mar 70
CPT ASHER, SAMUEL E	25 Mar 70
1LT HORGAN, DANIEL E	27 Apr 70
CPT CICCOLLELLA, CHARLES	9 May 70
CPT GAILIN, JAMES A	14 Oct 70

PASS IN REVIEW

BATTALION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

MAJ BRUSCHETTE, JEROME A	1 Nov 69
MAJ HAMBY, JERRELL E	15 Jan 70
MAJ SPENCER, THOMAS A	5 Jun 70
MAJ SEIBERT, GUNTER P	18 Jun 70
MAJ JORDAN, HERBERT A, JR	1 Dec 70

BATTALION S-3s

MAJ WALTERS, FLOYD J	1 Nov 69
MAJ SPENCER, THOMAS A	31 Jan 70
MAJ KITE, PAUL L	5 Jun 70
MAJ SEIBERT, GUNTER P	30 Nov 70

BIBLIOGRAPHY

This history of the 2d Battalion (Airmobile) 502d Infantry for the year 1970 was constructed from the following sources:

1. Daily Situation Reports
2. Operation and Frag Orders
3. After Action Reports

GLOSSARY

AO	-----	Area of Operation
ARA	-----	Aerial Rocket Artillery
ARVN	-----	Army of the Republic of Vietnam
Bn	-----	Battalion
CA	-----	Combat Assault
Canopy	-----	Heavily wooded terrain
Co	-----	Company
CP	-----	Command Post
FSB	-----	Fire Support Base
KBA	-----	Killed by Air or Artillery
KHA	-----	Killed by Hostile Action
KNHA	-----	Killed by Non-hostile Action
KIA	-----	Killed In Action
LZ	-----	Helicopter Landing Zone
NDP	-----	Night Defensive Position
NVA	-----	North Vietnamese Army
POW	-----	Prisoner of War
PZ	-----	Helicopter Pick-up Zone
Recn Platoon	-----	Reconnaissance Platoon
RIF	-----	Reconnaissance In Force
TOC	-----	Tactical Operations Center
WIA	-----	Wounded In Action
WNHA	-----	Wounded by Non-hostile Action
VC	-----	Viet Cong

NORTH VIETNAM

