



# STRIKE

Vietnam War Weekly History



January 14<sup>th</sup> – January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

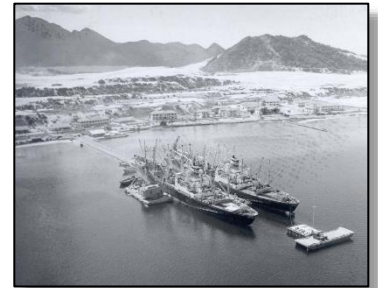
Issue: 83

## Brief History of the 501<sup>st</sup>, 502<sup>nd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade (101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV)

The 502<sup>nd</sup>, or "five-oh-deuce", was activated July 1, 1941 at Fort Benning, Georgia as the 502<sup>nd</sup> parachute infantry battalion, as an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assaults. The 502<sup>nd</sup> entered combat in World War II on June 6, 1944, by jumping into Normandy, with allied forces landing on D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. Between 1945 and 1964. A major reorganization took place on 3 February 1964, when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne was activated at Fort Campbell, replacing the 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Battle Group, 501<sup>st</sup> 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, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry 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 and arrived at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam on 29 July 1965, they were commanded by the most notable commander LTC Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson.



The new 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2d Battalions, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry. December 1967 the 501<sup>st</sup>, 502<sup>nd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade deployed by C-141 aircraft and arrived at Bien Hoa Airbase on 13 December 1967. Over the next five years, Soldiers of the "Ready to Go" Brigade participated in twelve campaigns, compiling of a distinguished combat record as well as an enviable reputation for success in the rehabilitation of a war-torn nation. The Brigade redeployed to Fort Campbell in April 1972.



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**During this week, in the span of 8 years since the 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division deployed in support of the Vietnam War the following are from After Action Reports, Staff Duty Logs, and Personal Accounts. (\* All items have been reproduced from the Unclassified / Declassified Holdings of the National Archives.)**

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14 January 1968 Received ground clearance form CPT Justice for firing 4.2 mortar commencing at 0800H in flowing grid squares. 6716, 6816 and 6916. 1-502 IN BN located a mine field 50x100 meters at XT713187 – believed established by French 1955. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 14 January 1968)

14 January 1968 1-502 IN BN heli-lifted to LZ Gold (XT, 40km WSW of AN Loc, 11km WSW of FSB Parry, 19km S of Cambodian border, 7km W of route 244, 7km NE SUOI BA HOA River and site Battle of Suoi Tre, 21 March 1967), in western III Corps, and worked that area until 19 January 1968.

14 January 1969 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/1-502 IN conducted saturation patrols vicinity YD 5815. At YD 5815, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon found a campfire 4 to 5 hour's old. They checked the area with negative results. B/1-502 IN provided security for FSB T-Bone and conducted RIF operations in the area. C/1-502 IN continued with its mission of bridge and mines weep security at An Lo. At FSB Strike, Recon platoon sighted through field glasses 11 VC at vicinity YD 573175. The VC were engaged with 81mm mortars with negative results.

14 January 1970 C/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, 3<sup>rd</sup> squad found a wallet containing notes written in Vietnamese at location YD82208. They also had a trip flare set off and saw a man running away. This occurred at 823087. A Recon by small arms was made with negative findings.

14 January 1971 The 1-501 IN, Recon platoon in the vicinity YD444121 detonated a BBT. Grenade and trip wire device. Results one US WIA. At YD 452119 found Tu Yet carved into tree. D/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon vicinity YD472112 found cooking utensils and one bunker located at trail orientated N-S. There were signs of activity within the last 24 hours. Delta Company vicinity YD457122 found fifteen pounds of C-4.

15 - 17 January 1966 **Operation VAN BUREN:** 2-502 IN BN moved from PHAN RANG beginning at 0730H to TUY HOA area. Movement was conducted both by Air and LST and was completed on 17 January 1966 at 1700 hours. 2-502 IN (-) relieved ARVN Abn Bde (-) vicinity coordinates CQ2230, established blocking positions and initiated vigorous RECONDO patrolling, denying the enemy routes of advance and protecting the flank of the ROK Marines. The results of this action were 4 VC KIA (EST) and small amounts of equipment captured. 2-502 IN BN then moved from position vicinity PHY KHE to establish a base vicinity TRAM MINH CHINH north of TUY HOA vicinity coordinates BQ 143513. The Battalion closed into this base effective 17 January 1966 at 1645 hours. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Operation Van Buren, After Action Report 150600H January 1966 – 201200 February 1966)

15 January 1968 D/2-501 IN elements located hootch with fresh food in its interior, also fresh foot tracks leading from hootch. 2-501 IN BN, Recon platoon located poncho, supplies, pistol belt and written notes vicinity XT704115. D/2-501 IN sighted VC from platinum Lo.5 up 0.6 XT 715126. D/2-501 IN discovered rocket pad, small cache of rice, stove and other cooking equipment vicinity 713127. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 15 January 1968)

15 January 1968 1-502 IN BN conducted search and destroy mission from LZ Gold. Scattered very light contact made. Negative results.

15 January 1969 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** 1-502 IN BN continued its mission of providing security for an Lo, FSB T-Bone and FSB Strike. RIF operations were also conducted.

15 January 1970 B/2-501 IN found 14 booby-trap, 11 of which were made of 60mm mortar rounds.

15 January 1970 C/1-502 IN in the vicinity of 819085 found 2 pair of footprints made by Hoi Chi Minh sandals. B/1-502 IN found one hootch 10x18 feet. The hootch was used in the past 7-10 days. In the hootch they found 1 NVA belt, C-rations and chow at vicinity 737025. Agent report indicates there may be an attempt to destroy Pohl Bridge.

16 January 1968 2BDE ends its "in-country orientation and training phase" and conducts OPERATION NORMANDY in the area around Cu Chi, Vietnam.

16 January 1968 During the early morning hours, A/1-502 IN ambush on river, fired on sampan. Results, 4 NVA KIA (BC). During daylight hours, Battalion continued search and destroy operations and captured 3 POW's. Battalion formed into NDP's for night.



16 January 1968

**Operation SAN ANGELO:** Operation Began (2-502 IN); Locations: Phuoc Long Province, RVN. Task Organization: A/2-502 IN, B/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN, Reconcos. Battalion Control: 3(-) A/326 ENG, C/2-320 ARTY (DS), Mortar Platoon (DS), IPW, 181 MI Detach. The following changes were made in the task organization during Operation SAN ANGELO. (1) 2-327 IN BN assumed OPCON B/2-502 IN effective 22 Jan at 1029 hours and released OPCON 27 Jan at 1600 hours. (2) 2-17 CAV assumed OPCON A/2-502 IN effective 28 Jan at 1000 hours and released OPCON 29 Jan at 1000 hours. (3) 2-17 Cav assumed OPCON C/2-502 IN effective 29 Jan at 1110 hours and released OPCON 21 Jan at 1600 hours. (4) II FFV CP assumed OPCON C/2-502 IN effective 05 Feb at 1310 hours and released OPCON 10 Feb at 1000 hours. (5) MACV HQS assumed OPCON B/2-502 IN effective 07 Feb at 1300 hours and released OPCON 09 Feb at 1750 hours. (6) On numerous occasions platoon size elements of 2-502 IN BN were released from OPCON to various units on Song Be perimeter for defensive patrolling and ambushes. The BDE LRRP's were released for OPCON to the 2-502 IN BN on numerous occasions for the same type of mission.

Mission: The 2-502 IN BN conduct heliborne assault into western portion of assigned AO and established a fire base within 105mm and 155mm supporting distance of SONG BE and conducted search and destroy operations to the East and Southeast in assigned AO. Assumed BDE IAF beginning D+3. Elements of 2-502 IN BN relieved 2-327 IN BN in place at mini-firebases and BN (-) assumed mission of BDE reaction force and performed security mission at Song Be. The 2-502 IN BN tasked as DIV IAF vicinity BIEN HOA-SAIGON. (AAR 17FEB1968)

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

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Authorized:           | 778 |
| Assigned:             | 687 |
| Present for Duty:     | 610 |
| Not present for duty: | 77  |

16 - 18 January 1968

**Operation SAN ANGELO:** At 0825H, the 2-502 IN BN conducted an airmobile assault into LZ Green vicinity YU080138 closing at 1706H. The insertion was unopposed. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Operation San Angelo, Combat After Action Report; 17 February 1968)

16 January 1969

**Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/1-502 IN conducted saturation patrols vicinity YD6015. B/1-502 IN provided security at FSB T-Bone with 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon conducting RIF operations in the vicinity. C/1-502 IN provided bridge and mine sweep security at AN LO. D/1-502 IN conducted saturation patrols vicinity YD 5516. D/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon found 1 dud 750lb bomb at YD 561158. It was later destroyed in place by an EOD team.

16 January 1970

1-501 IN BN scored again while on a recon patrol, this time the Battalion discovered and destroyed 17 enemy bunkers about 4 miles west of Hue.

16 January 1970

**Operation RANDOLPH GLENN:** The 1-502 IN BN is engaged in Operation Randolph Glen. Nam Hoa reports D/27 ENG personnel will join the woodcutters who found the land mine at Pohl Bridge and move to mines location. B/1-502 IN received two rockets from a slick, proximately there were no casualties. C/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon, a Soldier accidentally discharged his weapon and the muzzle flash cut his finger. Agents reports 12 VC/NVA took 300lbs of rice from the Thien Monetary last night.

16 January 1971

A/1-501 IN found bunker complex in vicinity of YD520234. D/1-501 IN in the vicinity of YD460117 found six bunkers.

17 January 1968

1-502 IN BN continued with search and destroy mission. Light contact during time period. A bunker and tunnel complex were found and destroyed. Results: Enemy: 1 VC KIA (BC); AK - 47 Captured

17 - 18 January 1968

**Operation SAN ANGELO:** The 2-502 IN BN TAC CP vicinity YU080138 received AW fire. Negative US casualties - enemy losses unknown. CH-47 received a few rounds but flew back to SONG BE. (HQ, 2-502 IN: Operation SAN ANGELO, Combat After Action Report; 17 February 1968)

17 January 1969

**Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/1-502 IN moved to FSB Strike and then lifted to FSB T-Bone. A/1-502 IN began providing security for FSB T-Bone. At YD 586174, A/1-502 IN found an old hooch containing 1 SKS, 1 AK-47, 1 M1 Carbine and some ammunition. B/1-502 IN was lifted from FSB T-Bone to FSB Strike. D/1-502 IN moved to FSB Strike and was then lifted to LZ Sally. Recon platoon departed FSB Strike and conducted RIF operations.

17 January 1970

1-501 IN BN found 10 booby-traps and a bunker complex with sleeping positions and the 2-501 IN found two warheads and a 122mm rocket during a patrol. (Screaming Eagle, 1970)

17 January 1970

**Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** D/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> squad is training 25 PF's from 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon on compass and map reading. 2<sup>nd</sup> squad is training 10 men from the 110 PF platoon on hand grenade and the M72 LAW. Convoys continue from Phy Bai to and from FSB Birmingham to Phu Bai. Medivac called for and completed for Recon team vicinity YD732138. One man with hyper-ventilation medevaced to 85<sup>th</sup> Evac. Hospital. B/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon medivac requested and received for 1 man with fever, chills and sweating.

17 January 1971

A/1-501 IN BN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon vicinity YD502214 received 2-3 AK-47 rounds, also found a network of trails covered with footprints. ARA employed with negative results. 1/CP/D found ten booby traps on FB Kathlyn. Recently destroyed.



18 – 20 January 1966

**Operation VAN BUREN:** One company from 2-502 IN BN occupied a designated portion of defensive position of Tuy Hoa North airfield and the Battalion (-) conducted Recondo patrols. The Recondo platoon conducted a joint ARVN/Recondo patrol vicinity coordinates BQ129539. 2-502 IN BN conducted a search and destroy operation using infiltrated Recondo patrols as guides and blocking positions at 2030H vicinity coordinates BQ1158. This operation was terminated on 20 January at 1745H. Also, during this period, the Recondo platoon conducted joint operations with RF/PF forces in a sweep of a village vicinity BQ150558. The results of the Battalion's operation for this period were no friendly losses, 6 VC KIA (BC), 2 NC KIA (EST), 1 WIA (BC), 3 WIA (EST) and 8 VCS. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Operation Van Buren, After Action Report 150600H January 1966 – 201200 February 1966)

18 January 1968

Flame throwers were used on tunnels as 1-502 IN BN continued its search and destroy operations.

18 January 1968

2-501 IN BN at 0030H commenced movement from Camp Cu Chi to the village of Tan Hoa with C/2-501 IN leading, followed by D/2-501 IN and battalion, and while moving through A/2-501 IN vicinity XT671143, cordon of village in place at 6340. C/2-501 IN received 6 rounds at 0555H, no casualties. At 0600H received 8 rounds SA fire from inside of village and did not appear they were firing at 2-501 IN BN. Village search began at 0730H by 2 RF/PF companies and intelligence platoon from Phu Hoa province. 2-Chieu Hoi's province chiefs were on hand. Results: 19 detainees, 2 VC's, and all were taken to Province Headquarters for further interrogation. 2 RF/PF companies conducted sweep of village with C/2-501 IN blasting, all action completed at 1500H. C/2-501 IN closed Cu Chi at 1540H. A/2-501 IN established 3 platoons sized ambushed at XT677078, XT080166 and XT683156 in position at 1959H negative contact. Simulated Mortar Auth. drill at 2300H. B/2-501 IN remained OPCON to CG, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV at Bien Hoa; 2-501 IN BN, Recon platoon continued training with ARVN 15<sup>th</sup> DIV Recon camping at Phu Cuong vicinity XT809140. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 18 January 1968)

18 January 1969

C/1-501 IN Geronimo's sank four sampans on an unauthorized water way, killing two VC and capturing their AKs. Paratroopers of 2-501 IN BN completed air assaults into landing zones north of the KHE LO MOI Valley. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)

18 January 1969

**Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/1-502 IN provided security for FSB T-Bone. 1<sup>st</sup> platoon conducted RIF operations from FSB T-Bone to vicinity YD6529. B/1-502 IN conducted saturation patrols in vicinity YD5817. C/1-502 IN provided security for bridge and mine sweep team at An Lo. 1<sup>st</sup> platoon conducted RIF operations to LZ Sally. C/1-502 IN was move by truck from An Lo to LZ Sally. D/1-502 IN conducted a maintenance stand-down at LZ Sally. They conducted a C/A from LZ Sally to LZ YD688318, LZ YD688304 and LZ YD673305. After completion of the C/A, D/1-502 IN conducted search and clear operation in vicinity YD6831, YD6830 and YD6730. E/1-502 IN (-) established fire support for FSB Strike. Company (-) was lifted from FSB Strike to LZ Sally and FSB T-Bone. Recon platoon conducted saturation patrols in vicinity YD5816 and YD5817. Psyops operations were conducted in the central area of Quang Dien District.

18 January 1970

A/2-501 IN BN engaged and enemy force of unknown size about 20 miles south-southwest of Hue. ARA was called in and three NVA soldiers were killed.

18 January 1970

A 2 ½ ton truck turned over in a convoy located at 728114. The MP's investigated with negative hostile action found. The Brigade Commander helicopter took ground fire of at least 10 rounds at YD549051. Medivac requested and received for A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon due to one Soldier with accidental M79 wound in hand. The weapon caught on vine and discharged at location YD717195. D/2-502 IN became OPCON to 1-502 IN BN at 0800 hours.

18 January 1971

A/1-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon vicinity YD504220 sighted one enemy and employed small arms fire. Results one blood trail.

19 January –  
21 February 1966

**Operation VAN BUREN:** Operation Van Buren begins in Phu Yen Province where the recently relocated 1BDE, 101st Airborne (1-327 IN BN, 2-502 BN), ROK 2nd Marine Brigade and ARVN 47th Regiment are to locate and destroy the NVA Regiment 95 (believed to be in the Tuy Hoa Valley) and to protect the rice harvest in the coastal region. The 1BDE was still moving from Phan Rang. As they arrived at Tuy Hoa, they moved into operational areas. The joint operation claimed 679 known enemy casualties. The USA results were 282 enemy KIA plus 66 KBA, 33 captured and 238 suspects detained, over 100 weapons, and several caches of ammo and supplies were taken. The 1BDE's casualties were 55 KIA and 221 WIA.



19 January 1968 LT Bishoff spotted VC boat camouflaged and 2 camouflaged hut vicinity XT750213. At 1945H, CU CHI base camp came under mortar attack, commenced counter mortar. Nonstop 33 in the area and spotted mortar flashes expended all his ammo. At 1950H, D/2-501 IN reported small arms hitting all around position, working on getting it moved out. At, 1955H, mortars 800m from position, 6000 mills. Mortar firing believed to have stopped and D/2-501 IN reported one lightly wounded casualty. At 2002H, A/2-501 IN reported that they had 4 rounds which landed between their position and B/2-501 IN position. D/2-501 IN patrol now appears to be suffering from blast. Back area medic checking now. Explosions in D/2-501 IN area wounded man does not need evacuation. At 2008H, battalion S-3 reported that no casualties in base camp area. Casualty on patrol, not serious. Patrol adjusting firing, LT Bishoff adjusting fire from Bird Dog. 2BDE requested All clear, get count of personnel and rounds that came into the area.

Summary of 19 January 1968 reporting period: A/2-501 IN ambush patrols returned from ambush site at 0700H with negative contact. 2-501 IN BN, Recon platoon returned from training with ARVN unit at PHU CUONG. Platoon size ambush from D/2-501 IN established at 1925H vicinity XT637177 with negative contact. Approximately 1940H CU CHI base camp came under mortar attack with approximately 33 rounds impacting in the Base Camp complex. D/2-501 IN patrol observed enemy mortar flashes vicinity XT636187; mortar attack ended approximately at 1955H. 2-501 IN BN had no casualties, one man from D/2-501 IN patrol suffered lost injury. B/2-501 IN remained OPCON to CG, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 19 January 1968)

19 January 1968 1-502 IN Battalion returned to CU CHI and had light contact during the period. Results: 5 WIA

19 January 1969 As the 2-501 IN BN invaded enemy areas, B/2-501 IN killed three and captured two weapons. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)

19 January 1969 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/1-502 IN provided security for FSB T-Bone. They also sent out a platoon sized ambush and platoon sized operations. B/1-502 IN conducted saturation patrols in vicinity YD 5816. At YD 588153, B/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon found fresh Ho Chi Minh sandal[sic] tracks leading to the north. The tracks were followed with negative results. C/1-502 IN OPCON to 2-501 IN BN was lifted from LZ Sally to FSB Birmingham. D/1-502 IN conducted saturation patrols in vicinity YD 6830. At YD 705310, D/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon picked up 2 detainees, evacuated to QUANG DIEN District headquarters, classified as IC and released. At YD 718319, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon found 1 M26 hand grenade booby trapped. It was destroyed in place. Recon platoon conducted saturation patrols under OPCON to B/1-502 IN.

19 January 1970 C/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon found 1 bunker 4' deep 2' wide about 1-5 months old. They also found 3 expended 75mm rounds with case 1-5 months old. There were no trails in the area. C/1-502 IN found 100-150 bones in cages. Estimated number of personnel to be 25.

19 January 1970 2-502 IN BN discovered 275mm recoilless rifle rounds, 4 60mm mortar rounds and 8 82mm mortar rounds, about 13 miles southwest of Hue. Near the cache site the "STRIKE Force" troopers found 75 to 100 fighting positions.

19 January 1971 A/1-501 IN BN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon vicinity YD501221 found a large network of trails oriented along the ridgeline. A/1-501 IN vicinity YD508231 found one RPG round. 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon vicinity YD504216 found one set of footprints orientated southeast. There were three punji pits on the trail. A/1-501 IN vicinity YD508213 detonated one booby trap. Results one US WIA.

20 – 26 January 1968 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Task Force of the 101st Airborne Division, usually consisted of:

Hq and Hq Co, 2d Bde  
 1-501 Abn Inf Bn  
 2-501 Abn Inf Bn  
 1-502 Abn Inf Bn  
 1-321 Abn FA Bn 2d Plat,  
 A Btry 1-11 FA Bn, 2nd Plat  
 C Co, 326 Engr Bn  
 B Co, 326 Med Bn            2d FASC Plat, 501 Sig Bn  
 2d Plat, 101 MP Co  
 Team, 101 MI Co  
 265 Radio Research Co  
 34th Photo Interpretation Team  
 Support Units, 101 Div Spt Cmd  
 including 2d Plat, A Co, 801 Maint Co

...had been in its base camp near Cu Chi, west of Saigon, for about a month.

Arriving in mid-December by airlift from Fort Campbell, KY, its battalions had been conducting "in country orientation and training" operations in areas near its base camp, where there was a fair amount of enemy but not much in the way of results considering the casualties we suffered. The battalions had completed Operation Normandy, which consisted of "search and destroy" operations run by brigade from its Cu Chi command post.

Orders from division had then sent the 2BDE TF to operate under division control in mechanized/airborne infantry operations with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in the Michelin rubber plantation near An Loc to the north. After four days beating the bushes with little contact, on 22 January we learned that General Westmoreland had ordered the brigade task force to move hundreds of miles north to come under the operational control of the 1st Cavalry Division.



That morning, while part of the 1-501 IN BN was helicopter-borne in a combat assault, we were told to cancel that operation and to assemble the entire 1-501 IN BN at Cu Chi, to move by C-130 aircraft the next day from its airstrip and that the rest of the brigade would follow.

The brigade journal, 23 January: "1-501 IN BN and A/1-321 FA departed Cu Chi with all essential fighting equipment for Phu Bai, RVN, as the initial element of the 2d Brigade... A total of 21 C-130 sorties lifted 806 personnel, 51 vehicles, and 7 equipment pallets... The first chalk departed 0835 hours and the last chalk departed 1916 hours. Rear detachment of 1-321 FA and communications for the BDE HHC will depart Cu Chi on 24 January for Phu Bai."

At 0733 hours on the morning of 26 January, with the brigade tactical command post, I left Cu Chi. The 1st Cavalry Division had decided that the 1-502 IN BN, our last battalion to depart Cu Chi, with an artillery battery would fly directly to Quang Tri where it would be opcon to the CAVs 1BDE. By the evening of the 26th the bulk of the 2BDE task force that was scheduled for Phu Bai had arrived, and the 1-502 IN BN would close into Quang Tri on 27 January.

From the brigade situation report of 1500 hours on January 26, to the CG, 101st Airborne Division: "2d Bde Tac CP group arrived Hue approximately 26 Jan at 1000 hours. CO and party moved to 1st Air Cav Div CP. CO reported to CG, 1 ACD, at 261130 Jan. 2d Bde CP opened at 1200. J H Cushman, Col. Inf, Commanding.

The adventures of the Second Brigade Task Force were about to begin.

20 January 1968

Bunker 56 reported that they were receiving sniper fire at 0500H and were answering back with M-79 fire. They reported firing five rounds and received approximately six single shot rounds landing somewhere in helipad. Bunker 56 & 58 reported at 0628H that they received approximately 30 rounds of automatic and small arms fire from their right of Bunker 58. Bunker 57 reported at 2055H that they received one round of SA fire, landing in helipad. At 2115H, all companies alerted of ground and mortar attack; at 2122H came under mortar attack. Negative results. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 20 January 1968)

20 January 1968

**Operation SAN ANGELO:** B/2-502 IN at 1310 hours' vicinity YU081079 received SA fire. Fire was returned with negative results. (HQ, 2-502 IN: Operation SAN ANGELO, Combat After Action Report; 17 February 1968)

20 January –  
04 February 1968

1-502 IN BN conducted recon in force operations in new AO with light contact. Results: 1 WIA Captured, and 1 AK-47 captured.

20 January 1969

**Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/1-502 IN continued to provide security for FSB T-Bone. 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon conducted operations in vicinity YD6421. B/1-502 IN conducted saturation patrols in vicinity YD5917. At YD592182, B/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found fresh footprints, 2 sampans and a well-used trail running from north to south. At YD588184, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found a dirt stairway cut into a hillside. At YD588183, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found there three 2-man bunkers and destroyed them. D/1-502 IN (-) conducted saturation patrol vicinity YD7131. 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon was located at LZ Sally as BDE RRF Recon platoon under OPCON B/1-502 IN conducted saturation patrols. At YD580182, Recon platoon found a sampan landing area and a tunnel, neither of which showed signs of recent use.

20 January 1970

**Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** Recon team 1 detected movement 100 meters from YD733138. C/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> squad located a booby trap in the vicinity of 764068 and destroyed it with small arms fire. C/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon found a pair of sneaker in the vicinity of 782064.

20 January 1970

**Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** The 2-502 IN BN came under the operational control of 2BDE. 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 through the operation. One enemy was killed by Bravo Company during the operation. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)



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**During this week, in the span of 8 years since the 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division deployed in support of the Vietnam War the following awards were awarded to the service members during combat operations.**

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1 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
6 x Bronze Star Medal (5 x Posthumously)  
9 x Purple Heart Medal (9 x Posthumously)  
5 x Died from Non-hostile injuries or illness

14 January 1972



PFC Richard L. Wilson (C/1-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty during an explosive accident at Hue Southwest Airfield in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

15 January 1971



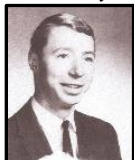
CPL Robert E. Sharpe (HHC/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when a booby trap detonated in the Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.

16 January 1972



CPT Richard J. Hock (HHC/2-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes (Air loss or crash land) as a ground casualty while on OH-6A #69-16070 when rotor strike on the ground 8km S-SE of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

17 January 1968



SP4 Robert L. Burrell (B/1-501 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as the result of drowning which occurred during a defensive position with his unit in the Binh Duong Province, Republic of Vietnam.

17 January 1970



2LT Warren S. Hall (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when killed while on a combat operation when a booby trap detonated in the vicinity of FSB Jack 10 KM SW of Camp Evans, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

17 January 1970



SGT James E. Lakins (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when killed while on a combat operation when a booby trap detonated in the vicinity of FSB Jack 10 KM SW of Camp Evans, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.



17 January 1970



SP4 Robert H. Miller (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when killed while on a combat operation when a booby trap detonated in the vicinity of FSB Jack 10 KM SW of Camp Evans, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

17 January 1970



SP4 David A. Sweet (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when killed while on a combat operation when a booby trap detonated in the vicinity of FSB Jack 10 KM SW of Camp Evans, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 January 1969

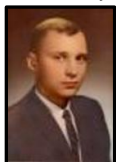
PFC Alan D. Ela (E/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

19 January 1968



CPL Donald A. Coffin (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while he was in base camp when the area came under a hostile mortar and recoilless rifle attack in the Hau Nghia Province, Republic of Vietnam.

19 January 1967



SGT Joseph Gerwatowski (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while he was in base camp when the area came under a hostile mortar and recoilless rifle attack in the Hau Nghia Province, Republic of Vietnam.

19 January 1968

PFC James R. Moore (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while he was in base camp when the area came under a hostile mortar and recoilless rifle attack in the Hau Nghia Province, Republic of Vietnam.

20 January 1966



PFC Anthony Skodmin (C/2-502 IN) died of Non-hostile causes from a gunshot wound in the head when he was dismounting from a truck when the weapon of an individual in the truck accidentally discharged, in the Province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.

20 January 1969



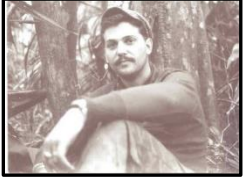
SPC Jimmy L. Green (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on combat operations when engaged by hostile force in a firefight in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.





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

17 January – 27 July 1969



MAJ Jerome A. Bruschette (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (2-OLC) for distinguishing himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period of 17 January to 27 July 1969. Through his untiring efforts and professional ability, he consistently obtained outstanding results. He was quick to grasp the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever-changing situations inherent in a counterinsurgency operation and to find ways and means to solve those problems. The energetic application of his extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United States Mission to the Republic of Vietnam to assist that country in ridding itself of the communist threat to its freedom. His initiative, zeal, sound judgement and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon him and on the military service. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 9841; 28 July 1969)

20 January 1969

CPL Brian S. Williams (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 20 January 1969. Corporal Williams distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader in Company B, 2d Battalion, and 501st Infantry. Company B was on a reconnaissance in force operation in the mountainous jungle near Hue, Republic of Vietnam, when Corporal Williams' platoon was ambushed by an enemy force of undetermined size, employing automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire. In the initial exchange of fire, one man was killed and three were wounded. With his squad pinned down and disorganized, Corporal Williams realized that it would suffer even more serious casualties unless the enemy firepower was neutralized. With completed disregard for his own safety, Corporal Williams rallied his men and personally directed their fire toward the concealed enemy positions. Under intense enemy fire he then brought his squad on line and assaulted the North Vietnamese by fire. A sweep of the area later revealed numerous blood trails left by the fleeing North Vietnamese. Corporal Williams' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2193; 20 January 1969)



# ACRONYMS

ACAV: Armored Cavalry  
AD: Americal Division  
AD: Airborne Division (Would be after numeric numbers)  
AO: Area of Operations  
ARA: Aerial Rocket Artillery  
ARCOM: Army Commendation Medal  
ARVN: Army of the Republic of Viet Nam (also known as the South Vietnamese Army (SVA))  
BDE: Brigade  
BN: Battalion  
BSM: Bronze Star Medal  
BBT: Booby Traps  
CA: Combat Assault  
CANOPY: Heavily Wooded Terrain  
CO: Company  
CP: Command Post  
DSC: Distinguished Service Cross  
DZ: Drop Zone  
FSB: Fire Support Base  
HQ: Headquarters  
IED: Improvised Explosive Device  
IFFV: I Field Force Vietnam  
IN: Infantry  
KBA: Killed by Air or Artillery  
KHA: Killed by Hostile Action  
KIA: Killed in Action  
KNHA: Killed by Non-Hostile Action  
LZ: Helicopter Landing Zone  
MI: Military Intelligence  
MOH: Medal of Honor  
MP: Military Police  
NDP: Night Defensive Position  
NVA: North Vietnamese Army  
OBJ: Objective  
OP: Observation Post  
PAVN: People Army of Vietnam  
POW: Prisoner of War  
PF: Popular Forces  
PZ: Helicopter Pick-up Zone  
Recon Platoon: Reconnaissance Platoon  
RIF: Reconnaissance in Force  
RF: Regional Force  
ROK: Republic of Korea  
SA: Situational Awareness  
SIGINT: Signal Intelligence  
SSM: Silver Star Medal  
STRIKE Force: 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry  
SVA: South Vietnamese Army  
TF: Task Force  
TOC: Tactical Operations Center  
USARV: United States Army Vietnam  
USARPAC: United States Army Pacific  
WIA: Wounded in Action  
WHA: Wounded by Hostile Action  
WNHA: Wounded by Non-Hostile Action  
"V": Valor  
VC: Viet Cong

