



# STRIKE

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## 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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- 27 May 1967      **Operation MALHEUR:** Two light contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 2 VC KIA (C). (HQ, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)
- 27 – 28 May 1968      1-501 IN BN cordons Thon Xuan Hoa resulting in 4 NVA/ VC KIA, 3 NVA/ VC POWs, and 750 lbs. of rice captured.
- 27 May 1968      1-502 IN BN made light contact during the day's operations. Result: Friendly: 1 WIA BBT, 1 KIA BBT; Enemy: 1 VC KIA (BC), 1 VC POW.
- 27 May 1969      **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** Activity was relatively light in the AO as a bomb damage assessment (BDA) was conducted in the area of the B-52 strikes and all units continued RIF operations in the area. At 1005H, D/1-502 IN, vicinity BT130081 found the remains of 4 NVA KIA. (HQ, 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)
- 27 May 1969      **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** The 1-502 IN BN continued to operate to the northwest of FSB PROFESSIONAL. B/1-502 IN sustained 3 US WIA as a result of friendly fires. D/1-502 IN apprehended 26 VN detainees and sustained 1 US WIA from a stray S/A round. The Recon platoon accounted for 27 VN detainees. All detainees were evacuated to TAM KY. The 81mm mortar platoon was extracted from PZ vicinity BT069066 at 1120 hours and returned to the battalion rear at FSSE.
- 27 May 1969      **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** Activity was relatively light in the AO as a bomb damage assessment (BDA) was conducted in the area of the B-52 strikes and all units continued RIF operations in the area. At 0615H, B/2-17 CAV flew into the B-52 area and began to assess the results. At 0735H, B/2-17 CAV, vicinity BT270735, engaged a two-man enemy force, recording 2 NVA KIA. At 1005H, D/1-502 IN, vicinity BT130081, found the remains of 4 NVA KIA. At 1225H, the Aero-Rifle Platoon, B/2-17 CAV, was inserted vicinity BT185005 to further check out a portion of the B-52 strike area. Almost immediately the unit received sniper fire; the Aero-Rifle Platoon returned fire, surrounded the enemy sniper and captured him and two individual weapons. However, the PW died before evacuation and the platoon was extracted without incident. The BDA had revealed significant bunker and structure damage as well as numerous trails interdicted but limited in enemy casualties. At 1430H, B/3-17 CAV, vicinity BT172995, engaged and killed 1 NVA in the open. At 11725H, A/1-46 IN, vicinity BT213075, observed an estimated enemy platoon in the open at a range of 600 meters; the element employed artillery which accounted for 5 NVA KIA. (HQ, 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)
- 27 May 1970      A/1-501 IN and D/1-502 IN were released from OPCON of the 1-506 IN BN and returned by air to FSB BIRMINGHAM and control of the parent unit. The 1-501 IN BN terminated battalion refresher training and assumed control of area Whisky from the 1-502 IN BN. The 1-502 IN BN moved to PHU BAI Combat Base to prepare for battalion refresher training to begin on 28 May.
- 2BDE continued operations in the piedmont in the northern fringes of the canopy of THUA THIEN Province and conducted extensive patrol and night ambush operations in coordination with territorial forces to deny the enemy access to the population in the coastal lowlands. (Operation Report – HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 July 1970; 15 August 1970)
- 27 May 1970      **Operation TEXAS STAR:** All units of the 1-502 IN BN are in PHU BAI for refresher training and stand-down. A Soldier from B/1-502 IN was Division Soldier of the Month.
- 28 – 29 May 1968      **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** 2BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operations in support of Operation NEVADA EAGLE to limit and disrupt attempts made by the enemy to extort the VN rice production throughout the coastal plains area, and to seek out and destroy enemy forces and installations in the 2BDE AO. Contact was light with a total of 2 contacts. Today's statistics: 1 US WIA (medevac); Enemy assessment: 1 AK-47, 2 SKS, 2 BAR, 1 M-1, 1 bolt action carbine and 1100 rounds SA ammo.

**1-501 IN BN**

A/1-501 IN returned to OPCON 1-501 IN BN effective 0920H. Conducted an airlift from vicinity YD915214 with 2 platoons to COCO Beach. One (1) platoon to FSB MONGOOSE. Closed at 1045H. Elements assumed security mission of COCO Beach installation and FSB MONGOOSE from B/1-501 IN.

B/1-501 IN provided security of COCO Beach installation vicinity YD845320 and established an LP vicinity YD847317. B/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon provided security for FSB MONGOOSE and secured minesweep N and S from FSB MONGOOSE. At 0940H, B/1-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon conducted airlift from vicinity YD844321 to an LZ vicinity YD795254. Closed LZ at 1030H. At 1000H, B/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon departed FSB MONGOOSE and moved to link up with B/1-501 IN



(-) at YD795254, closed at 1100H. Conducted RIF operation SE to vicinity YD815249. Occupied night position vicinity YD814251.

C/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD813239. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD805243 and YD807231. Established night position vicinity YD806231.

D/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD808231 and ambushed vicinity YD810227 and YD803228. At 2045H vicinity YD808231 engaged and killed 1 VC. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD825219. AT 1120H vicinity YD825219 received SA fire from 2 VC/NVA. Fire was returned. Negative casualties; Negative enemy assessment. At 1405H the PF platoon with D/1-501 IN was airlifted from vicinity YD829224 and returned to HUONG THUY. Established night position vicinity YD830218.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD806252 and ambushed vicinity YD796251. Returned to FSB MONGOOSE. Closed 0945H. At 1122H airlifted to vicinity YD808188. Platoon (-) remained for security mission and one squad moved to vicinity to provide security for bridge.

### **2-501 IN BN**

A/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD641260 and ambushed vicinity YD628242, YD615241, YD614258 and YD636253. A/2-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD630242, YD605242, YD608263 and returned to A/2-501 IN company CP vicinity YD641260. At 0840H vicinity YD635248 destroyed 2 BBT (1 grenade and 1 60mm mortar). At 1040H vicinity YD605240 destroyed 1 BBT grenade. A/2-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD616268, YD616252 and returned to A/2-501 IN company CP. Established night position vicinity YD634259.

B/2-501 IN provided security for HUE Bridges and improved defensive positions.

C/2-501 IN (-) provided security for FSB PINKY. C/2-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon with 1 PF platoon provided security for a MEDCAP vicinity YD703274. Reinforced C/2-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon provided security for OP/SB T-Bone and established OP's vicinity YD661202 and YD650204. One (1) squad conducted patrol to vicinity YD646196, YD639199 and returned.

D/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD597270 with ambushes vicinity YD601268 and YD596264. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD595291. At 0915H vicinity YD595285 sustained 1 US WIA (medevac) from BBT 105 round. D/2-501 IN continued RIF operation to YD591281 and YD600280. At 1823H conducted a combat assault from PZ vicinity YD600280 to LZ vicinity YD642257. Closed LZ at 1902H and established night position vicinity YD638257.

Recon platoon (working with 1 PF platoon and 1 RF platoon) occupied night position vicinity YD652244 with ambushes vicinity YD656224 and YD646237. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD661258, YD648253 and returned to YD652244.

### **1-502 IN BN**

A/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO Bridge, and ambushed vicinity YD600310, YD606312 and secured minesweep team from AN LO Bridge to vicinity YD611213. Conducted a mounted patrol along QL 1 from AN LO Bridge to vicinity YD595308.

B/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD719303. Provided security for bulldozers operating vicinity YD718302. At 1120H vicinity YD717301 bulldozer operations uncovered 2 BAR's, 1 M-1, 1 bolt action carbine, 1 SKS, 700 rounds SA ammo. Returned to night position vicinity YD719303.

C/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD700293 with ambushes vicinity YD694290, YD696295 and YD706295. One (1) PF platoon joined C/1-502 IN approximately 0800H. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD687280. Established night position vicinity YD700293.

D/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD741308 and ambushes vicinity YD753316, YD751308 and YD742299. At approximately 0830H a PF platoon joined D/1-502 IN. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD754337, YD769311 and YD783315. At 0945H vicinity YD756314 found 1 AK-47, 1 SKS and 3 detainees. At 1917H vicinity YD751307 PF's working with D/1-502 IN engaged 3 VC, resulting in 2 VC KIA. Established night position vicinity YD745318.

Recon platoon OPCON to A/1-502 IN.

### **2-17 CAV**

Bravo Troop completed moving NW at 2205 vicinity YD925212 when it linked up with A/1-501 IN. Bravo Troop returned to FSB FORWARD closing at 2335H.

A/1-501 IN linked up with Bravo Troop at 2205H vicinity YD925212. Established a night position vicinity YD915214. At 0725H received 2 60mm mortar rounds with negative casualties. OPCON 1-501 IN effective 0920H.

### **2BDE**

HHC Security platoon secured minesweep N and S from LZ SALLY.

(Commanders Situation Report; 282001H May – 292000H May 1968; James J Waldeck, MAJ, IN., Kayo 3)



28 May 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** In response to the intelligence reported indicating increased enemy activity 20km east of HUE (YD923208); A/1-501 IN conducted a combat assault to engage a suspected enemy company area. A/1-501 IN engaged an estimated enemy platoon immediately upon landing. The Aero Rifle platoon (ARP) 2-17 CAV and B/2-17 CAV maneuvered to A/1-501 IN area and, while A/1-501 IN established a blocking position vicinity YD923215, they attacked southeast over the enemy's position. Enemy losses for the battle were: 34 KIA, 1 VC POW, and 5 IWC. Friendly losses were: 1 US KIA, 8 US WIA (8 Evac) and 1 APC damaged. (Operation Report, Lessons Learned, HQ 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM); 26 December 1968)

28 – 31 May 1968 1-502 IN BN continued RIF operations in the AO and security mission of An Lo Bridge and QL #1. During this period contact was very light and resulted in 7 VC Captured with weapons.

28 May 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE** ends for 2BDE. Enemy assessment was 183 NVA/ VC KIA, 14 NVA/ VC POWs, and 82 weapons captured.

28 May 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** At 1135H, D/1-501 IN vicinity BT164117, found 2 NVA KBAS. At 1700H, A/1-501 IN vicinity BT183113, found 1 NVA KIA by napalm. (HQ, 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)

28 May 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** A/1-502 IN vicinity BT127090 observed 25 enemy with rucksacks moving from north to south, proximity 900 meters. The company employed artillery with negative assessment. The Recon platoon apprehended 6 VN; the detainees were evacuated to TAM KY. At 1300H approximately 100 meters to the north of vicinity BT119087, Recon platoon observed one NVA crossing a river. Element engaged with S/A, resulting in 1 NVA KIA and 1 IWC.

28 May 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** All units continued RIF operations and activity was minimal throughout the AO. At 1235H, B/2-17 CAV, vicinity BT181003, observed and engaged 2 NVA in the open, resulting in 2 NVA KIA. At 1250H, 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon, vicinity BT119067, engaged an enemy soldier attempting to cross a river, resulting in 1 NVA KIA and 1 IWC. (HQ, 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)

28 May 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** 1-502 IN BN conducted classes on sapper techniques as they continued stand-down.

28 May 1971 C/1-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon in the vicinity of YC872979 received five rounds of small arms fire and one RPG round. Employed 81mm and artillery. Results: 1 Truck slightly damaged.

29 May 1967 **Operation MALHUER:** Four light contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 1 US WHA, 12 VC KIA (C), and 3 individual weapons captured. (HQ, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)

29 – 30 May 1968 **Operation NEVADA EALGE:** 2BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operations in support of Operation NEVADA EAGLE to limit and disrupt attempts made by the enemy to extort the VN rice production throughout the coastal plain's areas, and to seek out and destroy enemy forces and installations in the 2BDE AO. Contact was light with a total of 4 contacts. Today's statistics: 7 US WIA (2 medevac), 1 PF KIA, 2 PF WIA (medevac); Enemy assessment: 46 NVA KIA (BC), (16 KBFT, 6 KBA, 24 KBAA), 1 VC KIA, 1 RPG-2 launcher, 1 AK-47 (Dest), 2 claymore mines, 15 lbs. C4 and 1 B-40 rds.

**1-501 IN BN**

A/1-501 IN (-) provided security for COCO Beach installations and ambushed vicinity YD858308. A/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon provided security for FSB MONGOOSE and secured minesweep N and S from FSB MONGOOSE.

B/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD814251 and ambushed vicinity YD809248 and established OP's vicinity YD811253 and YD815249. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD831242. Effective 1415H OPCON 2-17 CAV.

C/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD806231 and ambushed vicinity YD805243, YD814243 and YD800228. At 2025H ambush vicinity YD800228 engaged 4 enemy with SA and M-79. Negative enemy assessment. At 2107H ambush vicinity YD800228 engaged 12 enemy moving toward their location. Engaged with SA and M-79 then returned to night position. Negative enemy assessment. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD792241 and YD788230. At 1633H the 10 PRU personnel were extracted from C/1-501 IN to THUA THIEN. C/1-501 IN continued to vicinity YD792247. At 1952H, C/1-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon was located at a PZ vicinity YD792247 and reverted to OPCON of 2-17 CAV. C/1-501 IN (-) provided security for PZ and then began moving SE to night position vicinity YD805243.

D/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD825221. At 0215H night position received 15-20 60mm mortar rounds from vicinity YD828227. Artillery was fired at suspected position. Results 5 US WIA (slight); Negative enemy assessment. D/1-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD828227 then SE to vicinity YD837214. D/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD837212. D/1-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD830210, YD837212 and linked up with D/1-501 IN (-). At 0935H vicinity YD830210, D/1-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found 1 VC KIA (BC). D/1-501 IN continued RIF operation to vicinity YD846212. Established night position vicinity YD846218.

Recon platoon (-) provided security for hill masses vicinity YD808188. One (1) squad with 1 PF platoon provided security for bridge vicinity YD838176. Platoon (-) improved defensive positions throughout the day.



## 2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD634249, with ambushes vicinity YD606255, YD610264, YD612240 and YD633242/ A/2-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD634249, YD625261, YD607261, YD618269 and returned to A/2-501 IN company CP. Established night position vicinity YD634249.

B/2-501 IN provided security for HUE Bridges and improved defensive positions.

C/2-501 IN (-) provided security for FSB PINKY. C/2-501 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD682280. At 1230H vicinity YD686274 linked up with 1 PF platoon. Continued RIF operation to vicinity YD679290, YD676280 and returned to FSB PINKY. At 1300H vicinity YD682280 received sniper fire from 2 enemy. Returned SA fire. Negative casualties; Negative enemy assessment. Reinforced 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon secured OP/FSB T-Bone and established OP's vicinity YD661202 and YD650204. One (1) squad patrolled to vicinity YD645200, YD644194, YD647198, YD646203 and returned.

D/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD638257 and ambushed vicinity YD631260, YD642264, YD643250 and YD648257. D/2-501 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD649246, YD662246 and returned to D/2-501 IN company CP vicinity YD638259. Established night position vicinity YD651254.

Recon platoon (working with 1 PF platoon and 1 RF platoon). Occupied night position vicinity YD673237 and ambushed vicinity YD666232, YD677234. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD686224, YD694221 and YD691225. Established night position vicinity YD682231.

## 1-502 IN BN

A/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO Bridge and ambushed vicinity YD600310, YD606312 and YD611312. Secured minesweep N to vicinity YD602310. During the day conducted mounted patrol from AN LO Bridge NW to AO boundary. A/1-502 IN (-) improved defensive positions.

B/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD719303. Provided security for bulldozer operating vicinity YD719301. At 0858H vicinity YD719301 found 2 claymore mines, 15 bls. C4, 1 RPG-2 round, and some documents. At 1145H with 1 PF platoon conducted RIF operations to vicinity YD716318. Established night position vicinity YD713338.

C/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD700293. With 1 PF platoon conducted RIF operations vicinity YD719301 and relieved D/1-502 IN of security mission for bulldozer operation at 1050H.

D/1-502 IN (working with 2 PF platoons) occupied night position vicinity YD745318 and ambushed vicinity YD753337, YD756326 and YD754313. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD755316, YD756325 and YD753337. During this day approximately 36,000 lbs. of rice were captured and extracted vicinity YD755316 and YD756325. Approximately 36,000 lbs. of rice remained to be extracted. Established night position vicinity YD754337.

Recon platoon OPCON A/1-502.

## 2-17 CAV

B/1-501 IN became OPCON to 2-17 CAV at 1415H. At 1442H B/1-501 IN conducted a combat assault from PZ vicinity YD831241 to LZ vicinity YD885235. B/1-501 IN established blocking position, oriented to the SW.

C/1-501 IN had 1 platoon OPCON to Alpha Troop 2-17 CAV at 1950H and was being airlifted to vicinity of Alpha Troop. T

The cordon was established by B/1-501 IN to the NE, One (1) company of 3-3 ARVN regiment to the SE, and Alpha Troop with OPCON units (C/1-501 IN, one platoon) to the NW and SW. Results of the operation to 2000H: Friendly casualties – 2 US WIA (medevac), 1 PF KIA, 2 PF WIA (medevac); Enemy assessment – 46 NVA KIA (BC), (16 KBGF, 4 KBA, 24 KBAA), 1 RPG-2 launcher, 1 AK-47 (Dest).

## 2BDE

HHC Security platoon secured minesweep N and S from LZ SALLY. Beginning at 1945H 18 personnel from Security platoon were shuttled by UH-1 to FSB FORWARD to reinforce security.

(Commanders Situation Report; 292001H May – 302000H May 1968; James J Waldeck, MAJ, IN., Kayo 3)

29 May 1969

**Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** 2BDE continued to press the search in the AO as the enemy apparently chose to avoid contact. At 1135H, D/1-501 IN, vicinity BT164117, found 2 NVA KBAS. At 1700H, A/1-501 IN vicinity BT183113, found 1 NVA KIA by napalm. (HQ, 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)

29 May 1969

**Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** 1-502 IN, Recon platoon accounted for 10 VN detainees. The 1-502 IN BN had no enemy contact.

29 May 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** 1-502 IN BN continued refresher training and stand-down to PHU BAI.



29 May 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** 2-502 IN BN continued to operate in the new AO with negative contact unit the morning of this day. D/2-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon while still in their NDP, YD599102, was engaged by enemy RPG's and small arms. D/2-502 IN took one US KIA, four WIA, and one scout dog killed. A Sniper team was left behind and later in the day killed one NVA Soldier.

30 May 1967 **Operation MALHUER:** Two light contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 3 VC KIA (C) and 1 individual weapon captured. (HQ, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)

30 May 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** As part of Operation NEVADA EAGLE, the 2-17 CAV, two companies from the 1-501 IN BN, plus the 3/3 ARVN Regiment working for the 2BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV made contact during a cordon and search of LE XA DONG, seven miles east of HUE. Casualties: US 6 WIA; enemy 142 KIA and 46 POW.

30 May 1968 Because of intelligence reports indicating that rice was being stored in the area north of the village of PHUONG QUAN CUA, 8km north of HUE (YD6532), D/1-502 IN conducted RIF operations into the area and captured 36.5 tons of rice. The rice was evacuated and delivered to the district chief of QUANG DIEN. (Operation Report, Lessons Learned, HQ 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM); 26 December 1968)

30 – 31 May 1968 In response to intelligence reports, a combined operation at 1430H, B/1-501 IN was alerted to conduct a combat assault into the eastern side of the hamlet, and at 1523 B/1-501 IN established a blocking position vicinity YD880230. The 2-17 CAV attacked again, as LFT gunships flew over and covered likely avenues of escape to the west. As nightfall came, 2-17 CAV was not able to attack through the hamlet, so C/1-502 IN was lifted into the western side of the hamlet and a tight cordon was formed around the enemy's positions. Throughout the night continuous illumination and artillery was provided to prevent the enemy's escape. At daybreak, 2-17 CAV elements and C/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon swept through the village and destroyed the remnants of the enemy forces and resistance. The enemy losses during the combined operation were as follows: 142 NVA KIA, 46 PW, 69 weapons captured. Of these enemy losses, ARVN forces were responsible for 51 NVA KIA, 27 PW, and 35 IWO. Friendly losses were: 6 US WIA, 2 PF KIA, 2 PF WIA. (Operation Report, Lessons Learned, HQ 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM); 26 December 1968)

30 May 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** C/1-502 IN moved y UH-1H from FSSE to an LZ secured by D/1-502 IN vicinity BT134101. D/1-502 IN moved from the LZ to FSSE to assume the security mission of the 1BDE FSSE. C/1-502 IN conducted RIF to the northeast. Recon platoon detained and evacuated 3 VN. At 0913H, vicinity BT134092 Recon platoon engaged 1 enemy with S/A at a range of 250 meters, resulting in 1 captured rucksack. At 0917H, the 81mm mortar platoon move by UH-1H from FSSE to an LZ secured by B/1-502 IN vicinity BT141095. The mortar platoon provided indirect fire support for the ground unit.

30 May 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** 1-502 IN BN continued stand-down in PHU BAI.

30 May 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** C/2-502, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon combat assaulted into a hot LZ at YD643060. Although a heavy volume of fire was received there were no casualties.

30 May 1971 C/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon spotted one enemy vicinity YC858015, initiated contact with small arms fire. Results: 1 NVA KIA.

30 May 1971 1-501 IN, Recon platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> squad vicinity YD841038 spotted one enemy and initiated contact the enemy returned fire and fled. Results: 1US WIA.

30 May 1971 C/1-501 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon received small arms fire from estimated squad of NVA vicinity YC860015. Platoon fired back and enemy fled. Results negative.

31 May 1968 A two-day cordon operation seven miles east of HUE near LE XA DONG hamlet was conducted by A/2-17 CAV; B1-501 IN and elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> ARVN DIV, resulting in 91 NVA killed, 19 prisoners taken, and 34 weapons captured. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 1, Number 2); July 1968)

31 May 1968 1-502 IN BN results from 19 December 1967 to 1 June 1968: Friendly: 59 KIA, 393 WIA; Enemy 852 KIA (BC), 250 KIA (EST), 129 WIA/POW

31 May 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** Action flared briefly in the AO as the units continued to search for the enemy and 1-502 IN BN staged in the field for the combat assaults on the following day. At 1025H, D/1-501 IN, vicinity BT163115 received small arms fire from an unknown size of enemy force. The element returned fire and maneuvered against the determined enemy force. The enemy resistance was overcome and 6 NVA KIA were found with D/1-501 IN suffering 2 US KIA and 3 US WIA (E). (HQ, 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)

31 May 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** No enemy contact was encountered and at 1323H, the 1-502 IN, 81mm mortar platoon and 1-502 IN, Recon platoon were extracted by UH-1H to the FSSE.

31 May 1970 **Operation TEXA STAR:** 1-502 IN BN continued stand-down in PHU BAI while conducting refresher training.

01 June 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** Four light contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 5 VC KIA (C) and 1 individual weapon captured. A booby-trapped grenade activated by 2-502 IN BN resulted in 1 US WHA. (HQ, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)



01 June 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** As part of Operation NEVADA EAGLE, B/1-501 IN BN, B/2-501 IN BN, plus A/2-17 CAV and B/2-17 CAV, working for the 2BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV conduct a cordon and search 10 miles east of HUE. Casualties: US 5 KIA, 36 WIA; enemy 104 KIA and 56 POW.

01 June 1968 1-502 IN BN had light contact. B/1-502 IN caught 2 VC coming out of a bunker (2 VC KIA (BC)). D/1-502 IN ambushed 6 VC, 1 VC KIA. Later found 2 more trying to run away. Results: 2 VC KIA.

01 – 04 June 1968 On 1 June a combined operation involving US and ARVN troops commence an attack on the village of THUNG PHUONG. 1.6 km east of HUE (YD9419). A/2-17 CAV and B/2-17 CAV, B/2-501 IN, B/1-501 IN and TF 7, 1<sup>st</sup> ARVN ID attacked on Parallel axis to engage enemy forces which were reported in the area by intelligence reports. Contact was maintained throughout the afternoon of 1 June and a cordon was established around the village during early evening. The results of the battle were 8 US WHA, 38 VC KIA, 3 PU and 20 weapons captured. AT daybreak the companies swept through the village and continued to attack to the south toward the village of VINH PHU (YD9716). Near VINH PHU the combined forces engaged an enemy company and after heavy contact established a cordon around the village on the night of 2 June. During the night continuous illumination was maintained, and in the morning TAC Air and artillery continued to hit the enemy. PSYOP teams appealed to the enemy for surrender. On 3 June 50 VC surrendered and on 4 June a sweep through the village resulted in the capture of 3 PWs. The results of the cordon operation of VINH PHU were: 5 US KIA, 28 US WHA, 66 VC KIA, 53 PWs and 57 weapons captured. (Operation Report, Lessons Learned, HQ 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM); 26 December 1968)

01 – 04 June 1968 2-17 CAV cordons THUNG PHUONG, THON MOC TRU, and THON TRUNG HA resulting in 235 NVA/VC KIA, 77 NVA/VC POWs, 114 individual and crew served weapons, and 15,000 lbs. of rice captured. This was the last cordon operation for 2BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV.

01 June 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** The enemy still avoided contact as evidenced by minimum activity throughout the AO. At 1015H, B/1-501 IN, vicinity BT162111, found two graves containing the remains of 2 NVA KIA by artillery or air. At 1200H, 1BDE initiated the operation with the 1-502 IN BN conducting combat assaults into SONG TRAM Valley LZ vicinity BT165005, closing Companies A/1-502 IN, B/1-502 IN, and C/1-502 IN at 1247H. There was negative enemy contact and all elements began RIF operations northeast along separate axes. At 1215H, B/1-501 IN vicinity BT164109 observed one enemy hiding in a bunker; the element engaged the bunker with hand grenades killing one VC. (HQ, 1BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)

01 June 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** 1-502 IN BN security platoon moved by CH-47 from the FSSE to HAU DUC headquarters to assist in providing security. A/1-502 IN, B/1-502 IN, and C/1-502 IN conducted at C/A vicinity BT165005, and then conducted a reconnaissance in force operation along 3 axes to the east. D/1-502 IN and Recon platoon remained at the FSSE. The 1-502 IN BN (-) discovered and destroyed several huts and bunkers complexes but no enemy activity was encountered.

01 June 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** 1-502 IN BN continued training and stand-down operations in PHU BAI.

01 June 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** 2-502 IN BN continued to secure FSB BASTOGNE and conducted saturation and ambush patrols in the AO. D/2-502 IN remained OPCON to 2-327 IN BN.

01 – 30 June 1971 During this period the 1-501 IN BN conducted search and attach operations in its assigned area of operation. The battalion occupied FB BRICK vicinity YC935885. A/1-501 IN had responsibilities of securing FB BRICK from 01 June to 06 June. C/1-501 IN secured the FB 06 June to 11 June. The 1-501 IN BN moved by air and truck to DA NANG to secure CAMP BOOKS, ASP 107 and conduct combined ambush operations with RF's from 09 June to 30 June. The 1-501 IN BN provided a combined roving patrol with 504<sup>th</sup> MP's that conducted patrols of the bunker line, ASP 107 and CAMP BOOKS area by day and night. D/1-501 IN was OPCON to 1-502 IN BN on 09 June to 30 June conducting operations in FB RIFLE area of operation. A/1-501 IN, B/1-501 IN and C/1-501 IN light mortar platoons supported the 1-501 IN BN combined ambushes and area of operation. The 1-501 IN BN conducted training at CAMP BOOKS consisting of Rules of Engagement, Drug Abuse, Character Guidance, Safety/Contraband, Maintenance of Individual Weapons and Physical Training. (1-501 IN BN; Annual Supplement to the History; 1 January 1971 – 31 December 1971)

01 June 1971 1-501 IN BN, Recon team 2 found a trail 1 ½' wide oriented north to south vicinity YD839028. Recent activity 1-3 days by one individual moving North. (1-501 IN BN; Annual Supplement to the History; 1 January 1971 – 31 December 1971)

01 June 1971 "Drive On" troops of C/2-501 IN discovered eight newly constructed enemy bunkers near FB TOMAHAWK containing over 100lbs of rice and 14 60mm mortar rounds. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 4, Number 1); Summer/Fall 1971)

02 June 1966 **Operation HAWTHORNE** begins with the 2-502 IN BN displaced from Pleiku to DAK TO by CV-2 aircraft and convoy. (Combat Operational After-Action Report, Operation HAWTHORNE; 22 July 1966)



02 June 1966

**(1st BDE "2-502nd Infantry" Actions for Presidential Unit Citation)** The 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and attached units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in action against a hostile force in DAK TO, Republic of Vietnam, during "OPERATION HAWTHORNE", 2 through 20 June 1966. "OPERATION HAWTHORNE" began on 2 June 1966 when the Brigade was directed to relieve the beleaguered mountain outpost of TOU MORONG. The 1st Battalion (Airborne) 327th Infantry teamed up with elements of the 24th Tactical Zone Command (42d Army of the Republic of Vietnam Regiment and the 21st Ranger Battalion) to accomplish this phase of the operation. Intelligence reports received at Brigade Headquarters indicated a major enemy drive was under way to overrun the Central Highlands. At 0230 hours on the morning of 7 June 1966 and estimated North Vietnamese battalion of the 24th North Vietnamese Army Regiment savagely attacked an artillery position in the valley west of TOU MORONG. The position was manned by Battery B, 2d Howitzer Battalion (Airborne), 320th Artillery; Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry; and elements of Company A, 326th Engineer Battalion. The charging enemy was able to penetrate the artillery's perimeter. The battle that had the winner-take-all climax saw the valiant Americans secure their weapons and fire point-blank into the still charging North Vietnamese Army ranks. As dawn brought light to the exhausted warriors, 86 enemy bodies were counted, 13 of them inside the artillery position. After relieving the TOU MORONG outpost, the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, moved north. Another bitter battle erupted, this time engaging all three of the infantry companies of the Battalion at one time, each in a separate fire fight. As the battle raged, the Battalion's elite Tiger Force was hard hit and almost overrun by an estimated two companies of heavily armed, well trained North Vietnamese Army Regulars. On 7 June 1966, the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, was helilifted into a blocking position where it began to sweep south to link up with its heavily engaged sister Battalion. Throughout the battle, the enemy strength was fixed as a well-trained North Vietnamese Army Regiment. Their heavy weapons were strategically placed in sturdy bunkers which were spread out along the fingers and draws of the mountainside. As the battered but courageous 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry companies regrouped and the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, continued their relentless attack from the south, a decision was made to have B-52 Bombers strike Dak Tan Kan Valley before the Brigade moved in for the final kill. "OPERATION HAWTHORNE" was one of the most viciously contested battles of the Vietnam War. Day and Night the battle raged, moving from bunker to trench line, to spider hole, to bamboo thicket, to stream bed, and finally to victory. At the conclusion of "OPERATION HAWTHORNE" the 24th North Vietnamese Army Regiment was rendered ineffective as a fighting unit, suffering 1200 casualties by body count and estimate. By comparison, friendly casualties were 48 dead and 239 wounded. A major North Vietnamese offensive to seize the North Central Highlands was blunted. Throughout "OPERATION HAWTHORNE" the extraordinary heroism, dogged determination, gallantry, and indomitable spirit with which the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, successfully accomplished all assigned missions were in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon all members of the Brigade who participated in this remarkable combat action.



02 June 1968

1-502 IN BN RIF with PF's, B/1-502 IN joint RIF with PF's, vicinity YD7140. Found that almost all of the gates entering the village were BBT with grenades. These grenades were blown in place. As they swept through the village, they received light contact and returned fire wounding 1 VC who fled. They also blew several BBT's in place, but 1 PF was killed when he stepped on a 105mm BBT.

02 June 1969

**Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** Activity increased in the AO as the units reported scattered enemy contact with the Aero-Rifle Platoon of B/2-17 CAV becoming decisively engaged by a numerically superior enemy force and being reinforced later in the day by B/1-501 IN. At 0740H, B/1-502 IN, vicinity BT182996, captured 1 NVA with an AK47 during the conduct of an area sweep. At 0915H, A/1-502 IN vicinity BT180009, engaged 5 VC with small arms the enemy broke contact and fled leaving behind 1 VC KIA. At 1000H, D/1-502 IN vicinity BT180002, found a grave containing 1 VC KBA, and at 1015H, C/1-502 IN vicinity BT181001, found one grave with 1 NVA KBA. At 1230H, the Aero-Rifle Platoon, B/2-17 CAV, was inserted into an LZ, vicinity BT210128 to conduct ground reconnaissance in the area. The area had been a source of ground fire throughout day with numerous reported incidents. Immediately after moving from the LZ, the platoon came under heavy fire from a well-concealed enemy force. Gunships, ARA and tube artillery were all employed in support. The supporting fires were lifted, and the platoon moved forward in the assault. The platoon was met with withering fire that inflicted moderate casualties and pinned down the element. Air and artillery were employed at close range and the decision was made to insert a reaction force to extricate the trapped platoon. At 1440H, a platoon from B/1-501 IN was inserted into the LZ to link-up and relieve the pressure on the Aero-Rifle Platoon. At 1550H, the C&C, B/2-17 CAV vicinity BT202129, was hit by 12.7mm AA fire and forced down, seriously wounding the artillery LO aboard. The crew and aircraft were recovered without further incident. At 1700H, B/1-501 IN enroute to the relief of the Aero-Rifle Platoon, vicinity BT202127, engaged an enemy force firing from bunkers. The company quickly returned fire and reduced the enemy bunker accounting for 2 NVA KIA and 3 IWC; the unit suffering 1 US WIA. At 1745H, B/1-501 IN closed into the LZ thus completing the relief and reinforcement. The situation was stabilized, and the Aero Rifle Platoon became OPCON to B/1-501 IN for the night. The fighting had been extremely bitter through -out the afternoon and the outnumbered platoon had been pinned down a majority of the time from the well concealed and bunkered enemy. The unit had accounted for 6 NVA KIA and 1 IWC and had suffered 5 US KIA and 4 US WIA (E). Elsewhere in the AO, at 1400H, B/1-46, vicinity BT205070, engaged an unknown size enemy force with artillery, accounting for 3 NVA KIA. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)



Members of Companies B and D, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, take a break from jungle fighting east of TAM KY





02 – 12 June 1969

**Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** B/2-17 CAV inserted its aero-rifle platoon onto Hill 376, Tien Loc Mountain, for a reconnaissance mission. The undermanned platoon consisted of 18 men, including a medic and two Kit Carson scouts. They soon came under small arms fire and were ordered to turn around and go down the other side of the mountain. The two men at the lead were wounded in an ambush and the rest of the unit was pinned down. The medic, Joseph Guy La Pointe, rushed forward to help the two wounded men. La Pointe was hit but continued to administer aid until enemy grenades landed on his position, killing all three men.

As the battle continued into the afternoon, two more cavalymen were killed, and several others wounded. The C&C helicopter was shot down over the battlefield. The situation remained precarious. B/1-501 IN moved onto Hill 376 to relieve the beleaguered cavalry platoon. The next morning, June 3, two more infantry companies and the recon platoon from the 1-501 IN BN arrived. For the next nine days, the Screaming Eagles moved up and down the ridgelines assaulting enemy bunkers, often facing murderous machine-gun fire, mortars, and grenades. By the time they left Hill 376 on June 12, they had suffered 23 killed, 34 wounded, and one missing in action. In addition, a helicopter crew of four men from the 101<sup>st</sup> Aviation Battalion and a passenger were killed in the area, while elements of the 1-46 IN BN suffered casualties south of Hill 376. (Bitter Fighting In QUANG TIN, Roger Ables)

02 June 1969

**Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** 1-502 IN BN continued to RIF to the east. A/1-502 IN vicinity BT18009, engaged an estimated 5 enemy with organic weapons. Results: 1 VC KIA, a quantity of medical supplies captured. B/1-502 IN vicinity BS183996 captured 1 NVA POW and 1 IWC. The POW stated that he was from the 16<sup>th</sup> CO, 31 REGT, 2<sup>nd</sup> NVA DIV. C/1-502 IN discovered 2 fresh graves vicinity BT181001 containing 2 VC KBA.

02 June 1970

2BDE passed OPCON of 1-501 IN BN to the 3BDE and assumed operational control of 1-506 IN BN which moved by air from FSB KATHRYN to CAMP EVANS to assume the mission of Division Ready Force and prepare for battalion refresher training. The 1-501 IN BN moved by air from FSB BIRMINGHAM and FSB ARSENAL to FSB KATHRYN and assumed responsibility for area Sierra. The 1-502 IN BN redeployed in the AO vicinity FSB BIRMINGHAM to provide security for the firebase and conduct patrol and ambush operations in the area. (Operation Report – HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 July 1970; 15 August 1970)

02 June 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** 1-502 IN BN ended stand-down operations today and returned to FB BIRMINGHAM and Sector Golf to continue Operations Texas Star. The 257<sup>th</sup> RF Company and flareship reported one VC/NVA KIA in ambush. MTT #13 found satchel charges and mines in sweep of an area around grid 803245.

02 June 1970

**Operation TEXAS STAR:** C/2-502 IN while securing an LZ detonated a booby trap wounding seven men.



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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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6 x Silver Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)  
 2 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (1 x Posthumously)  
 6 x Bronze Star Medal (6 x Posthumously)  
 26 x Purple Heart Medal (26 x Posthumously)  
 32 x Air Medal (1 x Posthumously)

27 May 1968

The Following Solders from D/1-502 IN:

SSG Albert Forster  
 SGT George W. Blyman  
 SGT Arturo Diaz  
 SGT Paul F. Faris  
 SGT Paul R. Hickman  
 SGT Richard N. Laplant  
 SGT Arthur R. Leyvas  
 SGT Charles R. Murray  
 SGT Joseph M. Peterson  
 SGT John W. Richards  
 SGT Juan Terlaje

SSG Bruce E. Hitt  
 SGT Henry C. Bechler  
 SGT Gilbert M. Dohogn  
 SGT Leandrew Gary Jr.  
 SGT Patrick L. Jozwiak  
 SP5 John Lee Jr.  
 SGT Michael J. Jargons  
 SGT Peter W. Smith  
 SGT John W. Ringold  
 SGT Boyd L. Smith

SSG Paul J. Brown  
 SGT Carlos B. Cepeda  
 SGT William M. Eagleson  
 SGT Larry L. Grice  
 SGT Fred T. Jordan  
 SGT Ronald E. Long  
 SGT Eugene C. Mellem  
 SGT Miguel Negrete  
 SGT Gilbert Rosa  
 SGT Timothy F. Sandberg

Were awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in Aerial Flight. (HQ, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 10541, 30 November 1968)

27 May 1968



PFC Kenneth R. Hellman (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds received while on combat operation when hostile booby-trap detonated in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

27 May 1968



PFC Vernell H. Miller Jr. (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds received while on combat operation when hit by fragments from hostile booby-trap in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. PFC Miller was admitted to a military hospital in Vietnam, placed on the VSI list, transferred to the USS Repose still on the VSI list and later expired.

27 May 1968



SP4 Francis J. Hefner (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the 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 operation when engaged hostile force in firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam

28 May 1968



SGT Alan G. Carter (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds when engaged hostile force in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam



29 May 1968



PFC Obbie Johnson (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from pneumonia contracted as a result of wounds while he was on guard duty when he tripped causing the rifle, he was holding to accidentally discharge in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 May 1970



SSG Lawrence A. Bierbaum (D/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 May 1971



CPT Thomas G. Blair (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Air 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 a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the TA TRANG River Valley 10 KM North of RUONG RUONG, in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. CPT Blair was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired.

30 May 1969



SGT Edwin E. Dotter (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 7km west of A LUOI Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 May 1969



SP4 Louis Johnson (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 7km west of A LUOI Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 May 1969



PFC Craig M. Simeone (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 fire wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 7km west of A LUOI Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

30 May 1969



PFC Robert L. Watt (Pictured) (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 multiple fragmentation wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 7km west of A LUOI Village in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

31 May 1968



CPL Donald R. Miller (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds received while on combat operation when hit by a hostile small arms fire in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



31 May 1968



CPL Jeff Mulkey (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms fire wounds received while on combat operation when engaged hostile force in a firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

31 May 1969



CPL Johnny M. Pilsner (D/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 5km E-SE of TIEN PHUOC in the QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

31 May 1969



SP4 Philip A. Pratt (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 from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 5km E-SE of TIEN PHUOC in the QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

01 June 1968



SGT Thomas G. Hughes (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds received while on combat operation when engaged by a hostile force in a firefight in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. SGT Hughes was admitted to a military hospital, placed on the VSI list and transferred to a Naval Hospital Ship, where he expired shortly thereafter.

01 June 1968



PFC Jackie D. Chambers (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from wounds received while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

01 June 1971



CPL Don M. Ramsey (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 7km W of PHU LOC in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

01 June 1971



1LT James R. Saxon (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered 7km W of PHU LOC in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

01 June 1971



1LT Ralph L Church (D/2-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received while on combat operation when a booby trap detonated 15km S-SE of PHU BAI Airfield in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. 1LT Church was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired on 12 June 1971.



01 June 1971



SP4 Robert D. McKinney (D/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 while on combat operation when a booby trap detonated 15km S-SE of PHU BAI Airfield in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

02 June 1968



SFC William W. Hence (B/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds received while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire during cordon operations near VINH PHU, 9km E-NE of PHU BAI Airfield in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

02 June 1968



CPL Edward L. Sizelove (B/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 from Artillery, Rocket or Mortar wounds received while on combat operation when hit by hostile forces during cordon operations near VINH PHU, 9km E-NE of PHU BAI Airfield in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

02 June 1968



PFC Audron L. Smith (B/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 from gunshot wounds received while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire during cordon operations near VINH PHU, 9km E-NE of PHU BAI Airfield in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

02 June 1968



PFC Thomas J. Harbour (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the 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 operation when hit by hostile small arms fire the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

02 June 1970



CPL Daniel W. Harrison (C/1-501 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from Artillery, Rocket or Mortar wounds while on combat operations when hostile force was encountered in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



# STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

29 May 1967

PFC Donald C. Pryor (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. Private First Class Pryor distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 29 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. On this date, Private Pryor was serving as a rifleman with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry. While on a patrol, Private Pryor and his squad were taken under a tremendous volume of hostile fire from an enemy force of undetermined size. Private Pryor was hit and knocked to the ground in the initial burst of fire, sustaining a painful wound. As the intensity of the hostile fire increased, Private Pryor realized that the tactical situation of his squad was deteriorating. Though dazed and bleeding, he quickly bandaged himself and stopped the bleeding. Then, with complete disregard for his personal safety, Private Pryor singlehandedly assaulted the enemy position, unmindful of the increased hostile fire being directed at his movements. He successfully overran the enemy position, killing two soldiers, wounding several others and capturing two enemy weapons. By his exceptionally valorous actions, outstanding display of aggressiveness and profound dedication, Private First Class Pryor has distinguished himself and has reflected great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TFO; General Order 323; 22 August 1967)

29 May 1967

SSG James H. Carpenter (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 29 May 1967 near Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Carpenter distinguished himself while leading his squad down a trail in dense jungle foliage. An estimated enemy squad pinned down his squad with intense fire. Realizing his need for decisive action, Sergeant Carpenter, with complete disregard for his own safety, exposed himself to the murderous fire and assaulted the enemy positions. In the ensuing assault, Sergeant Carpenter killed one enemy soldier and, while still exposed to the hostile fire, pursued and captured another. His squad, inspired by his courage and daring, followed suit and assaulted the remaining positions routing the enemy who left behind three dead, three weapons, and one prisoner. Staff Sergeant Carpenter's unquestionable valor, resoluteness, and dauntless determination in close combat are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, Task Force Oregon, and the United States Army. (HQ, TFO; General Order 285; 21 August 1967)

29 May 1967

SSG Robert P. Sherman (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Sergeant Sherman distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 29 May 1967, in the Republic of Vietnam. While leading a patrol, Sergeant Sherman's platoon was moving through dense jungle foliage when they were suddenly brought under heavy volume of enemy fire. On the initial burst of fire, one member of the patrol was wounded and lay in a exposed area. As the intensity of the enemy fire increased, Sergeant Sherman realized that the wounded man was in great danger of being hit again. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Sherman left his covered position and rushed through the withering enemy fire to the aid of his wounded comrade, pulling the man to a covered area and quickly administered the needed medical aid. Sergeant Sherman quickly reorganized his patrol and personally led them in an assault upon the enemy positions. All during the assault, Sergeant Sherman continually exposed himself to the heavy enemy fire while giving his men encouragement and directing their fire by pointing out enemy targets. Sergeant Sherman's devotion to duty and personal courage 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, 1<sup>st</sup> BDE, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 1356; 8 July 1967)

30 May 1968



Colonel Cushman (2<sup>nd</sup> BDE CDR) was awarded the Silver Star Medal while distinguishing himself on 30 May 1968 while serving as Brigade Commander, Second Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, on a combat operation with 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry in the village of Thon LE XA DONG, THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. The Second Squadron, 17th Cavalry, which was under the operational control of the Second Brigade, made contact with an enemy force in the western end of the village. By noon it was evident that a strong enemy force was occupying the village. Colonel Cushman was over the battle area in a light observation helicopter and sensing an opportunity to encircle and destroy the enemy force, he ordered a rifle company from a nearby battalion to be combat assaulted into a position north of the village. He then persuaded Army of the Republic of Vietnam authorities to order an infantry battalion to a cordon and blocking position west and northwest of the village. Despite hostile fire throughout the battle area, he remained aloft personally directing devastating air strikes and artillery fire, and on many occasions joined United States and Army of the Republic of Vietnam commanders on the ground to determine the situation, give them counsel, and arrange for their support. Disregarding the hazards of night flight in the light observation helicopter, Colonel Cushman stayed aloft for several hours after darkness, counseling his commanders, adjusting cordon positions, and insuring flare ship and artillery support. During the night, the trapped enemy attempted in vain to break out of the ring of troops. The following morning the systematic destruction of the enemy force was completed. Included among the enemy losses were the command groups of a battalion and regiment. These losses coupled with the large number of enemy casualties and prisoners rendered the enemy battalion and its regimental headquarters ineffective as remnants of the force fled to the mountains. This action, which was the tenth in a series of successful cordon operations conducted by the brigade under Colonel Cushman, brought the total enemy losses in these ten operations to eight hundred and twenty killed and two hundred captured, with remarkably light casualties. Colonel Cushman's heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



30 May 1969



SP4 Louis Johnson (B/2-501 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in actions while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 30 May 1969. Specialist Johnson distinguished himself while serving as an automatic rifleman for Company B, 2d Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry. On the night of the cited date, Company B was conducting ambush patrols near DONG AP BIA Mountain on the western border of the A SHAU Valley, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Johnson's Platoon moved into an ambush site along a trail and began its wait. At approximately 2215 hours, several North Vietnamese troops were spotted moving toward their position. When the enemy troops were within range, the element's claymore mines were detonated, killing four of the North Vietnamese. Several troopers were sent out to check the results of the ambush and were immediately taken under fire by other enemy troops. Under automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fire, the ambush platoon was pulled back to the main company night defensive position. Upon arriving at the night defensive positions, it was determined that several troopers had been left behind during the ambush withdrawal. Without regard for his own safety, Specialist Johnson volunteered to lead a relief force back in an attempt to locate the missing men. The relief element quickly moved out with Specialist Johnson in the lead. Several minutes later they made heavy contact with the enemy force which was attempting to prevent the rescue of the missing men. Specialist Johnson immediately began to lead the maneuver elements in an effort to knock out the enemy machine gun fire which was severely endangering the members of his fire team. While moving to an advantageous position, he was struck in the chest by shrapnel from an enemy rocket propelled grenade and mortally wounded. Specialist Johnson'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, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV; General Orders Number 9231; 21 July 1969)

01 June 1968

CPT William D. Huges (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (1-OLC) for heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 1 June 1968. During the early evening hours as Company B was preparing a night defensive position near the village of Thon Duong Son, QUANG DIEN District, Republic of Vietnam, an unknown size Viet Cong force launched a mortar attack, resulting in eight friendly casualties. Captain Hughes with complete disregard for his own safety, directed his men into safe fighting positions and directed his artillery forward observer as to where the enemy fire was coming from so that effective artillery fire could be placed upon the enemy. When the enemy withdrew Company, B pursued, and the following afternoon made contact. Captain Hughes was with the point platoon. He moved around from position to position directing his troops in the fire fight which followed. Three hours later contact was made with the remaining Viet Cong squad. Again, Captain Hughes was with the point platoon and directed the fire and movement of the squads which quickly overcame the enemy. Captain Hughes' 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 Order Number 8632; Amended 27 May 1969, General Orders Number 5832)



# 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))  
BAR: Browning Automatic Rifle  
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

