



STRIKE

Vietnam War Weekly History



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Brief History of the 501st, 502nd and 2nd Brigade (101st ABN DIV)

The 502nd, or “five-oh-deuce”, was activated July 1, 1941 at Fort Benning, Georgia as the 502nd parachute infantry battalion, as an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assaults. The 502nd 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 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne was activated at Fort Campbell, replacing the 1st Airborne Battle Group, 501st Infantry Regiment. The reorganization from the battle groups to brigades and battalions placed two battalions of the 502nd in different brigades of the 101st.



The 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry was in the 1st Brigade with 1-327th and 2-327th 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 2nd Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1st and 2d Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry. December 1967 the 501st, 502nd and 2nd 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.



During this week, in the span of 8 years since the 501st Infantry Regiment, 502nd Infantry Regiment and 2nd Brigade, 101st 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.)

06 – 07 January 1968

Operation KLAMATH FALLS: STRIKE Force (2-502 IN BN) elements oriented on extraction pickup zones and on January 7th were extracted by air to BAO LOC for stand-down. The mission of finding and destroying the 145th, 186th, and 482d VC Battalions and the MR-6 political headquarters was not accomplished even though extensive search and destroy operations were conducted. Base areas were found and destroyed but no enemy unit designations were determined, and no significant enemy forces were engaged. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation KLAMATH FALLS; 11 January 1968)

Results of Operation KLAMATH FALLS:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>WIA</u>
US	3	2	2	24	3

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VC KIA</u>	<u>VC POW</u>	<u>Wpns Ind.</u>	<u>Rice Dest.</u>	<u>Base Inst. Dest.</u>	<u>Hospital Complex Dest.</u>
ENEMY	8 (C)	1	6	12 Tons	12	1

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

Authorized:	778
Assigned:	668
Present for Duty:	601
Not present for duty:	67

Causalities for Operations were as follows:

	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>WIA</u>
HHC	0	2	0	3	2	0
A Co.	2	0	2	13	0	2
B Co.	1	0	0	5	1	0
C Co.	0	0	0	3	0	0
Total	3	2	2	24	3	2

06 January 1968

1-502 IN BN continued training and remained in perimeter of CU CHI. During the night hours' movement heard around perimeter. At 21:30 hrs. A light was shined on a bunker and a sniper shot one-man Results: 1 WIA

06 January 1969

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A/1-502 IN continued to provide bridge and mine sweep security at AN LO. A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF operations to the south of AN LO. B/1-502 IN conducted RIF operations vicinity YD6736. C/1-502 IN conducted RIF operations from vicinity YD6120 to LZ SALLY. D/1-502 IN continued to provide security for FSB T-BONE. Recon platoon conducted search and clear operation vicinity YD6537.

06 January –
05 February 1969

Operation PLATTE CANYON: Involved elements of the 2-502 IN BN and the 1- 327 IN BN and 2-327 IN BN, in addition to elements of the ARVN 7th ACAV Task Force, and 54th ARVN Regiment. Intelligence obtained prior to the operation indicated that contact with the enemy would be substantial as the enemy would attempt to defend his rear supply and staging areas in the RUON RUONG Valley. Fire bases DAGGER and CUTLESS were constructed to five artillery support to the later combat assaults and reconnaissance in force operations in the RUONG RUONG and Elephant Valleys against elements of the 4th NVA Regiment. Moderate enemy contact was experienced, but in most instances the enemy elected to retreat and avoid substantial contacts. In addition to reconnaissance in force operations by company elements, the reconnaissance platoon patrolled the area of operations and discovered and destroyed a large cache and staging area. The maneuver elements successfully accomplished their assigned mission of securing population centers and key installations along QL-1, and in doing so killed or captured a substantial number of the local Viet Cong Infrastructure members in the assigned area of operations. When the operation concluded on 5 February enemy losses were 80 VC/NVA killed, 10 POW, and 72 individual and crew-served weapons captured, in addition to a large quantity of enemy material. Friendly forces suffered 10 KIA and 19 WIA. (DA-Senior Officer Debriefing Report; MG Melvin Zais, CG, 101st ABN DIV; Period 19 July 1968 – 25 May 1969)



06 January 1971

1-501 IN BN assumed command of FB RAKKASAN and its Area of Operation.



07 January 1968

2-501 IN BN, Command Bunker reported that they had incoming rifle grenades 150 meters to the front of bunkers 58 & 59. Same bunkers responded with M-79 round, 3 or four rounds came in. Bunker 59 reported that they received more incoming rifle grenades fired two M-79 rounds. Bunker OIC reported fired 7 M-79 rounds; received 5 rifle grenades incoming close approximately 50 meters. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 07 January 1968)

07 January 1968

Operation KLAMATH FALLS: All elements of the 2-502 IN BN and the direct support artillery battery were extracted by air to BAO LOC for stand-down activities. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Combat Operations After Action Report; Operation Klamath Falls; 11 January 1968)

07 January 1969

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A/1-502 IN provided bridge and mines weep security at AN LO. The company also conducted RIF operations and saturation patrols in the vicinity. The company moved to LZ SALLY B/1-502 IN conducted RIF operations from vicinity YD6736 to OMAHA. They made a truck move from OMAHA to LZ SALLY. C/1-502 IN moved by truck from LZ SALLY to AN LO. 1st platoon conducted RIF operations vicinity YD6432. D/1-502 IN provided security for FSB T-BONE, Recon platoon conducted search and clear operations.

07 January 1969

Initiation of a new operation in the RUONG RUONG Valley aimed at the enemy's rear supply and base areas. The operation started with an air assault by the 2-502 IN BN into an LZ northeast of the valley and the establishment of FB DAGGER. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)

07 January 1970

D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon is training PF's in the use of hand flairs, M-79, trip flares and the M60. The location of the training was 755128. B/1-502 IN, 1st platoon had contact today, which they received incoming RPG and AK-47 fire. There were no US casualties.

07 January 1971

A/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon vicinity YD485237 discovered one enemy BBT. It was not detonated.

08 January 1968

1-502 IN BN conducted search and destroy mission vicinity of LZ X-RAY. No contact made.

08 January 1969

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: B/1-502 IN departed LZ SALLY and conducted RIF operations to FSB T-BONE where they assumed the security of FSB T-BONE. C/1-502 IN provided bridge and mine-sweep security at AN LO. D/1-502 IN departed FSB T-BONE and conducted RIF operations. D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon found 1 bouncing betty mine at YD671228 and destroyed it in place. One (1) man from Recon platoon was wounded by and unknown type of booby trap at YD613386.

08 January 1970

One NVA/VC was spotted vicinity 833045 with negative results when fired upon. D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon found a trail with fresh tracks made last night or early this morning. D/1-502 IN, 1st platoon fired up a spider hole vicinity 766098 with negative findings. C/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon received eight rounds of RPG in vicinity of 801058 with no casualties.

09 January 1968

2-501 IN BN, Bunker 59 reported that they received 20 – 50 rounds of machine gun fire; Azimuth 3800 degree from 500 to 600 meters out. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 09 January 1968)

09 January 1969

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: 1-502 IN BN conducted RIF operations, with B/1-502 IN providing security at AN LO and Recon platoon at LZ SALLY for a stand down.

10 January 1968

2-501 IN BN had trip flares that went off in front of Bunker 58 about 25 meters to their front, and Bunker 59 about 100meters to their front. One man was seen running away from the flare at Bunker 59. A/2-501 IN reported that they received automatic weapons fire at their position; six to eight round bursts from azimuth 180 from old LZ WHITE.

D/2-501 IN found several tunnels in their area, C/2-501 IN found documents SE edge of LZ RED. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 10 January 1968)

10 January 1968

1-502 IN BN conducted movement back to and closed on CU CHI. No contact.

10 January 1969

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: 1-502 IN BN continued with RIF operations. B/1-502 provided security at AN LO.

10 January 1970

A/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon received SA fire from location 707107. There were no US casualties.

10 January 1971

D/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon vicinity of YD495204 found one 60mm mortar round and two fuses. Negative recent activities.



11 January 1968 At 0717H, A/2-501 IN moved from ambush site to PZ and completed at 0944H. At 0739H, D/2-501 IN moved from ambush site to PZ and completed at 0907H. At 1710H, C/2-501 IN put on one (1) hour notice to back up 1-501 IN BN. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 11 January 1968)

11 – 14 January 1968 1-502 IN BN conducted training in preparation for upcoming operations.

11 January 1969 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/1-502 IN conducted C/A from PZ 653245 to LZ 588155. At 1955H at YD646226 A/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon received automatic weapons fire from 2 VC, A/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon returned fire. The engagement resulted in unknown enemy casualties and 1 US KIA, 2 US WIA. D/1-502 IN conducted a C/A from PZ YD63545 to FSB STRIKE. Recon platoon and mortars were lifted by CH-47 from LZ SALLY to FSB STRIKE.

11 January 1970 Information gathered from various sources indicated FSB BIRMINGHAM is being Reconed by a Sapper battalion for possible assault. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon found 1 fresh mortar position at location 704116.

11 January 1971 A/1-501 IN BN vicinity YD494237 found one PRC handset, one copy of resupply list, 2 feet det cord, 2 steel pots, one bandoleer of ammo, three cases of C-Rations, one hand illum, one M-17 protective mask. B/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon vicinity YD453149 found one NVA medical kit on a high-speed trail which showed recent usage.

12 January 1968 C/2-501 IN spotted six individuals approximately at DR680111, they went into a tunnel. Interpreter hollered for them to come out, threw grenades, saw six personnel running away from C/2-501 IN to the south. C/2-501 IN had AR firing from flank, proving area. Believed to be form 688115, 200 meters, 80 degrees from their location.

B/2-501 IN reported that they had three lost enlisted members and looking for them now at location 673128. B/2-510 IN continued to move to ambush site, no further information on 3 lost enlisted members. Enlisted members were to move on azimuth of 110 and return to company in 30 minutes. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 12 January 1968)

12 January 1969 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/1-502 IN conducted saturation patrols vicinity YD5814. B/1-502 IN provided security for FSB T-BONE. C/1-502 IN provided bridge and mines weep security at AN LO. Recon platoon provided security for FSB STRIKE.

12 January 1971 1-501 IN, Recon platoon vicinity YD483117 found bunker complex and old trail network.



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

3 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
 3 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor (3 x Posthumously)
 51 x Bronze Star Medal (4 x Posthumously)
 8 x Purple Heart Medal (8 x Posthumously)
 14 x Combat Infantry Badge
 1 x Died from Non-hostile injuries or illness

06 January 1967



PFC Ronald W. Parker (A/2-502 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 hit by hostile small arms and sniper fire in the KONTUM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 January 1969

The following Soldiers from HHC/1-502 IN:

SP4 Larry Aldridge	SP5 Edwin H. Barbour	CPT Terrell D. Bridges	CPT James C. Britton
SGM Cecil J. Cash	SGT Hector Colon-Rios	SP5 Solomon Dezelle	CPT Ivan R. Farris
SP4 William C. Foreman	1LT Allen D. Gibbs	SP4 Dennis D. Gibson	SFC James Gibson
SP5 David Hopper	SGT Jeffrey D. Howe	SGT Victor Hyatt	CPT Timothy B. Jeffrey
SP4 Alvin B. Johnson	PFC Alvin Kellog Jr.	SP4 John R. Lazomby	SP4 Jerome Newman
SFC Javier S. Nunez	CPT David H. Leeper	SFC Trivett Lloyd	SGT James P. Mason
SP4 Phillip Matio	SGT Floyd P. McNeill	SP4 Melvin B. McWorter	SP4 Joe E. Mikles
SP4 Dean W. Ohl	SP5 Richard J. Oliva	SP4 Kenneth A. Osmoe	SP4 Pedro Ramirez Jr.
SSG Stephen S. Rivera	SP5 Jorge R. Sanchez	SP4 Craig Sanguinetti	1LT Gooffrey L. Scanlon
CPT Terran Spiegelberg	SP4 Francisco Vasquez		

Were awarded the Bronze Star Medal for actions in combat in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; G.O. Number 130; 7 January 1969)

07 January 1969

The following Soldiers from E/1-502 IN:

SP4 Marshall Moore	SP4 Noah R. Purtee	PFC Ronald Rigo	SP4 Ralph D. Schroeter
SP4 Alexander Vigil	SP4 William Ward Jr.	PFC James R. Whilte	

Were awarded the Bronze Star Medal for actions in combat in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; G.O. Number 130; 7 January 1969)

07 January 1969



SGT Ronald E. Long (HHC/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for actions in combat in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; G.O. Number 130; 7 January 1969)

09 January 1967



PFC Robert W. Barton Jr. (C/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile illness from Malaria as a ground casualty in the province not reported, Republic of Vietnam.



09 January 1967



PFC Vennie L. Smith (HQ/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver 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 in the KONTUM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

10 January 1967



PFC Alan D. Whitlock (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death when he charged forward firing his weapon in an attempt to aid his wounded comrade but was mortally wounded by enemy fire before reaching the other man while on combat operation in the KONTUM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

10 January 1967

PFC Henry J. Stuckey (B/2-502 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 he was hit hostile small arms fire while on combat operation in the KONTUM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

10 January 1969



SP4 William B. Offerdahl (A/1-502 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 operation when engaged hostile force 10km west of HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

10 January 1970



CPL Neile C Mackay (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Bronze Star Medal (1OLC) and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms fire while on a combat operation when a hostile force was encountered in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

10 January 1970



CPL Dennis F. Kabara (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Bronze Star Medal (OLC) and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his deaths from small arms fire while on a combat operation when hostile force was encountered in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

11 January 1972

The following Soldiers from A/2-501 IN:

CPT Donald G. Goff	1SG Ralph E. Kell	SGT Ralph H. Stib	SGT Matthew Boyd
SGT Robert E. O'Bryan	SP4 Jerry D. Helland	SP4 Daniel R. Spillers	SP4 Michael S. Greene
SP4 George D. Campbell	PFC Kenneth J. Brandt	PFC James A. Matthews	PFC Michael S. Siderius
PFC Roosevelt Scott Jr.	PFC Thomas D. Tripp		

Were awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge (First Award). (HQ, 101st ABN DIV, Special Orders Number 23; 23 January 1972)

12 January 1967



PFC Dennis P. Neeley (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 received on 03 January 1967 while on combat operation in the province unknown, Military Region 2, Republic of Vietnam.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

09 January 1967



SP5 Everett Bagley Jr. (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against a hostile force on 9 January 1967, near KONTUM, Republic of Vietnam. During the hours of darkness on that night, the Reconnaissance Platoon had established an ambush position along a jungle trail when an estimated reinforced enemy squad was detected entering the killing zone. When the ambush was triggered, four men of the friendly element were wounded and remained in an exposed area. Upon receiving word that casualties had been inflicted on the friendly element Specialist Five Bagley, with complete disregard for his own safety, moved through heavy enemy fire while attempting to locate his wounded comrades in the darkness. Locating the first wounded man, Specialist Bagley immediately administered the needed medical aid and pulled the man to a safe area. Specialist Bagley then continued to move through the bullet-swept area until he had located and treated the three remaining wounded men and had personally carried them to covered positions. On Two occasions, Specialist Bagley drew fire from the enemy while using his flashlight in order to give the more seriously wounded emergency medical treatment. One time, while using his flashlight to treat the wounded, Specialist Bagley was struck in the head by grenade fragments and wounded. Despite his wounds and the heavy enemy fire, Specialist Bagley continued to give medical treatment until all the wounded were safe. Specialist Five Bagley's outstanding display of gallantry in action and his devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army. (AD; General Orders Number 1405; 27 November 1967)

10 January 1967

SFC Hyde L. Taylor (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. Platoon Sergeant Taylor's platoon, while on a search and destroy mission, was suddenly brought under a murderous volume of enemy fire. As Sergeant Taylor began to maneuver his platoon against the enemy position, two of his men were wounded. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Taylor rushed 25 meters through withering enemy fire to aid his wounded comrades. As Sergeant Taylor administered medical aid, he observed three enemy soldiers attempting to assault the flank of his platoon. Realizing the lives of his wounded comrades were in jeopardy and his platoon was in serious danger Sergeant Taylor, again with complete disregard for his own personal safety, jumped up and charged the enemy soldiers, firing his weapon and causing them to flee the battle area. As a result of Sergeant Taylor's actions, several lives were saved, numerous casualties were prevented, and the platoon was able to make a successful assault on the enemy position. Sergeant Taylor's outstanding gallantry and his avid devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (IFFV; General Orders Number 337; 12 April 1967)

10 January 1967



PFC Alan D. Whitlock (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star medal with Valor (Posthumously) for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Private First Class Whitlock distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 10 January 1967, near KONTUM, Republic of Vietnam. While on a search and destroy mission; Private Whitlock and one of his comrades were serving as point men for their platoon. As his comrade turned a sharp curve in the trail, Private Whitlock observed him charge down the trail firing his weapon. Rushing forward, Private Whitlock turned the curve in the trail and observed his comrade fall to the ground wounded. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Whitlock charged forward firing his weapon in an attempt to aid his wounded comrade but was mortally wounded by enemy fire before reaching the other man. His 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. (DA, HQ, 1st BDE, 101st ABN DIV, General Orders Number 80; 15 January 1967)



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

