



STRIKE

Vietnam War Weekly History



January 20th – January 26th, 2019

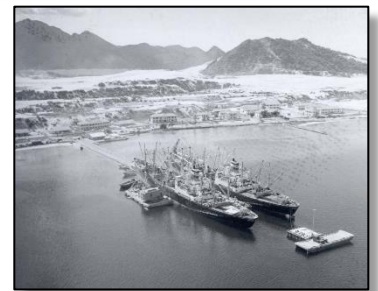
Issue: 137

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.)

20 – 26 January 1968

2nd 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 1310H 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. 3rd platoon conducted operations in vicinity YD6421. B/1-502 IN conducted saturation patrols in vicinity YD5917. At YD592182, B/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon found fresh footprints, 2 sampans and a well-used trail running from north to south. At YD588184, 3rd platoon found a dirt stairway cut into a hillside. At YD588183, 3rd platoon found three 2-man bunkers and destroyed them. D/1-502 IN (-) conducted saturation patrol vicinity YD7131. 3rd 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, 3rd platoon, 2nd squad located a booby trap in the vicinity of 764068 and destroyed it with small arms fire. C/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon found a pair of speakers in the vicinity of 782064.

20 January 1970

Operation RANDOLPH GLEN: 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 B/2-502 IN during the operation. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)



21 January 1966

Operation VAN BUREN: 2-502 IN BN conducted a combined helicopter assault and extraction. B/2-502 IN secured an LZ vicinity CQ082743 and evacuated Vietnamese children, nuns, and priests from a nearby orphanage. The operation was completely successful; no enemy contact was made although numerous VC were observed throughout the entire area. Five days prior to the extraction of the orphans the Recondo platoon, reinforced, moved to TUY AN vicinity CQ110680 to gain EFL for the operation. The 2-520 IN BN conducted Recondo patrols on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of January. On 24 January a patrol from B/2-502 IN engaged an estimated VC platoon vicinity BQ105495. The patrol in contact was reinforced with two (2) platoons from B/2-502 IN. The company (-) then swept through the area and conducted subsequent search and clear operations. The operations were terminated on 25 January at 1530H with the following results: 1 VC KIA (BC) and 15 VC KBA (PROB). (HQ, 2-502 IN; Operation VAN BUREN, After Action Report 150600H January 1966 – 201200 February 1966)

21 – 24 January 1968

2BDE began air and overland movement into the assigned AO; established base camp facilities, defensive positions and prepared to initiate a sweep of the area. At 0910H, 22 January, CG, I Field Force Vietnam issued a change of mission directing the BDE to return to CU CHI Base Camp and prepare for immediate deployment to I CTZ. At the time of the alert, the 1-501 IN BN was enroute into the AO. They were diverted midway, returned to base camp and subsequently deployed to HUE – PHU BAI the following day, OPCON to III MAF. On 24 January at 1800H the responsibility for OP ATALLA was passed to the 11th ACR and the 2BDE began phasing back to CU CHI. During the entire operation, there was no significant contact and negative results. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968)

21 January 1968

2BDE takes part in operations within AO ATALLA around MINH THANH in the Michelin rubber plantation. 12th Aviation Group provided 75 CH-47 sorties to move the brigade, combined with a four-serial ground convoy.

21 – 30 January 1968

Operation ATALLA/CASEY: 1BDE, 1ID; 2BDE, 101 ABN DIV, the 1/11 ACR and 2/11 ACR began Operation ATALLA/CASEY, a reconnaissance in force operation against the 165th PAVN Regiment in BINH DUONG Province.

21 January 1968

2BDE received information that there are four (4) Companies of VC at XT603200. One VC has been captured by the 3-4 CAV. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN, Daily Staff Journal Entry or Duty Officers Log; 21 January 1968)

21 January 1968

Operation SAN ANGELO: A/2-502 IN motor marched from vicinity YU117501 to vicinity YU081117 escorted by 2-17 CAV. The move was uneventful as were search and destroy operations in their new AO. B/2-502 IN foot marched from their AO to SONG BE closing at 1500H. Twenty women and children were questioned enroute with negative results. C/2-502 IN at 1945H, killed 2 VC on the perimeter of the TAC CP, capturing two AK-47 assault rifles. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Operation SAN ANGELO, Combat After Action Report; 17 February 1968)

21 January 1969

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A/1-502 IN provided security FSB T-BONE. At 1700H, while on a RIF operation, 1st platoon detonated one (1) 60mm mortar round boobytrap at YD652223. It resulted in 1 US WIA. B/1-502 IN, with Recon platoon OPCON, conducted RIF operations. At YD594186, Recon platoon received a satchel charge and 9mm pistol fire resulting in 1 US KIA. At YD592189, 2nd platoon found 4 old platoon size hootches which had been recently used and one (1) CHICOM grenade. At YD592186 2nd platoon found 1 reinforced bunker and some ammunition. At YD596187, Recon platoon found and destroyed 2 security bunkers and sixteen (16) 55 gal. drums of kerosene, C/1-502 IN remained OPCON to 2-501 IN BN. D/1-502 IN (-) conducted saturation patrols vicinity YD7131. 3rd platoon detained 6 male Vietnamese at YD728330. Detainees were sent from district headquarters to HUE as draft dodgers, and the other four were forwarded to the national police for interrogation.



21 January 1969

A/1-502 IN provided security for FSB T-BONE. At 1799H, while on a RIF operation, 1st platoon detonated 1 60mm mortar round boobytrap at YD652223. It resulted in 1 US WIA. B/1-502 IN with Recon platoon OPCON, conducted RIF operations. At YD594186, Recon platoon received a satchel charge and 9mm pistol fire resulting in 1 US KIA. At YD592189, 2nd platoon found 4 old platoon size hootches which had been recently used and 1 CHICOM grenade. At YD593186, 2nd platoon found 1 reinforced bunker and some ammunition. At YD596187, Recon platoon found and destroyed 2 security bunkers and 16 55gal drums of kerosene. C/1-502 IN remained OPCON to 2-501 IN BN. D/1-502 IN (-) conducted saturation patrols in vicinity YD7131. 3rd platoon detained 6 male Vietnamese at YD728330. Detainees were sent from district headquarters to HUE as draft dodgers, and the other four were forwarded to the national police for interrogation.

21 January 1970

In a major civil affairs project for the 2-501 IN BN; The villagers and the 2-501 IN BN completed a gymnasium for HUONG TRA District High School in HUONG CAN village with material provided by the 101st ABN DIV. The gym was required because a large percentage of the students come to the school from great distances and needed a place to eat and get some exercise during the lunch hour. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 1); Spring 1970)

21 January 1970

B/1-502 IN defense reports one claymore wire was broken last night, all others ok. D/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon is training 17 PF's from the 199th PF platoon in claymore, map reading and compass review. They are also training 17 men from the same unit on First Aid. D/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon attached to the 1-502 IN BN found a rucksack with rice. D/2-502 IN blew an ambush on a 5-man VC/NVA element with small arms and grenades. The element split up and blood trail was found.

21 January 1971

1-501 IN BN, Recon platoon vicinity YD439245 found one trail orientated west too east. Estimated usage 12 days. A/1-501 IN vicinity YD517209 discovered a bunker complex.

22 January 1968

TF 2-501 IN mission was to conduct search and destroy operations in assigned AO crosses PL PINK to seize objective 3. TF 2-501 conducted search and destroy operation in assigned AO with TMC on the right and TMF on the left. D/2-501 Initiated screen BN left (west) flank and follows TMF on order. C/2-501 IN ran into some vine tire around some pole. They made some type of pattern; the area is being checked out. C/2-501 IN found a booby trap and blew it up. E/2-501 IN engaged 2 VC vicinity 738648; negative results, VC fled to the SE. D/2-501 IN received 1 round 60mm, NE of W flank. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 22 January 1968)

22 January 1968

Operation JEB STUART: Just prior to the TET Offensive, the units of 2BDE deployed north of I Corps to join the 1st Air Cavalry Division in Operation JEB STUART. Initially landing and setting up at the PHU BAI airfield, the 2BDE troopers started search operations immediately and soon moved north to LZ SALLY. At the outbreak of the TET Offensive, 2BDE troopers under the operational control of the 1st CAV, shared the fighting in the battle of QUANG TRI and HUE, killing 94 enemies who had tried to penetrate Screaming Eagle defenses.



During the following weeks, the score of enemies killed and captured mounted as 2BDE Troopers cleaned out resistance in numerous villages between HUE and QUANG TRI. The 1-502 IN BN launched a road clearing operation along Highway 1 south of QUANG TRI. Villagers pinpointed an NBA battalion in an ambush site for the troopers.

Calling in artillery and gunships, the "First Strike" paratroopers blocked escape routes. As the NVA fled the bombardment, the infantrymen ripped into the enemy with withering fire. When the battle ended, 72 enemy bodies lay in front of the paratroopers' positions.

With the offensive blunted near SAIGON, the 1BDE was airlifted to I Corps. In two weeks, the troopers had cleared the route following Highway 547 to the A SHAU VALLEY. FSB BIRMINGHAM was established 16km from the NVA stronghold, to support the driving paratroopers, who continued to push westward through the mountains. Enemy supply routes were cut, troop movements were interrupted, and arms caches were uncovered by the onrushing troopers.



Operation JEB STUART ended with the TET lunar offensive nullified. In 40 days of bitter fighting over 1000 of the infiltrating NVA and VC were killed. Battles along Highway 1 and the "Street without Joy" became mourning grounds for the 812th NVA Regiment and the 324th NVA Division.



22 January 1968

Operation JEB STUART: This operation covered the initial move of major elements of the 1st Cavalry Division into northern I Corps following PERSHING. It was launched as a search and destroy operation aimed at enemy Base Areas 101 and 114. It had another goal of reinforcing the Marines in I Corps. The battles associated with TET of '68 would quickly overshadow the search and destroy nature of this operation which claimed 3,268 known enemy casualties and 119 POWs versus US losses of 291 KIAs and 1,735 WIAs. As a result of JEB STUART, the 1st Bde was near QUANG TRI City just in time for TET. The 1ST CAV contributed three battalions: 2/8th, 5/7th and 2/12th CAV and the 101st ABN DIV contributed two battalions: 1-501 IN BN and 2-501 IN BN. (101st Airborne 1968 Vietnam Yearbook)



22 January 1968

2BDE at the time, had just begun an air assault into the Michelin plantation area near MINH THANH vicinity XT6367 to begin a reconnaissance in force operation in that area prior to TET. At 0910H, the 1-501 IN BN received its warning orders while in flight to the Brigade AO. The aircraft were diverted and returned to CU CHI from where the battalion deployed to HUE – PHU BAI the following day. The 2BDE (-) followed immediately. The 2BDE remained OPCON to III MAF and further OPCON to 1st AIR CAV DIV until 10 March 1968. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, HQ, 101st Air Cavalry Division, Period Ending 30 April 1968)

22 – 29 January 1968

HHC/1-502 IN moved from CU CHI to PHU BAI Airfield. This move was conducted by Air Force C-130 Aircraft. The Brigade began Operation JEB STUART. During this time, we received logistical support from FSA MacDonald, located at LZ EL PASO (Now CAMP EAGLE). Resupply was accomplished by vehicles, and adequacy depended on road conditions and clearance.

22 January 1968

Operation SAN ANGELO: A/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN, Recondo company and the TAC-CP extracted from assigned AO beginning at 0845H and closed SONG BE at 1545H. The 2-502 IN BN assumed BDE IAF upon closing. B/2-502 IN was air lifted too cold LZ vicinity TAC-CP 2-327 and became OPCON effective 1029H for a security mission. The 2-502 IN BN provided security for mini-firebase vicinity YU182238 and established a forward TAC-CP. A/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN provided security at SONG BE and conducted S&D operations in assigned AO's on a rotating basis. (HQ, 2-502 IN: Operation SAN ANGELO, Combat After Action Report; 17 February 1968)

22 – 25 January 1968

Operation CASEY: 2BDE conducts Operation CASEY, a combined mechanized/ airmobile infantry operation in conjunction with 11th ACR in the Michelin rubber plantation. 2BDE is supplemented with supporting units and renamed the 2BDE Task Force. At the end of the operation, 2BDE is sent north to HUE.

1-501 Abn Inf.	2d FASC Platoon, 501st Signal Battalion.
2-501 Abn Inf.	2/101st MP Co.
1-502 Abn Inf.	Team/101st MI Co.
1-321 Abn Arty.	2/265 Radio Research Co.
A/1-11 Arty.	34th Photo Interpretation Team
C/326 Eng.	Support Units, 101st Div. Support Command
B/326 Med.	2/A/801st Maint. Co.

22 January 1969

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A/1-502 IN continued to provide security for FSB T-BONE. A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon conducted saturation patrols in the vicinity YD640220. B/1-502 IN conducted saturation patrols in the vicinity YD5919. At YD593199, B/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon found a hole and small bunker and destroyed them. D/1-502 IN (-) conducted saturation patrols in the vicinity of YD7132. 2nd platoon was located at LZ SALLY as BDE RRF.

22 January 1971

D/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon received small arms fire from two enemy vicinity YD473137. Negative Results.

23 January 1968

C/2-501 IN reporting seeing 2 VC coordinates 736646; engaged with 1 round returned fire, enemy headed west. C/2-501 IN reported locating 3 pressure release type booby traps at XT741647, destroyed them and will sweep area. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 23 January 1968)

23 January 1969

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A/1-502 IN continued to provide security for FSB T-BONE. A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon conducted saturation patrols in the vicinity YD5919. C/1-502 IN moved via CH47 from FSB BIRMINGHAM to FSB T-BONE, was released from OPCON to the 2-501 IN BN. D/1-502 IN conducted saturation patrols in the vicinity YD7123 and YD7229. Recon patrol was lifted to LZ SALLY and released from OPCON to B/1-502 IN.

23 January 1971

A/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon vicinity YD506216 found one individual weapon CHICOM Pistol. Last activity 2-3 days. D/1-501 IN vicinity YD466236 discovered a wire believed to be an antenna and eight fighting positions. D/1-501 IN vicinity YD470133 discovered a trail orientated north to south. Last activity 12 hours.

24 January 1968

E/2-501 IN spotted 9 personnel close to runway near there perimeter. Firing illumination will keep informed on situation.

24 January 1969

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A/1-502 IN (-) lifted from FSB T-BONE to LZ SALLY. A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF operation to LZ SALLY. B/1-502 IN lifted from PZ YD596202 to LZ SALLY. C/1-502 IN provided security for FSB T-BONE. D/1-502 IN was marshalled at LZ SALLY along with Recon platoon.



24 January –
09 February 1969

Operation SHERMAN PEAK: Was launched by the 1-502 IN BN, D/1-501 IN and the 3-3 ARVN Regiment. Intelligence information (SLAR, Sniffer and VR missions) indicated that enemy activity had increased, and the enemy was moving personnel and equipment from rear staging areas in the A SHAU VALLEY in a northerly direction along Route 547, and the RAO NAI River into areas near FSB VEGHEL (YD552030). Working in conjunction with the 3-3 ARVN Regiment, the 1-502 IN BN Task Force conducted rapid combat assaults and reconnaissance in force operations in the vicinity of FSB VEGHEL to locate and destroy enemy forces, installations, prevent enemy infiltration along Route 547 and provide protection for engineer reconnaissance teams along Route 547. The operation concluded on 9 February with the combined forces making little contact with enemy elements, resulting in 1 NVA KIA and a large munitions cache discovered and destroyed. (DA-Senior Officer Debriefing Report; MG Melvin Zais, CG, 101st ABN DIV; Period 19 July 1968 – 25 May 1969)

24 January 1971

Screaming Eagles A/1-501 IN BN discovered a large weapons cache west of HUE consisting 39 SKS Rifles, 12 AK-47 rifles, two carbines, and three submachine guns. The weapons were evacuated by the 'GERONIMO' troopers. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 3, Number 4); Winter - Spring 1971)

24 January 1971

A/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon vicinity YD 507215 found a weapons cache site. Results 6 SK's, 15 AK-47's. A/1-501 IN, 1st platoon vicinity YD513205 received small arms fire from 2-3 enemy 100-150 meters north east of their position. Results 2 enemy KIA, one AK-50. (1-501 IN BN Annual Supplement History; 1 January 1971 – 31 December 1971)

25 January 1968

In the last days of Jan 1968, B/2-502 IN was attached to 2-327 IN BN and made a combat assault from SONG BE to near the CAMBODIAN border. We established a fire base and started receiving AK fire almost immediately. Every time that a rifle company departed the fire base, they were engaged in a firefight with the NVA. On the morning of 25 Jan 1968, B/2-502 IN departed the firebase on a company size combat patrol. We moved approximately 400 meters when we made contact with the NVA and remained in contact for 2 ½ - 3 hrs. 2-327 IN BN, 4.2 mortars gave us excellent support during the firefight. That was probably the best volume of friendly fire that I have witnessed. On completion of the fight our casualties were 3 KIA's and approx. 15 WIA's. One interesting thing was that the NVA had new uniforms, weapons, and equipment. At that time, we didn't know that the NVA was coming in country for the Tet Offensive. (Personal account by Jimmy D. Hale)

25 January 1969

At 1513H, A/2-501 IN while on a RIF mission discovered a burial site about 2 weeks old vicinity YC780978, 17 km south of CAMP EAGLE. The site contained 16 bodies, 11 determined to be KBA, 3 by artillery and the remaining 2 by small arms fire. (III MAF Sig Event; TT 1201005028c.pdf, pg. 8)

25 January 1969

A/2-502 IN vicinity YD874014 13km south of PHU BAI, received 2 rounds unknown type mortars resulting in 7 US KIA and 7 US WIA (3 Evacs). (III MAF Sig Event; TT 1201005028c.pdf, pg. 9)

25 January 1969

Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE: 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV and the 3rd ARVN Regiment begin a spoiling operation named SHERMAN PEAK and centered of FSB VEGHEL on Route 547, THUA THIEN Province. The operation is designed to prevent any possible enemy offensive directed at HUE for TET.



25 January 1969

Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE: 1-502 IN BN began Operation SHERMAN PEAK, which was in support of Operation NEVADA EAGLE. The battalion's mission was to conduct reconnaissance in force operations in the vicinity of FSB VEGHEL to locate and destroy enemy forces and installations, prevent enemy infiltration along highway 547 and 547A, and provide protection for engineer reconnaissance teams along highway 547 and 547A. This mission was conducted in conjunction with the 3rd ARVN Regiment. This was primarily a spoiling operation to prevent an enemy build up in preparation for an attack on HUE. During the period of the operation no significant contact was made more were there signs of recent enemy activity. However, many caches were found, some of which were believed to be remaining from the TET offensive of 1968. The caches consisted primarily of ammunition and explosives. Operation SHERMAN PEAK ended on 09 February and the battalion continued to participate in Operation NEVADA EAGLE with the 2BDE. During Operation NEVADA EAGLE the 1-502 IN BN conducted training and joint operation with the RF/PS's in QUANG DIEN District. This proved to be quite successful and as forces proficiency increased the 1-502 IN BN was able to occupy a larger area of operations. Operation NEVADA EAGLE ended on 28 February 1969.

25 January 1969

Operation SHERMAN PEAK: 1-502 IN began Operation SHERMAN PEAK in support of Operation NEVADA EAGLE. A/1-502 IN remained at LZ SALLY as BDE RRF. B/1-502 IN conducted a C/A from LZ SALLY to FSB VEGHEL. Upon approaching FSB VEGHEL, they received small arms fire. At 1445H, B/1-502 IN captured 1 VC in a bunker at FSB VEGHEL. The POW was evacuated to FSB GERONIMO for interrogation. C/1-502 IN moved by CH47 from FSB T-BONE to LZ SALLY. D/1-502 IN moved from LZ SALLY to FSB VEGHEL and then departed FSB VEGHEL to conduct RIF operations in the vicinity YD545030. Departing FSB VEGHEL D/1-502 IN received friendly fire from FSB VEGHEL at 1538H, resulting in 1 US WIA. The 1-502 IN BN TOC CP moved by truck from OMAHA to LZ SALLY and then moved by CH47 to FSB VEGHEL. D/1-501 IN was OPCON to 1-502 IN BN and conducted a C/A from FSB BIRMINGHAM to FSB BASTOGNE.



25 January 1969

Continuing a new Screaming Eagle series of offensives in enemy base areas, elements of the 2BDE initiated an operation aimed at cutting off enemy movement out of the A SHAU along Highway 547A. Air assaults were conducted into FB BASTOGNE. Elsewhere in the AO, 101st Paratroopers accounted for 18 enemies' dead, one prisoner, one HOI CHANH and four captured weapons. A/2-501 IN discovered a sizeable grave complex containing 16 enemy bodies in the Leech Island area. Part of D/3-506 Currahees encountered two VC on the paymaster team. They killed one of them and captured 45,000 local piasters (local money). (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1969-69)



25 January 1971

A/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon received small arms fire while sweeping a bunker complex vicinity YD508214. Platoon came under small arms fire and RPG fire. Results seven US WIA.

26 – 31 January 1966

Operation VAN BUREN: C/2-502 IN conducted a Recondo patrol and the initial phase of Checkerboard operations vicinity CQ061542. Concurrently, the battalion prepared for a search and destroy operation to the north. B/2-502 IN (-), A/2-502 IN (-), 17th CAV (-) OPCON 2-502 IN BN, 2-502 IN BN, AT platoon and 3A/326 ENG conducted a search and destroy operation vicinity BQ154584 initiated 28 January at 0600H. The 17th CAV (-) and B/2-502 IN infiltrated into the operations area under the cover of darkness. A/2-502 IN an AT platoon conducted a heliborne assault to establish blocking positions to the East and North respectively. A/2-502 IN then joined B/2-502 IN and the combined force conducted search and destroy operations to the north. This operation terminated 31 January at 1515H. These two operations accounted for 8 VC KIA (BC), 5 VC KIA (EST), 63 VCS and numerous types of small arms ammunition captured. Friendly losses were 2 WIA. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Operation VAN BUREN, After Action Report 150600H January 1966 – 201200 February 1966)

26 January 1967

Operation FARRAGUT: Task Force DOHERY, composed of C/2-502 IN, one (1) platoon A/325 ENG, one (1) platoon, A/2-17 CAV, and C/2-320 ARTY at 0900H conducted a tactical road march to an area NW of Secret Base 35. This move was an attempt to deceive the enemy as to the Brigade's true objective, Secret Base 7, and serve to position forces for the Brigade assault on D+1. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation FARRAGUT)

26 January 1968

2BDE Task Force establishes new CP at HUE – PHU BAI, Republic of Vietnam.



26 January 1968

2-501 IN BN was airlifted to HUE in northern I CTZ, RVN. The Battalion CP was located in the vicinity of what was called CAMP EAGLE. The remainder of the month was unusually quiet.

26 January 1969

Operation SHERMAN PEAK/Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A/1-502 IN conducted a C/A from LZ SALLY to FSB ZON. The company found various amounts of US ammunition on FSB ZON and destroyed it. B/1-502 IN provided security on FSB VEGHEL. A man was spotted outside the perimeter and engaged with negative results. C/1-502 IN was lifted from LZ SALLY to FSB VEGHEL by CH-47. They then conducted RIF operations vicinity YD555126. D/1-502 IN conducted RIF operations from YD545030 to YD533038. D/1-502 IN vicinity YD534026 found three 4-man bunkers, 1 60mm mortar round, and 200 AK-47 rounds. At YD531035 they found approximately 5000 12.8mm rounds. D/1-502 IN vicinity YD533038 found a tunnel complex containing 3 cases of TNT, 800 rounds 12.7 ammunition and wheels for a 50-cal. gun carriage. Recon platoon was OPCON to A/1-502 IN. Recon platoon vicinity YD4655002 found 5 small security bunkers and destroyed them. Recon platoon vicinity YD470998 found 10 bunkers, and 6 spider holes with hootches over the holes. They appeared to be 2-4 weeks old. D/1-501 IN continued to provide security for FSB BASTOGNE and conducted local patrols around FSB BASTOGNE.

26 January 1969

2BDE operations continued with air assaults into LZ ZON. In the area, the CO of the 101st AHB spotted several NVA and a 37mm antiaircraft gun. Delta Company gunships were called in, resulting in two NVA killed and the AA gun destroyed. In the 3BDE operation, C/2-502 IN discovered a cache of 24 SKS rifles, three RPDs, one RPG launcher, 30 60mm mortar rounds and 30 RPG rounds in an elaborate hut-bunker complex in the mountains west of CAMP EVANS. The 1BDE's operation continued near FB QUICK II with light contact. The 2-502d Recondos engaged an NVA platoon, killed two, and later found a cache of four weapons. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1969-69)



26 January 1970

Operation RANDOLPH GLEN: 2-502 IN BN returned back to FSB RIFLE and established the tactical operations center. The firebase was a jointly occupied firebase with ARVN and Strike Force troopers. The area of operations was split with the US responsible for the section north of FSB RIFLE and the ARVN's responsible for the south. There was little evidence of recent enemy activity in the area surrounding FSB RIFLE throughout the end of January and early February. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)



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.

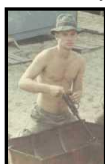
2 x Silver Star Medal
1 x Soldiers Medal
8 x Bronze Star Medal (7 x Posthumously)
2 x Army Commendation Medal with Valor
14 x Purple Heart Medal (12 x Posthumously)
32 x Air Medal
26 x Combat Infantryman Badge
1 x Died from Non-hostile injuries or illness

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.

21 January 1969



SP4 Michael J. White (E/1-502 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 hit by fragments from a hostile mine 16km W-SW of HUE Citadel in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

23 January 1969



SP4 Bruce H. Rawling (C/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 while on combat operation when hit by hostile small arms fire in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. SP4 Rawling was admitted to a military medical facility, placed on VSI list, and later expired in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 January 1966



PFC Richard A. Sullivan (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Soldiers Medal, Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and wounds received which resulted in his death as a result of a gunshot wound to the head incurred when hit by hostile sniper fire while on combat operation during hostile ground action in the PHU YEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

24 January 1968



1LT Thomas M. Carhart (A/1-327 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during hostile ground action while on combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 9711; 21 November 1968)



25 January 1968



SSG James B. Anderson (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 while on combat operation when engaged by hostile force in a firefight in the PHUOC LONG Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 January 1969



SP4 Anderson D. Bolton (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 deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds while at a defensive position when area came under hostile mortar attack 13km south of PHU BAI Airfield in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 January 1969



SP4 Ralph L. Glover (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 while at a night defensive position when area came under hostile attack 13km south of PHU BAI Airfield, while at a defensive position when area came under hostile mortar attack in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 January 1969



SP4 Ralph E. Johnson (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 deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds while at a defensive position when area came under hostile mortar attack 13km south of PHU BAI Airfield in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 January 1969

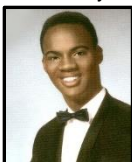


SGT Steven T. Kiel (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds while at a defensive position when area came under hostile attack 13km south of PHU BAI Airfield in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 January 1969

SP4 Fernando L. Lozano (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a defensive position when area came under hostile mortar attack 13km south of PHU BAI Airfield in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 January 1969



CPL Alvin R. Narcisse (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a defensive position when area came under hostile mortar attack 13km south of PHU BAI Airfield in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 January 1969



PFC Frank D. Smitherman (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while at a night defensive position when area came under hostile attack 13km south of PHU BAI Airfield, while at a defensive position when area came under hostile mortar attack in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



25 January 1969

The following Soldiers from B/1-502 IN:

SGT David A. Edwards	SP4 George H. Keathley	SP4 Willie King	PFC Robert L. Carter
PFC Michael L. Malin	1LT Donald C. Murnock	SP4 Ethen D. Smith	SP4 Terry L. Chinn
PFC Thomas W. Coss	PFC Earl J. Perry Jr.	SSG Charles B. Payne Jr.	SGT Cleodis Smith
PFC Santiago Numez	PFC Joseph C. Addison	PFC Guy E. Daugherty	SP4 John W. Mandez
SP4 David L. Pryse	SP4 Dennis H. McGill	PFC Richard M. Sam	PFC Darrell K. Johnson
SSG Clifton H. Cathcart	SP4 Robert E. McAferty	SP4 David L. Reese	SP4 Thomas D. Shobe
SGT Mark W. Dugger	SGT Thomas R. Hancock	PFC Edward L. Resavy	SP4 Francis L. Grue
SGT Willie C. Dozier	SGT Larry E. Johnson	PFC Vincent P. Fenequito	1LT Peter A. Fekete

Was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Republic of Vietnam. (HQ, 101st Airborne Division, General Order Number 1423; 9 February 1969)

25 January 1970

The following Soldiers from A/2-501 IN:

PFC Ryamond Armstrong	PFC Robert C. Banwart	PFC Murl D. Boston	SP4 Scott A. Brindley
PFC Glen A. Brown	PFC Holly E. Dickerson	PFC Hector Dominguez	PFC James F. Dowling
PFC Donald W. Garey	SP4 Lideran C. Garrett	PFC Roy D. Garrett	PFC Darwin A. Grow
PFC Embritch Harris	1LT David A. Hockett	PFC Coy J. Hubbard	PFC Celester Jones
PFC Ronald J. King	PFC Marchall T. Morgan	SP4 Joseph Nester	PFC Samuel Niemann
PFC John R. Overton	PFC David R. Schmidli	PFC Joseph Stevens	PFC Richard A. Takos
SGT John E. Upton	PFC Alan L. Wentworth		

Was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge. (HQ, 101s ABN DIV; Specials Order Number 27, 27 January 1970)

26 January 1969

SP4 Joseph J. Saitta (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds sustained in combat in the Republic of Vietnam. (Purple Heart Medal Citation)



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

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 complete 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, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2193; 20 January 1969)



23 January –
31 December 1969



MAJ Jerome A. Bruschette (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (3-OLC) For exceptionally meritorious service in support of the United States objectives in the counterinsurgency effort in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 23 January 1969 to 31 December 1969. Major Bruschette distinguished himself while serving as Battalion Operations Officer, S3, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, and as Executive Officer of the 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry. He was responsible for planning and organizing numerous fire support bases which housed and supported logistical units and artillery and infantry battalions. He innovated the first "Airmobile Tactical Operations Center" using native materials augmented only by sandbags and barbed wire. He displayed a unique ability in coordinating not only the tactical deployment of the battalion, but also in using the supporting units to maximum capacity. Major Bruschette maintained a noteworthy level of rapport with Vietnamese forces while conducting joint counterinsurgency operations. Through his knowledge of combat operations, all joint operations were executed with a high degree of success. Through his initiative, resourcefulness, adaptability to change, and readiness to resort to the expedient, he materially contributed to the efforts of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) in the Republic of Vietnam. Major Bruschette's meritorious service was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 15287; 31 December 1969)

24 January 1966



SFC Robert R. Wightman (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. SFC Wightman distinguished himself on 24 January 1966 while serving as acting platoon leader during a mission to relieve an element of an ambushed patrol near TUY HOA, Republic of Vietnam. On this date, Platoon Sergeant Wightman's platoon was moving to join its parent unit when his rear security squad was ambushed. He immediately led his men through flooded rice paddies back toward the beleaguered squad. As he and his men neared the pinned down element, the Viet Cong fire became more intense. After skillfully deploying his platoon to give him fire support, Platoon Sergeant Wightman, with complete disregard for his personal safety, moved aggressively through heavy Viet Cong fire and directed the evacuation of the wounded to a nearby landing zone. When heavy Viet Cong fire forced away the incoming medical evacuation helicopter, Platoon Sergeant Wightman immediately called for tactical air support. As the aircraft approached the battle area, Platoon Sergeant Wightman skillfully directed effective air strikes and maneuvered his force against the insurgent troops. Promptly after the air strikes, he led his men in an aggressive attack, destroyed the insurgent positions, and routed the Viet Cong. Through his courage and outstanding leadership, fire superiority was regained over the insurgent troops and the casualties of the beleaguered squad were successfully evacuated. Platoon Sergeant Wightman's unimpeachable valor in close combat against a superior hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV; General Orders Number 2916; 16 May 1966)

24 January 1971



SSG Terrel O. Kimber (A/1-501 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Kimber distinguished himself on 24 January 1971 while serving as a squad leader during combat operations in THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. While on a reconnaissance-in-force mission, Sergeant Kimber's squad encountered a well-camouflaged enemy bunker. After an unsuccessful attempt at destroying the emplacement, Sergeant Kimber came under small arms fire. Employing fire and movement tactics with his squad, Sergeant Kimber successfully destroyed the enemy position. Staff Sergeant Kimber's heroic actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 2233; 16 March 1971)

26 January 1969



SP4 Joseph J. Saitta (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 26 January 1969. Specialist Saitta distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman in Company B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, near the city of PHU BAI, Republic of Vietnam. During a search and clear mission, Specialist Saitta's platoon came under intense enemy automatic weapons fire. In the initial burst of fire, one man was seriously wounded. Specialist Saitta, with complete disregard for his own safety, moved forward with another soldier through the intense enemy automatic weapons fire to the location of the wounded man lying in the direct line of enemy fire. Crawling through the intense enemy automatic weapons fire, he reached the second wounded man, who was in an open area. On several occasions, Specialist Saitta used his body as a shield to protect the wounded Soldier from the enemy fire. After administering first aid to him, he carried the wounded Soldier to the rear of the area and was instrumental in completing his successful evacuation. Specialist Saitta's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; General Orders Number 3991; 30 April 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

