



STRIKE

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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.)

- 23 June – 07 July 1966 **Operation BEAUREGARD:** 2-502 IN BN conducted in the DAK TO area, RECONDO CHECKERBOARD operations, clos-in training, and manned 11 Combat Outposts. This was accomplished by mission rotation of the three rifle companies at (5) day intervals. The company conducting close-in training was also the Battalion Ready Reaction Force. Although no enemy contact was made during this period, 2 rice caches totaling 7 ¼ tons were discovered and destroyed. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, After Action Report, Operation BEAUREGARD; 19 July 1966)
- 23 June 1966 **Operation JOHN PAUL JONES:** At 0730H, 2-502 IN BN (-) made airmobile assaults on the two secured landing zones. Simultaneously, the 1-327 IN BN conducted a ground assault; seizing objectives in the northern portion of the area of operation, after making a ground approach through the 2nd ROK Marine BDE. All Brigade objectives were secured when the two battalions linked up on Highway 1 at 1335H. During the period of 23 through 30 July, the two battalions conducted search and destroy operations without significant enemy contact. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; Operation After Action Report, Operation JOHN PAUL JONES; 28 September 1966)
- 23 June 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** 2-502 IN BN captured 2 detainees in two light contacts. (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)
- 23 – 24 June 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** 2BDE, 101st 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 10 contacts. Today's statistics: 1 KHA, 1 WHA (medevac); Enemy assessment: 1 NVA KIA (BC), 5.4 tons or rice.

1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN occupied night ambushed vicinity YD847242, YD840242 and YD843236. Conducted night ambushes vicinity YD847242, YD840242 and YD843236. Conducted one (1) platoon RIF operation vicinity YD853250 and returned. One (1) platoon RIF operation vicinity YD853250 and returned. At 0650H vicinity YD845243 found and destroyed a 250lbs bomb BBT. At 0834H vicinity YD853240 found and destroyed 2 105mm round BBT's. At 0835H vicinity YD852340 engaged 2 enemy with AW, negative enemy assessment. At 0848H vicinity YD855245 engaged 1 VC, negative enemy assessment. At 1028H vicinity YD854253 observed 4 secondary explosions from artillery fire. From 1442H to vicinity 1514H 3 air strikes were expended in BBT area vicinity YD854243. At 1715H vicinity YD853249 engaged approximately 10 enemy with artillery, negative enemy assessment. At 1820H vicinity YD842248 engaged 2 enemy with SA, negative enemy assessment. At 1945H vicinity YD834247 received SA fire from estimated enemy squad located vicinity YD834237. Negative casualties. Artillery was fired with negative enemy assessment.

B/1-501 IN provided security for COCO Beach and ambushed vicinity YD873302 and YD802331.

C/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD862235. With 1 PF platoon conducted platoon size RIF operation to vicinity YD844227 and YD850225. C/1-501 IN (-) conducted sweep of areas vicinity YD863238, YD867236 and YD865233. At 1335H vicinity YD849228 sustained 1 US KHA, 1 US WHA from unknown type explosive BBT.

D/1-501 IN provided security for FSB MONGOOSE and occupied strong points at POL pumping station vicinity YD775250 and bridges along highway 551 and POL pipeline from vicinity YD787273 to YD795285. Ambushed vicinity YD799285.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD795249. Conducted RIF operation vicinity YD808250. At 0934H vicinity YD799248 found and destroyed 800lbs loose rice. At 1035H vicinity YD803248 engaged 2 VC with SA fire, negative enemy assessment. At 1153H vicinity YD806248 found and destroyed a "Bouncing Betty" mine. At 1945H vicinity YD808253 received heavy volume of SA and M79 fire from SE form unknown size force. Negative casualties. Artillery was fired with negative enemy assessment.

C/2-501 IN (-) occupied night positions vicinity YD809186 and YD838176. Ambushed vicinity YD816184, YD828175, YD802193 and YD792198. C/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon maintained liaison with the 741st RIF Company with 1 squad at bridge vicinity YD750210, One (1) squad at bridge vicinity YD781209 and platoon (-) at LCU Ramp vicinity YD772223.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN closed OP/FSB T-BONE at 1025H and returned OP/CON 2-501 IN. Conducted RIF operation to a company base vicinity YD642188. A/2-501 IN, 1st platoon continued to vicinity YD635194, YD628194, YD635189 and returned to Company CP.



B/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD627209 and ambushed vicinity YD613209, YD614207 and YD634214. B/2-501 IN (-) conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD623204, YD611205, YD615207 and returned. B/2-501 IN OPCON 1-501 IN.

D/2-501 IN (-) provided security for OP/FSB T-BONE and established platoon ambushes vicinity YD648217 and YD643189. D/2-501 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD656213, YD652219, YD647210 and returned to OP/FSB T-BONE.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD629223 and ambushed vicinity YD609232. Reinforced squad conducted patrol to vicinity YD634238, YD623233 and returned to CP vicinity YD629223. Platoon then conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD628203.

1-502 IN BN

A/1-502 IN occupied night positions vicinity YD695300 and YD694304 providing security for 2 bulldozers and a floating raft. A/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD689294. At 1320H, A/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon moved to vicinity YD725295 and provided security for a 3rd bulldozer going to A/1-502 IN location. The bulldozer got stuck enroute vicinity YD717299 and A/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon remained as security element along with B/1-502 IN.

B/1-502 IN (Working with 1 PF squad) occupied night position vicinity YD719306. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD709313 and YD715323. At 1219H vicinity YD709313 found approximately 5 tons of rice. At 1855H vicinity YD715321 stay behind ambush engaged 3 enemy vicinity YD715315, resulting in 1 NVA KIA. At 1955H moved to vicinity YD717299 and linked up with A/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon for security of stuck bulldozer.

C/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO Bridge and occupied strong points vicinity YD600310, YD605311 and YD611312. C/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon with 1 PF platoon conducted RIF operation vicinity YD618302. Secured mine sweep and conducted mounted patrol of the sector of QL-1 from AN LO Bridge NW to AO boundary. C/1-502 IN (-) conducted training on 81mm mortar. At 1221H received 2 bulldozers at AN LO Bridge. At 1930H vicinity AN LO Bridge received 3 60mm mortar rounds from vicinity YD606295. Negative casualties.

D/1-502 IN (Working with 1 PF squad) occupied night position vicinity YD762342 and ambushed vicinity YD765328, YD753337 and YD756326. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD768328 and YD764323. At 0815H vicinity YD765327 engaged 1 VC with artillery. Negative enemy assessment.

Recon platoon OPCON C/1-502 IN.

1/C/2-34 Armor OPCON C/1-502 IN.

2BDE

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

(Commanders Situation Report; 232001H June – 242000H June 1968; James J Waldeck, MAJ, IN., Kayo 3)

23 June 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: Joint operations were conducted with ARVN and PF's. Light contact was made. PF's captured 7 VC in a sampan. A/1-502 IN captured 1 VC in NDP he was HOI CHANH. He then helped A/1-502 IN and PF's look for the rest of his unit ARVN had 2 men WIA by BBT, 1 by SA.

23 June 1969

Operation TENNESSEE PRIDE: 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV, begins Operation TENNESSEE PRIDE in THUA THIEN Province.

23 June 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: A/1-502 IN received automatic weapons fire from 6 to 8 individual's vicinity BS031987 with negative friendly casualties. C/1-502 IN uncovered a two-day old grave vicinity BT152007 containing 1 NVA KIA by S/A. Recon platoon accounted for 33 detainees all of whom were evacuated to HAU DUC. D/1-502 IN extracted from PZ BT080017 to FSSE for stand-down.

23 June 1969

Operation LAMAR PLAIN: Activity was limited in the AO as B/2-17 CAV reported heavy ground fire vicinity BT2406, and the 1-501 IN was targeted for that area on the following day. At 1723H, C/1-502 IN vicinity BT152007, found one grave containing the remains of 1 NVA KIA. At 1800H, C/1-502 IN vicinity BT152007, found one grave containing the remains of 1 NVA KIA. At 1800H, C/1-502 IN, vicinity BT152007, had one platoon accidentally fire on another platoon during the search of an enemy bunker complex, resulting in 1 US KIA and 2 US WIA. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)

23 June 1970

Operation TEXAS STAR: There was an agent report today indicating element of the VC would attempt to sell US forces cokes and beer which was wired with explosives and delay fuses. FSB BIRMINGHAM was mortared from suspected location at 693113 or 717120 today. The firebase received 12 to 15 82mm rounds. There were no casualties. D/1-502 IN was called to secure General Smith's helicopter when it went down at 678178.

23 June 1971

B/1-501 IN, 1st platoon and Regional Force 523rd Company was engaged by unknown size enemy force vicinity 935822. Resulting in 3 RF's WIA, 1 RF KIA, 1 AK-47 and 1 CHICOM grenade CLA. When contact was terminated a sweep was made under illumination. Numerous blood trails were found. The enemy fled southeast. A FLC was conducted with negative results.



24 June – 15 July 1966 **Operation BEAUREGARD** begins. It's a border surveillance effort by the 1-327 IN BN and 2-502 IN BN of the 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV around the Special Forces camps of Dak To, Dak Sut, Dak Pek and Mang Buk and following operation HAWTHORNE.

24 June 1967 **Operation MALHEUR**: One light contact by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 1 VC KIA (C). (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)

24 June 1968 1-502 IN BN continued search and clear operations with light contact. Enemy is becoming very evasive. Results: Enemy: 1 VC KIA, 5 tons of rice seized.

24 June 1968 2BDE paratroopers from B/1-502 IN and C/1-501 IN seized 8400 pounds of rice after a brief engagement in which they killed 2 BC while operating northwest of Hue. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 1, Number 3); Fall 1968)

24 June 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN**: Enemy contact was again light in the AO as the 1-501 IN BN conducted a CA into a highly suspect area and the other battalions continued aggressive RIF operations in their respective areas. At 0901H, elements of the 1-501 IN BN began landing, vicinity BT257083, as the battalion conducted a CA with two companies and the reconnaissance platoon; the LZ was cold and all elements commenced RIF operations in the area. At 1045H, A/1-501 IN, vicinity BT257083, engaged one enemy with small arms and hand grenades; accounting for 1 NVA KIA. At 1130H, A/1-501 IN, vicinity BT257083 detained 23 VN civilians for evacuation and further interrogation; subsequent questioning confirmed that one detainee was a VC. At 1750H, A/1-46 IN vicinity BT139057, engaged and killed 1 NVA. At 1905H, Brigade LOH reconnaissance team vicinity BT203121, engaged two enemy in the open with M-60 machinegun and Miniguns fire, killing both enemy. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)

24 June 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN**: A/1-502 IN, B/1-502 IN and Recon platoon continued RIF. A/1-502 IN vicinity BS020977 received S/A fire resulting in negative friendly casualties. Element maneuvered with negative contact.

24 June 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR**: A/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon (-) while setting up and NDP spotted three to four VC/NVA. They engaged the enemy with S/A and artillery fire. A sweep under illumination produced negative results.

25 – 28 June 1967 **Operation MALHEUR II**: This phase of operation ended with the 2-502 IN BN accounting for 55 VC/NVA KHA, 18 weapons, 37 VC/NVA POW's, and a large amounts of medical and signal equipment. Captured documents revealed that enemy elements in the area belonged to the 40th, 60th, 70th and 90th Battalions of the 1st VC Regiment, 2nd NVA Division; and several smaller, local units from Quang Ngai Province.

On 25 June the 2-502 IN BN oriented to the west and focused its attention on the Song Ne Valley. Operation MALHEUR II continued until 28 July, with several more important engagements, before the STRIKE FORCE returned to Carentan Base Camp, having spent 51 days in the field.

The presence of large enemy units and a stepped-up rate of contact in the Duc Pho area necessitated some change in the STRIKE FORCE's method of operation. More use was of supporting fires, both Artillery and Tactical Air, and the companies kept platoons within easy supporting distance of each other instead of separating over wide distances. Night movement was extensively employed, as it was difficult to cross the many open areas in the AO during the daylight without risking enemy observation. IN the area of logistics, ammunition resupply and casualty evacuation put a heavier burden on helicopter capability than in the past.

As this period drew to a close, the 2-502 IN BN, under Colonel Buckley, continued to experiment with new tactics and techniques that would make the STRIKE FORCE ever more capable of finding and destroying the enemy under whatever type of conditions the mission would require.

25 June 1967 **Operation MALHEUR II**: The 2-502 IN BN commenced search and destroy operations to the southwest in ZON AO. Seven light contacts resulted in 7 VC KIA (C), 1 detainee and capture of 1 individual weapon and 20 tons of salt. (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)

25 June 1968 An allied fighting force made up of paratroopers from the 1-501 IN BN and 39th ARVN Ranger Battalion teamed up to kill 12 enemy and took 38 prisoners. In addition, 24 weapons and 3460 pounds of rice were captured in the village sweep conducted 5km east of Hue. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 1, Number 3); Fall 1968)

25 June 1968 1-502 IN BN had very light contact. A/1-502 IN was proved on ground and mortared. Results: Friendly: 2 WIA; Enemy: 3 VC POW; 2 Hoi Chanh's POW.

25 June 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE**: FSB STRIKE was officially closed at 1414.

25 June – 04 August 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE**: Phase II was conducted. 2-502 IN BN inserted into FSB Birmingham and prepared to move into AO to the south and west of Birmingham south of Highway 547. A large base camp was suspected in this area. Bravo and Delta Company initially led the assault and preparation of FSB Normandy (YD686044).

25 June 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN**: The enemy continued to avoid contact as all elements conducted extensive RIF operations in the AO. At 0910H, B/1-502 IN vicinity BT047976, found 1 SKS hidden in a hut complex. At 1210H, B/1-502 IN vicinity BT041961, detained two VN civilians in the area, and upon interrogation one was determined to be a VC. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)



25 June 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** A/1-502 IN engaged an undetermined number of enemy vicinity BS017970 with negative results. B/1-502 IN captured VC vicinity BS047976 and vicinity BS041968 captured 1 VC. C/1-502 IN accounted for 20 detainee's vicinity BT139008, who stated that 11 VC armed with AK-47's and carbines were operating in the area. The mortar platoon joined A/1-502 IN at old Hau Duc to provide close indirect fire support.

25 June 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon, 1st squad at location 73044 found a campsite used in the last 48 hours. It was used by approximately five persons. Within 100 meters they also located three bunkers and a trail showing signs of usage in the last 24 hours. A/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon reported sniper fire by approximately four NVA/VC, one NVA/VC KIA. B/1-502 IN located a trail and sleeping position used by NVA/VC elements in last four days. Recon found a small wooden Buddha hanging from a tree limb at 690126.

25 June 1970 3BDE Task Force was withdrawn from the northwestern portion of the division AO. A/2-502 IN and B/1-501 IN returned to parent unit control. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; Operational Report; Period ending 31 July 1970; 15 August 1970)

26 June 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** Four light contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 2 US WHA, 3 VC KIA (C), 4 individual weapons and 40 tons of salt captured. (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)

26 June 1968 A/1-502 IN and B/1-502 IN conducted joint operations and B/1-502 IN blocking vicinity YD7132 and Alpha sweeping from south towards their blocking positions. Results: Enemy: 8 VC KIA, 3 VC POW and Several Weapons.

26 June 1968 Rice denial efforts of Nevada Eagle continued to meet with success. 2BDE troopers added an additional 18 tons to the captured rice total for the operations. Airborne forces from the 1BDE, while operating north of FSB Veghel captured two ammunitions caches containing one RPG-2 launcher, one 122mm rocket warhead with fuse, two 122mm rockets, 108 75mm rounds, 95 82mm mortar rounds, 600 pounds of C-3, 140 pounds of TNT, 50 blasting caps and 42 RPG fuses. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Volume 1, Number 3; Fall 1968)

26 June 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** A/1-502 IN vicinity BS002973 received sporadic S/A fire from 4 enemy and engaged them with negative assessment. Results: 1 scout dog KIA. Recon platoon accounted for 7 detainee's vicinity BT086020. One of the detainees gave names of 3 BC in the area.

26 June 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** Camp Eagle took incoming rounds early this morning. A mechanical ambush went off accidentally wounding one US. He was medevaced to the 85th Evac. Hospital. B/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon found one warhead at 723025. It is believed to be part of a 155mm round. C/1-502 IN, 1st platoon located a sleeping position one to two days old.

26 June 1970 The Division aviation assets were provided for the assault of the 4-5 Regiment (ARVN) into the area vicinity FSB Brick. The battalion CP collocated with the 2-501 IN BN to facilitate coordinated operations against elements of the 29th NVA Regiment in area Xray. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; Operational Report; Period ending 31 July 1970; 15 August 1970)

27 June 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** The 2-502 IN BN had three light contacts resulting in 4 US WHA, 1 VC KIA (C) and capture of 1 detainee and 1 individual weapon. The Battalion also had four more light contacts resulting in 1 US WHA, 2 VC KIA (C), 2 detainees and capture of 1 individual weapon, 10 tons of salt and 2 tons of rice. (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)

27 June 1968 The 1-502 IN BN conducted defense of An Lo, RP security, and search and clear operations with very light contact. US captured 2 VC. PF's received 6 Hoi Chanh. They said all their leaders had been killed by airborne. Friendly Casualties: 2 US WIA from BBT.

27 June 1968 Activity remained light throughout the AO as 1-502 IN BN conducted multiple combat assaults into the area of the B-52 strikes conducted on 26 June. At 1100H, C/1-502 IN conducted a CA into an LZ vicinity AS955951 with negative enemy contact. At 1400H, D/1-502 IN conducted a CA into an LZ vicinity BS017970 with negative contact. At 1510H, D/1-502 IN vicinity AS953933, found one grave containing the remains of 1 VC KIA. At 1835H, B/1-502 IN vicinity BS0300961, received small arms fire from a hut; the element returned fire, registering 1 NVA KIA.

27 June 1968 Light enemy contact was prevalent in both I and II Corps area of operation. The rice hungry airborne forces from the 2BDE continued to limit the enemy rice flow. In today's search operations, troopers from the 1-501 IN BN captured 34 tons of rice in three caches, raising the operational total to 232 tons. (Rendezvous with Destiny; Volume 1, Number 3; Fall 1968)

27 June 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** Activity remained light throughout the AO as 1-502 IN BN conducted multiple combat assaults into the area of the B-52 strikes conducted on 26 June. At 1100H, C/1-502 IN conducted a CA into an LZ vicinity AS955951 with negative enemy contact. At 1400H, D/1-502 IN conducted a CA into an LZ vicinity BS017970 with negative contact. At 1455H, B/2-17 CAV, vicinity BT188104, received small arms fire from one enemy; the CAV returned fire, resulting in 1 VC KIA. At 1510H, D/1-502 IN, vicinity AS953933, found one grave containing the remains of 1 VC KIA. At 1835H, B/1-502 IN, vicinity BS0300961, received small arms fire from a hut; the element returned fire, registering 1 NVA KIA. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)

27 June 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** A/1-502 IN conducted RIF to west vicinity BS982952. B/1-502 IN received fire from a hut adjacent to a trail vicinity BS040961 and returned fire. Results: 1 NVA KIA. C/1-502 IN made a C/A from PZ BT118025 to LZ AS936983 and conducted RIF to the west. At 1145H, C/1-502 IN found a dispensary complex vicinity AS928983 containing medical supplies, rice caches and documents. At 0815H, D/1-502 IN was moved by CH-47 to Hau Duc and then made a C/A to LZ AS956951. D/1-502 IN found a grave vicinity BS95395. Containing 1 VC KIA.



27 June 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** Recon found tracks which appeared to be about 12 hours old at YD732059. They were made by one or two persons. A/1-502 IN heard movement outside their NDP. They employed artillery and will sweep the area in the morning.

28 June 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** The 2-502 IN BN had four light contacts resulting in 3 US WHA, 3 VC KIA (C). (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)

28 June 1968 B/1-502 IN set up blocking positions while PF's conducted eagle flight. B/1-502 IN resulted in killing 6 VC. PF's killed 4 VC, captured 3 VC. D/1-502 IN had 1 KIA and 6 WIA as results of BBT.

28 June 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** The tempo of enemy activity increased as the 1-502 IN BN began to encounter small groups of enemy forces in sporadic contact throughout the day; 1-501 IN BN recovered to HOI CHANH and several Vietnamese who had recently escaped from the VC. At 0748H, D/1-502 IN, vicinity AS937952, found 6 AK47 rifles wrapped in cosmoline and paper. At 0900H, Recon/1-502 IN, vicinity BT061011, engaged 4-5 enemy and captured 1 AK47. At 0925H, B/1-501 IN vicinity BT219068, detained 13 Vietnamese in the area; upon questioning it was determined that two were HOI CHANH and the remaining 11 had recently escaped from the VC. At 1147H, D/1-502 IN, vicinity AS934956, received small arms fire from an unknown size enemy force, resulting in 1 "Kit Carson" scout KIA and 1 US WIA; the enemy returned fire with negative assessment. At 1238H, Recon/1-502 IN, vicinity BT060010, engaged a small enemy force, accounting for 1 NVA KIA. At 1620H, the Command and Control aircraft for 1-502 IN BN, vicinity LZ PROFESSIONAL, received small arms fire, forcing the aircraft to land at LZ YOUNG and resulting in 1 US WIA. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)

28 June 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** C/1-502 and D/1-502 IN conducted assessment of B-52 bomb strike damage vicinity AS925975. D/1-502 IN discovered 17 bicycles, 2 boxes containing a total of 6 AK-47's and 6 82mm mortar rounds. Vicinity AS934956, D/1-502 IN was engaged by undetermined size enemy force. Results: 1 US WIA, 1 VN Scout KIA. Recon engaged an undetermined number of NVA with negative results of 1 NVA KIA.

28 June 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** B/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon found two graves at 726016. Both graves are about two weeks old and the person appeared to have died of shrapnel wounds. At location 730059 recon team #1 found sleeping places for several persons and a variety of equipment. B/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon at 721013 found a 122mm rocket and warhead. The signs in the area indicated recent use within the last two to three days.

28 – 29 June 1971 **Operation LAM SON 720:** The 2-502 IN BN moved to FB Tennessee (VIC YC 5596) to conduct operations in that area. B/2-502 IN and a forward TOC were located on FB Tennessee. The other companies of the STRIKE Force CA'd into the area surrounding FB Tennessee on 28 June. From the onset of this operation there were numerous signs of enemy activity. D/2-502 IN found fresh footprints, bunkers, and a tunnel. C/2-502 IN found some bamboo hootches; A/2-502 IN discovered very fresh footprints of 1 NVA and tracks of one dog. These operations were not without price.

29 June 1967 **Operation MALHEUR:** Four light contacts by the 2-502 IN BN resulted in 1 US KHA, 3 US WHA, and 2 VC KIA (C). (HQ, 1st Brigade, 101st ABN DIV; Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR; 02 September 1967)

29 June 1968 A/1-502 IN conducted RIF vicinity with PF's. Captured 1 VC and SKS, found 2 tons of rice and 1 VC KIA by artillery. B/1-502 IN continued working with Rome plow. Rome plow destroyed 500 meters of hedgerow, 400 meters and 100 meters of village and 83 bunkers.

29 June 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** Activity was light in the LAMAR PLAIN AO with the day marked by a sharp clash in the 1-502 IN BN AO. At 0835H, D/1-502 IN, vicinity AS932955, received intensive small arms, machinegun and RPG fire from an unknown size enemy force at a range of 75 meters. D/1-502 IN returned fire and employed gunships and ARA in support. The enemy broke contact and fled, leaving behind 4 NVA KIA and two individual weapons. D/1-502 IN suffered 2 US KIA and 7 US WIA (E) in the close, intense fighting. At 0955H, B/1-502 IN, vicinity BS025969, engaged and killed alone enemy soldier. At 1615H, D/2-502 IN, vicinity AS935956, found and SKS. (HQ, 1BDE, 101st ABN DIV; After Action Report, Operation LAMAR PLAIN; 15 September 1969)

29 June 1969 **Operation LAMAR PLAIN:** Vicinity BS025969, B/1-502 IN engaged and killed 1 NVA. D/1-502 IN made contact with a NVA platoon in bunkers vicinity AS926955 and employed ARTY, ARA, tactical air support and organic weapons. Results: 5 NVA KIA, 2 IWC, 2 US KIA, 7 US WIA.

29 June 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** The 2-502 IN BN ended refresher training at Camp Eagle; the battalion minus A/2-502 IN redeployed by vehicle to AO and occupied FSB Bastogne. A/2-502 IN continued refresher training. The battalion assumed responsibility for area uniform, security of the firebase and initiated search and attack patrols in the vicinity of the firebase. The 1-501 IN BN moved from FSB Bastogne to Phu Loc District, passed to the operational control of the 2BDE, and assumed responsibility for area Zulu and security of FSB Los Banos ant FSB Tomahawk. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV; Operational Report; Period ending 31 July 1970; 15 August 1970)

29 June 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** D/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon located at YD849046 received incoming rounds 25 to 50 meters from their location. No casualties were sustained during the shelling.

29 June 1970 **Operation TEXAS STAR:** The 2-502 IN BN ended refresher training and the Battalion minus A/2-502 IN returned to AO and occupied FSB Bastogne. A/2-502 IN continued refresher training.



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.

1 x Silver Star Medal
2 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
8 x Bronze Star Medal (8 x Posthumously)
9 x Purple Heart Medal (8 x Posthumously)
1 x Army Commendation Medal
2 x Died from Non Hostile injuries or illness

23 June 1969



SGT Michael Forbes (C/1-502 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 the area was hit by artillery fire directed at a hostile force in the QUANG NAM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

23 June 1970



SSG Newton S. Clement (HHC/2-502 IN) died from non-hostile actions as a ground casualty in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. SSG Newton S. Clement was awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

24 June 1968



CPL Andrew A. Lang (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 fragments from hostile booby trap in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

25 June 1969



SGT Carl E. Janowsky Jr. (B/1-501 IN) died from malaria in an unknown province, Republic of Vietnam. SGT Carl E. Janowsky was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously).

25 June 1970

PFC Lloyd N. Armstrong (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.

25 June 1970

SP4 Johnnie A. Taylor (A/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.

27 June 1968



SGT Ronald J. Ymbras (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (1-OLC) for military merit and for wounds received in combat in action against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. (General Orders Number 240; 10 January 1969)



28 June 1968



SP4 Edward M. Heiser (D/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 while on a combat operation when he was hit by fragments from a hostile booby trap in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 June 1967



SP4 Junior B. Pack (A/326th ENG BN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a reconnaissance patrol with C/2-502 IN when he was hit by hostile automatic weapons fire in the Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 June 1968



PFC Wilson B. Brown (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 while outside base camp perimeter when mistaken for hostile force in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 June 1969



2LT Robert D. Paulus (D/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 during and engagement in the Tranh River Valley 7km W-SW Hau Duc, in the Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 June 1969



PFC Gregg C. Hinderks (D/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 during and engagement in the Tranh River Valley 7km W-SW Hau Duc, in the Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam.

29 June 1969



2LT Daniel K. Wapinski (D/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 multiple fragmentations during and engagement in the Tranh River Valley 7km W-SW Hau Duc, in the Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. 2LT Wapinski was admitted to a military medical facility and expired shortly thereafter.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

23 June 1970



SSG Newton S. Clement (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) for meritorious service during combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam. On June 20, 1970, his company was in the base camp at CAMP EAGLE on stand down for two days. After the first day, they received orders that they were going back out to the field on a mission. He and another squad leader, Specialist Dick McBain of Centerville, Ohio were attempting to gather supplies for their platoon. They flipped coins to determine who would get the C-Rations and who would go to the Ammunition's Dump to get ammunition. Sergeant Clement lost the flip and went to get the ammunition. While at the ammo dump, there was a sudden explosion. Sergeant Clement was caught in the event. A medic from his company ran up and pulled him out of the debris while it was still exploding. Sergeant Clement died from his wounds a few days later, on June 23, 1970. According to Dick McBain, the explosion was triggered by a "Cherry" who was playing with a trip flare. (Provided by Vietnam Veterans Memorial)



28 – 29 June 1969

CPT Henry E. Hammond Jr. (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam during the period of 28 June 1969 through 29 June 1969. Captain Hammond distinguished himself while serving as Commanding Officer, Company D, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during a combat operation near Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam. During a reconnaissance in force mission, an enemy force of unknown size ambushed the lead element of his company. Captain Hammond quickly moved forward and directed the platoons against the enemy positions. He then called in aerial rocket artillery and tube artillery to relieve pressure on a pinned down platoon. During the ensuing battle, he repeatedly subjected himself to a heavy volume of hostile fire as he moved from position to position in order to direct the movements of the assaulting platoons. His courageous actions and aggressive leadership contributed greatly to the success of the mission. Captain Hammond's personal bravery and devotion to duty were 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 1217; 4 February 1970)



ACRONYMS

ACAV: Armored Cavalry
ACD: Air Cavalry Division
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
CAV: Cavalry
CO: Company
CP: Command Post
DIV: Division
DSC: Distinguished Service Cross
DZ: Drop Zone
ENG: Engineer
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
RVN: Republic of Vietnam
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

