



# STRIKE

Vietnam War Weekly History



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

The 502<sup>nd</sup>, or "five-oh-deuce", was activated July 1, 1941 at Fort Benning, Georgia as the 502<sup>nd</sup> parachute infantry battalion, as an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assaults. The 502<sup>nd</sup> entered combat in World War II on June 6, 1944, by jumping into NORMANDY, with allied forces landing on D-Day and the Battle of NORMANDY. Between 1945 and 1964. A major reorganization took place on 3 February 1964, when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne was activated at Fort Campbell, replacing the 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Battle Group, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment. The reorganization from the battle groups to brigades and battalions placed two battalions of the 502<sup>nd</sup> in different brigades of the 101<sup>st</sup>.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade with 1-327<sup>th</sup> and 2-327<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam and arrived at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam on 29 July 1965, they were commanded by the most notable commander LTC Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson.



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



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

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January 1968 2-501 IN BN began the new year in the III CTZ operating area in the vicinity of CU CHI, RVN. In January, the entire Battalion was airlifted to HUE in northern I CTZ. During the remainder of the year, the Battalion operated within a 50-kilometer radius of HUE.

Operations during the year included, reconnaissance in force, search and destroy, cordon and search, and security missions. Contact was sporadic and ranged from encounters with individual's trail watchers to engagements with reinforced platoons in well prepared defensive positions.

During the year, the Battalion was commanded by three different individuals: LTC Richard Tallman (1 Jan – 27 Apr 1968), LTC J. A. Heiter (27 Apr – 4 Nov 1968), and LTC J. C. Wilson (4 Nov 1968). Also, during the year, the Battalion was reorganized from an airborne to an airmobile configuration while continuing to perform all missions assigned.

January 1968 During the first portion of January 1968, the 2-501 IN BN operated in the vicinity of CU CHI, RVN and participated in both Operation UNIONTOWN and NORMANDY. No significant contact was made during this period; however, numerous mines and booby traps were encountered.

January 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** STRIKE Force (2-502 IN BN) opened the New Year with a continuation of Operation RANDOLPH GLEN. FSB RIFLE (YD862988) served as the base of operation for the Battalion with the maneuver Companies located in the canopy to the north and south of the firebases. Joint US/ARVN operations were to play a significant role throughout the New Year. Contacts with the enemy were initially characterized by STRIKE Force Soldiers initiating contact, with the enemy quickly disengaging. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)



01 January 1968 HQ/2-501 IN COL Tallman and CPT Cizmadia left for recon in UH-1 at 1005H. At 0605H, BN CO, S2, S3 and ARTY LNO left PC to recon area in northern position PHILHELL woods. At 0645H All staff officer went on recon in UH-1. (HQ, 2-501 IN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 01 January 1968)

01 January 1969 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** 1-502 IN BN started out the year as a participant in Operation NEVADA EAGLE. A/1-502 IN provided bridge and mine security at AN LO. B/1-502 IN conducted operation vicinity YD585398. C/1-502 IN conducted operations vicinity YD6107177, YD615192 and YD619190. At YD615192, D/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found one 30cal carbine and 16 bunkers. D/1-502 IN provided security at FSB T-BONE and Recon platoon conducted operations vicinity YD641316, YD640326 and YD640320.

01 January 1969 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** At 0955 hours, vicinity YD925000 C/2-502 IN engaged 4 VC moving east on a trail resulting in 1 VC/NVA KIA, 1 AK-47 with three magazines. Due to the presence of heavy blood trails after this contact, a Combat Tracing Team was requested. Due to faulty equipment, only the Visual Tracing team was able to repel into C/2-502 IN. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Combat Operation After Action Report; Operation Nevada Eagle; 31 January 1969)

01 January 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** NAM HOA District made contact with an estimated 15 VC. The VC walked into the ambush of claymore and small arms. Blood stains on the ground when the VC withdrew indicated at least two casualties. The 1-502 IN BN continued Operation RANDOLPH GLEN with negative results.

01 – 31 January 1971 During this period the 1-501 IN BN conducted refresher training at PBCB from 28 December 1970 to 06 January 1971. Training was orientated towards company training, marksmanship, maintenance, contact teams and commanders time. On 06 January, the battalion moved to FB RAKKASAN to occupy, defend and improve the FB, and carry out search and attack missions in its respective area of operation. D/1-501 IN provided security for the FB and also utilized human and mechanical ambushes nightly. On 13 January, D/1-501 IN was inserted into its area of operation and C/1-501 IN assumed the responsibility of defending the FB. B/1-501 IN replaced C/1-501 IN on 23 January and moved with the battalion to FB ARSENAL on 27 January, leaving one platoon in Phu Bai to conduct nightly ambushes to aid in defense of PBCB. During the reporting period a light mortar platoon was organized on B/1-501 IN. This element consisted of one 81mm mortar tube and 15 to 20 men. Its purpose was to provide the company commander with fire support under his direct control. (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry Unit History)



02 - 05 January 1968 **Operation KLAMATH FALLS:** At 1200H, Operation KLAMATH FALLS resumed with A/2-502 IN working from high ground to low ground while B/2-502 IN & C/2-502 IN, and Recon units blocked likely egress routes from the high ground in their AO's. This orientation was continued through January 5<sup>th</sup> with A/2-502 working the fingers and draws to their AO boundary. The result was the destruction of a rice cache of approximately 12 tons of unpolished rice. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Combat Operations After Action Report; Operation KLAMATH FALLS; 11 January 1968)

02 January 1968 At 0705H, B/2-501 IN had one (1) man absent during morning report – PFC Paul S. Sondey. Negative activity reported for the day. (HQ, 2-501 IN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 02 January 1968)

02 January 1969 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/1-502 IN provided bridge and mine sweep security at AN LO. A/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon and 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon, conducted RIF operations vicinity AN LO. 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon lifted to LZ SALLY assumed duties as Brigade RRF. B/1-502 IN conducted search and clear operations vicinity YD599394. At YD582400, B/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon found approximately 1 ton of rice and destroyed it. B/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found 1 bandoleer of M-16 ammunition and 1 bandoleer of M-79 ammunition at YD576383. B/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon found a homemade booby trap at YD585394. At YD603384, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon found approximately 100 pounds of rice and gave it to the PF's. B/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found small cache of medicine at YD595384. C/1-502 IN conducted RIF operations vicinity YD618190. At YD611192, C/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found 5 bunkers showing signs of recent use. They also found a fresh latrine, 1 AK magazine, and some food. D/1-502 IN established NDP at FSB T-BONE. D/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon conducted RIF operations in the vicinity. Recon platoon conducted RIF operations from vicinity YD6829 to vicinity YD7131. The BN Surgeon conducted Medcap at YD736297; 45 Vietnamese attended.

02 January 1969 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** At 1220 hours, vicinity YC933004 C/2-502 IN C20 engaged 4 VC/NVA resulting in enemy dead and miscellaneous equipment. At 1930 hours vicinity YC919980 Recon discovered another small cache of weapons and equipment. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Combat Operation After Action Report; Operation NEVADA EAGLE; 31 January 1969)

02 January 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** 2BDE and Battalion Commanders met the C/1-502 IN Commander on FSB ARSENAL to discuss the progress of the firebase. A/1-502 IN located unexploded bomb Vic 775025. An EOD team was requested and sent. D/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon found a VC/NVA mortar position. It was 8 feet in diameter designed for an 82mm mortar. Location was 779106. C/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon located a spider hole and 3 fighting positions at 793071 that were recently built.

03 January 1968 1-502 IN BN conducted combat assaults. The 1<sup>st</sup> lift went Airborne at 0807H and the last lift completed at 0917H. A/1-502 IN and B/1-502 IN discovered numerous Booby-Traps and fresh sign. D/1-502 IN made heavy contact. The 1-502 IN BN set up for night defensive position. All NDP sites were mortared during the night. U.S. Casualties (slight) 23 WIA; (Evac) 13 WIA.

03 – 05 January 1968 2-501 IN BN conducts 2BDE's first airmobile operation in Vietnam; combining air, gunship, and artillery support on a search and destroy mission into the Filhol woods, discovering a new enemy base camp.

03 January 1968 At 0745H, it was reported that all companies to no move to PZ until ordered. C/2-501 IN be prepared by 0900H, remain in unit AO. At 0937H, C/2-501 IN arrived at PZ. At 1025H, ARTY firing to clear for conduct of strike, 1<sup>st</sup> lift of C/2-501 IN. At 1030H, C/2-501 IN on LZ HOAH and reported LZ is cold. At 1042H, 2<sup>nd</sup> lift of C/2-501 IN lift off and arrived at LZ HOAH at 1047H. At 1054H, 3<sup>rd</sup> lift of C/2-501 IN lift off and arrived at LZ HOAH at 1058H, At 1106H, 4<sup>th</sup> lift of C/2-501 IN lift off and arrived at LZ HOAH at 1111H, At 1118H, 5<sup>th</sup> lift of C/2-501 IN lift off and arrived at LZ HOAH at 1124H. ARTY followed in 30 minutes into LZ HOAH. At 1153H, Lift 6 off, artillery. Prep starting at the time for our TALON and CLAW. At 1157H, rounds complete and prep realing to 4 gunship working the LZ. Between 1204H and 1237H, air lifts to LZ TALON and CLAW was conducted and completed. At 1240H, A/2-501 IN reported hving a Soldier on LZ CLAW with a sprained ankle and cant walk, BN CO will pick up with C&C ship. At 2000H, sampan floated past 2 positions, 2 engaged with M079 and M0-16 at least M-79 (10) rounds hit but keep on floating. At 2005H, D/2-501 IN spotted DC one on opposite side of river. At 2125H, C/2-501 IN reported having rounds falling 20 meters from position bleived to be M-79. At 2126H, C/2-501 IN reported rounds still falling close to perimeter believed either M-79 or grenade, one (1) fell in the perimeter, negative casualties. At 2155H-2156H, A/2-501 IN reported seeing 2 persons 50 meters to front. At 2200H, C/2-501 IN still receiving rounds in front of ambush site. At 2205H, B/2-501 IN reported seeing one (1) person 50 meter to front. At 2210H, B/2-501 IN reported taking one carbine round overhead, negative contact. At 2216H, C/2-501 IN reeived one (1) incoming grenade, negative contact. At 2320H, D/2-501 IN reported seeing a sampan at the same coordinate as the last Sampan was rproted the patrol engaged with M-79 fire and small arms fire. No further activity or contact reported (HQ, 2-501 IN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 03 January 1968)

03 January 1969 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/1-502 IN conducted bridge and mines weep security at AN LO. B/1-502 IN conducted search and clear operations vicinity YD597383 with 2 platoons of PF. At YD600377, B/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon and PF's spotted 5 VC and called in artillery. A check at first light produced negative results. At YD595383, B/1-502, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon found approximately 300 pounds of spoiled rice and destroyed it. B/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found an antipersonnel mine at YD617389 and destroyed it. C/1-502 IN conducted a RIF operation and day and night ambushes in vicinity YD618201. At 0933 hours at YD605187, C/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon engaged 4 VC. VC moved to the west with unknown enemy casualties. At 1045 hours, at the same location, C/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon engaged 1 VC resulting in 1 VC WIA. Platoon followed blood trails to the south. At 1158 hours at YD611197, C/1-502 IN 3<sup>rd</sup> (?2<sup>nd</sup>) platoon engaged 1 VC, resulting in 1 VC WIA and 1 AK-47 captured, and found a rucksack with documents. At 1250 hours at YD611137, D/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon engaged an 8-man NVA patrol, wearing new uniforms, rucksacks and carrying AK-47's. The patrol moved out to the northeast. There were unknown enemy casualties and negative US casualties. At 1437 hours at YD612187, C/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon reported 1 wounded VC Chieu Hoi. D/1-502 IN provided security for FSB T-BONE. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon conducted RIF operations vicinity FSB T-BONE. Recon platoon conducted RIF operations vicinity YD733333.



03 January 1969 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** At 1530H another small cache was in a group of huts was discovered by Recon Platoon 2-502 IN in the vicinity of YC931984. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Combat Operation After Action Report; Operation Nevada Eagle; 31 January 1969)

03 January 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** D/1-502 IN trained 35 PF's at location 755128, A/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon found a bomb 10 to 13 inches in diameter in about 1 foot of water located 801017, D/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> squad found a spider hole 1'x2'x3' with no recent signs of use. The hole was located at 781173.

03 January 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** C/2-502 IN initiated contact when two NVA's were killed in an ambush and 2 AK-47's was captured.

04 January 1968 D/2-501 IN found two tunnels 1 3' in diameter and 16' deep, 3 such tunnels dead end. D/2-501 IN found 4 - 60mm mortar casing vicinity XT664240. (HQ, 2-501 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 04 January 1968)

04 January 1968 During early morning hours, the NDP of A/1-502 IN & D1-502 IN received rockets in their perimeter. During the daylight hours the Battalion conducted search and destroy operations. C/1-502 IN made heavy contact and was supported by gunships and artillery. C/1-502 IN had 10 WIA. B/1-502 IN moved to support C/1-502 IN and came under heavy contact with results of 7KIA, 1WIA, one man discovered MIA. Overall results: Friendly: 36 WIA, 8 KIA, 1 MIA. Enemy: 27 KIA(BC) 2 WIA (POW)

04 January 1968 At 0150H, C/2-501 IN reported 2 rounds being fired one (1) was M-79 and the other could not be identified. At 0155H, C/2-501 IN received one (1) round, seemed like a carbine round. No damage or casualties. At 0505H, D/2-501 IN fired a M-79 at suspected movement to there front, still checking it out. At 0715H, 3 requests when D/2-501 IN will conduct operations in COBRA, 50 minutes was reply. A/2-501 IN also same time in area WASP. At 0940H D/2-501 IN gone to AO COBRA, A/2-501 IN gone to WASP. B/2-501 IN gone to EAGLE. C/2-501 IN (-) and Recon gone vicinity LZ CLAW. At 0945H, A/2-501 IN reported moving into area WASP now. At 1007H, A/2-501 IN spotted individual running into woods vicinity XT666234. At 1012H, D/2-501 IN found 2 tunnels, one (1) 3' in diameter & 16' deep. Three (3) such tunnels dead end. 4 - 60' mortar casing found at XT664240 and 2 at XT666240, 3'D seat. At 1139H, C/2-501 IN held due to artillery firing from LZ HOOK in support of 1-502 IN BN. At 1207H, A/2-501 IN inspecting what appears to be a base camp vicinity XT668232. At 1211H, lift into CLAW was conducted. At 1247H, A/2-501 IN reported finding 15-20 bunkers. At 1255H, forward CP reported 2 VC floating down river in bushes, fired on these and they went to the other bank, results unknown. At 2105H, all elements and ambush patrols in position, Negative activity. (HQ, 2-501 IN; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log; 04 January 1968)

04 January 1969 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** A/1-502 IN provided bridge and mine sweep security at AN LO. B/1-502 IN conducted search and clear operations and day and night ambushes vicinity YD597383 with 2 platoons of PF's. At YD602388, B/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon found 1 Chicom booby trap and destroyed it in place. At YD584395, B/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon found 20 sandbags full of rice and footprints leading to the north. C/1-502 conducted RIF operations vicinity YD618186. At YD604195, C/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon found 3 hooches, 1 M-79 grenade launcher, 4 Chicom grenades, ammunition, NVA clothing, fresh food and medicine. At 1535 hours at the same location, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon engaged 1 VC, resulting in the capture of 1 VC WIA, 1 AK-47 and documents. D/1-502 IN provided security for FSB T-BONE and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon conducted RIF operations. Recon platoon conducted RIF operations vicinity YD7322338.

04 January 1969 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** While searching an area 7km southwest of HUE, C/1-502 IN picked up one Viet Cong officer and three weapons. In two contacts near FB QUICK, two enemy killed and four weapons, C/2-502 IN accounted the capture. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 2, Number 1); Spring 1968-69)

04 January 1969 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Ground activity picked up and at 0917 hours in the vicinity of YD936002 C/2-502 IN engaged 3 enemy at close range resulting in 1 VC/NVA trail watcher and captured two weapons. (HQ, 2-502 IN; Combat Operation After Action Report; Operation Nevada Eagle; 31 January 1969)

04 January 1970 D/1-502 IN, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon utilized a dog team to aid in their patrol. D/1-502 IN, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon continued to train PF's. A/1-502 IN, 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon while searching vicinity 789024 found 4 rockets each 4' long 5" in diameter. Two of the rockets were wrapped in NVA ponchos. At location 819035 Recon found part of a map of Laos and Vietnam.



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

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1 x Silver Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)  
5 x Bronze Star Medal (5 x Posthumously)  
16 x Purple Heart Medal (15 x Posthumously)

02 January 1967



1LT Larry D. Earls (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on perimeter guard and hit by hostile sniper fire in the KONTUM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

02 January 1967



PFC Wilbur L. Kohr (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on perimeter guard and hit by hostile small arms fire in the KONTUM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

02 January 1967



PFC Walter L. Goshorn (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while he was on perimeter guard when engaged by hostile forces employing grenades and small arms fire in the KONTUM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

02 January 1967



SP4 John H O'Brien (C/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 hit by hostile grenade fragments while on perimeter guard in the KONTUM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

02 January 1967



PFC Norman W. Vincent (C/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 hit by hostile grenade fragments while on perimeter guard in the KONTUM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

02 January 1967



PFC Dennis G. Nicola (C/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 hit by hostile grenade fragments while on perimeter guard in the KONTUM Province, Republic of Vietnam.



02 January 1967



PFC Elmer L. Juckett III (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action which resulted in his death while on perimeter guard when hit by fragments from hostile grenade in the KONTUM Province, Republic of Vietnam.

03 January 1968



SGT Thomas R. Gdovin (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for military merit and for wounds received during action in combat in South Vietnam.

04 January 1968



CPL Meredith A. Gabriel (HHC/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 combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in firefight in the vicinity of Bau Tron, 7km North of CU CHI (35km N-NW of Saigon) in the BINH DUONG Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 January 1968



CPL Wayne H. Kelman (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound received while on a combat operation when engaged a hostile force in a firefight in the vicinity of Bau Tron, 7km North of CU CHI (35km N-NW of Saigon) in the BINH DUONG Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 January 1968



SSG Richard L. Long (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in firefight in the vicinity of Bau Tron, 7km North of CU CHI (35km N-NW of Saigon) in the BINH DUONG Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 January 1968



CPL Thomas McCray (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from a missile wound while on a combat operation when engaged by hostile force in a firefight in the vicinity of Bau Tron, 7km North of CU CHI (35km N-NW of Saigon) in the BINH DUONG Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 January 1968



SP4 James W. Roy III (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in firefight in the vicinity of Bau Tron, 7km North of CU CHI (35km N-NW of Saigon) in the BINH DUONG Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 January 1968



SSG David L. Simon (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in firefight in the vicinity of Bau Tron, 7km North of CU CHI (35km N-NW of Saigon) in the BINH DUONG Province, Republic of Vietnam.



04 January 1968



PFC Eugene F. Sweet Jr. (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on combat operation when unit engaged hostile force in firefight in the vicinity of Bau Tron, 7km North of CU CHI (35km N-NW of Saigon) in the BINH DUONG Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 January 1968



2LT George M. Wisham Jr. (C/1-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from metal fragment and gunshot wounds received when he engaged hostile force in firefight while on combat operations in the vicinity of Bau Tron, 7km North of CU CHI (35km N-NW of Saigon) in the BINH DUONG Province, Republic of Vietnam.

04 January 1969



PFC Steven A. Wessel (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumously) PFC Wessel died from Non-hostile causes from Air Loss, Crash-Land-Helicopter-Noncrew in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. On this day, an OH-6 (tail number 67-16363) from A Battery, 377th Artillery was employed in providing artillery spotting in support of the 1st Bn, 321st Arty. At about 1630, after two hours on mission, the pilot - 1LT Kenneth L. Fountain of Savannah, Georgia - landed his aircraft at FSB T-BONE, contacted his base operations, and advised them that weather conditions made it unlikely he would be able to return to Camp Eagle. 1LT Fountain was directed to remain overnight at FSB T-BONE if the weather had not cleared by 1800.

At 1800 1LT Fountain decided to remain overnight at FSB T-BONE. Since his aircraft was on a pad outside T-BONE's night defensive perimeter he fired it up with the intention of doing a low hover uphill to a pad within the NDP. PFC Steven A. Wessel was allowed to board as a passenger for the short flight. As Fountain moved uphill in the gathering darkness he apparently lost sight of the ground and may have developed vertigo. In any case his aircraft hit the hillside some 35 feet below the crest, rolled on its right side, exploded, and burned. Both Fountain and Wessel were killed in the crash.



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

02 January 1967



1LT Larry D. Earls (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously); First Lieutenant Earls had placed his platoon into a defensive perimeter. Approximately three hours later, a numerically superior determined enemy element viciously attacked the defensive perimeter with such ferocity that six of Lieutenant Earls' men were instantly killed. Realizing the possibilities of being overrun by the enemy, Lieutenant Earls, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, charged forward to the area where the action was heaviest and began to reorganize his platoon. Being constantly exposed to murderous enemy automatic weapons fire and a heavy barrage of enemy hand grenades, Lieutenant Earls moved from position to position giving his men encouragement and pointing out enemy targets. On several occasions while rallying his men, hand grenades landed near him and his men and again Lieutenant Earls braved the murderous enemy fire and personally picked up the enemy grenades and threw them back at the enemy. Having reorganized his platoon, Lieutenant Earls gave the order to assault the fanatical enemy element. His inspired men assaulted the superior enemy forces with such determination that the enemy ranks were broken and they were forced to make a hasty withdrawal. Had it not been for Lieutenant Earls' tremendous display of courage and professionalism in the face of a numerically superior enemy force many more casualties would have resulted. Lieutenant Earls' outstanding display of gallantry in action and his avid devotion to duty are within the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (IFFV; General Orders Number 69; 24 January 1967)





# 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

