



STRIKE

Vietnam War Weekly History



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

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



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



The new 2nd Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1st and 2^d 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.)

13 September 1965

Advance elements of the 1st CAV DIV (Air Mobile) began arriving in Vietnam in August 1965. Assisted by the 101st ABN DIV that launched a search and clear operation and set up and manned perimeter defense and the 502nd IN BN that provided air support to the 101st. The main body of troops arrived in September and were transported by air and overland convoy from QUI NHON to AN KHE, RVN.



13 September 1967

Operation WHEELER: 2-502 IN BN continues with very light contact during the reporting period. All units in blocking positions. Official on Duty: SSG Clifford C. Curliss (HQ, 2-502 IN, Daily Staff Journal and Duty Officer's Log; 13 September 1967)

13 September 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A/1-502 IN continued RIF operation, vicinity YD6731, capturing 1 VC. While on Rome plow security, B/1-502 IN received SA fire, vicinity YD6332. A cordon was formed around the village and artillery was called in. A sweep of the area resulted in 9 VC KIA and 10 VC POW, and several weapons. One of the POW's was the CO of the 319th and another cadre finance officer was captured.

13 September 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conducted 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 during the reporting period. No friendly casualties. Enemy assessment: 46 VC KIA (BC), 1 NVA KBAF, 12 VC POW, and 37 individual weapons captured consisted of 14 SKS's, 12 AK-47's, 5 M1 Carbines, 2 Carbines, 1 K-44 rifle, 1 M1 rifles, 1 M16 and 1 CHICOM pistol.

1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN, B/1-501 IN, and D/1-501 IN continued to conduct saturation patrols and RIF operations in the SE portion of VINH LOC (D), with the 1-54th ARVN REGT and 3-7 ARVN CAV continued extensive operations in the NW portion of VING LOC (D). During the reporting period the ARVN forces accounted for 64 detainees and 6 individual weapons captured. The 1-501 IN BN elements accounted for 33 VC KIA (BC) and 30 individual weapons captured. The 2BDE C&C ship had 3 VC KIA (BC). The combined US and GVN forces have accounted for and processed 593 detainees in the VINH LOC operation, resulting in 174 POW's, 181 CD and 11 CHIEU HOI's.

A/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD091107 and ambushed vicinity ZD088117, ZD088115, ZD091109, AC092104. A/1-501 IN (-) conducted RIF and saturation patrols vicinity ZD0811, ZD0911 and ZD0910. A/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon OPCON to D/1-501 IN until it closed A/1-501 IN (-) at 1832H vicinity ZD092112 having moved by utility helicopter from vicinity ZD055143. During the reporting period A/1-501 IN operations resulted in 23 VC KIA (BC), 101 SKS's, 10 AK-47's, 4 M1 carbine, 1 M1 rifle, 1 K-44 rifle and 1 CHICOM pistol.

B/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD075123 and ambushed vicinity ZD075131, ZD071135 and ZD074124. Conducted RIF and saturation patrols vicinity ZD0612, ZD0712 and ZD0713. B/1-501 IN operations accounted for 1 VC KIA (BC) and 1 Russian carbine.

C/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD879247. C/1-501 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD863247 and C/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD865260. At 1540H vicinity YD874260 engaged and wounded 1 VC POW.

D/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD055143 and ambushed vicinity ZD052140, ZD043138, ZD048145 and ZD053145. Conducted RIF and saturation patrols vicinity ZD0413, ZD0513, ZD0414 and ZD0514. D/1-501 IN operations accounted for 1 VC KIA (BC) and 1 M1 carbine.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD879247. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD850230. At 1540H vicinity YD862232 spotted and engaged 3 VC with weapons, resulting in 1 VC KIA (VC).

B/2-501 IN provided security for COCO Beach.

C/1-502 IN provide security for FSB MONGOOSE, occupied strong points along POL pipeline, security of POL pumping station and LCU Ramp and liaison at the HUE BRIDGES.



REMARKS: 1-501 IN BN C&C ship accounted for 7 VC KIA (BC) and the S3 in an LOH accounted for 1 VC KIA (BC) and 1 carbine.

B/1-17 CAV remained at TAN MY Beach.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN provided security for FSB T-BONE with A/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon ambushing vicinity YD629191, YD624187 and A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon ambushing vicinity YD640181. A/2-501 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD625195 and YD625198. At 1030H vicinity YD625194 found a bunker containing 4 SKS's. A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD644173 then to a PZ vicinity YD646177. At 1819H conducted a heliborne movement to LZ vicinity YD669229, closed 1826H.

B/2-501 IN OPCON 1-501 IN.

C/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD583170 and ambushed vicinity YD592162, YD591161, YD581171 and YD579171. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD587170. C/2-501 IN, 1st platoon at 1220H vicinity YD591166 engaged with SA fire approximately 10-15 enemy moving SW. Enemy fled SW and were engaged with artillery. At 1350 vicinity YD586153 an air strike resulted in 1 NVA KBAF (BC).

D/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity OP APACHE with D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon ambushing vicinity YD629258, YD640258 and D/2-501 IN, 1st platoon ambushing vicinity YD600218 and YD615207. D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD615289 and provided security for a MEDCAP, then continued RIF to vicinity YD652275. D/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD640211 and returned to OP APACHE.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD642230 and ambushed vicinity YD653236. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD663220 then to LZ SALLY, closed 1545H.

1-502 IN BN

A/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD668297 and ambushed vicinity YD668307, YD667287 and A/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon at LZ SALLY as reaction force for LZ SALLY and AN LO BRIDGE. At 0315H, A/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD671306. A/1-502 IN (-) conducted RIF vicinity YD664307, YD667287, YD668307, YD672305 and YD675311. At 1542H, A/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon moved by utility helicopter from LZ SALLY to vicinity YD663321, closed LZ 1605H and reverted to OPCON B/1-502 IN. At 1445H vicinity YD676311 found and destroyed AP mine. At 1510H vicinity YD674307, A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon engaged 1 VC running NE resulting in 1 POW wounded.

B/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD639309 and ambushed vicinity YD600310, YD605310, YD610312 and YD639314. B/1-502 IN, 1st platoon secured bulldozer clearing operation vicinity YD636313. B/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD640320, and B/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon occupied fortified OP's along QL1. At 1315H, D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon vicinity YD632322 OPCON to B/1-502 IN. B/1-502 IN CP and B/1-502, 2nd platoon and D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon established cordon vicinity YD632322. At 1500H, B/1-502, CP and B/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon conducted a partial search of objective area vicinity YD632322. At 1224H vicinity YD632322, B/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon received SA fire. A cordon was established around the enemy position and artillery supported. Results of operation were 9 VC KIA (BC), 10 VC POW, 2 AK-47's and 1 M16.

C/1-502 IN OPCON 1-501 IN BN.

D/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO BRIDGE and ambushed vicinity YD645305 and YD607305. AT 095H, D/1-502 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD630313 and YD650290. At 1252H, D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon moved by utility helicopter from AN LO BRIDGE to vicinity YD630332 closed 1315H and reverted to OPCON B/1-502 IN. At 1700H, D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon OPCON released from B/1-502 IN, escorted bulldozers to AN LO BRIDGE, closed 1811H.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD734337. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD728333.

C/2-34 AR, 3rd platoon OPCON D/1-502 IN.

REMARKS: At 0727H 3 PF platoons from FSB OMAHA conducted Eagle Flights to vicinity YD725326, YD736238, YD632339, YD651346, YD642322 and YD707705. Operations resulted in vicinity YD728325 found 3 K-44's and 1 M79 and vicinity YD732283 2 VC KIA (BC), 1 VC POW and 1 M2 carbine.

2BDE

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

(2nd BDE, 101st ABN DIV; LZ SALLY; Commanders Situation Report; 122001HSEP68 – 132000HSEP68)

13 September 1969

Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE: A/1-502 IN continued to secure FSB BIRMINGHAM. B/1-502 IN conducted an extraction and went to FSB ARSENAL, FSB ARROW and POHL BRIDGE. C/1-502 IN conducted an air move from FSB ARSENAL, FSB ARROW and POHL BRIDGE to YD807034. D/1-502 IN conducted RIF operations to YD767078 with negative results. 1-502 IN, Recon platoon conducted RIF operations to YD775107.



- 13 September 1970 **Operation JEFFERSON GLEN:** A/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon, 1st squad found a bunker, three months old with two entrances, trail ran north. There were no signs of recent activity. C/1-502 IN, 1st platoon, 1st squad found two bunkers, a hole 10 feet deep with overhead cover and four trails in the area running NE all about four months old and no recent activity. D/1-502 IN at grid 797939 found two RPG rounds and two RPG boosters, enemy tracer rounds and one envelope with an address.
- 14 September 1965 **Operation CACTI:** Mission of Operation CACTI was to conduct a search and destroy operation in the valley vicinity BR6752, TINH BINH DINH Province.
- On D-Day the rifle companies of 2-502 IN BN began the move along AXIS BAKER to the objective area at 0200H. B TROOP crossed the river at 0300H and moved to blocking position #1. At 0620H, B TROOP was in position and an ARVN Ranger company and a CIDG Company (both attached) occupied blocking position #2 and #3 respectively. The tactical CP, AT and Mortar Platoons displaced to BR639510, 30 minutes after first light.
- Enemy fire was not received during the search of the objective area. The mission was accomplished by 1410H and elements began returning across the river. At 1800H all elements had closed into assembly area STRIKE and the operation was terminated.
- Approximately 4 tons of rice and 300lbs of salt were destroyed. 64 personnel of military age were apprehended, one man was captured with a weapon, two other weapons were discovered, as well as two stick type grenades. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN, After Action Report, Operation CACTI; 16 September 1965)
- 14 September 1967 **Operation WHEELER:** 2-502 IN BN continues operation with light contact. Official on Duty: SSG Clifford C. Curliss (HQ, 2-502 IN, Daily Staff Journal and Duty Officer's Log; 14 September 1967)
- 14 September 1968 B/1-502 IN continued cordon, calling in artillery and air strikes. Final results for the day were 8 VC KIA, 11 VC POW, 4 VCS. The other units continued normal activity with negative contact.
- 14 September –
13 October 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Phase IV was conducted. The 2-502 IN BN moved to FSB ANZIO for further RIF operations in newly assigned AO. A/2-502 IN secured FSB BOISE on 14 September. 2-502 IN BN, Recon platoon plus Tigers/1-327 took over security of BOISE while A/2-502 IN (OPCON to 1-327 IN BN) operated around BOISE. B/2-502 IN, C/2-502 IN, and D/2-502 IN conducted RIF operations to the south and southeast of ANZIO into the canopy area.
- 14 September 1968 **Operation NEVADA EAGLE:** Operation NEVADA EAGLE continued to weaken the enemy around HUE. Daily contact brought operation totals to 1,860 enemy killed, 340 prisoners captured, and 2,621 weapons seized. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 1, Number 4); Winter 1968-69)
- 14 September 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 during the reporting period. Today's statistics: 2 US WHA (medevac). Enemy Assessment: 11 VC KIA (BC), 11 VC POW, 2 Chieu Hoi's, 1 60mm mortar, 1 SKS, 2 AK-47's, 1 K-44, 1 K-50, 1 M1 carbine, 1 9mm pistol.
- 1-501 IN**
- A/1-501 IN, B/1-501 IN and D/1-501 IN continued to conduct extensive patrolling and RIF operations in the SE portion of VINH LOC (D) with little contact as the enemy continued to evade. During the reporting period the 1-501 IN BN elements accounted for 1 VC KIA (BC), 2 Chieu Hoi's and 3 weapons captured and the ARVN TF operating in the NW portion of VINH LOC (D) accounted for 9 VC KIA (BC) and 19 IWC.
- A/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD085128 and ambushed vicinity ZD095118 and ZD102115. At 2205H vicinity ZD085128 received AW fire from 2 enemy approximately 200 meters N, resulting in 2 US WHA (medevac). Returned fire with organic weapons with unknown results. Conducted platoon RIF operations vicinity ZD0812, ZD0811, ZD0911, ZD0910 and ZD1011. Results for the days operations for A/1-501 IN were 1 VC KIA (BC), 2 Chieu Hoi's, 1 60mm mortar tube, 1 SKS and 1 9mm pistol.
- B/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD072121 and ambushed vicinity ZD073118, ZD074124 and ZD075104. Conducted saturation patrolling vicinity ZD0611, ZD0711 and ZD0712.
- C/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD878247 and ambushed vicinity YD873257, YD871239 and YD884250. C/1-501 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF vicinity YD8623, YD8723, C/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon conducted RIF vicinity YD867260 and C/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF vicinity YD8824. At 1530H vicinity YD878234 apprehended 12 detainees. At 1910H vicinity YD883252 engaged 1 VC attempting to evade resulting in 1 VC KIA.
- D/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD060149 and ambushed vicinity ZD055152, ZD051144, ZD062146, ZD043144, ZD045140 and ZD050138. Conducted saturation patrols vicinity ZD0414, ZD0514 and ZD0513.
- Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD828229. At 2155H vicinity YD828229 spotted and engaged 2 VC with weapons, resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC), and 1 AK-47. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD852226, then to YD838236. At 1925H vicinity YD836236 while moving to night position received SA fire and 3-4 RPG rounds from an estimated 9-10 enemy to the N and E, negative casualties. Returned fire with organic weapons and artillery supported with unknown results.
- B/2-501 IN provided security for COCO Beach.



C/1-502 IN provided security for FSB MONGOOSE, occupied strong points along POL pipeline, security of POL pumping station and LCU ramp and liaison at HUE BRIDGES.

B/1-17 CAV remained at TN MY Beach.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN provided security for FSB T-BONE. A/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon ambushed vicinity YD628204, YD630197 and A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon ambushed vicinity YD663234 and YD670230. A/2-501 IN conducted RIF to vicinity YD656218 and returned to FSB T-BONE. A/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD630200 and conducted cloverleaf patrolling. A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD663239 and conducted cloverleaf patrolling. At 1422H vicinity YD663240 found 15 unknown type land mines, 14 destroyed and 1 evacuated.

B/2-501 IN OPCON 1-501 IN BN.

C/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD590170 and ambushed vicinity YD586171, YD585167, YD594171 and YD596174. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD590162.

D/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity OP APACHE, D/2-501 IN, 1st platoon ambushed vicinity YD614206 and D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon ambushed vicinity YD643258 and YD661269. D/2-501 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD625207 then returned to vicinity YD614206. D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD657251 then to YD625245. D/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD620219 and returned to OP APACHE.

Recon platoon occupied night position at LZ SALLY. Provided reaction force for LZ SALLY and AN LO BRIDGE. At 1630H departed LZ SALLY and conducted RIF to vicinity YD654265.

1-502 IN BN

A/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD694316 and ambushed vicinity YD675311 with B/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon. A/1-502 IN (-) conducted RIF vicinity YD705317, YD693306 and YD675311.

B/1-502 IN occupied night cordon around wooded area vicinity YD632323 with B/1-502 IN (-) and A/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon. B/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon occupied fortified OP's along QL 1 and YD600310, YD605310 and YD610312. At 0040H the west portion of the cordon received SA fire, negative casualties. Returned fire with organic weapons, unknown results. At 0050H observed 6-8 enemy attempting to infiltrate the cordon. Engaged causing the enemy to return fire and flee back into the cordoned area. At 0110H received SA/AW and RPG fire from the west portion of cordon. At 0645H, 2 VC POW were captured on the west portion. The cordon was loosened at 0745H for artillery and TAC air to support. The NW section of the cordoned area was then searched, and the cordon re-established. At 1700H the cordon was again loosened for an air strike. During the reporting period the operation resulted in 8 VC KIA (BC), 11 VC POW, 1 K-44, 1 K-50, 1 M1 carbine and 1 AK-47. At the close of the reporting period the cordon remained.

C/1-502 IN OPCON 1-501 IN.

D/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO BRIDGE and ambushed vicinity YD647290 and YD654303. D/1-502 IN, 1st platoon (-) conducted RIF to vicinity YD646292.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD735328. At 0816H conducted heliborne movement from YD732328 to LZ vicinity YD692275, lifted completed by utility helicopter at 0840H. At 1357H moved by utility helicopter from vicinity YD688276 to LZ SALLY, closed 1421H.

C/2-34 AR, 3rd platoon OPCON D/1-502 IN.

2BDE

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

(2nd BDE, 101st ABN DIV; LZ SALLY; Commanders Situation Report; 132001HSEP68 – 142000HSEP68)

14 September 1969

Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE: A/1-502 IN continued to secure FSB BIRMINGHAM. C/1-502 IN conducted a C/A from YD794056 and YD810048 to YD783117. B/1-502 IN conducted RIF and SRRP's in a show of force vicinity the 3 resettlement hamlets in NAM HOA District. D/1-502 IN conducted RIF and SRRP to YD775086 and YD773087 with negative results. 1-502 IN, Recon platoon conducted a C/A from YD786094 to YD794063.

14 September 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon had movement 50 meters from their location YD797939. Reconed by fire and sighted one individual fleeing down a stream. Search of the area negative results.

15 September 1967

Operation WHEELER: 2-502 IN BN with 1 MIKE Force OPCON continued to occupy blocking positions and run small unit search and destroy operations in assigned portions of AO. Official on Duty: SSG Clifford C Curliss. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; Daily Staff Journal and Duty Officer's Log; 15 September 1967)

15 September 1967

Operation WHEELER: At 1117H, C/2-502 IN at BT110286 received heavy AW and AA fire while attempting to air assault a hilltop. Ordnance identified were .30 cal. MG, 12.7mm HMG and unknown size air burst AA rounds. A later sweep of the



15 September 1968

area revealed doughnut shaped AA positions supported by individual defense fox holes. Though several aircraft received hits, there were no friendly or known enemy casualties. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation WHEELER; 24 November 1967)

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: 2BDE 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 during the reporting period. Today's statistics: No friendly casualties. Enemy assessment: 4 VC KIA (BC), 2 Chieu Hoi's, 3 AK-47's, 1 M16, 1 SKS, 2 M1 carbines and 1 RPG-2 launcher.

1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN, B/1-501 IN and D/1-501 IN continued to RIF operations and saturation patrolling of the SE portion of VINH LOC (D). The 1-501 IN elements accounted for 2 VC (BC), 2 Chieu Hoi's, 2 AK-47's, 1 SKS and 2 M1 carbines. The ARVN TF continued operations in the NW portion of the VINH LOC (D), accounting for 10 VC (BC), 10 Chieu Hoi's and 31 IWC.

A/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD085127 and ambushed vicinity ZD080127, ZD082125, ZD084120 and ZD088118. Conducted saturation patrols vicinity ZD0813 and ZD0812. A/1-501 IN accounted for 1 Chieu Hoi and 2 AK-47's.

B/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD072105 and ambushed vicinity ZD076102, ZD067113 and ZD053108. Conducted saturation patrolling vicinity ZD0611, ZD0710 and ZD0711. B/1-501 IN accounted for 1 Chieu Hoi and 2 M1 carbines.

C/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD877248 and ambushed vicinity YD867239, YD874529 and YD890245. Conducted 3 patrols consisting of 1 squad of 15 PF's each. 1 patrol from vicinity YD890245 to YD896237 to YD877247. 1 Patrol from vicinity YD875258 to YD856256 to YD877247, and 1 patrol from vicinity YD875238 to a blocking position vicinity YD867237 oriented SW then continued to YD877247.

D/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD066140 and ambushed vicinity ZD064146, ZD059143, ZD054140, ZD052144 and ZD051155. Conducted saturation patrols vicinity ZD0513, ZD0514 and ZD0414. At 1455H conducted a combat assault from a PZ vicinity ZD050154 to an LZ vicinity ZD019169, closed 1527H. During the day D/1-501 IN accounted for 1 VC KIA (BC).

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD852227. At 2155H vicinity YD844227 ambush received 3-4 rounds SA fire and engaged 3-4 VC approximately 300 meters east, the enemy fled with unknown results. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD852221, the NE to blocking position vicinity YD867237, then continued to vicinity YD862232. At 1905H vicinity YD865236 engaged 1 VC resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC) and 1 M16. At 1925H in the same area engaged 2 VC with SA and M79 fire resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC).

B/2-501 IN provided security for COCO Beach.

C/1-502 IN provided security for FSB MONGOOSE, occupied strong points along POL pipeline, security of POL pumping station and LCU Ramp and liaison at the HUE BRIDGES.

B/2-17 CAV remained TAN MY Beach.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN provided security for FSB T-BONE, with A/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon ambushing vicinity YD625196, YD625196, YD635204 and A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon ambushing vicinity YD662242, YD675245. A/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon established patrol base vicinity YD629199 and conducted cloverleaf patrolling. A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD6248243 and YD651231.

B/2-501 IN OPCON 1-501 IN BN

C/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD587159 and ambushed vicinity YD593162, YD595164, YD586163 and YD589162. Conducted RIF operations with C/2-501 IN (-) to vicinity YD584155, C/2-501 IN, 1st platoon to vicinity YD584163 and C/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD593157.

D/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity OP APACHE with D/2-501 IN, 1st platoon ambushing vicinity YD60721, YD601219 and D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon ambushing vicinity YD620247, YD611240. D/2-501 IN, 1st platoon RIF to vicinity YD614200 then to YD606214. D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon RIF to vicinity YD617249 then to YD632258.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD653250 and ambushed vicinity YD663256. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD674253 and conducted cloverleaf patrolling.

1-502 IN BN

A/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD654192 and ambushed vicinity YD673307, UD675331 and A/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon OPCON B/1-502 IN. A/1-502 IN (-) conducted RIF to vicinity YD667303, YD674311, YD663307 and YD660303. At 0950H, A/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon returned to A/1-502 IN control and conducted RIF to vicinity YD650310. At 1125H, A/1-502



IN (-) moved by 2 ½ ton trucks to LZ SALLY from YD650310, closed 1220H. A/1-502 IN remained at vicinity YD655307, then established night ambushes.

B/1-502 IN (-) with A/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon occupied blocking positions in cordon of objective area vicinity YD632321. B/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon occupied fortified OP's along QL 1 vicinity YD600310, YD605310 and YD610312. At 2255H vicinity YD632321 NE portion of cordon received SA fire, negative casualties. Returned SA fire with unknown results. At 0850H, B/1-502 IN (-) received 2 bulldozers and provided security for the bulldozers to raze the wooded area of cordon. At 0950H vicinity YD632322 uncovered 1 RPG-2 launcher. At 1245H vicinity YD632322 bulldozer uncovered 1 AK-47 in a bunker. At 1600H an air strike was put into the area to collapse any tunnel network.

C/1-502 IN OPCON D/1-502 IN

D/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO BRIDGE and ambushed vicinity YD654306. D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon secured 2 bulldozers moving to B/1-502 IN location vicinity YD632322, then returned to AN LO BRIDGE. D/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD632322 and assisted in security of bulldozers.

Recon platoon occupied night position at LZ SALLY as reaction force for LZ SALLY and AN LO BRIDGE. At 1635H moved by utility helicopter from LZ SALLY to vicinity YD689287, closed 1650H.

C/2-34 AR, 3rd platoon OPCON D/1-502 IN

2BDE

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

(2nd BDE, 101st ABN DIV; LZ SALLY; Commanders Situation Report; 142001HSEP68 – 152000HSEP68)

15 September 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: Relentless attacks from the 101st ABN DIV and elements of the 82nd ABN DIV produced 50 enemy losses, with 48 prisoners and 27 weapons captured in action throughout the area. Paratroopers of the 2BDE inflicted the heaviest casualties with A/1-501 IN killing 19 enemy in VINH LOC. During the battle, supporting helicopters killed 11 and battalion elements counted eight additional dead. Thirty-six prisoners and 29 weapons were captured in the sharp contact 23km east of HUE. (Rendezvous with Destiny (Volume 1, Number 4); Winter 1968-1969)

15 – 17 September 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: 1-502 IN BN continued RIF operations, Rome plow operation, and security of AN LO BRIDGE. The enemy was evasive and there were only two light sniper contacts, with negative assessment. The units continued to encounter BBT and find small caches.

15 September -
16 October 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: 1-327 IN BN and 2-502 IN BN conducted an airmobile combat assault into the DONG TRUOI Mountain south of HUE. For the next 32 Days, the two battalions conducted extensive company-size RIF operations to locate and destroy the enemy forces indicated to be in the area. The combat assault of the two battalions was conducted in response to an increasing number of agent and sniffer reports, which indicated the enemy's presence in the DONG TRUOI Mountains (YD8097). In addition, interrogation of the large number of PW's and Hoi Chanhs gathered by the 2BDE during its cordon operations in VINH LOC, confirmed the presence of five infantry battalions of the 4th and 5th NVA Regiments in the Truoi Mountains area. During the period 15 Sept – 16 Oct, the two battalions maintained continuous pressure on the enemy forces and, during the frequent contacts with squad to platoon size enemy forces, killed 78 NVA and captured 11 POW's, 32 individual weapons, and 3 crew-served weapons. This operation served to keep at least five enemy battalions off balance and caused them to displace towards the southwest, thus relieving pressure on DA NANG, on OL #1 from PHU BAI to HAI VAN Pass, and on PHU LOC District. The operation also prevented enemy reinforcement and recovery from his losses in PHU VANG, PHU THU, and VINH LOC Districts. (Operational Report of 101st Airborne Division for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1))

15 September 1969

Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE: A/1-502 IN continued to secure FSB BIRMINGHAM. B/1-502 IN continued security of FSB ARSENAL, FSB ARROW and POHL BRIDGE. C/1-502 IN conducted RIF operations vicinity YD773083. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon conducted sensor installation vicinity YD791049.

15 September 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon, 3rd squad found seven small bunkers, one 122mm rocket launcher, one tripod for 122mm rocket, launcher in good condition and one RPG canister with medicine in it. There was recent activity within the last week. Two elements of Recon fired upon each other and SGT Terry L. Saase was shot below the knee and medevaced out. At 1905H, FSB BLITZ took incoming fire from the SE at 765955 resulting in six US WIA including the battalion commander, LTC West. At 2055H, LTC Lang assumed command of the 1-502 IN BN.

15 September 1971

C/1-501 IN and 225th RF Company conducted combined operation.

16 – 28 September 1966

Operation SEWARD: Phase III of Operation SEWARD began with A/2-502 IN exploiting LRRP Team #4 contact vicinity BQ992516 by conducting heliborne assaults on multiple LZ's to the east of the reported contact. B/2-502 IN followed A/2-502 IN into the AO, conducting a heliborne move south of the LRRP contact while C/2-502 IN landed to the west of LRRP team #4, after the LRRP team had reported receiving 60mm mortar fire from that area. At 1530H, 19 September, Recon platoon conducted a heliborne assault to the southwest closing the ring around the morning's contact. All units proceeded to conduct "Recondo Checkerboard" operations, in an effort to trap the enemy element in the area.

At 1930H, A/2-502 IN reported contact with approximately 100 VC vicinity CQ005612, an air strike was requested for the next morning, however the air strike was aborted, and no contact was again made with the 100 men VC force. All units



commenced search and destroy operations through 28 September. A/2-502 IN moved generally northeast then turned back to the southwest, B/2-502 IN moved due east, then doubled back to the west, while C/2-502 IN moved generally west. The Recondo platoon occupied a clandestine stay behind position vicinity BQ991608. On 20 September, B/2-502 IN found a base camp at BQ995590 which contained equipment indicating that the camp had possibly been occupied by the enemy unit which had overrun the CP of B/2-327 IN. During the same day C/2-502 IN, 4th platoon found two caches totaling three tons of rice at BQ979629 and BQ989612, as the caches had been booby trapped, they were destroyed. (HQ, 2-502 IN; After Action Report, Operation SEWARD; 28 October 1966)

16 September 1967

Operation WHEELER: 2-502 IN BN continues search and destroy operations to the North. Activity today was light and sporadic with minor contacts made by A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN; Results: 3 VC(BC) and 1 VC WIA. Official on Duty: SSG Clifford C. Curliss (HQ, 2-502 IN, Daily Staff Journal and Duty Officer's Log; 16 September 1967)

16 September 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conducted 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 costal plains area and to seek out and destroy enemy forces and installations in the 2BDE AO. Contact was light during the reporting period. Today's statistics: 2 US WHA (medevac); Enemy assessment: 5 VC KIA (BC), 2 Chieu Hoi's, 7 SKS, 2 M2 carbines, 1 P-38 pistol and 2 60mm mortar sights.

1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN, B/1-501 IN and D/1-501 IN continued saturation ambush, search and patrol operations in the SE portion of VINH LOC (D). During the reporting period, 1-501 IN elements accounted for 4 VC (BC), 2 Chieu Hoi's, 7 IWD and an ammo cache. The ARVN TF operating in the NW portion of VINH LOC (D) accounted for 4 VC (BC), 5 IWC, 1 CSWC and 10 Chieu Hoi's.

A/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD090109 and ambushed vicinity ZD091102 and ZD080125. Conducted platoon RIF operations with A/1-501 IN, 1st platoon to vicinity ZD092102 and A/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon vicinity ZD080125. At 0835H a detainee led A/1-501 IN to an ammo cache consisting of 10 RPG-2 rounds, 700 rounds SA ammo, 13 M79 rounds, 50 blasting caps and 2 60mm mortar sights. In addition, A/1-501 IN accounted for 2 Chieu Hoi's and 2 SKS.

B/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD071112 and ambushed vicinity ZD071120, ZD073117 and ZD073115. Conducted saturation patrolling vicinity ZD0711. B/1-501 IN accounted for 1 SKS.

C/1-501 IN (-) occupied night position vicinity YD878247 and ambushed vicinity YD882250, YD868240 and YD871257. Conducted platoon (-) RIF operations consisting of 1 US squad and 15 RF's to vicinity YD893241 and YD872268. 1 platoon provided security for construction of FSB SANDY. C/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon remained vicinity FSB MONGOOSE.

D/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD033152 and ambushed vicinity ZD035155. ZD037153 and ZD035149. Conducted platoon (-) RIF operations SE from ambush locations to vicinity ZD047141. D/1-501 IN accounted for 4 VC (BC), 3 SKS and 1 M2 carbine.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD862232 and ambushed vicinity YD863230. At 0715H vicinity YD865236 at first light check of contact area at 151925H resulted in 1 additional VC KIA (BC) and 1 P-38 pistol. At 0910H conducted a combat assault from PZ vicinity YD870233 to LZ vicinity YD793233, closed 0920H. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD8066228 then N to vicinity YD798238.

B/2-501 IN provided security for COCO Beach, ambushed vicinity YD861309. At 0700H ambush received 3 rounds SA fire from unknown location.

C/1-502 IN provided security for FSB MONGOOSE, occupied strong points along POL pipeline, security of POL pumping station and LCU Ramp and liaison at the HUE BRIDGES.

B/1-17 CAV remained TAM MY BEACH.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN provided security for FSB T-BONE with A/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon ambushing vicinity YD625193, YD628201 and A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon ambushing vicinity YD643228 and YD552226. A/2-501 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD640190 and returned to FSB T-BONE. A/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon established a patrol base vicinity YD625198 and conducted cloverleaf patrolling, A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon (-) moved to vicinity YD657237 and established a blocking position, 1 squad vicinity YD664235, blocking in support of Recon platoon. Elements then linked up and conducted RIF to vicinity YD64724.

B/2-501 IN OPCON 1-501 IN BN

C/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD589161 and ambushed vicinity YD583164, YD579163, YD588156 and YD584158. Conducted RIF operations with C/2-501 IN (-) to vicinity YD583150, C/2-501 IN, 1st platoon to vicinity YD586161 and C/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon to vicinity YD590152. At 1735H vicinity YD583150, C/2-501 IN (-) received 1 RPG round and SA fire from approximately 3-5 enemy, negative casualties. Artillery was fired with unknown results.

D/2-501 IN occupied night position at OP APACHE with D/2-501 IN, 1st platoon ambushing vicinity YD615213, YD614208 and D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon ambushing vicinity YD641258 and YD629260. D/2-501 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD620214 then to YD614210. D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD650246 to YD664240 then to LZ SALLY,



closed 1521H as reaction force for LZ SALLY and AN LO BRIDGE. D/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon conducted squad patrols to vicinity YD6332178 and YD625236 then returned to OP APACHE.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD674244 and ambushed vicinity YD669250. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD664265 to blocking position occupied by A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon then continued to vicinity YD662257. At 0649H vicinity YD669245 found and destroyed 500 rounds SA ammo.

1-502 IN BN

A/1-502 IN (-) occupied night position at LZ SALLY and A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon ambushed vicinity YD653303. At 0610H A/1-502 IN (-) departed LZ SALLY and linked up with 2 RF platoons' vicinity YD686274, then conducted RIF vicinity YD677287 and from vicinity YD682280 to YD 682290. At 0755H, A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon moved by utility helicopter from vicinity YD653309 to vicinity YD685293 closed 0823H, and established blocking position vicinity YD682289 for A/1-502 IN (-).

B/1-502 IN (-) occupied night position vicinity YD623321, with B/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon occupying fortified OP's along QL 1 vicinity YD600310, YD605310 and YD610312. B/1-502 IN (-) secured bulldozer clearing operations vicinity YD638314. At 1945H vicinity YD644321 point man engaged 4 VC with SA. Enemy fled with negative sightings.

C/1-502 IN OPCON 1-501 IN BN.

D/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO BRIDGE and ambushed vicinity YD654294, YD643311 and YD607278.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD686286. At 0725H established blocking position vicinity YD686285 in support of A/1-502 IN. At 1957H vicinity YD689291 observed 2 VC. SA fire resulted in 2 US WHA (medevac). Enemy fled with negative further sightings.

Remarks: At 1435H vicinity YD629344 a detainee led elements to a bunker containing 1 SKS and 1 M2 carbine.

2BDE

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

(2nd BDE, 101st ABN DIV; LZ SALLY; Commanders Situation Report; 152001HSEP68 – 162000HSEP68)

16 September 1969

Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE: A/1-502 IN continued its security mission. B/1-502 IN, 1st platoon was extracted from FSB ARROW and FSB ARSENAL, FSB ARROW was closed out today. C/1-502 IN conducted MAP's and security of resettlement hamlets in NAM HOA District. 1-502 IN, Recon platoon conducted SRRP's, RIF operations and MAP's to YD796057. D/1-502 IN conducted a RIF operations vicinity YD755075 with negative results.

16 September 1969

Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE: A/1-40 ARTY moved three (3) tubes by road from FSB BIRMINGHAM (YD704101) to Cua Viet, out of the AO of the 101st ABN DIV (AM). B/4-77 ARTY fired in support of A/1-502 IN. Results: 2 NVA killed by ARA. (HQ, 101st ABN DIV ARTY; Operation Report; Period Ending 31 October 1969; 15 November 1969)

16 September 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: General Berry visited FSB BLITZ and FSB ARSENAL. D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon vicinity 795928 found two sets of footprints a few hours old. At grid 794927 they found one cultivated field. There were no hootches or bunkers. D/1-502 IN had four men wounded by a booby trap. Soldiers medevaced were SGT Robert K. Haskins, SGT Michael P. Kelley, SP4 Steven Smith and PVT Hubert Hapron. The Soldiers were taken to 85th Evac. Hospital.

16 September 1970

C/2-327 IN BN assaulted to Sledge and secured the area for insertion of A/1-501 IN which passed to the operational control of the 2-327 IN. (Operational Report – Lessons Learned, 101st ABN DIV (AM), Period Ending 31 October 1970)

17 September 1967

Operation WHEELER: 2-502 IN BN with 1 MIKE Force OPCON continue to conduct search and destroy operations in assigned portion of UDEN AO. Official on Duty: SSG Clifford C Curliss (HQ, 2-502 IN, Daily Staff Journal and Duty Officer's Log; 17 September 1967)

17 September 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conduct offensive operations in support of Operations 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 during the reporting period. Today's statistics: 2 US WHA (medevac); Enemy assessment: 10 VC (BC), 9 SKS, 1 AK-47, 2 sub MG's and 1 K-47.

1-501 IN BN

Elements of 1-501 IN BN continued to conducted night ambushes and saturation patrols in VINH LOC (D) with A/1-501 IN, B/1-501 IN and D/1-501 IN until it was extracted at 1040H. They accounted for 2 VC (BC), 1 Chieu Hoi and 1 K-44. The ARVN TF operating in the NW portion of VINH LOC accounted for 5 VC (BC), 4 Chieu Hoi's and 3 IWC.

A/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD092116 and ambushed vicinity ZD081128, ZD094095, ZD094099 and ZD082126. Conducted saturation patrols vicinity ZD0712, ZD0812, ZD0911 and ZD0909. A/1-501 IN accounted for 1 Chieu Hoi.



B/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD0969122 and ambushed vicinity ZD074123, ZD074119 and ZD077129. Conducted RIF to VINH LOC and conducted heliborne movement at 1040H to LZ vicinity YD822226 closed 1155H. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD834238. B/1-501 IN accounted for 2 VC (BC) and 1 K-44.

C/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD877248 and ambushed vicinity YD860240, YD886245, YD868259 and 1 platoon at FSB MONGOOSE. At 0955H vicinity YD865243 a squad with PF sustained 1 PF WHA from SA fire.

D/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD047137 and ambushed vicinity ZD042144, ZD047141, ZD049139 and ZD044125. Conducted saturation patrols vicinity ZD0513 and ZD0514.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD791244. At 0100H vicinity YD794245 received 3 rounds RPG fire and some SA fire, resulting in 3 US WHA (medevac). Returned SA and M79 fire with unknown results. At 0230H vicinity YD791244, engaged 1 VC resulting in 1 VC (BC) and 1 AK-47. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD822240. At 1650H vicinity YD824238 engaged 1 VC resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC).

B/2-501 IN provided security for COCO Beach, ambushed vicinity YD867305.

C/1-502 IN provided security for FSB MONGOOSE, occupied strong points along POL pipeline, security for POL pumping station and LCU Ramp and liaison at the HUE BRDIGES. Returned to 1-502 IN control at 1200H.

B/1-17 CAV, 1 platoon assisted in the construction of FSB SANDY.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN provided security for FSB T-BONE with A/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon ambushing vicinity YD635200, YD636195 and A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon ambushing vicinity YD647237 and YD646246. A/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon conducted RIF to FSB T-BONE. A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon at 0848H form a PZ vicinity YD642248 conducted eagle flight to vicinity YD675234, closed 0852H. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD665247 then to LZ SALLY.

B/2-501 IN OPCON 1-501 IN BN.

C/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD583154 and ambushed vicinity YD577154, YD577151, YD587146 and YD583145. Conducted RIF operation to vicinity YD576145 then to YD575148. At 1200H vicinity YD578184 found a hooch containing 2 sub MG's and 9 SKS.

D/2-501 IN occupied night position at OP APACHE with D/2-501 IN, 1st platoon ambushing vicinity YD625205, YD621212 and D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon at LZ SALLY. D/2-501 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF to OP APACHE. D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon at 0758H conducted eagle flight from LZ SALLY to vicinity YD659268, closed 0810H then RIF to vicinity YD661265. D/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD612210.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD661265 and ambushing vicinity YD669253. At 0819H conducted eagle flight from YD678253 to YD662260, closed 0824H. Established blocking position for A/2-501 IN, 1st platoon and D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon then continued to vicinity YD675242.

1-502 IN BN

A/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD678284 and ambushed vicinity YD675287, YD680292, YD683285 and YD682280. Conducted cloverleaf patrolling from night position and ambushes. At 1925H vicinity YD676288, 1 squad ambush engaged with SA and M79 fire 2 VC. Enemy returned SA fire. 1st light check will be made.

B/1-502 IN (-) occupied night position vicinity YD636311 and ambushed vicinity YD644323 and YD627328. B/1-502 IN, 1st platoon occupied fortified OP's along QL 1. B/1-502 IN (-) secured bulldozer clearing operation vicinity YD635314. B/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD633327.

C/1-502 IN OPCON 1-501 IN BN until 1200H, OPCON released. Continued security mission.

D/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO BRIDGE. D/1-502 IN CP and D/1-502 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD660296, with D/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon and tank section supporting vicinity YD605302.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD683288. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD695287.

Remarks: At 1430H PF's at AN THANH (YD737291) received 9 Hoi Chanh from YD733327, 2 AK-47's and 1 carbine.

C/2-34 ARM, 3rd platoon OPCON D/1-502 IN.

2BDE

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

(2nd BDE, 101st ABN DIV; LZ SALLY; Commanders Situation Report; 162001HSEP68 – 172000HSEP68)

Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE: A/1-502 IN continued the security of FSB BIRMINGHAM along with RIF operations in that vicinity. B/1-502 IN continued to provide security for FSB ARSENAL and POHL BRIDGE. C/1-502 IN conducted RIF

17 September 1969



operations to the west and southwest to YD750110 and YD756109. C/1-502 IN worked in conjunction with NAM HOA District's 177th RF Company. D/1-502 IN conducted a RIF to YD767076. 1-502 IN, Recon platoon conducted patrols in the general area of YD790056.

17 September 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: C/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon engaged four VC/NVC who fled west. Results where one found trail. ARA employed and at 1320H, C/1-502 IN Commanding Officer reports that one ARA bird went down in canopy 300 meters from the contact location. C/2-502 IN, 1st platoon headed for the downed aircraft. At 1700H, C/2-502 IN, 1st platoon was still 200 meters from the downed aircraft and found a base camp which they destroyed. A pink team feels they will not reach the aircraft tonight due to difficulty of the terrain.

18 September 1965

Operation GIBRATLER: 2-502 IN BN was given a mission which was to conduct a heliborne assault just to the east of the mountains and the suspected enemy location, near the village of AN NINH, and then move west into the mountains and destroy the PAVN BN. Another task force was designated to enter the mountains from the west.

The 2-502 IN BN was tailored for combat in the mountains. The force consisted of three rifle companies and an attached ARVN Ranger Company. Approximately 620 men were included in the force. Mortars and recoilless rifles were not included because it was felt they could not be carried and effectively employed in the jungle covered mountains.

The 52nd AVN BN was designated to support the operation. 11 UH-1D helicopters of the 11th AVN CO, 8 UH-1B helicopters of A/2-502 IN and 7 CH-34 helicopters attached from the 2-7th Marines were provided for troop lift. Nine armed UH-1B helicopters also supported the operation. The troop lift capability was 140 men per lift. Four lifts required to transport the 2-502 IN BN to the landing zone at AN NINH. The flight time required for one complete cycle was 15 minutes. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation GIBRALTER; 08 October 1965)

18 – 21 September 1965

Operation GIBRATLER: A sweep to secure the 1st CAV DIV base camp, takes place near AN NINH in the SON CON Valley north of AN KHE. Conducted by the 2-502 IN BN, it will become the first major contact of the 101st ABN DIV and the first defeat of a Vietcong Main Force unit by the US Army. Results were 13 US KIAs, 44 WIAs while the VC suffered 226 KIAs.

Quote:

Landing at 7:00 o'clock in the morning, in what was later determined to be a Viet Cong battalion command post, the troopers found themselves completely surrounded and outnumbered. Only one company and a half were able to set down on the landing zone; the remaining assault force was waved out of the area by a captain on the ground that was later killed by heavy ground fire. But as reinforcements arrived it was quite evident the original assault had caught the enemy completely by surprise, and he was never able to reorganize his force. This was compounded by the courageous actions of the surrounded troopers, who took the offensive and badly mauled the confused Viet Cong.

18 September 1965

Operation GIBRATLER: Operation GIBRALTER commenced at 0630H with the loading of elements of the 2-502 IN BN aboard eleven UH-1D's of the 117th AVN CO, nine UH-1B of A/2-502 IN and seven CH-34's of HMS 161. Escort was provided by nine UH-1B's(A). On the first lift 144 troops were landed. Ground fire was received in the LZ with two UH-1B's and three CH-34's receiving hits, but they continued to fly. On the second lift into the LZ heavy automatic weapons fire was received by 7 ships from the 117th, 4 from A/2-502d and 5 of the Marine helicopters. One from the 117th was forced down East of the LZ and one Marine helicopter was forced down South of the LZ. Crew of both helicopters were picked up immediately.

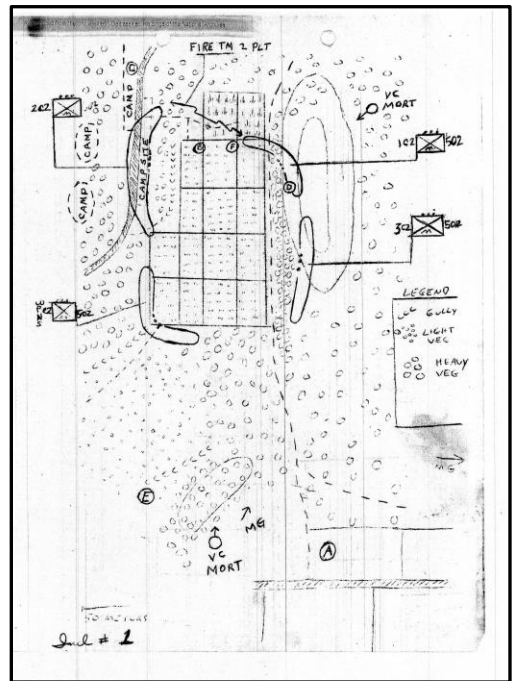
Damage assessment revealed the 117th now had five flyable UH-1D's, four UH-1B's (A), A/502d had seven flyable UH-1B's (A) and the Marine had only one flyable CH-34. The Marine unit was no longer effective and was released by the CO, 52nd AVN BN.

A third lift was initiated with a total troop capacity of 52. Due to the heavy fire around the primary LZ, and alternate LZ was selected about 600 meters south. On this lift, six aircraft from the 117th were hit and five from A/2-502 IN. One helicopter of the 117th was downed in the LZ and the crew was evacuated. At the end of the 3rd lift the 117th AVN CO had one flyable UH-1D and three flyable UH-1B's (A). A/502d had four flyable UH-1B's and four UH-1B's(A). The battalion suffered personnel losses of 1 KIA and 6 WIA. Troop lift capability had been reduced at this point to approximately 22 troops. At approximately 0900H the CO, 52nd AVN BN notified the CO, 1BDE that his unit was no longer effective and could not continue the troop lift. It was released at this time. (History of the 52nd AVN BN; 1 January – 31 December 1965)



Operation GIBRALTER: The 2-502 IN BN (TF SMITH) departed an assembly area at the east end of AN KHE Pass (BR6347) at 0430H and moved by convoy to the loading zone which was north of Hwy 19 near KHU PHO (BR745390). The Ranger company joined the battalion at the landing zone. The 2-502 IN BN was organized and positioned for helicopter loading and the first helicopter arrived at 0630H.

Two A1E Skyraiders provided a ten-minute preparation on the assault landing zone immediately prior to the heliborne assault. The first lift, carrying one hundred and thirty-eight (138) men from C/2-502 IN, commanded by CPT Robert E. Rawls, and two-man air control team, conducted the initial assault landing at 0715H. C/2-502 IN which was assigned the mission of securing the landing zone, encountered light enemy small arms fire and assembled with little difficulty. The first position without contact. Three enemy personnel approached the platoon position on the trail from the north and withdrew rapidly. C/2-502 IN, 2nd platoon commanded by 2LT James A. Neilson followed on trail off the northwest corner of the landing zone and discovered an enemy campsite on the east bank of the nearby stream. As the platoon suppressed the camp, seven personnel were observed fleeing across the stream. The camp had been hastily abandoned. The enemy left behind, 4 bodies, 7 weapons, 2 rifles grenade launchers, 11 hand grenades, 25 rifle grenades, 4 60mm mortar rounds, 180 rounds of .45 caliber ammunition, 400 rounds of .30 caliber ammunition, 17 ¼ block of TNT, a small bottle of nitroglycerine and 4 medical kits. C/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon commanded by 2LT George H. Carter moved to the southeastern edge of the landing zone and began receiving light enemy fire after the first five minutes. The weapons platoon commanded by 1LT Gerald N. Nakashima secured the southwestern corner of the landing zone.



CPT Rawls led the company command group off the east edge of the landing zone and then moved south along the trail. He ordered C/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon and weapons platoon to extend south. 2LT Carter left 1 squad and a machinegun on the hill and followed CPT Rawls south with the remainder of the platoon. The weapons platoon probed down the trail to the southwest with 1 fire team. C/2-502 IN, 1st platoon and 2nd platoon remained in position and 2LT Anderson maintained contact with 2LT Neilson by stretching 1 fire team across the northern edge of the landing zone.

The second lift, which included the remainder of C/2-502 IN, 2 platoons from B/2-502 IN, and the tactical CP landed at 0730H. During the landing, intense enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire was received. One platoon from B/2-502 IN field to land when the Marine CH-34 helicopter diverted because of the enemy fire and returned to the vicinity of the loading zone. B/2-502 IN commander CPT Wilford E. Roe was wounded in the helicopter and was evacuated immediately. 2LT Howard R. Reeves assumed command of the element of B/2-502 IN. As a result of the enemy fire all the CH-34 helicopters and 5 of the UH-1D helicopters were no longer able to fly. The lift capability was required to return to AN KHE and QUI NHON for the rearming before the third lift could move.

During the between 0730H and 0900H, LTC Wilfred K. G. Smith the 2-502 IN BN commander, commanded a group of 224 men, surrounded by the enemy, without artillery or air support. Initial estimates were that the battalion had landed within the defense perimeter of a PAVN Battalion. It was later concluded that two Main Force Viet Cong Battalions were located in the area. The enemy was surprised by the air strikes and the first lift, but within 15 minutes they had begun to reorganize their defenses. The initiative of the individual soldier and his prior airborne training (the conventional airborne concept of assaulting and organizing an airhead in the enemy territory) saved the unit during this critical period.

At 0750H, CPT Rawls was killed by a burst of machine gun fire as he was directing 2LT Carter to deploy his platoon (-) in the rice paddy at (A) (See diagram). Elements of B/2-502 IN which had organized under fire at the Northwest corner of the landing zone, began to organize a defensive perimeter which C/2-502 IN, attempting to fill major gaps in the defense. The tactical CP organized and began to operate at (B) (See diagram). B/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon led by 2LT Edward C. Schillo organized on the landing zone, followed the trail off the northwest corner, moved through 2LT Anderson's platoon, crossed the stream and occupied an evacuated enemy campsite at (C) (See diagram) without resistance. The platoon searched the camp and discovered rice and boiling water still in permanently constructed ovens, pistol belts with ammunition lying on benches, 1 carbine, 1 .45 caliber pistol, parts of uniforms scattered about, large stores of rice, bottles of explosives, 12 60mm mortar rounds, wooden dummy 60mm mortar rounds, an M-4 mortar sight, grenades, medical equipment and a Communist Party flag. Communication wire extended the entire length of the campsite.

At 0805H the 2-502 IN BN (-) began to receive intensive 60mm and 82mm mortar fire, and C/2-502 IN, 1st platoon was forced to pull future back down the eastern hill in order to gain more cover. At 0830H, 2LT Schillo in the campsite across the stream, began to receive an increased volume of enemy fire from the North and East across the stream. His platoon backed across the stream and through 2LT Anderson's platoon. As he was in the process of returning, 1st platoon was strafed on the stream and by on the West bank by armed helicopters. No casualties were sustained. While 2LT Schillo was returning to the airhead, C/2-502 IN, 1st platoon now on the side of the eastern hill at (D) (See diagram), heard whistles and verbal enemy commands. The enemy had moved to a position at the top of the hill, 15 meters beyond the platoon position, and began intense automatic weapons, machine gun, and mortar fire. The platoon withdrew 30 meters to better cover at a paddy dike at the base of the hill.

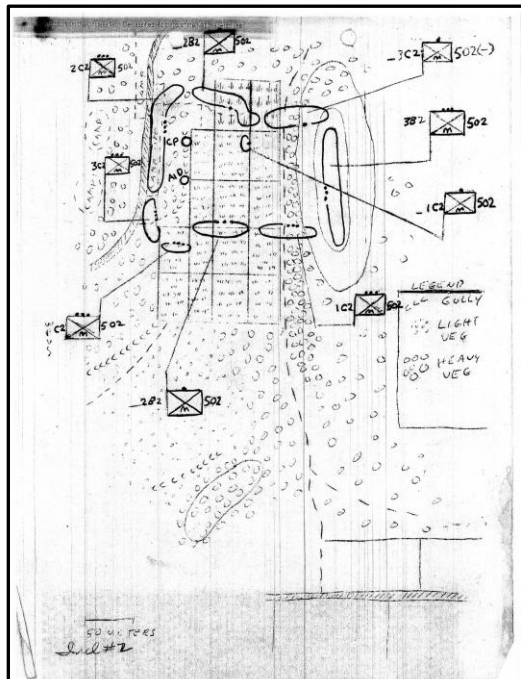


Tactical air support was received for the first time at 0904H. Until this time the defense of the airhead had consisted solely of small arms and automatic weapons carried in the heliborne assault. No artillery was within range. The air strikes were immediately effective and continued to be very effective as approximately 47 sorties followed through the day. The air support was unquestionably an important factor which added to the success of the unit during the critical period, because it prevented the enemy from leaving their positions long enough to reorganize and launch a concentrated attack. Air strikes were requested within 100 meters of friendly positions through most of the day because of the close contact situation. B/2-502 IN had 2 men killed by close air strikes during the afternoon.

The armed helicopters returned from AN KHE and QUI NHON, and the third lift attempted a landing at 0920H on an alternate landing zone 800 meters south of the airhead. The lift carried 60 men of elements of A/2-502 IN and B/2-502 IN, commanded by the A/2-502 IN Commander, CPT Gerard Landry. Extremely heavy enemy fire was received during the landing attempt. The 117th AVN Company helicopters landed 8 men from A/2-502 IN and 28 men from B/2-502 IN at 2 separate locations. The remainder of the helicopters diverted because of the intense enemy fire and returned the troops to the loading zone. CPT Landry had been wounded in a helicopter during the assault and was evacuated immediately upon arrival at the loading zone. At this time all 3 rifle company commanders were out of action. 1LT Charlie Y. Talbott assumed command of A/2-502 IN at the loading zone. 1LT Phillip W. Mock assumed command of all elements which remained on the loading zone, which included A/2-502 IN, 1 platoon of B/2-502 IN and the ARVN Ranger Company. The commander of the 52nd AVN BN, LTC Cody, reported all 26 of the troop lift helicopters were out of action because of mechanical difficulties caused by enemy fire received. Three helicopters had not been able to return to the loading zone, but all crews had been rescued. Five armed helicopters remained in action and continued to support as often as possible, with frequent runs for refueling and rearmament. A fuel truck was dispatched from AN KHE to the loading zone.

While the third lift was attempting to land, elements of C/2-502 IN at the southern edge of the airhead were pinned down by heavy enemy resistance. 2LT Carter attempted to return his platoon (-) up the trail at the southeast corner of the landing zone. He became separated with the remainder of the company command group from the platoon, by the machine gun which had killed CPT Rawls and by enemy small arms fire from both east and west. 2LT Carter continued north and turned the C/2-502 IN command group over to 1LT Nakashima, who assumed command of the company. 2LT Carter joined the squad he had left tied in on the hill with the right flank of the 1st platoon. SFC Michael Rivera assumed command of the remainder of the 3rd platoon, which was cut off by enemy fire. At the same time, C/2-502 IN, weapons platoon was halted near the trail at the southwestern corner of the landing zone. The platoon launched an attack across the hill at (E) (See diagram) against the enemy mortar and machine gun position. One man was killed, and the attack was halted by enemy fire. The platoon withdrew back up the trail and moved east across the southern edge of the landing zone to assist in the extraction of SFC Rivera from (A) (See diagram). SFC Rivera had managed to break through, and he met the weapons platoon, led by SFC Joseph W. Rounseville, at this time. Both elements returned to defensive positions on the south west corner of the landing zone and filled the gap between C/2-502 IN, 2nd platoon and a squad of B/2-502 IN.

At 0940H, MAJ Herbert J. Dexter, 2-502 IN BN, S-3, moved to the base of the hill to the east, and ordered 2LT Nielsen to conduct an immediate attack to seize the hill. Heavy enemy resistance was encountered, but the objective was taken. Several casualties were sustained, and MAJ Dexter was killed near (D) (See diagram). 2LT Nielsen was ordered to withdraw his platoon a short time later and move to the opposite corner of the landing zone. He was stopped enroute and ordered to occupy a position at (F) (See diagram) to serve as a reserve element. 2LT Schillo was ordered to move B/2-502 IN, 3rd platoon across the landing zone to seize the hill. He did this without sustaining a casualty. As the platoon consolidated on the objective, they observed what appeared to be bushes moving down the far side of the hill. The enemy used camouflage with maximum effect throughout the battle.



During the late morning hours, LTC Smith continued to organize the airhead. He learned that ammunition was being used at a rapid rate and requested resupply. The Brigade Commander, COL James S. Timothy, informed LTC Smith that TF Mark was moving across the mountains from the west, and that every effort was being made to obtain additional helicopters for resupply, medevac, and to lift the remainder of the battalion to an alternate landing zone nearby. The Vietnamese Ranger Battalion Commander, who was aware of the apparently critical situation, offered to provide a second company, if the Brigade would make a request to the 22nd ARVN Division. MAJ Bliss N. Wilder, Battalion Executive Officer, arrived at the landing zone at 1030H and assumed command of the remaining elements. Plans were prepared for the movement and employment of the remainder of the battalion. A new loading zone was organized because the initial loading zone was covered with helicopters under repair.

At the alternate landing zone to the south of the airhead, the 8 men of A/2-502 IN, led by SFC Robert L. Jack and the 28 men of B/2-502 IN, led by SFC Robert Wightman, fought independently until they were able to link up at about 1200H. Communication were established with the airhead, but this element remained cut-off and was unable to move to the airhead or withdraw to the south. A machine gun, machine gun ammunition and a case of M-79 grenade launcher ammunition were



recovered from a downed helicopter and used to maximum effect. The helicopter was prepared for destruction and the element remained in a tight perimeter through the day and night. Three enemy mass attacks were repelled by this element.

At noon the 2-502 IN BN (-) continued to defend with only air support. Artillery was not yet in a position to support. Helicopters were not available for resupply or medevac.

At 1330H, two helicopters of the 1st AIR CAV DIV arrived with a sling load of ammunition, and 81mm mortar with 80 mortar rounds. Five WIA were evacuated, but one crew chief remained on the landing zone when the helicopters were forced to depart rapidly because of intense enemy fire. The mortar sight was not removed from the helicopter and C/2-502 IN, Weapons platoon utilized the captured M-4 sight to employ the weapon. At 1410H, a CH-47 of the 1st AIR CAV DIV attempted to land for medevac. During the attempt the crew chief was killed, and the co-pilot was wounded, and the helicopter was forced to depart quickly without accomplishing the medevac mission.

During the afternoon, the 2-502 IN BN (-) defended against periodic enemy probes and occasionally intense enemy fire was received, particularly when helicopters attempted to land. At this time the casualty estimate was 12-15 KIA and 25-30 WIA. At 1600H, a UH-1B evacuated 2 WIA from the 36 men element to the south, and at 1630H, 3 medevac helicopters made an unsuccessful attempt to evacuate wounded personnel. LTC Smith reported that three companies would be required to make the situation tenable.

At about 1600H, an element of the 1st AIR CAV DIV arrived at the loading zone with 19 UH-1D helicopters, 7 UH-1B helicopters and 1 CH-47 Chinook for troop lift. One company of 2-327 IN BN was already aboard the helicopters. Beginning at 1630H, the task force commanded at this time by LTC Edward J. Collins the commander of 2-327 IN BN began a heliborne assault on an alternate landing zone 3000 meters east of the airhead. The task force included the remainder of the 2-502 IN BN; 1 company of the 2-327 IN BN; 2 ARVN Ranger Companies from the 23rd Ranger Battalion. The two lifts were required, and the Chinook made two additional lifts to move the last remaining Vietnamese elements to the landing zone.

The relief force began to move west immediately. Artillery support moved into position at dusk. By darkness the airhead was organized (See Diagram 2), but one enemy platoon remained between the major element and the small force on the alternate landing zone. Both relief forces stopped moving during the night and waited until morning before continuing. Flareships provided continuous illumination all night. Until about 0300H the enemy moved about the perimeter policing bodies and equipment. The enemy probed six times, generally when the new flareship was adjusting its pattern. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation GIBRALTER; 08 October 1965)

18 – 19 September 1965

Operation GIBRALTER: At 1510H, the 2-327 IN BN Commander received a FRAGO to divert the first lift to an LZ vicinity coordinates BR747387. TF COLLINES would consist of one rifle company 2-327 IN BN, one rifle company 2-502 IN BN and two ARVN Ranger Companies. The first lift arrived at the LZ vicinity coordinates BR747387 at 1540H. LTC Collins was then issued a verbal FRAGO and given the following mission by COL Timothy, 1BDE CO: TF COLLINES, consisting of C/2-327 IN, A/2-502 IN (plus one platoon B/2-502 IN) and two companies of the 23rd ARVN Ranger Battalion to move by helicopter to LZ vicinity coordinates BR790538, link-up with elements, TF SMITH vicinity coordinates BR744538, and assist in evacuation of casualties. On order, TF COLLINES was to conduct a coordinated attack with TF SMITH (-) to seize Objective B vicinity coordinates BR728533.

CO, 2-327 IN BN issued verbal order at 1615H to CPT Williams S. Martin C/2-327 IN, Commander, LT Talbot, A/2-502 IN, Commander and to 1st and 2nd Companies, 23rd ARVN Ranger Battalion (through CPT Duanne E. Messer, USA Senior Advisor). This order outlined a plan whereby the first lift, using all available aircraft would move C/2-327 IN with BN TAC CP into LZ. LZ would be secured by this unit until A/2-502 IN under LT Talbot landed. C/2-327 IN and A/2-502 IN would then begin movement to link-up point, moving generally West. The Rangers were to land in the third and fourth lifts and follow C/2-327 IN. BN S-3 coordinated TAC AIR availability, frequencies and call signs to used.

The first lift (C/2-327 IN) landed at 1657H at LZ vicinity coordinated BR785537. The second lift (A/2-502 IN) landed at 1815H and began movement immediately, following C/2-327 IN.

Movement was slow, but without incident, with the exception of the accidental discharge of an M-79 grenade launcher by a member of A/2-502 IN, wounding another member of that unit. The wounded man was given first aid and continued to move with the column. At 2130H, TF COLLINES was moving in two separated elements. The TF then halted for the night, "buttoning up" in two close defensive perimeters at coordinates BR764531 (C/2-327 IN and A/2-502 IN (-)) and at coordinates BR766531 (first and fourth companies ARVN Ranger Battalion, plus two platoons of A/2-502 IN). During the night (18-19 September), the US platoons with the ARVN Rangers captured 5 VC personnel and the Rangers killed one additional one. Confusion developed, threat was never fully clarified as to whether or not these personnel were armed. (HQ, 2-327 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation GIBRALTER; 04 October 1965)

18 September 1965

Operation GIBRALTER: 1BDE initiated Operation GIBRALTER. Planned as two BN search and destroy mission, GIBRALTER rapidly expanded to include: TF HANSEN: 2-502 IN BN, 2-327 IN BN, 2 – ARVN Ranger Companies, 1 – CIDG CO, 1 – Tank platoon, 2-7 Marines, 2-320 ARTY, B/1-77 ARTY, 52nd AVN BN, Helicopter elements, 1st CAV DIV (AIR) and TAC AIR. 2-502 IN BN airlanded two companies on LZ, vicinity BR7453. Heavy resistance was immediately encountered and LZ was not secure until late in the day. TF HANSEN was diverted to attack along the axis BR650520, BR670520 and BR69055 to seize hill, BR700530, and on order continue attack to hill BR729523. Additional units were airlanded on alternate LZ's vicinity BR750530 and BR753535 in support of 2-502 IN BN. Disposition of forces at close of reporting period: TF SMITH B/2-502 IN and C/2-502 IN; Center Mass vicinity BR746536; TF COLLINES: A/2-502 IN, C/2-327 IN, A/2-17 CAV, CIDG CO, Tank Platoon; Center Mass vicinity BR680520. Enemy fire against TF SMITH included 81mm and 60mm mortar, AW and SW fire. Preliminary reports indicated 11 KIA (US), 22 WIA (US), 7 MIA (US), 3 helicopters destroyed, and 20 helicopters damaged. Enemy unknown at this time. Contact with enemy was broken just prior to darkness. Units will occupy defensive positions during the night and resume their link-up at first light. 1st CAV DIV (AIR) has assumed



responsibility of 2-327 IN sector of AN KHE perimeter. TF 1-18 continues defense of 1BDE TAOR (Cam Ranh Bay). (1BDE, S-3 extracts from Staff Journal Entries from 17 – 21 September 1965)

18 September 1967 **Operation WHEELER:** At 0055H, B/2-502 IN request Artillery support on a previous fire target (enemy probe). The first mission rounds landed approximately 200 meters from friendly troops, however this mission landed 10 meters from friendly troops, resulting in 1 US KIA, 1 Serious WIA, and 1 slightly WIA. Official on Duty: SSG Clifford C Curliss (HQ, 2-502 IN, Daily Staff Journal and Duty Officer's Log; 18 September 1967)

18 September 1967 **Operation WHEELER:** 2-502 IN BN with 1 MIKE Force OPCON continued to conduct search and destroy operations in assigned portion of UDEN AO. MIKE Force made airmobile assault into new portion of assigned AO. Action today was light and sporadic. Official on Duty: SSG Clifford C Curliss (HQ, 2-502 IN, Daily Staff Journal and Duty Officer's Log; 18 September 1967)

18 September 1967 **Operation WHEELER:** LNO 2-502 IN BN Recap of Artillery incident last night: B/2-502 IN fire msn (suspected VBC probe) proximately friendlies 600-700 m, after four adjustments msn was needed at 2400H, YC426 was fired again upon request by same element (suspected VC probe) 1 round out of 2 apparently was fired in error and landed on or near an outpost. Results (adjusted) 1 KHA & 2 WHA (1 minor & 1 serious). All above information from LNO 2-502 IN BN. Office on Duty: MAJ Jon L Patten (HQ, 2nd How Bn, 320th Arty; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer Log; 18 September 1967)

18 September 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 forced and installations in the 2BDE AO. Contact was light during the reporting period. Today's statistics: No friendly casualties; Enemy assessment: 11 VC (BC), 4 VC POW, 2 AK-47's 1 M16, 1 sub MG, 1 M2 carbine, 1 M1 carbine.

1-501 IN BN

A/1-501 IN occupied night position from vicinity ZD098118 to ZD103115 with 5 men ambushes online from vicinity ZD08212 to ZD092105. A/1-501 IN closed to a PZ vicinity ZD095117 and at 0824H conducted heliborne movement to FSB SANDY, closed at 0947H and provided security and aided in construction of FSB SANDY. At 1955H vicinity YD880251 an ambush element received ineffective SA fire from the SE. Artillery was fired with unknown results.

B/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD834237 with ambushes vicinity YD827234, YD829237, YD834245, YD834246 and YD835243. At 2030H vicinity YD834246 ambush element observed 2 VC approximately 100 meters to the S. The ambush attempted to halt the VC resulting in VC being captured and 1 being engaged as he fled to the E. A first light check resulted in 1 VC KIA (BC) and 1 AK-47. At 0720H, B/1-501 IN (-) conducted RIF to vicinity YD835198 then to YD805207. B/1-501 IN, 1st platoon and Recon platoon conducted RIF operations astride the canal to vicinity YD8221. At 0825H vicinity YD831206 engaged 1 enemy resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC). In the same area found 5 bodies killed by artillery, resulting in 5 VC KIA (BC). At 0840H vicinity YD834215 found 1 AK-47 and 1 M1 carbine laying in the open. At 0955H vicinity YD835197 captured 3 VC POW and 1 M2 carbine.

C/1-501 IN occupied night position at FSB SANDY, ambushed vicinity YD867261, YD866247, YD883250 and C/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon remained vicinity FSB MONGOOSE. C/1-501 IN (-) closed to PZ vicinity FSB SANDY and at 0807, C/1-501 IN conducted heliborne movement to LZ vicinity ZD095117, closed 1027H. Conducted RIF to vicinity ZD081127.

D/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD053144 and ambushed vicinity ZD054147 and ZD056144. Conducted saturation patrols vicinity ZD0514 and ZD0513.

Recon platoon OPCON B/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD822240 and ambushed vicinity YD823237. At 2040H ambush engaged 1 VC resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC) and 1 sub MG.

B/2-501 IN provided security for COCO Beach. At 1038H, B/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon returned to 2-501 IN BN control and moved by CH-47 to FSB T-BONE.

B/1-17 CAV continued to stage at TAN MY Beach. B/1-17 CAV, 1st platoon OPCON to B/2-501 IN and ambushed vicinity YD866304.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN provided for FSB T-BONE with A/2-501 IN, 1st platoon ambushing vicinity YD628211, YD632211 and A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon at LZ SALLY as reaction force for LZ SALLY and AN LO BRIDGE. A/2-501 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD627200, A/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD664203 and returned to FSB T-BONE. A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD614265 to YD620273. At 1332H vicinity YD622269, A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon linked up with 1 PF platoon.

B/2-501 IN (-) OPCON 1-501 IN. B/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon returned to 2-501 IN BN control and moved by CH-47 from COCO Beach at 1038H to FSB T-BONE, close 1050H. Then conducted RIF to vicinity YD640178.

C/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD578148 and ambushed vicinity YD575148, YD571148, YD580150 and YD579151. Conducted RIF operations with C/2-501 IN (-) to vicinity YD587147, C/2-501 IN, 1st platoon to vicinity YD586156 and C/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon to vicinity YD588151. At 0914H vicinity YD575147, C/2-501 IN, 1st platoon found 2 graves containing 2 VC (BC).



D/2-501 IN occupied night position at OP APACHE with D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon ambushing vicinity YD612221, YD615205 and D/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon ambushing vicinity YD660260 and YD661269. D/2-501 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF from OP APACHE to LZ SALLY, closed 1511H as reaction force. D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD624235, then to vicinity YD644243 to secure downed O-1 Aircraft until extraction, then continued to OP APACHE, D/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD621199 then to YD614207.



Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD665247 and ambushed vicinity YD675252. Conducted RIF to vicinity YD651242 then to YD648230.

REMARKS: 2-501 IN provided command and control of the insertion of the 1-3 ARVN REGT. The lift began at 0840H from PZ vicinity YD695205 to an LZ vicinity YD647155, closed 1010H.

1-502 IN BN

A/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD676286 and ambushed vicinity YD672286, YD676288, YD680292 and YD682280. At 2200H vicinity YD676288 ambush engaged movement with hand grenades. First light check resulted in 1 VC KIA (BC) and 1 M16. Conducted cloverleaf patrolling vicinity of night locations, then at 1030H moved to road and moved by 2 ½ ton trucks to AN LO BRIDGE, closed 1143H.

B/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD636311, ambushed vicinity YD637320, YD645320, B/1-502 IN, 1st platoon occupied fortified OP's along QL 1. B/1-502 IN (-) secured bulldozer clearing operations vicinity YD635313. At 1800H, B/1-502 IN, 1st platoon reverted to OPCON A/1-502 IN.

C/1-502 IN provided security for FSB MONGOOSE, occupied strong points along POL pipeline, secured POL pumping station and LCU Ramp and provided liaison at the HUE Bridges.

D/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO BRIDGE and ambushed vicinity YD616324 and YD622316. At 1145H, D/1-502 IN was released of bridge security mission by A/1-502 IN, then conducted RIF to vicinity YD6529 and YD6629.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD694295 and conducted RIF to vicinity YD715295.

C/2-34 ARM, 3rd platoon OPCON A/1-502 IN effective 1145H from D/1-502 IN.

2BDE

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

(2nd BDE, 101st ABN DIV; LZ SALLY; Commanders Situation Report; 172001HSEP68 – 182000HSEP68)

18 September 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: A/1-502 IN sprung an ambush, vicinity YD6729 on 1 VC, resulting in 1 VC KIA. B/1-502 IN provided security for Rome plow. C/1-502 IN is still OPCON to 1-501 IN BN.

18 – 22 September 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: There were numerous small contacts and small enemy supplies and ammo caches uncovered consisting mainly of medical supplies and mortar ammo. There were numerous encounters of booby traps and hit and run tactics by VC/NVA. A/2-502 IN was released from OPCON 1-327 IN BN on 22 September. ARVN was released from OPCON on 22 September. Numerous base camps were located in the BOISE and Merritt Island area. Sporadic contact was made by all units. C/2-502 IN was OPCON to 2-502 IN BN, 3-82 ABN DIV.

18 September 1969

Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE: A/1-502 IN acted on information received from a Chieu Hoi on his former unit's location. ARA and artillery were employed into the area vicinity YD772055. The results were 2 NVA KBAA, 1 AK-47, 1 RPG launcher and 3 RPG rounds captured. The rest of the 1-502 IN BN conducted normal operations with negative contact.

18 September 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: C/1-502 IN, 1st platoon reached the down aircraft at 0718H. There was no activity around the aircraft and also the aircraft was upside down and very badly torn up. The aircraft is located at 767927. An inspection team removed radios, data plate and destroyed the aircraft. At 0835H, C/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon engaged four VC at 787323 found blood trail and the VC seemed to be carrying one wounded. They captured 30lbs or rice. At location 767325, C/1-502 IN found base camp of four hootches, clothes and clothesline. Indications are that the VC/NVA left in a hurry. Clothes were green uniforms. At 1045H, C/1-502 IN, 2nd platoon saw one VC/NVA and engaged him with small arms fire. A sweep of the area produced negative results. B/1-502 IN medevaced one man with an accidental gunshot wound in the foot.

19 September 1965

Operation GIBRALTER: By morning LTC Smith estimated that only two enemy platoons remained in contact. At 1010H, TF COLLINES linked up with the force on the alternate landing zone and continued north to relieve LTC Smith.

At 1315H, the 2-502 IN BN (-) was extracted from the area by helicopters of the 1st AIR CAV DIV. TF COLLINES remained to search the area and TF Mark continued to move across the mountains to link-up with TF COLLINES. (HQ, 2-502 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation GIBRALTER; 08 October 1965)

19 September 1965

Operation GIBRALTER: At 0615H, TF COLLINES moved and effected link-up with TF SMITH at 1055H. En-route, the soldier who was wounded by the accidental discharge of the M-79 was evacuated by medevac. A/2-502 IN, which had landed with only one meal C-rations, was also resupplied en-route.



After effecting link-up with TF SMITH at 1055H, plans were made to begin the evacuation of the wounded and the dead. Those plans were altered by a decision to withdraw 2-502 IN BN and by a FRAGO issued by HQ, 1BDE to TF COLLINES at 1130H. This order in six parts, required TF COLLINES to: (1) Extend TF SMITH Airhead. (2) Report positions of all elements with respect to Point of Origin A (BR7260). (3) Secure extraction of TF SMITH (-) and downed helicopters in area. (4) Screen TF SMITH area for US MIA. (5) Seize objective B after 1 & 2 above executed. (6) Report location of TAC CP ASAP.

Extraction of TF SMITH began with evacuation of wounded personnel and VC captives at 1330H. By 1410H extraction of all elements of TF SMITH, including all US dead and all captured weapons and equipment then assembled was complete. To accomplish this, the airhead had been expanded by 400-600 meters and the immediate extraction area had been secured. Only one disabled UH-1D helicopter had been located within this expanded airhead. Beginning at 1230H, TF COLLINES requested the total number and the locations by coordinates of all helicopters to be evacuated. No firm answer was given and the requirement to furnish continuous security in the immediate area of the downed helicopters was not clearly stated. Therefore, with a mission to seize Objective B, without the assistance of TF SMITH (-) as originally planned, a decision was made to attack Objective B at 1500H, following an air strike from 1430H – 14454H and an intensive artillery preparation from 1445H – 1500H. At 1530H, 1BDE S-3 ordered a halt to movement. Lead elements of TF COLLINES were then approximately 300 meters West of LD in dense brush. At 1630H, TF COLLINES was ordered to secure helicopters until they could be evacuated. The entire TF then returned to a defensive perimeter around the one known helicopter and, by help from the Artillery XO overhead in an OF-1, a second helicopter, a USMC H-34, was located, marked, and secured by one Ranger Company accompanied by 1LT Bode, US Advisor. All elements of TF COLLINES were in position to secure these two downed helicopters by unknown time, Aerial resupply, which had been requested earlier for delivery prior to darkness in vicinity of Objective B, was called for and diverted to an LZ vicinity coordinates BR745534 at approximately 1845H. (HQ, 2-327 IN BN; After Action Report, Operation GIBRALTER; 04 October 1965)

19 September 1965

Operation GIBRALTER: 1BDE continues Operation GIBRALTER. During the night of 18 – 19 September, TF SMITH, TF COLLINS and TF HANSEN occupied defensive positions. At first light, TF HANSEN continued advance to hill vicinity BR702530, and TF COLLINS advanced to link-up with TF SMITH in 2-502 IN BN LZ. Upon link-up, TF SMITH and TF COLLINS proceeded to expand and secure the LZ. Aerial resupply and medevac missions were flown into the LZ. The remaining elements of TF SMITH were then extracted by helicopter. TF COLLINS will remain in the LZ protecting the damaged helicopters (from the 18th action), until tomorrow morning. Captured POW's indicated that enemy units in area of operation have been fragmented into squad and platoon size units due to the destruction of command and control channels by US fire power. TF COLLINS will exploit the breakdown in enemy communication by defeating the small units in detail. When damaged helicopters have been recovered; TF COLLINS will attack to seize hill, BR762533; Continue movement west, pass thru TF HANSEN positions, and begin extraction.

TF HANSEN and TF COLLINS occupied defensive positions during the night. Both units received sniper fire throughout the night. (1BDE, S-3 extracts from Staff Journal Entries from 17 – 21 September 1965)

19 September 1967

Operation WHEELER: MIKE Force moving through the SW portion of 2-502 IN BN AO encountered an estimate platoon size VC force and engaged in a contact that lasted from 0875H to 1600H. 2-502 IN BN, Recon platoon conducted raid 2000m East of MIKE Force contact and moved to reinforce MIKE Force. C/2-502 IN engaged a 4-man VC OP, resulting in 3 VC (BC) and 3 weapons. Official on Duty: SSG Clifford C. Curliss (HQ, 2-502 IN, Daily Staff Journal and Duty Officer's Log; 19 September 1967)

19 September 1967

Operation WHEELER: At 1025H, TOC – MIKE Force of 2-502 IN BN came under contact at GD022221. They received semi and automatic weapons fire. Enemy broke contact pursued by MIKE Force. Rear element of enemy force and MIKE Force made contact. Results: 5 enemy KIA, 2 friendly KHA and 8 friendly WHA. Office on Duty: MAJ Jon L Patten (HQ, 2nd How Bn, 320th Arty; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer Log; 19 September 1967)

19 September 1967

Operation WHEELER: At 1130H, LNO 2-502 IN BN, SGT Frost was wounded in the foot and the arm, at approximately 0930H. RTO okay as far as LNO knows. Office on Duty: MAJ Jon L Patten (HQ, 2nd How Bn, 320th Arty; Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer Log; 18 September 1967)

19 September 1967

Operation WHEELER: I returned to the field on 19 September and joined up with LTC Puckett for the trip to A/2-502 IN. We landed in a nearby dry rice paddy and the change of command ceremony was conducted in another rice paddy in front of the company in formation. LTC Puckett passed the guidon of A/2-502 IN from CPT Arnold to me and decorated Steve Arnold with two Silver Stars and two Bronze Stars for bravery. Steve and I shook hands, and he flew off to staff duty for the remainder of his tour of duty.

My tenure with A/2-502 IN began as we patrolled uneventfully for 8 days before we had our first sharp contact. It was a good shakedown for me and gave me a chance to see the company in operation and to get to know the key leaders. I had 4 strong platoon leaders and a great bunch of NCOs and soldiers. 1SG Frank Creed was in the field at all times, and that is where I wanted him to be. The platoon leaders were 1st Platoon, 1LT Jerry Barnhill; 2nd Platoon, 1LT George Anderson; 3rd Platoon, 1LT Jack Rogers; and 4th Platoon, 1LT Jim Peake. (Charles P. Otstott, Alpha Company CO Sep-Nov 1967)

19 September 1968

Operation NEVADA EAGLE: 2BDE, 101st ABN DIV continued to conducted 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 during the reporting period. Today's statistics: 1 US WHA (medevac); Enemy assessment: 7 VC KIA (BC), 1 VC POW, 1 Chieu Hoi, 2 SKS's, 1 RPG-2 launcher, 1 AK-47, 1 M2 carbine.

1-501 IN BN



A/1-501 (-) provided security at FSB SANDY and ambushed vicinity YD880251, YD864269, YD856260, YD868239, YD870235. A/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon remained at old FSB MONGOOSE. Ambushes closed FSB SANDY and A/1-501 IN (-) continued construction of FSB SANDY.

B/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD828219 and ambushed vicinity YD833218, YD836216, YD834220, YD826224 and YD834216. At 0705H B/1-501 IN CP and B/1-501 IN, 1st platoon conducted combat assault from PZ vicinity YD827213 to LZ vicinity YD796233, closed 0734H, then conducted RIF to vicinity YD813227. B/1-501 IN, 3rd platoon at 0705H conducted combat assault from the same PZ to LZ vicinity YD802223, closed 0734H and conducted RIF to vicinity YD807225, then to YD813227. B/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon conducted RIF and search vicinity YD824216. Recon platoon conducted RIF and search vicinity YD823225. At 1646H, B/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon and Recon platoon in response to a FAC sighting conducted combat assault from PZ vicinity YD822225 to LZ YD828275, closed 1716H. The gunship supporting the lift got 2 VC (BC) and the C&C ship got 1 VC (BC) and 1 VC POW. In the general area of the LZ Recon platoon accounted for 2 VC (BC), 1 Chieu Hoi, 3 detainees, 1 RPG-2 launcher, 2 SKS's and 1 B-40 round. B/1-501 IN, 2nd platoon accounted for 1 VC (BC), 2 detainees, 1 AK-47 and 1 M1 carbine.

C/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD081127 and ambushed vicinity ZD077127, ZD084119, ZD091109 and ZD098113. Conducted saturation patrolling vicinity ZD0712, ZD0711, ZD0811 and ZD0911.

D/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity ZD055140 and ambushed vicinity ZD063127, ZD061133 and ZD059143.

Recon platoon OPCON B/1-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD827218 and ambushed vicinity YD823224.

B/1-502 IN (-) provided security for COCO Beach. At 1049H B/2-501 IN (-) returned to parent unit control at LZ SALLY, having moved by CH-47 from COCO Beach.

C/2-501 IN closed COCO Beach at 1447H and reverted to OPCON 1-501 IN NB for COCO Beach security.

B/1-17 CAV, 1 platoon ambushed vicinity YD8655305. At 1520H 1 platoon moved by Naval Boat from TAN MY Beach. Troop (-) continued to stage for departure on 20 September.

2-501 IN BN

A/2-501 IN provided security for FSB T-BONE with A/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon ambushing vicinity YD613258, YD612265 and A/2-501 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD629181 then to YD630185. A/2-501 IN (-) conducted RIF from FSB T-BONE to vicinity YD630200. A/2-501 IN conducted RIF to vicinity YD622235.

B/2-501 IN (-) OPCON to 1-501 IN BN until 1049H. At 0957H, B/2-501 IN (-) moved by CH-47 to LZ SALLY, closed 1049H. B/2-501 IN (-) conducted heliborne movement at 1300H from LZ SALLY to LZ vicinity YD584157, closed 1339H. B/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon ambushed vicinity YD645175 and YD642175, then moved to a PZ vicinity YD642167 and at 0840H conducted heliborne movement to LZ vicinity YD584157, closed 0845H, and reverted to OPCON C/2-501 IN until 1323H. B/2-501 IN conducted RIF vicinity YD595160.

C/2-501 IN occupied night position vicinity YD590147 and ambushed vicinity YD588156, YD582160, YD586150 and YD588151. Conducted RIF to a PZ vicinity YD584157 and at 0846, C/2-501 IN, 1st platoon conducted heliborne movement to COCO Beach, closed 0910H and reverted to OPCON B/2-501 IN until 1426H. At 1309H, C/2-501 IN (-) conducted heliborne movement to LZ SALLY, closed 1346H. At 1410H moved by CH-47 from LZ SALLY to COCO Beach, closed 1447H and reverted to OPCON to 1-501 IN BN.

D/2-501 IN (-) occupied night position at OP APACHE with D/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon ambushing vicinity YD612208 and YD618212. D/2-501 IN, 1st platoon at LZ SALLY as reaction force for LZ SALLY and AN LO BRIDGE. D/2-501 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD633284 to YD627263 and returned to LZ SALLY. D/2-501 IN, 3rd platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD625213 then to YD614209. D/2-501 IN, 2nd platoon conducted 2 squad patrols from OP APACHE to vicinity YD635222 and YD622232, then returned.

Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD638218 and ambushed vicinity YD646213. Conducted RIF to FSB T-BONE, closed 0828H and assumed FSB T-BONE security.

1-502 IN BN

A/1-502 IN provided security for AN LO BRIDGE and ambushed vicinity YD610292, YD614329 and YD633329. B/1-502, 1st platoon occupied fortified OP's along QL-1.

B/1-502 IN (-) occupied night position vicinity YD636311 and ambushed vicinity YD638314 and YD644314. At 1055H released bulldozer clearing operation security to D/1-502 IN and moved by 2 ½ ton trucks to relieve C/1-502 IN of security mission effective 1330H.

C/1-502 IN occupied night position at PHU VANG and occupied strong points along QL 1 provided security of POL pumping station and LCU Ramp and provided liaison at HUE BRIDGES. At 1330H relieved of security mission by B/1-502 IN and moved by 2 ½ ton truck to vicinity YD638305, then conducted RIF to vicinity YD6529.

D/1-502 IN occupied night position vicinity YD678301 and ambushed vicinity YD670296, YD670289, YD676296, YD681297 and YD660294. D/1-502 IN (-) provided security for bulldozer clearing operations vicinity YD635313. D/1-502 IN, 1st platoon conducted RIF to vicinity YD667297. At 1235H vicinity YD660297 engaged 2 VC with SA, enemy fled.



Recon platoon occupied night position vicinity YD713292. At 2055H vicinity YD713292 engaged 5 VC with SA. Fired illum and checked the area without further enemy sighting. At 2210H vicinity YD713292 engaged 1 VC with claymore mine and hand grenade resulting in 1 US WHA (medevac) and 1 VC KIA (BC). Conducted RIF to vicinity YD726307.

C/2-34 AR, 3rd platoon OPCON A/1-502 IN.

2BDE

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

(2nd BDE, 101st ABN DIV; LZ SALLY; Commanders Situation Report; 182001HSEP68 – 192000HSEP68)

19 September 1968

D/1-502 IN had light contact with 2 VC, vicinity YD6630 with negative results. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon engaged 5 VC, vicinity YD7130 with negative results, they later engaged 1 VC from ambush in the same area, resulting in 1 VC KIA.

19 September 1969

Operation CLAIBORNE CHUTE: A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon and 2nd platoon conducted RIF operations in the general vicinity of YD778068 and YD769004 and they conducted a RIF to YD767076. One Chieu Hoi turned himself into A/1-502 IN, 3rd platoon with 1 AK-47. At YD766074, A/1-502 IN, 1st platoon found what was believed to be a mass grave. B/1-502 IN continued to secure FSB ARSENAL and POHL BRIDGE. C/1-502 IN conducted RIF operations with the 177th RF company, NAM HOA District. D/1-502 IN conducted RIF, SRRP and MAP operations vicinity YD765075. 1-502 IN BN, Recon platoon conducted RIF operations.

19 September 1970

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN: 1-502 IN BN continued Operation JEFFERSON GLEN in sector Golf using maximum use of SP's and NA's with negative results.

19 September 1971

C/1-501 IN and 225th RF Company terminated combined operation.



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 Distinguished Service Cross (1 x Posthumously)
8 x Silver Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
1 x Bronze Star Medal with Valor
1 x Bronze Star Medal (1 x Posthumously)
16 x Purple Heart Medal (16 x Posthumously)

15 September 1970

SP4 Kennis L. McAlister (HHC/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.

16 September 1970



SP5 Stephen T. Smith (HHC/1-502) was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received in action while a passenger on a military vehicle on a combat operation when a mine detonated 2km West of FSB BLITZ, approximately 17km NW of RUONG RUONG in the THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. SP5 Smith was admitted to a military medical facility and later expired on 21 September 1970.

18 September 1965



SP4 Frank Boynton (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple gunshot wounds on body while unit was on a search and destroy operation when unit encountered hostile force during the Battle at AN NINH (1), 12km N-E of BINH KHE in the BINH DING Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 September 1965



SSG George E. Burchett (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to legs while unit was on a search and destroy operation when setting up defensive position when he was hit by machine gun fire from hostile force during the Battle at AN NINH (1), 12km N-E of BINH KHE in the BINH DING Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 September 1965



MAJ Herbert J. Dexter (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds to head and neck while he was accompanying unit on a search and destroy operation when unit encountered hostile force and he received multiple small arms ground fire during the Battle at AN NINH (1), 12km N-E of BINH KHE in the BINH DING Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 September 1965



SSG Johnnie W. Faircloth (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to the upper chest when his unit was engaged in a search and destroy operation when they engaged a hostile force and he was shot by hostile small arms ground fire during the Battle at AN NINH (1), 12km N-E of BINH KHE in the BINH DING Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 September 1965



PFC Ernest K. Gerhardt (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to the head when his unit was engaged in a search and destroy operation when he was hit by hostile small arms ground fire during the Battle at AN NINH (1), 12km N-E of BINH KHE in the BINH DING Province, Republic of Vietnam.



18 September 1965



PFC Leroy Hicks (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to the lower abdomen when his unit was engaged in a search and destroy mission when he was hit by hostile fire during the Battle at AN NINH (1), 12km N-E of BINH KHE in the BINH DING Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 September 1965



SP4 Joe L. Meek (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to the head when his unit was engaged in a search and destroy mission when hit by small arms ground fire during the Battle at AN NINH (1), 12km N-E of BINH KHE in the BINH DING Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 September 1965



SP4 Ernest L. Miller (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wound to the head when his unit was engaged in a search and destroy mission when hit by small arms ground fire during the Battle at AN NINH (1), 12km N-E of BINH KHE in the BINH DING Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 September 1965



CPT Robert E. Rawls (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds to head and neck while his unit engaged in a search and destroy operation when unit encountered hostile force and he received multiple small arms ground fire during the Battle at AN NINH (1), 12km N-E of BINH KHE in the BINH DING Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 September 1965



SSG Roynald E. Taylor (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds of the spine incurred while on a search and destroy operation when his unit encountered hostile force and he was hit by small arms ground fire during the Battle at AN NINH (1), 12km N-E of BINH KHE in the BINH DING Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 September 1965



PFC Jerry D. Underwood (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds of the head incurred while on a search and destroy combat operation when his unit was engaged in hostile force when he was hit by small arms ground fire during the Battle at AN NINH (1), 12km N-E of BINH KHE in the BINH DING Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 September 1965



PFC Jonnie P. Winfrey (C/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from gunshot wounds to the throat incurred while on search and destroy operation when his unit engaged hostile force in small arms ground fire during the Battle at AN NINH (1), 12km N-E of BINH KHE in the BINH DING Province, Republic of Vietnam.

18 September 1967



PFC Jackie A. Tuohy (B/2-502) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a night perimeter defense when hit by fragments from artillery round fired from friendly fire in the QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



19 September 1967



SP4 Rufus A. Thomas Jr. (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Purple Heart Medal (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from cardia arrest due to gunshot wound received when he was hit by hostile automatic weapons fire while on combat operation in the QUANG TIN Province, Republic of Vietnam.



STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

13 September 1968



MAJ William R. Hale (B/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operation involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 September 1968. Major Hale distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action while serving as Company Commander, Company B, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, during combat operations near AP CAO XA, Republic of Vietnam. Major Hale, then Captain Hale, was leading his unit on a reconnaissance of a contested area when the second platoon was caught in a hail of enemy fire from well-concealed ambush positions. After a swift but prudent assessment of the situation, he moved quickly to overcome the enemy's advantage by immediately directing the second platoon into positions to initiate suppressive fire. Then, with complete disregard for his personal safety, he led his element into the battle. Oblivious to the volume of fire, he occupied a vulnerable position in order to gather his forces in preparation for an advance against the enemy. Major Hale's conspicuous bravery reinforced the morale of his troops and, through at an initial disadvantage, enabled his outnumbered men to seize the initiative against the enemy. Maneuvering into a cordon around the enemy, Major Hale methodically pursued them to their eventual defeat. Nineteen Viet Cong insurgents were killed and twenty captured, yet no friendly casualties were incurred due to Major Hale's extraordinary bravery in close combat against a numerically superior force. Major Hale's 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 2495; 19 March 1969)

15 September 1966

1LT Leslie D. Kennedy (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. First Lieutenant Kennedy distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 15 September 1966 while serving as platoon leader of an airborne infantry platoon on a reinforcing mission near TUY HOA. When a sister platoon was savagely attacked and pinned down by a numerically superior Viet Cong force firing machine guns and automatic weapons, Lieutenant Kennedy immediately led his platoon to relieve the beleaguered friendly force. Upon arrival at the battle site, his unit made heavy contact with the enemy and was pinned down by intense enemy fire. Lieutenant Kennedy observed a machine gun placing a heavy barrage on his men and began crawling toward its position to destroy the gun. When he had crawled within ten meters of the hostile emplacement, an enemy automatic weapon began firing at him from his left flank. Completely disregarding his own safety, he stood up in the ravaging hail of bullets and charged that position, silencing the weapon and killing two Viet Cong soldiers. The enemy machine gunner detected his actions and immediately unleashed a fierce barrage on him. With bullets striking all around him, he charged across the open battlefield into the face of the enemy weapon and single-handedly destroyed the position and its three occupants with rifle and grenade fire. His fearless leadership inspired his men to spontaneously attack and overrun the determined insurgents, forcing them to flee. First Lieutenant Kennedy's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV; General Orders Number 6373; 11 December 1967)

15 September 1970

LTC Arvid E. West Jr. (HQ/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 15 September 1970. Lieutenant Colonel West distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer of the 1st Battalion [Airmobile], 502d Infantry, during a hostile mortar attack at Fire Support Base BLITZ, Republic of Vietnam. Heedless of the heavy volume of impacting mortar rounds, Lieutenant Colonel West left the safety of the tactical operations center in an effort to reach a gun position which was not returning effective fire because of damage sustained by the initial enemy barrage. As Lieutenant Colonel West moved through an exposed area, he received painful shrapnel wounds from an impacting mortar round. Despite his wounds, he continued on to the gun position where he reorganized the crew and began directing fire which silenced the enemy mortars. With the help of his radio-telephone operator, Lieutenant Colonel West attended to the wounded and refused evacuation until the last of his men were removed to safety. Lieutenant Colonel West'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.

18 September 1965



MAJ Herbert J. Dexter (HHC/2-502 IN) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. On 18 September 1965, Major Dexter, the S3 Officer of the 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, was accompanying his battalion on a search and destroy mission in the vicinity of BINH KHE, Republic of Vietnam. The battalion was airlifted to the operational area and upon arriving encountered increasingly heavy hostile fire from various insurgent positions. A friendly platoon, who had landed in a previous lift, was forced to withdraw from a tactically important hill along the landing zone perimeter. Realizing the importance of the hill as a defensive position, Major Dexter, with complete disregard for his personal safety, voluntarily rushed to the now heavily infested hostile area and successfully reorganized the friendly forces positioned there. He quickly issued competent instructions and personally led the left flank element up the hill, despite the intense hostile small arms and mortar fire being directed at the platoon. While securing the crest, Major Dexter personally killed two insurgents who were at a deadly close range and sustained a leg wound from the murderous Viet Cong fire. Realizing that his leadership and encouragement were needed to inspire the members of the besieged platoon to hold the hill position, Major Dexter, although in great pain from his wound, continually refused to be evacuated. As the battle raged on, he was mortally wounded. Major Dexter's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, 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 USARV, General Orders Number 6275; 04 November 1966)



18 September 1965



SSG Johnnie W. Faircloth (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with Company B, 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. Staff Sergeant Faircloth distinguished himself by heroic action on 18 September 1965 while serving as a rifle squad leader in an airborne infantry battalion on two heliborne search and destroy operations in the Republic of Vietnam. Almost immediately after landing, Sergeant Faircloth's element was pinned down by enemy small arms fire. The unit received instructions to move forth to link up with the main force approximately 800 meters away. With enemy sniper fire coming from the west, and knowing the small unit was completely surrounded by enemy forces, Sergeant Faircloth, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, led the first element of the unit north. After moving approximately 20 meters, the element came under a heavy volume of small arms and machine gun fire. Sergeant Faircloth was wounded and fell to the ground, signaling the other members of the element to return to the unit's positions. He refused to accept medical aid for himself knowing that it might result in another casualty. Sergeant Faircloth was wounded several more times by enemy machine gun fire and died on the battlefield. His fearlessness and genuine concern for his subordinates in the face of his own peril was an inspiration to the entire unit. Staff Sergeant Faircloth's unimpeachable valor in close combat against numerically superior forces that was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV, General Orders Number 1537; 09 November 1965)

18 September 1965



SSG Roynald M. Taylor (B/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) for gallantry in action Staff Sergeant Taylor distinguished himself by heroic action on 18 September 1965 while serving as squad leader in an airborne infantry battalion on a heliborne search and destroy operation in the Republic of Vietnam. Almost immediately after landing, the small unit was pinned down by a heavy volume of hostile small arms fire. One man was killed, and one was wounded as the element attempted to push out of the defensive perimeter to line up with the main force. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Taylor immediately moved under intense enemy fire to the wounded man, he picked him up and began to carry him to safety. As he was returning to the defensive position, he was mortally wounded by enemy fire. The wounded man he rescued was later evacuated to safety. Staff Sergeant Taylor's valorous actions in close combat against an overwhelming enemy force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army. (HQ, USARV; General Orders Number 1539; 09 November 1965)

18 – 19 September 1965

LTC Wilfrid K. G. Smith (HHC/2-502 IN;) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action Lieutenant Colonel Smith distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 18 to 19 September 1965, while serving as a battalion commander conducting a heliborne search and destroy operation in the mountainous region north of BINH RHE, Republic of Vietnam. Initially the operation met little or no resistance other than light sporadic small arms fire. Upon the arrival of the second lift, which included Lieutenant Colonel Smith and his tactical command post, fierce accurate small arms and automatic weapons fire, supported by mortars, pinned down the entire force. Within minutes two company commanders were wounded and evacuated. The battalion S3 and the one remaining company commander were killed shortly thereafter, leaving Lieutenant Colonel Smith as the only senior officer present. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, he moved from position to position adjusting his defenses, offering words of encouragement, and ensuring proper care of the dead and wounded. For seventy-six hours under Lieutenant Colonel Smith's inspirational leadership, his men beat off each attack and killed over two hundred enemy soldiers. His extraordinary heroism and outstanding leadership in the face of overwhelming odds 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; USARV; General Orders Number 1833; 09 December 1965)

18 September 1970

SSG Norman H. Lambert (HQ/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 18 September 1970. Sergeant Lambert distinguished himself while serving as Operations Sergeant of the 1st Battalion, 502 Infantry, THUA THIEN Province, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant was accompanying a rifle platoon when the forward element came under intense fire. The platoon medic stepped on a mine as he moved to the aid of the wounded point man. Sergeant Lambert, with conspicuous disregard for his own life, he began maneuvering through the heavy volume of enemy fire to the aid of the wounded medic. He administered first aid under fire and began carrying the medic back through the mined area until he had the wounded man to cover. He then unhesitatingly returned through the mined area and enemy fire to recover the point man. After applying first aid under direct fire from the enemy he carried the man to cover and safety. After he was satisfied that the wounded men were being taken care of he picked up his weapon and assisted in routing the enemy force and then called in the Medevac helicopter. Sergeant Lambert's unselfish acts resulted in the saving the lives of the two men who would have otherwise died from their wounds. Sergeant Lambert'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.

19 September 1967



SP4 William D. Austin (A/2-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in the Republic of Vietnam, on 19 September 1967. His actions, without regard for his own safety, reflect great credit on himself and the Armed Forces of the United States. (DA, General Orders Number 31; 25 September 1984)



19 September 1970



CPT Charles S. Ciccolella (E/2-502) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 19 September 1970. Captain Ciccolella distinguished himself while serving as commanding officer of Company E, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry, during combat operations on Firebase Whip, Republic of Vietnam. When the firebase came under an intense enemy mortar barrage, Captain Ciccolella left the safety of his bunker to direct mortar counter fire. Despite the continuing enemy fire, he led his men from covered positions to the mortars, and, maneuvering from position to position insured that accurate return fire was being placed on the enemy. Again, subjecting himself to the intense barrage, Captain Ciccolella organized and led two recoilless rifle teams across the firebase to bring direct fire on the enemy. His actions were instrumental in silencing the enemy positions. Captain Ciccolella'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.



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

