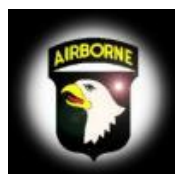




2nd BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) "STRIKE HISTORY" 03 March – 08 March 2014



- 03 March 1968 Battalion continued search and destroy operations from An LO Bridge to (YD 671311) Ap Duc Trong. Bravo and Charlie made heavy contact from village and called for all available fire support and pulled back. After heavy contact for 4 hours, B&C were withdrawn by air. During extraction battalion commanders C&C received heavy fire wounding battalion CO, his RTO, battalion S-2, and command pilot. Battalion S-2 DOA at Evans. (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)
- March 1982 XVII Airborne Corps designated the 1st Battalion 502nd Infantry Regiment as the replacement unit to be sent to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt for a six-month tour of duty with Multinational Force and Observers (MFO). Supporting the American commitment to the peacekeeping force established under the terms of the 1979 Egypt-Israeli peace treaty, the Screaming Eagles and the 82nd Airborne Division from Ft. Bragg alternated six month tours of duty.
- 03 March 1991 Cease Fire terms accepted by Iraq at Safwan Airfield.
- March -May 2006 Operation Glory Light. Disrupt AIF and deny them access from Fallujah to Shakaria Triangle, through the use of Sadr Yusufiyah. 2-502 IN led the assault into Sadr Yusufiyah. 1-502 IN prevented the AIF from fleeing to the South from Sadr Yusufiyah. 1-320 FAR fielded MiTT teams, assisting ISF in search efforts and combat operations across the area of operations. At the end of the mission, Strike BCT found 28 IEDs and 20 caches were seized. The BCT established Patrol Base Warrior as a base of continuous operations in the Sadr Yusufiyah area.
- 04 March 1968 1-502nd IN Battalion continued search and destroy operations and conducted joint sweep with PF's Vic. An Lo Bridge. Results: 2 NVA KIA (BC). Recon made light contact had 2 Soldiers wounded. (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)
- 04 March 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** At 0245, A/2-502 vic. AT924926 a large explosion damaged bridge, road impassable. Engineers reconstructed and opened by 041200 Mar.
- 04 – 13 March 1970 **Operation RANDOLPH GLEN:** 2-502 (STRIKE Force) Battalion returned en masse to Camp Eagle for a well-deserved period of training and stand down. (2-502 Unit History, Vietnam 1970; Approved by LTC Lloyd N. Cosby, IN Commanding)
- 04 March 1970 A/2-502 3rd Platoon was attacked while they were in their NDP by a sapper squad; Alpha lost one KIA and eight WIA.
- 05 March 1968 1-502nd IN Battalion continued search and destroy operations with light contact, 1 Soldier WIA from punji pit. (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)
- 05 March 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** C/2-502 was relieved in place by a unit of the 1/5 Marine at 1550H and deployed by motor convoy to Gia Le Base. At 1945, A Co. vic. AT923926 engaged 2 or 3 VC with small arms. Sweep at first light revealed 1 ChiCom Claymore and 300 feet of copper wire. At 2300h they received a single sniper round, result 1 US WHA.



- 05 March 1991 The 502nd with fire support teams from the 1-320th FA leaves FOB Viper by Blackhawk and returns to TAA Campbell near Rafha.
- 05 March 2003 Strike 6 and planning staff arrives at Kuwait in what would later become Operation Iraqi Freedom I. Within 10 days the entire Brigade was completely in theater. The Strike Brigade fought as part of the 101st Airborne Division and participated in Stability and Support Operations in Al Samawah and Al Nasiriyah. It conducted the longest air assault in military history to seize the bridge at Al Kifl.
- 06 March 1991 Units from the 502nd IN Regiment departs TAA Campbell by C-130 to King Fahd International Airport and Camp Eagle II. After the 502nd departure, forward observers and fire support teams are re-attached to the 1-320th FA.
- 06 March 1968 D/1-502 IN made heavy contact at 1313hrs vic. YD698304 (W-Shaped village) Delta broke contact at 1612hrs and were extracted from hot LZ after using all available fire support on village. Estimated 2 reinforced companies in the village, results Friendly: 5-KIA, 25-WIA, 2-MIA; Enemy 58-KIA (BC) Confirmed by aerial observation. (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)
- 06 March 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** At 1000H, 2-502 was relieved of TAOR by the 1/5 Marines and began movement to close Gia Le Base. Result of operation was an extensive Search and Destroy and saturation ambushing was conducted with only sporadic contact with local force units. Contact was negative with main force VC/NVA units. Casualties as follows:

	<u>KHA</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>NBC</u>
US	0	11	9
	<u>VC KIA</u>	<u>DETAINEE</u>	<u>WPS CAPTURED</u>
ENEMY	5	1	3 AK-47's 1 SKS 1 60mm Mortar 1 RPG

- 06 March 1968 **Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON:** 2-502 was relieved of TAOR by the 1/5 Marines and began to close Gia Le Base. Results of the operation were 5 x VC KIA, 1 x POW, 3 x AK-47's, 1 x SKS, 1 x 60mm Mortar, and 1 x RPG captured. US Casualties: 11 x WIA.

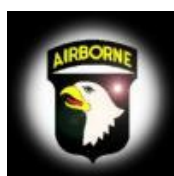
The Battalion personnel strength at the end of Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON was as follows (MTOE II – 60):

Authorized:	778
Assigned:	657
Present for Duty:	589
Not Present for Duty:	68

The assigned strength was 84% of the authorized strength. The present for duty strength was 90% of the assigned strength.

Casualties for Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON were as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>DOW</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>INRHA</u>	<u>NONE BATTLE DEATH</u>
HHC	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
A Co	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
B Co	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
C Co	0	0	0	2	0	0	0



Total 0 0 0 6 0 2 1

06 March 1991

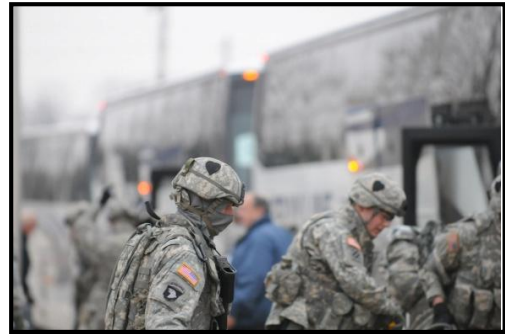
Units from the 502nd IN Regiment departs TAA Campbell by C-130 to King Fahd International Airport and Camp Eagle II. After the 502nd departure, forward observers and fire support teams are re-attached to the 1-320th FA.

06 March 2008

OPN Nanos 2.5 – 3/C conducts a Joint Operation with the IA from Latifiyah to seize caches and Sunni militia key leaders. The operation nets the seizure of 25 artillery rounds varying in size from 97-120mm, over 350 rounds of 23mm AA ammunition, and two Jaysh-al-Islami operatives including the driver and the personal assistant to the #1 JAI leader in all of Southern Iraq, both of whom are wanted by the IA for murder. The operation brings out the links between the SOI programs and militias continuing to build weapons stockpiles and conduct illegal activities in the area. It forces the Sunni Militia Jaysh-al-Islami (JAI) to call a meeting with SOI sheiks in the area five days later. As a result of OPN Nanos 2.5, 3/C supported by two OH-58D's captures the #2 and #3 leaders in JAI for Southern Baghdad on 11 Mar 09.

06 -
25 March 2010

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team completed a rotation at Fort Polk's Joint Readiness Training Center in Louisiana. The rotation placed the STRIKE Brigade in a deployed scenario simulating the Afghan theater. The brigade adopted the saying "shonna ba shonna" (shoulder to shoulder) while learning the benefits and importance of operating with their Afghan counterparts. Upon arrival back to Fort Campbell, the STRIKE Brigade was tactically ready for its deployment to the Kandahar Province.



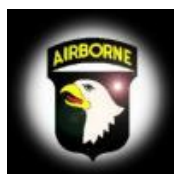
07 March 1968

1-502nd IN Battalion continued search and destroy operations and made 3 Company size C/A's resulting in moderate contact. Bravo recovered the bodies of the 2 MIA from D/1-502 IN, results: Friendly: 1-KIA, 1-WIA, 2- MIA to KIA; Enemy 30 KIA (BC) (HQ/1-502 Annual Historical Supplement)

07 March 1968

Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN: Operation Began (2-502 IN); Locations: Hoa Province, RVN; Task Organization: A/2-502 IN, B/2-502, C/2-502 IN, Recondo/2-502, 3 (-)/A/326 ENG, 6/2-320 ARTY (105), Mortar Platoon IPW, 181 MI Detachment. The following changes were made in the task organization during the operations: (1) 1st CAV assumed OPCON 2/502 effective 0001Mar & released OPDON181800 Mar. (2) 2/502 assumed OPCON C/1-327 effective 091415H Mar & released OPCON 111635 Mar. (3) 2/502 assumed OPCON LRRP Team from Div effective 161300 Mar & released 280800 Mar. (4) 2/237 assumed OPCON A/2-502 effective 231025 Mar. & released 28 08000 Mar. (5) 2/327 assumed OPCON B/2-502 effective 271025 Mar & released 2808000 Apr. (6) 2/502 assumed OPCON 1 Plt A/3-5 Cavalry effective 280800 Mar. & released 160001 Apr. (7) 2/502 assumed OPCON B/1-502 effective 151510 Apr. & retained control over it at the end of operation. (8) 2/502 assumed OPCON A/2-327 effective 1515H Apr and released OPCON effective 160001 Apr.

Mission: Phase I: H-hour D day 2-502 deploys by vehicle to assigned AO conduct combat operations in zone, be prepared for further employment west on order. Phase II: 2-502 established and secured FSB Bastogne vic. YD6109 to accommodate one Battery each light, medium, and heavy artillery.



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

Authorized:	773
Assigned:	692
Present for Duty:	630
Not present for duty:	64

During Phase I extensive combat operations were conducted by all the maneuver elements, with only several major contacts.

07 – 28
March 1968

Operation JEB STUART/CARENTAN: Phase I: During this phase 2-502 maintained security of the rock crusher site/TAC-CP by rotating the companies into the TAC-CP. On 10 March the first significant contact was made involving A Co., C Co., and Recon. From this time to the end of phase I significant contacts were made by B Co. and C Co. on combat operations against enemy in bunker positions. Artillery DT's and H&I were used extensively; however gunships were seldom used due to scarcity of the Division. The terrain was mountainous with thick jungle and tall canopy on the western portion of the AO. In the north there were high barren mountain ridges. On 23 March, A Co. came under OPCON 2-327. B Co. was also put under OPCON to 2-327 on 27 March. Phase I ended on 28 March when the 2-502 minus A and B Co. were heliborne into FSB Bastogne and A Co. and B Co. were returned to 2-502 control.

08 March –
17 May 1968

Operation Carentan II consisted of the 2d BDE conducting RIF operations north and northwest of Hue to destroy enemy forces, base camps and installations, while the 3d BDE, 82d ABN DIV provided external security for Hue and conducted RIF operations east and south of Hue. (Operational Report of 101st Air Cavalry Division for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1))

08 March –
17 May 1968

Operation Carentan I – II

Locations: I Corps; Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces; Song Bo River; Col Co Beach; Hue; Phuoc yen; Van Xa Lang; Xom Dong; FSB Hardcore; LZs Devil, Detroit, Geronimo, Pinky.

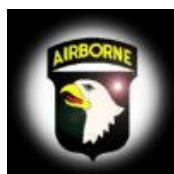
Type/Objective: Carentan I – II Combines Search and Destroy, Cordon and Search and Reconnaissance in Force operations into the lowlands of Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces. Note: Carentan I (8-30 March) and Carentan II (1 April – 17 May).

Units: US – 23d Infantry Division (Americal), 198th Light Infantry Brigade (2-1st Infantry), 3rd Brigade, 82d Airborne Division (1-505th ABN, 2-505th ABN, 1-508th ABN), 101st Airborne Division: 1st BDE (2-327th ABN, 2-17th CAV) 2d BDE (1-501st IN, 2-501st IN, 1-502nd IN); VNAF – 1st ARVN Division; NVA/VC - 324-B NVA Division (90th, 803d and 812th NVA regiments), 4th NVA Regiment.

Events: 10 April – “Battle of Thon Phuoc Dien”. Companies A, B, D 2-501st IN (101st ABN DIV) encounter an estimated six battalions from the 812th NVA Regiment near the small village of Thon Phuoc Dien, 12 miles southeast of Quang Tri City.

Losses: U.S. – 7 KIA, 35 WIA in the firefight. Enemy losses are reported at 66 KIA.

Events: 28 April – 4 May – While conducting a Cordon and Search of the villages of Thon Duong Son and Phuoc Yen, several elements of the 101st Airborne Division clash with a strong enemy force four miles northwest of Hue. Involved in the action are B and D 2-501st IN, 1-502nd IN, 2-1st IN, 2-17th CAV, and the 2-327th ABN versus the 8-90th NVA Regiment.



Losses: U.S. - 6 KIA, 43 WIA; NVA/VC – 314 KIA, 107 POWs

Events: 1 May – the 2-17th CAV Battles a reinforced company of NVA Soldiers 13 miles northwest of Hue.

Losses: U.S. – 2 KIA, 26 WIA; NVA/VC – 82 KIA

Events: 5 – 6 May _ “Battle of La Chu”. While conducting a Cordon and Search of La Chu, three miles northwest of Hue, companies A and D 1-501st IN, A & C 2-501st IN, 2-17th CAV and C/2-34th AR engage an NVA force of unknown size.

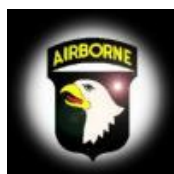
Losses: U.S. – 1 KIA, 18 WIA; NVA/VC – 55 KIA.

Casualties: Total for Carentan I–II: U.S. – 193 KIA, 1,190 WIA, 11 MIA; NVA/VC – 1,892 KIA, 69 POWs.

During this week, in the span of 72 years since the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941 as the 502nd Parachute Battalion, an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assault, the following awards were awarded to members of 2BCT and the 502nd IN Regiment.

2 x Silver Star Medal
2 x Bronze Star Medal (2 x Posthumously)
53 x Purple Heart (44 x Posthumously)
2 x Non-Hostile Injury or Illness

- 03 March 1968 The Following Soldiers: CPL Henry Norfleet Jr., CPL James E. Williams, and SP4 Ernest E. Fawks (C/1-502 IN), PFC Richard L. Borgman (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in AP Duc Trong, 10km NW of Hue in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 03 March 1968 CPT Frank R. Dimmitt (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from a gunshot wound received while passenger of helicopter when hit by hostile small arms fire, in AP Duc Trong, 10km NW of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.
- 03 March 1986 SP4 Paul F. Newman Jr. (C/1-501 IN) died from small arms fire wounds received on 06 April 1968.
- 03 March 2006 SPC Kamsart Thong (HHC/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during actions in combat while at the TCP on the intersection of Route Slipknot and Janbi Run, at around 1030, SPC Thong was hit with sniper fire from an undetermined location. The bullet struck him in the lower leg.
- 04 March 1968 SGT Anthony E. Reed (A/2-502 IN) died from Non-hostile causes as a ground casualty in the Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam
- 04 March 1970 SFC Rudolfo R. Alura (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and wound received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.



04 March 2008

SGT Clifford Ritter (1-75 CAV) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from actions in combat while conducting a resupply mission moving south when the lead vehicle was struck by an EFP. SGT Ritter was evacuated to Riva Ridge Medical Facility where he was diagnosed and treated for multiple cuts, bruises, and a concussion resulting from the blast. He was later evacuated for further treatment for his concussion.



04 March 2008

PFC Travis Wilds (2-101 BSTB) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from actions in combat.

05 March 2006

SPC Ethan John Biggers (B/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from a sniper fire which resulted in his death after being in a coma until 24 February 2007.

05 March 1968



SP4 Robert R. Criswell (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

05 March 1971



PFC Larry D. Loden (C/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a military mission when a booby trap detonated 4KM NE of Ba Long Airfield in the Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

05 March 1971

PFC Gilbert Dowell (A/1-502 IN) died of Non-Hostile causes (Intentional Homicide) as a ground casualty in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

06 March 1968



SP4 James D. Guffey (B/2-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

06 March 1968

The following Soldiers: CPL Gregory R. Shambaugh (Pictured), SP4 Clinton R. Carpenter Jr. (Pictured), PFC Stephen F. Palazzola, PFC Alvin Carr, PFC Stanley A. Stys (Pictured), SP4 David J. Latraille (Pictured), and SGT Phillip W. Pigford (Pictured) (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in "W" Shape Village in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



06 March 1970

PFC Robert L. Webster (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death while on a combat operation when hostile fire was encountered in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

06 March 1970

SP4 Walter L. Beckwith Jr. (B/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

06 March 2006

SFC William Wilson (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from actions in combat while 1st platoon was moving down Route Whiskey in order to secure the area for PSD's movement in support of Operation Glory Light. D143 was hit by an IED that was less than 1 meter from the front of the vehicle throwing it into a crater. SFC Wilson received a puncture wound on his right elbow and several minor lacerations.

07 March 1968



SGT Warren G. Tedrick Jr. (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from multiple fragmentation wounds in the Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam.

07 March 2006

PFC Curtis Phillips (D/1-502 I) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from actions in combat when he was wounded in action by an IED while conducting combat operations. He suffered a severe sprain to the leg.

07 March 2008

SPC Harrison Wooldridge (1-64 AR) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from actions in combat.

08 March 1968

SGT Thomas R. Gdovin (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic.

08 March 1968

SP4 Jacob D. Phillips (D/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received during combat operations. (Purple Heart Citation)

08 March 1968



The following Soldiers: SP4 Robert L. Clewlow, SP4 Williams J. Bowers (Pictured), PFC Samuel B. Hudson (A/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wound received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds in Ap Dong Lang, 10km of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 March 1968

The following Soldiers: SP4 Daniel L. Kinnard (Pictured) (HHC/1-502 IN); PFC Michael A. Shramko (Pictured), SGT Wayne M. Kidwell (Pictured), SP4 Rodolfo Villafranco (Pictured), PFC Sonnie Stephens (Pictured), PFC Ben H. Williams, and SP4 Craig A. Arndt (Pictured) (A/1-502 IN); SP4 William Vazquez (C/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds in AP Dong Lang, 10km of Hue, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam. (Pictures L-R)



08 March 1968



2LT Delmar W. Probst (D/1-502 IN) earned the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in his death from small arms gun fire wounds in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 March 1968

SP4 Danny L. Smothers (A/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received from fragment from a friendly mortar round while in a night defensive position on 30 December 1967 in AP Dong Lang, 10km NW of Hue, in the Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam.

08 March 1968

SP4 Bernard Boney (D/1-501 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received from explosive device wounds when a hostile mine detonated while on combat operations in AP Dong Lang, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 March 1969



The following Soldiers: SP4 Jack E. Williams (Pictured) and PFC Roger W. Smelser (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from other explosive device wounds while in a night defensive position vic. of FSB Spears, 21k ENE of A Shau Valley, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 March 1969



The following Soldiers: PFC James M. Norman, SP4 Earl T. Hoag (Pictured), and PFC Matthew E. Morton Jr. (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from multiple fragmentation wounds while in a night defensive position vic. of FSB Spears, 21k ENE of A Shau Valley, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

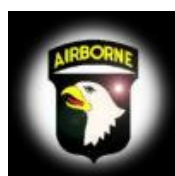
08 March 1969



The following Soldiers: CPL Alfred E. Alvey Jr. (Pictured), CPL Roger H. Howes, CPL Robert E. Grant, PFC David E. Theobald, SP4 John L. Motley Jr., and SP4 Leon Tisdale (B/2-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart (Posthumously) for military merit and for wounds received which resulted in their deaths from small arms gun fire wounds while in a night defensive position vic. of FSB Spears, 21k ENE of A Shau Valley, in the Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam.

08 March 2006

LTC Thomas Kunk (HHC/1-502 IN) earned the Purple Heart for military merit and for wounds received from actions in combat while at approximately 0835 while traveling northeast on Route Fat Boy, the convoy LTC Kunk was in stuck an IED. The IED struck



the front passenger side of the vehicle, which sent shrapnel through the armor and penetrated LTC Kunk in his lower left leg.

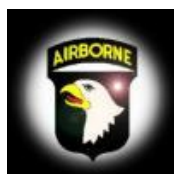
STRIKE HISTORY (Citation's and Awards):

06 March 1968

SGT Ronald E. Long (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 6 March 1968. Sergeant Long distinguished himself while serving as communications Sergeant on a combat operation in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. On the morning of 6 March 1968, Company D made a combat assault near the village of Ap Nho Lam in search of a suspected North Vietnamese Army Hospital. Upon entering the village, the company was engaged from three different directions by an enemy battalion with machine guns, rocket propelled grenades, and mortars. The enemy fired from fortified and well camouflaged bunkers. As casualties mounted, Sergeant Long aided in securing a landing zone for medical evacuation, and then returned to the battle. The First Platoon was engaged by hostile fire in a cemetery on the left flank and received heavy casualties from automatic weapons fire raking its positions. Evacuation of the dead and the wounded necessitated crossing open rice paddies directly in the enemy's field of fire. Fully conscious of this, Sergeant Long proceeded across the rice paddies, crawling the greater part of the one hundred and fifty meters to the cemetery. With disregard for his own safety, he dragged and carried the dead and wounded through heavy enemy fire to safety. By late afternoon, Sergeant Long had personally carried six men from the field and continued to aid others despite low ammunition. Sergeant Long'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.

08 March 1968

SGT Thomas R. Gdovin (D/1-502 IN) was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 8 March 1968, while serving as a Squad Leader with 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) in support of operations in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Gdovin's squad had become the company's lead element during and attack on enemy forces when they received intense automatic weapons and rocket fire. The lead Soldier in the formation was severely wounded and was unable to move in an area open to enemy fire. Sergeant Gdovin placed the squad into defensive positions and suppressed the enemy fire. He then left the defensive position and with complete disregard for his own personal safety and advanced across open terrain toward the wounded Soldier, exposing himself to intense enemy fire. Sergeant Gdovin then reached the wounded Soldier and under continued fire, brought him back to the safety of the squad's position, where he was further evacuated. Sergeant Gdovin's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and the United States Army. (Permanent Orders 230-15; 18 August 2011)



***STRIKE HISTORY NOTE:**

A major reorganization took place on 3 February 1964, when the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division 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 was in the 1st Brigade with 1-327th and 2-327th Infantry. Which deployed to Vietnam 1965, in was most notable commanded by LTC Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson. The new 2nd Brigade's original organic battalions were the 1st and 2d Battalions, 501st Infantry, and the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry.

December 1967, 2nd Brigade deployed by C-141 aircraft to the Republic of Vietnam. Over the next five years, soldiers of the "Ready to Go" Brigade participated in twelve campaigns, compiling a distinguished combat record as well as an enviable reputation for success in the rehabilitation of a war-torn nation. The President of Vietnam personally decorated the colors of the Brigade three times, twice with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and once with the RVN Civic Action Honor Medal. The Brigade redeployed to Fort Campbell in April, 1972.

In 1984, with the reorganization of the Combat Arms Regimental System, the 2nd Brigade became the parent headquarters for the 1st, 2nd, and 3d Battalions of the 502nd Infantry Regiment. With this reorganization, the Brigade adopted the regimental motto, "Strike."

