

The 426th Supply and Transport Battalion (Provisional) was organized on 24 December 1967 from existing 101st Airborne Division assets at Bien Hoa, Republic of Vietnam. The Battalion Colors were presented to LTC Dewitt T. Bryant, the first Commanding Officer, by Colonel Robert Allen, Commander of the 101st Airborne Division Support Command. The Colors were presented and the Battalion activated at coordinates 005147 reference Map Sheet 633111 series L7014 (Bien Hoa).

The units of the newly activated provisional battalion were formed from Division assets as follows: The Division Supply Office from Headquarters, Headquarters Company and Band, Support Command; the Division Transportation Office from Headquarters, Headquarters Company and Band, Support Command; the 101st Quartermaster Company (Aerial Equipment Supply); and the 501st Supply Company. The authorized strength of the elements and units were as follows:

101st Quartermaster Company (AES)	122
501st Supply Company	100
Division Supply Office	30
Division Transportation Office	9
<u>Slots from Headquarters, Headquarters Company and Band</u>	<u>4</u>
Total Authorized for Battalion (Provisional)	265 personnel

From 24 December 1967 until 10 January 1968, Battalion activity centered around organizing the supply yards at Bien Hoa. The Battalion also established a Movements Control section and the Arrival Airfield Control Group. During mid-January the 101st Quartermaster Company (AES) formed two sling-load assistance teams and dispatched them to the 2nd Brigade at Cu Chi and the 3rd Brigade at Phuoc Vinh. The 426th Supply and Transport Battalion also received the mission to operate the Ammunition Supply Point at Phuoc Vinh.

During the last days of January the 2nd Brigade was alerted for Operation Casey, which was designed to trap the Viet Cong Dong Nhat Regiment. To support this operation, the First Forward Supply Support Element (FSSE) was organized by this Battalion. On 25 January 1968 the 2nd Brigade was conveyed and airlifted back to Lai Khe and Cu Chi for staging and marshalling prior to movement to I Corps. The advance party of the 2nd Brigade FSSE, composed of movements control, supply, and rigger personnel of the 426th, departed Cu Chi on 25 January 1968 and arrived at the Hue-Phu Bai airfield at 2100 hours. From that time on, there was always a representative of the 426th Supply and Transport Battalion at the Hue-Phu Bai airfield. The remainder of the FSSE closed in at Phu Bai on 30 January. The FSSE was located with Task Force McDonald, a 1st Logistics Command FSA, at LZ El Paso (now Camp Eagle). The NVA/VC TET offensive began on 31 January 1968 and both the Hue-Phu Bai airfield and LZ El Paso received intense mortar/rocket fire. LZ El Paso was closed out on 3 February 1968 and the FSSE moved back to the Hue-Phu Bai airstrip with the 2nd Brigade Rear.

On 31 January the TET offensive in Bien Hoa opened with an attack by an estimated VC battalion. The 426th Supply and Transport Battalion (minus) provided Class I, III, and V support via sling/hook loads from Long Binh for the Bien Hoa Army and Air Force positions. Personnel from the 426th also manned fighting positions on the east of the south runway at the Bien Hoa airfield. This is where the main VC effort came. When the 1st and 3rd Brigades of the 101st Airborne Division were brought in to clear and secure the Long Binh/Bien Hoa area, all classes of supply were provided by the 426th Supply and Transport Battalion directly to the infantry and artillery battalions directly from division stores.

