

# NAME THIS BATTALION PUBLICATION

Black Baron Courier??

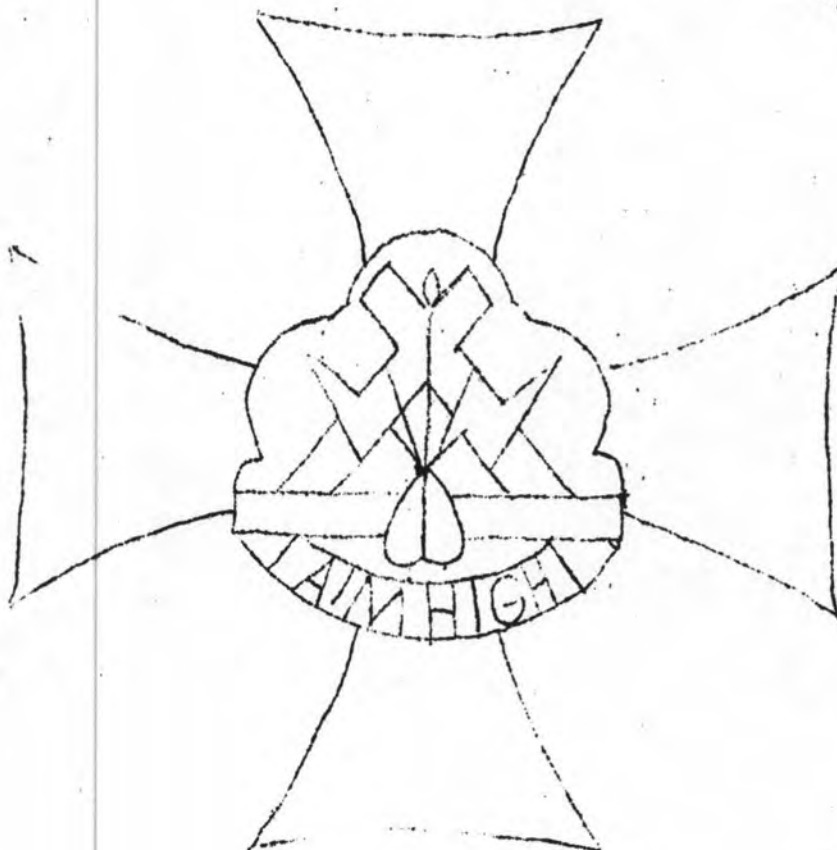
Black Baron Release??

269

COMBAT AVIATION

Knights - Errant??

BATTALION



THE BLACK BARONS

The Little BBC??

Baron's Decree??

Baron's Times??

Baron's Report??

Baron's Report??

The Baron's Maille??

COMMANDER'S NOTES

1 May 1967

The \_\_\_\_\_ is an authorized bi-monthly publication  
under the supervision of the Commanding Officer, 269th Combat Aviation Battalion.

LTC Henry J. Nagao  
Major Dick E. Roach  
1Lt Thomas C. Hatcher  
SFC Richard L. Marvin

Commanding Officer  
Executive Officer  
Information Officer  
Asst. to Information Officer

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## BLACK BARON 6

Normally, this spot would be reserved for the Battalion Commander. However, due to his eminent departure, the Editor felt it appropriate that the comments found herein be more of a farewell from all the members of the Black Baron Battalion to its departing Commander.

Sir, although your tenure here has been a short one, your presence will be deeply missed. Your guiding hand has benefited each and everyone of us directly and most appreciably in the very structures we live, work and eat in, as well as the sidewalks we traverse the battalion area on.

Your constant reminders concerning area beautification, although the projects have not been completed, will be remembered and as time progresses they will certainly take shape. This is only one of many areas that your guidance has been placed. Other areas are, but are not limited to, the following: the O & F manual, the Battalion SOP, and the In-processing check list for new units, and many more to numerous to mention.

It is difficult to truly express our thanks to you, as I am sure you understand. However, we do want you to know that your guidance and efforts in our behalf are greatly appreciated and will be remembered long after your departure. With your departure we hope you will take with you our best wishes in your new assignment and our deepest thanks for everything you have done to make this one of the finest Combat Aviation Battalions in Vietnam. We hope that you will occasionally think of us in the future and will hold a warm spot in your memories for the Black Baron's of the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion. Aim High, Sir!!!!!!!

## BLACK BARON 5

The psychologists claim that no rational animal commits himself of his own volition to any act, good or bad, without the hope of reward. Lt. Hatcher, the acting Battalion Information Officer is no exception. In the birth of this publication he has visualized a means to bring the many faces of battalion life before us, the readers, and in so doing assist us in becoming the best informed battalion in-country. In a sense a reader might justly remark inwardly that this is only another sign that the battalion is coming of age.

But the Commander, in granting his approval for this publication had another thought in mind, one which significantly underscores the purpose that was Lt. Hatcher's when he conceived the idea for this publication. That thought reminded us of some very sage advice which appears in the foreward of just about every worthwhile history book ever written, namely, "to know nothing of the past is to know little of the present, and to have no concept of the future". Sound familiar?

Of course, the rewards of being knowledgeable about what is going on within one's own unit are too obvious and numerous to mention here. But in order to succeed, the publication places heavy reliance on the many faces of our battalion life as lived by all its members.

Accordingly, I join with the Commanding Officer to encourage your support and participation in helping Lt. Hatcher realize his reward in this undertaking; namely, to make the 269th the best informed battalion in Vietnam.

## WHAT DO WE DO?

### The S-3 Section

Controlling the operations of the assigned companies of the Black Baron's-- and frequently other, as well--is the main responsibility of the Operations and Training (S-3) Section of the Battalion Headquarters.

With Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Dalone in charge, the "3 shop" is subdivided into five elements: the Battalion Operations Center (Major Edward P. Carroll), the Intelligence and Security (S-2) Section (Master Sergeant Benjamin F. Phillips), the Administrative Section (Sergeant First Class Kenneth C. Bork), the Flight Training and Standardization Section (Major Bobby G. Franklin), and the Liaison Section (Major Leonard J. Sharp).



The Battalion Operations Center--commonly called the BOC-- is the nerve center of the battalion. It receives all missions from higher headquarters and sees that they get to the companies for accomplishment. They keep track of everything that goes on in the Black Baron's area of interest(24 hours a day), and reacts to such emergencies as lost or downed aircraft and, of course, our old friend "Charlie" and his mortars.

The "2 Crew" provides some of the information LTC Dalone and his assistant, Major John F. Zugschwert, need to plan and conduct operations; basically where the enemy is and how the weather will act. They also keep track of the classified material necessary to the functioning of the headquarters and sees that everyone in the unit has the proper security clearance.

The administrative types provide the glamorous but very necessary support--typing, filing and office management-- that keeps the operation running. They also publish the brisk OPORD's (operations orders) that translate the commander's desires into times, places, and tasks to be accomplished that turn planned operations into split-second reality.

Aviator proficiency, and the requirement for each aircrew of the battalion to perform as expected at the designated time, are the problems of the Flight Training and Standardization Section. Not all pilots arriving in Vietnam are experienced in the procedures and techniques used to accomplish our mission. Any also every flying outfit does certain things in a certain way. Seeing that these problems are controlled, and that adequate records are maintained, keeps our standardization instructor pilot away much of the time.

The standardization mission doesn't compare with that of the Liaison Section in requiring frequent and extended absences; that's what the title implies. The LNO's, as they are referred to, work with the units we support, keeping us informed of their plans and intentions and advising them of our capabilities and procedures.. Successful liaison can mean the difference between success and failure in an operation.

----- NEXT ISSUE -----

The Voice of Command---our Communications Section and its operations..

## USE THE ADMIN COURIER? WHY NOT?

Daily the S-1 Courier Aircraft (Black Baron 1 Delta) flies to various locations in the III Corps tactical zone, to include Saigon (H-3), Bien Hoa, Long Binh, Phu Loi, Tay Ninh West, Dau Tieng and other locations as needed. However, prior to nonchalantly jumping aboard and relaxing to the piped-in stereo music and pawing the beautiful stewardess be sure the aircraft is not on a banana tree mission. The admin courier picked up 4 banana trees for planting in front of the Battalion Headquarters 29 Apr 1967. SFC Marvin(Beautification NCO) has access to as many trees as needed. If anyone in the company desires any, send SFC Marvin 2 men with combat equipment and shovels and he will get them to the right plantation and will provide transportation home.

## BLACK HATS COPY

Your Battalion Pathfinders had a rather busy month during April. They were in support of both the 25th Inf Division and the 9th Inf Division down south of Duc Hoa and also helped kick-off operation Manhattan, a multi-Divisional operation in the Boi Loi woods on 23 Apr 67.

Three teams of 2 to 3 Pathfinders each were inserted with 2 Mech. Inf Battalions the day prior to the operation and they went into each of 3 LZ's prior to the airmobile delivery of 4 Inf Rifle Battalions. There was also one team of 2 Pathfinders stationed at Cu Chi airfield which was the pick-up zone (PZ) for this operation. These men at Cu Chi had the difficult job of organizing and extracting over 1200 U.S. Infantrymen to the forward area.

(Continued on Bottom of page 6)

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## HAIL & FAREWELL/PROMOTION

The officer of Battalion Hqs and the 116th Hornet held a Hail and Farewell/Promotion party on 29 April 1967 at the Bee Hive Officers Club.

The Party was held in honor of LTC Henry J. Nagao our departing Battalion Commander and to welcome all new officers of both Bn Hqs and the Hornets.

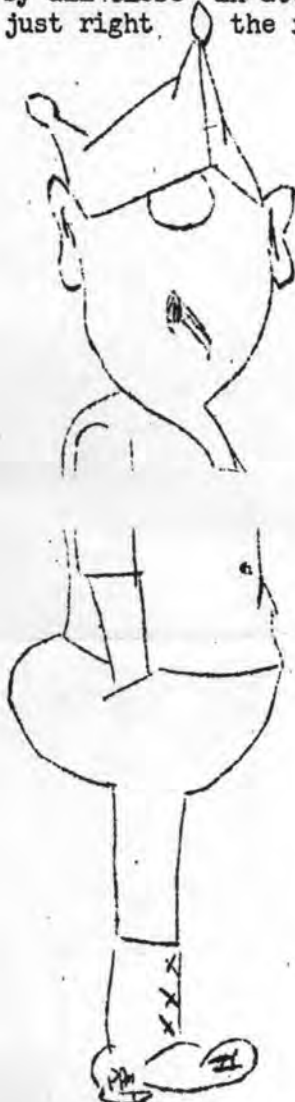
The Party was also for our newly promoted S-3 LTC Arthur Delone, who held open bar for everyone until approximately 2200 hours. Hearty congratulations to our newest LTC! Also thank you very much for the drinks.

A fine meal was also prepared and served by the Mess Steward's of the 269 and the 116th. A sincere pat on the back to you both for a job well done or was that medimum well????

Entertainment was provided by a combo from the Division band and from the sensity of traffic on the dance floor, I'm sure all enjoyed their fine music.

Many out-of-town visitors were seen throughout the well mixed crowd. It appeared that all areas were represented. We were honored to have our Group Commander Colonel Paski in attendance as well as the CO, 25th Avn Bn LTC Bearden. The Air Force was represented, also the American Red Cross, The Army Nurse Corps and the civilian population as well in the form of some shapely sex-a-taries from the big city (Saigon).

Major Dick E. Roach Battalion XO and Major Harold I. Small CO, 116th Aviation Co sponsored the affair to which a cordial thanks is extended by all those in attendance; even by those whose heads didn't seem to fit just right the following morning.



Where-da #?! is Dau Tieng????

## "WELCOME ABOARD"

A hearty welcome is extended to our most recent addition the 188th Aviation Company (AML) and its attached units the 4th Signal Detachment, 154th Medical Detachment and the 603rd Transportation Detachment.

The 188th is Commanded by Major Bobby E. Wofford; Executive Officer is Major James L. Rungee.

An advance party of 7 Officers and 1 enlisted man. arrived at Battalion Headquarters on 27 April 67. They received a warm welcome from the Battalion Commander LTC Nagao and visited briefly with members of the Battalion Staff.

The remainder of the 188th AML will arrive shortly.

Again a warm welcome aboard to all members of the 188th and its attached units stationed at Dau Tieng, APO 96268.



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This is our first installment of what we hope will be a growing publication of this Battalion Headquarters. This issue gives our readers a sampling of things to come. However, it must be remembered that only you can really make this publication an informative and useful media of dissemination. Your support in any form, whether it be creative or physical, will be greatly appreciated.

As you have seen by our front page, we are without a name for this publication. Your suggestions will be greatly accepted or if you feel that one of the names already indicated on the front page is your choice, let your Section Leader or the Battalion Information Officer know.

Flowers are hereby sent to the personnel of our Headquarters & Headquarters Company Mess Hall for their fine efforts in preparation of the food and mess hall surroundings during the recent visit of our new Group Commander and our new Battalion Commander.

Our thanks also for the well prepared meals served daily since our mess became operational. Your careful attention to doing a good job each and everyday of the week deserves our warmest praise.

I don't believe a complaint has been heard from our mess personnel when they were asked to rise early to serve chow for the Pathfinder's or when asked to hold late chow for a crew who was forced to remain out after normal chow hours.

This personal service is a mark of distinction that shows our Mess Stewart and Cooks are real professionals and truly concerned about their team members of the Black Baron Battalion.

I wish to extend my personal "thanks" to all those who helped in the last minute, frantic effort to make this publication meet its 1 May deadline.

Cover design by PFC Edward Czapiga  
Insert drawings by SSG Peter P.

Margelony  
Ed.

#### Pathfinder's Cont.

It was 1100 hrs. when two teams returned to Cu Chi after inserting the troops successfully into LZ's 1 & 2, hoping to get some chow and rest, instead, they got aboard a UH-1D and were flown by Major Zugschwert and Cpt. Barton to Duc Hoa. Here they organized an additional 380 troops, this time members of the 34th ARVN Ranger Battalion, for a combat assault into the Manhattan operational area.

The first team operating in landing zone # 1 was Sgt Speights and Sgt. Demesme. They had the unfortunate experience of being left behind in the landing zone when the choppers had made their last drop at that time. Having a radio, called Black Baron 3A and was extracted later.

Team # 2 in LZ 2 was formed by Sgt Corella, Sp4 Brock, J. and SP4 Arkwright. After a 20 mile ride in an APC (Armored Personnel Carrier) that started at 0800 hrs 22 Apr at Cu Chi and ended at 1300 hrs that day (Continued on page 7)

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