



BLACK LIGHTNING STRIKES

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STATIM NOS AGIMUS *****

Perserverence and pride have always been the key factors to man's success in life. These attributes have inspired many impressive mottos, which have in turn inspired other men to carry on the banner with even greater veracity.

This fact has rarely been more acutely exemplified than it has in the conception, activation and actual operation of the 268th Combat Aviation Battalion. Even though fresh off the DA drawing boards and still in the experimental stage, the unit was characterized by a strong sense of exigency and unity. The rule for the day was - DO IT NOW.

During the unit's three month activation period at Fort Hood, Texas under the command of LTC Frederick D Whiting III, this phrase became much more than a simple motto, it was the credo for the men who had the job of creating a fully combat ready unit in an appalling short amount of time. Due to the critical time factor and their limited resources, the men of the 268th CAB had to do much more than merely coin a slogan, they had to virtually live it.

On 2 May 1967 the rapidly but skillfully formed Battalion arrived in Vietnam with a misconcieved anticipation of a more routine schedule. But it didn't take long for them to discover that their crash program had only just begun. Consequently their motto: 'Do it Now' took on a more permanent aspect and was given a formal title more befitting its hard earned reputation, 'Statim Nos Agimus' (literally translated - We do it immediately).

Today, nine months after her conception, with over six months of RVN service under her belt the 268th has proven her faithfulness to her chosen motto. LTC Harry W Townsend, the officer and men of the 268th Combat Aviation Battalion proudly continue the 'Do it Now' spirit with the swift and effective force of a Black Lightning Bolt.

BLUE STAR BULLETINGS

Greetings from the slightly soaked and waterlogged home of the 48th Assault Helicopter Company. We were unable to contribute to last weeks "Black Lightning Strikes" because we all were busy digging out from under the shambles left by Typhoon Frieta.

Old Frieta came roaring ashore at Ninh Hoa with ninety mile-per-hour winds and fifteen inches of rain in four hours. Unfortunately the winds were more than a match for our wooden frame and tent roofed "hooches". When the storm finally abated and swept back out to sea, eighty percent of our "hooches" lay flattened and all our personal belongings were scattered far and wide. But, in true Blue Star style, all hands pitched in and within a few days had the area livable again.

Recently, the Blue Stars air assaulted troops from the ROK White Horse Infantry Division into an area just five miles west of Tuy Hoa. The troops quickly surrounded their objective, a V. C. held village from which the friendly Vietnamese had fled. As the ROKs closed on the village they were met by a hail of motar, recoilless rifles and heavy automatic weapons fire. The troops dug in and called for the "Joker" gunships to break the stalemate.

The "Joker" fireteam, lead by WO Gary Stryker started their attack in the early afternoon and at dawn the next morning were still going at it, having flown all through the night stopping only to refuel and rearm.

Shortly after dawn the ROKs again assaulted the village, but instead of heavy automatic weapons fire, they were met by twelve quite shaken VC all of whom were very willing to give themselves up after the fierce "Joker" attack. The Koreans also found a dozed crew served weapons and over sixty personal weapons. The "Jokers" were credited with 55 VC KIAS - all without a single Korean loss. OK Coutras, who needs the lessons now? (48th AHC IO)