

Blue  
Star



Blade

15 Dec 67 Vol I No 1

Starting with this issue, your friendly Operations Section will attempt to get out a monthly newsletter to try to let the unit know what the unit is accomplishing and also to try to get the word to the 10% who never get it. (the word, that is). The newsletter is yours so if anyone has any item that you desire the rest of the unit to know, let operations know and if its within reason, we will include it in the next issue.

#### COMMANDER'S NOTES

Contrary to popular opinion, rules, regulations and procedures are not established as inconveniences. They are founded on sound reasoning, extensive research, and experience. Wreckless thinking such as: "How much can I get away with" or "Maybe I can get away with it this time", leads to wreckless action and frequently, disaster. Failure to recognize where regulatory measures apply to the individual, is indicative of immaturity, mental deficiency, or a wanton disregard for the safety and rights of others. Let each individual search his own conscience and assure himself that he has not and will not violate the safety and rights of others.

#### BLUE STAR NOTAMS

Traffic pattern at Phu Hiep has been changed for O3 departures. All O3 departures will make right traffic, breaking to the west of Phu Hiep. All aircraft must be in contact with Phu Hiep Tower and under no circumstance will the hospital area north of Phu Hiep be overflowed.

When refueling at Black Lightning miniport and desiring to go direct to Black Lightning Pad, you must hover to the south, then east, then north to the pad. This procedure is required in order to prevent "dusting off" the hootches along the north road. Let common sense and courtesy dictate all operations around the Phu Hiep area. Let's show the other companies in the battalion area that our reputation was earned not by being "cowboys" but by being "better than the average bear."

Congratulations to the pilot who signed off the pilot's debriefing book as having a "Just Wonderful" flight. It must be nice!

The Operations Section would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the crew chiefs and gunners. Probably no section of the unit has a more demanding hour schedule. We have a long way to go to get our first echelon maintenance up, but with the caliber of people assigned as gunners and crew chiefs, I am confident that this problem will be alleviated. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

#### WEATHER CRITERIA

A recent OV-10 accident occurred when the pilot attempted a landing at a non-instrument Air Field under instrument conditions. Such an operation is beyond the capability of both aircraft and the aviators. In the 48th area of operation, single-ship missions are the order of the day. On these missions, the choice of "go" or "no go" is the responsibility of the aircraft commander. Unless there is a declared, tactical emergency, no aircraft and crew should be jeopardized by attempting a VFR mission in IFR weather. Discretion is the better part of valor.

## CRASH INJURY PREVENTION

Periodically, flight crews relapse into carelessness where safety is concerned. Lately, there have been numerous personnel observed flying with sleeves rolled up and without gloves. This act is not only in violation of AR 385-50, but also violates good judgement. If one only stops to think about going through life without the use of his hands, the extra bother of wearing gloves suddenly becomes worth while. Let's roll'em down, and put'em on.

## SIP COLUMN

Do you know in which manual you will find a list of engine RPM's and conditions which constitute an overspeed? An example of these conditions is above 6900 engine RPM at or below 85% N. RPM. After you decide in which manual it is in, can you tell me in which chapter it is?

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

It is hard for an individual working in maintenance, avionics or any one of the various sections of the company to realize the value of his contribution to the unit. There is not much glory in frying eggs in the mess hall at 0500 hours or in tightening a nut in maintenance at midnight, but without the efforts of all these sections, we would be unable to accomplish our mission. I feel that every man in this unit can look up at our birds and feel a real sense of pride in a job well done. It requires a real team effort, for our mission is difficult. The lack of parts, long hours, working with people with whom we cannot even communicate with, and the million and one problems which arise daily, often stretch us to the limits of our endurance. The payoff comes though, when after a year in Vietnam we can look back with pride and know that we have served our country well.

## 286TH NOTES

Dec Jones would like every one to know he has received a new batch of medical supplies this month. He has requisitioned a new supply of Bat Wings, Leeches, and a variety of Herbs which he feels will greatly improve the health of the unit.

He also would like to re-state sick call hours as being 0800 to 1000 hours daily and emergencies any time.

The following personnel require shots for the month of December:  
(does not include Klapp shots)

## HEADQUARTERS

Rispoli, John  
Arsenault, Arthur  
Phillips, Richard  
Lear, Robert

## SERVICE PLT (CON'T)

Penley, Thomas  
Clark, Bernard  
Skimbo, John

## SERVICE PLT

Godfrey, William  
MacKenzie, Alexander  
Hannibal, Cecil  
Ray, Henry  
Linkenback, Albert  
Nerd, Robert  
Veught, Robert  
Waltz, Fred

## SECURITY PLT

Hunter, John  
Johnson, Larry  
  
1st Flight Plt  
  
Jones, Albert  
Sevech, Thomas  
Weber, Alfred

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286TH NOTES (CONT'')

2ND FLIGHT PLATOON

Jordan, Don  
Falco, Arthur  
Bowser, Harold

JOKERS

Chan, Raymond  
Grekis, Donald  
Cotney, Julice

279TH Signal

Cambell, Sam  
Delbusso, James  
Harrison, David

390TH TRANS. DET

Bell, William  
Frantz, Don  
Kopunik, John  
Ward, Jack  
Collins, John  
Chapman, Daniel  
Gibbs, Roger  
Oshiro, Masao  
Black, David  
West, Herald  
Shirpy, Daniel  
Consani, Craig

OFFICERS

WO Miss  
WO Baum

Doc says that all his sharp needles will be used up by the 20th, so better get your shots now!

CPT Jones has just received orders to the 198th Infantry Brigade. We all hate to see the "Doc" go. Our best wishes travel to Chu Lai with him. CPT Letson, our new "Doc" has just arrived at the 48th and will take his place as proprietor of the butcher shop. Welcome to the 48th.

279TH NEWS

Congratulations to 1Lt Claypool on his recent promotion; The celebration was a mighty one.

Congratulations to SP5 Parker, upon his DEROS, for a job well done with the 279th;

390TH NEWS

Our good Maintenance people were working too hard to have time to write a sequel for this month. They should have a "winner" next month!

