



VIETNAM

1971 – 1972

HISTORY OF THE BLUE MAX

The order of the Black Max is an ancient and highly renowned one. Legend places its beginnings at the time of the Crusades. The purpose of the Black Max was to distinguish a knight who had gone astray violated one of the codes of knighthood. The Black Max possessed unusual powers in that if it were worn continuously for a period of one year, it would endow its bearer with the knowledge and strength to overcome his deficiency. Through the ages it was found, by enterprising Black Max recipients, that the Black Max had such an abundance of corrective powers that it could accomplish its purpose in one week, provided two conditions were met. The stipulations were that the Black Max must be worn each day at a prescribed time for not less than a one hour period, and that the recipient must make a concerted effort to correct his wrong doing. At the height of the Prussian Empire, an award quite the opposite of the Black Max was created. It was known as the Blue Max. It was awarded to one who had excelled from among his compatriots. Unlike the Black Max, it possessed no inherent powers. During World War I, the Blue Max was the German equivalent to our Congressional Medal of Honor. Many of the famous German heroes displayed the Blue Max suspended on their uniform.

The 2d Battalion 20th Artillery first adopted the Blue Max as their call sign and nickname in 1968. Since that time, the "Blue Max" has been known throughout Vietnam and has become a legend. The Cobra armed helicopter bearing the distinctive Blue Maltese Cross brings relief to the troubled and fear to the enemy, as the ancient Black Max did centuries ago. The 2d Battalion 20th Artillery was redesignated F Battery (AFA) 79th Artillery on 1 August 1971.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HQ. 3RD BRIGADE (SEPARATE), 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96490

AVDACG

2 October 1971

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

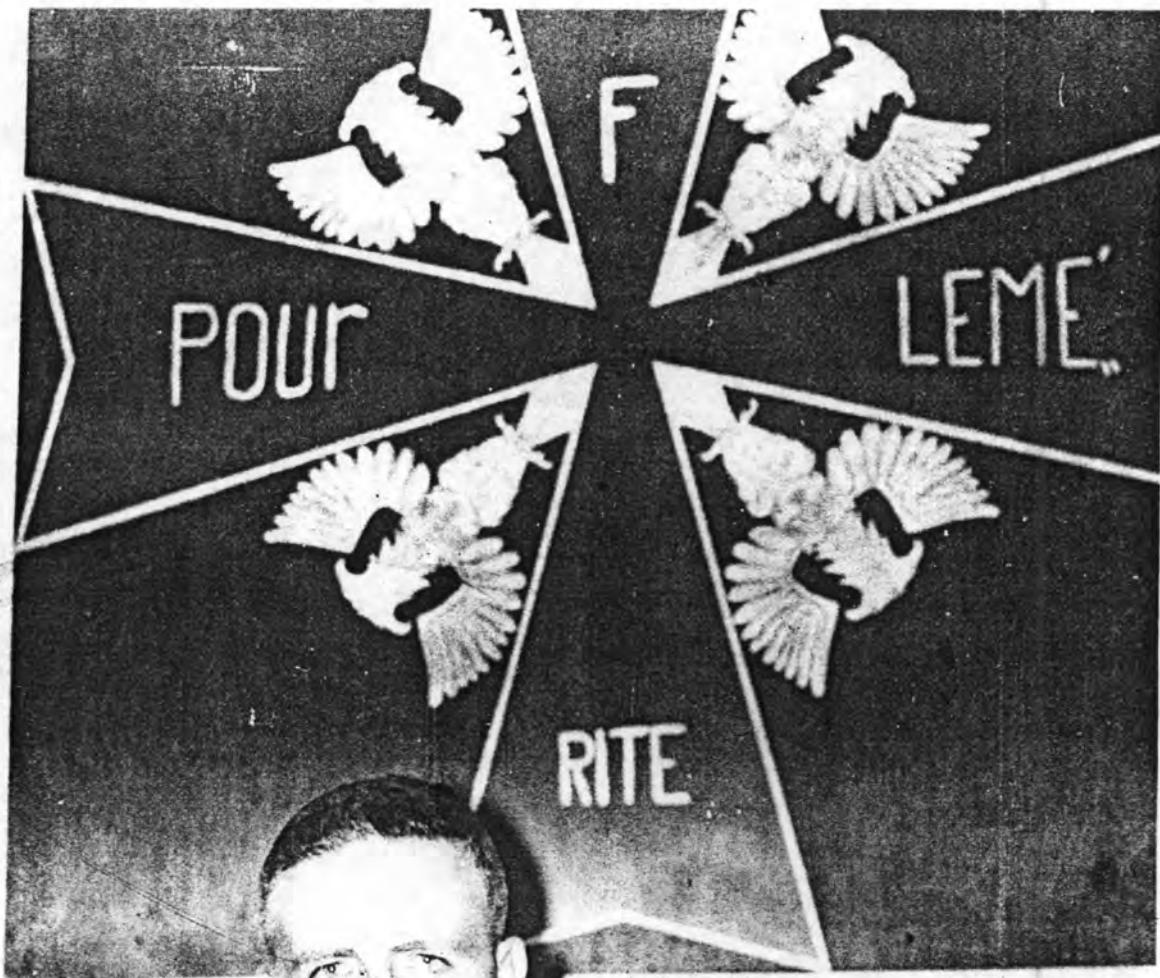
THRU: Commanding Officer
229th Assault Helicopter Battalion
3d Brigade (Separate)
1st Cavalry Division (AM)
APO 96490

TO: Commanding Officer
F Battery, 79th Artillery
3d Brigade (Separate)
1st Cavalry Division (AM)
APO 96490

1. The officers and men of F Battery, 79th Artillery (Blue Max) are commended for their superior performance of duty during the recent operation around Fire Support Bases Pace and Katum.
2. During the period 29 September to 1 October 1971, in Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam, Blue Max flew a record 153 hours in direct fire support to Task Force Garry Owen. The success of the mission is attributable not only to your excellent aircraft maintenance posture, but also to the leadership and professionalism of your flight and ground crews.
3. During the operation Blue Max was tasked with many day and night missions. Task Force Garry Owen road march, medevac, troop air lift, flare, and critical resupply missions were performed in an exemplary manner by the five sections of your command. You accomplished the feat of being 100% mission ready at all times during a high intensity operational environment.
4. A special commendation is made to the aircraft crew which destroyed an enemy indirect fire position near FSB Pace on 30 September 1971, despite the fact that their aircraft was subjected to intense ground to air fire during the mission.
5. The Task Force commander joins me in congratulating the men of BLUE MAX for a job well done. Your actions have been in keeping with the finest traditions of the First Team.

Garry Owen,

Jonathan R. Burton
JONATHAN R. BURTON
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding



Commanding Officer

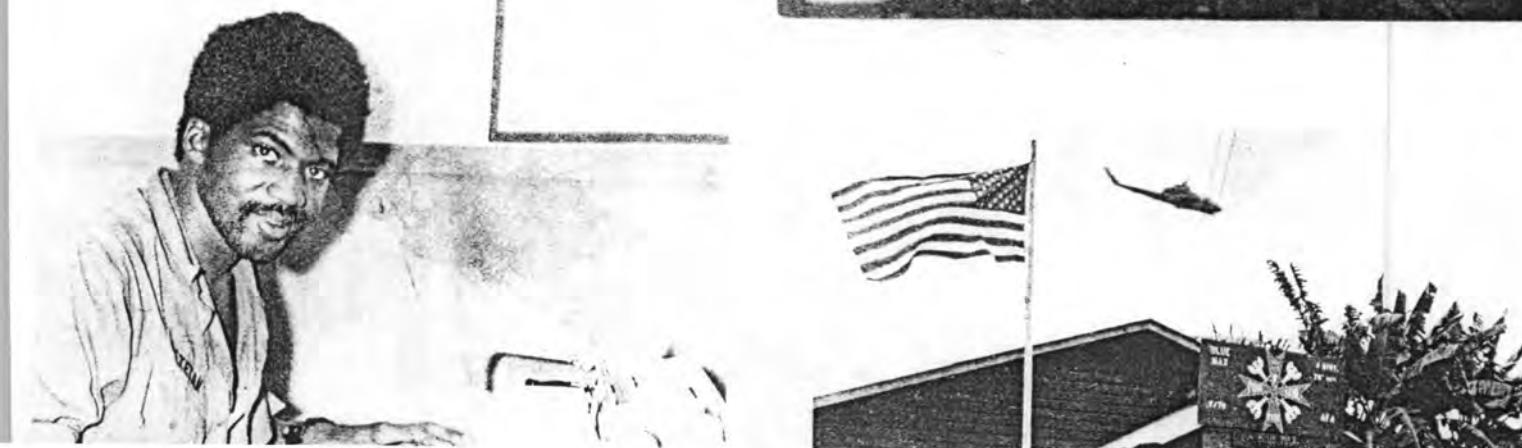


ORDERTY

ROOM



1st Sargeant





Executive Officer



1st Sergeant



About that slick.....



Front seat again?!!



The Tay Ninh for lunch bunch



About that slick.....



Front seat again??!



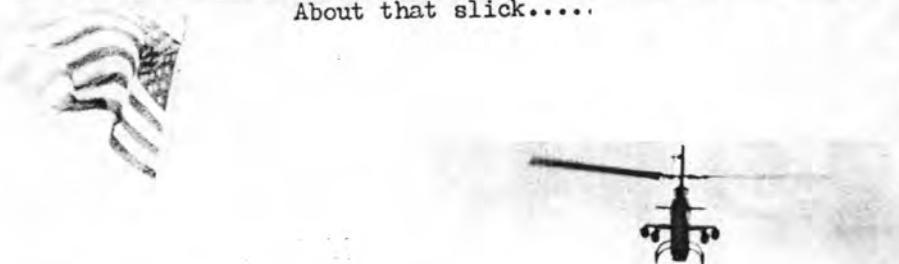
The Tay Ninh for lunch bunch



About that slick.....



Front seat again?!!



The Tay Ninh for lunch bunch

AWARD CEREMONY





If you think today's schedule was bad...



Who totaled these flight hours?



Plantation? Give me Saigon! Saigon?
Give me Guam! Guam? Give me San Diego.



Please unlock my chain so I can go eat.





Gee, another crash!

I just sit here in my spare time.



Yes, we've got it pinpointed.



RTD's retreat



SUPPLY



What am I doing here?



Don't have any!



Short!



I wanna be a crew chief!



FLIGHT PLATOON



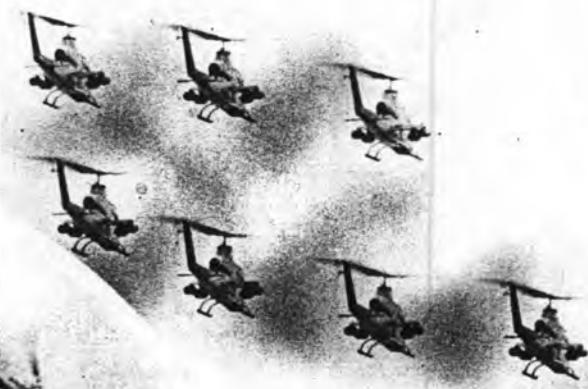
I think I'm sitting on the collective.



Get me a clerk!



Up front new guy



This 1:1 is getting out of ha



East side gang



Destiny



What do you mean I can't take fire in
the burn?



Put out that cigarette!



I can't move the controls.



Get in Monk!





I want a bar maid.



Buffalo what?



There I was.



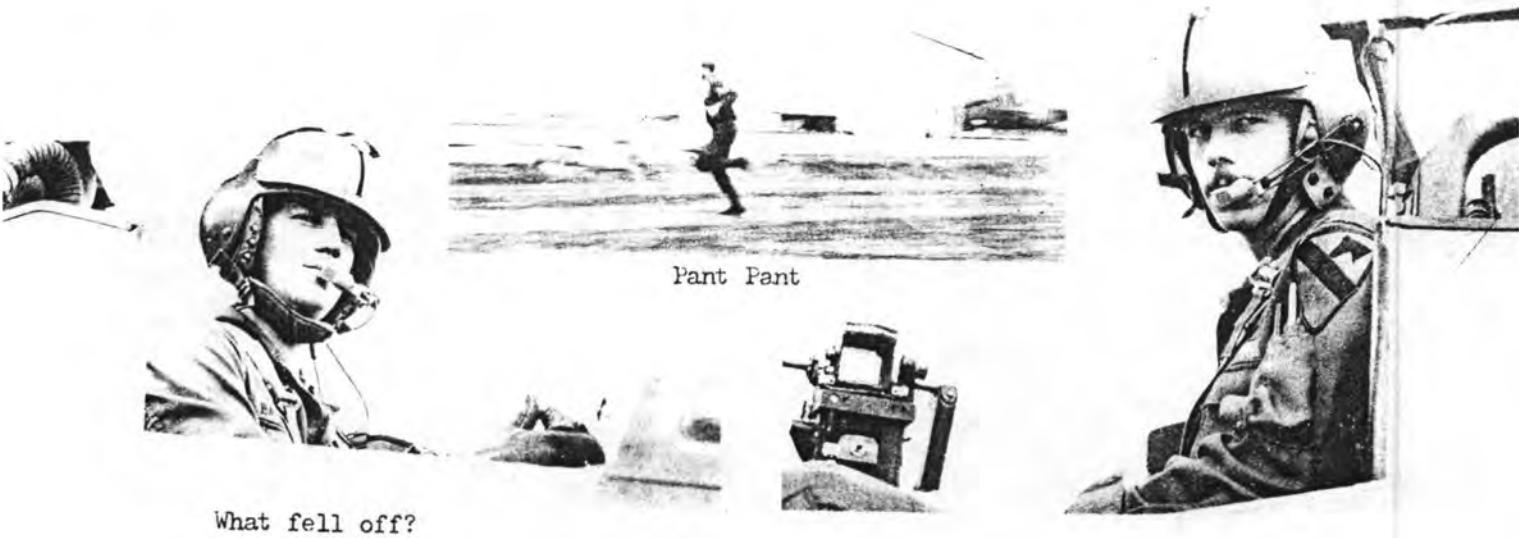
Got any geritol



Muff and Jeff



Mom would like this.



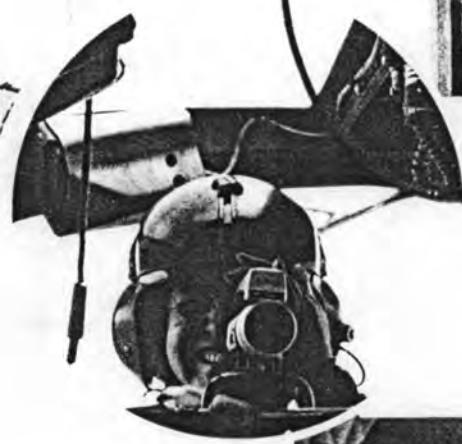
What fell off?





Which pedal is the clutch?

What's this about a final insertion?



Vung Tau again!





Our father...



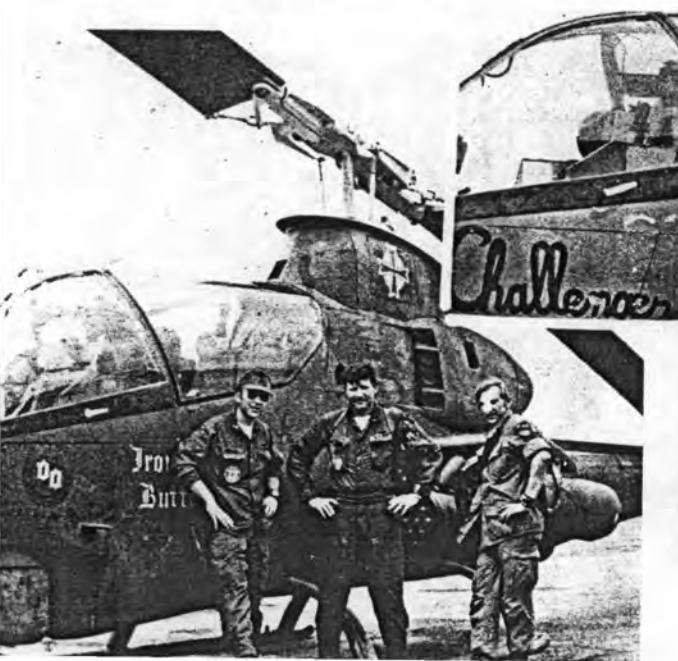
What did I step on this time?



Who is that masked man?



Shut up, I was your I.P.



Dirty
old
man





It was dark and I got in the wrong seat.



Say Bear Cat took incoming while we were gone



The good



The bad



The ugly



Squeaky new



MAINT. PLATOON



NOBODY's authorized to break my Birds.



What do you mean, you'r quitting? It's only 2 AM!



No, I'm not mad at you. I caught my mustach in my bike this morning.



Wanna fight?



Why, sure, General, I can show you around.



I am happy in my work.









How do you start this darn thing?



Checked and found OK!



Hey Prince, I found your wrench!



Now, can you guess what's missing?



I think it's on upside down.



I'm pushin', I'm pushin'!



Go tell Sgt. Mac, we're on strike.



This is super fine, Tiger!



Welcome & Farewell



Where can I spit this out at?

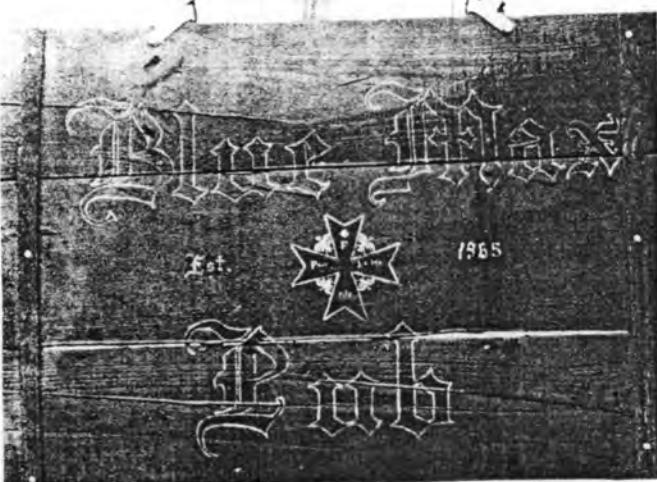


This stuff is A/FULL!



And I'll take this, and this, and....

AFTER HOURS



I can't cut it, either



You've got quite a Grip, for a General.



How much does one cost?



Allright, so I stole a napkin.



Feeling no pain



Are we playing for keepsies?



Look busy, the generals watching.



Button those pockets!!!



The raw ones are ready.



Damn, it did move!



All the truck drivers eat here.



Knock off the bull art.

