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HISTORY OF F BATTERY
79TH ARTILLERY

1 February 1972-31 Jul 1972

(SUPPLEMENT)

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F Battery, 79th Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division (AM)

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(AIRMOBILE)

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this supplement is to provide a recorded and factual history of F Battery, 79th Aerial Rocket Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) during the period 1 February 1972 through 31 July 1972.

FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A History of E Battery, 79th (ARA), 1st Cavalry Division would be incomplete without mention of units from which it evolved.

The U.S. Army's first Aerial Rocket Artillery unit was C Battery, 2nd Battalion (Composite), 42nd Artillery. It was activated on 13 Feb 1963, at Fort Benning, GA. On that date, the unit was re-designated 377th Artillery. The mission of the 377th Artillery was to develop tactics and techniques which would provide effective aerial artillery fire support for an airmobile division.

Upon completion of the initial development and testing phase, the aerial rocket artillery battery was expanded to a battalion on 30 April 1964. The period from June 1964 to June 1965 was one of intensive training. During this period the battalion developed individual skills, coordinated unit operations, and combined arms operation in preparation for exercise Air Assault II, the final test of the "Airmobile Concept". After successfully completing that test, the battalion set upon perfecting what they had developed and demonstrated to be an invaluable asset. By the end of June, the first aerial rocket artillery battalion was ready for use as an integral element of the world's first Airmobile Division.

On 1 July 1965, the 377th Artillery was re-designated, 2nd Battalion, 220th Artillery to form an element of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). The battalion consisted of three firing batteries and one headquarters battery. During the first weeks of July 1965, the battalion reorganized, effected necessary personnel changes, and was refitted with equipment in conformity with a newly promulgated TOE. Emphasis was placed on training assigned personnel in the intricacies of aerial rocket

artillery operations. On the 28th of that month, the President issued the order dispatching the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) to the Republic of Vietnam.

In 1968, C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery adopted their "Blue Max" callsign. Since that time, the "Blue Max" has become known throughout Vietnam. AH-1G Attack Helicopters bearing the distinctive blue maltese cross has provided invaluable support for U.S. and allied forces. On 1 August 1971 C G Battery, 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery was re-designated F Battery, 79th Aerial Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade (Sep), 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

As Vietnamization proved successful, and U.S. Troops were withdrawn, the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division "stood down". Remaining units were placed under the operational control of "Task Force Gary Owen" which was formed on 18 June 1972. After 7 years of distinguished service F Battery, 79th Aerial Field Artillery was inactivated.

HISTORY OF THE "BLUE MAX"

The "Blue Max" was derived from the ancient order of the "Black Max". Legend places its beginning at the time of the Crusades. The purpose of the Black Max was to identify a knight who had gone astray and had violated the code of knighthood. The Black Max was believed to possess unusual powers. If it were worn continuously for a period of one year, it would endow its bearer with the strength to overcome his deficiency. In time it was "found" that the Black Max had the power to accomplish its purpose in less than one year. In fact it could accomplish its purpose in one week, provided two conditions were met. (1) the Black Max must be worn each day at a prescribed time for not less than a one hour period, and (2) the recipient must make a concerted effort to correct his wrong doing. At the height of the Prussian Empire, an award to honor their "Knights" in battle was presented. It was known as the "Blue Max". During World War I, the "Blue Max" was the German equivalent of our Congressional Medal of Honor.

HONOR ROLE

"LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL
 THAT THESE MEN GAVE THEIR "MAX" IN
 DEFENSE OF A NOBLE CAUSE"

KILLED IN ACTION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>BRANCH</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>CALLSIGN</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
CHARLES S. WINDLER	CW2	AVN	Aircraft Commander	34	5 Apr 72	Loc Ninh	1030 Hours
HENRY M. SPENGLER	CPT	INF	Pilot	34X	5 Apr 72	Loc Ninh	1030 Hours
ROBERT F. WILLIAMS	CPT	AR	Aircraft Commander	10	11 May 72	An Loc	1233 Hours
RODNEY L. STROBRIDGE	CPT	FA	Pilot	10X	11 May 72	An Loc	1233 Hours
JOHN R. HENN JR.	CW2	AVN	Aircraft Commander	33	24 May 72	An Loc	1425 Hours
ISAAC Y. HOSAKA	CW2	AVN	Pilot	33X	24 May 72	An Loc	1425 Hours
STEPHEN E. SHIELDS	1/LT	INF	Aircraft Commander	22	20 Jun 72	Tan Khai	0955 Hours
EDWIN G. NORTHUP	CPT	FA	Pilot	22X	20 Jun 72	Tan Khai	0955 Hours
JOHN L. DILALLO	CW2	AVN	Test Pilot	21	24 Jun 72	Long Thanh	2340 Hours

WOUNDED IN ACTION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>BRANCH</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
ROGER L. CAUBLE	CW2	AVN	Aircraft Commander	11 Apr 72	Loc Ninh	0930 hours
MARCO A. GORDON	CPT	INF	Pilot	21 Jun 72	Tan Khai	1430 Hours

IN MEMORY

They reached the area that Charlie was in
not to far from the border-line.

The leadship rolled in and started to expend
followed by 739.

Down, down the wingship came
spitting out rockets and lead.

Down, and down dived 739
not a word over the radio was said.

Straight and true the brave men flew
until the clock ran out of time____

And pieces were left as evidence
T'was the death of 739.

Ask any pilot that flies at nite
the strange things he must see,
The shadow forms that don't seem right
and the things that just can't be.

Ask him about the phantom Cobra
that seems to follow behind.

I'm sure he'll tell about the Lord's own wingship
The ghost of 739.

IN MEMORY

Many odd things seem to happen in
the chaos of passing time.
And there is a story I have to tell
about the ghost of 739.

In the "T.O.C" came a distant voice
as it broke the still nite air.
"It's Blue Max we need!" "It's Blue Max you'll get
hold tight and we'll be there."

In the quiet of an Asian morn
out of bed two men did climb.
A Combat mission they were to fly
in the wingship 739.

Four brave men in the early hours
dashed out to the chilly line.
Only fate knew what she had in store
for the two in 739.

They started their engines and off they flew
like thunder in a cloudless sky.
Four bold men in death-dealing aircraft
perchance to live, perchance to die.

"Blue Max 68P"

CITATIONS FOR VALOR

Period 1 Feb 1972 thru 1 Aug 1972

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>	<u>PENDING</u>
BASKETT, William F.	CW2	AM"V"	
BROWN, Michael J.	CPT	DFC-VNGC with SS	SS
CAMPBELL, William H	CPT		DFC
CORDON, Michael A.	CPT	PH	SS
CAUBLE, Roger L.	CW2	PH	DFC
CAUSEY, Billy H.	CPT	SS-SS-DFC	SS-DFC-VNGC with SS
CHUNN, Warren A.	CPT	DFC	VNGC with SS
CLAPPER, John W.	CPT	DFC-DFC	ACM"V"-VNGC with SS
DAVIS, Harry L.	CPT		DFC-BS"V"-VNGC with SS
*DILALLO, John A.	CW2	PH	
DOBESH, Robert E.	WO1	DFC	VNGC with SS
FUNK, David L.	MAJ		SS-DFC-VNGC with GS
GALLOWAY, Michael J.	CW2	DFC	VNGC with SS
GANAS, Johnny F.	1/LT		DFC-VNGC with SS
GARRETT, Thomas W.	CPT	VNGC with BS	DFC-VNGC with SS
GOWER, James M.	1/LT	DFC	VNGC with SS
*HENN, John R.	CW2	DFC-AM"V"-PH	SS-DFC-VNGC with SS
*HOSAKA, Isaac Y.	CW2	PH	SS-DFC-VNGC with SS
HOULT, Robert G.	CW2	AM"V"	
JACKSON, James T.	WO1	AM"V"	DFC-VNGC with SS
KNIGHT, Robert W.	CW2	AM"V"	DFC
LAGUENS, Delwin P.	CPT		DFC-VNGC with SS
LEACH, William P.	CPT	DFC	SS-VNGC with SS
LYONS, William L.	CPT	DFC	VNGC with SS
MC COY, Donald R.	CW2	AM"V"	
MC CULLOUGH, Ronald C.	WO1	AM"V"	VNGC with SS
Mc Intyre, Barry F.	CW2	SS-DFC	VNGC with SS
MC KAY, Lawrence E. Jr.	MAJ	SS	VNGC with SS
*NORTHUP, Edwin G.	CPT	PH	SS-DFC-VNGC with SS
PARKER, John R. III	CPT		DFC-DFC-VNGC with SS
PHILLIPS, Jackie L.	CW2		DFC-VNGC with SS
PRESLEY, William R.	CW2	DFC-AM"V"	
ROBISON, Cecil M.	CPT	DFC-AM"V"-JM"V"	SS-DFC-VNGC with SS
RUSSO, Alan M.	CPT	VNGC with GS	SS-DFC-VNGC with SS
SCRIVENER, Thomas S.	CPT	AM"V"	
*SHIELDS, Stephen E.	1/LT	SS-PH-	SS-VNGC with SS
SMITH, Clarence A.	CPT	"AM"V"	
SMITH, Stephen E.	WO1	DFC	VNGC with SS
SNOW, William B.	1/LT	AM"V"	
*SPENGLER, Henry M.	CPT	SS-PH	
*STROERIDGE, Rodney L.	CPT	SS-PH	DFC-VNGC with SS

*Killed in action

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>AWARDED</u>	<u>PENDING</u>
TOMS, Russell D.	CW2	DFC-	DFC-VNGC with SS
TUSI, Ronald L.	CW2	DSC-AM"V"	SS-BS"V" VNGC with SS
WHITE, John A.	CW2	DFC-VNGC with BS	DFC-AM"V"-VNGC with SS
*WILLIAMS, Robert F.	CPT	SS-PH	DFC
*WINDLER, Charles C.	CW2	SS-PH	DFC-VNGC with SS

UNIT CITATIONS

Presidential Unit Citation	1 Apr 72-25 Jun 72 pending
Valorous Unit Citation	1 Oct 67 thru 31 Oct 67 Awarded 15 Jan 70
Vietnames Gallantry Cross with Palm	5 Apr 72 thru 27 Jun 72 pending

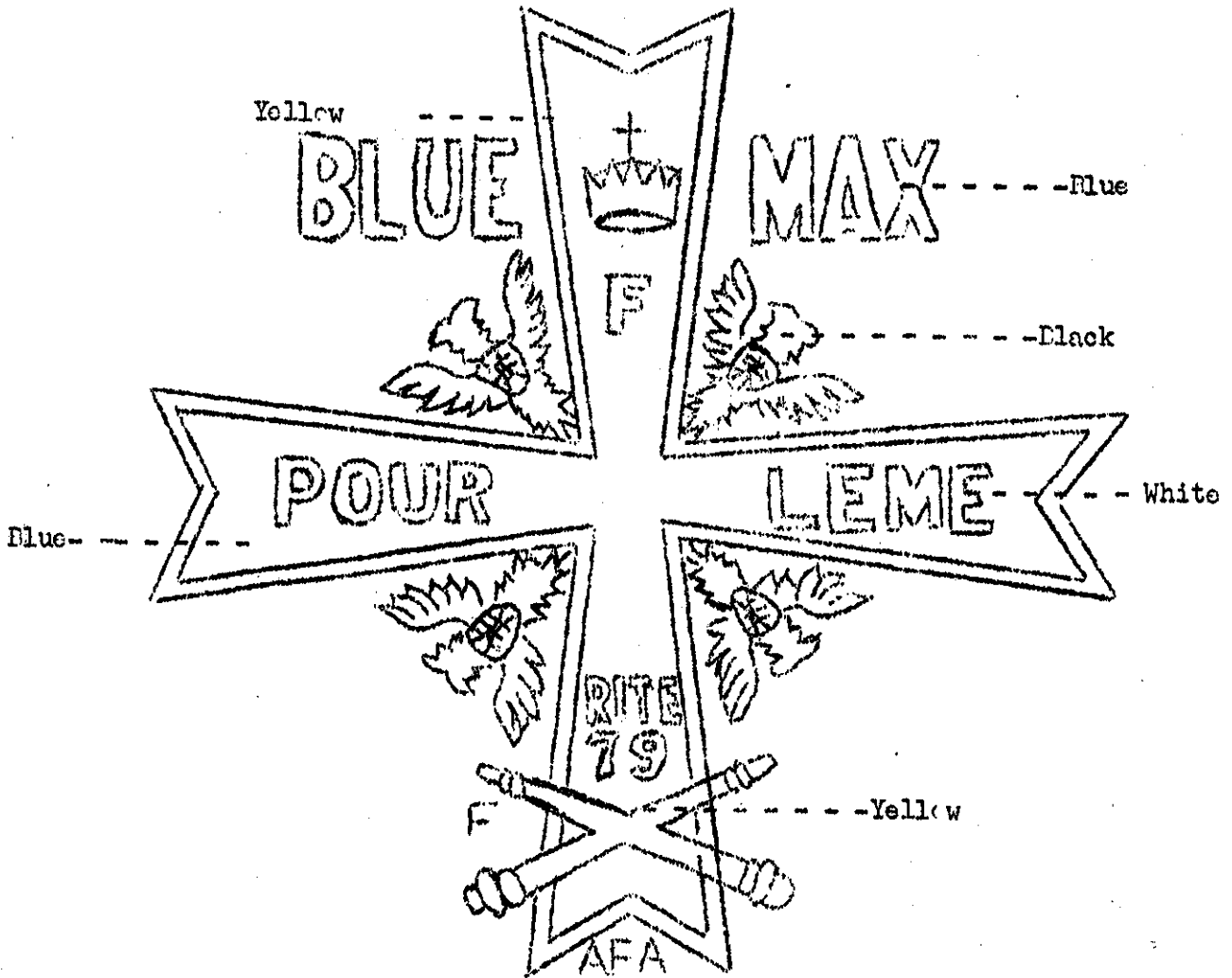
<u>NAME</u>		<u>NICKNAME</u>	<u>CALLSIGN</u>
DAVID L. FUNK	MAJ AR		
ALAN M. RUSSO	CPT IN	"GODFATHER"	5
HARRY L. DAVIS	CPT FA	"NURDINE"	REMF 6
MICHAEL J. BROWN	CIT INF	"FUCK"	36
JOHN W. CLAPPER	CPT FA		30
WILLIAM H. CAMPBELL	CPT FA	"PONES"	15
THOMAS W. GARRETT	CPT AR	"CHICKENMAN"	10
CHARLES S. HURT	CPT FA	"SPOON"	17
DELWIN P. LAGUENS	CPT AR	"DIRTY SHEETS"	35
WILLIAM P. LEACH	CPT FA	"LURCH"	36
JOHN R. PARKER III	CPT FA	"BIG JOHN"	38
CECIL M. ROBISON	CPT FA	"MOOSE"	20
ARLIE E. MOORE	LSG	"TOP"	
BILLY H. CAUSEY	CPT AR	"ROLL EM"	25
HENRY J. HARMELING	CPT IN	"MOPSIE"	
PAUL J. KEDROW	CPT FA	"POFSIE"	
WILLIAM G. MITCHELL	CPT IN	"CHICKENPLATE"	
JOHNNY F. GANAS	1/LT	"LITTLE NURDINE"	21
JAMES M. GOWER	1/LT	"MIKE"	11
JAMES V. SUDDUTH	CW3 AVN	"OLD MAN"	34
HARRY F. MC INTYRE	CW2 AVN	"MAGILLA"	24
RUSSELL D. TOMS JR.	CW2 AVN	"BIRDMAN"	37
RONALD L. TUSI	CW2 AVN	"KING COERA"	12
JOHN A. WHITE	CW2 AVN	"DUFORD"	11
RONALD C. MC CULLOUGH	WOL AVN	"ERUCIE"	

JAMES T. JACKSON	W01	AVN	"JET JACKSON"	24
STEPHEN S. SMITH	W01	AVN	"GOMEZ"	14
ROBERT S. CLAESON	CPT	TC	"SKIPPY"	
NICHOLAS MOLEA	CW2	AVN	"NICK THE GREEK"	
JACKIE L. PHILLIPS	CW2	AVN	"BABYBOY"	
ROBERT E. DOBESH	W01	AVN	"DULIOUS"	
LAWRENCE E. MC KAY JR.	MAJ	FA	"SUPER TIGER"	
JUDSON E. PERRY	CPT	ADA	"JAY"	
FREDRICK A. BENNETT	CPT	FA	"STICK"	
MICHAEL E. BERNATH	CPT	FA	"UNCLE BERNIE"	
WARREN A. CHUNN	CPT	FA	"K" "C"	
MARCO A. CORDON	CPT	AR	"MARC"	
ROBERT O. EHLERS	CPT	FA	"BUFFALO CHIPS"	
WILLIAM L. LYONS	CPT	AR	"DIRTY OLD MAN"	
THOMAS S. SCRIVENER	CPT	FA	"UNCLE EERNIE JR"	
CLARENCE A. SMITH III	CPT	AR	"SMITTY"	
THOMAS W. GENTRY	1/LT	FA	"L" "T"	
JOHN E. RIEDER	1/LT	TC	"SLEAZY"	
WILLIAM B. SNOW	1/LT	INF	"SHEP"	
WILLIAM F. BASKETT	CW2	AVN	"FESTUS"	
ROGER L. CAUBLE	CW2	AVN	"S/FETY SEX"	
DANIEL H. DOANNE	W01	AVN		
MICHAEL J. GALLOWAY	CW2	AVN	"IRON MIKE"	
ROBERT C. HOULT	CW2	AVN	"POP"	
RALPH E. JOHNSTON	CW2	AVN	"LITTLE BIT"	
ROBERT W. KNIGHT	CW2	AVN	"KN NIGHT"	
ROBERT P. LYNN	CW2	AVN	"FRITO"	
CHARLES F. MARISCHEN	CW2	AVN	"SILENCER"	
DONALD R. MC COY	CW2	AVN	"MONK"	
WILLIAM R. PRESLEY	CW2	AVN	"TAKIN FIRE" "ELVIS"	
ERNEST W. RICKENBACKER	CW2	AVN	"FAST EDDIE"	

KILLED IN ACTION

<u>NAME</u>				<u>NICKNAME</u>
JOHN L. DILALLO	CW2	AVN		"JACK"
JOHN R. HENN JR.	CW2	AVN		"CHICKENMAN"
ISAAC Y. HOSAKA	CW2	AVN		"IKE"
EDWIN G. NORTHUP	CPT	FA		"SILENT ED"
STEPHEN E. SHIELDS	1/LT	INF		"JOE SHIT THE RAG MAN"
RODNEY L. STROERIDGE	CPT	FA		"ROD"
HENRY M. SPENGLER	CPT	INF		"HANK"
ROBERT F. WILLIAMS	CPT	INF		
CHARLES S. WINDLER	CW2	AVN		"WINDY"

THE BLUE MALTESE CROSS

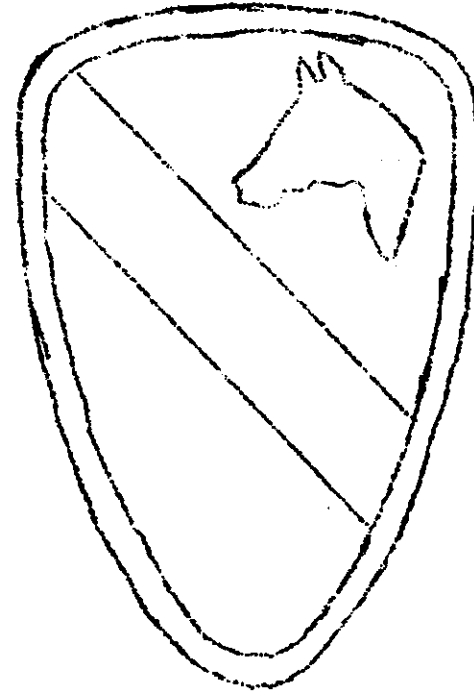


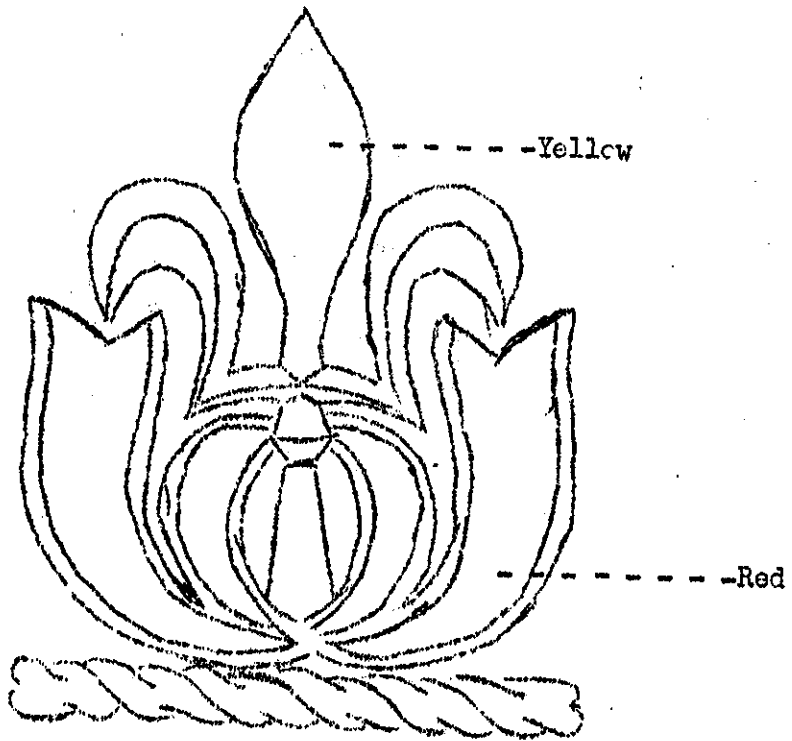
Call sign

"BLUE MAX"

- CROWN: White
- Small lettering: White
- Eagles: White with Black Trim
- Border on Cross: Yellow
- Background: Blue

THE 1st AIR CAVALRY DIVISION



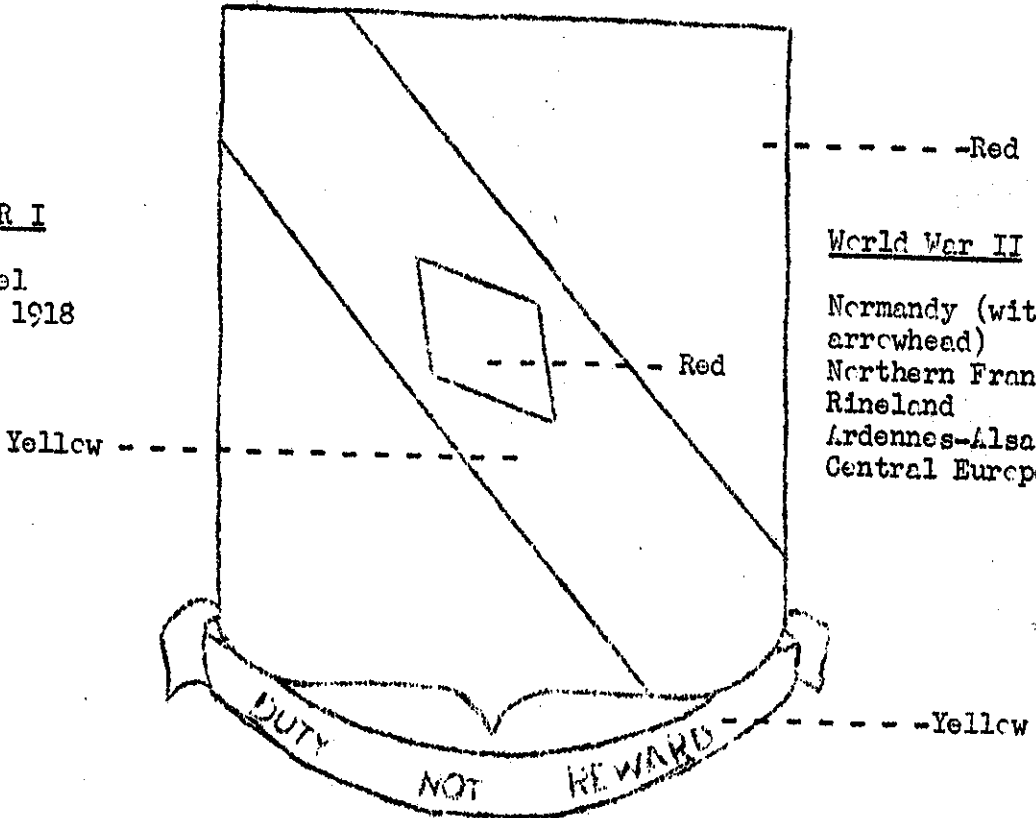


WORLD WAR I

St. Mihiel
Lorraine 1918

World War II

Normandy (with
arrowhead)
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe



COAT OF ARMS, SEVENTY-NINTH AERIAL FIELD ARTILLERY

Belgian Fourragere 1940

Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action in Belgium.

Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action in the Ardennes.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE COAT OF
ARMS

TWENTIETH FIELD ARTILLERY

BLAZON

SHIELD: Gules, on a bend or a fusil of the field.

CREST: On a wreath or and gules issuant from base a demi-trident with prongs in the form of a fleur-de-lis of the first, looped about its shaft with ends upturned and forked a ribbon of the second edged vert.

SCROLL: Enscribed with regimental motto: "Duty, not reward".

SYMBOLISM

SHIELD: The field of red represents the artillery. For its part in breaching the Hindenburg Line in 1918, the 20th Artillery Regiment won the right to include the golden bar on the shield. The red diamond represents the 5th Division, the regiment's parent organization during World War I, and is the same design as that division's shoulder patch.

CREST: The golden trident, simulating a fleur-de-lis refers to the organization's participation in the D-Day landing in Normandy during World War II. The invasion was known as Operation Trident. The ribbon is in the colors (red and green) of the Belgian Fourragere for which the 20th Artillery Battalion was twice cited (for action in Belgium and the Ardennes) during World War II.

A LETTER OF COMMENDATION

13 May 1972

The purpose of this memorandum is to report on the superb performance of your unit:

"F" Battery-79th Aerial Field Artillery

1. During this period, I was on the ground in An Loc with the Division Commander of the 5th ARVN Division. The perimeter was the sum total of 1-grid square. Elements of the 5th, 7th, and 9th NVA Division supported by modern tanks converged on this little perimeter. There was no artillery covering An Loc and after one week no artillery was able to fire out from within. Additionally, there were no friendly forces outside to provide security or any form of early warning. The area was attacked day and night. Anti-aircraft fire from 23MM, 37MM, .51 caliber, and other assortment of weapons rendered an extreme hazard to aircraft.
2. To come to the essence of this commendation, let me state in Dough-boy-foxhole language what your unit did to save me and a small handful of Americans, plus an ARVN Division. The aforementioned unit went far beyond expectation of normal support-of all the massive support that was provided me at An Loc to coordinate, the Cobra emerged as supreme. Every radio screamed when they heard Cobras were on the way, mainly because of their cheerful and willing pilots, the extreme accuracy of the weapons, its built-in own FAC, own gunner-pilot, and no time was wasted in engaging the targets. Noteworthy was the ability to strike from high or low level and its short turn-around time for re-fuel, re-arm. The importance of this support is beyond my faculty to report. This unit was the mainstay in brunting the big tank attack, 12-15 April 1972. The exact number of tanks destroyed I am not sure, but whatever the number, it was great. Additionally, the Cobras at countless times supported ARVN Infantry trying to re-gain lost ground. The accuracy and closeness is no doubt unparalleled. An Loc is still in friendly hands.
3. In my opinion, I truly believe that this type support can only be labeled as unprecedented. Aside from the support, can-do attitude, and the feeling of warmth for the man on the ground were of the highest order. The everlasting statement by the individual pilots which stated "I'll be back as soon as I can re-arm," is best described as "nothing more could have been asked."
4. I highly recommend the Presidential Unit Citation and any other valor awards that can be bestowed upon this fine unit.

WILLIAM H. MILLER
Colonel, Infantry
Senior Advisor, 5th ARVN Division

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

DURING THE PERIOD 1 FEB 1972 THRU 31 JULY 1972, F BATTERY, 79TH AERIAL FIELD ARTILLERY, 3RD BRIGADE (SEPERATE), 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMObILE), CONTINUED TO PERFORM ITS MYRIAD ASSORTMENT OF MISSIONS. IN A GENERAL AND DIRECT SUPPORT ROLE, THE UNIT SUPPORTED MEDICAL EVACUATIONS, TROOP INSERTIONS AND EXTRACTIONS, VISUAL AND ELECTRONIC DAY/NIGHT SURVEILLANCES, AND CLOSE AIR SUPPORT FOR FRIENDLY TROOPS IN CONTACT. AS U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL CONTINUED, AND THE ROLE OF U.S. FORCES WAS DOWNGRADED, "BLUE MAX" FOUND THEMSELVES IN AN EVEN GREATER DEMAND. MISSIONS THAT HAD BEEN PERFORMED BY AVIATION UNITS WHICH HAD SINCE "STOOD DOWN", BECAME A PART OF THE BATTERY'S RESPONSIBILITY. FLIGHT HOURS INCREASED EACH MONTH, UNTIL THEY PEAKED DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL WHEN THE ENEMY LAUNCHED THEIR SPRING/SUMMER OFFENSIVE AGAINST LOC NINH-AN LOC. IN THAT MONTH ALONE 1623 COMBAT HOURS WERE FLOWN. THIS WAS BY FAR THE GREATEST NUMBER OF COMBAT FLIGHT HOURS EVER LOGGED BY ANY U.S. ARMY AVIATION UNIT OF COMPARABLE SIZE IN THE 10 YEAR VIETNAM CONFLICT. THIS SIX MONTH PERIOD, HIGHLIGHTED BY THE OFFENSIVE WAS TO SEE ARVN AND US. AIRMEN ENGAGING ENEMY FORCES EQUIPPED WITH THE MOST SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS THEY HAD THUS FAR EMPLOYED IN THE WAR. DURING THE OFFENSIVE WHICH BEGAN ON 5 APRIL 1972, "BLUE MAX" PROVIDED CONTINUOUS DAY AND NIGHT AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY SUPPORT AGAINST NUMERICALLY SUPERIOR ENEMY FORCES WHICH HAD SURROUNDED THE CITY OF AN LOC. THE ENEMY'S GOAL, AND ONE THAT WAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED TO THE WORLD WAS TO CAPTURE AN LOC AND ESTABLISH A "PEOPLES COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT" THEREBY PROVING THAT U.S. VIETNAMIZATION EFFORTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM HAD FAILED. IN THEIR GALLANT SUPPORT, "BLUE MAX" AVIATORS ENCOUNTERED THE MOST INTENSE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE EVER EXPERIENCED BY U.S. ARMY AVIATION AT ANY TIME OR PLACE IN ITS HISTORY. DAILY MISSIONS BECAME DARING ENCOUNTERS

IN WHICH THE COBRA GUNSHIP WAS FITTED AGAINST ENEMY TANKS, MISSILES, AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS OF VIRTUALLY EVERY CALIBER IN THE ENEMY ARSENAL. WITH ARTILLERY SUPPORT NON EXISTENT, FRIENDLY FORCES WERE ON THE BRINK OF DEFEAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. IN EACH INSTANCE "BLUE MAX" WAS DECISIVE IN DENYING ENEMY FORCES AN ASSURED VICTORY. WHEN INCLEMENT WEATHER, AND THE PROXIMITY OF FRIENDLY FORCES TO THE ENEMY PRECLUDED THE USE OF HEAVY TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT, "BLUE MAX" WAS THE ONLY AIR SUPPORT WHICH COULD BE EMPLOYED. AFTER TWO AND ONE-HALF MONTHS OF SAVAGE FIGHTING, 3 BADLY BATTERED ENEMY DIVISIONS (5TH-7TH AND 9TH NVA) ABANDONED THEIR OFFENSIVE WITH VIRTUALLY NO GAINS IN MR III. THIS BATTLE HAS SINCE PROVEN TO BE THE IMPETUS FOR THE ARVN AND THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO DEFEAT AND DRIVE THE COMMUNIST AGGRESSORS FROM THEIR COUNTRY. DURING THIS PERIOD ALONE, (5 APRIL THRU 25 JUNE 1972), "BLUE MAX" WAS CREDITED WITH 1039 ENEMY KILLS, AND AN IMPRESSIVE NUMBER OF ENEMY WEAPONS AND SUPPLIES; TO INCLUDE 12 TANKS DESTROYED AND 4 DAMAGED BEYOND USE. ALTHOUGH THIS IN ITSELF WAS A MONUMENTAL EFFORT, THE UNIT'S GREATEST ACCLAIM LIES IN THE COUNTLESS U.S. AND ARVN SOLDIERS IT HAD SAVED BY ITS COURAGEOUS AND RESPONSIVE SUPPORT. FOR ITS ACTIONS, FATHER, 79TH AERIAL FIELD ARTILLERY WAS RECOMMENDED FOR THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL AND VALOROUS UNIT CITATIONS, THE VIETNAMESE GALLANTRY CROSS WITH PALM, AND THE U.S. ARMY AVIATION UNIT OF THE YEAR. ALTHOUGH ITS SUCCESSES WERE MANY, THEY WERE NOT ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT LOSSES. THIRTY-THREE PERCENT OF THE UNIT'S AVIATOR PERSONNEL WERE KILLED IN ACTION, AND OTHERS HAD BEEN WOUNDED. OF THE ORIGINAL 12 COBRA GUNSHIPS IN THE BATTERY INVENTORY, 75% HAD BEEN LOST TO BATTLE DAMAGE. OF THE 21 GUNSHIPS WHICH WERE FLOWN AGAINST THE ENEMY, ONLY TWO ESCAPED WITHOUT BATTLE DAMAGE. THE GALLANTRY OF THE AVIATORS OF "BLUE MAX" HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE RECOMMENDATION OF ONE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS, 17 SILVER STARS AND 33 DISTINGUISHED

FLYING CROSSES. AFTER THE ENEMY HAD BEEN DEFEATED AT AN LOC, "BLUE MAX" WAS DEPLOYED TO MILITARY REGION I TO PARTICIPATE IN THE QUANG TRI OFFENSIVE. THE UNIT DEPARTED LONG THANH ON 25 JUNE 1972 AND WAS OPERATIONALLY READY FOR ITS 1ST COMBAT MISSION ON 27 JUNE 1972. DURING THE MONTH PERIOD WHICH WOULD BE THE LAST THE UNIT WOULD SERVE IN VIETNAM, "BLUE MAX" PROVIDED AERIAL FIELD ARTILLERY SUPPORT FOR FOUR MAJOR INSERTIONS OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE MARINES INTO AND AROUND THE CITY OF QUANG TRI. AFTER 7 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE, "BLUE MAX" RECEIVED ORDERS TO "STAND DOWN". THE LAST COMBAT MISSION WAS FLOWN ON 31 JULY BY CAPTAINS BILLY H. CAUSEY-PAUL J. KEDROW-THOMAS W. GARRET AND 1/LT JOHNNY F. GANAS.

BATTLE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

(ENEMY LOSSES)

LCC NINH/AN LOC OFFENSIVES

<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
TANKS SOVIET T-54	8	6
TANKS SOVIET PT-76	4	0
TRUCKS	25	Scorcs
75MM Recoiless Rifle	1	0
57MM AA Weapon	1	0
37MM AA Weapons	1	0
23MM AA Weapons	2	1
12.7MM AA Weapon	11	4
14.5MM AA Weapon	2	1
30 Cal AA Weapon	2	0
RPM machinegun	5	0
AK-47	112	
AK-50	15	
81MM Mortars	7	2
E 40 Rocket Launcher	16	9
*ENEMY PERSONNEL	1039	Wounded unknown
BUILDINGS 20 x 40 & larger	245	
BUNKERS	25	
CACHES	8 Fuel	30 Ordnance 9 Weapon
SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS	31	300-1500 Ft

ENEMY LOSSES

All other actions during reporting period:

<u>WEAPONS</u>	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>	
12.7 MM	1	1	
TRUCKS	2	1	
AK-47	11	2	
81MM Mortar	1	0	
60MM Mortars	2	2	
E-40 Grenade Launcher	6	1	
Personnel	137	14	
Buildings	12	8	
Caches	1 Fuel	3 ordnance	0 Weapons
Secondary Explosions 300 Ft and Greater		4	

MISSIONS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>
FIRE MISSION	90	65	133	93	64	66
MEDI-VAC	10	9	22	20	3	1
GAPS	108	59	70	89	48	0
VISUAL RECONS	41	35	42	15	27	0
ESCORTS	62	67	49	37	13	32
MAINTENANCE	100	166	180	160	80	62
ADMINISTRATION	67	79	101	90	81	62
TRAINING	12	8	6	14	14	6
TOTALS	<u>490</u>	<u>488</u>	<u>603</u>	<u>518</u>	<u>330</u>	<u>271</u>

"BLUE MAX" PROVIDED ESCORT FOR:

WOUNDED TROOPS	273
ARVN TROOPS INSERTED/EXTRACTED	10,850
US TROOPS INSERTED/EXTRACTED	1,149

STATISTICS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>	<u>MAINT/AVAIL</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>
FEBRUARY	1126	94%	1708
MARCH	1092	92%	1455
APRIL	1623	92%	2518
MAY	1215	88%	1562
JUNE	917	91%	1350
JULY	730	79%	981

ORDNANCE EXPENDITURES

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>ROCKETS 2.72</u>	<u>MINIGUN 7.62</u>	<u>GRENADES 40MM</u>
FEBRUARY	9,810	20,650	3,955
MARCH	10,536	23,900	5,265
APRIL	23,056	187,500	11,995
MAY	14,037	85,503	10,355
JUNE	6,841	19,475	3,815
JULY	2,565	9,800	2,680

VIP ESCORTS

1. Nguyen Van Thieu President Republic of Vietnam
2. Ambassador Ellsworth Dunker
3. Secretary of the Army Robert F. Freehlke
4. General Creighton W. Abrams COMUSMACV
5. General Fredrick Weyand COMUSMACV
6. Lt. Gen William Mc Caffrey DCG, USARV
7. Maj Gen James M. Hollingsworth CG, TRAC, RVN
8. BG James F. Hamlet CG, 3rd Bde (SEP), 1st Cav Div (AM)
9. BG ~~Max~~ Director U.S. Army Aviation