



Lieutenant Colonel Michael C. Grimm
18 February 1947 - 7 October 1981

Mike has been described by the pilots and friends who knew him as a hard charger, a dynamo, a great pilot, and a natural leader. With a youthful face, a quick wit and a steady hand, this fine pilot was snatched from our fold at the very inception of the 160th's existence.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael C. Grimm came to Task Force 160 with a stellar background. He volunteered for service in the U.S. Army at age 19 and graduated from Infantry Basic in March 1967. He was sent to Vietnam where he firmly established his unquestionable courage and dedication to duty. For his gallantry in action in Vietnam, LTC Grimm was awarded the nation's second highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross. He was a warrior and a hero. He returned home to several command positions, but was searching for another challenge and found it flying.

LTC Grimm went to flight school, and was sent back to Vietnam in May 1971 as a pilot with C Troop, 2/17 CAV. He flew combat missions in Vietnam, and returned home with the Purple Heart, Air Medals, and a Bronze Star (w/"V" Device). In 1975, LTC Grimm was sent to Hawaii where he first served as the Executive Officer of an Aviation Company and then took command in November 1975. In August 1979, LTC Grimm arrived at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he was assigned to the 229th Attack Helicopter Battalion. His talents were soon recognized and he quickly earned the command of Bravo Company.

Mid-1980 brought to the headlines a specific need within the United States Armed Forces and LTC Grimm answered the call for what everyone knew would be a dangerous path. As a Founding Night Stalker, he was selected to organize and command the "Little Birds" which were tasked to fill a very special aviation mission. He accepted with an enthusiasm that soon inspired all who served with him. The training was long, hard, and dangerous and he pushed his aviators to the very limits. His charter was to accept only the best from his pilots, and they performed flawlessly. Somewhere in that demanding training Mike was tagged with his "Grim Reaper" label. A tough name to live up to, yet he had been destined for this assignment.

LTC Grimm's standards of aviation performance live on with every Night Stalker to this very day. Whether higher HQ's required it or LTC Grimm established it, "+ or - 30 Seconds, Time on Target" became a standard for his aviators and he demanded as much from himself. In fact, this became one of his trademarks of

command. All who knew him realized that rank meant nothing to him in the cockpit, it was performance that mattered. Our mission could accept nothing less. Every current and alumni Night Stalker now recognizes this daily axiom of the Regiment. LTC Grimm was a warrior, he was an aviator, and he was as natural a leader as has ever existed. He was a family man, and he was a friend to all who knew him well. But most of all, he was a Night Stalker! LTC Grimm was inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame in March 2004.

LTC Grimm led the way. He was taken from us doing what he was meant to do, "lead." He died on 7 October 1981 when his MH-6 Little Bird helicopter, #039, crashed while leading a flight of twenty-two aircraft.

He is survived by his wife, Karen and his step-daughter, Michelle and is laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 60, Site 2813. Building #7277 on GEN Brown Compound at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, was dedicated in his honor as Grimm Hall.