



Chief Warrant Officer Four Raymond "Ray" A. Frank
11 May 1948 - 3 October 1993

Chief Warrant Officer Four Raymond "Ray" A. Frank, a pilot, artist and musician, was born on 11 May 1948 in Monrovia, California. CW4 Frank volunteered for service in the U.S. Army at the age of 17 when he enlisted in 1966. He served three tours in Vietnam as a ground combatant Soldier and a helicopter door gunner. After attending flight school in 1974, CW4 Frank served in a wide variety of assignments including Pilot, Instructor Pilot, Standardization Instructor, Maintenance Officer, and Operations Officer. Assignments following flight school included Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Camp Zama, Japan; and Fort Devens, Massachusetts, before ultimately returning to Fort Campbell to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) in 1990.

CW4 Frank was always a teacher and innovator. He was one of the first pilots to become an instructor in air-to-air tactics and his contributions in the development of future Comanche ACM capabilities continue to shape both hardware and doctrine. During the initial integration of Black Hawks into the Army, specifically to the 2/17th CAV at Fort Campbell, Ray was the first instructor authorized to conduct aircraft transitions outside the confines of Fort Rucker.

CW4 Frank's military awards and decorations include, the Purple Heart, Air Medal w/Valor Device (w/Numeral 15), Meritorious Service Medal (w/3 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (w/1 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (w/1 OLC), Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal (w/ 1 Bronze Service Star), Vietnam Service Medal (w/Numeral 7), Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (w/Numeral 2), Vietnam Gallantry Cross, Master Aviator Badge and Aircrewmember Badge. In 1990, CW4 Frank received a Broken Wing Award as a result of his superb handling of a night mission mechanical failure in an MH-60 which resulted in grounding and refitting of all Black Hawk aircraft. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, Air Medal (w/"V" Device), and the Purple Heart for his actions in combat during Operation GOTHIC SERPENT. CW4 Frank was inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame in 1995, thus recognizing his skill and enthusiasm as a pilot and his indomitable spirit as a patriot.

He was killed on 3 October 1993 in Mogadishu, Somalia during Operation GOTHIC SERPENT when his aircraft, #188, was called into a hot landing zone to extract wounded fellow Night Stalkers. On short final,

and in the landing zone, they took extremely effective fire and were directed to depart the area. On departure, they received rocket propelled grenade fire, which ultimately knocked the aircraft down approximately 2,000 meters away. Though he was severely injured, Ray was able to extricate himself from the aircraft and set up perimeter fire before the crash site and all individuals were overrun.

CW4 Frank is survived by his wife, Willi. Building #7263 on GEN Brown Compound at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, is dedicated in his honor as Frank Hall.