

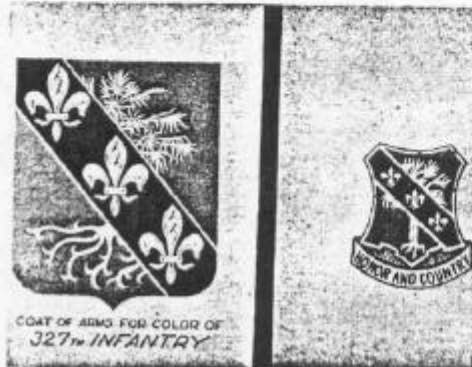
"NO SLACK"

by LTC Charles W. Dyke
"RAMROD"

Dear Sir:

The March-April 1971 issue of *The Screaming Eagle* arrived recently and I notice that it continues to march with the same high degree of professionalism that marks the entire Association. Many thanks for the hard work behind this feat.

I notice on page 17 of this issue a comment that LTC Donald Rosenblum, now CO, Division Support Command, gave the motto "NO SLACK" to the 2d Battalion (Airborne) 327th Infantry during his first tour. This bears comment and a brief history. In February 1964, at Fort Campbell, the 1st Battle Group, 327th Infantry, which traced its lineage to the "HEHMANS" of the 327th Glider Infantry Regiment, was reorganized under the ROAD concept into the 1st and 2nd Battalions (Airborne), 327th Infantry. The 1st Battle Group, 327th Infantry, had the unofficial motto "Above the Rest." This was captured at the time of the reorganization and is still used now by the 1st Battalion. The 2d Battalion adopted the predictable motto, "Second to None." In July 1964, the 2d Battalion deployed to Vietnam as part of the First Brigade. Then LTC (now Colonel) Edward J. (Woody) Collins was the battalion CO. I deployed with the battalion as the S-3 and was later, in October 1965, XO. LTC Collins turned command of the battalion over to LTC Melvin Garten on 24 November 1965. LTC Garten changed the unofficial motto to "We Aim to Kill." This remained with the battalion for the next few months.



On 6 March 1966, the 2d Battalion was in contact with an enemy force about 15 KMS southwest of Tuy Hoa. The 48th Aviation Company ("Blue Star"), then under command of a Major Williams, was in support. Late in the afternoon it became necessary to displace the 4.2" Mortar Platoon and the light battalion CP which was collocated. Five "Hueys" were allocated and the move began—"secure to secure," "round robin." As the battalion XO, I was in charge of the move (no tin roofed "rears" for XOs in those halcyon days). One aircraft was a high, slow flier with excessive time for descent and pickup. I called the aircraft commander on the horn and told him to "take out the slack—we don't want any slack in the chain." The Battalion had previously established a firm reputation with supporting aviation for making maximum use of assets provided. We were informally called the "No Slack" battalion by the 48th Aviation Company from that time.

On 26 April 1966, LTC Garten was seriously wounded by a land mine north of Tuy Hoa. I assumed interim command of the battalion until LTC Joseph Wasco assumed command on or about 18 May 1966. One of my recommendations to him was that we adopt a better motto than "We Aim to Kill." He agreed, stating that he had used the "NO SLACK" motto with a company of the 504th he had previously commanded. The decision was made and "NO SLACK" instantly caught the troopers' imagination and became part of the battalion.

I left the battalion about 21 May 1966 for duty with 1st Brigade Headquarters, which was then on a series of moves that in quick succession took it to Phan Phiet, Cheo Reo, and, eventually, Dak To. When I departed Vietnam on 16 June 1966, Colonel Wasco had "NO SLACK," I thought, well established in the battalion and in the brigade. Colonel Wasco kept the battalion until about November or December 1966 when he rotated back to CONUS.

In October 1968, I was fortunate enough to rejoin the Screaming Eagles, initially as 1st Brigade XO. On 10 November 1968, I assumed command of the "NO SLACK" battalion and later served as Division G1 (May-September 1969) and G3 (September 1969-May 1970). The 2d Battalion (Airmobile) 327th Infantry was then and I am sure is now truly a great battalion—one that has maintained over the years exceptionally high standards and traditions. Without the very able and effective leadership of officers like LTC Rosenblum, the "NO SLACK" tradition could not have been maintained. I am sure he will be interested in this background to the continuity I believe he reestablished and which he is working so hard to maintain within the division today.

Incidentally, the official motto of the 327th Infantry, emblazoned on the crest is "Honor and Country." Again, my heartfelt thanks for the tremendous job being done by you and the entire Association.

THE SCREAMING EAGLE

JULY - AUGUST 1971, INSIDE-BACK COVER