

# 225th Blackhawk/ Phantom Hawk History

2 January 1969: The company was still buzzing and reliving MAJ Petesch's altitude record flight in Blackhawk 16.

After several days of planning and waiting for good weather, the attempt was made on 27 December 1968. Richard L. Ferguson, Field Representative from Grumman, accompanied the Blackhawk XO on the flight.

The old record was 37,000 feet in 23 minutes, 15 seconds, set at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

The Blackhawk attempt saw a combat mission ready line aircraft climb through 37,000 feet in 22 minutes and 20

seconds, and end in 27 minutes even, when #2 engine flamed out at 38,500 feet indicated.

The defog system was inoperative and naturally, the windows iced up during the unplanned descent. They managed to get #2 started at 15,000 feet and made a near zero-zero landing at Phu Hiep with an iced up Mohawk and a cold crew.

"Never again!" was MAJ Petesch's comment . . . .

Not by coincidence, he completed his 1000th hour of Mohawk flying on the record flight and was presented the coveted Grumman 1000 hour plaque in a special ceremony.