

STATIONS

LZ SALLY

COORDINATES: YD642274

HUONG TRA DISTRICT, Population 57,545

THUA THIEN PROVINCE (Home of the A Shau Valley) Population 172,119

10 MARCH 1968 - 1 JULY 1968

AREA OF OPERATION, NORTHERN I CORPS / LAOTIAN BORDER



308th (COMBAT) AVAITION BATTALION

ARRIVED VIETNAM: 20 DECEMBER 1967

DEPARTED VIETNAM: 1 JULY 1968

PREVIOUS STATION: FORT CAMPBELL

The 308th Aviation Battalion ("BLACK ADLER") was part of the 12th Aviation Group and was stationed at Bien Hoa before becoming attached to the 16th Aviation Group on 16 March 1968. From March - April 1968 it moved to I CTZ, and was in Camp Eagle by 12 April 1968. Under the operational control of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Mobile), its assets were utilized to assist in building the 159th Aviation Battalion and the 101st Aviation Battalion. The following companies served with the 308th Aviation Battalion in Vietnam:

188th Assault Hel. Co.



17th Assault Hel. Co.



200th Assault Support Hel. Co.



272nd Assault Support Hel. Co.



Source: Vietnam Order of Battle by Shelby L. Stanton, U.S. News Books, Washington, D.C.

"WELCOME TO EAGLE COUNTRY"
IF YOU WANT IT DONE
ASK THE 101ST



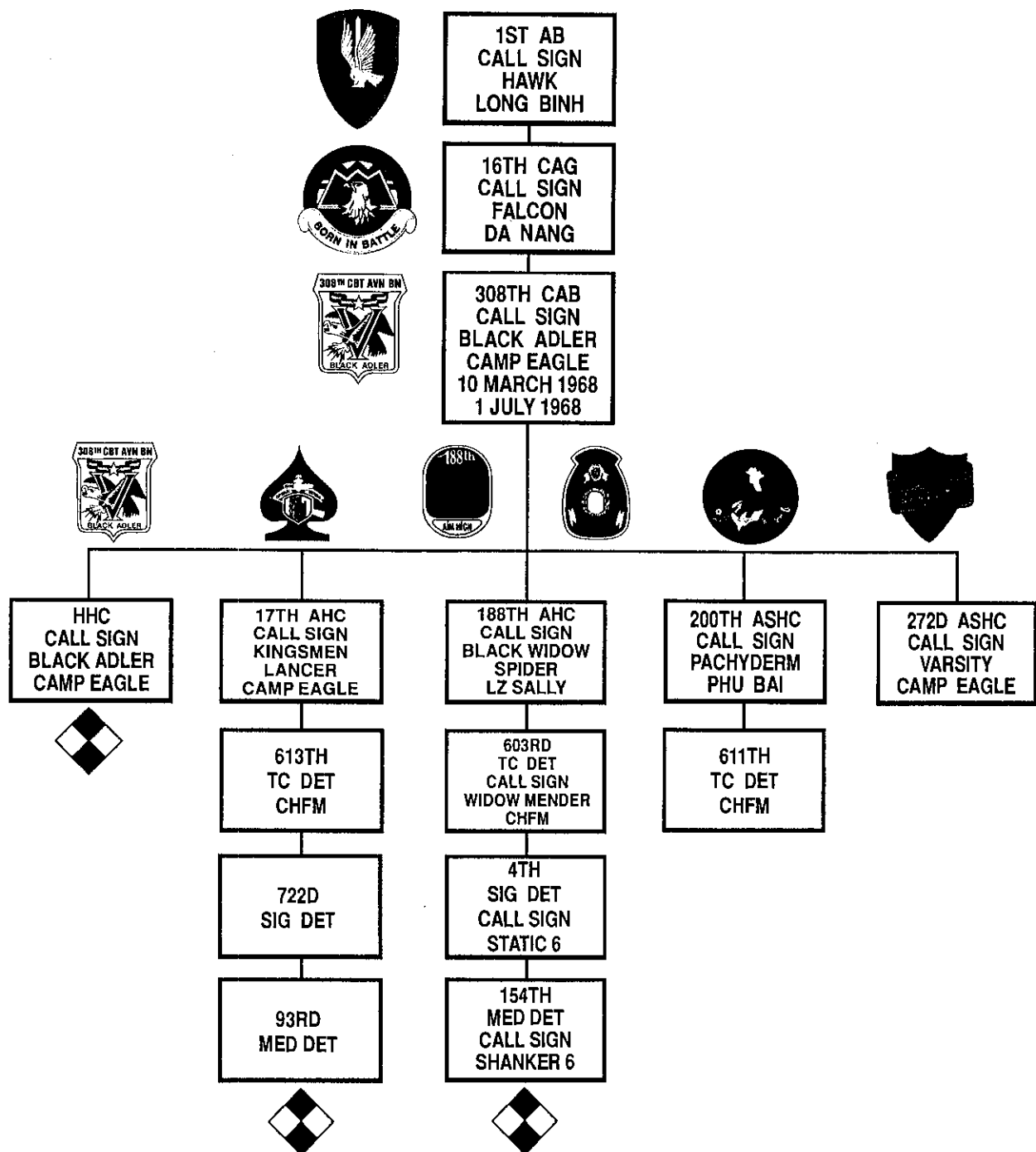
CAMP EAGLE




Photo by Colonel Hank Dreher - Black Adler 5, Black Widow 6



ORGANIZATIONAL CHAIN OF COMMAND



 The 308th CAB aircraft markings consisted of a diamond divided diagonally to form four diamonds, each company was assigned a distinctive color within the diamond configuration for visual identification.

LISTEN UP

1ST AB - 1st AVIATION BRIGADE, LARGEST ARMY COMBAT COMMAND IN VIETNAM.

AHC - ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

ASHC - ASSAULT SUPPORT HELICOPTER COMPANY

CAB - COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION, 1 CORPS

CAG - COMBAT AVIATION GROUP

CHFM - CARGO HELICOPTER FIELD MAINTENANCE

HHC - HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

MED DET - MEDICAL DETACHMENT

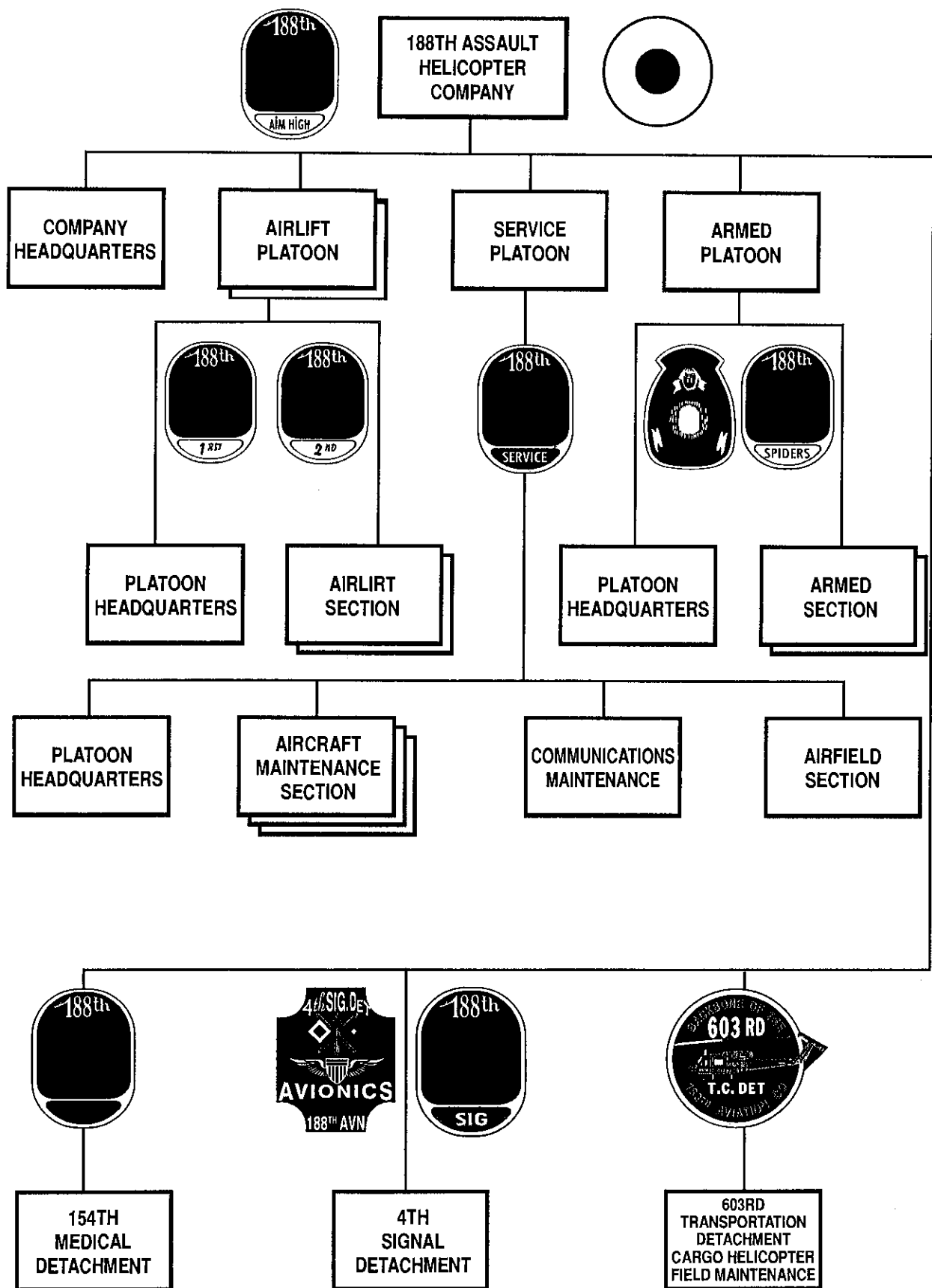
SIG DET - SIGNAL DETACHMENT

TC DET - TRANSPORTATION COMPANY DETACHMENT

SOURCE: 16th CAG (ORLL's) 30 April 1968, 308th CAB Quarterly Report, Operational Report 30 April 1968







188TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY



"GUNS UP"
DAU TIENG / LZ SALLY '67 - '68

UNAUTHORIZED COMBAT PATCH COLLECTION

Army Aviation non-divisional units in Vietnam were organized under the direction of the First Aviation Brigade based at Long Binh. The First Aviation Brigade Patch was authorized by Department of the Army and can be worn as a Combat Unit Patch on the uniform right sleeve by those who served in Vietnam as a member of a non-divisional Aviation unit. This is the First Aviation Brigade Patch:



On May 2, 1967 the 188th Assault Helicopter Company was assigned to the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion headquartered at Cu Chi. The 269th CAB call sign (**Black Baron**) and motto (**Aim High**) were used in the 269th authorized and unauthorized patches and the motto was used by the 188th AHC when their distinctive patch was designed. The 269th CAB was under the command of the 12th Combat Aviation Group based at Long Binh which used the call sign (**Black Jack**). The patches worn by members of the 12th CAG and the 269th CAB are shown below:

12th CAG

269th CAB

Auth

Unauth

Auth

Unauth



The 188th AHC (call sign **Black Widow**) was organized as a standard non-division Assault Helicopter Company and was stationed at Camp Rainier Dau Tieng, VN, in the Michelin Rubber Plantation. Setting up GP medium tents and dealing with the mud of the heavy southwest monsoon rain, made living conditions deplorable. Things got worse....on May 17, 1967 while waiting to link up with a convoy in Long Binh, PFC Richard L. Moore was crushed to death. He was seeking shade from the heat under a parked trailer when the load shifted causing the trailer legs to collapse. The safety pin hadn't been in place and this was the units first casualty of the war. On the rainy evening of May 19, 1967 (Ho Chi Minh's Birthday) a short round from a 155mm artillery battery located on the far side of Camp Rainier, impacted through the rear entrance of bunker #4 on the company defensive perimeter. A fuze later found in the debris of what was once bunker #4 matched the lot number being used during that fire mission (World War II Stock). The explosion killed SP/4 Jerry Beckham instantly, PFC James Stepp was seriously wounded and PFC Harold E. (Buddy) Fetner died of his wounds on March 20, 1967. SP/4 William Bramlett, who was lying on top of Bunker #4 was blown 30 feet into the air and came away, unbelievably, unscathed. It kept getting worse....on June 24, 1967 at 11:02 p.m. the Viet Cong walked 100 mortar rounds up and down the 188th AHC inactive run way, also known as the "WEB". The mortar attack damaged 29 of 31 helicopters assigned, making the Black Widows non-operational within a matter of minutes. Luckily no one was killed during the mortar barrage, however, twenty-five people had to be treated for shrapnel wounds. The following day, commanding officer, Major Bobby Wofford was relieved of command for not dispersing the helicopters. On June 26, 1967 LTC James McWhorter and MAJ Joe Sites took command of the Black Widows as CO and XO respectively. To build morale, MAJ Sites initiated a competition to design a pocket patch which would incorporate both our unit name and logo. Capt Floyd G. Wilson, assistant gun platoon leader designed both the company patch and spider patch and won the competition.

The unauthorized Black Widow combat patch was unique compared to other aviation companies. The various platoon and detachment designations were embroidered below the Black Widow logo. The company command and staff personnel wore the Aim High patch, which came from the 269th CAB motto. The 1st fight platoon (UH-1H Slicks), 2nd flight platoon (UH-1H Slicks), had individual platoon patches, while the gun platoon (UH-1C Gun Ships) call sign SPIDER, had two

distinctive Spider patches. The 154th Medical Detachment used the basic 188th patch with MED embroidered in place of Aim High on a maroon background. The 4th Signal Detachment had two patches with a distinctive black patch and a basic 188th patch with SIG embroidered on an orange background. The 603rd Transportation Company designed their own unauthorized patch to emphasize their direct maintenance support mission as the "Backbone of the 188th Aviation Company". All of the unauthorized patches were made in Saigon by the Vietnamese and were purchased as an expenditure (unauthorized) from the Company Sundry Fund. The patches are shown next:



HQ's, Command / Staff



Service PLT



1st FLT PLT



2nd FLT PLT



GUN PLT



154th MED DET



4th SIG DET



603 TC DET

The TET offensive had pretty well come to an end in the III Corps Tactical Zone when the 188th AHC was alerted that a move to I Corps was about to happen. The 308th Combat Aviation Battalion under the 12th CAG was attached to the 16th Combat Aviation Group on 16 March 1968 and the 188th AHC, 17th AHC and 200 ASHC were assigned to the 308th during the end of March. The unit moved north during the last two weeks of March and soon became operational in support of the 101st Airborne Division. The 308th CAB and the 17th AHC were stationed at Camp Eagle, the 200th ASHC was at Hue Phu Bai Airfield and the 188th was stationed at LZ Sally with the Second Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division.

The patches for these units are shown here:

16th CAG



308th CAB



101st Airborne Division



2nd Brigade Flag



The command relationship of the 188th AHC directly supporting the 2nd Brigade remained until 1 July 1968 when the 308th CAB and all of its assigned units were deactivated and reactivated as B company, C company and D company of the 101st Aviation. The 308th CAB became the 159th Assault Support Helicopter Battalion and took over all CH- 47 helicopter support of the 101st Airborne Division.

Contributors:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. John Gurica, Aim High Medal Emblem | 6. Lyle Parker MD, 154th MED DET |
| 2. Ray Scribner, Service Platoon | 7. Neil Connelly, Black 4th SIG DET |
| 3. Bob Crow, 1st Platoon, 188th Spiders | 8. Greg Pepper, 188th SIG DET |
| 4. Charlie Maurer, 2nd Platoon | 9. Jim Wilson, 603rd TC DET |
| 5. Dick Detra, Spiders | 10. Jack Johnson, CO 188th AHC |