



The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States after 6 December 1941, distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy; or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

The Air Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the U.S. Army, will have distinguished himself or herself by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight. Awards may be made to recognize single acts of merit or heroism, or for meritorious service as described below.



The ARCOM is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving in any capacity with the Army after 6 December 1941, distinguishes himself or herself by heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service. Award may be made to a member of the Armed Forces of a friendly foreign nation who, after 1 June 1962, distinguishes himself or herself by an act of heroism, extraordinary achievement, or meritorious service which has been of mutual benefit to a friendly nation and the United States.

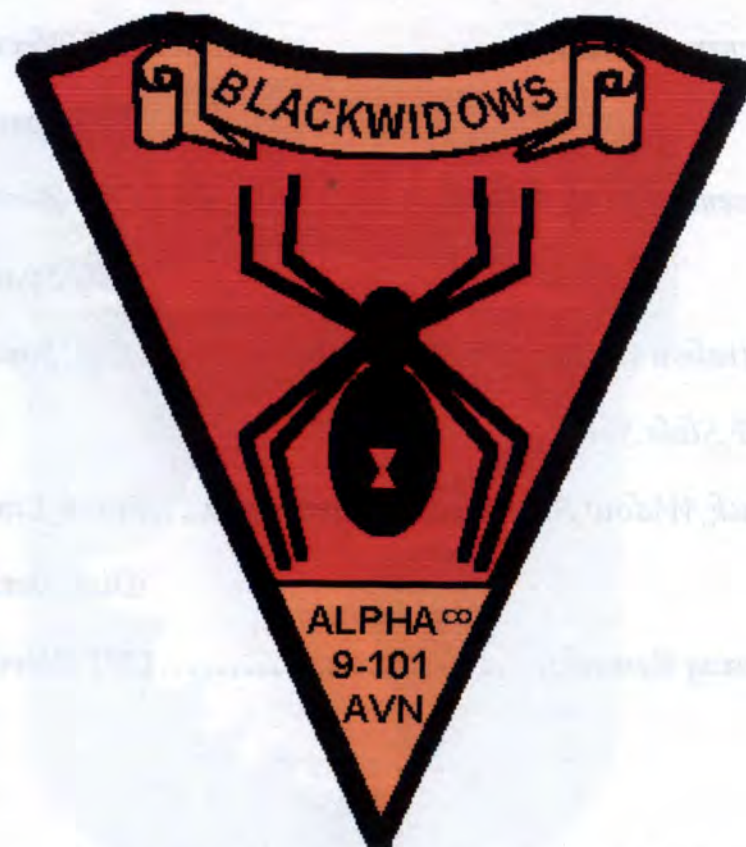


The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is awarded to soldiers who deploy abroad for service in the global war on terrorism operations on or after 11 SEP 01 to a date to be determined. Initial award is limited to soldiers deployed abroad in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal is awarded to soldiers who have participated in or served in support of global war on terrorism operations outside the designated AOE on or after 11 SEP 01 to a date to be determined. Initial award of the GWOTSM will be limited to airport security operations (from 27 Sep 01 through 31 May 02) and soldiers who supported Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.



Alpha Company, 9th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment



*Operation Iraqi Freedom
Awards Ceremony
May 1, 2004*

Order of Events

Introductions.....CPT Blevins

Opening Remarks.....CPT Blevins

1SG Sparks

Presentation of Awards.....CPT Blevins

1SG Sparks

Battalion Commander Comments.....LTC Jones

OIF Slide Show

Black Widow Association Presentation....Frank Linster

Dick Detra

Closing Remarks.....CPT Blevins

*"We have a rendezvous with
destiny..."*

Black Widow OIF Veterans

Headquarters

CPT Jason B. Blevins, Commander

SFC Terry L. Sparks, First Sergeant

2LT David Driskell, Executive Officer

CW3 Gregory Clore, Standardizations Pilot

CW3 Jeffery Damrow, Aviation Safety Officer

CW2 Keith Eller, Company Maintenance Pilot

1st Flight

1LT Shane Schmutz, Platoon Leader

SFC Ryan Miller, Platoon Sergeant

CW2 Gregory Thomsen, Instructor Pilot

CW2 Brian Lackey

CW2 Frank Hillenberg

CW2 Ruben Rivera

CW2 Jacob Baird

CW2 J.P. Emmons

CW2 Neil Austin

WO1 Tony Marquez

WO1 Edward Griffie

SGT Dennis Hart

SGT Randy Beyer

SGT Preston Rader

SGT Rafael Lopez

CPL Jason Young

SPC Edgar Alvarado

SPC Joshua Branum

SPC Aaron Arvin

SPC Shaun Hancock

SPC Jason Harrison

SPC Lee Patrick

SPC Ronnie Wilson

SPC Jason Wood

2nd Flight

2LT Jamie Niles, Platoon Leader

SFC Todd Manske, Platoon Sergeant

CW2 Denver Sizemore, Instructor Pilot

CW2 Victoria Uptegraft

CW2 Mark Jackson

CW2 David Jones

CW2 Joel Fonseca

CW2 Evan Shipton

CW2 John Harmsen

WO1 Jeffery Metter

WO1 Thomas Russo

SGT Jesus Ceballos

SGT Lizardo Leyva

SGT Joseph Navarrette

SGT Johnny Nacis

CPL Chad Mawhirter

SPC John Barton

SPC Dan DiMarco

SPC Joshua Kammerdiener

SPC Ben Knoepke

SPC Jacob Liddle

SPC Joshua Lyle

SPC Nathan Schmidt

SPC Christopher Thompson

SPC Justin Wagner

PFC Corey Rhodes

Former Black Widow OIF Veterans

CPT Frederick J. Dufault

CPT John Schmitt

CPT Rizwan Shah

SFC Scott Hargis

CW4 Dean Wood

CW3 Mark York

CW2 Josh Parrott

CW3 James Costello

CW3 Robert Kendall

CW2 Charles Edlin

CW2 Jeremy Hatt

CW2 John Hickein

CW2 Chris Bentzel

CW2 Stephen Harper

CW2 Cesar Ramos

CW2 Brian Edwards

SGT Ryan Nelson

CPL John Wheeler

SPC Michael Byrn

SPC Michael Clark

SPC Jeremy Harrington

SPC Nathan Hale

188th AHC COLORS PRESENTATION

May 1, 2004

On November 1, 1966 the 188th Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light) formed up at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and trained with the 2nd and 3rd Brigades of the 101st Airborne Division until April 1967 when the company deployed to South Vietnam in four groups, two by air and two by sea. In May 1967 they were assigned to the 1st Aviation Brigade's, 269th Combat Aviation Battalion (CAB) "Black Barons" based at Cu Chi and in June redesignated as the 188th Assault Helicopter Company "Black Widows" and "Spiders" gun platoon.

The company, along with 23 UH-1H Slicks and 8 UH-1C gunships, was stationed at Camp Rainier, an isolated III Corps 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division base camp located in the Michelin rubber plantation, 40 miles NW of Saigon. Their company area was across the road from the "OFF LIMITS" VC controlled rubber processing village of Dau Tieng. They supported the 25th Infantry Division for eight months, till the end of Tet '68.

The 188th's *Rendezvous with Destiny* came in March 1968 when the company moved (Permanent Change of Station) 450 miles north to LZ Sally (I Corps), home to Colonel John Cushman's 2nd Brigade Task Force, 101st Airborne Division. They were assigned to the 308th CAB "Black Adler" based at Camp Eagle. The 308th CAB was a major player in making the 101st Airborne Division...Air Mobile. The 188th supported the 2nd Brigade on all operations up until July 1, 1968. During their 13 month existence in Nam the 188th had a 30% casualty rate and wore the shoulder patch of the 1st Aviation Brigade.

On July 1, 1968 the 188th was deactivated, reorganized and redesignated as Charlie Company, 101st Aviation Battalion, 101st Air Cavalry Division, but changed in August 1968 to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Mobile). The "Spiders" became the 3rd platoon of the newly formed all gunship company, D/101...call sign, HAWK. C/101 carried on the Black Widow legacy until February 1972 when the 101st Airborne Division (Air Mobile) returned home to Fort Campbell.

From May 1967 through February 1972 forty-one men from the 188th and C/101 were killed and over one hundred thirty wounded while flying in direct support of forty-five major combat operations in all four Corps Areas of Operation and Special Operations missions over the fence into Cambodia, Laos, the DMZ and North Vietnam.

Motor pool sergeant Richard Cadreau and Spider door gunner Dick Detra purchased this commemorative flag and added the names of the men who gave their lives during the Vietnam War. Donations from other Black Widow veterans made it possible to have this flag framed. On July 4, 2000 Black Widow veterans from the 188th and C/101 came together in Washington D.C. to dedicate the 188th flag and to read the names of their brothers etched into the black granite "WALL" of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

On February 28, 2003 Alpha Company 9/101, deployed to Kuwait and set up shop in the desert at Camps Victory and Thunder. On 6 Day of Operation Iraqi Freedom, March 21, 2003 Black Widow black hawk helicopters were the first to cross the border and then spent three weeks at Tallil Airfield supporting the 82nd Airborne during the ground war. From Al Iskandariyah, AKA Thunder III you assaulted Baghdad and then conducted the longest air assault in history to Mosul Airfield where you spent over nine months. For the year 2003 the 9th "Eagle Strike" Battalion won the Ellis D. Parker award for *"Best Aviation Unit in the Army"* and Army Aviation Association of America's *"Aviation Unit of the Year"* (best in the Assault category and best overall). Alpha Company has upheld the finest traditions of the US Army and in the process earned the respect of the Black Widow veterans who served before you. On behalf of the Black Widow veterans who served in Vietnam, we take great pride and pleasure in presenting this commemorative flag to the brave men and women of Alpha Company, 9th Battalion (Eagle Strike), 101st Aviation Regiment, 159th Aviation Brigade (Thunder), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). These colors have finally come full circle, back to where it all began...MATE AND KILL!

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