

Glossary of Terms

“The Spider People” was a term coined by the Special Forces teams that the *Black Widows* and *Spiders* supported during “TOP SECRET” special ops in 1967 till 1972. Once the *Black Widows* and *Spiders* had earned the respect of B-36 (Teams A-361 and A-362) and SOG (Studies and Observations Group) CCN (Command and Control North) teams, the team’s always asked specifically for “**The Spider People**” to fly them “across the fence” into Cambodia, Laos or the DMZ but more importantly, to come and get them out when the *shit* hit the fan.

“Guns Up” was the gun platoon’s motto, a term used whenever *Spider* light fire teams were scrambled to provide close-in fire support for ground units, who were in heavy contact with the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) or the Viet Cong (VC) and in imminent danger of being overrun. The *Spiders* were taken under enemy fire on a daily basis.

The **188th Black Widow Aviation “AIM HIGH”** pocket patch (top left) was worn by the command staff and the **SPIDERS** pocket patch (top right) was worn by the gun platoon crews. Every platoon’s designation was embroidered on the bottom of the patch. The 188th and her detachments had a total of 13 different pocket patches. The 188th Assault Helicopter Company motto was “**AIM HIGH.**”

The **gray oval** pocket patch was worn by C/101 crews from July 1968 till May 1969 and the **blue diamond** pocket patch from May 1969 till March 1976.

The **C/4/101 pocket patch** is worn by the present-day Black Widows.

The **A/4/3 pocket patch** is worn by the present day **Spiders**. After the Black Widows of A/9/101 were re-flagged in May of 2004 as A/4/3, their commander, Captain Jason Blevins, adopted the *Spider* gun platoon call sign in order to maintain the 188th AHC Black Widows lineage with the new unit. To honor the 188th, SSG Tony Alvarado, formerly with A/9/101 and now with A/4/3, designed this new **Spiders** pocket patch. Alvarado added “**188th AHC EST. 1966**” at the bottom of the patch.

“Mate and Kill” has been the motto of the *Black Widows* since December 1989. The term is used to describe the mating habits of the female black widow spider, which after mating always eats the male.

The center piece for this art work is the female black widow spider and the web connecting the Vietnam era veterans and the present day ***Black Widows*** and ***Spiders***...a band of brothers and sisters-in-arms.

“IF YOU CARE ENOUGH TO SEND THE VERY BEST” was a phrase used on Black Widow calling cards during the Vietnam War. It's what the ***Black Widows*** and ***Spiders*** are all about.

BLACK WIDOWS AND SPIDERS LINEAGE

The lineage of the **188th Aviation Company** goes back to World War II. On October 1, 1943 the United States Army activated the **2026th Quartermaster Truck Company, Aviation** at Lockbourne Army Air Base in Ohio. During World War II the 2026th participated in the New Guinea campaign in the South Pacific and was inactivated in Japan after the war on April 15, 1946. On August 1, 1946 the 2026th was converted and re-designated as the **2026th Transportation Corps Truck Company**. On November 1, 1966 the 2026th was redesignated as the **188th Aviation Company, Air Mobile Light Aircraft (AML)**, allotted to the United States Third Army at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

188th Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light), 101st Aviation Battalion, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky - Dau Tieng, South Vietnam – III Corps Area of Operation (AO) (11/66-5/67).

188th Assault Helicopter Company “Black Widows”, 269th Combat Aviation Battalion “Black Barons”, 1st Aviation Brigade, call sign: “Hawk”, Dau Tieng (Camp Rainier), South Vietnam (5/67-3/68) Motto: “AIM HIGH”

188th Assault Helicopter Company, 308th Combat Aviation Battalion “Black Adler”, 1st Aviation Brigade, LZ Sally, South Vietnam – northern I (pronounced eye) Corps AO (3/68-7/68).

Spiders gun platoon (11/66-7/68), Motto: “GUNS UP” The Spiders were reassigned to **Delta Company (call sign: “Hawk”), 101st Aviation Battalion, 101st Air Cav Division** and became the 3rd platoon.

Charlie Company, 101st Assault Helicopter Battalion (Wings of the Eagle), 101st Air Cav Division - LZ Sally, South Vietnam – northern I Corps AO (7/68-8/68). The 101st didn’t like being referred to as the “Air Cav” so their commanders quickly changed their designation back to “Airborne” in August 1968.

Charlie Company, 101st Assault Helicopter Battalion (Wings of the Eagle), 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), LZ Sally (8/68-4/69).

Charlie Company, 101st Assault Helicopter Battalion (Wings of the Eagle), 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), Phu Bai, located just south of Hue, South Vietnam (4/69-2/72).

Charlie Company, 101st Assault Helicopter Battalion (Wings of the Eagle), 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), Fort Campbell, Kentucky (2/72-3/76).

Charlie Company, 101st Aviation Battalion (Wings of the Eagle), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky (3/76-10/81).

Alpha Company, 158th Aviation Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky (10/81-10/87).

Alpha Company, 5th Aviation Battalion (Eagle Assault), 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky (10/87-7/89).

Alpha Company, 6th Aviation Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky (7/89-12/89).

Alpha Company, 9th Battalion (Eagle Strike), 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Afghanistan, Iraq (12/89-5/04). Motto: "Mate and Kill"

A/9/101 "BLACK WIDOWS" were re-flagged **A/4/3** in May of 2004 after returning to Fort Campbell from their 2003-2004 tour in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Alpha Company, 4th Battalion (Marne Assault), 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division adopted "*Spiders*" as the companies call sign. They were first deployed to Iraq from February 2005 thru 2006. The company deployed again to Iraq in May 2007 and is based at Camp Striker under the command of Captain Sean O'Connell. The majority of A/4/3 aviators were former Black Widows from A/9/101. Motto: "**GUNS UP**" (5/04 to the present)

Charlie Company, 4th Aviation Regiment (Wings of the Eagle), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) C/4/101, the new "Black Widows," deployed in Iraq from October 2005 thru 2006 under the command of their first female commander, Black Widow 06, Captain Melissa Jones. Motto: "**Mate and Kill**" (5/04 to the present).

On a historic note: the **Comancheros, Kingsmen and Black Widows** of the present day **4th Aviation Regiment (Wings of the Eagle)** also served together in 101st Aviation Battalion in South Vietnam from July 1, 1968 till February 1972.