

Black Widow Airlines

Our Motto: Beats Walkin'
Sit back and enjoy the ride!

Your flight today compliments of the
Black Widows of Charlie Company
7/17th Air Cav Task Force (Pale Horse)

JBAD, Afghanistan 12/08 - 12/09

Established in Dau Tieng, South
Vietnam by the Black Widows of the
188th Assault Helicopter Company

Nov. 1, 1966 - July 1, 1968



*Special rates for guided tours above the
scenic Korengal (corn-gall) Valley*

Original Sign

BEATS WALKIN'

YOUR RIDE, COMPLIMENTS OF
- THE -

"Black Widows"

188th ASLT. HEL. CO.
DAU TIENG, VIETNAM

History of the Beats Walkin' Sign

In December 1967, just before the Tet 1968 Communist Offensive a 188th pilot designed the first **Beats Walkin'** sign and displayed it inside the cargo bay of his troop carrying UH-1H "HUEY". The "H" model was also known as a "slick." These signs were displayed to let the grunts know who was taking them into harm's way and who would be picking them up. The C/101 Black Widows continued this tradition. Since 2003 **Beats Walkin'** signs were made and sent to the A/9/101 "Black Widows", the A/4/3 "Spiders" (who used to be the A/9/101 "Black Widows") and the C/4/101 "Black Widows" during their deployments in Iraq. After 42 years I decided to give the **Beats Walkin'** sign a new look for the Black Widows of Charlie Company, 4/101, 7/17 Air Cavalry Task Force (Pale Horse), Hope you like it.

Background on the 188th

The 188th Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light) formed up at Fort Campbell, Kentucky on November 1, 1966 and trained with elements of the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division until they deployed to South Vietnam in late April 1967. They were assigned to the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion "Black Barons" headquartered at Cu Chi and wore the authorized patch of the 1st Aviation Brigade. Shortly after setting up shop at Camp Rainier, they were re-designated as the 188th Assault Helicopter company and decided on using "Black Widows" as their name and call sign. They also had the 154th Medical Detachment, 603rd TC Detachment and the 4th Signal Detachment totaling 309 personnel, with 23 UH-1H "slicks" and eight UH-1C gunships. The gun platoon or "Guns" used "Spiders" as their name and call sign. The 188th company area and the "WEB" helipad were located just across the road from the rubber processing village of Dau Tieng, which was off-limits to all military personnel because of Viet Cong activity. Camp Rainier was a small, isolated 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division base camp that was built within the Michelin Rubber Plantation, the largest in Vietnam. Dau Tieng, nestled along the banks of the Saigon River, was a very dangerous place. In March 1968 the 188th made a Permanent Change of Station move 700 miles north to a small 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division base camp named LZ Sally, seven miles north of Hue. They were assigned to the 308th Combat Aviation Battalion "Black Adler" headquartered at Camp Eagle. The 308th was a transition battalion formed to bring aviation assets to northern I Corps in order to make the 101st Airborne Division "Air Mobile." In late April, 1968 the 188th flew lead during the airlift to insert elements of the 2nd Brigade (1/501, 2/501 & 1/502) at the battle of Phuoc Yen. The Cordon operation was decisive. More than 400 NVA soldiers were killed and 107 prisoners were taken - the largest number of North Vietnamese Army soldiers captured in a single action during the Vietnam War and the elimination of the 8th Battalion, 90th NVA Regiment. The 188th's "Rendezvous With Destiny" came on July 1, 1968, when the company was deactivated and reflagged as the Black Widows of Charlie Company, 101st Assault Helicopter Battalion, 101st Airborne Division. The 188th existed for twenty months and only served in NAM. During their five year deployment in South Vietnam the 188th and C/101 Black Widows lost 42 men killed in action and 140 wounded in action. To read more about the 188th history check out our web page at blackwidows.net and please take a moment to sign the guest book. Dick's e-mail address is gunsup68@yahoo.com.

This commemorative **Beats Walkin'** sign compliments of

Dick "Cherry Boy" Detra

Door Gunner with the original "Black Widows"
of the 188th Assault Helicopter Company and
the "SPIDERS" gun platoon.

YOU ARE NOW OFFICIALLY A:
- BLACK WIDOW FOR LIFE -

Graphic Design Work by Ken Yates
San Francisco, California

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Operation Enduring Freedom 09-11

Flag Flown 27 February 2009

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