

*Alpha Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion,  
101<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment*



*Operation Iraqi Freedom  
Awards Ceremony*

*May 1, 2004*

# Order of Events

Introductions.....*CPT Blevins*

Opening Remarks.....*CPT Blevins*

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	CW3 James Costello	CW2 Cesar Ramos
CPT John Schmitt	CW3 Robert Kendall	CW2 Brian Edwards
CPT Rizwan Shah	CW2 Charles Edlin	SGT Ryan Nelson
SFC Scott Hargis	CW2 Jeremy Hatt	CPL John Wheeler
CW4 Dean Wood	CW2 John Hickein	SPC Michael Byrn
CW3 Mark York	CW2 Chris Bentzel	SPC Michael Clark
CW2 Josh Parrott	CW2 Stephen Harper	SPC Jeremy Harrington
		SPC Nathan Hale



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.