



HISTORY OF ALPHA COMPANY

The 158 Aviation Battalion (Assault Helicopter) was activated at Fort Carson, CO on 25 July 1968. The "Challenge" battalion was trained for combat and deployed to the Republic of Vietnam in February 1969. Company A and the battalion participated in several historic campaigns to include Lam Son 719, 729 and 810. The company also took part in the helicopter assaults on the Au Shau valley which lead up to the famous battle of "Hamburger Hill". The company was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation (10 May -21 May 1968), and two Valorous Unit Awards (17 July 1969-7 May 1970) and 22 July -23 July 1970) for action in Vietnam.

On 13 April 1978, in a history making ceremony, A Company, 158th Avn. Bn. became one of the first two Army assault helicopter companies to be equipped with the UH-60 Blackhawk. On 16 October 1987, the 158th Avn. Bn. was reorganized and redesignated as 5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment. In July 1989, A Company was taken out of the 5th Bn., along with its current sister company (B Co.) from the 4th Bn., and placed under the operational control of the 6th Bn. Finally, on 19 December 1989, the 6th Bn. was redesignated as the 9th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment--the third UH-60 equipped assault helicopter battalion of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

During the ensuing years the Black Widows continued their outstanding service with dedicated support to operation including Snow Eagle '81 (Fort Drum, NY), Bright Star '83 (Egypt), JTF-B/TF Southern Eagle (Honduras), Solid Shield '89 (Camp Lejeune, NC), Desert Shield and Desert Storm (Saudi Arabia), Buccaneer 7 (Jamaica), Task Force Wildcat (Kentucky), Ocean Venture '92 (Puerto Rico), Operation Restore Hope (Somalia), Operation Restore/Uphold Democracy (Haiti), and several rotation to the Joint Readiness Training Center (Fort Chaffee, AR, and Fort Polk, LA) and the National Training Center (Fort Irwin, CA).

Through it all the Black Widows of Alpha Company have continued to uphold the highest standards of the United States Army. They continue to stand ready for their next "Rendezvous with Destiny".

ALPHA COMPANY 9TH BATTALION 101ST AVIATION REGIMENT 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIR ASSAULT)



"BLACK WIDOWS"

**CHANGE OF COMMAND
CEREMONY**

22 NOVEMBER 1995

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

FORMATION OF TROOPS

WELCOMING REMARKS

INVOCATION (PLEASE STAND)

CHANGE OF COMMAND

PRESNTATION OF FLOWERS

REMARKS

RECEPTION

PARTICIPANTS

LTC PAUL A. TATE

BATTALION COMMANDER

CPT MICHAEL L. SHENK

OUTGOING COMMANDER

CPT DANE D. RIDEOUT

INCOMING COMMANDER

CAPTAIN MICHAEL L. SHENK

Captain Michael L. Shenk received a regular army commission and a bachelor of science degree in Mathematics from Clarion University of Pennsylvania in 1988 as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He is a graduate of the Aviation Officers Basic Course, the Distinguished Graduate of the Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course (89-5), the Distinguished Graduate of the Aviation Officers Advanced Course (93-1), and an Honor Graduate of the Joint Firepower Control Course. His assignments include Class III/V Platoon Leader, UH-60 Platoon Leader, Assistant S3, and Company Executive Officer, Task Force Warrior, 12th Aviation Brigade, Germany; Assistant S3 Plans, Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); and, Assistant S3, 9th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment. His awards include the Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, southwest Asia Service Medal, and Saudi Arabia/Kuwait Liberation Medal. CPT Shenk is an Army Aviator and is Airborne and Air Assault qualified. He is married to the former Julianne Bellone and they have two sons, Michael and Kiefer.

CAPTAIN DANE D. RIDEOUT

Captain Dane D. Rideout began his military career in April of 1986 by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. After completing his initial tour he attended college at Oklahoma State University and completed his bachelors degree in History at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. In May of 1990 Captain Rideout received a regular army commission and was branched Aviation as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He is a graduate of the Aviation Officers Basic Course, the Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course, the Aviation Officers Advanced Course, and the Infantry Training School. His assignments include 8th Marines, Camp Lejeune, NC, Detachment 2 ELMACO, Indianapolis, IN. HHC Executive Officer, UH-60 Platoon Leader, Liaison Officer and Assistant S3, 2d Battalion 2d Aviation Regiment Camp Stanley, Korea. Phase 3 Tactical Officer, Fort Rucker, AL. Assistant S3 and Battalion S1, 9th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment. His awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with 2 Oak leaf Clusters, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Captain Rideout's badges include the Army Aviator and Air Assault Qualification badges. He is married to the former Karen Dick and have two children, Zachary, 5, and Lauren, 2.

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"EAGLE STRIKE!"



ALPHA COMPANY
9TH BATTALION
101ST AVIATION REGIMENT
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION
(AIR ASSAULT)



"BLACKWIDOWS"

CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

16 APRIL 1997