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**Date:** Thu, 18 Dec 2003 09:12:08 -0800 (PST)**From:** "John and Candi Barton" [REDACTED]**Subject:** Letter from LTC Jones**To:** [REDACTED]

Hello everyone! I received this news this morning. I'm so proud of our guys! I'm sure the Black Widows had a lot to do with this award b/c John has told me they have put in the most hours flying! Though you would all enjoy reading this.

Merry Christmas!

Candi

Dear Eagle Strike Family and Friends,

>

> I am pleased to announce that 9th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment  
> has been selected to receive the LTG Ellis D. Parker Award as the U.S.  
> Army Aviation Unit of the Year for FY 2003. The Army Chief of Staff, GEN  
> Gordon R. Sullivan, directed the creation of the Parker Award in 1993 to  
> honor the top aviation battalion in the Army, and named it for LTG Parker,  
> a true pioneer of Army Aviation. Since that time, the award has been  
> presented annually to honor the top unit in each of four categories:  
> Combat, Combat Support, Combat Service Support and TDA. 9th Battalion  
won in the category of Combat Support, and was further selected from among all 4 categories as  
overall Unit of the Year. It is a great honor for the  
> soldiers and their families to receive the recognition they so deeply  
> deserve. I am humbled and blessed to be among these fine soldiers. I am  
> so proud of them, and proud of the support that you all have shown  
> throughout this long deployment.

Congratulations go as well to the soldiers of 1-101, one of the Division's Apache battalions, that  
won in the Combat category.

>

> You may have already received a message from COL Harrison about our  
> imminent redeployment. Our mission here continues, but we are busily  
> preparing to hand that mission off to someone else and return home. As  
> always, plans are subject to change, but if things go according to

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> schedule most of the battalion's soldiers should be landing at Fort  
> Campbell around the 2nd or 3rd week of February. Every soldier can expect  
> a 3 day pass immediately after they return, followed by 7 days of  
> inprocessing. After that, my intent is for everyone to get the  
> opportunity to take up to 30 days of leave as soon as possible. We have  
> the complete support and encouragement of the Brigade and Division  
> Commanders. They know our soldiers and families need a well-deserved  
> break.

A note on the mail: anything mailed from the states after  
> the first few days of January may have a hard time finding its way to us.  
> If there is something important you need your soldier to receive, I  
> recommend it be mailed before the end of the year.

>  
> Finally, allow me to take the opportunity to wish you all a happy  
> holiday period. You will miss your soldiers as we will miss you but, at  
> least for the present, our duty is here. Keep us in your hearts, and  
> prayers.

>  
> Sincerely,  
>  
> Tim Jones  
> Commander, 9-101 Avn Regt  
> Eagle Strike!  
> Air Assault!  
>

**Black Widow Wife**  
**United States Army**  
"God Speed Guys! You are in our thoughts and prayers.  
[www.geocities.com/johnandcandibarton](http://www.geocities.com/johnandcandibarton)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Fri, 19 Dec 2003 00:41:30 EST  
**Subject:** Fwd: Letter from LTC Jones

Hi everyone!

I thought I had already sent this, but apparently not.

This is truly an honor for the men and women in our battalion. We all know A. Company is the BEST! Best wishes and congratulations to our beloved Blackwidows and to the Phantoms, Wizards and Regulators for their dedication and hard work for this award! Pass it along, as this is something to BRAG about! Take care!  
Kimberly

## Forwarded Message

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Thu, 18 Dec 2003 08:12:26 EST  
**Subject:** Letter from LTC Jones  
**To:**

## HTML Attachment

Please pass this on to our FRG. Thank you.

Theresa

Dear Eagle Strike Family and Friends,

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> Tim Jones

> Commander, 9-101 Avn Regt

> Eagle Strike!

> Air Assault!

>