

11/16/06

Hi Dick,

Thanks for the letter and BW material. I hope all is well with you. The news about Ed Pellinato was so sad. I had a flight into West Palm Beach and called him not long before he died. I am so glad I did. I will never judge him for his actions. Knowing Ed, he gave it a great deal of thought. Under those circumstances we all may have considered that option. I wrote a short piece about Ed and his outstanding performance in the battle of the Horse Shoe. I am sending it to Richard Green @ his request.

I do remember the night of the mid air all too well. I think the angry outburst by some were caused more because Poggemeyer was so well liked rather than his inexperience with the gun platoon. The sad truth is that the light fire team did not use proper procedures when they became disoriented. That is what made the hair stand up on the back of my neck when I heard what was unfolding. Team leader should have immediately called for altitude separation until contact was re-established. The only thing that was ever mentioned was they were in location.

of the river in that area. As I mentioned to you before, I believe that due to the river being split into three branches in that area led to some confusion, however altitude separated would have saved them from that.

Also I mentioned to you that I had turned down a request to come to the gun platoon prior to Pozge being ask - I think the poor leadership of Cpt Frank Kirble, the just departed gun platoon leader, had hurt the team building effort in the gun platoon. Frank was later killed when he flew a Mohawk into the ground after leaving the Black Widows.

I detailed my thoughts on the accident in a report requested by the First Aviation Brigade. I tried to use the accident and its cause in my efforts as Director of Flight Operations for different Corporate flight departments. I put extreme emphasis on training and procedures. I would like to think that may have saved some lives in the long run. At times my pilots thought I was a peed ass and I probably was. I retired never having an accident or incident on any of the aircraft I flew or managed. My motto was, We will not Kill Ourselves, courtesy of the Black Widows.

Keep up the good work you are doing
on Black Widow history. I think it is
always important for those who come
after us to know.

God bless and watch over the
Black Widows -

Herm