

[REDACTED]
O'Fallon, Illinois 62269
21 June 1996

Dear Dick,

No doubt you heard about that helicopter crash at Fort Campbell, Kentucky that resulted in a mass casualty situation. I just thought that you'd want to know -inasmuch as I hate to say- that it was two Black Widow aircraft that crashed. From what I know of the incident, two Black Widow Blackhawk (UH-60) helicopters on a training situation locked rotor blades as they were going into a tight LZ in a simulated casualty exercise. A buddy of mine who is a W-3 and is a Black Widow pilot is on the investigating effort of the situation. Also, the accident investigation team from Fort Rucker is there investigating it too.

As I remember, the 188th was a unit that would always make a remarkable comeback from anything, even after it had suffered tragic losses. I can fairly say now that the unit has lost none of the endurance and staying power that it had then. Come what may, and no matter what confronted it, that unit always found a way to come through. The Black Widow tradition lives on!

I wholeheartedly agree with what you said about a division versus a non-divisional unit. Personally, I have no use for a division (although when I was on active duty I kept getting them). However, if I have to be in a division, then I'd rather it be the 101st Airborne Division, for that is where aviation rules; it is the aviation stronghold of the Army (like 1st Cavalry Division used to be). By the way, there is not a single Huey or Cobra left at Fort Campbell now; it's all this "modern stuff" -UH-60s, AH-64s, etc.

I really hate to bring the bit of news to your attention, but I thought you'd want to know. I'll write again soon.

As Ever,

