

Please type or use pen to provide the requested information. This data will be used for the Ranch Hand History Project and then placed in the Archives at Texas A&M. It is your information. If you wish to restrict any part of this material, please indicate:

I hereby authorize the scholarly use of the following information, except as indicated.

DEVLIN MICHAEL WM. Michael W Devlin 10-28-81  
Name (last first middle signature date)

### Specific Information

Please answer the following questions in the spaces provided. Be specific.

- Ranch Hand service: From <sup>NOV 61-84</sup> DEC 62 to <sup>JLY-62</sup> MAY 64. Where? SAIGON
- RH/C-123 training: Where/when? I WAS A C-123 IP STATIONED AT ROPE AFB, TX WHEN THE RANCH WAS FORMED
- Rank while in RH? CAPT Present/retired rank? MAJ GOT OUT IN 68
- Duty(s) while in Ranch? PILOT dates? NOV 1961 - JULY 1962
- Other Vietnam service? Where/when?
- If aircrew member:
  - Number of missions: RH Other (specify)
  - Combat flying hours: RH Other (specify)

### Narrative Information

On a separate sheet(s) of paper, please answer the following questions with as much detail as possible. Write too much, rather than too little. Use names and dates, if possible. If you want a name "blacked out" before this goes in the archives, just circle the name. On the sheets, indicate the number of the question you are answering, and put your last name and the form number in the upper right-hand corner of each sheet.

- Special missions/operations participated in? (name, when, where, what, who else)
- Decorations? (If Purple Heart, DFC, or above, give date and details of the act. If you have a copy of the narrative justifying the medal, please attach a copy.)
- Were you present during an attack against the base, Ranch site, or quarters? Explain.
- Were you present when a Ranch aircraft was shot down or crashed? Give all details.
- Were you present when a Ranch crew member was killed or wounded? Give as much data as possible, even if you didn't directly observe it or are not sure of date or names.
- Did you ever see or repair unusual battle damage (more than routine skin holes)?
- Did you ever help plan RH missions? If so, what was the procedure?
- How did you get into the Ranch? What did you know about the mission beforehand?
- What were you told about the chemicals used? In Vietnam? Before Vietnam?
- Other than something already discussed (or going home), what is your happiest memory of the Ranch (or Vietnam)? What is your unhappiest (saddest)?
- What unusual, odd-ball, weird, funny, etc., thing happened to you in VN or training?
- Same as question 17, but you saw it happen to another person(s).
- What were your quarters like? Your routine day? Your parties? Anything else?
- We know that the Ranch was unique. What should I tell the reader that will help him understand why this was a special outfit of special people? What or who should I not talk about?

Other data: Do you have any good pictures (especially of RH members), any journals, notes, diaries, letters, briefing notes, maps, etc., that I could copy? If so, DO NOT SEND THEM with this form. Repeat...DO NOT SEND THEM!!!! Describe the items on a separate piece of paper, with your name and form number on it. I will write and give you instructions on when to send them, or how to get them copied, at a later date. All materials will be protected and returned to you!!! Thank you for your help and time.

Please return this form and the narrative sheets in the enclosed envelope to Texas A&M.

Paul

Will try to answer the questions in your note. Sorry I'm so late.

We tried four or five night spray missions at the outside. The first one or two we used flare ships (a Ranchhand) flying above us dropping parachute flares. The next attempts were with full Moon. We picked up heavier ground fire on these attempts than the dawn patrols so scrapped the idea. We were trying also to get away from the "Dawn Patrol" pattern we had established. Most of us thought the ground fire was "friendly" as one night the fighters worked over the area & we received many complaints thru Army channels about firing on friendlies!

I don't remember "end of tour" reports and if they were submitted I don't have copies.

John Haldgen was the first "Ranch Hand Navigator" after departure of original 6 assigned for ferry mission. He was one of the six.

The elevator incident - I think there were three <sup>of four</sup> of us in the elevator - Gene Stammer, Dean Smith, Jay

Bobrick. Long time ago and the memory isn't as sharp as it once was.

Hodgins & Kidd. Designed the berets & Kidd was the artistic one. He also took more photos than anyone else & if you haven't contacted him <sup>before</sup> probably should. We had one incident when Gene Stummer was cornered by an Army LTC (Green beret type) in the BX and AF General Anthis quickly put him in place. We had given honorary status & a hat to Anthis & Army Gen. Fred Delamore (Chemical Corps - affectionately Uncle Fred to us) who flew with us on most missions. Still have my Punch-Hard Beret & don't want to part with it. I have nothing but fond memories & developed some lasting friendships during that period. It's something I wouldn't care to do again but it was sure fun the first time around.

I too felt that this was the final outfit I ever served in.

Best of Luck  
Mike Dewlin

①

DEVLIN

I VOLUNTEERED FOR THE RANGH WHEN CAPT CARL MARSHALL VISITED POPE AFB, NC. LOOKING FOR C-123 DRIVERS. WE WEREN'T TOLD THE NATURE OF THE MISSION OR THE DESTINATION. AT THE TIME I WAS A BACHELOR, CAPT., INSTRUCTOR PILOT WITH APPROXIMATELY 2000 HRS IN THE C-123. I WAS THE AIRCRAFT COMMANDER OF 362 (PATCHES) ON THE FLIGHT FROM POPE AFB TO CLARK AIR BASE IN THE PHILAPINES, CAPT BILL ROBINSON WAS PILOT & LT. BUD ADKINS CO-PILOT. CAN'T REMEMBER NAV OR F.R. FLYING TIME ON LONGEST WFG (TRAVIS - HICKAM) WAS APPROX 22 HRS. Stops were JOHNSON IS, WAKE<sup>?</sup> IS, ~~GUAM~~ GUAM IS, CLARK AB.

② (Devlin)  
TESTED DELTA NAV SYSTEM INSTALLED  
ON ONE OF OUR AIRCRAFT. SPRAY  
MISSION RATHER QUIET & WE  
VOLUNTEERED THE A/C FOR NUMEROUS  
TEST FLIGHTS.

TESTED AERIAL SPRAYING AT NIGHT  
WITH FLARES - FLARE SHIP WAS ALSO  
A RANCH-HAND BIRD.

TRIED SPRAYING AT NITE IN  
DELTA (FLAT TERRAIN) WITH FULL MOON.

8) Many AIR MEDALS

9) WAS IN ~~SEAT~~ <sup>SEAT</sup> FOR ALL TAKE

COUPS. 1) aircraft stuffing people, overthrow

OF BOTH DEIM & BIG-MINT.

10) Present when Fergy Cross Flew into Mountain

11) NO (except 10)

12) NO

13) yes - was COMMANDER ON 2nd & 3rd

trips. Aerial Photos, Intelligence, etc, Formal  
Mission Briefing including Army, ~~WATER - HANDEY~~  
FIGHTERS & Helicopters &

③

14. VOLUNTEERER — NOTHING
15. HARMLESS UNLESS YOU GET COVERED — WASH SOAP + WATER
16. People IN RANCH — COUNTRY FALLING
17. TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION.
18. —
- 19 STAYED 62 TRAM HUNG DAO (SAKHUI HI Hung Dao) ALL THREE VISITS. APARTMENT WAS IN MY NAME FROM 1962-65 & MAYBE LONGER. LOTS OF TENNIS & BA HUI DA.
20. DON'T BOTHRE TRYING TO EXPLAIN THEY WOULDN'T BELIEVE ANY OF IT!

LOTS OF PICTURES, MOVIES, ARTICLE WITH PICTURE OF DEVLIN & KIDD FROM STARS & STRIPES.

WHILE I WOULDN'T DO IT AGAIN THOSE WERE THREE OF THE BEST AND MOST FONDLY TREASURED YRS OF MY LIFE.