

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 so:

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

DONOVAN JAMES G. James G. Donovan 29 Oct 81
 Name (last first middle signature date)

Specific Information

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

- See attached*
- Ranch Hand service: From _____ to _____. Where? _____
 - RH/C-123 training: Where/when? Hurlburt Aux #9 April & May 1965
 - Rank while in RH? LT - CAPT Present/retired rank? AD O5
 - Duty(s) while in Ranch? _____ dates? _____
 - Other Vietnam service? Where/when? Never assigned to RH - Assigned to 309 ACS 8 June 65 to 23 May 66
 - If aircrew member:
 - Number of missions: RH 3 Other (specify) ?
 - Combat flying hours: RH 12 Other (specify) 500 hours C-123

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.

Fall 81

Paul Cecil,

I was never assigned to the Ranch mission. I was a C-123 Navigator Flight Examiner assigned to the 309th ACS during the command of 2 Col Kinney and Lt Col Calvin D. Boss. In those days Ranch Hand was attached to the 309th. There were times when the Ranch was without a Navigator Flight Examiner and I went along to give (excuse me) administer and in-country flight eval.

I was of course, well acquainted with many of the Ranch "wild men" and thoroughly enjoyed my associations. Maj Key-Chapman was the OIC in those days - later replaced by (then) Maj Desser.

I have received many of the news letters from the Ranch-Ex membership association and enjoyed the many quips and quotes. I am, however, not a full-fledged member of the Ranch and cannot claim any of their glory of those years.

Good luck in your history search

Sincerely,

Bud Donovan