

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.

FRATT MERLYN DOUGLAS Merlyn D. Fratt 11/11/81
 Name (last) first middle signature date

Specific Information

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

1. Ranch Hand service: From 9/10/69 to 9/17/70. Where? BIE HOA PHAN RHANG
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? HURLBUTT JUN-JULY-AUG EGLIN AFB, FLORIDA 1969
3. Rank while in RH? MAJOR Present/retired rank? LT. COL
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? OPS OFFICER ASST. OPS OFFICER dates? 5-2-70 TO 9-14-70
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? FLEW KC-135s IN SO. EAST ASIA
6. If aircrrew member:
 - a. Number of missions: RH 100+ Other (specify) _____
 - b. Combat flying hours: RH 490+ 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.

7. Special missions/operations participated in? (name, when, where, what, who else)
8. 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.)
9. Were you present during an attack against the base, Ranch site, or quarters? Explain.
10. Were you present when a Ranch aircraft was shot down or crashed? Give all details.
11. 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.
12. Did you ever see or repair unusual battle damage (more than routine skin holes)?
13. Did you ever help plan RH missions? If so, what was the procedure?
14. How did you get into the Ranch? What did you know about the mission beforehand?
15. What were you told about the chemicals used? In Vietnam? Before Vietnam?
16. Other than something already discussed (or going home), what is your happiest memory of the Ranch (or Vietnam)? What is your unhappiest (saddest)?
17. What unusual, odd-ball, weird, funny, etc., thing happened to you in VN or training?
18. Same as question 17, but you saw it happen to another person(s).
19. What were your quarters like? Your routine day? Your parties? Anything else?
20. 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.

Atch to RH History Project # 7332

7. SEVERAL HEAVY SUPPRESSION MISSIONS
in II, III AND IV CORPS
in 1970. DATED 6 NOV 70, EARNED
8. DECORATIONS: DFC - 6 NOV 70, 21 FEB 70 (ATCH)
AIR MEDAL WITH 7 CLUSTERS

9. SEVERAL ROCKET ATTACKS AT BIEN HOA
and Phan Rang

10. NO

11. NO

12. YES

13. YES - LEAD PILOTS, NAVIGATOR AND NUMBER TWO
PILOTS AND NAVIGATORS - REVIEW TERRAIN, DECIDE
ON TACTICS AND DETERMINE SUPPORT REQUIRED.
DEPENDING ON SUPPORT OF FIGHTERS AND
HELICOPTERS, THE PLANNING WOULD OCCUR FROM
5 DAYS TO ONE DAY BEFORE MISSION.

14. VOLUNTEER. SAW MOVIE AND BRIEFING OF
SPECIAL FORCES COMMANDER FROM EGLIN

15. VERY LITTLE 3) SEVERAL BRIEFINGS AND 4)
DISCUSSIONS WITH ARMY CHEMICAL CORPS
OFFICERS. 3) VERY BRIEFLY AT HURLBUTT

16. PARTIES. THRILL OF DUTY, PRIDE IN UNIT
ESPRIT

17 - 703477282

18. (T-9) 341231000

19. HUTCHES: TENT BARRACKS-LIKE QUONSET HUT

19. (cont) at Bien Hoa. Better at Phan Rang
2) Up at about 2:30 AM or 3:00; fly 2 sorties by noon
and work on "paper work" in afternoon or
plan for next days sorties.
3) Parties were pretty wild compared to stateside
Special purple flight units

20. Special Operations Squadron with emphasis
on "Special"

Example: Changed missions from Spray on
9 May '70 and flew first "Pox Ops" dropping in
leaflets on 11 May '70. Flew first flame drops
on 15 May '70. Moved from Bien Hoa to Phan Rang on 8 Jul '70
Start Spray mission ^{training} again on 16 Jul '70 and
"first" spray mission in "Happy Valley" on
20 July '70

Write about leadership of Lt. Col. Warren

P. Fisher 1/2 SOS CO from 9/69 to 5/70.

A truly fine commander
"To the Ranch"

P.S. Dick Thorndike probably

had the best collection of pictures

of any one. I have some available

Mr. Donny Furt

2815 MYERS

RIVERSIDE, CA, 92503

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TO

MERLYN D. PRATT

Major Merlyn D. Pratt distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as the Aircraft Commander of a UC-123 at An Nuyen Province, Republic of Vietnam, on 21 February 1970. On that date, Major Pratt flew an extremely hazardous low level defoliation mission into a known high threat hostile forces supply and base camp area. During the spray run, Major Pratt's aircraft received intense hostile ground fire resulting in damage to the hydraulic and flight controls systems. Despite the crippled condition of his aircraft and the continued opposition, Major Pratt elected to remain on target and complete the spray run. His timely decision and superior airmanship were highly instrumental in the safe and successful completion of this extremely important mission. The professional competence, aerial skill, and devotion to duty displayed by Major Pratt reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.