

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 Marilyn 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 EGGLE AFB, FLORIDA JUN-JULY-AUG 1969
3. Rank while in RH? MAJOR Present/retired rank? LT. COL
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? ASST. OPS OFFICER dates? 5-2-70 TO 9-14-70  
OPS OFFICER 11-69 TO 5-69
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? FLEW KC-135 IN SO. EAST ASIA  
FROM 1965 TO 1968.
6. If aircrew 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.

7. Several Heavy Suppression missions in II, III AND IV CORPS
8. DECORATIONS DFCI - DATED 6 NOV 70 EARNED 21 FEB 70 (ATCH) AIRMEDAL 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 2) SEVERAL BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH ARMY CHEMICAL CORPS OFFICERS. 3) VERY BRIEFLY AT HURL BUTT
16. PARTIES. THRILL OF DUTY, PRIDE IN UNIT ESPRIT
17. —
18. ST 190 30123131.8
19. HUTCHES: TENT TO BARRACKS-LIKE QUONSET HUT (OVER)

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 suits

20. Special Operations Squadron with emphasis on "Special"

Example: Changed missions from Spray on 9 May '70 and flew first "Pay Ops" dropping leaflets on 11 May '70. Flew first flare drops on 15 May '70.

Moved from Bien Hoa to Phan Rang on 8 Jul '70  
Start Spray mission <sup>training</sup> 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 Thandike probably  
had the best collection of pictures  
of any one. I have some available

M. Dany Fatt

2815 MYERS

RIVERSIDE, CA, 92503

**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**

**TO**

**MERLYN D. FRATT**

Major Merlyn D. Fratt distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as the Aircraft Commander of a UC-123 at An Xuyen Province, Republic of Vietnam, on 21 February 1970. On that date, Major Fratt 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 Fratt'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 Fratt 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 Fratt reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.