

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.

FRIMPTER Donald Joseph Donald J. Frimpter 5 Nov 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 FEB 70 to FEB 71. Where? BEIN HOA, DANANG, PHAN RANG, PHUCAT, PLEIKU
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? HURLBURTT FIELD, FLA. JAN 70
3. Rank while in RH? E-3 - E-4 Present/retired rank? Sgt - RESERVE
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? ACREW CHIEF 3) SUPPLY NCO
2) FLT DUTY 4) STORAGE CRIB dates? FEB 70 TO FEB 71
NCO
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? No
6. If aircrew member:
 - a. Number of missions: RH 30? Other (specify) ON NON-FLIGHT STATUS
 - b. Combat flying hours: RH 120? 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.

I HAVE PHOTOS & NON-CREW FLIGHT ORDERS - WILL HELP IN ANY WAY I CAN. Ph - 203-938-2063

7. The 12th S.O.S. was merged with the 310th T.A.S. At that point we converted regularly to fly paper propaganda missions over Cambodia, flare missions over Thialnad and Vietnam, and in-country JP-4 fuel resupply missions. We also started to train the Vietnamese on all but spray missions.

8. None

9. Bien Hoa was attacked several times. Once they got a helicopter on the transient pad, and another time they got an Army tent and about six men. Phan Rang got at least one rocket every Sunday morning about 9 a.m. One zapper attack on Phan Rang failed, we got one in the fuel dump, the Aussies got one that walked into their bar, and the Koreans got one just outside the perimeter.

Danang - rocket attack hit the fuel dump just after I had refueled our 123 and taken-off.

While flying a JP-4 mission to Tui Phuc the V.C. attacked. The Army held them off while we loaded up and took-off.

10. Three days before I left Vietnam A/C 373 crashed killing Five (5) crew members. I had preflighted the aircraft, and was supposed to go on a finny flight in it. The flightline NCOIC said we were to shorthanded. I watched the mission locally. As it passed over the field for its finny run it pulled a fighter bank to the right and up, exposing its complete topside to me. It started back towards me and pulled a high speed stall, the pilot tried to recover by going down and back but failed since the altitude was only about 250 feet. It crashed killing all aboard. From the point of impact to where it rested was only about two feet. Those aboard were; pilot 1st Lt. Donald Deas, co-pilot new to us but was some general's son, Nav. new to us, Flt. Eng. Msgr. Donaldson, 2nd Flt. Eng. new to us. Investigation proved pilot error.

11. Maj Flood was hit on the left wrist and in the breast bone on a spray run but was able to land the aircraft at Cahm Rahn Bay, he got first aid then flew back to Phan Rang. We counted 38 holes in the aircraft. The flack vest is what saved him.

On a "homeward bound" flight from Phan Rang to Camh Rahn Bay a/c 649 of the 310th or the 311th crashed into the side of a mountain killing 42 of the 44 onboard. The two survivors were Sgt Gary Aldridge of the Ranch who laid in the jungle for two weeks with broken legs and an ulsor. The crash sight was fog bound. The ARVN found him and he was evacuated to Japan. The other person was a Sgt Brothers of the 310th or the 311th who worked on the docks. I heard that he was a quad amputee.

12. Replaced a jug due to a bullet in it.

13. No

14. Just got orders for it. Heard about it from a Sgt. Morton who had just returned from it and ended up at Westover A.F.B., Mass.

15. Just what each color agent killed- by hearsay in Vietnam.

16. Saddest was hearing about a/c 649 crashing. The happiest was Christmas.

17. Met a high school friend that was in the Army and had three days left incountry and I had been incountry three days.

I threw a flare out that acted up and it burnt down a Green Beret chow hall and about 1000 acres of a rubber tree plantation. The Green Berets were in a fire fight at the time it burnt down.

On a paper mission the a/c took a 50 cal. slug that hit the armor plating under the copilots feet and missed my head by inches.

During one attack on Bien Hoa Sgts Eddy and Woltz and myself were walking across the O-2 ramp when the siren went off. We ran for a bunker with Vietnamese writing on it. As it turned out it was an ammo bunker!

Fooling around one night I chased Sgt Jim Webb into some barbed wire. He took a few stiches. During our first air raid in Feb 70 Sgt Webb made for the door when his thong "blew-out". He made the mistake of bending over to fix it and myself and four other guys ran over him.

At the new side of Bien Hoa Sgts. Willie O. Turner and Aldridge threw smoke grenades into both ends of the lifers huts. With that the 1st shirt Msgr. Harmon Grady fell out the unit into formation (at attention) in our underwear in a war zone at 12p.m.

At Phu Cat while in bed I was awakened by a guard dog growling at my nesk. The cop said to lie still. The dog was looking for drugs and found chemicals in the locker for the guy who was above me. He was a photographer.

18.

19. Barracks- old side of Bien Hoa the "Sty" 6man hooch small cooking and TV room one story high screen mess walls on a cement slab.

New side of Bien Hoa- two story high wooden frame 2 man cubes all white 20 men to a floor.

Phan Rang was the same as the new side of Bien Hoa.

Plieuki was a airconditioned area inside a hanger where we pulled alert for the flare missions.

Routine day

Start 7am

Launsh by 8am

Recovery 930am

Launch 1030am

Recovery 1200am

Lunch

Stay with plane until it was ready for the morning mission. ~~the~~ ^{Crews} chief method.

Bien Hoa after sending home 13 aircraft everyone went on non-flying status orders and did alot of flying. Total maintenence was about 25 people. Long hours.

After move to Phan Rang, alot of Tdys this became a source of rest for us. A lot more work due to rapid reconversions.

After we got to Phan Rang we got only two more real Ranch Hands. After that everyone else was out going.

No real parties just cookouts by guys off duty.

Days off were spent by the pool or studying college courses or sleeping.

20. All of us in maint. said that we had some sort of american indian in us.

Went into battle with no fire power - bare-ass!

Enemy supposedly had a price on our heads.

Enemy must have known we were coming because they threw every thing at us.

Took alot of hits i.e. PATCHES over 1000 hits when I left.

Small amount of men doing a large amount of work , the whole country was our battlefield. Long hours DEDICATED! Mobile unit assorted missions. Tell reader why spraying was done.

Names I remember;

TSGT Ken Webb ran tank farm, lived in BienHoa married local stayed behind

Sgt Ford From N.J.

Sgt Ray Johnson

Sgt Phil Baker worked in docks

Sgt Kady

Sgt Greg Anderson ops.

A1C Robert Marrow docks

Ssgt Terrance Sorrensen

Ssgt John P Akotchick aquired from 310th TAS

Sgt Phil DiGennaro flight mech now at 105CAMS Westchester AFB, N.Y.

Tsgt Stroup ~~pos~~ ops

Ssgt Oscar Nash ops

Ssgt Lowshaw ops

Tsgt Billy Gibbs

Tsgt Russell Newell

Sgt Rodney Hughes
A1C Robert Reed docks

Maint. people I spent my year with
Msgt Martin, Wilbur
Tsgt Wyatt
Tsgt Clarence Austin
Ssgt Greer
Ssgt Dan Gerlich
Sgt Dall-Winther
Sgt Dennis Woltz from Carlise Pa.
Sgt Gary Aldridge
Sgt Dennis Smeltzer
Sgt Willie O Turner From Ga. I have his address
Sgt Charlie Roberts Tenn.
Sgt Jim Webb Texas
Sgt Eddy Calif.
Sgt Rathburn
A1C Richard Smith
SSgt Ralph Ewers Fla.
A1C Bruce Harper Lawrence Kansas
Sgt Gaines Now in Topeka Kansas, Forbes AFB
Sgt Ray Land Joplin Missouri

Please excuse the typing.