

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.

GERLACH DANIEL DEWEY Daniel Gerlach 01 NOV 1981
 Name (last first middle signature date)

Specific Information

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

1. Ranch Hand service: From JAN 1970 to JAN 1971. Where? BEIN HOA & PHAN RANG
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? EGLIN AF AUX FIELD 9 HURLBURT FIELD FLA. 18 NOV 69 THRU 23 DEC 69
3. Rank while in RH? SSGT Present/~~retired~~ rank? MSGT
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? CREWCHIEF of SPRAY BIRDS dates? JAN 1970 - JAN 1971
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? SUPPORT FLIGHT TO TUY HOA SEPT 67 JAN 68 JULY 68
6. If aircrew member:
 - a. Number of missions: RH 165 Other (specify) 3 SUPPORT TUY HOA
 - b. Combat flying hours: RH 301 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. SPECIFIC MISSIONS UNCERTAIN AT THIS TIME

8. 5 AIR MEDALS RECEIVED APPROX. 3 YEARS AFTER RETURNING TO THE STATES, NO THANKS TO THE AWARDS AND DECORATIONS SECTION THAT DID NOT EVEN WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH MY FLIGHT RECORDS.

9. NOTHING MORE THAN THE USUAL MORTAR AND ROCKET ATTACKS

10. YES. I WAS LAUNCHING OUT 3 123'S ONE MORNING AND WAS ALSO SCHEDULED TO GO TO CAMRAHN BAY FOR RECOVERY OF A C123 THAT WAS DAMAGED. WHILE THERE WORKING ON THIS AIRCRAFT ANOTHER ONE OF OUR PLANES CAME THROUGH THERE WITH A MALFUNCTION. I REMOVED A PART FROM THE DAMAGED ACFT AND SENT THE OTHER PLANE ON THEIR WAY. THAT AFTERNOON HERE COMES ANOTHER CREW CHIEF WITH TOOL BOX IN HAND. I ASKED HIM WHAT HE WAS THERE FOR AND HE INFORMED ME THAT THE AIR PLANE I WAS LOGGED ON HAD DISAPPEARED AND THAT THEY NEEDED SOMEONE ELSE TO GO TO CAMRAHN BAY TO FIX THE DAMAGED AIR PLANE. WELL I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE LAST 123 I HAD LAUNCHED THAT MORNING AND ROSE ON THAT PLANE TO CAMRAHN BAY. WHEN WE GOT THE PLANE READY FOR FLIGHT WE WENT BACK TO HOME STATION ON IT. WHEN WE ARRIVED AT HOME BASE I RECEIVED ALL KINDS OF STARES AND QUESTIONS AS TO WHERE I CAME FROM AND I WAS QUICK TO INFORM THEM. WELL THE PLANE I WAS SCHEDULED TO FLY ON WAS FOUND CRASHED INTO THE SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN LACKING A FEW HUNDRED FEET FROM CLEARING THE TOP SIDE

11. yes we had a mission out of DANANG and The Pilot was nicked on The wrist. I do not recall The names or dates.

12. yes my AIRCRAFT AT THAT TIME 373 TOOK A HIT ON MY #1 RECIP ENGINE ON WHICH I RECEIVED A NASTY BURN ON MY RIGHT ARM TRYING TO BACK OUT OF THE WAY SO EVERYONE COULD TAKE A LOOK SEE BEFORE I COULD GET BACK TO WORK.

13. NO

14. I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE RANCH HANDS 12th 65 BY PCS ORDERS AND I KNEW NOTHING OF THE MISSION BEFORE BEING ASSIGNED TO IT.

15. WE WERE TOLD VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE CHEMICALS USED EXCEPT THEIR COLORS AND USING CARE WHEN HANDLING THEM. WHEN WE MOVED THE OUT FIT TO PHAN RANG WE WERE TO CONTAIN ANY AND ALL SPILLS OF HERBICIDES USING WHATEVER MEANS POSSIBLE. SO IT WOULD NOT GET INTO THE DRAIN SYSTEM GOING OFF BASE. IF WE HAD A SPILL WE USED SAND BAGS RIGHT OFF THE BUNKERS WE HAD CLOSE BY.

16. USUALLY WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, I USUALLY GET PRETERBED AT ALL THE LONG, LONG HOURS AND MANY ROUND THE CLOCK WORK PERIODS I PUT IN, IN SUPPORT OF THE MISSION AND I NEVER EVEN GOT A LETTER OF APPRECIATION FOR SERVING IN THE RANCH HANDS AND AS A RULE FOR DOING A GOOD JOB WHILE IN VIETNAM YOU USUALLY RECEIVED AT LEAST A COMMEMORATION MEDAL OF WHICH I DIDN'T RECEIVE. AS LONG AS I LIVE THAT WILL ALWAYS BE A THORN IN MY SIDE THAT I WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO RECEIVE AT LEAST THIS AWARD. THE LAST COMMANDER I HAD WAS LT COL EMERY J. CRANE LAST KNOWN ASSIGNMENT WAS 436 MAL Wg. DOVER AFB DEL. 1990.

WHEN NOT ASSIGNED TO WORK ON THE DEFOLIANT BIRDS I ALSO WORKED ON THE MALARIA CONTROL BIRDS AND WAS REQUIRED TO DRIVE A TANKER TO LONG BIN TO PICK UP THE MALATHION AND RETURN TO BIN HOA. THIS ALSO WAS USUALLY DONE BY MYSELF OR WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF ONE MORE TROOP. I FEEL THAT SOME OF MY WORK WAS WELL ABOVE THE NORMAL WORK EXPECTED.

17. ONE EVENING WHILE SERVICING OIL AT BIN HOA A COUPLE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE WITH RIFLES AND SACKL CHARGES WENT RIGHT THROUGH THE WASH RACK, A FEW PARKING SPOTS AWAY. BOY IT SURE DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO GET OFF THAT WING AND PUT OUT THE LIGHTS. ALSO SEE ITEM 10.

18. I HAD AN ASSISTANT CREWCHIEF THAT LIKED TO SLEEP ON PREFLIGHT TIME TILL ONE MORNING I JUST LET HIM SLEEP AND TALKED THE CREW INTO TAKING HIM ALONG AND

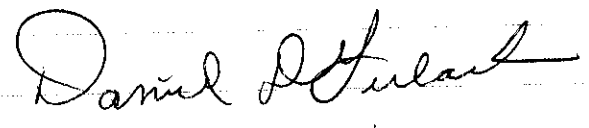
WAKE him when they get AIR BORNE. Well he never went TO SLEEP ON PREFLIGHT AGAIN.

19. QUARTERS WERE FAIR AND WITH THE SELF HELP PROJECTS WE MADE THEY WERE BETTER BUT THEY WERE CERTAINLY MUCH BETTER THAN TENT CITY. THE ROUTINE DAY WAS SCHEDULED FOR 12 HOUR DAYS 6 DAYS A WEEK WITH ONE DAY OFF BUT THIS DID NOT ALWAYS HOLD TRUE, SOME DAYS WENT AS LONG AS 36 HOURS LONG. THE PARTIES WERE ALWAYS SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO, FOR A COUPLE OF REASONS. (1) IT MEANT SOMEONE WAS GETTING TO GO HOME ON DEKAS (2) IT MEANT THAT YOU WERE GETTING CLOSER TO GOING HOME. (3) IT ALSO VENTED SOME OF THE FRUSTRATIONS

20. THE RANCH HAND DID STICK TOGETHER THROUGH THICK AND THIN.

yes I DO HAVE SOME PICTURES OF RH MEMBERS, HAVE SOME ARTICLES FROM BASE PAPERS, AND COPIES OF ORDERS WITH NUMEROUS RANCH HAND PEOPLE ON THEM.

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