

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.

Name (last) Marshall, Robert Eugene first middle Signature Robert B. Marshall Date 25 Oct 98

Specific Information

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

1. Ranch Hand service: From Jan 1967 to Jan 1968. Where? Bien Hoa & Danang RVN
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? Hurlburt Fld, FL Nov-Dec 1966
3. Rank while in RH? Captain Present/retired rank? _____
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? FE Navigator & Targeting Off dates? Jan 1967 to Jan 1968
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? No, except passing thru TDY before RH
6. If aircREW member:
 - a. Number of missions: RH 297 Other (specify) _____
 - b. Combat flying hours: RH 550+ 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.

7. Special missions:

- a. Of the total --- missions flown, --- were defoliation and --- were to malaria control. The malaria control missions included --- to the prison island Con Son, twice landing for breakfast at the base station.
- b. One of the ^{more} unique special missions was the planning and execution of the first spraying missions into Asha Valley after its fall some years before.

8. Decorations: Eleven (11) Airmedals

9. Attack: Only attacks experienced were several typical nighttime VC rocket attacks at Da Nang. I remember trying to see the movie "Dr. Strangelove" at the Da Nang base theater and having to go three times in order to see the complete movie because of inconsiderate VC rocket attacks during the movies. Also, C-130s because of O'Call damage.

10. Shot up a lot on numerous missions, (but who wasn't?) but observed no crashes.

11. Yes

12. No

13. Yes. As Flight Examiner and Instructor I was involved in planning, and targeting, most of the missions flown in ~~late~~ the second half of 1967. This included coordination with MAEV

(over)

(2)

and the 715 Army Chemical Corps. This further involved flying into field with the Army in UH-1B Gunships to observe first hand the effect of defoliation in specific target areas. Also, participated in "Pink Rose" which essentially was an attempt to create a forest fire in a defoliated area with incendiary bombs. It didn't work, in fact the ones that did start were put out by a thunderstorm.

14. I volunteered for Laughland upon arrival in Viet Nam at Tan Son Nhut. When processing in I encountered my former boss, Bob Dellyan from ~~the~~ those days at James Connally AFB. He was in Thanh Phuoc and when he explained their mission (and very limited now flying involvement) I asked him what could a no fly and be truly valuable, upon which he suggested the Ranch. So I and my good friend Jon Riedenbacher (also a former Connally and Master instructor) volunteered and were for a long stretch the only Ranch PAs.

15. Was told the chemicals were same as what was used for agricultural spraying in the U.S. As far as I recall some discussion in late 1967 that Laughland was using so much defoliant it was creating an agricultural defoliant sprayer existed in the U.S. have heard nothing since V.N., except the media AGENT ORANGE fiasco.

16. The camaraderie and friendships in the bunch are most pleasant memories. Deaths of friends and Summary Court Officer duties the saddest.

17. One pang of concern came on a mission when we were spraying crops and F-100's were "hot" beside on the first pass. One of the few times in VN I had seen hotshots and it appeared the F-100 20 mm would get a couple of holes, but they missed. Unfortunately on our second pass Charlie didn't miss, hitting us in the prop dome and causing a runaway prop. This almost did us in, but Capt. Shlyman pulled another one through, and we made it safely to Bien Hoa for an emergency, but safe landing.

18. N/A

19. Hooper at Bien Hoa, dormitory barracks at Da Nang. Up at 0400, brief at 0515, takeoff at 0545 first load on target at Da Nang. Return for second and sometimes third missions or until temperature reached 80°F. (spray would not settle above 80°F).

20. Tell the facts, good and bad.

Yes, I have numerous color slides of missions and parties.