

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.

MEEKINS, ROGER P.  
Name (last) first middle

*Roger P. Meekins*  
signature

15 NOV 81  
date

#### Specific Information

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

1. Ranch Hand service: From AUG 68 to AUG 69. Where? BIEN HOA DA NANG PHAN RANG
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? SUMMER 1968 HURLBURT
3. Rank while in RH? MAJOR Present/retired rank? CIVIC ACTION OFFICER LT. COL.
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? SPRAY, TRASH HAULING (PILOT) dates? AUG 68-AUG 69
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? VARIOUS- SAC TANKER PILOT
6. If aircrew member:
  - a. Number of missions: RH 162 Other (specify) 239 COMBAT
  - b. Combat flying hours: RH 236.9 Other (specify) 168.9 CARGO
  - c. Missions 20 MISSIONS

#### 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.

# THE FOUR WINDS AND THE SEVEN SEAS

Incorporated

ROUTE ONE, BOX 866  
MANTEO, NORTH CAROLINA 27954

ROGER P. MEEKINS  
President

## Supplement to Ranch Hand Info:

7. Unknown
8. 3 DFC, 25Apr69/22Jun69/7Jul69; 6 Air Medals; RVN Honor Medal First Class, 11 Dec 69; Presidential Unit Citation 6Oct69; RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm 25Aug69; RVN Senior Pilot Wings 12Apr69.
9. Yes, on numerous occasions. We donned the flak jackets and went to shelters during rocket attacks.
10. No.
11. No.
12. ~~Max~~ Yes. Leaking fuel cell, broken spray lines, flat tire, broken hydraulic lines.
13. Yes. On at least two occasions went to Provincial Headquarters to consult with Vietnamese officials on areas to be targeted. Normal flight planning from then on, coordinated with scheduling.
14. Assigned. Knew nothing about it until then.
15. Was told nothing about the chemicals concerning hazards to human health. We were told the chemical composition, I believe, but that meant little to me.
16. One of the most rewarding experiences was our assistance to the Phouc Loc Tho Buddhist orphanage, located between Bien Hoa and Saigon, and our communication with the monks and older students. (have some slides of this operation, in 35mm, color)
17. Had difficulty getting "official" permission from the district & water authority to tap a supply line to provide water to the
18. orphanage. So we did it the "American Way"--just simply dug a ditch, tapped the pipe, drove it under the road and gave them water anyway.
19. Regular hootch. Early to bed, early to rise.
20. The Ranch was extraordinarily strong on esprit-de-corpse-- the most I experienced in my 20-year career. It was a group of multi-engine airplane crews who flew these machines like fighters.

I am currently a full-time graduate student at N. C. State University working on degree of Master of Technology for International Development. Next year may have more time for longer details if still needed.