

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.

PARR MICHAEL JOSEPH Michael J. Parr 14 DEC 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 Aug 1970 to May 1971. Where? Phan Rang AB
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? Lockbourne AFB, Ohio & Hurlbert Field, Fla June-July 1970
3. Rank while in RH? Captain Present/~~Retired~~ Rank? Major
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? pilot and scheduler dates? 1970-71
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? Thailand 1968, 1969, Clark AB, PI 1972 Flew Air Refuel missions over Vietnam with SAC
6. If aircrew member: Bug Bird
 - a. Number of missions: RH 4 herb, rest in ~~air~~ Other (specify) _____
 - b. Combat flying hours: RH _____ 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.

PARR MICHAEL JOSEPH

1. AUGUST 1970 TO MAY 1971 PHAN RANG A.B.
2. LOCKBOURNE AFB, OHIO AND HURLBERT FIELD FLA. / JUNE, JULY 70
3. CAPTAIN — MAJOR
4. PILOT AND SCHEDULER 70-71
5. THAILAND 1968, 1969, CLARK A.B, P.I. 1972 FLEW AIR REFUELING MISSIONS OVER VIETNAM WITH SAC
6. FLEW 4 DEFOI MISSIONS AND REMAINDER ON BUG BIRD FOR ~~MASS~~ MALARIA CONTROL.
7. NONE
8. JUST AIR MEDALS FOR FLYING COMBAT MISSIONS IN VIET NAM.
9. WE EXPERIENCED SEVERAL ROCKET ATTACKS AT PHAN RANG BUT IN ALL CASES IT WAS ONLY ONE ROCKET AND VERY LITTLE DAMAGE WAS INFLICTED.
10. I WAS PRESENT WHEN ONE OF THE BUG BIRDS CRASHED AT PHAN RANG ABOUT MARCH 1971 (NOT SURE OF DATE). THE BIRD HAD SPRAYED THE BASE AND IT WAS THE PILOTS LAST FLIGHT IN VIET NAM (FINI FLIGHT) SO HE MADE A LOW PASS OVER THE RUNWAY, PULLED UP INTO A TIGHT CLOSED PATTERN AND STALLED THE PLANE. IT CRASHED CLOSE TO THE C-123 AREA ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE BASE. ALL ON BOARD WERE KILLED. (5) SOME TOOK PICTURES WHILE IT HAPPENED BUT I DON'T REMEMBER WHO.
11. THE PILOT OF THE PLANE MENTIONED IN 10 ABOVE WAS CAPT CHARLIE DEES. THE CO-PILOT WAS A

GENERALS SON, LAST NAME O'KEEF OR O'KEITH,

12 NO

13. NOT DIRECTLY. WE WOULD BE CONTACTED BY PROVINCE CHIEFS THAT CROPS WERE BEING GROWN AND REQUESTING THAT WE SPRAY THEM. ALL FOUR MISSIONS I WENT ON WERE TO SPRAY CROPS (FOOD ITEMS, NOT TREES) WE HAD TO COORDINATE WITH THE ARMY, AIR FORCE (O-2 AND F-100 SUPPORT) AND THE PROVINCE CHIEF. IT SEEMED THAT IT TOOK A LONG TIME TO CUT THROUGH THE RED TAPE.
14. I WAS A SAC KC-135 CO-PILOT AND GOT ORDERS TO UC-123 IN VIET NAM. I KNEW THAT RANCH HAND SPRAYED TREES AND KNEW THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PEOPLE WERE PROTESTING THE USE OF CHEMICALS THE RANCH WAS USING.
15. DURING TRAINING, FORMER RANCH HAND PILOTS TOLD US ABOUT AGENT ORANGE BECAUSE OF THE CONTROVERSY. THEY SHOWED US PICTURES OF SPRAYED AREAS. IN VIET NAM WE USED AGENT BLUE AND WERE TOLD IT WAS A DEFOILIANT AND IT WOULD KILL CROPS. WE WERE NEVER TOLD IT WOULD HARM US.
16. WE WERE A VERY CLOSE KNIT GROUP, EVEN WHILE WE WERE GOING THROUGH C-123 TRAINING. WE CONSIDERED OURSELVES SPECIAL. WE WEREN'T ORDINARY "TRASH HAULERS". I'VE NEVER BEEN IN AN OUTFIT THAT HAD SUCH ESPRIT DE CORPS. WHEN WE FLEW WE WERE PROFESSIONALS AND WHEN WE ~~AND~~^{PLAYED} WE HAD A BALL. EACH OF THE GUYS CONTRIBUTED TO THE GROUP AND WE HAD NO IN-UNIT SQUABBLES.

SADDEST MEMORY WAS THE LOSS OF 5 "COWBOYS" IN THE CRASH MENTIONED IN ITEM 10.

17. WHILE IN TRAINING IN FLORIDA WE KEPT READING ARTICLES ABOUT THE RANCH HAND OPERATION IN VIET NAM. ALL STORIES SAID THE UNIT WAS DISBANDING AND THE SPRAY AIRCRAFT AND CREWS WERE BEING SENT HOME. THIS WAS IN THE SUMMER OF 1970. WE KEPT ASKING IF THIS WAS TRUE AND WONDERED WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO. WE GOT NO OFFICIAL WORD. WHEN WE ARRIVED IN VIET NAM WE FOUND OUT THAT RANCH HAND HAD BEEN "DISBANDED" BUT IN REALITY, IT WAS MOVED FROM BIEN HOA TO PHAN RANG AND WAS NOW "A" FLIGHT OF THE AIRLIFT WING. WE WERE IN FACT DOING THE SAME THING BUT THE RANCH WAS NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE AS FAR AS THE FOLKS BACK HOME WERE CONCERNED.

18 WE IN THE RANCH WERE NOT TRAINED IN TRASH HAULING AND WERE ALWAYS LANDING ON LONG RUNWAYS SO WE VERY SELDOM USED THE REVERSE PROPS TO STOP THE AIRCRAFT. ONE DAY I WAS FLYING AS CO-PILOT FOR A YOUNG LIEUTENANT GOING INTO THE BUSIEST AIRPORT IN THE WORLD, TAN SON NHUT. AS WE TOUCHED DOWN HE DECIDED TO GO INTO REVERSE. HE PERFORMED THE MANUEVER WRONG AND THE ENGINES STOPPED COLD, ON THE RUNWAY. HE ATTEMPTED TO CRANK THEM UP BUT WITH ALL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT ON IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE. I WAS LAUGHING SO HARD I WAS NO HELP. WITH THE HELP OF THE ENGINEER, HE WAS ABLE TO START ONE ENGINE AND TAXI CLEAR OF THE ACTIVE. IT WAS AN EMBARRASSING MOMENT FOR THE YOUNG PILOT.

19. WE LIVED IN A BUILDING THAT HAD 12 ROOMS,

A LATRINE AND A LARGE COMMUNITY ROOM WHERE WE HAD A BAR AND SOME SOFAS. THE TRASH HAULERS AND RANCH HAND PILOTS LIVED TOGETHER. I ROOMED WITH A CAPT DUANE FENN WHO HAS SEPARATED FROM THE AIR FORCE. WE PAPERED THE WALLS OF OUR ROOM WITH PICTURES CUT FROM PLAYBOY MAGAZINE AND HAD A PARACHUTE COVERING THE CEILING. WE HAD A SMALL REFRIGERATOR FOR BEER AND OTHER ESSENTIALS AND 2 HOT PLATES. THE ROOM HAD A WINDOW AIR CONDITIONER THAT RAN CONSTANTLY. WE PAINTED OUR DOOR "RANCH PURPLE" AND HAD THE RANCH SYMBOL ON IT IN WHITE. WE WERE QUITE COMFORTABLE.

WHEN I FLEW THE BUG BIRD, WE GOT UP AROUND 3:30 AM, TOOK OFF AND ARRIVED AT THE BASE WE WERE TO SPRAY AROUND 6:00 AM. WE WERE BACK AT PHAN RANG AROUND 9:00 AM AND USUALLY WENT BACK TO BED FOR A NAP. LUNCH WAS AT THE O'CLUB WHICH WAS A DINING HALL FOR THE NOON MEAL. I SPENT LOTS OF TIME AT THE PHOTO HOBBY SHOP DEVELOPING SLIDES. AT NIGHT WE WENT TO THE CLUB FOR SUPPER AND FLOOR SHOWS OR WENT TO THE MOVIES.

WE HAD LOTS OF PARTIES AT THE CLUB, AT THE ENLISTED BARRACKS AND WITH OTHER GROUPS ON THE BASE. OUR CASUAL PARTIES WERE ALL OUT BLASTS WITH LOTS OF DRINKING, AND WERE GREAT.

20. JUST TRY TO EXPLAIN WHAT WE WERE DOING AND THAT AGENT ORANGE WAS NECESSARY AT THE TIME IT WAS USED. WE IN "THE RANCH" HAD NO IDEA IT MIGHT BE THE CAUSE OF ANY PROBLEMS FOR PEOPLE ON THE GROUND.