

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.

Phillips Robert Stanley Robert A. Phillips Oct 20, 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 Aug 68 to Dec 68. Where? Bien Hoa and Da Nang
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? Hurlburt AFB FL May-14 Jul 68
3. Rank while in RH? Major Present/retired rank? Colonel (Ret)
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? Pilot, IP, Flying Safety Officer dates? Aug '68 - Dec '68
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? None
6. If aircrew member:
 - a. Number of missions: RH 158 Other (specify) 72
 - b. Combat flying hours: RH 193.5 Other (specify) 147.8

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. None

8. Vietnam Service Medal, Air Medal,
~~Republic~~ Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces
Senior Pilot Wings, Gallantry Cross with
Palm, Presidential Unit Citation.

9. No

10. One aircraft piloted by a ^{Captain Bill} ~~Major~~ Specht landed
gear up (pilot error) during a brief period when
the Ranch turned to trash hauling because no
herbicide was available. Also a Capt Poast
and Lt Col Wildman (Ops. officer) successfully
~~to~~ made an emergency landing after losing
aircraft control on the night wing as a result
of 50 cal. fire over a delta target.

11. No

12. No

13. No

14. I was selected while attending C-123B ~~familiarization~~
~~for~~ training at Hurlburt, probably because
I had over 1000 hours in the C-123B at that
time. I was asked if I was willing to
volunteer and I said yes. I knew little
of the mission ~~or~~ or procedures of the
Ranch and the training at Hurlburt did
little to help me understand that mission.
There was little relationship between the training
and the actual mission.

- 15 Before Vietnam nothing. In Vietnam one of our pilots, I don't remember the name, was said to have drunk a glass of herbicide, I think it was Orange but could have been white, as a demonstration to the Vietnamese that the substance was harmless. Other than that the only thing I was told was the effects the various herbicides had on the areas being sprayed.
- 16 Happiest: Being selected for Instructor ^{Pilot} Duty.
Unhappiest: Boredom as a result of inactivity while flying out of Da Nang during a period of bad weather.
- 17 None
- 18 None
- 19 Quarters: Hootch construction, wooden with fully beaded up sides and air conditioning.
Routine day: up about 4 AM, Breakfast, Brief Take Off 5:30 or 6 AM. Two missions usually. Then return Bien Hoa or Da Nang about 11 AM with rest of day to kill. Usually studied - avoided drinking until late afternoon - then held it to moderation except 2-3 times at special parties. Taught Introductory Accounting for University of Maryland in evening ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~stage~~ ^{like} nights per week. Parties were usually ^{looked like} drunken brawls. Drinking was heavy all of the time by a small group of Ranch Members. Others drank but with

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restraint respecting the early hour of our missions. Most of the Ranch folks were dedicated to getting the mission completed properly and to finishing up their year in Viet Nam alive - so the loudness of the parties was more funmaking than it was drunken brawls - but it was hard to see the difference - or those that made the difference

20 No special comment