

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.

POWELL, DAVID H. David H. Powell 21 Oct 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 NONE. Where?
2. ~~M~~C-123 training: Where/when? POPE AFB, NC 1963
3. Rank while in ~~RH~~ 309 TCS CAPTAIN Present/~~retired~~ rank? COLONEL
4. Duty(s) while in ~~RH~~ 309 TCS INST. NAVIGATOR dates? AUG '63 to JUL '64
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? TAN SON NHUT " "
6. If aircREW member:
  - a. Number of missions: RH \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify) C-123 - 175
  - b. Combat flying hours: RH \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify) C-123 - 228.3

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.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
384TH AIR REFUELING WING (H) (SAC)  
MC CONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, KANSAS 67221

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: MA

21 October 1981

SUBJECT: Ranch Hand History Project

TO: Paul F. Cecil  
Ranch Hand History Project  
Department of History  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, TX 77843

Dear Paul,

I have enclosed the completed questionnaire as requested. As you can see, I was not a member of Ranch Hand, but was a navigator in the 309TCS in '63-'64. At that time Ranch Hand was a special detachment of volunteers from the 309th Troop Carrier Squadron at Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

I was with the first cadre of PCS personnel in the 309th. Prior to our arrival in '63, and until we were checked out, the 309th was a TDY outfit ("Mule Train") rotating from Pope AFB with six months duty in Vietnam. As I can recall, the TDY troops really enjoyed their Vietnam duty since they received \$18 per day per diem and lived in Saigon apartments like kings (that was a lot of money then in Vietnam). We PCS replacements took a burn on that since we were there for a full year with no per diem. (The TDY lieutenants were making more money than our PCS majors!)

I am sorry I can not be of more help to you.

Sincerely,

DAVID H. POWELL, Colonel, USAF  
Deputy Commander for Maintenance