

Item #8

RANCH HAND HISTORY PROJECT

Form No. 7718

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 SCOTT JOHN LEAKE John Scott 9 Nov 1981
(last first middle signature date)

Specific Information

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

1. Ranch Hand service: From Aug 1966 to Sep 1966. Where? 309th ACS at 2 Tow Shw Unit (Company) Saigon, Viet Nam
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? Langley AFB VA June-July, 1966
3. Rank while in RH? CAPT Present/retired rank? Major Retired
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? Pilot dates? _____
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? Sep 1966 - Aug 1967, 309th A-1a Commando Sqdn. Saigon
6. If aircrew member:
- a. Number of missions: RH #67 Other (specify) 1279 309 A-1a Commando Sqdn
- b. Combat flying hours: RH 14.10 Other (specify) 840.55 30 A-1a Commando Sqdn

Narrative Information

Flying C-123B and C-123K

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) None
8. Decorations? (If Purple Heart, DFC, or above, give date and details of the act. If None 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. No
10. Were you present when a Ranch aircraft was shot down or crashed? Give all details. No
11. Were you present when a Ranch crew member was killed or wounded? Give as much data yes 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)? Bullets hit windshield, wounding a pilot
13. Did you ever help plan RH missions? If so, what was the procedure? No
14. How did you get into the Ranch? What did you know about the mission beforehand? yes
15. What were you told about the chemicals used? In Vietnam? Before Vietnam? The A-1a crew "volunteered" me. Very little.
16. Other than something already discussed (or going home), what is your happiest memory of the Ranch (or Vietnam)? What is your unhappiest (saddest)? That they killed people, but that it was so safe you could drink it. My last flight - 3 hits.
17. What unusual, odd-ball, weird, funny, etc., thing happened to you in VN or training? When Ralph Dresser let me out of RH when he found out I was not a volunteer.
18. Same as question 17, but you saw it happen to another person(s). Can't remember.
19. What were your quarters like? Your routine day? Your parties? Anything else? Nice for V.A.
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? Long Few Bonadon. I was a crazy bunch, all volunteers (except me a about 3 others) since I was not a volunteer. I let me out of RH when he found out I was not a volunteer.
- 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.

(over)

I was in the Ranch only for a short while.

While training in C-123's at Hurlbert Field, FLA, the Air Force "Volunteered" or directed that I be placed in ~~the~~ Ranch Hand with a couple other guys, one was Karl Marquart, one was Randy Custer.

After we got to W.A. ^{Major} Ralph Dresser, the Commander of RH at the time informed us that it was a "volunteer" outfit.

Karl Marquart and I asked to get out since we had not volunteered.

Dresser let us out - we flew C-123

cargo planes the rest of the year tour.

In the Ranch, I picked up 3 hits the 1st flight, and 2 more the 1st week. After getting out - I only picked up 2 more hits during the tour.

My decision to get out was the best decision I ever made - otherwise, I would probably not be around to write this.

We were told the chemicals were safe for humans.

John Smith