

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.

SHUPPERT MICHAEL L Michael L Shuppert 10-18-81
Name (last first middle signature date)

Specific Information

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

1. Ranch Hand service: From 4-1-65 to 4-10-66. Where? SIGON (TOWNSHAW)
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? CLARK AFB TX 1964 STEDD AFB Langley AFB 1964 HURLBERT FLD 1964 SEWELL AFB 1964
3. Rank while in RH? A1C Present/retired rank? S/SGT
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? FLIGHT ENG. & SPRAY OPER. dates? 4-1-65 — 4-10-66
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? N/A
6. If aircrew member:
 - a. Number of missions: RH 300 approx. Other (specify) _____
 - b. Combat flying hours: RH 300 approx. 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.

Shuppert #7731

7. 202 operations - Kontum Sector - 15 July 65 / 30 Aug. 65
Iron Triangle - Da Nang - Hue - Laos - Delta -
Rice Lift to Banmethuot June 65 (when State Dept.
grounded us.)
Many More - just can't remember

⑧ **DFC** - A/c M.L. Shuppert distinguished himself by
heroism while participating in aerial flight as a
UC 123 Flight Eng. & Spray Operator over the Republic
of Vietnam on May 25, 1965. On that date, after his
~~UC 123~~ ship had sustained battle damage while
drawing ground fire from a critically damaged
sister ship, Airman Shuppert activated the Manual
dumping system thereby relieving the damaged
Plane of its heavy load of herbicide spray enabling
the aircraft to recover safely at an emergency
field. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion
to duty displayed by Airman Shuppert reflected
great credit upon himself and the USAF. (SO 6528)

Gallantry Cross w/ Bronze Star - As an outstanding
and courageous Aircraft Engineer, A/c Michael L
Shuppert participated in many 202 Operations. He

(2)

exhibited brilliance during an operation to destroy Viet Cong crops and Secret Bases in Kontum Sector, from 15 July 1965 to 30 Aug. 65. 1,500 hectares of Viet Crops and many troop structures and antiaircraft weapons emplacements were destroyed. In addition, heavy casualties and weapons losses were inflicted upon the enemy.

Air Michael J Shippert calmly repaired the aircraft hit by the Viet Congs heavy anti-aircraft fire. Thanks to this, the flight crew returned to base without casualties after the mission was completed.

Purple Heart Wounds received in Action
Dtd 12-22-65 (SO 624)

Air Metals Combat Mission - 12 air metals
1965 - 1966

Purple Flying Scarf - 1965

Viet Nam Wings - 1965

Viet Nam Ser. Medal w/ 1 Bronze Star 1965

Expert marksmanship / 13-Jan-66

- (14) Volunteer — Nothing
- (15) Just a herbicide
- (16) Happiest Memory: Started 4-1-65 to 4-10-66
Every thing that happened, I wouldn't give
up 1 second of that year. The People in
Ranch Hand were the most Professional
People in the World as far as I'm concerned
There were No Bad Times.
- (17) N/A
- (18) N/A
- (19) Barracks (standard) & House downtown
~~B~~ Parties — after every flight & every day
that's what kept everyone going.
- (20) We were and still are Professionals and
at the time I was in the "Ranch" there were
only 24 total Pilots & Eng. We knew what
everyone was going to do in case of a

Inflight Emergency and we acted as One, not to say other outfits didn't do the same but it was different in the fact that we were low & slow and there was just no time to second guess. Also the V.C wanted to get their hands on us and everyone in Viet Nam knew it and in my eyes were very Envious of "Ranch Hand." Probably the Most Outstanding Unit in the A.F.

Talk about all of it.