

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.

STIHL, JOHN T.  
Name (last first middle signature date 19 Oct 81)

#### Specific Information

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

1. Ranch Hand service: From Dec 67 to Dec 68. Where? Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? Hurlburt Field, FL/1967
3. Rank while in RH? Major Present/~~retired rank~~? Brig Gen
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? Mission Commander/Safety dates? 1968  
Officer/Instructor
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? None
6. If aircrew member:
  - a. Number of missions: RH 406 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Combat flying hours: RH 535 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.

7. Classified information.
8. DFC (copy of citation attached)
9. Yes. My quarters (hootch) was hit by a 122mm rocket and burned to the ground in the Tet Offensive of 1968.
10. Yes. A Ranch Hand aircraft was shot down off the southern coast of South Vietnam during the summer of 1968.
11. All crew members in above mentioned aircraft were killed. The aircraft commander was Major Lee Shanks.
12. Yes. My aircraft was hit by explosive rounds of a ZBU.
13. Yes. Planned many as Mission Commander. Worked with fighters and FAC to determine best method of attacking target.
14. Volunteered. Great flying experience.
15. Yes. In Vietnam.
16. Esprit de corps and association with a great group of people. Loss of a close friend was my unhappiest memory.
17. Blank
18. Blank
19. Open bay hootch. Routine day started at 0300 with final mission preparation - included two missions during the morning hours, and concluded with mission planning for the following day during the early afternoon. Parties were great and relaxing.
20. I feel that Ranch Hand had unparalleled high level of esprit de corps primarily due to the hazards of the mission and unique and challenging flying experience.

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TO

JOHN T. STIHL

Major John T. Stihl distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight on 11 May 1968. On that date, Major Stihl was flying in the lead aircraft of a formation when he encountered intense and accurate ground fire which shattered the windshield and sprayed the cockpit area with shrapnel. Major Stihl continued to perform his vital duties and contributed immeasurably to the success of a high priority military mission. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Major Stihl reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.