

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.

Stipetich, John August John C. Stipetich 12 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 Sept 29⁶⁹ to Feb 80⁷⁰. Where? Bien Hoa
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? Harbun Road July - Sept 79
3. Rank while in RH? LT Present/retired rank? Capt AF Res
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? Supply Officer dates? Oct - Feb
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? 19th TAF Feb 80 - Sept 80 + 21st, 20th + 584 Gp.
OV10 pilot Feb 71-72
6. If aircrew member:
 - a. Number of missions: RH 35 Other (specify) ?
 - b. Combat flying hours: RH ~~100~~ 80 Other (specify) 1100

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.

Dear Paul:

I received your letter this afternoon
and I sure I'd better reply now or else just
forget.

JOHN STRITCH
3926 Hedges Glen Dr
Kingwood, TX 75339
(713) 3580711

I was in the 12th SOS from the end of Sept 69 through
Feb of 1970. I came into the unit right out of pilot training.
My background had been majoring in Chemistry with the intent
to go to medical school upon my completion of my 5yr commitment
to the A.F.

When I joined the unit, Lt Col Fisher came along in our group &
became the Squadron commander. He was initially hit with the
hard task of getting the unit under his command but without having
the previous squadrons commander there to assist his takeover,
for he had deceased right before we arrived.

Lt Col Fisher, ran into the usual politics & jealous that existed
between the aggressive attitude of the 12th SOS, & the wing Hqs
people at Phan Rang. We lost during Sept + Oct 1979. From 28 AC Bom
to 12 AC which they took & reconverted back into cargo haulers.

Also, the political arena was beginning to focus into the ecological
effects of the spraying.

All these factors made Lt Col Fisher's first year month hectic.
I was just a young Lt right out of training & out without
having even my own bed for more than a month. I was asked to
be the sq. supply officer & this took up my time to some degree.

Personally, for me at least, there wasn't enough flying. I was
extremely bored & tried every option changed to get to fly more,
especially in empty seats in the UHAR ATR's, F5's, & our A37 & F10's
I unfortunately was threatened with an Article 15 if I did such.

B3 January I had flown little & was extremely anxious to do more
flying and less sitting on the ground. I requested to go to flying cargo
so I could get more flying. This was granted by the wing & the
Squadron CO. was quite angry. He interrupted my actions as disloyalty
I guess, But, I did go to TSN & spent the rest of my 1st tour

fly. the cogs 123.
fly I volunteered for a second tour & got an OV10. This I flew over
the location steel tiger area. but was refused instead sent to
I volunteered for a 3rd tour but was refused instead sent to

250A's at Dover AFB.

I spent 10 yrs total on active duty. Most of that time in
C5's.
I have many slides of the Ranch & some of the quarters. They
are in good condition. I also have good ones of spraying missions
and taxing out. Photos reply is one of my hobbies.

If you'd like to get together sometime, call or write, I live
in Humble, Texas, & can usually fly for Continental Airlines.

Thank you for your letter. If I can be of any assistance, let
me know.

Sincerely,

John Stritch