

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 (last first middle signature date)

Specific Information

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

1. Ranch Hand service: From _____ to _____. Where? _____
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? _____
3. Rank while in RH? _____ Present/retired rank? _____
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? _____ dates? _____
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? _____
6. If aircrew member:
 - a. Number of missions: RH _____ Other (specify) _____
 - b. Combat flying hours: RH _____ 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.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS 77843

Telephone (713) 845-7151

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Summer 1981

Dear Fellow Ranch Hand Veteran:

I am writing the unit history of the Ranch, one of the unique outfits in military history. Through the assistance of the Office of Air Force History and the Air Force Archives, I have looked at most of the "official" paperwork. Now I need your help. Both as a professional historian and one who is proud to have been a Ranch member, I want to be certain that this history accurately reflects the contributions of all its members. After all, it is the people who are the real stories in a successful organization.

I know that it has been a long time, but if you will pull out those pictures and letters you will be surprised at how much comes back to you. If you will only take just a little time from your busy day to fill out the enclosed questionnaire, you can insure that our story is complete. Please note that this information will ONLY be used for scholarly purposes. The data will not be released for other uses and it will be restricted in both handling and use exactly as you specify. To the extent that you permit, the information/materials you furnish will be permanently deposited in the archives at Texas A&M University, a school whose military associations date back to 1876. Of course, any pictures, diaries, letters, etc., that you furnish will be duplicated and the original will be returned to you. Some of you will also be asked to provide taped discussions of your experiences. These tapes, with your permission, will become a part of the oral history archives. I will, of course, furnish the tapes for this purpose.

I realize how much I am asking to impose on your time and privacy, but it is very important that we preserve the true story of our time for future generations. I will deeply appreciate any help you can give me. I hope to get the opportunity to thank you in person at the next Ranch Hand reunion.

Thank you,

I guess you got my name because I served in Spray Flight at Langley AFB from 2/67 to 7/68. However, I never flew the UC-123 in VN, and so wasn't really part of Ranch Hand. (I did serve a tour in "truck haul" in VN, with the 311 ACS at Da Nang, Vietnam in 1966, and even flew 123s before that at Stewart AFB, TX for ADC 64-65)

Paul F. Cecil

Paul F. Cecil
Ranch Hand '67

Mr. Michael P. Strutzel
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*I wish the project well
Michael Strutzel*