

Item #11

RANCH HAND HISTORY PROJECT

Form No. 7774

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) TANNER first JAMES middle L signature James Tanner date 29 Nov 81

Specific Information

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

1. Ranch Hand service: From SEP 1966 to Sep 1967. Where? TON SUN NAM BIEN HON DAN NAM
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? HULBERT / CONCEY 1966
3. Rank while in RH? Capt/MAS Present/retired rank? COL
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? P, 1P, CHIEF STAN EVAN dates? P-1966 1P/STAN EVAN 67
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? N/A
6. If aircrew member:
 - a. Number of missions: RH 413 Other (specify) _____
 - b. Combat flying hours: RH 699 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 @ishan Valley Oct 1966 - 5 Ship

(b) " " April 1967

(c) First mission through DMZ Sept 1967 (Lead 10 ship formation)

(d) ~~Le~~ Laor - HCM Trail mission

throughout tour

#8. DFC 31 Jan 67 ~~La~~ Laor mission supposed to be first run, through Ashan after October pause. Weathered out. Flew trail mission in Laor instead. Lead (Roy Kubay) lost during a relatively quiet mission. We developed a runaway prop and could not feather. Reached Che San about the same time as ran out of altitude. I was 1P, Bill Carter 1st pilot. One bullet hole - gun can.

DFC 31 Mar 67 Cope mission north of Tam Ky. Took a hit in oil cooler during mountainous run landed at Tam Ky.

#9. Mortar attack at Da Nang & Bien Hoa. Attack at Bien Hoa was in early 1967 and was one of largest to that date. Ranch quarter not damaged. Several minor attacks at Da Nang - - don't remember dates.

#10. Yes (see #8 above). We had assembled at Da Nang (the entire Ranch outfit, almost) to make a large formation run through Ashan. The weather was

bad in the valley so we decided to do some training on the HCM Trai Linh Loop. Roy Kubley, our most experienced pilot who was on his second tour, Norm Derocher (?) in #2 and I in number 3. We were the 12s. Everyone else brought up special for the run through the valley went back to Bien Hoa. We were working southwest of Khe Sanh about 75 miles (I think) in a bowl under a fairly low undercast. We had H-1s from Plei Me (probably) as cover. After about three runs we were making a shallower approach out of a descending left hand turn when lead suddenly snapped and crashed. We had heard no gunfire but my aircraft had two holes in it when we got back to Khe Sanh. Five people were on board the crashed plane. A recovery team went in later that afternoon but I think they were driven off by ground fire. It was Roy Kubley 500th mission.

11. See above. Also, several minor wounds to many people.
12. Bruce Atmester aircraft with over 100 entry holes in 1967. Several holes in ~~met~~ skin (usually on bottom of aircraft) from CBU dropped too close to Ranch airplane.
13. Yes. Target was usually selected by the Army and approved through DOD & State Department channels.

Once approved, they were planned and "put on the shelf". We worked through them by priority as determined by the Army. Usually, the Ranch planned & flagged the mission through TACC as opposed to the TAC doing the planning.

14. Volunteered during C-123 upgrade at Burbank. Hal Luke and I were, I believe, the last of the pure volunteers. MPC made selection after us, or at least very soon after us. I knew what the mission was when I volunteered.
15. Not much before Vietnam. In Vietnam was told Orange & Purple OK, Blue & White had some toxic effects.
16. "Welcome back alive" party for Joe Dougherty, Tom Davis & crew after being shot down in October of 1968 is one of happiest. Unhappiest would have to be the lost crew with Tom Davis a single fatality just before coming home being especially tough.
17. → too many to select from.
18. →
19. Open sided buildings at Bien Hoa & Da Nang (tents when I first got there in 1966) that became air conditioned just as I left. My first two months in country

were in Saigon in hotel. Routine day - up early in morning (0400-0500) - fly one or two missions, plan next day's mission if lead, go to club, eat dinner, drink, & go to bed.

Parties - heavy drinking, especially during dinner out at Da Nang. Lots of card playing & dice at the bar.

20. Talk of pride in doing a difficult, difficult and hazardous job well and providing the Army with a safe environment to work in. I can think of no one or no one thing you could not talk about.

Jim Tanner