

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 WEST, Lloyd A. Lloyd A. West 10 Dec 81
 (last first middle signature date)

Specific Information

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

1. Ranch Hand service: From Feb 68 to JAN 69. Where? Bien Hoa - 6 months
~~Da Nang - 6 months~~
2. RH/C-123 training: Where/when? Hurlburt Field Florida / Nov-Dec 67
3. Rank while in RH? 2LT / 1LT Present/~~retired rank~~? Major
4. Duty(s) while in Ranch? Navigator / Flight Examiner dates? Aug 68 - Jan 69
5. Other Vietnam service? Where/when? Phan Rang - Jan 68 / Trash Hauler
6. If aircrew member:
 - a. Number of missions: RH 201 Other (specify) 4 Trash Hauler
 - b. Combat flying hours: RH 402 Other (specify) 23 Trash Hauler

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 Special missions/operations -

Name : ?

When : 4 & 5 Nov 68 / 11-15 Nov 68

Where : Udorn Thailand

What : Crop spraying missions
into LAOS from Udorn.

Survey flights from
Vientiane LAOS took
place with Air America
on 4 & 5 Nov 68. Actual
spray missions took
place on 11-15 Nov 68.
(See my diary for those
days for all the details)

Who : L/C Larsen

MAJ Duff

CAPT Duggan

Others ?

WEST, 7845

⑧

① DFC - 14 June 68 (see attached citation)

② DFC - 6 July 68 (see attached citation)
(1ST OLC)

③ DFC - 18 Dec 68 (see attached citation)
(2ND OLC)

See diary on days for what really happened!

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TO

LLOYD A. WEST

First Lieutenant Lloyd A. West distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as UC-123 Navigator near Ca Mau, Republic of Vietnam, on 14 June 1968. On that date, Lieutenant West was flying as student navigator in the lead aircraft of a formation on a defoliation mission against hostile ground forces when a fire erupted in the cargo compartment just seconds before starting the target run. When the instructor navigator was needed to assist in combating the fire, Lieutenant West calmly and rapidly assumed full responsibility for further navigation. His prompt action and precise navigation, under these adverse circumstances, enabled the formation to remain intact and successfully complete the mission. The professional competence, aerial skill, and devotion to duty displayed by Lieutenant West reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



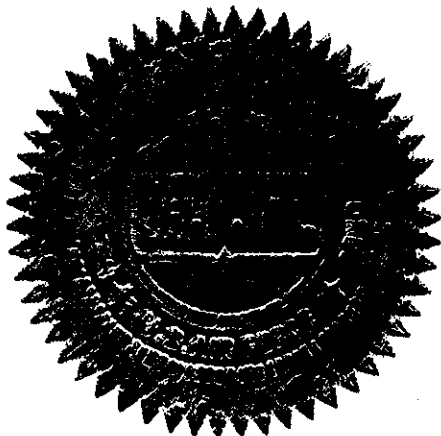
CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
(FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

TO

LLOYD A. WEST

First Lieutenant Lloyd A. West distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as an UC-123 aircraft near Hoi An, Republic of Vietnam, on 6 July 1968. On that date, Lieutenant West led a flight of unarmed UC-123 aircraft on a low-level defoliation mission against a heavily defended hostile base camp. Despite heavy ground fire which struck his aircraft, Lieutenant West courageously led his flight in on target for a second pass in order to successfully accomplish this vital mission. As a result of his heroic efforts, hostile ground forces were deprived of valuable jungle cover for their operations and exposed to aerial observation and attack. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Lieutenant West reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

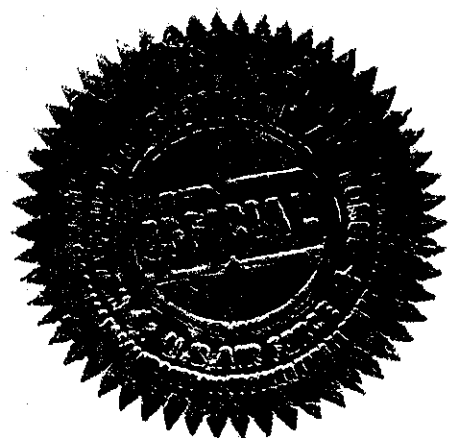


CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
(SECOND OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

TO

LLOYD A. WEST

First Lieutenant Lloyd A. West distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight in the southern border of the demilitarized zone on 18 December 1968. On that date, Lieutenant West was flying the lead ship in a formation of unarmed UC-123 spray aircraft engaged in attacking a primary infiltration route controlled by hostile forces. Despite accurate hostile ground fire, Lieutenant West courageously led his flight through this hazardous target and successfully placed the defoliant precisely on target. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Lieutenant West reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



- (9) yes - many times at both
Bien Hoa and Danang.

(See diary on dates indicated for
some of the attacks)

Bien Hoa

3, 12, 22 March
5, 7, 10, 15 May
10, 15 June

DANANG

30 May
4, 23, 25, 27 July
23, 27, 31 Aug
2, 4, 16, 19, 29 Sept
17, 22, 24 Nov
23 Dec.

- (10) NO

- (11) yes - see diary on 16 JUN
and 14 July.

- (12) NO

(13) YES

I both planned how the missions were to be flown and developed the frags to be submitted to the TACC in Saigon for approval.

When special requests for targets were not forthcoming from outside agencies, we were free to pick our own targets to complete spraying. It sometimes took months to complete spraying a large target area. Outside inputs plus our own determination of how to best complete a large target area (such as border areas) went into the making up of our frags. The "frags" were prepared a week at a time and submitted to the TACC for approval. I did this on a regular basis for the last 5 months of my tour at Danang.

(Over)

when the frags came in approved the actual flight mission was planned for each day the afternoon before. All of our flying was done very early in the mornings, leaving the afternoons free. The "lead" and "deputy lead" Naus would plan the missions; a primary target and an alternate target. Charts were usually already prepared from previous spray runs, so it was a simple matter of picking IP's and significant visual points for "spray-on" and "spray-off". Ingress and egress were carefully considered based on expected ~~the~~ enemy defensive reactions.

After the mission was planned the two pilots would show for a preliminary briefing. Adjustments would be made and the mission put to bed for the next morning's briefing. Mission planning could take anywhere from 1 to 4 hours.

(14)

I transferred INTO the "Ranch" from a trash hauler squadron at Phan Rang. Phan Rang was overmanned and the Ranch was short of navs. I volunteered.

I knew practically nothing about the Ranch mission before I volunteered. After a few missions as a trash hauler nav it became apparent to me that a nav was only used effectively a short amount of the time. I found the mission kind of boring. When the Ranch opportunity came along and after talking to some people in the organization, I jumped at the opportunity.

(15)

I knew very little about the chemicals and was told nothing before going to Vietnam. But then there was no reason to tell me anything before since I didn't have an initial assignment to the Ranch.

After joining the ranch I was told the chemicals used were nothing more than the chemicals used by farmers in the States to control weeds and growth. The concentrations were higher but the chemicals were not any sort of chemicals devised for warfare. They were safe, when used properly, around humans and the only reason the S. Vietnamese were handling them on the ground was to prevent allegations of Americans involved in chemical warfare. It was a S. Vietnamese program and we were only aircrews assisting their program.

⑥ my happiest moments come to mind when I think about the people. They were the greatest group of individuals I have ever been a part of. The pride and spirit of being a part of ~~the~~ such an organization brings back my fondest memories.

Unhappiest memories would have to be leaving a job and a part of my life that provided me with more responsibility, more challenge, more sense of accomplishment as a young LT, than I ever dreamed possible. I have yet to find in 15 years a better job or a better organization to be a part of.

(17) I'm sure you'll find a few in the pages of my diary when you get to read it.

(18) Same answer as question 17.

(19) My quarters at Bien Hoa were open bay barracks with make shift partitions for some semblance of privacy. Not too bad but not as nice as DANANG. AT DANANG I lived in a concrete block building, two men to a fairly private room. Not bad accommodations and a lot safer than at Bien Hoa.

A typical day started between 4 or 5 AM, with an 0 dark thirty mission briefing. We were on our first target

just after sunrise when the temperature was lower and the winds were calmer. Our second mission would be done by noon. The afternoon was given to a quick nap followed by mission planning for the next day. The evenings were usually spent at the club eating and drinking, with an occasional movie or letter to home thrown in for a change of pace.

For more details on a typical day, parties and other things read the diary.

(20)

The Ranch was special because the people in it were special doing a special job. We all knew it, but we excepted it as a challenge to show everyone else we could do what no one had ever done before in modern warfare and probably will never do again. We were a throw-back to the basics of flying. Flying at 50 feet above the treetops in a large, rather unsophisticated aircraft, using a chart and a pair of eyeballs, was a throwback to the early barnstorming days of flying. None of us will ever see that sort of flying again. We were unique and small, but immensely proud of it.

You may talk about what or whomever you desire.

P.S. Paul, I'm sorry this has taken me so long to complete. I do hope it's not too late. As mentioned earlier I do have a diary covering every day from 19 Feb 68 to 2 Jan 69. It is quite complete and I think you'll get a lot from reading it.

I also have a few 8x10 black and white glossy's of some of the members of the ranch during 68.

In addition I have a rather extensive slide presentation of about 85 35 mm's on a typical ranch mission from mission briefing, through engine shutdown.

I also have slides of some parts of the special mission to LAOS. You're welcome to review these slides (also)