

12 May 1983

Mr. Duval A. Edwards
14819 Willow Bend
San Antonio, TX 78232

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Tom Cutrer suggested that I contact you concerning a possible historical project involving a number of oral histories in your possession. I delayed writing you until I was sure that my current work involving defoliation operations in Vietnam would be completed this summer, leaving me free to begin a new project. I would, of course, wish to know more about the materials and subject before committing myself, and you may not find me acceptable, if the project is still open. I would certainly be glad to meet with you and discuss the matter, at a mutually convenient time and place. You can contact me either at my office at the Association, or at home, telephone (512) 255-4692.

I am, primarily, a military historian with interests in the pre-1920 period of US military history, and have worked in the application of military law and the effect of international treaties on military affairs. Despite my personal preferences, most of my recent work has involved recent military history, particularly Vietnam. I retired from the United States Air Force in 1974 and subsequently taught history at Southwest Texas State University and Texas A&M. I will receive a Ph.D. in History from Texas A&M in December.

Although Tom gave me a general idea of the materials in your project, I would be particularly interested in the extent to which they involve still classified materials and the amount of work which would have to be done in classified military or state archives. Having just worked in a topic which is still highly classified, I am familiar with frustration of dealing with military and government bureaucracy. In light of the present administration's decision to again move the declassification schedule to the thirty-year mark, instead of the ten-year point, I do not anticipate that the researcher's headaches will lessen. This is not an insurmountable problem, however, and will depend on exactly what you wish done with your histories.

If the project is still open, please feel free to contact me at any time to arrange for further discussion.

Respectfully,

Paul F. Cecil