

Stan:

1st Batch of Slides
Sent.

I decided it would be better to give you the information on the slides this way and let you annotate them as you wish. (As you can see, my old typewriter is really getting on its last legs.) Maybe these first slides will convince your bosses that the money for the slides is worthwhile.

1. UC-123B in flight. Note the US insignia, so it was on a defoliation mission.
2. Echelon formation. Note the Vietnamese insignia, therefore they were on a crop destruction mission.
3. Super formation spacing! You can see part of the wing boom on the plane I was taking the picture from.
4. On the herbicide pit at Da Nang. You can see the tail spray boom and inside the spray operator's armored box he sat in.
5. Eight ship formation taxiing out at Bien Hoa.
- 6-8. Spraying War Zone D. You can see the other four ships in the distance ahead of us. Also note that you can see the previous burn on the adjacent tree-tops. #8 is very dangerous. The VC liked to put weapons on hill-tops, and you were very vulnerable at this point.
9. This is what spraying the flat ricefields of IV corps were like.
10. This is what it looked like in the hills of upper III Corps.
11. The mountains of II and upper III Corps.
12. F-100 rocketing a hooch ahead of us in IV Corps. Fighter pre-strike.
13. "Pussy" mountain near Pleiku in the central highlands. The silver spot on the side of the hill is the remains of a C-123.
14. Improvised airstrip on a road in II Corps.
15. Airstrip on top of a canal dike in IV Corps. The canal is hand-dug!
16. IV Corps is wet! The red stripe on the wings is to help the FAC and fighters see us when we are down in the trees.
- 17-21. Spray run near the coast above Vung Tau. You can see the wind-shield wipers, used when we ran through another planes spray.
- 22-25. These are my "art" shots, of which I am very proud. Just at dawn over IV Corps. You could just make out the tree-tops, we dive down and then gentle dips as we spray.

26-28. This is a crop target. Usually not this much at once. Note the previous days burn on the left in the first picture. We flew in a V formation, with wingmen zooming up to get the crop on the valley sides.

29-31. This is defoliation again, in III Corps. #3 aircraft is hanging pretty high... he must have been close to going home!

32. This is what a defoliated section of forest north of Bien Hoa looked like. Without defoliation, it would have looked like a green carpet.

33. This is the road to Pleiku from the coast. Without defoliation you probably couldn't have found it!

34. Long Tau River. Note how stark and exact the edge of the burn is. Just like a knife edge. Also note that you can easily make out the streams, etc. where it has been defoliated, but where they go into the forest, they disappear. An excellent example of what defoliation can do.

This is the first sample. Let me know what the people there think of them. They are all from the RANCH HAND collection at Texas A&M. I will have some better ones later.

By the way, don't you read the New York Times? I just found out about the front page story on Buckingham's work that ran on the 25th.

I'm including a map and the microfiche of the Herbs tape.

More later. To the RANCH!



P.S:

35. This is the runway at Rach Gia. Typical laterite runway, but the grass along the edge seems to be growing OK.

36. This is a "shopping center" at Bien Hoa City. How could you defoliate this?

I'll have some more in the next batch... thought you might like a feel for the countryside. Not all the pictures are of trees only!