



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM

PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION: The VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for routine uses (i.e., civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA Programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration) as identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is required to obtain or retain benefits. VA uses your SSN to identify your claim file. Providing your SSN will help ensure that your records are properly associated with your claim file. Giving us your SSN account information is voluntary. Refusal to provide your SSN by itself will not result in the denial of benefits. The VA will not deny an individual benefits for refusing to provide his or her SSN unless the disclosure of the SSN is required by Federal Statute of law in effect prior to January 1, 1975, and still in effect. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies.

RESPONDENT BURDEN: We need this information to obtain evidence in support of your claim for benefits (38 U.S.C. 501(a) and (b)). Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 15 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.

FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME - LAST NAME OF VETERAN (*Type or print*)

Major Glenn Matthew Sommers

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.

VA FILE NO.

C/CSS -

The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran:

My name is Sgt. [REDACTED]. I served in the USAF 553 Reconnaissance Wing at the Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base From September 16, 1969 to April 30, 1970 as a Combat Information Monitor in the 553 Recon. Sq. flying on the EC-121R aircraft. I served as an E4 under the direction of Major Glenn Sommers. I flew approximately 80 missions over Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia with Major Sommers. During my assignment at the Royal Thai Air Force Base we spent much our scheduled missions preparing, fueling and waiting on standby on the flight line at as a routine part of our daily assignments. During my assignment at Korat I was a smoker. As such, there were uncountable times that I stood with Major Sommers at the perimeter, in the dirt and away from the airplanes and fuel to smoke waiting as many as 2 hours on standby status to fly.

Major Sommers was very involved with the men he commanded and I spent much time off duty with Major Sommers going to social events as well as being invited to his hut which was located with all of the officers quarters in close proximity to the perimeter and in the 500ft drift zone of the herbicides used on the base. At the time we were not aware of the 500ft herbicide drift zone. The hatches did not have windows and had outdoor latrines and showers which was a point I often joked about among peers as the enlisted men enjoyed indoor plumbing. It was not common knowledge to me that Agent Orange and other herbicides were used at the perimeter of the base and other areas of the base.

I CERTIFY THAT the statements on this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SIGNATURE [REDACTED]

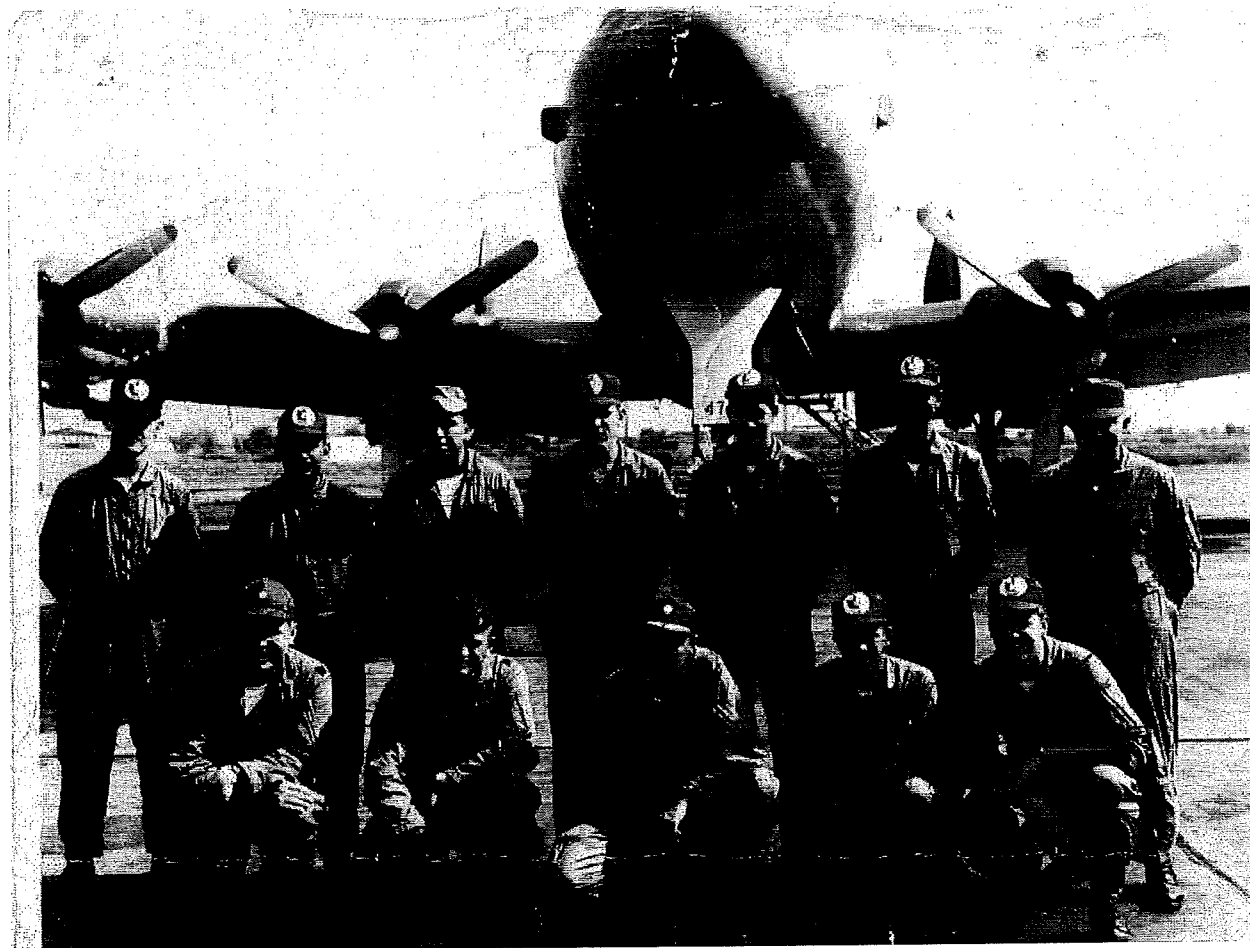
DATE SIGNED [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE NUMBERS (*Include Area Code*)

DAYTIME	EVENING
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

PENALTY: The law provides severe penalties which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false.



January 1970 Batcat Crew 5, 553rd
Reconnaissance Squadron

Standing L to R

 SSgt Don Burton - CIM
 SSgt Rodriguez - RMT
 SSgt Orpeza - RO
 Sgt Jim Coffman - CIM
 Sgt Jim Bost - CIM
 SSgt Rosencrans - ACICO
 TSgt Tuttle - FE

Kneeling L to R

 Maj Hickham - Nav
 Maj Wm(Rocky)Myers - Nav
 LTC Baltz - AC
 Maj Glenn Sommers - CICO
 1Lt Cunningham - CP