

Darrell J. Ahrens

F-105 History

11-Feb-68

240

The seventeenth F-105 RTU Class 68FR graduated at McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 27 Aug 67 with 29 students, but 25 completed the course. Maj David Carroll dropped out for medical reasons. Lt Col George M. Wentch joined the class in the formation phase on 1 October 1967.

Maj Kenneth E. Lamberton became the fourth RTU student killed in the crash of F-105D 61-0143 on 14 Nov 67 during air-to-ground rocket training at the Smoky Hill Range.

The class deployed for conventional weapons delivery training to George AFB CA between 23 Jan - 8 Feb 68 with the 561 TFS. The squadron commander was Lt Col Harry D. Sultzter, Jr. Maj Richard Matthews was the top student and shared Top Gun with Maj Russ Youngblood.

This was the largest RTU conducted at McConnell to date and required two IPs on a 30-day TDY from Nellis AFB to aid the transition of the class. The students were:

Col David William Winn	Maj Robert E. Evans
Lt Col Guy J. "Jack" Sherrill	Maj Arthur E. Hood
Lt Col George M. Wentsch	Maj Clarence E. Langford
Lt Col Jack Modica, Jr.	Maj James R. Gibbons
Maj George C. Avila, Jr.	Maj Richard D. Matthews
Maj William W. Berkman	Maj Samuel L. Ray, Jr.
Maj Bill V. Brown	Maj Albert L. Villaret
Maj Seymour R. Bass	Capt Richard Kenneth Allee
Maj Russell A. Youngblood	Capt Darrell J. Ahrens
Maj Ralph D. Waddell, Jr.	Capt Robert C. Amos
Maj Raymond M. Viscarra	Capt Thomas O. Carlson
Maj Eugene E. Cirillo	Capt Jack D. Brooks
Maj David J. Carroll	Capt Donald D. "Dudley" Swofford

23 TFW History, Jul - Dec 67, USAF microfilm MO554, frames 1024, 1071, and 1138.

14-Apr-68

6801

Also, on 14 April 1968, the 34 TFS launched "Bass" flight. The lineup was:

#1 - Capt William A. Thomas, Jr.
#2 - Capt Darrell J. Ahrens
#3 - Lt Col Rufus Dye, Jr. flying his 60th combat mission.
#4 - Capt Joseph S. Sechler flying his 29th combat mission two days after he returned from R&R in Bangkok. He logged 2:40 flying time.

Col Dye recorded the mission in his Mission History where he listed his call sign as "Bass 1". They dropped through weather using Sky Spot on a troop concentration in Steel Tiger. They then did armed recce in RP-1. "No significant sightings."

Joe Sechler, mission log via e-mail 28 Apr 10 & Rufus Dye Mission History log

30-Oct-68

4200

During October 1968, twenty-one pilots from the 34 TFS and 469 TFS received medals approved by 7 AF. They were:

Maj Ivor K. Goodrich DFC SO G-3158 23 Oct 68 (8 Mar - 3 Sep 68) and AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-3275 23 Oct 68 (8 Mar - 3 Sep 68)
Capt Kenneth G. Lindell DFC SO G-3160 17 Oct 68 (14 Jul 68)

Darrell J. Ahrens

F-105 History

1Lt David T. Dinan III DFC SO G-3161 17 Oct 68 (14 Jul 68)
Capt Richard E. Tracey DFC SO G-3169 17 Oct 68 (15 Jul 68)
Maj Albert F. Oppel AM SO G-3245 23 Oct 68 (25 Aug - 19 Sep 68)
Maj Manford C. Holly, Jr. AM SO G-3246 23 Oct 68 (25 Aug - 16 Sep 68)
Capt Barry G. Swarts AM SO G-3250 23 Oct 68 (29 Aug - 21 Sep 68)
Capt John S. Murphy AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-3273 23 Oct 68 (3 Mar - 24 Sep 68)
Maj Douglas A. Roysdon AM (10 - 19 OLC) SO G-3278 23 Oct 68 (24 Feb - 2 Oct 68)
Maj Clarence E. Langford AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-3281 23 Oct 68 (29 Mar - 26 Sep 68)
Capt Jack D. Brooks AM (1 - 6 OLC) SO G-3284 23 Oct 68 (24 Apr - 5 Sep 68)
Capt Anthony F. Germann AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-3286 23 Oct 68 (4 Mar - 1 Oct 68)
Capt Douglas R. Young AM (18 OLC) SO G-3286 23 Oct 68 (26 Aug 15 - Sep 68)
Lt Col Dorwyn D. Shaver AM (22 - 26 OLC) SO G-3289 23 Oct 68 (30 Sep 67 - 14 Aug 68)
Lt Col John J. Gaudion AM (10 OLC) SO G-3291 23 Oct 68 (6 Sep - 23 Sep 68)
Lt Col Isaac M. Glass AM (1 OLC) SO G-3291 23 Oct 68 (25 Aug - 29 Sep 68)
Lt Col Rufus Dye, Jr. DFC (4 OLC) SO G-3023 5 Oct 68 (8 Jun 68) downgraded from SS
Capt Lamont H. Pharmer DFC (2 OLC) SO G-3024 5 Oct 68 (9 Jun 68) downgraded from SS
Capt Darrell J. Ahrens AM (1 OLC) SO G-3032 5 Oct 68 (1 Jun 68) downgraded from DFC
Maj Sterling H. Wood AM (1 OLC) SO G-3032 5 Oct 68 (30 May 68)
Capt John E. Hartman AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-3092 10 Oct 68 (23 Feb 67 - 5 Feb 68)

388 TFW History, Oct - Dec 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frames 1767 - 1768.