

Earl F. Bancroft

F-105 History

11-Jun-68

246

The twentieth F-105 RTU Class 68JR graduated at the 23 TFW, McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 16 January 1968 with 30 students. Twenty six graduated -- 2 Lt Cols, 8 Maj's, 11 Capt's and 5 Lt's.

The class deployed for conventional weapons delivery training to George AFB CA between 14 - 29 May 1968 with the 560 TFS. The squadron commander was Lt Col Robert L. Fair.

The student pilots were:

Lt Col Earl F. Bancroft	Capt Adolph M. Guidi
Lt Col James H. Broussard	Capt Jerry W. Hoyt
Maj Charles Richard Brownlee	Capt Brian D. Mauden
Maj Vincent Colasuonno	Capt Larry B. "Tex" McBride
Maj Altman Doty	Capt Leonard A. Morgan
Maj Donald L. "Buns" Fraizer	Capt Chester H. Thatcher, Jr.
Maj John E. Perkins	Capt Richard E. Tracey
Maj David L. Perry	Capt Ronald M. Walker
Maj John N. Sexton	Capt Leland B. "Les" Ransom III
Maj Grant V. Swinford	1Lt Omar R. Wiseman
Capt John Martin Brucher	2Lt Robert Clifton Edmunds, Jr.
Capt Jackie E. Crouch	2Lt Gary M Goebel
Capt Arthur G. Dunston IV	2 Lt Terry E. Paasch

Maj Charles R. Brownlee was the Outstanding Graduate.

Four of the class's pilots received further training in Commando Nail radar bombing when they were joined by navigator/bombardiers. They were assigned in September 1968 to the 44 TFS at Korat as the first F-105F crews trained only for Commando Nail missions. The pilots were:

Capt John M. Brucher
Capt Larry B. McBride
Capt Leonard A. Morgan
Maj Grant V. Swinford

Within eight months of graduating, six of the class' 26 pilots were shot down in Vietnam. Four of them died, including Maj Brownlee killed on 24 Dec 68.

Two students later received awards for airmanship. Maj John E. Perkins, then assigned to the 333 TFS, Takhli RTAFB, Thailand, was named TAC Pilot of Distinction for December 1968 for successfully coping with an in-flight emergency during his training at McConnell. Also in December 1968, 1Lt Terry E. Paasch, assigned to the 354 TFS, Takhli RTAFB, Thailand received the PACAF Able Aeronaut Award for successfully recovering an F-105 after a malfunction caused loss of throttle control while en route to an air strike over North Vietnam.

23 TFW History, Jan - Jun 68, USAF microfilm MO554 & 355 TFW History, Oct - Dec 68, microfilm NO465.

31-Aug-68

4134

The 388 TFW history listed the aircrews assigned to the 34 TFS and the number of sorties each had flown as of the end of August 1968.

34 TFS	Sorties	Counters
Lt Col Klingensmith	59	43
Maj Langford	91	86

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Capt Barr	84	67
Capt Sechler	105	87
Capt Murphy	107	97
Lt Col Christensen	118	105
Maj Roysdon	109	89
Capt J. Hartman	116	94
Col Douglas	47	43
Capt Durnbaugh	65	56
Maj Goodrich	115	97
Maj Matthews	75	61
Capt William A. Thomas, Jr.	109	104
Capt Ahrens	79	59
Lt Col Dye	114	101
Capt Germann	97	86
Capt Thatcher	34	29
Maj Shunney	107	95
Capt Brooks	80	66
Capt Bogemann	115	97
Capt Fuhrman	118	99
Lt Col Shaver	80	66
1Lt Confer	33	28
Capt Pharmer end of Aug)	114	99 (Capt Pharmer had flown 100 missions by the
Capt Durkee end of Aug)	111	99 (Capt Durkee had flown 100 missions by the
Capt Everett	69	56
Lt Col Ross	122	108
Col Stewart	118	110
Capt Bell	70	57
Maj White	75	58
1Lt Venturi	36	29
1Lt Hoffmeyer	38	33
Capt Ducton	31	27
Capt Crouch	32	27
Lt Col Bancroft	20	16
Maj Colasuonno	33	29
1Lt Stafford	34	31
1Lt D. Hartman	33	27
Lt Col Glass	6	6
Maj Holly	4	3
Maj Knapp	8	5

388 TFW History, July - Sep 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frames 0250 - 0251.

31-Aug-68

4199

Ten pilots from the 34 TFS received medals approved by 7 AF in August 1968 for missions flown earlier. They were:

Lt Col Nevin G. Christensen DFC (10 OLC) SO G-2685 29 Aug 1968 (14 Dec 67)
 Maj James E. James, Jr. DFC 5 (OLC) SO G-2627 24 Aug 1968 (14 Dec 67)
 Capt Arthur G. Duston AM SO G-2606 22 Aug 68, (6 Jul - 28 Jul 68)
 Capt Chester H. Thatcher, Jr. AM SO G-2606 22 Aug 68 (28 Jun - 17 Jul 68)
 Lt Col Earl F. Bancroft AM (10 OLC) SO G-2607 22 Aug 68 (7 Jul - 28 Jul 68)
 Maj Vincent Colasuonno AM SO G-2607 22 Aug 68 (4 Jul - 23 Jul 68)

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1Lt David S. Hartman, Jr. AM SO G-2605 22 Aug 68 (4 Jul - 21 Jul 68)
1Lt Ronald A. Hoffmeyer AM SO G-2605 22 Aug 68 (4 Jul - 21 Jul 68)
Lt Col Rufus Dye, Jr. AM (19 - 27 OLC) SO G2603 22 Aug 68 (7 Nov 67 - 19 Jul 68)
Capt William A. Thomas, Jr. AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-2601 22 Aug 68 (2 Feb - 29 May 68)

Capt Thomas departed Korat on 31 August 1968 for his next duty assignment with the 12 TFS, 18 TFW, Kadena AB, Okinawa, where he arrived on 1 September. He was joined in Okinawa by his wife, Mary Jane, and a son and daughter.

388 TFW history, Oct - Dec 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frame 1765 & Capt Bill Thomas, AF Form 11.

30-Sep-68

4155

"A total of nine 34 TFS pilots completed one hundred combat missions over North Vietnam during August and September 1968. One pilot, Maj Douglas A. Roysdon, has completed his second Southeast Asia tour. His first tour was spent at Bien Hoa and Pleiku where he accumulated a total of 500 combat hours in the A-1E and A-1H aircraft."

The other eight pilots were: Maj Clarence E. Langford, Capt Joseph S. Sechler, Capt John S. Murphy, Maj William P. Shunney, Maj Ivor K. Goodrich, Capt Ben J. Fuhrman, Capt Lawrence L. Bogemann, and Capt John E. Hartman.

Maj Langford flew his 100th on 26 September 1968. This was his last flight in the F-105. Since his first flight during RTU training in August 1967, he had accumulated 385.8 hours in the airplane.

Capt Sechler flew his 100th on 28 September 1968. It was his last F-105 flight. He had accumulated 421.4 hours in the airplane. He was reassigned in December 1968 as a T-38 IP at Laughlin AFB, TX. He later had two tours in F-5s. (Joe Sechler, e-mail 28 Apr 10)

Maj Goodrich flew his 100th mission on 3 September 1968. This was his last flight in the F-105. He had accumulated 404.1 flying hours in the airplane.

Capt Fuhrman flew his 100th on 3 September 1968 with Larry Bogemann and Ivor Goodrich. (Ben Fuhrman, e-mail 19 Feb 2011.) When he retired as a Lt Col he had accumulated 456.5 hours in the F-105.

Capt Bogemann flew his 100th mission on 3 September 1968. It was his last flight in the F-105. He had accumulated 416.8 hours in the plane. He was reassigned to the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena CA under AFIT, where he received an MS in Aeronautical Engineering. (Larry Bogemann, e-mail 27 Apr 10)

Capt Hartman flew his 100th on 2 September 1968. It was his last flight in the F-105. He had accumulated 416.1 flying hours in the airplane.

During this period, the 34 TFS commander was Lt Col Robert J. Klingensmith, Jr. and the Operations Officer was Lt Col Earl F. Bancroft.

"During August and September the 34 TFS received eight new pilot inputs from the replacement training unit (RTU) at McConnell AFB, Kansas. All eight pilots fall under the one year tour criterion which began on 1 July 1968, rather than the 100 mission criterion which affects pilots with arrival dates prior to July 1968. After receiving three days of procedural briefings, the new pilots are given one local area training flight prior to flying combat. On this flight, pilots are shown the emergency landing fields available, jettison ranges and range procedures, and local landing pattern procedures. Pilots are also given practice refueling and several practice bombing runs at the Chandy RTAF bombing range located twenty miles west of Korat. The Chandy Range facility has

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proven itself valuable for checking out pilots in the use of the continuous solution sight modifications which is now installed on all but one aircraft possessed by the 34 TFS."

Fourteen pilots from the 34 TFS received medals approved by 7 AF during September 1968. They were:

Lt Col Robert J. Klingensmith, Jr. DFC SO G-2978 26 Sep 1968 (10 Jun 68)
Maj William P. Shunney AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-2910 21 Sep 68 (1Mar - 5 Sep 68)
Capt Lawrence L. Bogemann AM (3 - 11 OLC) SO G-2913 21 Sep 68 (1 Mar - 3 Sep 68)
Capt Ben J. Fuhrman AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-2913 21 Sep 68 (27 Feb - 3 Sep 68)
Capt Joseph S. Sechler DFC (1 OLC) SO G-2809 11 Sep 68 (9 Jun 68)
Capt Lamont H. Pharmed DFC (1 OLC) SO G-2809 11 Sep 68 (25 May 68)
Capt John E. Hartman DFC SO G-2799 11 Sep 68 (25 May 68)
Capt Edward C. Jones DFC SO G-2799 11 Sep 68 (7 Nov 66)
Capt James V. Barr DFC SO G-2798 11 Sep 68 (9Jun 68)
Maj Clarence E. Langford DFC SO G-2797 11 Sep 68 (25 May 68)
Lt Col James B. Ross AM (14 OLC) SO G2732 3 Sep 68 (21 Jun - 2 Aug 68)
Maj Melvin L. Irwin AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-2731 3 Sep 68 (7 Feb - 31 Jul 68)
Maj Carl B. Light AM (11 - 15 OLC) SO G-2731 3 Sep 68 (11 Feb - 5 Jun 68)
Capt Gary G. Durkee (AM (3 - 11 OLC) SO G-2727 3 Sep 68 (4 Feb - 3 Aug 68)

388 TFW History, Jul - Sep 68, and Oct - Dec 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frames 0807 and 0808 and 1766 & F-105 Flying Hour Report, dated 18 Nov 1985 provided by USAF Safety Center to Bauke Jan Douma & Jack Phillips, e-mail 18 Mar 11.

06-Oct-68

771

F-105 pilots from the 388 TFW "... closed a highway segment 31 miles north-northeast of Mu Gia Pass. Commenting on the mission, 1Lt Ronald D. Stafford, 34 TFS, said, 'The flight had excellent bombing results and cut the road in six places, rendering it completely useless to all traffic.' Other pilots on the strike were the 388th wing commander, Colonel Paul P. Douglas, and Lt Col Earl F. Bancroft, 34 TFS.

Sawadee Flyer, Saturday, October 19, 1968, pg 1 & Thunderchief Worldwide Report, Vol IV no 3, Nov 68.

15-Dec-68

6965

(Approximate date). Lt Col Earl F. Bancroft from the 34 TFS flew his last mission in the F-105. He had accumulated 326.8 hours in the airplane.

F-105 Pilot Flying Hour report dated 18 Nov 85 provided by the USAF Safety Center to Bauke Jan Douma.

15-Apr-81

6964

(Approximate date) Earl F. Bancroft, born 20 April 1929, died in Houston, Texas.

Rick Versteeg, e-mail 31 July 2011.