

James D. Cottingham

F-105 History

04-Nov-68

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The twenty-fourth F-105 RTU Class 69DR graduated at the 23 TFW, McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 11 Jun 68 with 16 students. Fourteen graduated: 1 Lt Col, 4 Maj.s., 8 Capt.s., and 1 1Lt.

On 10 Jul 1968, student Maj Robert S. Schaumberg successfully ejected from F-105D 60-0534 after a mid-air collision with F-105D 60-0448 piloted by student Lt Col Thomas M. Bowe who did not complete F-105 training.

The class deployed 20 F-105s for conventional weapons delivery training to George AFB CA between 1 - 17 Oct 68 with the 563 TFS. The squadron commander was Lt Col William N. Dillard.

While at George AFB, on 14 October 1968, student Maj David G. Steinke successfully ejected from F-105D 60-0532 when it experienced engine failure.

The graduates were:

Lt Col Jasper C. Brown	Capt Harald G. Hermes
* Maj Harold Kahler	Capt Thomas H. Krach
* Maj William R. McDaniel	* Capt Eugene G. Lamothe
Capt Robert S. Schaumberg	* Capt Clayton Bane Lyle III
Maj George B. Wallace	* 1Lt Alan B. Reiter
* Capt James D. Cottingham	Maj David G. Steinke
* Capt Charles J. Ferrari	Capt James D. Cox

* Pilots were assigned to the 34 TFS at Korat.

The class called themselves "The Thudbusters". The Outstanding Graduate was Capt Harald G. Hermes.

Lt Reiter received his wings at Williams AFB AZ. He along with Capt Lyle attended Jungle Survival School in the Philippines between 10 - 15 December. Capt Lyle arrived at Korat RTAFB, Thailand, on 17 December 1968, and Lt Reiter on 24 December when they were assigned to the 34 TFS, 388 TFW.

23 TFW History, Jul - Dec 68, USAF microfilm MO555 & Bane Lyle, e-mail 20 Aug 2010 & Al Reiter, e-mail 19 Feb 15 & AF Form 11.

10-Feb-69

01-Mar-69

7439

To support operating from Takhli during runway maintenance at RTAFB, Thailand, between 25 Jan - 4 Mar 69, the 388 TFW directed 10 pilots from the 34 TFS "... to proceed from Korat to Takhli AB, Thailand, performing 5 round trips during the period 12 February 1969 to 1 March 1969, both dates inclusive, on TDY to comply with Operational Requirements." The pilots were:

Capt Darrell J. Ahrens
Capt Clayton B. Lyle III
Capt Eugene G. Lamothe
Capt John F. Schell
Capt James D. Cottingham
1Lt Ronald A. Hoffmeyer
1Lt John W. Crotty
1Lt Alan B. Reiter
1Lt Daniel P. Seals
1Lt Joseph W. Widhalm

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Authority: AFM 36-11 and 388 OPLAN 69-1A & B.

388th Combat Support Group, Special Order TA-923 dated 10 Feb 1969 from Al Reiter, e-mail 21 Feb 15.

15-Feb-70

8044

Capt James D. Cottingham flew the F-105 for the last time. Since his first flight in June 1968 he had accumulated 377.6 hours in the Thunderchief.

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