

Ralph E. Durnbaugh

F-105 History

05-Apr-68

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The eighteenth F-105 RTU Class 68HR graduated at the 23 TFW, McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 2 Nov 67 with 26 students. Twenty five graduated -- 2 Lt Cols, 13 Maj's and 10 Capt's. This was the 23 TFW's first RTU class in which the students reported to McConnell PCS instead of TDY. This status allowed the 23 TFW to obtain each student's follow-on assignment rather than requesting it from the student's previous base.

The class deployed 30 F-105s for conventional weapons delivery training to George AFB CA between 12 - 28 Mar 68 with the 562 TFS. The squadron commander was Lt Col James L. Flowers. Maj Elwyn R. Capling was the Outstanding Graduate.

The class graduates were:

Lt Col Lewis R. "Benny" Bennington	Maj Daniel P. Van Sickle
Lt Col Robert J. Klingensmith, Jr.	Maj Richard E. White
Maj Joseph H. Brotherston	Capt Harry I. Axakowsky
Maj Elwyn Rex Capling	Capt Oral L. Bell
Maj David J. Carroll	Capt Ronald M. Cole
Maj Forrest G. "Dupe" Dupree	Capt Ralph E. Durnbaugh
Maj Victor R. Hollandsworth	Capt Gene D. Hartman
Maj Edwin C. Johnson	Capt Jack S. Houser
Maj Donald E. Kelley	Capt Ronald A. Shoemake
Maj Walton G. Kilbourn, Jr.	Capt William M. Snow, Jr.
Maj Joseph W. O'Toole	Capt Tom E. Steward, Jr.
Maj Curtis Patterson	Capt Willis M. Thompson
Maj Jimmy N. Phipps	

Prior to his F-105 training, Capt Durnbaugh was a T-37 Stan/Eval pilot in the 3510 TFG (Air Force Instructor Training) at Randolph AFB, TX. After completing F-105 upgrade, he was assigned to the 34 TFS at Korat, where he arrived in April 1968.

23 TFW History, Jul - Dec 67 & Jan - Jun 68, USAF microfilm MO554 & Ralph Durnbaugh, e-mail 7 April 2010.

27-Aug-68

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"... (In) the Dong Hoi area, ... 388 TFW Thunderchief pilots cut a highway segment in 15 places, 26 miles west of the coastal city. Five of the pilots were Majors Vincent Colasuonno (34 TFS), and Douglas A. Roysdon (34 TFS), and Captains Jack S. Houser (469 TFS), Ralph E. Durnbaugh (34 TFS), and Anthony F. Germann (34 TFS)."

Sawadee Flyer, Saturday, September 7, 1968, pg 1 & 4.

31-Aug-68

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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
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

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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 of Aug)	114	99 (Capt Pharmer had flown 100 missions by the end
Capt Durkee Aug)	111	99 (Capt Durkee had flown 100 missions by the end of
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

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"Striking near Mu Gia Pass ... F-105 ... pilots from the 388 TFW destroyed a bridge, cut a road in three places and caused three roadslides. ... Maj Clarence E. Langford, said, 'We went after an interdiction point and also got the highway bridge.' 'Although it is not very large', Maj Langford continued, 'the bridge is in very difficult country because it crosses a deep ravine and is almost impossible to bypass. My No.2 man (Capt. Ralph E. Durnbaugh) saw his bombs hit dead center on the bridge.'

"Following the strike on the bridge, pilots were directed to crates of supplies by a FAC who had spotted them stacked beside a road. 'We strafed the supplies and I saw pieces of crates flying everywhere,' Major Langford said. 'We scattered the supplies all over the area.'

"Capt John E. Hartman also participated in the strikes.

"Other pilots struck enemy supply boats with 20mm cannon fire, 29 miles northwest of Dong Hoi, damaging four of the craft." The pilots were from the 34 TFS.

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Sawadee Flyer, Saturday, September 7, 1968, pg 1.

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Capt Ralph E. Durnbaugh from the 34 TFS, completed his one-year tour at Korat and was assigned as an A-37 IP in the 4406 CCTS at England AFB, LA. During his tour, he flew 78 missions over North Vietnam and 168 total combat missions.

"I was later dual qualified in the F-105 and A-37 while assigned to 9 Air Force Stan/Eval from 1974 to 1978. Then flew F-105s at Tinker AFB as the Air Force Advisor to the 507 TFG (Air Force Reserves) from 1978 until the 507th transitioned to the F-4D in about 1980. I was lucky enough to fly the Thud for a total of almost 8 years." He last flew the F-105 in December 1980. By that time he had accumulated 1252.9 flying hours in the airplane.

Ralph Durnbaugh, e-mail 7 Apr 2010 & 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.