

Coy W. Gammage

F-105 History

04-Aug-66

225

The third F-105 RTU Class 67AR graduated at McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 11 Apr 66 with 12 pilots previously assigned to Air Defense Command as pilots of F-101s and F-102s. The class was named "The Lo-Speed Yo-Yos" and consisted of 1 Maj, 10 Capts and 1 1Lt. On 2 Jun 66,

Capt Daniel F. Reardon was the first 23 TFW RTU student fatality when he crashed in F-105D 60-0439 during a training mission.

The class deployed 12 F-105s with the 563 TFS to George AFB CA between 18 Jul - 7 Aug 66 for conventional weapons delivery training. This was the last RTU class for the 563 TFS before it was temporarily "unequipped" on 15 Aug 66 due to shortages of aircraft and pilots. The squadron commander was Maj Everett W. Harris. The 11 pilots graduating from the class were:

Maj Jim R. Fuller	Capt Phillip A. Goodwin	1Lt R. C. Thornley
Capt Clifton Emmet Cushman	Capt Martin L. Mooreberg	
Capt Dennis Kevin Duff	Capt Donald J. Quigley	
Capt Alan J. Fick	Capt Frank P. Reamer, Jr.	
Capt Coy W. Gammage	Capt Donald Glenn Waltman	

Capt Cushman had been "... a member of KU's [Kansas University's] 1959 NCAA outdoor national championship team and captain of a great 1960 crew. As a high schooler in Grand Forks, N.D., he won state titles in the long jump, high hurdles and mile. At KU, he was a fine cross-country runner as well as a world-class 400-meter hurdler. At the 1960 Kansas Relays, Cushman was voted the meet's top performer after he won the 400-meter hurdles in :51.2; ran a 1:53.8 half-mile leg on the winning KU two-mile relay team; led off the winning sprint medley relay team with a :48.5 quarter-mile; then anchored the second-place KU mile relay team with a :48.5 quarter. In 1960, Cliff Cushman won an Olympic silver medal at Rome in the metric hurdles and dedicated himself to taking gold in 1964 at Tokyo. ... But the '64 U.S. team trials saw the favored Cushman trip over a hurdle in the finals and fail to make the team." (KUSports.com, article)

After his graduation from F-105 training, Cushman was assigned to the 469 TFS, 388 TFW, at Korat RTAFB, Thailand.

23 TFW History, Jul - Dec 66, USAF microfilm MO554 & KUSports.com, article September 21, 2006, "Game-day flyover would be fitting tribute to Cushman", by Bill Mayer, posted at http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2000/aug/26/cushman_dare_letter/.

04-Feb-67

1515

F-105s from Korat and Takhli conducted a "... full scale strike ... against (JCS 60), [the] Thai Nguyen Army Supply complex [BE 616-0210 at coordinates 21-38-18N and 105-51-04E]. The 34 TFS [from the 388 TFW] supplied three strike flights and led the entire strike force. Mission Commander was Maj Edward C. Jones. Flight lineup [was] as follows:

"Hotdog" - Maj Edward C. Jones, Capt Donald S. Aunapu, Maj Leo F. Callahan, Maj Clarence Kough, Jr.

"Domino" - Maj William E. Augsburger, Capt Coy W. Gammage, Maj William C. Eagle, Capt William W. Kennedy.

"Acorn" - Lt Col Richard M. Heyman, Jr., 1Lt Donald O. Austin, Maj Homer T. Terry, Maj Harry Pawlik."

Pilots from the 469 TFS also participated in the strike.

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"Strike flights were loaded with 3,000-pound GP bombs (M-118s). The strike was most successful and although no BDA is yet available the target was heavily damaged. Strike cameras carried by the second flight recorded the results of the flak suppression attack. The CBU-24s were released on target and gave complete coverage Pilots reported very light inaccurate 37/57/85-MM AAA in the target area. Nine SAMs were observed to airburst within five nautical miles of the strike flights on the inbound run, and four SAMs observed to air-burst within ten nautical miles. During egress from target, 8 MiG aircraft were observed during the attack."

As Hotdog 1, mission commander Maj Edward C. Jones received the Silver Star for leading this mission. (Ed Jones letter to Ron Thurlow, 25 March 01.) His citation read, in part, "... Maj Jones was the mission commander in the lead of 40 aircraft directed to attack and destroy a complex Army supply depot. With a complete disregard for his personal safety, he successfully led his strike force through intense AAA, SAM launches, and hostile aircraft to accomplish the assigned mission. ..." (Ed Jones e-mail 26 Apr 2010.)

As Acorn 3, Maj Homer T. Terry received the Distinguished Flying Cross for this mission. "Major Homer Terry distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as an F-105 pilot over North Vietnam on 4 February 1967. On that date, Maj Terry attacked a high priority target at Thai Nguyen, North Vietnam. Despite intense and accurate hostile ground fire, continuous surface-to-air missile warnings and numerous launches, he delivered his ordnance with unerring accuracy on the target, causing extensive damage. ..." (Homer Terry, letter to Ron Thurlow, undated.)

Maj Ralph Laurence Carlock from the 357 TFS, 355 TFW, was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry for flying on this mission. The award was made posthumously after he died in combat in Laos on 4 March 1967. (Hq 7th AF SO G-453 dated 29 March 1967.)

388 TFW history, Apr - Dec 1967, USAF microfilm NO463 frames 1221 and 1222.

31-Mar-67

5156

Six pilots assigned to the 34 TFS at Korat completed flying 100 missions during March 1967. They were:

Capt Alan J. Fick
Maj Leo F. Callahan
Capt Coy W. Gammage
Lt Col Richard M. "Dick" Heyman, Jr.
Capt Donald J. Hankins
Maj Edward C. Jones

After Maj Jones had flown his 100th mission, he volunteered to remain at Korat as a Functional Check Flight (FCF) pilot for an additional three months to allow his reassignment to the States in June 1967, after his children had finished their school year. The 388 TFW commander, Col Chairsell, agreed with his request and allowed him to fly one combat mission each month to qualify for combat pay. By the time he left Korat, he had flown 103 counters over North Vietnam and 27 other combat missions to Laos.

34 TFS web site on 2 April 2007 at <http://s88204154.onlinehome.us.34tfs/scarf.htm> & Ed Jones, phone interview 26 April 2010.