

# Donald J. Hankins

## F-105 History

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**21-Mar-66**

**23-Jul-66**

524

The first 4 TFW F-105 RTU course 111506E, class 67ARS, began at Seymour Johnson AFB NC. The class had 16 student pilots who were scheduled to receive 57 flying hours and 181 hours of classroom training. However, most students received nearly 100 hours flying the F-105 and over 10 hours of T-39 radar training.

They were assigned to the 334 TFS commanded by Lt Col Hershel E. Galyon. The class deployed to MacDill AFB for AGM-12 training. The outstanding graduate was Capt Robert G. Bradshaw, Jr. Capt Max Brestel received top academic honors and Capt Don Fisher was "Top Gun".

The class graduated 15 pilots on 23 July 1966.

The pilots and their SEA assignments were:

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Maj John S. Berkland - Takhli             | Capt Donald H. Fisher - 357 TFS      |
| Maj James E. Hiteshew - 354 TFS           | Capt Donald J. Hankins - 34 TFS      |
| Maj David W. MacArthur - 355 TFW QC       | Capt Thomas B. Hitchcock - 357 TFS   |
| Maj Meno J. Stallone, Jr. - 357 TFS       | Capt William B. Hoelt - 354 TFS      |
| Capt Buddy L. Bowman - 469 TFS            | Capt Charles J. Hoover - 354 TFS     |
| Capt Max Christopher Brestel - 354 TFS    | Capt John E. "Mac" McMahon - 469 TFS |
| Capt Anthony J. Farrington, Jr. - 333 TFS | Capt Walter C. William - Korat       |
| Capt Robert G. Bradshaw, Jr. - 354 TFS    |                                      |

*4 TFW History, Jan - Jun 66, USAF microfilm MO293 & Log of Capt Robert G. "Bob" Bradshaw, Jr.*

**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.

Capt Hankins last flew the F-105 in June 1967. He had accumulated 334.3 hours in the airplane.

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

**15-Sep-67**

2366

(Approximate date). "At Phoenix, Arizona, this month, certificates of recognition were given to 23 F-105 pilots and EWOs who recently completed 100-mission tours in SEA."

The men, and the squadron from the 355 TFW and 388 TFW to which they had been assigned

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(when known), were:

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| BG William Spalding Chairsell - 34 TFS | Maj Kevin A. "Mike" Gilroy - 354 TFS  |
| Col Robert Ray Scott - 333 TFS         | Maj William B. Hoeft - 354 TFS        |
| Maj Jack C. Brown                      | Capt Donald J. Hankins - 34 TFS       |
| Maj Ray H. Bryant - 469 TFS            | Capt Larry G. Lighty - 357 TFS        |
| Maj Merlyn Hans Dethlefsen - 354 TFS   | Capt Thomas A. Loken - 333 TFS        |
| Maj William C. Eagle - 34 TFS          | Capt Stow                             |
| Maj Thomas B. Hitchcock                | Capt Norman L. "Norm" Suits - 421 TFS |
| Maj Robert N. "Bob" Johnston - 13 TFS  | Capt Lloyd A. Sjulstad - 333 TFS      |
| Maj Bruce H. Kline                     | Capt George H. Vipond - 67 TFS        |
| Maj Robert F. Loken - 421 TFS          | Capt David E. Weaver - 34 TFS         |
| Maj Milton V. Rickman - 357 TFS        | 1Lt Glenn Gidel - 354 TFS             |
| Maj Larry D. Waller - 13 TFS           |                                       |

*Republic Thunderchief Worldwide Report, Vol III No 2, Oct 67.*

#### 25-May-08

6937

"Donald J. Hankins, of Biloxi, died May 25, 2008 after a valiant battle with cancer. He was 72. Born in Cleveland, Minnesota, one of five siblings. He was Air Force commission as a second lieutenant. After attending flying training, he served this country for twenty-eight years flying jet fighters and training the next generation of pilots. When he retired in 1985 and for many years after, he held the record for the most flying hours in the T-38 jet trainer. Funeral services: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Gulfport. Interment: Biloxi National Cemetery."

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/MS-VETERANS/2008-06/1212630201>