

Kenneth M. Hiltz, Jr.

F-105 History

14-Oct-67

236

The fourteenth F-105 RTU Class 68BR graduated at McConnell AFB KS. The class, named "The Many Splendored Studs", began on 20 Apr 67 but didn't start training until 15 May 67. It took the place of class 68CR that was deleted due to the extension of RTU training from 70 to 92 flying hours. The class had 22 student pilots and deployed 24 F-105s for conventional weapons delivery training to George AFB CA between 29 Sep - 13 Oct 67 with the 562 TFS. The squadron commander was Lt Col James A. Young.

"Experience level in this class ranged from 760 to 5,500 flying hours. ... This was considered to be one of the outstanding classes to have graduated from the 562 TFS and the 23 TFW. Reason for this was due to nearly unanimous high performance aircraft background of the students, who were assigned exclusively from tactical fighter, fighter interceptor and trainer aircraft units."

Capt George D. Graves was Overall Outstanding Student and Capt Kenneth D. Thaete was Top Gun. Col Thomas H. Curtis had graduated early, in July 1967, for his assignment as Deputy Commander for Operations at the 355 TFW, Takhli RTAFB, Thailand.

One of the students, Maj Billy J. Dulin, was awarded the TAC Pilot of Distinction for the month of December 1967.

The student class roster included:

Col Thomas H. Curtis	Capt Edward Y. Cleveland
Lt Col Nevin G. Christensen	Capt Robert J. Furman
Lt Col James B. Ross	Capt George D. Graves
Maj Thomas W. C. "Robert" Birge	Capt Eric B. Nelson
Maj Richard J. Bono	Capt Frank E. Peck
Maj Francis J. "Frank" Byrne	Capt James E. Sehorn
Maj Kenneth W. Dickson	Capt Anthony Cameron Shine
Maj Billy Joe Dulin	Capt Kenneth D. Thaete
Maj Kenneth M. Hiltz, Jr.	Capt Forrest S. Winebarger
Maj James G. LaChance	1Lt William C. Jones
Maj Grayson C. Powell, Jr.	
Maj Clair L. Thompson	

Lt Col Ross had been a squadron commander of a pilot training squadron at Vance AFB, OK. He was next assigned to the 34 TFS at Korat.

23 TFW History, Jan - Jun 67, USAF microfilm MO554, frames 0986 and 1058 & Jim Ross, e-mail 30 Apr 10.

23-Feb-68

6546

A flight with pilots from the 34 TFS flew a mission over North Vietnam. The lineup was:

#1 - Lt Col Robert A. "Red" Evans commander of the 44 TFS.
#2 - Capt Joseph S. Sechler flying his sixth mission
#3 - Lt Col Kenneth M. Hiltz
#4 - Maj Douglas A. Roysdon

Capt Sechler logged 2:55 flying hours.

Joe Sechler flight log via e-mail 28 Apr 10.

31-Jul-68

4153

During July 1968, three pilots from the 34 TFS completed 100 missions over North Vietnam. They

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were: Lt Col Kenneth M. Hiltz, Maj Melvin L. Irwin, and Capt William A. Thomas, Jr.

His 100th mission on 18 July 1968 was the last F-105 flight for Ken Hiltz. Since his first flight at McConnell on 1 June 1967, he had accumulated 359.1 flying hours in the airplane.

His 100th was also Maj Irwin's last F-105 flight. Since his first flight at McConnell in June 1967, he had accumulated 410.5 hours in the airplane.

Capt Thomas was next assigned to the 12 TFS, 18 TFW, at Kadena AB, Okinawa.

Lt Col Rufus Dye, Jr., who worked in the 388 TFW command post but was attached to the 34 TFS, flew his 100th mission on 19 July. He flew his first mission on 7 October 1967. By the time of his last flight, he had accumulated 475.3 hours in the F-105.

The 34 TFS commander was Lt Col Robert J. Klingensmith, Jr. and the Operations Officer was Maj Clarence E. Langford.

388 TFW History, Jul - Sep 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frame 0803 & 34 TFS web site on 2 April 2007 at <http://s88204154.onlinehome.us.34tfs/scarf.htm> & F-105 Flying Hour Report, dated 18 Nov 1985 provided by USAF Safety Center to Bauke Jan Douma.

01-Apr-69

2611

(Approximate Date). "100 Mission Pilots Honored at Nellis AFB -- Special recognition certificates were awarded by Republic Aviation this month to eighteen F-105 fighter-bomber pilots. The recipients were Lieutenant Colonels Ken Hiltz and Robert Jondahl; Majors Richard Westcott, William Shunney and Thomas Murch; and Captains Robert Wilson, Anthony W. Platek, Donald Simanski, Chester Griffin, Irving LeVine, Robert Bigrigg, Phillip Drew, Donald Langwell, Joseph Howard, Roger Hermeling, James Padgett, Lamont Pharmed and David L. Ferguson."

Thunderchief Worldwide Report, Vol. IV, No. 7, April 1969.

13-Aug-13

7304

Lt Col (Ret) Kenneth Murray Hiltz Jr. died in Texas at age 88.

Obituary

A funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, August 22 at St. Francis Anglican Church, 3838 Walnut Hill Lane in Dallas, TX celebrating the life of Kenneth Hiltz, Jr. who passed away at the age of 88. Ken was born January 8, 1925 to Murray and Adelaide Hiltz in Washington D.C. In 1945 he married Anne, his wife of 63 years. Ken graduated after WWII from American University. He will be remembered for his passion for flying, his love of country, and his devotion to family and church. Ken first soloed as a pilot at age 15 and continued to fly until 2012. He served in the Air Force from 1943 to 1970 retiring as a Lt. Colonel. Ken was a decorated veteran of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Following his Air Force service, Ken had a career in the international insurance market. Later he created his own insurance consulting company. Ken had been active in the Stephen Ministries, Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, and the Order of the Daedalians. Ken is survived by sons Robert(Carol); Thomas(Niki); Richard(Melinda); daughter-in-law Susan Hiltz; seven grandchildren; three great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Ken was preceded in death by his wife Anne, son Stephen, and grandson Ian. In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift in Ken's memory to Saint Francis Anglican Church of Dallas, TX. Inurnment will be at the Dallas/Fort Worth National Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, August 22.

Obituary on-line at <http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Kenneth-Hiltz&lc=4914&pid=166427506&mid=5633632>.