

# Ronald A. Hoffmeyer

## F-105 History

---

### 30-Apr-68

F-105D 610083 563 TFS 23 TFW McConnell Operational loss during ACM. While in a right turn, the aircraft snapped left and spun out of control. Crashed 6 NM south of Red Mountain, 42 NM northwest of George AFB, California. Maj Robert V. "Boris" Baird 563 TFS RTU instructor pilot ejected without injury. Call sign: "Tally 61". "Derby's 'man of the year,' Maj Robert V. Baird, was unhurt early Tuesday afternoon after ejecting from a McConnell Air Force-based F-105 Thunderchief six miles north of Edwards Air Force Base, California."

"Baird's plane developed flight control difficulties at 11:20 a. m., shortly after takeoff from George AFB, California, where he was deployed on a routine training mission, according to McConnell officials. He was hospitalized at George for routine observation and examination."

"A Wichita native and a 1954 graduate of Wichita State University, Baird is credited with leading the first F-105 mission over North Vietnam in 1965. He was also the first pilot to be shot down and rescued over North Vietnam. Baird has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, Purple Heart, and the Air Force Commendation Medal. He was an unsuccessful candidate for mayor of Derby in the last election and in February was named 'Outstanding Young Man of the Year' by the Derby Jaycees."

Maj Baird was an instructor pilot for F-105 RTU Class 68IR that had deployed to George for gunnery training with the 563 TFS between 16 April and 9 May 1968.

#### History of Flight

"(1) Tally 61 through 64 flight began briefing for an ACM-5 mission at 0720 PDT on 30 April 1968. The flight lead/instructor pilot, Major Robert V. Baird, call sign Tally 61, in aircraft F-105D-15RE, 61-0083, briefed the mission utilizing the 23 TFW briefing guide. The flight line-up consisted of Tally 61 Major Baird, Tally 62 1Lt David S. Hartman, RTU student/wingman, Tally 63 Lt Col James W. Mathews, instructor pilot/ element lead, and Tally 64 2Lt Ronald A. Hoffmeyer, RTU student/wingman. The aircraft configuration for the flight was clean F-105D aircraft with internal and bomb bay fuel. The weather was high thin scattered cirrus and fifteen miles visibility. A local VFR flight clearance (TAC Form 175) was filed with an estimated time en route of one hour. The preplanned route of flight was a right turn after takeoff and a climb direct to SOA-1 in the George AFB local area.

"(2) Taxi and takeoff were normal with the flight getting airborne at 0915 PDT. The flight followed the prebriefed route and radio contact was established with Edwards approach control on 291.6. The flight then switched to tactical frequency 304.8, which Edward approach control monitored.

"(3) During the climb out, the flight went into fluid four formation with Tally 63 and Tally 64 flying approximately 2,000 feet above the lead element and to their right. Tally 61 flight entered SOA-1 with the lead element at 23,000 feet MSL and the high element at 25,000 feet MSL. Bomb bay tanks had just gone dry and the high element was cleared to initiate an attack on the lead element.

"(4) Tally 63 and Tally 64 made a left descending turn toward the lead element. As they commenced their attack, Tally 61 and Tally 62 began a nose low hard turn to the right at military power and approximately 400 KCAS to force an overshoot. As the right turn was continued, Tally 62 was forced to the outside and behind lead. Tally 61 continued his hard turn and as his airspeed decreased to 270 KCAS, he initiated a low speed yo-yo by engaging after burner and lowering his nose while continuing the right turn. As he pulled back up through the horizon still in a right turn, the aircraft yawed violently to the left and flipped to the left onto its back (opposite the direction of turn). The aircraft continued through yaw oscillations followed by a spin or multiple spins from which the aircraft did not recover. At approximately 8000 feet MSL (4,900 feet AGL), Major Baird ejected from the aircraft. The aircraft impacted on the 330 degrees radial, 42 NM from George at approximately 0922 PDT. The aircraft exploded and burned upon impact."

*The Wichita Eagle, Wednesday, May 1, 1968, pg 15A & AF Form 711 USAF Accident/ Incident Report 68-4-30-1, dated 14 May 68, signed by Lt Col James A. Young, Board President.*

### 07-Jun-68

243

The nineteenth F-105 RTU Class 68IR graduated at the 23 TFW, McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 5 Dec

---

# Ronald A. Hoffmeyer

## F-105 History

---

67 with 27 students. Twenty six graduated. The incoming class consisted of 2 Capts and 25 2nd Lts, all recent graduates in the top 10% of the Undergraduate Pilot Training program.

"This class is unique in that it is the first class in which all members are recent graduates of the Undergraduate Pilot Training Program. ... They have no pilot experience other than that received in pilot training. This represented a marked contrast with previous F-105 RTU classes composed of older, more mature and experienced pilots."

To compensate for their inexperience, their course was increased from 92 to 120 flying hours for a total of 78 sorties (RTU course 1111106). On 8 Mar 68, student 2Lt Frank F. Perry III was killed in the crash of F-105D 62-4226 near Raymond KS.

The class deployed for conventional weapons delivery training to George AFB CA between 16 Apr - 9 May 68 with the 563 TFS. The squadron commander was Lt Col Joe W. Pickett. Capt Wyrewood Gowell was Top Student.

On 30 Apr 1968, while at George AFB, instructor pilot Maj Robert V. "Boris" Baird, ejected successfully from F-105D 61-0083 when it developed a flight control problem after takeoff.

The 10 May 1968 edition of The Wichita Eagle reported on the 563 TFS's return to McConnell after their deployment to George. "The 563rd Tactical Fighter Squadron at McConnell Air Force Base returned to Wichita Thursday after 23 days at George AFB, Calif. where it achieved a record 725 successful practice sorties.

"The student fighter squadrons at McConnell are sent to George for special aerial combat training as a routine but this was the first group of F-105 students to contain all recently commissioned second lieutenants.

" 'None of them are experienced pilots, but they are a good group,' said Maj. Robert B. Baird, flight commander. 'I experienced the only mishap during the 23-day exercise.' Baird was forced to eject from his craft April 30 when it developed flight control difficulty shortly after takeoff from George.

"McConnell is the training center for pilots in the F-105 Thunderchief fighter-bomber prior to assignment in Southeast Asia. Most students up to now had been experienced pilots who were converting from other aircraft to the 105, Baird said.

" 'This group of students had logged about 90 hours flying time in the Thunderchief during their training here before going to George where they flew about another 20 hours each.' Baird said. 'They will be required to complete about 10 additional hours flight time here, but they already have overseas orders for mid-June.'

"Most practice flights are over Smokey Hill Bombing and Gunnery Range near Salina, Kan.

" 'But when it comes time to fire on airborne targets, Kansas lacks sufficient air space.' Maj. Baird explained, so the squadron retreats to skies over the southern California desert. There they concentrate efforts on air-to-air combat practice and use of the Sidewinder missile.

"After graduation from flight training, the 26 class members will begin water survival training at Homestead AFB, Fla., before going overseas."

The students were:

Capt Wyrewood A. "Goose" Gowell	2Lt Eldon W. Joersz
Capt Kenneth G. Lindell	2Lt Charles A. Kennedy
2Lt Salvatore A. Bonacasa	2Lt Peter J. Linsley
2Lt Donald S. Brown II	2Lt Harvey A. Marshall
2Lt Robert E. Bryan	2Lt Phillip A. Miller
2Lt Gary R. Confer	2Lt Frank F. Perry III
2Lt David Thomas Dinan III	2Lt John C. Pluta
2Lt Preston T. "Pres" Duke	2Lt Cecil L. Snell

## Ronald A. Hoffmeyer F-105 History

---

2Lt Curtis S. "Scott" Hamme	2Lt Ronald D. Stafford
2Lt James N. Hammond	2Lt Marshall D. Tilley
2Lt Ronald A. Hoffmeyer	2Lt Richard R. Venturi
2Lt Clarence J. "Skip" Holm	2Lt Barry D. Wyttenbach
2Lt David S. Hartman, Jr.	2Lt Robert John Zukowski
2Lt Lynn A. Aikman	

Twelve lieutenants -- Holm, Miller, Bryan, Wyttenbach, Tilley, Confer, Dinan, Hoffmeyer, Hartman, Stafford, Venturi, and Zukowski -- were assigned to the 34 TFS and 469 TFS at Korat. Most arrived in early July 1968. Three of them were shot down: Dinan (twice) (KIA the second time), Zukowski (KIA), and Stafford (Rescued). On 13 July 1968, Confer's plane was hit over NVN and he crash landed at Udorn. He had minor injuries but the plane was destroyed.

*23 TFW History, Jul - Dec 67 & Jan - Jun 68, USAF microfilm MO554 frame 2025.*

### 31-Aug-68

4134

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
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 Pharmed	114	99 (Had flown 100 missions by the end of Aug)
Capt Durkee	111	99 (Had flown 100 missions by the end of Aug)
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

# Ronald A. Hoffmeyer

## F-105 History

---

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

4199

Ten pilots from the 34 TFS received medals approved by 7 AF in August 1968 for missions flown earlier. They were:

Lt Col Nevin G. Christensen DFC (10 OLC) SO G-2685 29 Aug 1968 (14 Dec 67)  
Maj James E. James, Jr. DFC 5 (OLC) SO G-2627 24 Aug 1968 (14 Dec 67)  
Capt Arthur G. Duston AM SO G-2606 22 Aug 68, (6 Jul - 28 Jul 68)  
Capt Chester H. Thatcher, Jr. AM SO G-2606 22 Aug 68 (28 Jun - 17 Jul 68)  
Lt Col Earl F. Bancroft AM (10 OLC) SO G-2607 22 Aug 68 (7 Jul - 28 Jul 68)  
Maj Vincent Colasuonno AM SO G-2607 22 Aug 68 (4 Jul - 23 Jul 68)  
1Lt David S. Hartman, Jr. AM SO G-2605 22 Aug 68 (4 Jul - 21 Jul 68)  
1Lt Ronald A. Hoffmeyer AM SO G-2605 22 Aug 68 (4 Jul - 21 Jul 68)  
Lt Col Rufus Dye, Jr. AM (19 - 27 OLC) SO G2603 22 Aug 68 (7 Nov 67 - 19 Jul 68)  
Capt William A. Thomas, Jr. AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-2601 22 Aug 68 (2 Feb - 29 May 68)

Capt Thomas departed Korat on 31 August 1968 for his next duty assignment with the 12 TFS, 18 TFW, Kadena AB, Okinawa, where he arrived on 1 September. He was joined in Okinawa by his wife, Mary Jane, and a son and daughter.

*388 TFW history, Oct - Dec 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frame 1765 & Capt Bill Thomas, AF Form 11.*

### 28-Sep-68

6556

Capt Joseph S. Sechler from the 34 TFS led "Ozark" flight on his 100th mission to North Vietnam. "Wish I could tell you it was an exciting mission, but, alas, it was anticlimactic and not the type mission you'd have liked for your last one. Overcast at the airfield and overcast at the target. We just did what we called a 'sky dump', a radar ground-directed bomb run while flying over an overcast, not seeing anything. Hit a post-strike tanker and came home for the big celebration."

The flight lineup was:

#1 - Capt Sechler flying F-105D 62-4346 with name of fuselage side "Good Golly Miss Molly"  
#2 - 1Lt Richard R. Venturi  
#3 - Lt Col Robert J. Klingensmith, Jr., the 34th squadron commander  
#4 - 1Lt Ronald A. Hoffmeyer

Lieutenants Venturi and Hoffmeyer had completed F-105 RTU at McConnell AFB on Class 68 IR on 7 June 1968.

"I was so excited or drunk, I forgot to log the time. My mom's birthday. Little did I know that the 100-mission program was coming to a screeching halt. That Misty exchange trip and the typhoon about cost me my 100 mission patch." The 100-mission program was halted on 30 October 1968 when the U.S government stopped the Rolling Thunder bombing of North Vietnam.

*Joe Sechler, e-mail 1 Dec 18 & mission log via e-mail 28 Apr 10.*

### 14-Nov-68

7887

Two weeks after the halt of bombing missions in North Vietnam and the suspension of the 100-mission combat tour on 1 November, the 388 Combat Support Group published Special Order P-94 that adjusted the DEROS of F-105 pilots and EWOs in the three fighter squadrons in the 388 TFW. The new dates anticipated when each man would complete his one year in combat. The two-page order introduced the list with the directive, "The DEROS of the

# Ronald A. Hoffmeyer

## F-105 History

---

following officers, organization indicated, PACAF, this station, are changed as indicated. Authority: AFM 36-1 and PACAF Msg 080408Z Nov 68." The names were:

Capt Darrell J. Ahrens	34 TFS	10 Mar 69
Capt James V. Barr	34 TFS	10 Mar 69
Lt Col Earl F. Bancroft	34 TFS	30 Jun 69
Capt Oral L. Bell	34 TFS	16 Apr 69
Col Felix A. Blanchard	469 TFS	2 Feb 69
Maj Eugene A. Bonfiglio	44 TFS	20 Apr 69
Maj George K. Bowling	44 TFS	30 May 69
Capt Donald R. Brian	44 TFS	1 Apr 69
Maj David Brog	44 TFS	28 Jan 69
Capt Jack D. Brooks	34 TFS	10 Mar 69
1Lt Robert E. Bryan	469 TFS	12 Jun 69
Maj Ralph C. Budde	44 TFS	19 Apr 69
Maj David J. Carroll	469 TFS	16 Apr 69
Capt Donald D. Carson	44 TFS	1 Apr 69
Maj Richard P. Cisco	44 TFS	22 Apr 69
Maj Robert M. Clark	44 TFS	31 May 69
Maj Robert G. Denison	44 TFS	22 Apr 69
1Lt David T. Dinan III	469 TFS	12 Jun 69
Maj Altman Doty	469 TFS	16 Jun 69
Maj John J. Doyle, Jr.	44 TFS	9 Feb 69
Capt Ralph E. Durnbaugh	34 TFS	16 Apr 69
Capt Arthur G. Duston IV	34 TFS	16 Jun 69
1Lt Robert C. Edmunds, Jr.	469 TFS	30 Jun 69
Capt Olin K. Everett	34 TFS	1 Mar 69
Maj Stanley E. Goldstein	44 TFS	28 Jan 69
Capt Gene D. Hartman	469 TFS	16 Apr 69
1Lt David S. Hartman, Jr.	34 TFS	12 Jun 69
1Lt Ronald A. Hoffmeyer	34 TFS	12 Jun 69
1Lt Clarence J. Holm	469 TFS	12 Jun 69
Capt Lawrence E. Huggins	44 TFS	9 Dec 68
Capt Jerry E. Knotts	44 TFS	9 Feb 69
Capt Lawrence LeMieux	44 TFS	1 Apr 69
Capt Kenneth G. Lindell	469 TFS	12 Jun 69
Capt James E. Logan	44 TFS	31 May 69
Maj Richard D. Matthews	34 TFS	11 Apr 69
Maj Lorne F. McCormick	34 TFS	20 Apr 69
Maj Thomas P. McGowen, Jr.	44 TFS	31 May 69
Capt Richard R. Middleton	44 TFS	20 Apr 69
1Lt Phillip A. Miller	469 TFS	12 Jun 69
Maj John F. O'Donnell	388 TFW	4 Jun 69
Maj Thomas J. Phelan, Jr.	44 TFS	22 Apr 69
Capt Victor B. Putz	44 TFS	1 Apr 69
Maj Bernard C. Reck	44 TFS	31 May 69
Capt John W. Redmond	388 TFW	16 Jan 69
Maj John J. Revak	44 TFS	28 Jan 69
Capt James L. Rossetto	44 TFS	23 May 69
Capt Ronald L. Shepard	44 TFS	17 Feb 69
Maj William A. Smith	44 TFS	31 May 69
1Lt Ronald D. Stafford	34 TFS	12 Jun 69
Maj Paul F. Swanson	34 TFS	12 Jun 69
Maj Russell J. Tagliareni	44 TFS	23 May 69
Capt Chester H. Thatcher, Jr.	34 TFS	15 Jun 69

# Ronald A. Hoffmeyer

## F-105 History

---

Maj John J. Thornton, Jr.	44 TFS	26 Apr 69
1Lt Marshall D. Tilley	469 TFS	12 Jun 69
Maj Clarence J. Tolle, Jr.	44 TFS	22 Apr 69
Capt Richard E. Tracey	469 TFS	16 Jun 69
Maj Albert L. Villaret	44 TFS	23 May 69
Maj Richard E. White	34 TFS	16 Apr 69
Capt Robert L. Wilbanks	44 TFS	19 Apr 69
1Lt Robert J. Zukowski	469 TFS	12 Jun 69

*Hq 388th Combat Support Group (PACAF) APO San Francisco 96288 Special Order P-94 dated 14 Nov 1968.*

**25-Jan-69**

**04-Mar-69**

344

The runway at Korat RTAFB was closed for repairs. During the last months of 1968, "preliminary surveys showed [the need for] replacement for approximately 64 top slabs of the eight-inch overlay, replacement for some 50 bottom slabs, repair of 220 slabs with broken corners, repair of some 500 spalled (chipped) areas on the runway and probable repair to some of the foundation structure." Significant runway deterioration had been noticed since March 1966. Some of the runway concrete "was initially laid down during the Imperial Japanese forces occupation in World War II."

Fighter squadrons of the 388 TFW deployed to and operated from two other bases during the period. Forty-four F-105s and 1,068 personnel of the 34 TFS and 44 TFS operated from Takhli RTAFB, Thailand, while the F-4Es of the 469 TFS deployed to Ubon RTAFB, Thailand. The 388 TFW retained operational control over their deployed squadrons and maintained their level of combat sorties from the deployed locations. The 388 TFW's F-105s "enjoyed a higher mission effectiveness" while TDY to Takhli. The F-105s flew 901 sorties, of which 848 were combat missions with an operationally ready rate of 78.4 percent.

Lt Col Jack Sherrill was the commander of the 44 TFS when the squadron operated from Takhli. "Excellent flight line facilities but hooches and O Club were not nearly up to par as Korat. Such perks assumed more importance than justified when we were no longer 'at war' after the Nov 1 halt."

The 56 pilots and EWOs from the 44 TFS who flew from Takhli included Maj William H. Talley, Maj Ronald L. Shepard, Lt Col Richard A. "Dick" Haggren, Maj Richard P. Cisco, Capt Thomas P. Doubek, Maj Thomas J. Phelan, Jr.

Thirty-four pilots from the 34 TFS deployed to Takhli. They were: Lt Col Harvey W. Prosser, Jr., Lt Col Isaac M. Glass, Maj David J. Carroll, Maj Paul F. Swanson, Maj Manford C. Holly, Jr, Maj Sheldon H. Cooper, Maj Harold Kahler, Maj William R. McDaniel, Maj Guy E. Pulliam, Capt Oral L. Bell, Capt James V. Barr, Capt Darrell J. Ahrens, Capt Robert M. Howard, Jr., Capt Richard E. Tracey, Capt Ralphe E. Durnbaugh, Capt Douglas R. Young, Capt Kenneth G. Lindell, Capt Charles J. Ferrari, Capt Clayton B. Lyle III, Capt Eugene G. Lamothe, Capt John F. Schell, Capt Eben D. Jones, 1Lt David S. Hartman, Jr., 1Lt Ronald A. Hoffmeyer, 1Lt Marshall D. Tilley, 1Lt Ronald D. Stafford, 1Lt Robert E. Bryan, 1Lt Robert J. Zukowski, 1Lt David T. Dinan, 1Lt John W. Crotty, 1Lt Alan B. Reiter, 1Lt Daniel P. Seals, 1Lt Joseph W. Widhalm, and 1Lt Edward L. Sykes,

The runway repairs at Korat required 2,416 cubic meters of concrete and was done under contract to Gerson and Sons from Bangkok who employed 600 Thai workers. The work was completed on time despite a 100-percent increase in the amount of repair required.

*388 TFW History, Oct - Dec 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frame 1106 and Jan - Mar 69 & Jack Sherril, e-mail, 14 May 2003 & Hq 388 Cmbt Spt Gp SO TA-375 dated 22 Jan 69 from Al Reiter, e-mail 19 Feb 15*

**10-Feb-69**

**01-Mar-69**

7439

To support operating from Takhli, the 388 TFW directed 10 pilots from the 34 TFS "... to proceed from Korat RTAFB, Thailand 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

# Ronald A. Hoffmeyer

## F-105 History

---

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

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.*

**01-Dec-69**

8033

1Lt Ronald A. Hoffmeyer from the 34 TFS flew the F-105 for the last time. Since his first flight on 1 December 1967, he had accumulated 477.4 hours in the airplane.

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

**12-Dec-09**

6449

I'm very sad to forward the following msg from OL Bell reporting that [Col Ret] Ron Hoffmeyer who attended most of our reunions died on 12 Dec. Ken

----- Original Message -----

From: olb@aol.com  
To: kwm105plt@farm-market.net  
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2009 2:54 PM  
Subject: Ron Hoffmeyer

Ken,

I just had a call from Al Reiter a 69 graduate of the 34th and Ron Hoffmeyer also a 69 graduate passed away Sat. Dec 12. Additionally, Ron retired from the IL ANG at Ohare. He also flew for Eastern and American Airlines. He fought Lymphoma for several years but it finally got him.

Don't know if you wanted to pass this on or not.

O. L. Bell

Date: Sat, 15 Jan 2011 13:05:50 -0500  
From: Joe Richardson <joerr@INSIGHTBB.COM>  
Subject: Colonel Ronald A. Hoffmeyer, USAF-Ret (RIP)

On January 4, 2011 John Hope <RRVARiverRats@aol.com> sends:

I received a note today from Mary Helen Hoffmeyer to advise me that Ron took his final flight West a year ago on 12 December 2009

Mary Helen Hoffmeyer  
414 Duncan Ct  
Grand Haven, MI 49417-2103

SHADOW

*Ken Mays, e-mail, 17 Dec 09 & RATNET Digest - 4 Jan 2011 to 15 Jan 2011 (#2011-3).*