

Robert M. Howard, Jr.

F-105 History

15-Jul-68

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The twenty-first F-105 RTU Class 69AR graduated at the 23 TFW, McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 19 Feb 68 with 21 students: 2 Lt Cols, 10 Maj's, 5 Capt's and 3 2Lt's. Twenty students graduated. The class deployed 24 F-105s for conventional weapons delivery training to George AFB CA between 18 Jun - 3 Jul 68 with the 561 TFS. The squadron commander was Lt Col Harry D. Sultzer, Jr.

Student pilots were:

Lt Col Isaac M. Glass	Capt Walter E. Ackerlund
Lt Col Herbert L. Sherrill	Capt Peter Beeble
Maj Richard Doran	Capt Carl W. Blough
Maj Billy G. Dornberger	Capt Robert M. Howard, Jr.
Maj Manford C. Holly, Jr.	Capt Barry G. Swarts
Maj Albert E. Oppel	Capt Douglas R. Young
Maj Ernest J. Ratliff	2Lt John W. Crotty
Maj Joseph Reynes	2Lt Edward J. Gabriel, Jr.
Maj Wycliffe Steele, Jr.	2Lt Gerald A. Vink
Maj William H. Talley	
Maj James R. Turpen	
Maj Sheldon H. Cooper	

The Outstanding Graduate was Capt Sheldon H. Cooper who went to the 34 TFS at Korat. The Top Gun was Capt Peter Beeble who was assigned to the 333 TFS at Takhli.

During their two weeks at George AFB, the class practiced missions for air refueling, navigation, ACM, AGM-12B, AIM-9B and air-to-air dart firing. ... ACM training was hindered because scissors maneuvers were removed from the program." The class flew a total of 412 sorties and 488 hours and fired 20 AIM-9Bs and 20 AGM-12Bs.

Four pilots from this class went on to complete follow-on "Combat Nail" training for radar bombing with the 4519 CCTS at McConnell. These pilots were joined in their training by four Navigator/Bombardiers and were the first of the crews of this type who received this training to be assigned to the F-105F Commando Nail missions in SEA. They completed their training under course 111506K on 9 August 1968 and were assigned to the 44 TFS at Korat.

Four other pilots went to Wild Weasel training at Nellis. They attended WW Class 68WW III-25 (69-C-WW) and were also assigned to the 44 TFS. They were:

Maj Billy G. Dornberger (WW# 548)
Maj Joseph Reynes (WW# 551)
Lt Col Herbert L. Sherrill (WW# 545)
Maj William H. Talley (WW# 554)

On 2 May 1968, Maj Dornberger and his wife "... were sailing on Cheny Reservoir in a 21-foot fiberglass sailboat. Mrs. Dornberger was heard to fall and slip overboard. All search efforts were unsuccessful and dragging operations were underway when two fishermen observed her body floating in shallow water." She was 29 years old. (TWX 031510Z May 68 rescue report, Det 16 03-2 May 68 in AFHRA folder K318.241-2 IRIS 1008898.)

"Bill Talley was born in 1932 in Sayre, Oklahoma. He was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC Program at Oklahoma A&M College on May 28, 1955, and went on active duty beginning August 18, 1955. Lt Talley next completed Undergraduate Pilot Training and was awarded his pilot wings at Webb AFB, Texas, in September 1956. After completing advanced fighter training and reconnaissance school, he was assigned to the 29th, 20th, and 17th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadrons (TRS) at Shaw AFB, South Carolina, from September 1957 to May 1959, and then with

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the 17th TRS deployed to Laon AB, France, from May 1959 to June 1962. His next assignment was as an instructor pilot and flight test maintenance officer with the 3575th Pilot Training Wing at Vance AFB, Oklahoma, from August 1962 to October 1966, followed by service as a flight test maintenance officer with the 3630th and 3750th Consolidated Maintenance Squadrons at Sheppard AFB, Texas, from October 1966 to February 1968."
(<http://veterantributes.org/TributeDetail.php?recordID=823>)

23 TFW History, Jan - Jun 68, USAF microfilm MO554, frames 0117 - 0118.

25-Jan-69 **04-Mar-69**

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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.

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 Ralph 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

23-Jul-69

7886

Capt Robert M. Howard, Jr. flew the F-105 for the last time. Since his first flight in March 1968, he had accumulated 437.7 hours in the aircraft.

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