

Robert H. "Bob" Jones

F-105 History

09-Dec-63

5226

At the 4520 CCTW at Nellis AFB NV, Class 64-F of F-105D Operational Training Course 111506E graduated 24 pilots. The course started on 7 October 1963 and was assigned to the 4523 CCTS commanded by Lt Col Claude D. Phillips. The student pilots and their home stations were:

Lt Col Robert L. Bobbett - Bolling	Capt Neal L. Funston - 388 TFW McConnell
Lt Col James M. Morris - 388 TFW McConnell	Capt Ralph L. Kitchens - 388 TFW McConnell
Maj John P. Anderson - 8 TFW Itazuke	Capt Jack L. Spearman - 388 TFW McConnell
Maj William J. Bailey - 8 TFW Itazuke	Capt Paul H. Storment - 8 TFW Itazuke
Maj John I. Brown III - 355 TFW George	Capt Larry D. Wiggins - 388 TFW McConnell
Maj Robert A. Farnsworth, Jr. - 8 TFW Itazuke	1Lt Edward R. Bracken - 8 TFW Itazuke
Maj Louis G. Pazel - Luke	1Lt Clarence E. Fox - Homestead
Maj John C. Shay - 355 TFW George	1Lt Thomas W. Gallagher, Jr. - 8 TFW Itazuke
Capt Onofiro J. Andrews - Cannon	1Lt Edward J. Haerter - 355 TFW George
Capt Robert B. Bennett - 8 TFW Itazuke	1Lt Robert H. Jones - 457 TFS George - F-104C
Capt Thomas H. Curtis - Shaw	1Lt Bernard G. Lyons - Homestead
Capt Gerald E. Detweiler - 388 TFW McConnell	1Lt Jerry L. Stamps - Homestead
Capt Robert R. Dyczkowski - 355 TFW George	

Two pilots from Offutt AFB attended selected parts of Class 64-F from 9 - 19 Oct 63: Lt Col E. B. Elrod and Maj V. E. Chandler. Also, 1Lt Jared P. Lowe from Shaw AFB attended the class from 10 Oct 63 for 19 hours of academic training.

Lt Col James M. Morris was the commander of the 563 TFS at McConnell and was later assigned as commander of the 8 TFS, 49 TFW, at Spangdahlem.

As an F-104C pilot at George AFB, 1Lt Bob Jones, had "... deployed to Hahn Germany for the Berlin wall dust-up, and to NAS Key West for the 'Cuban Missile Crisis'. I was the last active duty 2Lt to fly the zipper." During his F-105 training, "... I was airborne on my first 'unsupervised solo' in the Thud ... along with Tom Curtis (whom I waxed) the day Kennedy was killed." After his F-105 upgrade, he "... was assigned to the 36 TFS 'Pukin Pups' at Itazuke in the fall of '63." (Bob Jones, e-mail 24 Apr 10)

Capt Benjamin D. Stanton was an F-105 IP who had been at Nellis since September 1960 and was in the 4523 CCTS that trained this class. In December 1963, he was assigned to the 18 TFW at Kadena AB Okinawa. "... While transitioning the 18th TFW [beginning November 1962], I was the squadron Flying Safety Officer (FSO). Col Jonesee Bolt, the DCO of the 18TFW liked my squadron Flying Safety program and asked me to be the 18th wing FSO when I went PCS to Kadena from Nellis. I was attached to the 67 TFS for flying where I got some training flights and got much of my flying doing FCF flights for QC." He also flew combat missions from Korat during deployments of the 67 TFS in 1965.

SO AA-8 dated 8 Oct 63 in History of the 4520 CCTW, 1 Jul - 31 Dec 63, AFHRA Call # K285.5435, IRIS # 0488615 & Ben Stanton e-mail 1 Jul 2013.

13-May-64

36

Under "Project Clearwater", the 35 TFS, 36 TFS and 80 TFS and their F-105s were transferred from Itazuke AB, Japan, to the 41 AD, Yokota AB, Japan. The 8 TFW was officially inactivated on 18 June 1964 and Itazuke became a Forward Operating Base.

The 8th wing commander was Col William E. Buck, Jr. Col Chester L. Van Etten was the wing deputy commander

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Six of the officers from the 35 TFS transferred to Yokota were:

1Lt William G. Bailey
1Lt Martin V. Case, Jr.
Capt William P. Ketchum
1Lt Wayne R. Kimmell
Capt Carl L. Hamby
Capt Jerry N. Hoblit

In June 1964, Capt Hamby "... was sent to Air force HQ in Saigon for 4 months." ("First Combat F-105s in SEA - Carl Hamby" in Thunder Falcon e-mail newsletter, Issue Number 27, May 2013.)

F-105 pilots in the 36 TFS moving to Yokota included:

Lt Col Robert A. Farnsworth, Jr., the squadron's Operations Officer
Capt Wayne D. Hauth
Capt Bernard C. Lyons
Capt James W. Roby
Capt Bruce G. Seeber
Capt Jerry L. Stamps
Capt Jack R. Stresing
Capt Lester W. Sundt
Capt Michael P. Cooper
1Lt Douglas G. Lauck
1Lt Benjamin D. Ulrich
1Lt Robert H. Jones

1Lt Lauck had joined the squadron at Itazuke in February 1964 after completing eight weeks of F-105 upgrade training in January 1964 at Nellis AFB, Nevada.

1Lt Victor Vizcarra, Capt Murphy Neal Jones, and Capt Robert D. Pielin were three of the pilots from the 80 TFS who moved from Itazuke to Yokota.

Their PCS orders were effective 24 May 1964.

8 TFW Unit History, 1 Jan - 18 Jun 1964, USAF microfilm MO372 & HQ 348 CSG Special Order A-1019 dated 28 April 1964 authorizing PCS move of listed officers.

04-Mar-65 04-May-65

95

The 36 TFS from Yokota AB, Japan, deployed F-105s to Takhli RTAFB, Thailand. "By 6 March 20 F-105 aircraft were in place at Takhli Air Base, Thailand. Local flying began on 7 March and the first O-7 mission was flown on 9 March. The 36 TFS maintained 20 aircraft at Takhli until 20 March, at which time two were returned to Yokota to aid in SIOP commitments."

One of the deploying pilots was Capt Douglas G. Lauck who had been with the 36th since February 1964 when the squadron was with the 8 TFW at Itazuke AB, Japan. He had moved to Yokota on 24 May 1964 when the squadron transferred to the 41 Air Division. This was his second combat deployment with the 36th; his first was in August 1964 to Korat in response to the Gulf of Tonkin episode. (Doug Lauck, e-mails 25 and 27 Sep 06 & 348 CSG SO A-1019 dated 28 April 1964.)

Earlier, between November 1959 and May 1960, the CIA flew C-130s from Takhli dropping insurgents and supplies into Tibet. During World War II, Takhli was a Japanese fighter base.

The 36 TFS was the first squadron to operate F-105s from Takhli. They replaced the 428 TFS, an F-100 squadron of the 474 TFW from Cannon AFB NM. The 428 TFS had moved into Takhli from

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Da Nang on 3 January 1965. The Cannon wing had been rotating its F-100 squadrons to Takhli since 1962. When they were relieved at Takhli, the 428 TFS transferred its damaged F-100s to PACAF and flew its 13 remaining F-100Ds and F-100Fs back to Cannon. (Corona Harvest Chronology of Significant Airpower Events in Southeast Asia, 1954 - 1967, pg 57.)

The pilots deploying with the 36 TFS were:

Col Max T. Beall - 41 AD	Capt John O. Rollins II
Lt Col Donovan L. McCance - 36 TFS commander	Capt Vernon D. Hesterman
Capt Stanley S. Rynear	Capt James I. Miholick
1Lt William A. Becker	Capt Jerry L. Stamps
Capt Robert H. Schuler, Jr.	Capt Onofino J. Andrews
Capt Dwight P. Schuler	1Lt Dan R. McKinney
1Lt Robert H. Jones	Capt Wayne D. Hauth
Capt Michael P. Cooper	Capt Lester W. Sundt
Capt Douglas G. Lauck	Capt Bruce G. Seeber
Capt David S. Graben	Capt Roderick G. Beckett
Capt Bernard G. Lyons	Maj Robert A. Farnsworth, Jr.
1Lt Benjamin D. Ulrich	Capt Edward S. Johnson - 41 AD

"During the deployment, the greatest problems encountered were in the areas of support and communications. Facilities at Takhli were poor and communications with other headquarters were often totally unreliable. The airlift of maintenance personnel and equipment was likewise difficult and delays all too common. The formation of the 6441 TFW on 1 April aided somewhat in relieving these problems; however, they continued as a source of irritation for several weeks to come. In fact it was not until the 6441 TFW had completed its organization at Yokota that the communication and airlift problems began to improve. Maintenance and operations personnel pulled together as they never had before and in spite of the grim living and working conditions, morale became high and stayed high. The base support personnel, many of whom were not from the 41 AD or the 6441 TFW did not share in this feeling of cohesiveness and the result was that separation in purpose occurred. This, in turn, led to conflicts between the support and tactical complexes that could have been avoided if all would have been members of the same command under a common leader." (6441 TFW history)

6441 TFW History, Apr - Jun 65, USAF microfilm PO231 & History of the 355 TFW, USAF microfilm NO460 & "Secret Mission to Tibet", Air & Space Magazine, Jan 98, Pgs 62 - 71 & 441 Cbt Sup Gp SO TB-463 dated 2 March 1965.

26-Aug-65 28-Oct-65

309

In a continuing series of TDY combat rotations by the three squadrons of the 6441 TFW at Yokota AB, Japan, the 36 TFS deployed for their third combat tour. Their first was to Korat in August 1964. This was their second deployment to Takhli RTAFB, Thailand, to replace the 80 TFS. The 36 TFS commander was Lt Col Howard F. "Red Dog" Hendricks.

Capt Douglas G. Lauck was one of the 36 TFS pilots on this deployment. This was his third 60-day TDY deployment with the 36th to Thailand and his second one to Takhli. During this deployment, he raised his total North Vietnam combat missions to about 48.

Other pilots on the deployment were:

Col Chester L. Van Etten, the 6441 TFW Commander	Capt Robert H. Jones
Maj Dean A. Pogreba, the 36 TFS Operations Officer	Capt Vernon D. Hesterman
Capt John O. Rollins II	Capt Thomas W. Sima
Maj Richard P. Fitzgerald	Capt Onofiro J. Andrews
Capt Lester W. Sundt	Capt Roderick G. Beckett

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Capt John R. Layman
Capt Rex L. Dull
Capt Clarence E. Fox
Capt Jerry L. Stamps
Capt William A. Becker
Maj Wayne N. Whatley
Capt Fredrick William Shattuck, Jr.
Capt David L. Hatten
Capt Bernard G. Lyons
Capt James I. Miholick
Lt Col William L. Janssen from the 6441 TFW Staff
Capt Michael F. McNamara from the 6441 TFW Staff
Capt Jack R. Stresing from the 41 AD Staff

Capt Donnie R. Duplissey
Capt Robert H. Schuler, Jr.
1Lt Delbert F. Miller
Capt Bruce G. Seeber
Capt Paul H. Storment
Capt Wayne D. Hauth
Capt David S. Graben
Capt Stanley S. Rynear
1Lt Benjamin D. Ulrich
1Lt Denis D. O'Donoghue

6441 TFW History, Jul - Dec 65, USAF microfilm PO232 & Doug Lauck, e-mail 25 Sep 2006 & 441 Cmbt Spt Gp Special Order TA-424 dated 5 Aug 65.

18-Apr-66

5176

The 6441 TFW selected the pilots for the squadron that became the 34 TFS to deploy to Korat. Most would come from the 36 TFS; consequently, the 36 TFS was slated to disband.

Bob Pielin from the 36 TFS, who had already flown 87 combat missions during temporary duty tours to Korat and Takhli, remembered how he helped select the pilots for the new squadron. "Fitz [Maj Richard P. Fitzgerald, the squadron's Operations Officer] and I initially made out a list of 25 pilots from the Wing resources to go as 34th members. The list was bounced back from HHQ as being too overloaded in pilots with over 50 missions. They recommended 6 guys in the 0 to 20 mission category, 6 in the 21 to 40, 6 in the 41 to 60, 6 in the 61 to 80, and anyone with over 80 to go TDY."

This distribution was to spread out their eventual departures from Korat as each pilot completed his 100-mission tour. Capt Pielin and Maj Fitzgerald reworked the list "... with some pronounced disapproval from those that were removed from the [original]. ... A 1.5 aircrew/aircraft ratio was authorized for 27 pilots plus Commander and Operations Officer. ... Bob Jones [Capt Robert H. Jones] was removed from the first list since he had his papers in to be discharged. When he found out about the 34th going PCS to Korat, he volunteered to go with [them] and get 100 missions before he got out. Red Dog [Lt Col Howard F. 'Red Dog' Hendricks the squadron commander] worked a 'deal', and he went TDY." (Bob Pielin e-mails, 23 Sep 2006 and 7 April 2007.)

The following list contains the positions and names of the initial twenty-nine pilots assigned to the 34 TFS. This is the revised list after Capt Pielin and Maj Fitzgerald reworked their original to provide a broader base of experience. One of the pilots, Gordon Walcott, annotated his copy of the printed list, dated 18 April 1966, with this comment: "This was the original 34th TFS crew roster when formed as an all-volunteer squadron from the 35 TFS, 36 TFS, and 80 TFS (Yokota AB, Japan)"

Commander - Lt Col Howard F. "Red Dog" Hendricks who had been commander of the 36 TFS.
Operations Officer - Maj Richard P. Fitzgerald

India Flight
Flight Commander - Maj Wayne N. Whatley
Capt Robin K. Nierste
Capt James I. Miholick
Capt Douglas G. Lauck
Capt Robert H. Jones

Lima Flight
Flight Commander - Capt James E. Hayes
Capt Merrill R. Lewis, Jr.
Capt Gordon M. Walcott
Capt Stanley S. Gunnensen
1Lt John Bernard Sullivan III

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Capt Robert R. Reed

Juliet Flight

Flight Commander - Maj Kenneth T. Blank
 Capt Carl L. Hamby
 Capt Thomas H. Curtis
 Capt David H. Groark
 1Lt Phillip J. Kelley

Metro Flight

Flight Commander - Capt Robert D. Pielin
 Capt Alan K. Rutherford
 Capt Ralph D. Watkins
 Capt Wayne D. Hauth
 Capt Rainford "Ray" McMaster Tiffin - 80 TFS

Kilo Flight

Flight Commander - Maj Jack R. Stresing
 Capt William O. Lessard
 Capt John R. Layman
 Capt Rex L. Dull
 Capt Clarence E. Fox
 1Lt Denis D. O'Donoghue

E-mail from Monty Pharmer, 22 Sep 2006 forwarding letter to him from Lt Col (Ret) Gordon Walcott dated, 29 July 1988, which included a roster of 36 TFS pilots, dated 18 April 1966.

25-May-66

4957

On Wednesday morning, twenty F-105Ds (18 aircraft and 2 spares) now assigned to the 34 TFS left the 6441 TFW at Yokota for Kadena on the first leg of their movement to the 388 TFW at Korat. The aircraft took off in flights of four using call signs "Yule". Each flight departed Yokota at half-hour intervals beginning at 0800. The deployment's flight line-up consisted of:

Pilot	Call Sign	Acft Tail No	Yokota TO Time	Kadena Arr Time	Acft Maint Status at Kadena
Lt Col Howard F. Hendricks	Yule 01	62-4361	0800	0955	Tacan/Doppler probs
Capt Robin K. Nierste	Yule 02	62-4288	0800	0955	O/R
Capt James I. Miholick	Yule 03	62-4336	0800	0955	O/R
Capt Wayne D. Hauth	Yule 04	62-4303	0800	0955	Gnd blower inop
Maj Wayne N. Whatley	Yule 11	62-4306	0830	1025	O/R
Capt Robert H. Jones	Yule 12	62-4318	0830	1025	O/R
Capt Robert R. Reed	Yule 13	62-4308	0830	1025	Autopilot
Capt Douglas G. Lauck	Yule 14	62-4358	0830	1025	O/R
Maj Kenneth T. Blank	Yule 21	62-4370	0901	1058	O/R
Capt Thomas H. Curtis	Yule 22	62-4380	0901	1058	O/R
Capt Carl L. Hamby	Yule 23	62-4364	0901	1058	O/R
1Lt Phillip J. Kelley	Yule 24	62-4277	0901	1058	O/R
Capt Alan K. Rutherford	Yule 31	62-4270	0930	1134	Autopilot
Capt Rex L. Dull	Yule 32	62-4312	0930	1134	O/R
Capt Ralph D. Watkins	Yule 33	62-4378	0930	1134	CIN
1Lt John B. Sullivan III	Yule 34	62-4356	0930	1134	Fire Ctrl/Elec
Capt James E. Hayes	Yule 41	62-4352	1000	1200	Fire Ctrl
Maj Jack R. Stresing	Yule 42	61-0132	1000	1200	O/R
Capt Lothar A. "Andy" Olman	Yule 43	62-4379	1000	1200	Fuel Leak
Capt Robert D. Reichart	Yule 44	62-4354	1000	1200	O/R

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(History of the 6441 TFW, 1 Apr 65 to 15 Nov 66, Supporting Documents, Mobility Control Center Log, pg 6, in AFHRA folder K-WG-6441-HI, IRIS# 0462464.)

Capt Alan K. Rutherford was one of the pilots on the deployment. "I recall so well how we formed up with 16 Thuds and midst many tears (from wives) and go get um's from the troops we launched to the war. We were going to 'kill the Cong'. We intended to overnight at Kadena, and then launch the next day with the squadron to Korat. Needless to say it got drunk and rowdy that night ...". (Al Rutherford, e-mail, 21 Sep 2006.)

Capt Douglas G. Lauck was another of the 34 TFS pilots moving to Korat. "We packed our household goods [at Yokota] and sent them along with our cars back to the States. Our wives and dependents had flights booked back to the States." (Doug Lauck, e-mail 21 Sep 2006.)

The pilots from the 34 TFS were to join with pilots from the 13 TFS at Kadena on 25 May and deploy to Korat. Unfortunately, circumstances required the 34th pilots at Kadena to return to Yokota on 26 May.

In the 13 TFS, "the squadron was cocked to move as planned on the 25th of May, but a staying order was received, delaying departure for thirty days. Rumors were rife that perhaps the move would not be made at all. Unfortunately, on the basis of the rumors and the lack of further communications, after numerous inquires to higher headquarters on the subject, many members of the new squadron cancelled proceedings to return their dependents to the United States. As a result, when the order to deploy on 23 June was received with a week's advance notice, many dependents were left to arrange their own moves. Much help was rendered by friends and Wing personnel, of course, to facilitate these peoples' departure. On 23 June, support personnel departed for Korat via C-130. Aircrews departed the following day."

388 TFW History, Jul - Dec 66, USAF microfilm NO583 frame 1742 & 44 TFS history, 1 Jan 65 - 30 June 1967, pp 4 - 5.

10-Jun-66

5192

(Approximate date). Six F-105 pilots assigned to the 34 TFS at Yokota, flew in a C-130 to Takhli to partially satisfy a PACAF levy on 5th Air Force units to provide pilots on temporary duty to fill shortages in the F-105 squadrons in the 355 TFW at Takhli. The pilots were:

Maj Kenneth T. Blank
Capt Carl L. Hamby
Capt Thomas H. Curtis
Capt David H. Groark
1Lt Phillip J. Kelley
Capt Douglas G. Lauck

In their time at Takhli, some of these pilots would fly combat missions with 355 TFW squadrons. While he was at Takhli, 1Lt Kelley flew two combat missions with the 333 TFS. On his second mission on 15 June 1966, he was shot down and rescued.

Others on TDY at Takhli did not fly missions before they transferred to Korat. Doug Lauck recalled that he "... went through orientation there but did not fly any sorties." (Doug Lauck, e-mail 11 April 2007.)

The pilots stayed at Takhli until approximately 15 June 1966 when they rejoined the 34 TFS that finally arrived at Korat.

Over the next few days, other pilots assigned to the 34 TFS flew on C-130s from Yokota to Korat to

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join the four advance-party pilots who were already there. During this TDY, they flew combat missions with the 388 TFW's squadrons and airplanes until the 34th's F-105s could be delivered to Korat. For example, Capt Robert D. Pielin, one of the advance party pilots who had arrived at Korat on 21 May 1966, flew two missions with the 421 TFS.

Capt Robert H. Jones was another 34 TFS pilot who deployed from Yokota to Korat.

Tom Curtis, e-mail 3 Apr 2007 and Bob Pielin, e-mail 1 Apr 2007 & Phil Kelley, e-mail 7 May 2012.

31-Aug-66

5150

Five pilots assigned to the 34 TFS at Korat, all of whom had flown missions during earlier TDYs, completed flying 100 missions during August 1966. They were:

Maj Richard P. Fitzgerald
Capt Wayne D. Hauth
Capt John R. Layman
Capt Robert H. Jones
Capt David H. Groark

On his 100th mission, Capt Groark remembered that, "I landed about 1030 and was on a flight to Bangkok and return to the States by 1200 that day." He was assigned to the Test Wing at Eglin AFB, Florida. "Arrived there and had orders to ARPS at Edwards. After graduation, I returned to the Eglin Test Wing. Left active duty on 1 April 1972 and flew F-100s with the Georgia Air Guard and then AC-130s at Duke Field Eglin. While at Eglin I was triple current in the F-100, F-105, and A-7. On my last day of active duty, I flew a mission in each airplane."

Capt Bob Jones "... resigned my regular commission, accepted a reserve commission, and separated from active duty on 3 September 1966. I was hired by American Airlines, and flew for the company until June 1998. During my airline career, I flew B-727, 707, 757, 767, BAC -111, L-188, DC-10 and MD-11 equipment. I joined the NJ ANG in late 1966, and flew F-105Bs with them until 1971. I transferred to the AF Reserve then and flew F-105D T-Stick II birds, F-4Es, and A-10s before retiring in 1992 as an O-7."

34 TFS web site on 2 April 2007 at <http://s88204154.onlinehome.us.34tfs/scarf.htm> & Dave Groark, e-mail 10 April 2010 & Bob Jones, e-mail 24 Apr 10.

10-Sep-81

7339

The 457th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 301st Tactical Fighter Wing, at Carswell AFB TX, flew 25 of their 31 F-105s in a demonstration they called "Thunder '81". There were 19 Thunderstick IIs, 3 straight Ds, and 3 F models flying together for the last time. "Brought to you by Maj Gen John E. Taylor's 301 TFW, 457 TFS at Carswell Air Force Base, led by BG Roger P. Scheer."

The pilots and their aircraft were:

Lt Col Robert H. Jones	475th CC	61-0064
Ted D. Oats		60-0465
Bill Lawson		60-0533
Eugene L. Haggerty	with empty rear cockpit	F-105F 63-8261
Steven A. Coker		F-105D 62-4299
Jeffrey W. Noe		61-0075
Frederick R. Flom		60-0493
Byrd C. W. 'Willy' Kempe		60-0464
Hays C. Kirby	with Dr. Jim Almand	F-105F 63-8309
Courtlan C. Hazelton		60-0517
Ronald I. Reagan		60-0455

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Walter S. Long	F-105D 60-0514
Phillip L. Chik with Dr. Duane Giles	F-105F 63-8331
Gilbert D. Mook	61-0076
Daly R.. Bales, Jr.	61-0110
Warren M. Vanderburgh	61-0063
Stephen S. Summers	61-0044
Alexander P. Madar	60-0527
BG Roger P. Scheer	60-0471
David E. Tanzi	60-0458
Wayne C. Foster	61-0074
Bobby L. Efferson	61-0080
Carl M. Gough, Jr.	61-0096
Craig S. Ferguson	F-105D 62-4387
Arthur John Rohde II	61-0161

After taking off, the 24 planes made two formation passes over Carswell. The first flyby - 1000 feet, 350 knots, six flights of four each in diamond formation. Second flyby - 1000 feet 400 knots each flight in finger-tip formation in trail.

Six 457 TFS F-105s did not fly in the exercise. Three were T-Stick lis, 60-0500, 60-0528, and 61-0100. Two were regular F-105Ds, 61-0176, and 62-4253. One was F-105F 63-8343.

Thunderchief Video at <http://vimeo.com/84280097> linked via e-mail from John Morrissey 4 Feb 2014.