## 08-Mar-68

F-105D 624226 563 TFS 23 TFW McConnell Operational loss during an RTU radar training mission. Crashed 10 NM SW of Raymond, Kansas. 38-17N 98-25W 2Lt Frank F. Perry III 563 TFS RTU student pilot ejected but died. Call sign: "Spike 04". "An F-105D jet from McConnell Air Force Base at Wichita crashed Friday afternoon about 20 miles southeast of here, killing its pilot. Dead is 2nd Lt. Frank F. Perry III, 24. ... He was assigned to the 563rd Tactical Fighter Squadron at McConnell. Perry was on a radar training mission in the single seat jet when the crash occurred. Delmar Manning, ... one of four men working on an oil pumping unit less than a mile from the crash site, said the Thunderchief 'just went straight down and into the ground.' He said the supersonic jet was flying on a low straight plane and that black smoke poured from it before the crash. Jim Keevert ... said Perry apparently had ejected. 'He was still on fire when I got there. His body was about 100 yards from the plane near his ejection seat. ... 'The pilot evidently never contacted anyone or indicated he was in trouble,' Barton County Sheriff Marion Weese said. 'He just went into a spin and that was that.' "

#### History of Flight

"On 8 March 1968, 2d Lt Frank F. Perry, assigned to the 563 TFS, McConnell AFB, Kansas, was flying GAR-2, his second ground attack radar mission in the F-105. The mission was to fly a radar low level route at 1,500 feet AGL with practice nuclear weapons deliveries on Smoky Hill Gunnery Range. The flight line-up consisted of: #1 Captain William M. Kurtz, an F-105 instructor pilot; #2 - 2d Lt Harvey. A. Marshall; #3 - Captain Kenneth G. Lindell; #4 - 2nd Lt Frank F. Perry. (All in the 563d TFS). The call sign for the flight was Spike. The aircraft were configured with two 450-gallon external fuel tanks, bomb bay fuel tank, one SUU-21A practice bomb dispenser, and two LAU-59A rocket pods. Lt Perry was assigned aircraft number 62-4226, an F-105D. The briefing started two hours prior to scheduled takeoff time. The weather was clear for the entire route which covered northeastern and central Kansas. A TAC form 175 was filed for the mission.

"The first two legs of the navigation route, McConnell Low Level Radar #13, were flown as briefed with the exception that number two, leading the first element, had difficulties flying his preplanned route. This resulted in the first element overflying the second turn point by approximately 15nm. When number two turned to the heading for the third leg, it placed the first element parallel to the course, approximately 15 nm to the right of the course line. The second element, which originally had 30-second spacing behind the lead element, turned at the proper point. This resulted in the second element turning inside the first element, giving them approximately a 20 nm lead. Upon completion of the Navigation course, the second element orbited south of the termination point in a left turn until Spike 3 visually acquired the first element. At his point number two noted the time to be 1450. Lt Perry was last seen by Capt Kurtz flying a fighting wing position on number three. Number three then made approximately a 180-degree climbing left turn to join on lead's right wing. At the turn's completion, #3 rolled out 3 to 4 miles in trail with lead. A channel change was then made which number four did not acknowledge. After several attempts to regain radio and/or visual contact with Lt Perry failed, Capt Kurtz requested the Smoky Hill Range officer to notify McConnell TAC Command Post that Spike 4 would probably be returning shortly with a possible radio failure. Spike 1, 2, and 3 continued the briefed mission and then returned to McConnell and landed."

At 2125Z, an HH-43B rescue helicopter from McConnell responded to the crash but returned to McConnell. The helicopter crew recorded two sorties and 1.7 flying hours. (Opening/Closing Report 16-01-8 Mar 68, TWX 090115Z Mar 68 from Det 16 Central ARRC McConnell AFB, KS. In AFHRA folder K318.2411-2, IRIS 1008898.)

The Wichita Beacon, 9 Mar 68 & AF Form 711 USAF Accident/Incident Report 68-3-8-1 dated 28 Mar 68, signed by Lt Col Robert L. Fair, Board President.

#### 07-Jun-68

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The ninteenth F-105 RTU Class 68IR graduated at the 23 TFW, McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 5 Dec 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 Curtis S. "Scott" Hamme 2Lt James N. Hammond 2Lt Ronald A. Hoffmeyer 2Lt Clarence J. "Skip" Holm 2Lt David S. Hartman, Jr. 2Lt Lynn A. Aikman 2Lt Cecil L. Snell 2Lt Ronald D. Stafford 2Lt Marshall D. Tilley 2Lt Richard R. Venturi 2Lt Barry D. Wyttenbach 2Lt Robert John Zukowski

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 30-Sep-68

4133

The 388 TFW history listed the aircrews assigned to the 469 TFS and the number of sorties each had flown as of the end of August and September 1968.

469 TFS	Sorties	Aug/Sep Counters
	51/(1	4 4 15 4
Lt Col Hollandsworth	51/61	44/54
Lt Col Broussard	36/51	32/45
Lt Col Monts	92/110	•
Maj O'Donnell	56/72	52/66
Capt Hartman	74/91	62/75
Capt Shoemake	77/93	65/79
1Lt Dinan	32/49	28/40
1Lt Zukowski	31/45	28/41
Maj Avila	93/110	
Maj Doty	32/37	30/35
Capt Tracey	28/41	26/36
1Lt Holm	31/44	28/40
Maj Swanson	44/60	40/55
1Lt Miller	32/48	28/41
1Lt Edmunds	26/39	23/35
Capt Houser	76/92	64/78
1Lt Bryan	29/43	28/40
1Lt Wyttenbach	31/45	27/39
Maj Capling	71	59 (KIA 19 Sep 68)
Maj Carroll	70/87	62/74
Capt Lindell	32/46	28/41
1Lt Tilley	33/47	31/44
Capt Riedenauer	113/114	100/100
Capt Roeder	113/115	100/100
Capt Brown	114/115	102/102
Maj Vandevender	3/7	1/2
Col McDonald	21/32	21/32
Col Blanchard	74/85	65/75
Maj Smart	107	100

Maj Wood	82/97	70/84
Capt Howard	4/17	4/16
Maj Oppel	3/18	3/15
Capt Young	6/22	6/18
Maj Wicks	2/4	2/2
1Lt Crotty	3/1	5 3/14
Capt Swarts	2/14	2/14
Maj Mizner	108	100
Capt Foley	105	100
Capt Myers	112	100
Maj Sisk	111	100
Capt Koontz	110	100 (Died 17 Aug 67)
Capt Cole	66	57
Maj Heston	107	100

Those pilots arriving in September and their mission counts for the month were:Lt Col Gaudion1513

388 TFW History, July - Sep 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frames 0247 - 0248.

### 30-Sep-68

469 TFS OPERATIONS OVERVIEW, JULY - SEPTEMBER 1968

"During the period between July 1 and Sept. 30, 1968, the 'World's Finest' flew 1,555 missions against targets in Laos and North Vietnam, flying a total of 3,759 combat hours. The squadron now has a total of 38,796 combat hours and 15,989 combat sorties in the theater.

"Continued bombing restrictions limited activity during this period to operations in Route Package One in North Vietnam and certain areas of Laos. Our main objective during the period as directed by 7th AF was the interdiction of vital lines of communications in Route Pack 1. Under the direction of Lt. Col. Victor R. Hollandsworth, the 469th maintained an outstanding record of superior mission accomplishment.

"This reporting period was accented by the arrival of the first group of new Undergraduate Pilot Training graduates to fly with the 469th Tactical Fighter Squadron in well over a year. The majority of the group were 1st Lieutenants, and although they did not possess extensive flying hours or experience, the quality of their performance left little doubt as to their desire and abilities. They have proven themselves extremely capable as tactical fighter pilots.

"On Aug. 10, 1968, Capt. Peter K. Foley completed his second 100 missions over North Vietnam. In his flight were three other 469th pilots completing their 100th mission, which made it the first 500 mission flight in the history of air operations against North Vietnam. In Capt. Foley's flight were Maj. Bryant Heston, Maj. Ford H. Smart and Capt. Christopher H. Brown. Other 469th pilots completing their 100th missions during the period were Majors James J. Mizner and Donald J. Sisk, Captains William O. Harris III, Nobe R. Koontz, Ronald R. Myers, Harold E. Murk, Thomas H. Platt, Robert L. Riedenauer and David M. Roeder.

"In August and again in September, tragedy struck two members of the 469th. On Aug. 17, 1968, [a pilot] was killed in a freak landing accident at Da Nang Air Force Base in South Vietnam. On Sept. 19, 1968, [a Major] was shot down during a rocket delivery pass just north of the DMZ in North Vietnam. He ejected successfully from his disabled F-105 but was taken captive shortly after. ... Our sympathies go out to these men and to their families.

"The 469th Tactical Fighter Squadron will become an F-4E squadron on November 1968. Present members of the squadron will join the 34th Tactical Fighter Squadron here at Korat [RTAFB, Thailand] and some will transfer to the 355th Tactical Fighter Wing at Takhli. This conversion will mark both the end and beginning of one of the most

significant chapters in the history of aerial warfare. The record of the F-105s of the 469th Tactical Fighter Squadron stands by itself. We are confident the new members of the 469th will carry on the outstanding accomplishments of the 469th in the months ahead."

As of 30 September 1968, the 469th had assigned 28 line pilots, two staff pilots, and five attached pilots. The pilots averaged 350.4 flying hours in the F-105. The pilots and their sortie counts were:

Name Total	Missions Counters
Lt Col Victor R Hollandsworth 61	54 (469 TFS Commander)
Lt Col James H. Broussard 51	45
Lt Col John J. "Jack" Gaudion 15	13 (2nd Tour)
Maj Vandevender 7	2
Maj John F. O'Donnell 72	66
Capt Gene D. Hartman 91	75
Capt Ronald A. Shoemake 93	79
Capt Richard E. Tracey 41	36
Capt Barry G. Swarts 14	14
1Lt Robert John Zukowski 45	41
1Lt Robert Clifton Edmunds 39	35
Maj George C. Avila, Jr. 110	95
Maj Albert E. Oppel 18	15
Capt Jack S. Houser 92	78
1Lt Robert E. Bryan 43	40
1Lt David Thomas Dinan III 49	40
1Lt Barry D. Wyttenbach 45	39
Maj Paul F. Swanson 60	55
Major Aultman Doty 37	35
Capt Douglas R. Young 22	13
Capt Joseph C. Howard 17	16
1Lt Phillip A. Miller 43	8 41
Maj Will Carroll, Jr. 8'	7 74
Capt Kenneth G. Lindell 46	41
1Lt Clarence J. "Skip" Holm 44	40
1Lt Marshall D. Tilley 47	44
1Lt John W. Crotty 15	14
Col Alen K. McDonald 32	32 (388 TFW/VC)
Col Felix A. "Doc" Blanchard 85	75 (388 TFW Asst DO)
Lt Col Rufus M. "Mike" Monts III 110	99
Maj Sterling H. Wood 97	84
Maj Wicks 4	2
Capt Christopher H. Brown 115	102
Capt Robert L. Riedenauer 114	100
Capt David M. Roeder 115	100

Capt Brown last flew the F-105 on 9 Oct 1968. Since his first flight on 1 Aug 67, he had accumulated 452.2 hours in the aircraft.

http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/history/vietnam/469th/p36.htm & 388 TFW History, Jul - Sep 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frame 0797 & 388 TFW History, July - Sep 1968, AFHRA microfilm NO585, frames 0274 - 0282.

### 30-Oct-68

During October 1968, twenty-one pilots from the 34 TFS and 469 TFS received medals approved by 7 AF. They were:

Maj Ivor K. Goodrich DFC SO G-3158 23 Oct 68 (8 Mar - 3 Sep 68) and AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-3275 23 Oct 68 (8 Mar - 3 Sep 68) Capt Kenneth G. Lindell DFC SO G-3160 17 Oct 68 (14 Jul 68)

1Lt David T. Dinan III DFC SO G-3161 17 Oct 68 (14 Jul 68) Capt Richard E. Tracey DFC SO G-3169 17 Oct 68 (15 Jul 68) Maj Albert F. Oppel AM SO G-3245 23 Oct 68 (25 Aug - 19 Sep 68) Maj Manford C. Holly, Jr. AM SO G-3246 23 Oct 68 (25 Aug -16 Sep 68) Capt Barry G. Swarts AM SO G-3250 23 Oct 68 (29 Aug - 21 Sep 68) Capt John S. Murphy AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-3273 23 Oct 68 (3 Mar - 24 Sep 68) Maj Douglas A. Roysdon AM (10 - 19 OLC) SO G-3278 23 Oct 68 (24 Feb - 2 Oct 68) Maj Clarence E. Langford AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-3281 23 Oct 68 (29 Mar - 26 Sep 68) Capt Jack D. Brooks AM (1 - 6 OLC) SO G-3284 23 Oct 68 (24 Apr - 5 Sep 68) Capt Anthony F. Germann AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-3286 23 Oct 68 (4 Mar - 1 Oct 68) Capt Douglas R. Young AM (18 OLC) SO G-3286 23 Oct 68 (26 Aug 15 - Sep 68) Lt Col Dorwyn D. Shaver AM (22 - 26 OLC) SO G-3289 23 Oct 68 (30 Sep 67 - 14 Aug 68) Lt Col John J. Gaudion AM (10 OLC) SO G-3291 23 Oct 68 (6 Sep - 23 Sep 68) Lt Col Isaac M. Glass AM (1 OLC) SO G-3291 23 Oct 68 (25 Aug - 29 Sep 68) Lt Col Rufus Dye, Jr. DFC (4 OLC) SO G-3023 5 Oct 68 (8 Jun 68) downgraded from SS Capt Lamont H. Pharmer DFC (2 OLC) SO G-3024 5 Oct 68 (9 Jun 68) downgraded from SS Capt Darrell J. Ahrens AM (1 OLC) SO G-3032 5 Oct 68 (1 Jun 68) downgraded from DFC Maj Sterling H. Wood AM (1 OLC) SO G-3032 5 Oct 68 (30 May 68) Capt John E. Hartman AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-3092 10 Oct 68 (23 Feb 67 - 5 Feb 68)

388 TFW History, Oct - Dec 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frames 1767 - 1768.

### 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 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	o 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	5 16 Apr 69
Capt Donald D. Carson	44 TFS	1 Apr 69
Maj Richard P. Cisco	44 TFS	S 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
	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,	-
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, J	r. 34 TFS 15 Jun 69
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.

### 17-Nov-68

Under "Project 191" and TAC OPLAN 47 BUCK 9, the 469 TFS, 388 TFW, Korat RTAFB, Thailand, received 20 F-4Es and aircrews from the 40 TFS, 33 TFW, Eglin AFB, FL ending the squadron's 2 1/2 years of F-105 operations at Korat. Twenty-two F-4Es had left Eglin on 13 November 1968 non-stop with six refuelings en route. "Aircraft 21 and 22 were airborne spares to Hawaii and ground spares for the second leg to Guam. One of the airborne spares aborted

into George AFB, Calif., when his centerline tank would not take fuel on the third refueling."

Aviation artist Keith Ferris flew in the rear cockpit of one of the F-4Es all the way to Korat. He had been commissioned to paint pictures for the Air Force art program.

"The aircraft were held 24 hours at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, due to heavy rain showers, which caused the tankers to exceed their takeoff/abort requirements. The first cell had started when the word came to abort and hold for 24 hours."

These were the first F-4Es deployed to SEA and this was the first time in its history the 388 TFW flew more than one type of aircraft. The F-4Es sported shark's mouths painted on their fuselages behind the gun.

The 388th Wing Commander, Col Paul P. Douglas, Jr., adopted F-4E 67-0288 as his own and had eight swastikas painted on the fuselage and his "Arkansas Traveler" emblem on the left intake. These were similar to the markings of his P-47D Thunderbolt that he named "The Arkansas Traveler", in which he shot down eight German planes during World War II, and to the markings he had applied to F-105D 59-1743, after he arrived at Korat on 24 January 1968. ("McDonnell F-4 Phantom, Spirit in the Skys", pgs 42 - 43.)

The F-4E's arrival at Korat was marked by an "... outstanding reception which was highlighted by a big parade, smoke bombs, a refreshing dip in the pool, and an open bar. ... Maj Gen Royal N. Baker, 7 AF, and Maj Gen Kenneth C. Dempster, Vice Chief, 13 Air Force, helped welcome the squadron ... ."

"F-4Es were used in the same manner as the strike F-105 (D-model)." F-4Es were capable of carrying a greater ordnance load than the F-105Ds they replaced (eleven vs. six 750-lb bombs). The F-4E allowed an interval bomb release while the F-105 had a less versatile bomb selection capability.

"There were some initial problems involved in bringing the F-4E squadron into the wing. One problem was the deploying of an enhanced squadron, having a self-contained maintenance capability, to a consolidated wing which gathers all personnel into functional squadrons regardless of the specialist's AFSC. Aircraft specialists, such as the 322X1Q, F-4E radar technician, still had to be identified in a consolidated maintenance squadron.

"Also, the F-4E had no documentation camera installed. There was a KB-18 system for bombing evaluation, but no gunsight camera. The War Ready Supply Kit (WRSK) as supplied by the parent wing (33 TFW) was incomplete, missing 31 critical items. ... It was estimated that the WRSK arrived 97 percent complete."

The last commander of the 469 TFS with F-105s was Lt Col James H. Broussard. He was replaced on 18 November by Lt Col Edward Hillding who arrived with the F-4Es. After this conversion, the 388 TFW had two F-105 squadrons -- the 34 TFS (24 F-105Ds) and 44 TFS (16 F-105Fs and 5 F-105Ds).

Maj George C. Avila, Jr. was "... the last Thud pilot in the 469th...held over to set up the life support shop for the Es." (Keith Ferris, e-mail 15 Jan 2013). Maj Avila last flew the F-105 on 1 January 1969 by which time he had accumulated 433 hours in the airplane. (F-105 Pilot Flying Hour report dated 18 Nov 85 provided by the USAF Safety Center to Bauke Jan Douma.)

Capt Richard E. Tracey, 1Lt Robert E. Bryan, Capt Kenneth G. Lindell, 1Lt John W. Crotty, Maj Paul F. Swanson, 1Lt Marshall D. Tilley were some of the 469 TFS pilots who transferred to the 34 TFS.

The 40 TFS designation returned to the 33 TFW at Eglin to be rebuilt as another F-4E squadron, which equipped the 388 TFW History, Oct - Dec 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frame 1046 & http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/history/vietnam/469th/p38.htm.

### 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., EWO Maj Robert G. Denison.

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

#### 31-May-73

7623

Wild Weasel Class 73-JWW graduated at Nellis AFB, NV. The class started on 25 April 1973 and was assigned to the 66 FWS. The crews trained in F-105Gs. The graduates and their Wild Weasel numbers were:

Pilots Maj Raymond G. Schwartz - 655 Maj Kenneth G. Lindell - 1180. Assigned to the 17 WWS, 388 TFW, Korat. Capt John C. Russell - 1189

EWOs 1Lt David B. Gillis - 1186 Capt Leo G. Miller - 1190 1Lt Jerome L. Johnson - 1191

After earning an MS in Systems Engineering from AFIT, Maj Schwartz was reassigned to Korat. "The USAF asked if I would like to return to SEA for another F-105G tour. I knew it would be my last flying job so I said yes and went to Nellis for a quicky 105 requal.... I did not fly for two years while in AFIT and had to be jet qualified when I showed up at Nellis so I got a two-ride Tbird checkout at WP and off to Nellis. My first ride there was in an F model and then on to a two ship D flight with an instructor in the other D. After takeoff as we started to make a practice approach to McCaren my flaps started to split when I lowered them. I quickly stopped flap movement and was able to retract the one that did go down. Now I had to return to Nellis with a 225 knot final and with only two Tbird rides in two years. Anyway, I was able to put the Thud down on the end of the runway and wait until I had good chute opening speed. Between the chute and brakes I stoped ok and exited the runway with hot brakes. The syllabus was a very short one and then off to SEA and Korat where the war had come to a halt."

Wild Weasel class roster and classes database & & Gene Schwartz e-mail 25 Oct 17.

### 28-Nov-73

Wild Weasel Class 74-E graduated at Nellis AFB, NV. The class began on 19 November and was assigned to the 66 FWS. It was F-105G continuation training for Wild Weasel crews assigned to the 17 WWS at Korat RTAFB, Thailand. The students and their Wild Weasel numbers were:

Pilots Maj Harry I. Axakowsky - 506 Maj Kenneth G. Lindell - 1180

EWOs Capt James R. Skalicky - 1155 Capt John D. Anderson - 9995 *Wild Weasel Class roster and classes database.* 

### 31-Dec-73

The 17 WWS history for the period listed the squadron Key Personnel and the date they were assigned:

Lt Col J. D. Tindall - Commander as of 13 Nov 73 Lt Col Alan K. Rutherford - Ops Officer as of 16 Oct 73 Maj Gordon M. Walcott - Asst Ops Officer as of 23 Oct 73 Maj Robert E. Stogdill - Executive Officer as of 15 Oct 73 Maj Kenneth G. Lindell - A-Flight Commander as of 30 Jul 73 Maj James H. Wright, Jr. - B-Flight Commander as of 17 Dec 73 Maj Wayne D. Hauth - C-Flight Commander as of 23 Nov 73.

The squadron history also listed the following members who received the indicated award:

Capt Theodore R. Powers, Jr. - DFC and Air Medal in Oct 73 Capt Larry J. Funk - DFC and Air Medal in Oct 73 Maj John D. Benner - Air Medal in Oct 73 Capt William E. C. Kennedy III - Air Medal in Oct 73 Capt George C. Connolly - Air Medal in Oct 73 Capt Frederick M. Schleich - Air Medal in Oct 73 Capt John D. Anderson - DFC and Air Medal in Nov 73 Maj William R. Shriver - Commendation Medal in Nov 73 Maj Gordon M. Wallcot - Commendation Medal in Nov 73 Capt Charles L. Veach - Commendation Medal in Nov 73 7628

The following members of the 17 WWS squadron were recommended for the indicated award:

Capt Donald D. Henry - Distinguished Flying Cross in Oct 73. Maj Thomas H. Edge - Silver Star and Air Medal in Oct 73 Maj Kemper J. "Bear" Gleason - EWO - Silver Star and Air Medal in Oct 73 Capt Jack T. Stone, Jr - DFC and Air Medal in Oct 73 Capt Charles W. Chatham - Air Medal in Oct 73 Capt Noel J. "Chris" Christman - Air Medal in Oct 73 Maj Frederick L. Covington - Air Medal in Oct 73 Maj Dean A. Leverenz - Air Medal in Oct 73 Capt Stephen W. Marlow - Air Medal in Oct 73 Capt Stephen W. Marlow - Air Medal in Oct 73 Capt Sidney R. Howard - DFC and Commendation Medal in Nov 73 Maj Daniel (NMI) Polis - Air Medal in Nov 73 Capt Thomas E. Harty - Air Medal in Nov 73 Maj Thomas J. Coady - Air Medal in Nov 73 Capt Dale E. Baxter - Air Medal in Nov 73 ILt George T. Lynn - Air Medal in Nov 73

During his assignment to the 17 WWS, Maj Tom Coady had accumulated 350 combat missions, "... 250 of which were flown over North Vietnam. Coady extended his tour in Thailand once again and was transferred to Headquarters, 7 AF, United States Special Activities Gp., Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand. Here he was assgned as Air Operations Staff Officer in the Weapons and Tactics Branch.

"In December 1970, Coady returned to Nellis AFB, NV, and was assigned to the Tactical Fighter Weapons Center as a test project manager, Operational Test and Evaluation Div. During this period, he also flew operational test missions and served as instructor pilot in the 66 FWS."

History of the 17 Wild Weasel Squadron, Oct - Dec 1973, pgs 15 - 16 & 22 & Tom Coady bio in "Red River Valley Fighter Pilots of Vietnam", River Rats Album 1, Turner Publishing, pg 78..

#### 01-Apr-77

8045

Maj Kenneth G. Lindell flew the F-105 for the last time. Since his first flight on 1 Dec 67, he had accumulated 1192.8 hours in the Thunderchief.

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