

William Robert "Bob" McDaniel

F-105 History

04-Nov-68

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The twenty-fourth F-105 RTU Class 69DR graduated at the 23 TFW, McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 11 Jun 68 with 16 students. Fourteen graduated: 1 Lt Col, 4 Maj.s., 8 Capt.s., and 1 1Lt.

On 10 Jul 1968, student Maj Robert S. Schaumberg successfully ejected from F-105D 60-0534 after a mid-air collision with F-105D 60-0448 piloted by student Lt Col Thomas M. Bowe who did not complete F-105 training.

The class deployed 20 F-105s for conventional weapons delivery training to George AFB CA between 1 - 17 Oct 68 with the 563 TFS. The squadron commander was Lt Col William N. Dillard.

While at George AFB, on 14 October 1968, student Maj David G. Steinke successfully ejected from F-105D 60-0532 when it experienced engine failure.

The Outstanding Graduate was Capt Harold G. Hermes.

The graduates were:

Lt Col Jasper C. Brown	Capt Harold G. Hermes
Maj Harold Kahler	Capt Thomas H. Krach
Maj William R. McDaniel	Capt Eugene G. Lamothe
Capt Robert S. Schaumberg	Capt Clayton Bane Lyle III
Maj George B. Wallace	1Lt Alan B. Reiter
Capt James D. Cottingham	Maj David G. Steinke
Capt Charles J. Ferrari	Capt James D. Cox

Capt Lyle attended Jungle Survival School in the Philippines between 10 - 15 December and arrived at Korat RTAFB, Thailand, on 17 December 1968, where he was assigned to the 34 TFS, 388 TFW.

Maj McDaniel was also assigned to the 34 TFS at Korat.

23 TFW History, Jul - Dec 68, USAF microfilm MO555 & Bane Lyle, e-mail 20 Aug 2010.

29-Apr-69

7239

Maj William R. McDaniel from the 34 TFS flew a mission for which he received the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement. "... Maj McDaniel led a flight of two F-105s in an attack against antiaircraft artillery sites defending a well-traveled highway intersection. In the face of over 700 rounds of antiaircraft artillery fire bursting within ten feet of his aircraft, Major McDaniel succeeded in delivering his ordnance precisely on target destroying one of the sites, thereby allowing other flights in this area to operate virtually unopposed."

Award citation provided by W. Paul Waits, Bill McDaniel's neighbor and friend, e-mail 4 Apr 2013.

09-May-69

410

The 34 TFS flew its last F-105 mission before it converted to F-4Es at the 388 TFW, Korat RTAFB, Thailand.

The F-4Es were delivered on 11 May 1969 by the 40 TFS from Eglin AFB FL. The 40th changed its designation to the 34 TFS when it arrived at Korat. "...They were met with cold beer, a lei, a parade of smoke bombs, water hoses, and welcomed through most of the streets of Korat ...". The 40th designation returned to Eglin.

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The final 34 TFS squadron commander with F-105s was Lt Col Harvey W. Prosser, Jr. When the squadron converted to F-4Es, he was replaced by Lt Col Joseph M. Potts. Col Prosser was reassigned to Kirtland AFB, NM where he flew the F-4 and F-104.

On 10 May 1969, Capt Clayton Bane Lyle III was one of the F-105 pilots who transferred from the 34th to the 44 TFS. (Bane Lyle, e-mail 20 Aug 2010.)

1Lt Joseph W. Widhalm, assigned to the 34 TFS in January 1969, also transferred to the 44 TFS. (Joe Widhalm, e-mail 7 May 2012)

Maj William R. McDaniel was another 34 TFS pilot who transferred to the 44th.

On 11 May 1969, the 34th distributed its F-105s to the 355 TFW at Takhli, RTAFB and to the 44 TFS, the only unit still flying F-105s at Korat. The 44 TFS possessed 23 F-105s. Its squadron commander was Lt Col Herbert L. Sherrill who had replaced Lt Col Guy J. Sherrill on 12 March 1969.

F-4E pilots of the 388 TFW called the F-105 "Thud" ("... cause that's the sound it makes when it crashes!") while Korat F-105 pilots referred to the F-4E as the "Thumb" (Two-Hole-Ugly-Mini-Bug). (388 TFW history)

Harvey Prosser commented on the attitude of the F-4 pilots. "They were not a happy bunch. I could have as many F-4 guys switch to 105s as I wanted. All the 34th young guys and the old F-4 pilot Gibs much preferred the Thud. We put up a big sign at the entrance to the O Club stating 'Tiny Tim flies F-4s'. The new F-4 guys refused to take it down and it stayed up for at least a month when the Wing Commander commanded the 34th pilots to remove it because it hurt the F-4 pilots' feelings. Also, the nickname for the F-4 at Korat at that time was Mini-Buff. Again, at the Wing Commander's order, we desisted." (Harvey Prosser, e-mail 2 Feb 10)

During the time the 34th flew F-105s, the squadron received three Outstanding Unit Awards and a Presidential Unit Citation. After it began flying F-4Es, the squadron received its fourth Outstanding Unit Award for the period 1 July 1968 to 15 September 1969 as well as the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross With Palm for the period 15 May 1966 to 29 January 1973. (James Geer, "The Republic F-105 Thunderchief Wing and Squadron Histories", Schiffer, 2002, pg 241.)

However, in its 3 years of flying the F-105, the 34 TFS paid a high price. Pilots assigned or attached to the squadron lost 39 planes to combat and accidents -- 37 "D" models and two "F" models -- enough to equip the squadron more than twice over. Thirteen squadron pilots died in combat (KIA), three more in accidents. Four pilots survived accidental crashes, ten were rescued, and 11 more became POWs, one of whom died in captivity. The following recaps each of the squadron's 39 losses, the pilots involved, and their fate:

	Date	F-105	Last Name	Fate
1.	03 Jun 66	58-1171	Pielin	Rescued
2.	15 Jun 66	62-4377	Kelley	Rescued
3.	21 Jun 66	62-4358	Sullivan	KIA
4.	30 Jun 66	62-4224	Nierste	Rescued
5.	15 Jul 66	59-1761	Hamby	Rescued
6.	20 Jul 66	62-4308	Lewis	KIA
7.	21 Jul 66	62-4227	Tiffin	KIA
8.	06 Aug 66	62-4315	Rutherford	Rescued
9.	17 Sep 66	61-0191	Rutherford	Rescued
10.	10 Oct 66	62-4300	Bullock	Died

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11.	10 Jan 67	62-4265	Gauley	KIA
12.	19 Mar 67	61-0123	Austin	KIA
13.	05 Apr 67	62-4395	Youngblood	Survived
14.	12 May 67	63-8269 (F)	Stewart	KIA
			Pitman	KIA
15.	15 May 67	62-4429 (F)	Heiliger	POW
			Pollard	POW
16.	02 Jun 67	61-0190	Smith	POW
17.	04 Jun 67	61-0148	Kough	Rescued
18.	15 Jun 67	61-0213	Swanson	KIA
19.	17 Oct 67	61-0205	Andrews	POW
20.	17 Oct 67	62-4326	Odell	POW
21.	17 Oct 67	60-0425	Sullivan	POW
22.	27 Oct 67	62-4231	Flynn	POW
23.	28 Oct 67	62-4356	Waldrop	Survived
24.	19 Nov 67	58-1170	Vissotzky	POW
25.	04 Feb 68	60-5384	Lasiter	POW
26.	14 Feb 68	60-0418	Elliot	KIA
27.	15 Apr 68	61-0206	Metz	POW Died
28.	25 Apr 68	60-0436	Givens	Died
29.	14 May 68	61-0132	Bass	Died
30.	28 May 68	61-0194	Ingvalson	POW
31.	31 May 68	60-0409	Beresik	KIA
32.	08 Jun 68	61-0055	Light	Rescued
33.	13 Jul 68	60-0453	Confer	Survived
34.	01 Sep 68	60-0512	Thaete	Rescued
35.	17 Nov 68	61-0092	Dinan	Survived
36.	11 Feb 69	62-4256	Zukowski	KIA
37.	17 Mar 69	61-0104	Dinan	KIA
38.	29 Mar 69	62-4270	Stafford	Rescued
39.	03 Apr 69	62-4269	Christianson	KIA

388 TFW History, Apr - Jun 69, USAF microfilm NO586

28-Jun-69

7154

Four F-105 pilots in the 44 TFS, 388 TFW, were awarded Distinguished Flying Crosses for missions they flew today. The pilots were:

Lt Col Harley N. "Chilly" Wills
 Maj Raymond Gene Schwartz
 Capt Henry C. Robert, Jr.
 1Lt Joseph W. Widhalm

The award was made on 21 April 70. Lt Widhalm's citation described his mission into Laos. "... Lieutenant Widhalm was the wingman in a flight of two F-105s tasked to silence antiaircraft artillery and small arms fire which was preventing aerial evacuation of friendly forces. Despite extremely low clouds covering nearby mountains, and intense antiaircraft artillery and automatic weapons fire directed at his aircraft, Lieutenant Widhalm, with deep concern for the friendly forces being evacuated, and disregarding his own personal safety, made repeated bombing and strafing attacks destroying one gun site and silencing several others, thereby contributing immeasurably to the successful evacuation of over 300 friendly troops. ...".

Maj William R. McDaniel was Lt Widhalm's flight lead. He received a Silver Star for gallantry for the mission. "... Major McDaniel led a flight of two F-105 Thunderchiefs whose mission was to

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furnish close air support for the evacuation of a besieged friendly outpost. Major McDaniel, although faced with the close proximity of the hostile forces to the friendly positions, intense antiaircraft artillery and small arms fire, and extremely low clouds obscuring surrounding mountains, made repeated bombing and strafing attacks against troop and gun positions even though his aircraft had sustained multiple hits on the first attack. Major McDaniel's courageous and aggressive attacks, against superior odds, contributed to a successful evacuation with a minimum loss of troops and aircraft. ..."

"... Bob explained in more detail to me the events of what occurred that day: Many VC were over-running a Marine outpost, which contained around 2,100 men. VC were blowing rescue helicopters out of the air. Cloud cover was very low in this mountain valley. Bob and wingman entered valley under cloud cover through a 'sucker hole'. AA was positioned in middle of road and 'stitched him' on his first pass -- Bob dropped a bomb on the gun battery on 2nd pass. Bob and his wingman made multiple passes dropping bombs and firing machine guns, which caused [the] VC to break off attack long enough for helicopters to evacuate Marines."

355 TFW History, 1 Apr - 30 Jun 70, USAF microfilm NO471, frame 0869 & Joe Widhalm citation via e-mail 7 May 2012 & McDaniel's award citation and narrative provided by W. Paul Waits, Bob McDaniel's neighbor and friend, e-mail 4 Apr 2013.

17-Oct-69

7240

Maj William R. McDaniel from the 44 TFS completed his combat tour flying the F-105 from Korat and Takhli. He was presented a certificate acknowledging his 127 combat missions between 7 December 1968 when he joined the 34 TFS and 17 October 1969. The certificate was signed by the 44th squadron commander Lt Col Harley N. "Chilly" Wills.

Other signatures on the certificate were:

Capt William M. "Mike" Chynoweth
Maj Richard E. "Bud" Kennedy
Maj John W. Sims, Jr. (EWO)
Maj Jerry W. "Red" Hagis (EWO)
???

Capt Eben D. Jones
Maj Fred S. "Sid" Hudson
Lt Col Edward D. Moriarty
Maj Joseph Reynes
*Vincent D. Vampire
Capt Charles J. Ferrari

Capt Gilbert L. Henry
Maj William W. "Bill" Rowley, Jr.
Capt Robert L. "Bob" Nesbitt
Ed Johnson
Capt Gerald J. "Jerry" Stiles (EWO)
Capt Donald S. Brown II
Rick Morgan
Maj Rowland G. "Gene" Lucas
*Barbara Beaver
Maj Raymond Gene Schwartz

Maj William Hansen "Bill" Talley
Maj Larry W. Crotts
Capt Thomas J. Doubek

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Capt Edward L. "Ed" Sykes
Maj Thomas J. "Tom" Dodd
1Lt Joseph W. Widhalm
Capt Eugene G. Lamothe
Maj Gordon E. Lewis

*Two names on the list were not real people. Bane Lyle explained: "Tom Doubek made up a fake pilot, Maj Vincent D. Vampire, with a SSN that was in Batavia, Maryland and included him on our roster. He logged a combat mission every time one of the Combat Martins flew. When he had 20 missions O-1Bs (Laos Missions) he was submitted for an Air Medal. A real order was published by HQ with his name along with several real crewmembers included on it. The squadron had it framed and hung it in ops. When we moved to Takhli, VD was still on the roster and was issued a room. I remember there was some confusion by the billeting office over where was Maj Vampire. As far as Betty Beaver, she did not exist and someone in the squadron would always include her. It looks like probably Chuck Ferrari did it on Bob McDaniel's certificate." (Bane Lyle, e-mail 7 Apr 2013.)

Maj McDaniel last flew the F-105 on 5 October 1969. He had accumulated 400.9 hours in the airplane. His next assignment was to Otis AFB to fly the F-101 in ADC.

Certificate scan provided by W. Paul Waits, Bob McDaniel's neighbor and friend, e-mail 4 Apr 2013 & F-105 Pilot Flying Hour report dated 18 Nov 85 provided by the USAF Safety Center to Bauke Jan Douma & Bane Lyle e-mail 5 Apr 2013.

06-Oct-02

7244

William R. McDaniel died of cancer at age 68. His obituary was published in the Houston Chronicle on October 10, 2002.

LT. COL. (USAF RET) WILLIAM ROBERT (BOB) MCDANIEL, 68, of Dickinson, passed away on Sunday, October 6, 2002, at Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Jean; sons, Mark and Michael McDaniel; daughter, Cheryl Cooney; sister, Lou Barton; mother, Edna McDaniel; and 4 grandchildren. A memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, October 12th at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in League City. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. James Crowder Funeral Home P.O. Box 1292 Dickinson, Texas 77539 281-337-1515.

chronicle/obituary.aspx?n=William-McDaniel&pid=531584#fbLoggedOut