

# Robert D. Reese

## F-105 History

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**13-Feb-67**

230

The eighth F-105 RTU Class 67FR graduated at McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 22 Sep 66 with 15 pilots and consisted of 1 Lt Col, 4 Maj, 7 Capt, and 3 1Lts.

They named themselves "The Untouchables".

The class deployed 16 F-105s for conventional weapons delivery training to George AFB CA between 13 Jan - 3 Feb 67 with the 560 TFS. The squadron commander was Lt Col Louis D. Braun, Jr. One of the students, Maj Francis P. Walsh, was the 100th pilot to enter the RTU program since it started in Jan 66. Student Lt Col Harry W. Schurr was awarded the Top Gun and Outstanding Pilot plaques.

The graduates were:

Lt Col Harry W. Schurr	Capt Robert D. Reese
Maj Robert T. Cavanaugh	Capt William J. Schaff
Maj Ward Kent Dodge	Capt Francis T. Torikai
Maj Benjamin M. Pollard	Capt Konrad Wigand "Konnie" Trautman
Maj Francis P. "Frenchy" Walsh	1Lt John William Bischoff
Capt Aquilla Friend Britt	1Lt Neil F. Blake
Capt Douglas G. Glime	1Lt John W. Ronemus
Capt Frank R. Jenkins	

Three of the pilots received Wild Weasel training at Nellis AFB, NV before reporting to South East Asia. They were Lt Col Schurr assigned to the 469 TFS, and Maj Cavanaugh and Capt Schaff who were both assigned to the 357 TFS.

Capt Reese and Capt Glime were sent to Yokota AB, Japan, to train as a Ryan's Raider crew before reporting to the 34 TFS for combat from Korat.

Born in France, "Maj Frank P. 'Frenchy' Walsh ... saw his home in France destroyed three times during World War II bombing raids." (Sawdee Flyer, Feb 23, 1968)

Unfortunately, these guys were hardly "untouchable". Within 8 months of graduation, five of the 15 graduates were lost. Two were killed in SEA and three others become POWs, one of whom died in prison.

*23 TFW History, Jul - Dec 66, USAF microfilm MO554.*

**22-May-67**

3814

By 22 May 1967, eleven more Ryan's Raiders pilots had arrived at Korat from training at Yokota. These were the third set of crews for the Ryan's Raiders flying F-105Fs. The men, all pilots, were assigned to the 34 TFS.

This group was the last of the original pilot/pilot crews assigned to the Ryan's Raider program. Don Henry, one of the front seat pilots who had arrived from Kadena on 4 May 1967, recalled that these crews "... traveled by various modes of transport (military cargo to Korat or commercial to Bangkok etc.) and arrived on various days." (Don Henry, E-mail, 28 March 2005.)

The pilots were:

Maj Kenneth D. Oliver  
Maj James B. Register  
Maj Harold D. Wilson  
Maj James R. Bassett

# Robert D. Reese

## F-105 History

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Capt Tom T. Walker, graduated from McConnell's RTU Class 67ER on 6 January 1967.

Five other pilots graduated from F-105 RTU Class 67FR on 13 February 1967. They were:

Maj Francis "Frank" P. Walsh  
Capt Konrad W. Trautman  
Maj Robert D. Reese  
Capt Douglas G. Glime  
Capt Neil F. Blake

Don Henry recalled, "... during May and June, there were more backseaters than frontseaters and crew pairings were not always the way we flew each mission. (Don Henry, E-mail, 28 March 2005.)

Maj Oliver was teamed with Maj Walsh. "I was very fortunate to have Major Frank Walsh as my backseater. In addition to being a pilot he was a former SAC Navigator/Radar Specialist and we really made a good team. Frank and I flew about 52 missions over North Vietnam before we ever saw it in the daytime. We had about 65 missions when he was moved to the F-105D day mission. From there on, I flew with a number of different backseaters and 'graduated' to flying Wild Weasel support missions for the B-52 'Arc light' strikes in the southern part of North Vietnam." (Frank Oliver letter to Rick Versteeg, dated 9/11/98.)

The crews who arrived in April and May, "... flew a total of 98 missions in the high risk Route Packages 5 and 6A during the next 80 days. They are credited with the first night, low-level, single ship attacks on targets such as the Thai Nguyen steel mill, Kep airfield, Yen Bai railroad yard, and the Bac Kan trans-shipment point."

*388 TFW history, Apr Dec 67, Vol II, 13 TFS history, 1 Apr - 31 July, microfilm NO584, frames 0044 - 0045 & "A Special Report on 'Ryan's Raiders', by Maj Albert L. Michael for Project Corona Harvest, Jan 1970, pg 6.*

### 28-May-67

5140

The 34 TFS Ryan's Raider crew of Maj Robert D. Reese and Capt Douglas G. Glime flew a night North Scope mission in F-105F 63-8312 using call sign "Buckshot". They dropped six 500-pound bombs using the Toss Bomb Computer on target 1595, the Ron Ferry in RP 1, North Vietnam. "Calibrated TA/CM OK. Refueled and flew low level to target area. Flares in target precluded low altitude drop. Made pass above flares at 5500' AGL for longevity. ... Doppler out." The flight detected one two-ring Fansong radar strobe from SAM site Lead 68.

*388 TFW TWX 281905Z May 67 to 7 AF in PACAF DO Read File for 27 - 29 May 67, AFHRA Call # K717.312, IRIS # 00518474.*

### 31-May-67

5148

The 34 TFS Ryan's Raider crew of Maj Robert D. Reese and Capt Douglas G. Glime flew a night North Scope mission in F-105F 63-8327 using call sign "Seba". Their frag order called for dropping six 750-pound bombs on target JCS 47.19, the Ban Nuoc Chieu Ammunition Depot at location 21-18-22N and 104-41-50E in RP 5, North Vietnam. However, they were "... diverted to 1463 [Mu Gia Pass] for an MSQ drop because of gyro and TBC out. Finally jettisoned under MSQ control because of low fuel and inability of MSQ to sequence drop on target after approximately 1 plus 30 in the target area."

*388 TFW TWX 010205Z Jun 67 to 7 AF in PACAF DO Read File for 31 May - 1 Jun 67, AFHRA Call # K717.312, IRIS # 00518476.*

### 01-Jun-67

4107

Lt Col James E. McInerney, Jr. replaced Lt Col Gerald F. "Jerry" Fitzgerald as commander of the 13 TFS. Lt Col Fitzgerald had just completed 100 missions over North Vietnam as well as 13 missions over Laos. On this same date, the Ryan's Raider crews in the 34 TFS transferred to the 13 TFS.

## Robert D. Reese F-105 History

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Lt Col McInerney, along with his EWO Capt Fred A. Shannon, had reported in to the squadron in March 1967 after they both had completed Wild Weasel Class 67WVIII-8 at Nellis. Lt Col McInerney was the squadron's Wild Weasel Operations Officer. He continued transitioning the Wild Weasel crews into the Ryan's Raider operation and releasing the Ryan's Raider back-seat pilots into the strike force as F-105D pilots.

Most Ryan's Raider back seat pilots transferred as strike pilots to other 388 TFW squadrons. For example, Capt David L. Burney and Capt Aquilla F. Britt transferred from the 34 TFS to the 469 TFS. Maj Francis "Frank" P. Walsh a rear seat pilot transferred to the strike mission in the 13th.

However, pilots Maj James B. Register and Maj Kenneth D. Oliver remained with the Ryan's Raider Commando Nail mission when they transferred to the 13 TFS and flew together.

The Ryan's Raider crews of Capt George A. Bogert, and Capt Donald S. Aunapu, Capt Tom T. Walker and Capt Neil F. Blake also transferred to the 13 TFS as did the crew of Maj James R. Bassett and Capt Konrad W. Trautman. Also, Maj Robert D. Reese and Capt Douglas G. Glime transferred to the 13 TFS.

*388 TFW history, Apr - Dec 67, USAF microfilm NO 583, frame 1494 & Jim McInerney, e-mail 1 Nov 2004 & Nancy Fitzgerald 5 Nov 85 letter to Bauke Jan Douma.*

**01-Oct-67      18-Oct-67**

847

Under PACAF Movement Order 35, dated 20 September 1967, the 13 TFS designation was transferred from the 388 TFW, Korat RTAFB, Thailand, to an F-4 squadron at Udorn RTAFB, Thailand. The departure of the 13 TFS left the 388 TFW with the 34 TFS, 469 TFS, and 44 TFS. The reduction to three squadrons was a result of combat losses of the F-105.

Under 388 CSG special order AB-3874, sixty officers were transferred from the 13 TFS to the 44 TFS. On 1 October 1967, personnel and F-105F aircraft of the 13 TFS began being absorbed into the 44 TFS, which had arrived at Korat from Kadena on 25 April 1967. The 44 TFS distributed their twenty-one F-105Ds to the 34 TFS and 469 TFS and picked up the Wild Weasel and Ryan's Raider missions from the 13 TFS. The changeover was completed on 18 October 1967.

The 388 TFW commander, Col Edward B. Burdett, led the change of command ceremony. Lt Col James E. McInerney, Jr., who had been commander of the 13 TFS, replaced Lt Col Fred A. Treyz as commander of the 44 TFS.

Korat's base newspaper, "The Sawadee Flyer", reported the event but got its facts wrong. "It was noted that the retiring 13 TFS, which came to Korat in June 1965 [wrong year. It was June 1966] from Kadena AFB, Okinawa, had been an offspring of the 44th. A cycle is now completed: from the 44 TFS in March 1965, [1966] then the 13 TFS for over two [one] years and back again to the 44 TFS in September 1967".

One of the 13 TFS Wild Weasel crews transferring to the 44 TFS was Capt Robert E. Dorrough and his EWO Maj Clarence S. Summers. Another crew, this one assigned to night raider missions, was Maj Kenneth D. Oliver and Maj James B. Register. Capt Norman E. Powell was a Wild Weasel pilot who transferred to the 44 TFS.

Maj Robert D. Reese, Capt Calvin H. Markwood and Capt Neil F. Blake, former Ryan's Raider pilots, transferred to the 44 TFS.

About this time, Maj Robert W. Barnett transferred from the 44 TFS to the 469 TFS. Maj Eugene L.

## Robert D. Reese F-105 History

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Main transferred from the 13 TFS to the 469 TFS.

While at Korat, Lt Col Treyz flew 107 combat missions in F-105s. He was next assigned to the USAF IG at Norton AFB, CA. (USAF bio Brigadier General Fred A. Treyz)

Maj Donald S. Aunapu transferred from the 469 TFS to the 44 TFS.

Wild Weasel pilot Capt Rowland F. "Frank" Smith, Jr. transferred from the 13 TFS to the 44 TFS as did Maj James H. Mirehouse.

*Sawadee Flyer, Friday, October 13, 1967 388 TFW history, 1 Oct - 31 Dec 67, USAF microfilms NO584, frame 0031 and NO583 frame 1721.*

**15-Dec-67**

8093

Maj Robert D. Reese from the 44 TFS flew the F-105 for the last time. Since his first flight on 1 September 1966, he had accumulated 264.7 hours in the Thunderchief.

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