

# James B. Register

## F-105 History

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**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

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**

5137

The 34 TFS Ryan's Raider crew of Maj James B. Register and Maj Harold D. Wilson flew a night North Scope mission in F-105F 63-8327 with call sign "Garage". Using the Toss Bomb Computer in the BTIP mode and flying at 2500 feet, they dropped six MK-82 bombs on target 1501, the Quang Khi Ferry Complex. "Takeoff and calibration normal. Refueled and flew mission as planned. Doppler was inoperative and entire route was flown dead reckoning. Clock in aircraft was inoperative requiring excessive oral crew coordination. Flares were over target area. Bombs dropped by BTIP. Bombs observed impacting on north shore but BDA not possible due to inability to see ferry. Egress normal. No AAA fire observed in route. No vector warning signals received."

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*388 TFW TWX 280710Z May 67 to 7 AF in PACAF DO Read File for 27 - 29 May 67, AFHRA Call # K717.312, IRIS # 00518474.*

**29-May-67**

5144

The 34 TFS Ryan's Raider crew of Maj James B. Register and Maj Harold D. Wilson flew a night North Scope mission in F-105F 63-8353 with call sign "Scuba". Using the Toss Bomb Computer in the BTIP mode and flying at 3000 feet, they dropped six 750-pound bombs on target 162, the Xuan Sqon Ferry Complex. "Calibration unsuccessful. Refueled as briefed. Flew route on MEAs. Dropped on radar. No BDA possible due to weather."

*388 TFW TWX 300143Z May 67 to 7 AF in PACAF DO Read File for 29 - 31 May 67, AFHRA Call # K717.312, IRIS # 00518475.*

**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.

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 67WWIII-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.*

**31-Aug-67**

3816

As of 31 August 1967, the 13 TFS possessed one F-105D and 20 F-105Fs to perform their three separate operations. "The day Strike pilots visually attack all assigned targets. The Wild Weasel crews destroy enemy defenses i.e., surface-to-air missiles and antiaircraft artillery. The 13th [Ryan's Raiders] operate singly against point-targets at night or in weather."

"Late in August several of the initial crew members assigned to the Raiders were released to the day strike force. This was brought about by the imminent arrival of specially trained Wild Weasel crews from Nellis AFB. These crew members will remain in the 13 TFS and will still be available for Raider operations should the need arise." The six Ryan's Raider pilots transferred to strike missions were:

Maj James B. Register  
Maj Francis P. Walsh  
Maj Harold D. Wilson  
Capt Thomas T. Walker

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Capt Neil F. Blake  
Capt Calvin H. Markwood.

By the time he transferred to the strike force, Maj Walsh had flown 41 night, low-level Ryan's Raider missions. (Sawadee Flyer, Friday 23 Feb 1968)

Thirteen pilots departed the 13 TFS after completing 100 missions in August 1967. They were:  
Maj William E. Underwood departed 3 August.  
Capt Christopher D. Dascalos departed 3 August.  
Maj Russell A. Starkman departed 3 August.  
Capt William M. Milstead departed 3 August.  
Capt Donald M. Majors departed 4 August.  
Maj Charles E. Van Driel departed 4 August.  
Maj David H. Coats departed 5 August.  
Maj William T. "Ted" Twinting departed 5 August.  
Maj John R. Des Jardins departed 7 August.  
Maj Robert J. Lines departed 8 August.  
Maj George V. Wish departed 22 August with 1003.6 hours in the F-105.  
Maj Anthony Gardecki departed 26 August.  
Maj Edwin F. Malone departed 26 August.

Capt Rowland F. "Frank" Smith, Jr. and EWO 1Lt David H. Williams and Maj James H. Mirehouse and EWO Capt Albert L. "Mike" Michael, were credited with destroying SAM sites in August 1967.

*388 TFW history, Apr - Dec 67, Vol II, 13 TFS history, 1 Apr - 31 July, microfilm NO584, frames 0052 -0056.*

**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. McNerney, Jr., who had been commander of the 13 TFS, replaced Lt Col Fred A. Trez 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. Dorough 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

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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. 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.*

### 12-Dec-67

1312

Maj Kenneth D. Oliver, 36, Dayton, OH, and Maj James B. Register, 35, Pomona Park, FL, from the 44 TFS, 388 TFW, became the first two "Ryan's Raider" pilots to complete 100 night radar-bombing missions over North Vietnam.

This was Maj Oliver's last flight in the F-105. Since his first flight on 1 July 1966 he had accumulated 356.3 hours in the airplane. This was also the last time Maj Register flew the Thunderchief. He first flew it on 1 August 1966 and accumulated 306.7 hours. (F-105 Pilot Flying Hour report dated 18 Nov 85 provided by the USAF Safety Center to Bauke Jan Douma.)

The two were among the four 44 TFS pilots and two EWOs to celebrate the end of their combat tours on this day. The others were EWO Capt Roger A. Hermeling, 28, Cincinnati, OH, Capt Rowland F. Smith, Jr., 29, Bellport, NY, and EWO 1Lt David H. Williams, 26, Coral Gables, FL.

Capt Smith was next assigned as an F-105 instructor pilot at McConnell.

*Sawadee Flyer, Vol I, No. 12, Friday, Dec 22, 1967, pg 4 in USAF microfilm NO583, frame 1974.*