

Douglas A. Roysdon

F-105 History

22-Dec-67

239

The sixteenth F-105 RTU Class 68ER graduated at the 23 TFW, McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 27 Jul 67 with 26 student pilots but was reduced to 21 prior to graduation.

Capt Thomas J. Coady was the first RTU student to score 100% on all written exams and quizzes. Capt Ronald L. Shepard was the Top Gun and Outstanding pilot. The class also included Lt Col Felix A. "Doc" Blanchard, who made football history as a West Point cadet during the 1944, '45, and '46 seasons.

The class deployed for conventional weapons delivery training to George AFB CA between 1 - 21 Dec 67 with the 560 TFS. During the deployment, on 7 December 1967, Maj Robert F. Delaney successfully ejected from his F-105D while practicing aerial maneuvers and went into a flat spin. During this flight, his instructor pilot was Maj William S. Koenitzer.

The 560 TFS squadron commander was Lt Col Robert L. Fair.

The student pilots and their SEA assignments (where known) were:

Col George J. Nelson	Maj Carl B. Light - 34 TFS
Col Charles T. Watkins, Jr.	Maj Thomas J. Phelan, Jr. - 44 TFS
Lt Col Felix A. "Doc" Blanchard - 388 TFW	Maj Thomas W. Stinson - 354 TFS
Lt Col Francis R. Lawson	Capt Christopher Heath Brown - Korat
Maj Dillard D. Rolls	Capt Thomas J. Coady - 357 TFS
Maj Eugene A. Bonfiglio - 44 TFS	Capt Ben J. Fuhrman - 34 TFS
Maj Robert F. Delaney - 354 TFS	Capt Ronald R. Myers - 469 TFS
Maj James R. Dunbar - 354 TFS	Capt Dan W. Riggs - 333 TFS
Maj William M. Dillion	Capt Douglas A. Roysdon - 34 TFS
Maj Ivor K. Goodrich - 34 TFS	Capt Ronald L. Shepard - 44 TFS
Maj Bryant Heston - 469 TFS	

After completing RTU training, Maj Robert F. Delaney attended Wild Weasel Class 68WW III-19 and Capt Ronald L. Shepard attended Wild Weasel Class 68WW III-20. Both classes began on 9 February 1968 at Nellis AFB, Nevada, but finished on different dates.

23 TFW History, Jul - Dec 67, USAF microfilm MO554, frame 1067.

23-Feb-68

6546

A flight with pilots from the 34 TFS flew a mission over North Vietnam. The lineup was:

#1 - Lt Col Robert A. "Red" Evans commander of the 44 TFS.
#2 - Capt Joseph S. Sechler flying his sixth mission
#3 - Lt Col Kenneth M. Hiltz
#4 - Maj Douglas A. Roysdon

Capt Sechler logged 2:55 flying hours.

Joe Sechler flight log via e-mail 28 Apr 10.

26-Feb-68

4884

"Scuba" flight from the 34 TFS took off from Korat at 1400 and dropped their bombs near Khe Sanh, South Vietnam. Their line up was:

#1 - Lt Col Nevin G. Christensen
#2 - Capt Lawrence L. Bogemann

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#3 - Maj Douglas A. Roysdon

#4 - Maj Spence M. "Sam" Armstrong flying F-105D 60-0445

This was Maj Armstrong's 75th combat mission. "We were diverted because of weather from Pack VI down into South Vietnam to aid the Marines at Khe Sanh. First of all, though, we made an armed recce into Pack I and got our counter. Then we dropped around Khe Sanh using the Marine radar site. The weather was pretty heavily overcast." They flew for 3 hours 5 minutes.

Maj Armstrong's 100-mission combat log, pg 29.

27-Feb-68

5874

Maj David C. Dickson, Jr. from the 34 TFS, 388 TFW, flew his 91st combat mission. He struck five trucks in Mu Gia Pass, in RP-1, North Vietnam.

Another flight of 34th pilots also flew a mission over North Vietnam. The lineup was:

#1 - Maj Donald W. Hodge

#2 - Capt Joseph S. Sechler flying his eighth mission

#3 - Maj Melvin L. Irwin

#4 - Maj Douglas A. Roysdon

Capt Sechler logged 2:35 flying hours.

Carolyn Dickson, 20 Apr 09 letter giving annotation on cigar band dated 27 Feb 68.

08-Mar-68

4891

The four pilots in "Scuba" flight from the 34 TFS tried to destroy a crashed helicopter in Laos. They took off at 1425 and returned after 3 hours 5 minutes. Their line up was:

#1 - Capt William A. Thomas, Jr.

#2 - Maj Spence M. "Sam" Armstrong flying F-105D 59-1771

#3 - Maj Clyde L. Falls, Jr.

#4 - Maj Douglas A. Roysdon

This was Maj Armstrong's 82nd combat missions. "I swapped places with Bill Thomas when we were executed 1st alt to give him some more leading practice. We were sent over to bomb one of our helicopters that had crashed on a mountain in Laos, south of Mu Gia Pass. For some reason they wanted it knocked out. Well there was a little puffy cloud right over the hill and we had to come in very shallow to hit it and consequently none of us got a direct hit on it. We then went over to Quang Khe and found some boats in the river. We made two strafing passes apiece on these boats. Then we came home out of Pack I."

Maj Armstrong's 100-mission combat log, pp 31 - 32.

11-Mar-68

4903

The four pilots in "Pistol" flight from the 34 TFS were diverted to a target in Laos as a result of the North Vietnamese attack on Lima Site 85. They took off at 0715 and returned after 2 hours 55 minutes. Their line up was:

#1 - Maj Ivor K. Goodrich

#2 - Lt Col Nevin G. Christensen

#3 - Maj Spence M. "Sam" Armstrong flying F-105D 58-1152

#4 - Maj Douglas A. Roysdon

This was Maj Armstrong's 85th combat mission. "We were diverted up to Lima 85 up by the North

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TACAN station. The bad guys were trying to storm the hill. The hill was sticking up through the clouds but we couldn't detect any enemy action. The A-1Es were working over the enemy but they wouldn't let us in on the action. Instead they put us in on an enemy gun emplacement about 10 miles away."

Maj David C. Dickson, Jr. from the 34 TFS flew his 96th combat mission today. (The printing on his cigar band for this and his last four missions was too faded to determine his target.)

Maj Armstrong's 100-mission combat log, pg 32 & Carolyn Dickson, 20 Apr 09 letter giving annotation on cigar band dated 11 Mar 68.

27-Aug-68

763

"... (In) the Dong Hoi area, ... 388 TFW Thunderchief pilots cut a highway segment in 15 places, 26 miles west of the coastal city. Five of the pilots were Majors Vincent Colasuonno (34 TFS), and Douglas A. Roysdon (34 TFS), and Captains Jack S. Houser (469 TFS), Ralph E. Durnbaugh (34 TFS), and Anthony F. Germann (34 TFS)."

Sawadee Flyer, Saturday, September 7, 1968, pg 1 & 4.

31-Aug-68

4134

The 388 TFW history listed the aircrews assigned to the 34 TFS and the number of sorties each had flown as of the end of August 1968.

34 TFS	Sorties	Counters
Lt Col Klingensmith	59	43
Maj Langford	91	86
Capt Barr	84	67
Capt Sechler	105	87
Capt Murphy	107	97
Lt Col Christensen	118	105
Maj Roysdon	109	89
Capt J. Hartman	116	94
Col Douglas	47	43
Capt Durnbaugh	65	56
Maj Goodrich	115	97
Maj Matthews	75	61
Capt William A. Thomas, Jr.	109	104
Capt Ahrens	79	59
Lt Col Dye	114	101
Capt Germann	97	86
Capt Thatcher	34	29
Maj Shunney	107	95
Capt Brooks	80	66
Capt Bogemann	115	97
Capt Fuhrman	118	99
Lt Col Shaver	80	66
1Lt Confer	33	28
Capt Pharmer	114	99 (Capt Pharmer had flown 100 missions by the end of Aug)
Capt Durkee	111	99 (Capt Durkee had flown 100 missions by the end of Aug)
Capt Everett	69	56
Lt Col Ross	122	108
Col Stewart	118	110
Capt Bell	70	57

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Maj White	75	58
1Lt Venturi	36	29
1Lt Hoffmeyer	38	33
Capt Ducton	31	27
Capt Crouch	32	27
Lt Col Bancroft	20	16
Maj Colasuonno	33	29
1Lt Stafford	34	31
1Lt D. Hartman	33	27
Lt Col Glass	6	6
Maj Holly	4	3
Maj Knapp	8	5

388 TFW History, July - Sep 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frames 0250 - 0251.

30-Sep-68

4155

"A total of nine 34 TFS pilots completed one hundred combat missions over North Vietnam during August and September 1968. One pilot, Maj Douglas A. Roysdon, has completed his second Southeast Asia tour. His first tour was spent at Bien Hoa and Pleiku where he accumulated a total of 500 combat hours in the A-1E and A-1H aircraft."

The other eight pilots were: Maj Clarence E. Langford, Capt Joseph S. Sechler, Capt John S. Murphy, Maj William P. Shunney, Maj Ivor K. Goodrich, Capt Ben J. Fuhrman, Capt Lawrence L. Bogemann, and Capt John E. Hartman.

Maj Langford flew his 100th on 26 September 1968. This was his last flight in the F-105. Since his first flight during RTU training in August 1967, he had accumulated 385.8 hours in the airplane.

Capt Sechler flew his 100th on 28 September 1968. It was his last F-105 flight. He had accumulated 421.4 hours in the airplane. He was reassigned in December 1968 as a T-38 IP at Laughlin AFB, TX. He later had two tours in F-5s. (Joe Sechler, e-mail 28 Apr 10)

Maj Goodrich flew his 100th mission on 3 September 1968. This was his last flight in the F-105. He had accumulated 404.1 flying hours in the airplane.

Capt Fuhrman flew his 100th on 3 September 1968 with Larry Bogemann and Ivor Goodrich. (Ben Fuhrman, e-mail 19 Feb 2011.) When he retired as a Lt Col he had accumulated 456.5 hours in the F-105.

Capt Bogemann flew his 100th mission on 3 September 1968. It was his last flight in the F-105. He had accumulated 416.8 hours in the plane. He was reassigned to the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena CA under AFIT, where he received an MS in Aeronautical Engineering. (Larry Bogemann, e-mail 27 Apr 10)

Capt Hartman flew his 100th on 2 September 1968. It was his last flight in the F-105. He had accumulated 416.1 flying hours in the airplane.

During this period, the 34 TFS commander was Lt Col Robert J. Klingensmith, Jr. and the Operations Officer was Lt Col Earl F. Bancroft.

"During August and September the 34 TFS received eight new pilot inputs from the replacement training unit (RTU) at McConnell AFB, Kansas. All eight pilots fall under the one year tour criterion which began on 1 July 1968, rather than the 100 mission criterion which affects pilots with arrival dates prior to July 1968. After receiving three days of procedural briefings, the new pilots are given

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one local area training flight prior to flying combat. On this flight, pilots are shown the emergency landing fields available, jettison ranges and range procedures, and local landing pattern procedures. Pilots are also given practice refueling and several practice bombing runs at the Chandy RTAF bombing range located twenty miles west of Korat. The Chandy Range facility has proven itself valuable for checking out pilots in the use of the continuous solution sight modifications which is now installed on all but one aircraft possessed by the 34 TFS."

Fourteen pilots from the 34 TFS received medals approved by 7 AF during September 1968. They were:

Lt Col Robert J. Klingensmith, Jr. DFC SO G-2978 26 Sep 1968 (10 Jun 68)
Maj William P. Shunney AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-2910 21 Sep 68 (1Mar - 5 Sep 68)
Capt Lawrence L. Bogemann AM (3 - 11 OLC) SO G-2913 21 Sep 68 (1 Mar - 3 Sep 68)
Capt Ben J. Fuhrman AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-2913 21 Sep 68 (27 Feb - 3 Sep 68)
Capt Joseph S. Sechler DFC (1 OLC) SO G-2809 11 Sep 68 (9 Jun 68)
Capt Lamont H. Pharmer DFC (1 OLC) SO G-2809 11 Sep 68 (25 May 68)
Capt John E. Hartman DFC SO G-2799 11 Sep 68 (25 May 68)
Capt Edward C. Jones DFC SO G-2799 11 Sep 68 (7 Nov 66)
Capt James V. Barr DFC SO G-2798 11 Sep 68 (9Jun 68)
Maj Clarence E. Langford DFC SO G-2797 11 Sep 68 (25 May 68)
Lt Col James B. Ross AM (14 OLC) SO G2732 3 Sep 68 (21 Jun - 2 Aug 68)
Maj Melvin L. Irwin AM (1 - 9 OLC) SO G-2731 3 Sep 68 (7 Feb - 31 Jul 68)
Maj Carl B. Light AM (11 - 15 OLC) SO G-2731 3 Sep 68 (11 Feb - 5 Jun 68)
Capt Gary G. Durkee (AM (3 - 11 OLC) SO G-2727 3 Sep 68 (4 Feb - 3 Aug 68)

388 TFW History, Jul - Sep 68, and Oct - Dec 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frames 0807 and 0808 and 1766 & F-105 Flying Hour Report, dated 18 Nov 1985 provided by USAF Safety Center to Bauke Jan Douma & Jack Phillips, e-mail 18 Mar 11.

30-Oct-68

4200

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)

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

31-Oct-83

6779

"Air Force Col. Douglas Alan Roysdon, 51, a decorated combat veteran of the Vietnam War who was chief of the U.S. liaison office in Tunis, Tunisia, died there Oct. 31. An Air Force spokesman said Col Roysdon was killed in an automobile accident. He lived in Arlington.

"Col. Roysdon, who was a pilot of attack planes, fighters, and helicopters, served in Southeast Asia in the 1960s and mid-1970s. He flew in Vietnam in the mid-1960s, held staff and command posts and flew fighters in Thailand in 1968, and was the U.S. Air Attaché in Cambodia from 1974 to 1975.

"His decorations included the Distinguished Flying Cross with four oak leaf clusters and the Air Medal with 20 oak leaf clusters.

"Col Roysdon's other assignments included serving in the office of the Air Force Vice Chief of Staff in the early 1970s, and in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the early 1980s. He was chief of the reinforcement planning group at NATO headquarters in Belgium, where he served from 1979 to 1981. He had been in Tunis since June of this year.

"He was born in Hawaii and reared in Arlington. Col Roysdon was graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1957, and took an Air Force commission later that year. He also was a graduate of the National War College and the Air Command and Staff College, and earned a master's degree in international relations at George Washington University.

"He was a member of the River Rats, a Vietnam veterans organization.

"His first marriage, to the former Karen Knutsen, ended in divorce.

"Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Anne, of Arlington; two daughters by his first marriage Cynthia Lynn and Marjorie Ann Roysdon, both of Dallas; two stepdaughters, Susan Elizabeth and Kara Lynn DeRocco, both of Arlington, and a brother, Richard Craig Roysdon of Cockeysville, Md."

Unidentified and undated newspaper obituary provided by Roysdon's daughter Cindy Terhune via e-mail 18 Feb 2011.