

John Schell

F-105 History (Incomplete)

1968

The twenty-fifth F-105 RTU Class 69ER graduated at McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 8 Jul 68. Twelve students graduated: 1 Lt Col, 4 Majors, 6 Captains, and one 1Lt. The class deployed 21 F-105s for conventional weapons delivery training to George AFB CA between 15 - 27 Nov 68 with the 561 TFS. The squadron commander was Lt Col Harry D. Sultzter.

The initial class roster included:

Lt Col Billy Minter	Capt James H. Martin
Maj Cristos Constantine Bogiages, Jr.	Capt John Schell
Maj Marvyn Thompson	Capt James Tulis
Maj Alfred M. Yahanda	1Lt Willis "Buster" Boshears
Capt James Anderson	Maj Walter Seaman
Capt William C. Erickson	Capt Ron Miller
Capt Eben D. Jones	Col John Nelson

"Only a few minor problems occurred throughout their training. Several students had a little trouble adjusting to the F-105's speed during Transition. During the Formation phase, most of the training and emphasis had to be placed on tactical formation flying because of student non-experience. The remaining part of the course passed smoothly with only minor problems in air refueling and ground attack. Basic Flight Maneuvers seemed rather questionable as to any benefit gained. Also, the difference between BFM and ACM was so slight that one could hardly tell the difference. Neither phase allowed maximum performance flying which often times will be mandatory in combat."

For later classes, the 561 TFS developed BFM and ACM training "... based on actual mission requirements in Southeast Asia today. Since the F-105 aircraft's mission and flight characteristics preclude effective operations as an interceptor, it was decided to stress defensive maneuvering in the BFM and ACM phases. A program was established whereby step by step students were taught to recognize the various attacks employed by enemy aircraft, maneuver only to gain separation angle, judge the most opportune timing, then execute the classical separation maneuver that cannot be matched by other operational aircraft. Student reception to this program was favorable once their natural aggressive spirit was reasoned with mission requirements and aircraft characteristics."

Capt Ron Miller was one of the original students in the class. After starting the class, he "... was not allowed to continue training in the F-105 because he had already completed two combat tours in SEA racking up 800 missions as a FAC and F-100 pilot. Air Force would not approve another tour in SEA as an F-105 pilot." He departed McConnell on 4 September 1968 for a PCS assignment to Torrejon AB, Spain.

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Col John Nelson was also one of the students in this class. On 30 September he departed for George AFB, California, "to checkout in the F-4. ... Col Nelson had to get dual currency for his new post as vice wing commander at Korat RTAFB, Thailand."

Student Capt James H. Martin ejected safely from F-105D 61-0151 during take off from McConnell on 9 August 1968.

At George AFB, the class flew 234 sorties and 324 hours during which they fired 12 AIM-9Bs, 30 AGM-12Bs, and fired on 23 dart air-to-air targets.

"Except for three, the class graduated on 5 December. Capt John Schell, Capt William C. Erickson, and 1Lt Buster Boshears remained to accomplish additional flights that were mandatory for Undergraduate Pilot trainees."

The Outstanding Graduate was Major Christos C. Bogiages, Jr. who was KIA in Laos on 2 March 1969.

Captain Schell's last F-105 flight was on 23 October 1969 and he had accumulated 357.1 hours in the plane.