

# Daniel P. Seals

## F-105 History

09-Dec-68

253

The twenty-third F-105 RTU Class 69CR graduated at McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 24 June 1968 with 22 students. Sixteen graduated: one Capt and 15 1Lts. The class deployed 20 F-105s for conventional weapons delivery training to George AFB CA between 22 Oct - 5 Nov 68 with the 4519 CCTS. The squadron commander was Lt Col Harry W. Schurr. The Outstanding Graduate was 1Lt Stanley E. Boyd.

Two members of the class died in F-105 accidents. The student pilots were:

Capt Gerald E. Zoehler, Jr. at Smokey Hill range on 13 August 1968.

Capt Wayne Wright in F-105D 60-0416 at Smokey Hill range on 18 October 1968.

2Lt Hugh W. Gill III successfully ejected from F-105D 60-0515 when he ran out of fuel three miles west of Hutchinson KS on 6 August 1968. He was eliminated from F-105 training.

During their eight days of flying at George, the class flew 298 sorties and 265.2 flying hours. "The deployment mission was very effective in that all the flights completed a low-level navigation mission and bomb drop on Leach Lake Tactical Range (Missile Complex) prior to landing at George. This permitted the students some local area orientation prior to their first scheduled flights at George AFB. Since eighteen aircraft were deployed with the SUU-21, extremely effective GAT missions were possible at George. The flying profile consisted of low level (200' - 1500'), not possible at McConnell, Road Recce (5000'), and random multiple attacks on the Leach Lake Tactical Range. Students led these missions and upon reaching the range complex the IP acted as airborne FAC and directed realistic attacks using Southeast Asia tactics. The airborne FAC procedure was also used for a GAT mission when the dart target failed to launch properly.

"... Two in-flight emergencies occurred, one for 'gear indicators' and one 'no flap' landing. The squadron experienced zero drag chute failures, no blown tires, and only one landing graded as dangerous. ... Without exception, all assigned instructor pilots have combat experience in SEA and 100 missions over North Vietnam. Every effort is expended to insure that all of the latest SEA information and tactics are incorporated in the training syllabus."

Capt Jack Phillips was an IP for this class. "I only had 1 assigned student, Sid Wise, since I was the scheduling guy. I was also the IP when Zoehler flew into the ground on a rocket pass. Think I got check rides every day for about 2 weeks, but they determined I had briefed the flight correctly and he just watched the rockets too long. Not the first guy who ever did that and not the last either. Otherwise, that was a very good class with some great guys.(Jack Phillips, e-mail 3 Aug 14)

The graduating pilots were:

Capt Jerome M. Modolo

1Lt Raymond M. "Mike" Bennert

1Lt Stanley E. Boyd

1Lt David A. Bruns

1Lt Randal D. Carlson

1Lt James L. DeVoss

1Lt Bobby L. Efferson

1Lt Bruce D. Gillett

1Lt Craig H. Gutchow

1Lt Frank T. Hayman IV

1Lt Paul D. O'Connell

1Lt Daniel P. Seals

1Lt Edward L. Sykes

1Lt Joseph W. Widhalm

1Lt Sidney J. Wise

1Lt Jerry A. Wrucha

Lt Widhalm flew the F-105 for the first time on 1 July 1968. After training at Nellis he arrived at Korat in January 1969 and was assigned to the 34 TFS.

*23 TFW History, Jul - Dec 68, USAF microfilm MO555, frames 0173 - 0175 & Ed Sykes, telephone interview*

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12 Sept 2010 & Joe Widhalm, e-mail 7 May 12.

**25-Jan-69**      **04-Mar-69**

344

The runway at Korat RTAFB was closed for repairs. During the last months of 1968, "preliminary surveys showed [the need for] replacement for approximately 64 top slabs of the eight-inch overlay, replacement for some 50 bottom slabs, repair of 220 slabs with broken corners, repair of some 500 spalled (chipped) areas on the runway and probable repair to some of the foundation structure." Significant runway deterioration had been noticed since March 1966. Some of the runway concrete "was initially laid down during the Imperial Japanese forces occupation in World War II."

Fighter squadrons of the 388 TFW deployed to and operated from two other bases during the period. Forty-four F-105s and 1,068 personnel of the 34 TFS and 44 TFS operated from Takhli RTAFB, Thailand, while the F-4Es of the 469 TFS deployed to Ubon RTAFB, Thailand. The 388 TFW retained operational control over their deployed squadrons and maintained their level of combat sorties from the deployed locations. The 388 TFW's F-105s "enjoyed a higher mission effectiveness" while TDY to Takhli. The F-105s flew 901 sorties, of which 848 were combat missions with an operationally ready rate of 78.4 percent.

Lt Col Jack Sherrill was the commander of the 44 TFS when the squadron operated from Takhli. "Excellent flight line facilities but hooches and O Club were not nearly up to par as Korat. Such perks assumed more importance than justified when we were no longer 'at war' after the Nov 1 halt."

The 56 pilots and EWOs from the 44 TFS who flew from Takhli included Maj William H. Talley, Maj Ronald L. Shepard, Lt Col Richard A. "Dick" Haggren, Maj Richard P. Cisco, Capt Thomas P. Doubek, Maj Thomas J. Phelan, Jr., EWO Maj Robert G. Denison.

Thirty-four pilots from the 34 TFS deployed to Takhli. They were: Lt Col Harvey W. Prosser, Jr., Lt Col Isaac M. Glass, Maj David J. Carroll, Maj Paul F. Swanson, Maj Manford C. Holly, Jr, Maj Sheldon H. Cooper, Maj Harold Kahler, Maj William R. McDaniel, Maj Guy E. Pulliam, Capt Oral L. Bell, Capt James V. Barr, Capt Darrell J. Ahrens, Capt Robert M. Howard, Jr., Capt Richard E. Tracey, Capt Ralphe E. Durnbaugh, Capt Douglas R. Young, Capt Kenneth G. Lindell, Capt Charles J. Ferrari, Capt Clayton B. Lyle III, Capt Eugene G. Lamothe, Capt John F. Schell, Capt Eben D. Jones, 1Lt David S. Hartman, Jr., 1Lt Ronald A. Hoffmeyer, 1Lt Marshall D. Tilley, 1Lt Ronald D. Stafford, 1Lt Robert E. Bryan, 1Lt Robert J. Zukowski, 1Lt David T. Dinan, 1Lt John W. Crotty, 1Lt Alan B. Reiter, 1Lt Daniel P. Seals, 1Lt Joseph W. Widhalm, and 1Lt Edward L. Sykes,

The runway repairs at Korat required 2,416 cubic meters of concrete and was done under contract to Gerson and Sons from Bangkok who employed 600 Thai workers. The work was completed on time despite a 100-percent increase in the amount of repair required.

*388 TFW History, Oct - Dec 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frame 1106 and Jan - Mar 69 & Jack Sherrill, e-mail, 14 May 2003 & Hq 388 Cmbt Spt Gp SO TA-375 dated 22 Jan 69 from Al Reiter, e-mail 19 Feb 15*

**10-Feb-69**      **01-Mar-69**

7439

To support operating from Takhli during runway maintenance at RTAFB, Thailand, between 25 Jan - 4 Mar 69, the 388 TFW directed 10 pilots from the 34 TFS "... to proceed from Korat to Takhli AB, Thailand, performing 5 round trips during the period 12 February 1969 to 1 March 1969, both dates inclusive, on TDY to comply with Operational Requirements." The pilots were:

Capt Darrell J. Ahrens  
Capt Clayton B. Lyle III  
Capt Eugene G. Lamothe  
Capt John F. Schell

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Capt James D. Cottingham  
1Lt Ronald A. Hoffmeyer  
1Lt John W. Crotty  
1Lt Alan B. Reiter  
1Lt Daniel P. Seals  
1Lt Joseph W. Widhalm

Authority: AFM 36-11 and 388 OPLAN 69-1A & B.

*388th Combat Support Group, Special Order TA-923 dated 10 Feb 1969 from Al Reiter, e-mail 21 Feb 15.*

### 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.

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, Capt Charles J. Ferrari and Capt Eben D. Jones were other 34 TFS F-105 pilots who transferred to the 44th. 1Lt Daniel P. Seals transferred to the 357 TFS at Takhli.

After flying 58 combat missions into Laos, the last one today 9 May 69, 1Lt Alan B. Reiter also transferred from the 34 TFS to the 44 TFS on 10 May. In the 44th, Lt Reiter was assigned F-105D 59-1759, which he named "Summertime Blues". "The name came from a 1958 rock song by Eddie Cochran." (Alan Reiter's AF Form 11 & e-mails 19 and 22 Feb 15.)

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-Buffer. Again, at the Wing Commander's order, we desisted." (Harvey Prosser, e-mail 2 Feb 10)

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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
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)	Pitman	KIA
			Stewart	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

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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 .*

### 01-Jan-70

8050

1Lt Daniel P. Seals flew the F-105 for the last time. Since his first flight on 1 July 1968, he had accumulated 406.3 hours in the Thunderchief.

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

### 30-Jun-70

1974

The 355 TFW history published a list of awards and decorations for pilots and EWOs in the 357 TFS during the quarter April - June 1970.

In May 1970, Wild Weasel pilot Capt Richard B. Bugeda received the Distinguished Flying Cross (EOT). "It was while he was a Wild Weasel flying F-105s in Thailand but TDY to Korea that he earned his DFC."

Capt Ronald Nels Running from the 357 TFS received the DFC (4th OLC) in May 70. By his last flight in the F-105 on 4 July 1970, he had accumulated 875.3 flying hours in the plane. After this, his second combat tour, he was assigned to the staff of the Air Force Academy. He retired on 1 August 1997 as a Major General. (Maj Gen Nels Running USAF Biography on line at <http://www.af.mil>.)

Lt Col John C. Wright from the 357 TFS was awarded DFC (EOT), AM (4th OLC). April 70. AM (5th OLC). May 70. His last flight in an F-105 was on 20 January 1970. He had accumulated 860 hours in the airplane.

Capt James C. Dozier EWO from the 357 TFS received the DFC (1st OLC) in April 70.

Maj William J. Wycoff, a pilot with the 357 TFS, received the AM (Basic) and Purple Heart in April 70.

In June 1970, Maj Jose J. "Joe" Olvera received the Air Medal, 10th OLC. His last flight in the F-105 was on 28 August 1970 by which time he had accumulated 447.8 hours in the airplane.

Maj Charles H. Stone, 357 TFS pilot, received the Air Medal (1st OLC) in April 70.

1Lt Courtlan C. Hazelton, 357 TFS, received an End-of-Tour DFC in April 1970.

1Lt Ralph B. Femrite, 357 TFS pilot, received an Air Medal (Basic) in April 70.

Lt Col Leo F. Flaherty, 357 TFS pilot, awarded DFC (Basic) in April 70.

The list included:

Lt Col Jack C. Spillers, 357 TFS pilot, awarded DFC (2 OLC), AM (18 OLC) April 1970.

Lt Col James M. Shankles, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (Basic). April 70.

Maj Theodore J. "Ted" Trapp, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (Basic). April 70.

Maj Murray B. Denton, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (Basic). April 70.

Maj Dennis E. Cost, 357 TFS pilot, awarded DFC (Basic). April 70.

Maj David G. Steinke, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (1st OLC). April 70.

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Maj Thomas D. Johnson, Jr., 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM ( 1st - 9th OLC). April 70.  
Maj John C. Barnes, 357 TFS pilot, awarded DFC (Basic), AM (Basic). April 70.  
Maj James G. Rider, 357 TFS pilot, AM (1st OLC). April 70.  
Capt John P. Schoeppner, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (1st OLC). April 70.  
Capt Russell T. Ober III, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (Basic). April 70.  
Capt Jan Narken, 357 TFS EWO, awarded AM (1st OLC). April 70.  
Capt Clive S. Bevan, 357 TFS EWO, awarded DFC (Basic). April 70.  
Capt Joseph P. "Jay" Burchfield III, 357 TFS EWO, awarded AM (1st OLC). April 70.  
Capt Joseph A. Ohl, 357 TFS EWO, awarded AM (Basic). April 70.  
1Lt Frank C. Hayman II, 357 TFS pilot, awarded DFC (EOT). April 70.  
1Lt Howard Gale Tart, Jr., 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (Basic). April 70.  
1Lt Jeffrey A. Wrucha, 57 TFS pilot, awarded DFC (EOT). April 70.  
1Lt Robert G. Downs, 357 TFS pilot, awarded DFC (Basic). April 70.  
Lt Col Leo F. Flaherty, 357 TFS pilot, DFC (1st OLC). May 70.  
Lt Col Jack C. Spillers, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (19th - 20th OLC). May 70.  
Lt Col John C. Wright, 357 TFS pilot, AM (5th OLC). May 70.  
Lt Col James M. Kronebusch, 357 TFS pilot awarded AM (Basic & 1st OLC). May 70.  
Lt Col James M. Shankles, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (1st - 2nd OLC). May 70.  
Col Robert E. "Bobby" Wayne, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (23rd OLC). May 70.  
Lt Col Robert L. Mize, 357 TFS pilot, AM (1st OLC). May 70.  
Maj William R. Davis, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (1st OLC). May 70.  
Lt Col Harvey L. Wallace, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (Basic). May 70.  
Maj Gerald B. Hurst, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (1st OLC). May 70.  
Maj Thomas D. Johnson, Jr., 357 TFS pilot, awarded DFC (EOT). May 70.  
Maj Buddy F. Jones, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (1st OLC). May 70.  
Maj John Forrester, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (Basic). May 70.  
Maj Willard H. Snell, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (13th OLC). May 70.  
Capt Ronald Nels Running, 357 TFS pilot, awarded DFC (4th OLC). May 70.  
Capt John P. Schoeppner, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (2nd OLC). May 70.  
Capt Clive S. Bevan, 357 TFS EWO, awarded DFC (Basic). May 70.  
Capt Richard B. Bugada, 357 TFS pilot, awarded DFC (EOT). May 70.  
Capt Randy Burnside, 357 TFS pilot, awarded DFC (EOT), AM (9th, 18th, 19th OLC). May 70.  
Capt Joe T. Short, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (1st OLC). May 70.  
1Lt Daniel P. Seals, 357 TFS pilot, awarded DFC (EOT). May 70.  
1Lt Willis "Buster" Boshears, 357 TFS pilot, DFC (EOT). May 70.  
1Lt Howard Gale Tart, Jr., 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (1st OLC). May 70.  
1Lt Raymond M."Mike" Bennert, 357 TFS pilot, AM (7th OLC). May 70.  
1Lt Robert G. Downs, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (1st - 3rd OLC). May 70.  
Lt Col Leo F. Flaherty, 357 TFS pilot, awarded DFC (2nd OLC). June 70.  
Lt Col Harvey L. Wallace, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (1st - 3rd OLC). June 70.  
Maj Jose J. "Joe" Olvera, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (10th OLC). June 70.  
Maj David G. Steinke, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (2nd - 5th OLC). June 70.  
Maj Gerald B. Hurst, 357 TFS pilot, awarded AM (2nd OLC). June 70.  
Capt Alfred P. Adams, 357 TFS pilot, awarded DFC (Basic). June 70.  
Capt Clive S. Bevan, 357 TFS EWO, awarded AM (4th - 9th OLC). June 70.  
1Lt Robert G. Downs, 357 TFS pilot, awarded DFC (Basic). June 70.

*355 TFW History, 1 Apr - 30 Jun 70, USAF microfilm NO471, frames 0813 - 0817 & E-mail, Mary Bittick Gallano (former wife), 15 Jan 10 & F-105 Pilot Flying Hour report dated 18 Nov 85 provided by the USAF Safety Center to Bauke Jan Douma &*