

James H. Wright, Jr.

F-105 History

04-May-67

3813

On 4 May 1967, four more Ryan's Raiders crews arrived at Korat from training at Yokota. They flew in with the second set of four modified F-105Fs and were the second group of dual-pilot crews since the initial contingent of four crews arrived at Korat on 24 April 1967. The crews who were initially assigned to the 34 TFS were:

Capt John F. Rehm with Capt Calvin Markwood
Capt Donald D. Henry with Capt James H. Wright, Jr.
Capt George Bogert with Maj Donald S. Aunapu
1Lt William W. Koelm with Capt Al Esser

The four front seat pilots were TDY from Kadena. Capt Rehm, Capt Bogert, and Lt Koelm were TDY from the 12 TFS. Capt Henry was from the 67 TFS. This was Lt Koelm's fifth TDY combat tour to SEA, and the third to the 388 TFW at Korat.

George Bogert told about his Ryan's Raider assignment. "I was 'volunteered' due to my 710 hours in the back seat of a 101B prior to Pilot Training. There is a reason the Raider Patch has a screw through the center of the airplane! Don Aunapu was a B-52 AC with a lot of experience in the R-14A radar and a terrific back seater. The missions were designed to keep the NVA awake at night and not a lot more. The Iron Hand support was designed as our radio relay, not to attack SAMs. I will reference another night strike, unknown date. Target was the Yen Bay Airfield. I don't know any crew that used the TA mode for an attack, everybody flew MEAs. We dropped off the tanker about 11:00 pm and descended to about 10,000 feet through Laos. The bad guys would light fires on the mountain tops after we passed to announce our arrival. We swung north to almost DNP, then straight southeast along the river. We got intermediate fire can cuts so they knew we were coming. The 105-F was like a Cadillac on a freeway at 100 miles an hour, just kept rolling. Never used burner, no lights. At about 15 miles, Don had the airfield centered and we used the TBC for a low toss of six 750s across the airfield. I'll never forget watching them hit as we rolled away and ducked for the river. It was also the first time they used search lights, which became a regular event. If we had gone straight across the target, you wouldn't be getting this e-mail. Our Iron Hand support was quite impressed. Another time we were chased out by a MIG well above us, he must have been their squadron commander. It was an interesting few months and enough night time to last me for a long time." (George Bogert, e-mail Saturday, April 21, 2012.)

Don Henry described his Ryan's Raider experience. "... We got much of our information thru Ben Pollard who was the tacit leader at Yokota due to seniority. ...The original Raiders flew exclusively at night and both commanders had primary day jobs. We didn't see them much and they didn't fly our night mission. We saw much more of the Wing Commander, Colonel Chairsell, who seemed to always drop by the planning room in the middle of the night to talk to us and attend many of our briefings. He also spent hours -- literally hours -- talking to our crews."

388 TFW history, Apr Dec 67, Vol II, 13 TFS history, 1 Apr - 31 July, microfilm NO584, frames 0044 - 0045 & Don Henry, e-mail, 16 Oct 2004.

31-Jul-67

3812

The 388 TFW history covering the period 1 April - 31 July 1967 listed 79 names of F-105 Wild Weasel, Ryan's Raiders, and strike crews in the 13 TFS. Some of them were:

Lt Col James E. McInerney, Jr., the squadron commander who, with his EWO Capt Fred A. Shannon had been credited with a SAM site kill.

One of the Wild Weasel crews in the 13 TFS was Capt Robert E. Dorrough and his EWO Maj Clarence S. Summers who arrived on 29 June 1967.

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One of the strike pilots was Lt Col Gerald F. "Jerry" Fitzgerald, former 13 TFS squadron commander, who flew his 100th mission on 1 June 1967.

Capt Frank M. Smith was a 13 TFS strike pilot departing on 1 Jun 67. He was awarded the Silver Star for the period Apr - Jul 67.

Capt Edgar W. "Ed" Michie, Jr. was a strike pilot who departed Korat on 6 July 1967. He was assigned to the 67 TFS at Kadena.

Maj Donald S. Aunapu and Capt James H. Wright, Jr. were 13 TFS strike pilots arriving on 1 Jul 67.

Capt Norman E. Powell and Capt John R. Gibbons, Jr. were a Wild Weasel crew who had arrived in the squadron on 17 April 1967 and had been credited with a SAM site kill.

Capt Rowland F. "Frank" Smith was a 13 TFS WW pilot had arrived with his EWO, 1Lt David H. Williams, on 14 June 67. They were already credited with a SAM site kill.

1Lt Guy H. Morgan, Jr. was a 13 TFS strike pilot departing on 3 July 1967.

Maj George V. Wish and EWO Troice G. Cline were a 13 TFS WW crew credited with a SAM site kill.

Maj Donald R. Yates was a 13 TFS WW pilot departing on 19 July 67.

Maj Francis D. "Don" Leonard, Jr., a strike pilot from the 13 TFS, completed 100 missions and departed on 20 Jun 67.

388 TFW history, Apr Dec 67, Vol II, 13 TFS history, 1 Apr - 31 July, microfilm NO584, frames 0040 - 0051.

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. Dorrrough

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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. 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 and Capt James H. Wright, Jr. 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.

02-Dec-67

4793

"Pilots from the 388 TFW participated in strikes against resupply routes and lines of communication along Mu Gia Pass and in the southern panhandle [of NVN] Dec. 2." (Sawadee Flyer, Vol I, No. 11, Friday, Dec 15, 1967, pg 1.)

The Wild Weasel crew of Capt Robert E. Dorrrough, Jr. from the 44 TFS and EWO Maj Clarence S. "Bud" Summers flew their 78th combat mission over North Vietnam.

"Sat - Finally flew mission #78. We flew with a four-ship strike flight on a radar drop in Pack 6. The weather was really bad, a real MiG day even though we were supported by two F-4 flights. However, the WX must have been too bad for the MiGs; they never took off. Really got painted by the Firecan radars at Yen Bai, and my flight had quite a few 85-mm shells thrown at it. Capt Jim Wright got #100 today [Capt James H. Wright, Jr., 44 TFS]."

Capt Douglas G. Glime from the 44 TFS flew a Rolling Thunder 56A-213 mission today in F-105D 60-0464. His target was at location 20-20-45N 104-19-39E. (National Archives photo archive control no. NWDNM(m)-342-USAF-42649C)

Four pilots from the 34 TFS flew a mission controlled by the Commando Club radar. The radar site used the call sign "Wager" at the primary frequency of 396.2 MHz. "Pistol" flight took off at 06:55 for a TOT of 08:07. They pre-strike and post-strike refueled from Red Anchor 20. Their lineup was:

#1 - Maj Almer L. "Buddy" Barner, Jr. flying F-105D 60-0462
#2 - Capt Carl William Lasiter flying 60-0445
#3 - Maj Donald W. Revers flying 62-4248
#4 - Capt Jacob C. Shuler flying 61-0132 on his 26th combat mission
Spare - Capt Irving E. LeVine in 61-0194

Capt Craig M. White with the 44 TFS, 388 TFW, flew a combat mission to Laos in F-105D 58-1167 as "Simmer 04" and logged 2+10 flying time.

Bob Dorrrough's Combat diary & Jake Shuler mission card and e-mail 11 Jan 2011 & Craig White log book, pg 2, e-mail 21 Nov 17.

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30-Jun-68

2592

(Approximate date). "Thirty-six Thunderchief pilots honored -- for the completion of 100 missions in the F-105 fighter-bomber over North Vietnam. Thirty-six pilots were honored with recognition certificates this month during a ceremony at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

The recipients were: Lt Cols Reddock and Carl W. McKenzie;

Majs. Barner, Leftwich, J. G. McGukin, J. H. Bobel, Jr., W. Fredlund, David C. Dickson, Jr., H. Wilson, W. Bazzell, J. Hildebrand, Alonzo L. Ferguson, John R. Whaley, A. Lenski, R. S. Beale, Irwin, Donahue, Huntley, R. C. Fontaine, Maj Malcolm D. Winter, Robinson, and Mitchell;

and Capts. W. F. Bryant, T. G. Cline, P. H. Walker, W. Grieger, H. G. Paddon, C. Jewett, R. Venturini, James H. Wright, Jr., Earl J. Henderson, V. Ellis, D. Tucker, Beyer, and Dentino."

Thunderchief Worldwide Report, Vol III, No. 10, June 1968.

08-Nov-73

6810

Wild Weasel Class 74-DWW graduated at Nellis AFB NV. The class began training on 19 September 1973 in F-105Gs and was assigned to the 66 FWS, 4520 CCTW. The graduates were:

Pilots

Maj James H. Wright, Jr. (WW # 1214)

Maj Wayne D. Hauth (WW # 1215)

EWOs

Capt Wilbur E. Jowers (WW # 1217)

Capt Rudolph M. Newman (WW # 1218)

The crews were assigned to the 17 WWS, 388 TFW, at Korat.

Wild Weasel Class Roster and Classes Database

31-Dec-73

2174

The 17 WWS history for the period listed the squadron Key Personnel and the date they were assigned:

Lt Col J. D. Tindall - Commander as of 13 Nov 73

Lt Col Alan K. Rutherford - Ops Officer as of 16 Oct 73

Maj Gordon M. Walcott - Asst Ops Officer as of 23 Oct 73

Maj Robert E. Stogdill - Executive Officer as of 15 Oct 73

Maj Kenneth G. Lindell - A-Flight Commander as of 30 Jul 73

Maj James H. Wright, Jr. - B-Flight Commander as of 17 Dec 73

Maj Wayne D. Hauth - C-Flight Commander as of 23 Nov 73.

The squadron history also listed the following members who received the indicated award:

Capt Theodore R. Powers, Jr. - DFC and Air Medal in Oct 73

Capt Larry J. Funk - DFC and Air Medal in Oct 73

Maj John D. Benner - Air Medal in Oct 73

Capt William E. C. Kennedy III - Air Medal in Oct 73

Capt George C. Connolly - Air Medal in Oct 73

Capt Frederick M. Schleich - Air Medal in Oct 73

Capt John D. Anderson - DFC and Air Medal in Nov 73

Maj William R. Shriver - Commendation Medal in Nov 73

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Maj Gordon M. Wallcot - Commendation Medal in Nov 73
Capt Charles L. Veach - Commendation Medal in Nov 73

The following members of the 17 WWS squadron were recommended for the indicated award:

Capt Donald D. Henry - Distinguished Flying Cross in Oct 73.
Maj Thomas H. Edge - Silver Star and Air Medal in Oct 73
Maj Kemper J. "Bear" Gleason - EWO - Silver Star and Air Medal in Oct 73
Capt Jack T. Stone, Jr - DFC and Air Medal in Oct 73
Capt Charles W. Chatham - Air Medal in Oct 73
Capt Noel J. "Chris" Christman - Air Medal in Oct 73
Maj Frederick L. Covington - Air Medal in Oct 73
Maj Dean A. Leverenz - Air Medal in Oct 73
Capt Stephen W. Marlow - Air Medal in Oct 73
Capt Sidney R. Howard - DFC and Commendation Medal in Nov 73
Maj Daniel (NMI) Polis - Air Medal in Nov 73
Capt Thomas E. Harty - Air Medal in Nov 73
Maj Thomas J. Coady - Air Medal in Nov 73
Capt Dale E. Baxter - Air Medal in Nov 73
1Lt George T. Lynn - Air Medal in Nov 73

During his assignment to the 17 WWS, Maj Tom Coady had accumulated 350 combat missions, "... 250 of which were flown over North Vietnam. Coady extended his tour in Thailand once again and was transferred to Headquarters, 7 AF, United States Special Activities Gp., Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand. Here he was assigned as Air Operations Staff Officer in the Weapons and Tactics Branch.

"In December 1970, Coady returned to Nellis AFB, NV, and was assigned to the Tactical Fighter Weapons Center as a test project manager, Operational Test and Evaluation Div. During this period, he also flew operational test missions and served as instructor pilot in the 66 FWS."

History of the 17 Wild Weasel Squadron, Oct - Dec 1973, pgs 15 - 16 & 22 & Tom Coady bio in "Red River Valley Fighter Pilots of Vietnam", River Rats Album 1, Turner Publishing, pg 78..

31-Dec-73

2158

The 17 WWS history included a list of 36 officers who arrived or departed the squadron during the last three months of 1973.

The following departed in October 1973:

Capt Noel J. "Chris" Christman
Capt Stephen W. Marlow - EWO
Capt Richard J. Louaas
Capt Donald D. Henry - Departed on 8 October 1973.
Maj Thomas H. Edge
Capt Paul W. Harbison, Jr.
Capt Sidney R. Howard - EWO
Capt Gregory E. Anders - EWO
Capt Frank A. Parker - EWO
Capt Peter T. McInerney, Jr.
Maj Gerald J. Fowler

The following departed in November 1973:

Capt Dale E. Baxter - EWO

James H. Wright, Jr.

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Capt Thomas E. Harty - EWO
Capt Gordon L. "Gordy" Jenkins
Lt Col Harrison W. Matthers

Those departing in December were:

Capt Anthony F. Germann
1Lt George T. Lynn - EWO
1Lt George F. Dunican III - EWO
1Lt William L. Price - EWO
Lt Col David L. Perry
Capt Eugene F. Beauvais - EWO
Lt Col Allan L. "Bud" Young
Maj Daniel (NMI) Polis
Lt Col John H. Busbee
Capt James R. Simons

The following arrived in the squadron in October 1973:

Capt Larry G. Virgil - Pilot
Maj John R. Easter
Capt Esau Nichols - EWO
Maj Gordon M. Walcott
Maj Gordon Francis Billington

The following arrived in November 1973:

Maj Wayne D. Hauth
Capt Roger J. Hegstrom
Maj Jimmy R. Sharp

Those arriving in December 1973 were:

Maj James H. Wright, Jr.
Capt Wilbur E. Jowers - EWO
Maj Rudolph M. Newman - EWO

History of the 17th Wild Weasel Squadron, October - December 1973.

20-Mar-80

8098

Maj James H. Wright, Jr. flew the F-105 for the last time. Since his first flight on 1 Aug 66, he had accumulated 1385.2 hours in the Thunderchief.

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