

Robert J. Klingensmith, Jr.

F-105 History

05-Apr-68

242

The eighteenth F-105 RTU Class 68HR graduated at the 23 TFW, McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 2 Nov 67 with 26 students. Twenty five graduated -- 2 Lt Cols, 13 Maj's and 10 Capt's. This was the 23 TFW's first RTU class in which the students reported to McConnell PCS instead of TDY. This status allowed the 23 TFW to obtain each student's follow-on assignment rather than requesting it from the student's previous base.

The class deployed 30 F-105s for conventional weapons delivery training to George AFB CA between 12 - 28 Mar 68 with the 562 TFS. The squadron commander was Lt Col James L. Flowers. Maj Elwyn R. Capling was the Outstanding Graduate.

The class graduates were:

Lt Col Lewis R. "Benny" Bennington	Maj Daniel P. Van Sickle
Lt Col Robert J. Klingensmith, Jr.	Maj Richard E. White
Maj Joseph H. Brotherston	Capt Harry I. Axakowsky
Maj Elwyn Rex Capling	Capt Oral L. Bell
Maj David J. Carroll	Capt Ronald M. Cole
Maj Forrest G. "Dupe" Dupree	Capt Ralph E. Durnbaugh
Maj Victor R. Hollandsworth	Capt Gene D. Hartman
Maj Edwin C. Johnson	Capt Jack S. Houser
Maj Donald E. Kelley	Capt Ronald A. Shoemaker
Maj Walton G. Kilbourn, Jr.	Capt William M. Snow, Jr.
Maj Joseph W. O'Toole	Capt Tom E. Steward, Jr.
Maj Curtis Patterson	Capt Willis M. Thompson
Maj Jimmy N. Phipps	

Prior to his F-105 training, Capt Durnbaugh was a T-37 Stan/Eval pilot in the 3510 TFG (Air Force Instructor Training) at Randolph AFB, TX. After completing F-105 upgrade, he was assigned to the 34 TFS at Korat, where he arrived in April 1968.

23 TFW History, Jul - Dec 67 & Jan - Jun 68, USAF microfilm MO554 & Ralph Durnbaugh, e-mail 7 April 2010.

15-May-68

2101

Lt Col Robert J. Klingensmith, Jr. replaced Lt Col Robert W. Smith as commander of the 34 TFS, 388 TFW, Korat RTAFB, Thailand.

Lt Col Smith completed his F-105 combat tour and was assigned to the Pentagon. "Lt Col Klingensmith, prior to receiving F-105 training at McConnell AFB, Kansas, was assigned to ADC Headquarters, Chief of Interceptor Branch, Directorate of Aerospace Tactics and Training, Colorado Springs, Colorado."

E-mail, 26 Feb 2002, from Lt Col Donald T. Bolling, 34 FS Commander, Hill AFB & 388 TFW history, Apr - Jun 68, USAF microfilm NO584, frames 0874 and 1392.

03-Jul-68

2317

Capt Bill Harris, 469 TFS, 388 TFW, flew F-105D 61-0167 on his 99th combat mission from Korat RTAFB, Thailand. It was an armed reconnaissance mission in RP-1, North Vietnam. He was called by a FAC to knock out a SAM site. "SH bombs!" Sortie length was 2 hours.

The 34 TFS launched "Scuba" flight. The lineup was:

#1 - Capt Joseph S. Sechler flying his 67th combat mission. He logged 2.35 flying time.
#2 - 1Lt Ronald D. Stafford

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#3 - Lt Col Robert J. Klingensmith, Jr., the 34 TFS commander

#4 - Capt William A. Thomas, Jr.

Bill Harris, letter 19 March 2001 & Joe Sechler, mission log via e-mail 28 Apr 2010.

31-Jul-68

4153

During July 1968, three pilots from the 34 TFS completed 100 missions over North Vietnam. They were: Lt Col Kenneth M. Hiltz, Maj Melvin L. Irwin, and Capt William A. Thomas, Jr.

His 100th mission on 18 July 1968 was the last F-105 flight for Ken Hiltz. Since his first flight at McConnell on 1 June 1967, he had accumulated 359.1 flying hours in the airplane.

His 100th was also Maj Irwin's last F-105 flight. Since his first flight at McConnell in June 1967, he had accumulated 410.5 hours in the airplane.

Capt Thomas was next assigned to the 12 TFS, 18 TFW, at Kadena AB, Okinawa.

Lt Col Rufus Dye, Jr., who worked in the 388 TFW command post but was attached to the 34 TFS, flew his 100th mission on 19 July. He flew his first mission on 7 October 1967. By the time of his last flight, he had accumulated 475.3 hours in the F-105.

The 34 TFS commander was Lt Col Robert J. Klingensmith, Jr. and the Operations Officer was Maj Clarence E. Langford.

388 TFW History, Jul - Sep 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frame 0803 & 34 TFS web site on 2 April 2007 at <http://s88204154.onlinehome.us.34tfs/scarf.htm> & F-105 Flying Hour Report, dated 18 Nov 1985 provided by USAF Safety Center to Bauke Jan Douma.

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

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1Lt Confer	33	28
Capt Pharmed	114	99 (Had flown 100 missions by the end of Aug)
Capt Durkee	111	99 (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
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.

28-Sep-68

6556

Capt Joseph S. Sechler from the 34 TFS led "Ozark" flight on his 100th mission to North Vietnam. The flight lineup was:

- #1 - Capt Sechler
- #2 - 1Lt Richard R. Venturi
- #3 - Lt Col Robert J. Klingensmith, Jr., the 34th squadron commander
- #4 - 1Lt Ronald A. Hoffmeyer

Lieutenants Venturi and Hoffmeyer had completed F-105 RTU at McConnell AFB on Class 68 IR on 7 June 1968.

"I was so excited or drunk, I forgot to log the time. My mom's birthday. Little did I know that the 100-mission program was coming to a screeching halt. That Misty exchange trip and the typhoon about cost me my 100 mission patch." The 100-mission program was halted on 30 October 1968 when the U.S government stopped the Rolling Thunder bombing of North Vietnam.

Joe Sechler, mission log via e-mail 28 Apr 10.

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.

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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 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 (1 Mar - 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 (9 Jun 68)
Maj Clarence E. Langford DFC SO G-2797 11 Sep 68 (25 May 68)
Lt Col James B. Ross AM (14 OLC) SO G-2732 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.

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02-Oct-68

2102

Lt Col Harvey W. Prosser, Jr. replaced Lt Col Robert J. Klingensmith, Jr. as commander of the 34 TFS, serving with the 388 TFW at Korat RTAFB, Thailand. The 34 TFS reported to the 347 TFW at Yokota AB, Japan.

Lt Col Klingensmith was reassigned to the office of the 388 TFS Deputy Commander for Operations.

As a major on 4 August 1964, Lt Col Prosser, then with the 44 TFS, ejected from F-105F 63-8297 when its engine caught fire 20 NM north of Kadena AB, Okinawa.

E-mail, 26 Feb 2002, from Lt Col Donald T. Bolling, 34 FS Commander, Hill AFB & 388 TFW history, Oct - Dec 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frames 1159 and 1756.