

# Clarence E. "Clancy" Langford

## F-105 History

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11-Feb-68

240

The seventeenth F-105 RTU Class 68FR graduated at McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 27 Aug 67 with 29 students, but 25 completed the course. Maj David Carroll dropped out for medical reasons. Lt Col George M. Wentch joined the class in the formation phase on 1 October 1967.

Maj Kenneth E. Lamberton became the fourth RTU student killed in the crash of F-105D 61-0143 on 14 Nov 67 during air-to-ground rocket training at the Smoky Hill Range.

The class deployed for conventional weapons delivery training to George AFB CA between 23 Jan - 8 Feb 68 with the 561 TFS. The squadron commander was Lt Col Harry D. Sultzter, Jr. Maj Richard Matthews was the top student and shared Top Gun with Maj Russ Youngblood.

This was the largest RTU conducted at McConnell to date and required two IPs on a 30-day TDY from Nellis AFB to aid the transition of the class. The students were:

Col David William Winn	Maj Robert E. Evans
Lt Col Guy J. "Jack" Sherrill	Maj Arthur E. Hood
Lt Col George M. Wentsch	Maj Clarence E. Langford
Lt Col Jack Modica, Jr.	Maj James R. Gibbons
Maj George C. Avila, Jr.	Maj Richard D. Matthews
Maj William W. Berkman	Maj Samuel L. Ray, Jr.
Maj Bill V. Brown	Maj Albert L. Villaret
Maj Seymour R. Bass	Capt Richard Kenneth Allee
Maj Russell A. Youngblood	Capt Darrell J. Ahrens
Maj Ralph D. Waddell, Jr.	Capt Robert C. Amos
Maj Raymond M. Viscarra	Capt Thomas O. Carlson
Maj Eugene E. Cirillo	Capt Jack D. Brooks
Maj David J. Carroll	Capt Donald D. "Dudley" Swofford

The ranking class member, Col Winn, "... was born in Austin, Minn., in 1923. He graduated from Austin Central High in 1941 and attended Carroll College, Waukesha, Wis., until he enlisted as an aviation cadet in the U.S. Army Air Corps in February 1942. He was commissioned a second lieutenant and received his pilot wings in February 1943.

"During World War II, General Winn served with the Twelfth Air Force and flew combat missions in the B-26 and P-38 aircraft from Sardinia and Italy. He returned to the United States in November 1944 and flew Mustangs, Thunderbolts and P-80s as a gunnery instructor in the Air Training Command fighter-gunnery research squadron. General Winn separated from the Air Force in 1948 and returned to school at the University of Minnesota. He was a member of the Minnesota Air National Guard until he was recalled to active duty in February 1951.

"General Winn served with the 109th Fighter Squadron at Minneapolis until August 1952. He then was transferred to Germany where he became a squadron operations officer in the 86th Fighter Wing. In August 1955 he was assigned to the 94th Fighter Squadron at Selfridge Air Force Base, Mich. In 1958 General Winn resumed studies at the University of Minnesota under Project Bootstrap and graduated in August of that year with a bachelor of arts degree in journalism.

"His next assignment was to Headquarters Air Defense Command at Ent Air Force Base, Colo., where he served until July 1962 as a member of the Air Defense Command tactical evaluation unit and operational readiness inspection team as chief of the Operational Readiness Inspection Branch and flew F-102 and F-106 aircraft.

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"From July 1962 to May 1964, he was an exchange officer with the Royal Air Force, flying Hawker Hunters and English Electric Lightnings. He completed this tour of duty as an operations staff officer at Fighter Command Headquarters.

"He next was assigned to the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as military secretary of the United States section of the Canada-United States Military Cooperation Committee and of the Canada-United States Regional Planning Group, NATO, in Washington, D.C. From July 1966 to June 1967, General Winn attended the National War College and completed graduate studies in international affairs at The George Washington University.

"In March 1968 he was assigned to the 355th Tactical Fighter Wing at Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, as assistant deputy commander, operations. ... " (USAF general officer bio at <http://www.af.mil/AboutUs/Biographies/Display/tabid/225/Article/105193/brigadier-general-david-w-winn.aspx>.)

*23 TFW History, Jul - Dec 67, USAF microfilm MO554, frames 1024, 1071, and 1138.*

### 15-Apr-68

2288

Capt Bill Harris, 469 TFS, 388 TFW, flew F-105D 60-0505 on his 54th combat mission from Korat RTAFB, Thailand. It was a FAC-controlled mission followed by armed reconnaissance in RP-1, North Vietnam. Sortie length was 3 hours 10 minutes.

"Locust" was a flight of pilots from the 34 TFS. The lineup was:

#1 - Maj Clarence E. Langford

#2 - Capt James V. Barr

#3 - Bob Moore

#4 - Capt Joseph S. Sechler flying his 30th combat mission. He logged 2:55 flying time.

As part of an Iron Hand flight, Lt Col Rufus Dye, Jr., 34 TFS, flew as "Ozark 4" to attack a SAM site in RP-1. "100%. One secondary. Light 37-mm." It was his 61st combat mission.

*Bill Harris, letter, 19 March 2001 & Joe Sechler mission log via e-mail 298 Apr 10 & Rufus Dye Mission History log.*

### 29-May-68

4112

Maj Clarence E. Langford replaced Maj Roger Dean Ingvalson as the 34 TFS operations officer after Maj Ingvalson was shot down and captured on 28 May 1968.

*388 TFW history, Apr - Jun 68, 34 TFS history June 1968, USAF microfilm NO584, frame 1397.*

### 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.

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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

761

"Striking near Mu Gia Pass ... F-105 ... pilots from the 388 TFW destroyed a bridge, cut a road in three places and caused three roadslides. ... Maj Clarence E. Langford, said, 'We went after an interdiction point and also got the highway bridge.' 'Although it is not very large', Maj Langford continued, 'the bridge is in very difficult country because it crosses a deep ravine and is almost impossible to bypass. My No.2 man (Capt. Ralph E. Durnbaugh) saw his bombs hit dead center on the bridge.'

"Following the strike on the bridge, pilots were directed to crates of supplies by a FAC who had spotted them stacked beside a road. 'We strafed the supplies and I saw pieces of crates flying everywhere,' Major Langford said. 'We scattered the supplies all over the area.'

"Capt John E. Hartman also participated in the strikes.

"Other pilots struck enemy supply boats with 20mm cannon fire, 29 miles northwest of Dong Hoi, damaging four of the craft." The pilots were from the 34 TFS.

*Sawadee Flyer, Saturday, September 7, 1968, pg 1.*

### 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 Pharmed	114	99 (Had flown 100 missions by the end of Aug)

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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.*

### 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.

Maj Shunney's 100th on 5 September was his last F-105 flight. He had accumulated 383.8 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.

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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.*

### 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)

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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)

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

**12-Jan-14**

7365

Lt. Col. Clarence (Clancy) E. Langford, USAF Rec., 82, of Panama City, passed away Sunday, January 12, 2014. Clancy died of complications from prostate cancer treatment and COPD while staying at the local Health South facility.

Clancy was born to Allen and Evie Langford on November 11, 1931, in Canal Point, FL. After completing high school, he married his long-time sweetheart, Patsy, and joined the Air Force. He became a fighter pilot and as he and Patsy traveled the world, they had four children.

After finishing his tour of duty in Vietnam, he retired his passion as a pilot to become an employee of the civil Service at Tyndall AFB. Along the way, he gathered a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Public Administration degree, both from the University of West Florida.

Retirement from the Civil Service brought about a big change for Clancy, perhaps the one that he will be most remembered by. He began to study the Bible and became a true man of God. As he spread the Word, he volunteered with the City Rescue Mission and visited inmates at the county jail, as well as serving in other community missions. Many from the area may remember him as their "tax man". Working for the VITA program, Clancy and other volunteers completed tax returns for thousands of locals, with the only payment being the satisfaction of helping others. Always generous, Clancy feared God and obeyed His commandments.

Clancy is survived by his wife, Patsy, four children, Reid (Sharon), Michael, Lisa (Richard), and Mark. He was blessed with seven grandchildren, Joshua (Dena), Michael (Lyudmila), AJ (Adilee), Kasie (Andrew), Tyler (Jessica), Christopher (Emma), and Jessie as well as six great-grandchildren, Bailey, Wilder, Elijah, Michael, Matthew and Kali.

Services will be held Saturday, January 18th, 2014, at the Heritage Bible Church, 3380 State Avenue, at 1:00 p.m. A visitation will be held prior to the service, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Kent-Forest Lawn Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements and may be contacted at

(850) 763-4694. Flowers are gratefully declined; however, one may make a donation to the City Rescue Mission, 609 Allen Avenue, Panama City, FL 32401.

Kent-Forest Lawn  
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<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/newsherald/obituary.aspx?pid=169117291>