

John R. "Rick" Layman History

23-Jan-64

5223

F-105D Operational Training Course 111506E, Class 64-G, graduated from the 4520 CCTS, Nellis AFB, NV. The class began training on 6 November 1963 and was assigned to the 4526 CCTS commanded by Maj Warren Foss. The 25 student pilots in this class were:

Lt Col Aaron J. Bowman	Capt Bruce G. Seeber (Held over on 1 Dec)
Maj Joseph W. Brand	Capt Delbert F. Smith
Maj James L. Glessner, Jr.	Capt Harold Victor Smith
Maj William C. Redeen	Capt Jack R. Stresing
Capt James Q. Collins, Jr.	Capt Lester W. Sundt
Capt Homer D. Deavult	Capt David E. Weaver
Capt Kenneth D. Furth	1Lt James E. Foston, Jr.
Capt Glen H. Hales	1Lt Wayne D. Hauth
Capt John R. Layman	1Lt Douglas G. Lauck (Assgnd to 36 TFS, 8 TFW, Itazuke)
Capt Robert N. Middlebrooks	1Lt Larry C. Mahaffey
Capt Robert G. Moore	1Lt Robert H. Schuler, Jr.
Capt Elmer R. Olson	1Lt Benjamin D. Ulrich
Capt William W. Raitt	

Special Orders AA-12 and AA-19 (Seeber) dated 6 Nov 63 in History of 4520th Combat Crew Training Wing, 1 July - 31 Dec 1963, AFHRA Call # K285.54-3, IRIS # 0488615.

05-Aug-64

05-Oct-64

3020

Three months after their transfer from the 8 TFW, Itazuke AB, Japan, and their arrival in the 41 Air Division at Yokota, F-105s from the 36 TFS were ordered to deploy to Korat RTAFB, Thailand, in response to the Gulf of Tonkin episode. In orders published by Yokota's 441st Combat Support Group, 12 pilots and 31 enlisted men were ordered to "Clark AB, Philippines" on 6 August 1964 for 179 days TDY "for the purpose of performing an operational mission in support of 5 AF OPLAN 37-65". Lt Col Donovan L. McCance, the squadron commander, was the ranking person on the deployment orders. As a captain assigned to Hq TAC in 1956, McCance had worked on the early F-105 program.

Other pilots from the 36 TFS were: Capt John R. Layman, Capt Michael P. Cooper, Capt Michael F. McNamara, 1Lt Robert A. Jones, 1Lt William A. Becker, 1Lt Jerry L. Stamps, Capt Thomas W. Sima, Capt Paul H. Stoment, Capt James I. Miholick, and Capt Roderick G. Beckett.

Capt Douglas G. Lauck was another of the pilots from the 36 TFS on this deployment. (Doug Lauck, e-mail 27 Sep 2006.)

1Lt Martin V. Case, Jr. from the 35 TFS also deployed with the 36 TFS. "I was at the morning briefing at the 35th and Maj. Fred Cherry (either Ops Officer or Asst. Ops, I can't remember which) asked for a volunteer for a classified TDY. He said he couldn't say where it was but it might involve some combat. How's that for understatement? He said the 36th needed one person as they were one volunteer short. Since I was a bachelor at that time (due to get married on 3 Oct.), I and a few others raised our hands. I was sitting in the front row and was closest to Fred so I guess that was why he picked me? I was told to go pack for a 30 day TDY and was to talk to NO ONE. They sent someone with me to make sure I didn't talk to anyone. I think it was Bob Tidwell [Capt Robert Leland Tidwell]. I left that afternoon on a C-130 (in the) IST (Initial Support Team). We flew direct to Korat with a refueling stop (I think) at Clark AB. We arrived early the next day (6 Aug)."

F-105 pilot Capt Edward T. Rock was an Ops Planner in the 41 Air Division at Yokota and helped plan the deployment. "Not much to it except it was all very secret at the time. Not even my wife knew what was going on and there were lots of secret meetings. It was kind of unreal. ... The deployments were frequently made up of folks from more than one squadron and not just the designated squadron. For example, I know that when the 36th deployed they had at least a few

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pilots from the 35 TFS."

The squadron returned to Yokota after they were relieved by the 35 TFS on 5 October 1964.

441 CSG Special Order TB-1418, 5 Aug 1964 & e-mail, Marty Case, 10 Aug 2003 & Ed Rock, e-mail, 17 July 2005.

26-Aug-65 **28-Oct-65**

309

In a continuing series of TDY combat rotations by the three squadrons of the 6441 TFW at Yokota AB, Japan, the 36 TFS deployed for their third combat tour. Their first was to Korat in August 1964. This was their second deployment to Takhli RTAFB, Thailand, to replace the 80 TFS. The 36 TFS commander was Lt Col Howard F. "Red Dog" Hendricks.

Capt Douglas G. Lauck was one of the 36 TFS pilots on this deployment. This was his third 60-day TDY deployment with the 36th to Thailand and his second one to Takhli. During this deployment, he raised his total North Vietnam combat missions to about 48.

Other pilots on the deployment were:

Col Chester L. Van Etten, the 6441 TFW Commander
Maj Dean A. Pogreba, the 36 TFS Operations Officer
Capt John O. Rollins II
Maj Richard P. Fitzgerald
Capt Lester W. Sundt
Capt John R. Layman
Capt Rex L. Dull
Capt Clarence E. Fox
Capt Jerry L. Stamps
Capt William A. Becker
Maj Wayne N. Whatley
Capt Fredrick William Shattuck, Jr.
Capt David L. Hatten
Capt Bernard G. Lyons
Capt James I. Miholick
Lt Col William L. Janssen from the 6441 TFW Staff
Capt Michael F. McNamara from the 6441 TFW Staff
Capt Jack R. Stresing from the 41 AD Staff

Capt Robert H. Jones
Capt Vernon D. Hesterman
Capt Thomas W. Sima
Capt Onofiro J. Andrews
Capt Roderick G. Beckett
Capt Donnie R. Duplissey
Capt Robert H. Schuler, Jr.
1Lt Delbert F. Miller
Capt Bruce G. Seeber
Capt Paul H. Storment
Capt Wayne D. Hauth
Capt David S. Graben
Capt Stanley S. Rynear
1Lt Benjamin D. Ulrich
1Lt Denis D. O'Donoghue

6441 TFW History, Jul - Dec 65, USAF microfilm PO232 & Doug Lauck, e-mail 25 Sep 2006 & 441 Cmbt Spt Gp Special Order TA-424 dated 5 Aug 65.

18-Apr-66

5176

The 6441 TFW selected the pilots for the squadron that became the 34 TFS to deploy to Korat. Most would come from the 36 TFS; consequently, the 36 TFS was slated to disband.

Bob Pielin from the 36 TFS, who had already flown 87 combat missions during temporary duty tours to Korat and Takhli, remembered how he helped select the pilots for the new squadron. "Fitz [Maj Richard P. Fitzgerald, the squadron's Operations Officer] and I initially made out a list of 25 pilots from the Wing resources to go as 34th members. The list was bounced back from HHQ as being too overloaded in pilots with over 50 missions. They recommended 6 guys in the 0 to 20 mission category, 6 in the 21 to 40, 6 in the 41 to 60, 6 in the 61 to 80, and anyone with over 80 to go TDY." This distribution was to spread out their eventual departures from Korat as each pilot completed his 100-mission tour. Capt Pielin and Maj Fitzgerald reworked the list "... with some pronounced disapproval from those that were removed from the [original]. ... A 1.5 aircrew/aircraft ratio was authorized for 27 pilots plus Commander and Operations Officer. ... Bob Jones [Capt Robert H. Jones] was removed from the first list since he had his papers in to be discharged. When he found out about the 34th going PCS to Korat, he volunteered to go with [them] and get

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100 missions before he got out. Red Dog [Lt Col Howard F. 'Red Dog' Hendricks the squadron commander] worked a 'deal', and he went TDY." (Bob Pielin e-mails, 23 Sep 2006 and 7 April 2007.)

The following list contains the positions and names of the initial twenty-nine pilots assigned to the 34 TFS. This is the revised list after Capt Pielin and Maj Fitzgerald reworked their original to provide a broader base of experience. One of the pilots, Gordon Walcott, annotated his copy of the printed list, dated 18 April 1966, with this comment: "This was the original 34th TFS crew roster when formed as an all-volunteer squadron from the 35 TFS, 36 TFS, and 80 TFS (Yokota AB, Japan)"

Commander - Lt Col Howard F. "Red Dog" Hendricks who had been commander of the 36 TFS.
Operations Officer - Maj Richard P. Fitzgerald

India Flight
Flight Commander - Maj Wayne N. Whatley
Capt Robin K. Nierste
Capt James I. Miholick
Capt Douglas G. Lauck
Capt Robert H. Jones
Capt Robert R. Reed

Lima Flight
Flight Commander - Capt James E. Hayes
Capt Merrill R. Lewis, Jr.
Capt Gordon M. Walcott
Capt Stanley S. Gunnensen
1Lt John Bernard Sullivan III

Juliet Flight
Flight Commander - Maj Kenneth T. Blank
Capt Carl L. Hamby
Capt Thomas H. Curtis
Capt David H. Groark
1Lt Phillip J. Kelley

Metro Flight
Flight Commander - Capt Robert D. Pielin
Capt Alan K. Rutherford
Capt Ralph D. Watkins
Capt Wayne D. Hauth
Capt Rainford "Ray" McMaster Tiffin

Kilo Flight
Flight Commander - Maj Jack R. Stresing
Capt William O. Lessard
Capt John R. Layman
Capt Rex L. Dull
Capt Clarence E. Fox
1Lt Denis D. O'Donoghue

E-mail from Monty Pharmer, 22 Sep 2006 forwarding letter to him from Lt Col (Ret) Gordon Walcott dated, 29 July 1988, which included a roster of 36 TFS pilots, dated 18 April 1966.

18-Jun-66

5200

Three days after their arrival at Korat, the 34 TFS flew its first combat missions. Capt Robert D. Pielin was one of the four flight leaders for these missions "... since we already had a 'local area checkout'". Pielin, who had arrived in the squadron's advance party on 21 May 1966, had flown 89 missions by the time the rest of his squadron got to Korat.

"I was in that flight with Rick Laymen [Capt John R. Layman], and two other 34th pilots (unknown names)." (Bob Pielin, e-mail 2 Apr 07.)

"My last 11 missions with the 34th were not too exciting compared to some of the previous 89. The first two days of flying, 18 and 19 June 1966, I checked out pilots that had not been in-theater during the previous six months. Their previous missions were flown TDY with their own squadrons, and things [had] changed considerably with [7th Air Force in] Saigon now running the show. Even to the ridiculous situation of fragging our ingress to and our egress from Pac #6 targets. Red Dog didn't hold us to that. We planned our own missions, and let him know our route, in case

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something happened. Anyway, I did.

"The 18th would be my first mission after [my] shoot-down [on 3 June 1966]. I was fragged to a Pak #1 on a typical 'suspected truck park'. I know Fitz [Maj Richard P. Fitzgerald, the squadron's DO] had something to do with that, to see how 'shaky' I would be. I wasn't about to drop short of the target, so pressed in to make sure. I pressed in so far that my bombs dropped at least 1,000 feet long at 12 o'clock." (Bob Pielin, e-mails 25 Sept 2006 and 7 April 2007.)

Bob Pielin, e-mails 25 Sept 2006, 2 April 2007, and 7 April 2007

20-Jun-66

5202

Capt Robert D. Pielin on TDY with the 34 TFS at Korat flew a combat mission that lasted 2 hours 30 minutes. "The 20th I led a flight to Pak #5, out in the 'flats' between the Gulf of Tonkin and the mountains. It was an electrical power plant that straddled a small river. I knew it was going to be a bitch to find since it had rained the two previous days, and all the rivers and streams would look alike. Also, I had only been to Pak #5 a few times, since it previously belong to the Navy, so the terrain was not familiar. We approached the target, at 17,000 feet, from the South for a left hand roll in, like all fighter pilots do. I couldn't pick out the target, so started a left turn back to the mountains. Rick Layman [Capt John R. Layman] was #3, and said he had the target in sight. I gave him the lead, told him to roll in, and we would follow. We were too far away for a 45-degree dive angle, so we adjusted the pipper and made a 30-degree dive run. There was no flak, and we expected no flak, so we pressed in close, and all four of us had good hits on the target. On the way home, I thought about that power plant. That poor little thing, out there in the 'flatlands', with no AAA protection, and four ugly Americans demolishing the thing. I guess you think like that, after you get your ass shot off."

Bob Pielin, e-mails 25 Sept 2006 and 7 April 2007.

31-Aug-66

5150

Five pilots assigned to the 34 TFS at Korat, all of whom had flown missions during earlier TDYs, completed flying 100 missions during August 1966. They were:

Maj Richard P. Fitzgerald
Capt Wayne D. Hauth
Capt John R. Layman
Capt Robert H. Jones
Capt David H. Groark

On his 100th mission, Capt Groark remembered that, "I landed about 1030 and was on a flight to Bangkok and return to the States by 1200 that day." He was assigned to the Test Wing at Eglin AFB, Florida. "Arrived there and had orders to ARPS at Edwards. After graduation, I returned to the Eglin Test Wing. Left active duty on 1 April 1972 and flew F-100s with the Georgia Air Guard and then AC-130s at Duke Field Eglin. While at Eglin I was triple current in the F-100, F-105, and A-7. On my last day of active duty, I flew a mission in each airplane."

Capt Bob Jones "... resigned my regular commission, accepted a reserve commission, and separated from active duty on 3 September 1966. I was hired by American Airlines, and flew for the company until June 1998. During my airline career, I flew B-727, 707, 757, 767, BAC -111, L-188, DC-10 and MD-11 equipment. I joined the NJ ANG in late 1966, and flew F-105Bs with them until 1971. I transferred to the AF Reserve then and flew F-105D T-Stick II birds, F-4Es, and A-10s before retiring in 1992 as an O-7."

34 TFS web site on 2 April 2007 at <http://s88204154.onlinehome.us.34tfs/scarf.htm> & Dave Groark, e-mail 10 April 2010 & Bob Jones, e-mail 24 Apr 10.

31-Dec-66

678

One year after the start of their RTU mission, the 23 TFW at McConnell AFB KS, had trained a

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total of 105 pilots to fly the F-105. The wing had 30 F-105 instructor pilots who had completed at least 100 missions in South East Asia. The 560 TFS and 561 TFS each had 7 pilots, the 562 TFS had 12, and the 563 TFS had 4. Five additional 100-mission pilots were attached to the 23 TFW. 1Lt Leonard C. Ekman, assigned to the 561 TFS, had completed 185 missions in SEA, the most of any Air Force pilot.

The 100-mission instructor pilots in the 560 TFS were:

Maj Eleas Casillas	Capt Jack L. Graber
Maj Robert E. Phillips	Capt William S. Koenitzer
Capt Marion M. "Mack" Angel	1Lt William E. Ardern
Capt Rex L. Dull	

The 100-mission instructor pilots in the 561 TFS were:

Maj Fred T. Coleman	Capt Robert Kieth Hannah, Jr.
Maj John C. Shay	1Lt Roger A. Ayres
Capt Ralph J. Beardsley	1 Lt Leonard C. "Lucky" Ekman
Capt Roderick G. Beckett	

The 100-mission instructor pilots in the 562 TFS were:

Lt Col James A. Young	Capt Wayne D. Hauth
Maj Phillip O. Bradley	Capt Robert L. "Bob the Wedge" Keller
Maj Robert D. Pielin	Capt Douglas G. Lauck (SEFE)
Capt Arthur L. Brattkus	Capt Robin K. Nierste
Capt Teddy Gay	Capt William S. Secker, Jr.
Capt Stanley S. Gunnensen	Capt Joseph R. Steen

The 100-mission instructor pilots in the 563 TFS were:

Maj Kenneth G. Frank
Capt Robert V. "Boris" Baird
Capt James I. Miholick
1Lt John C. Russell

23 TFW attached 100-mission pilots were:

Capt Clarence E. Cox
Capt John R. Layman
Capt Charles Loucks
Capt Clifford H. "Ted" Rees, Jr.
Capt Robert L. Chastain

23 TFW History, 1 Jul - 31 Dec 1966, USAF microfilm MO554.

03-Jul-06

6814

MG John R. "Rick" Layman died on July 3, 2006, age 72, at his home in in Port Charlotte, Florida . He flew F-105s with the 34 TFS at Korat in 1966. When he last flew the plane in January 1972, he had accumulated 1164.1 hours in the airplane.

Jack Phillips e-mail 12 Apr 2011 & F-105 Pilot Flying Hour report dated 18 Nov 85 provided by the USAF Safety Center to Bauke Jan Douma.