

Barry G. Swarts

F-105 History

15-Jul-68

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The twenty-first F-105 RTU Class 69AR graduated at the 23 TFW, McConnell AFB KS. The class started on 19 Feb 68 with 21 students: 2 Lt Cols, 10 Maj's, 5 Capt's and 3 2Lt's. Twenty students graduated. The class deployed 24 F-105s for conventional weapons delivery training to George AFB CA between 18 Jun - 3 Jul 68 with the 561 TFS. The squadron commander was Lt Col Harry D. Sultzer, Jr.

Student pilots were:

Lt Col Isaac M. Glass	Capt Walter E. Ackerlund
Lt Col Herbert L. Sherrill	Capt Peter Beeble
Maj Richard Doran	Capt Carl W. Blough
Maj Billy G. Dornberger	Capt Robert M. Howard, Jr.
Maj Manford C. Holly, Jr.	Capt Barry G. Swarts
Maj Albert E. Oppel	Capt Doug R. Young
Maj Ernest J. Ratliff	2Lt John W. Crotty
Maj Joseph Reynes	2Lt Ed J. Gabriel, Jr.
Maj Wycliffe Steele, Jr.	2Lt Gerald A. Vink
Maj William H. Talley	
Maj James R. Turpen	
Maj Sheldon H. Cooper	

The Outstanding Graduate was Capt Sheldon H. Cooper who went to the 34 TFS at Korat. The Top Gun was Capt Peter Beeble who was assigned to the 333 TFS at Takhli.

During their two weeks at George AFB, the class practiced missions for air refueling, navigation, ACM, AGM-12B, AIM-9B and air-to-air dart firing. ... ACM training was hindered because scissors maneuvers were removed from the program." The class flew a total of 412 sorties and 488 hours and fired 20 AIM-9Bs and 20 AGM-12Bs.

Four pilots from this class went on to complete follow-on "Combat Nail" training for radar bombing with the 4519 CCTS at McConnell. These pilots were joined in their training by four Navigator/Bombardiers and were the first of the crews of this type who received this training to be assigned to the F-105F Commando Nail missions in SEA. They completed their training under course 111506K on 9 August 1968 and were assigned to the 44 TFS at Korat.

Four other pilots went to Wild Weasel training at Nellis. They attended WW Class 68WW III-25 (69-C-WW) and were also assigned to the 44 TFS. They were:

Maj Billy G. Dornberger (WW# 548)
Maj Joseph Reynes (WW# 551)
Lt Col Herbert L. Sherrill (WW# 545)
Maj William H. Talley (WW# 554)

On 2 May 1968, Maj Dornberger and his wife "... were sailing on Cheny Reservoir in a 21-foot fiberglass sailboat. Mrs. Dornberger was heard to fall and slip overboard. All search efforts were unsuccessful and dragging operations were underway when two fishermen observed her body floating in shallow water." She was 29 years old. (TWX 031510Z May 68 rescue report, Det 16 03-2 May 68 in AFHRA folder K318.241-2 IRIS 1008898.)

23 TFW History, Jan - Jun 68, USAF microfilm MO554, frames 0117 - 0118.

31-Aug-68

30-Sep-68

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The 388 TFW history listed the aircrews assigned to the 469 TFS and the number of sorties each had flown as of the end of August and September 1968.

	Aug/Sep	
	Sorties	Counters
469 TFS		
Lt Col Hollandsworth	51/61	44/54
Lt Col Broussard	36/51	32/45
Lt Col Monts	92/110	84/99
Maj O'Donnell	56/72	52/66
Capt Hartman	74/91	62/75
Capt Shoemake	77/93	65/79
1Lt Dinan	32/49	28/40
1Lt Zukowski	31/45	28/41
Maj Avila	93/110	82/95
Maj Doty	32/37	30/35
Capt Tracey	28/41	26/36
1Lt Holm	31/44	28/40
Maj Swanson	44/60	40/55
1Lt Miller	32/48	28/41
1Lt Edmunds	26/39	23/35
Capt Houser	76/92	64/78
1Lt Bryan	29/43	28/40
1Lt Wyttenbach	31/45	27/39
Maj Capling	71	59 (KIA 19 Sep 68)
Maj Carroll	70/87	62/74
Capt Lindell	32/46	28/41
1Lt Tilley	33/47	31/44
Capt Riedenauer	113/114	100/100
Capt Roeder	113/115	100/100
Capt Brown	114/115	102/102
Maj Vandevender	3/7	1/2
Col McDonald	21/32	21/32
Col Blanchard	74/85	65/75
Maj Smart	107	100
Maj Wood	82/97	70/84
Capt Howard	4/17	4/16
Maj Oppel	3/18	3/15
Capt Young	6/22	6/18
Maj Wicks	2/4	2/2
1Lt Crotty	3/15	3/14
Capt Swarts	2/14	2/14
Maj Mizner	108	100
Capt Foley	105	100
Capt Myers	112	100
Maj Sisk	111	100
Capt Koontz	110	100 (Died 17 Aug 67)
Capt Cole	66	57
Maj Heston	107	100

Those pilots arriving in September and their mission counts for the month were:

Lt Col Gaudion	15	13
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388 TFW History, July - Sep 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frames 0247 - 0248.

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30-Sep-68

1520

469 TFS OPERATIONS OVERVIEW, JULY - SEPTEMBER 1968

"During the period between July 1 and Sept. 30, 1968, the 'World's Finest' flew 1,555 missions against targets in Laos and North Vietnam, flying a total of 3,759 combat hours. The squadron now has a total of 38,796 combat hours and 15,989 combat sorties in the theater.

"Continued bombing restrictions limited activity during this period to operations in Route Package One in North Vietnam and certain areas of Laos. Our main objective during the period as directed by 7th AF was the interdiction of vital lines of communications in Route Pack 1. Under the direction of Lt. Col. Victor R. Hollandsworth, the 469th maintained an outstanding record of superior mission accomplishment.

"This reporting period was accented by the arrival of the first group of new Undergraduate Pilot Training graduates to fly with the 469th Tactical Fighter Squadron in well over a year. The majority of the group were 1st Lieutenants, and although they did not possess extensive flying hours or experience, the quality of their performance left little doubt as to their desire and abilities. They have proven themselves extremely capable as tactical fighter pilots.

"On Aug. 10, 1968, Capt. Peter K. Foley completed his second 100 missions over North Vietnam. In his flight were three other 469th pilots completing their 100th mission, which made it the first 500 mission flight in the history of air operations against North Vietnam. In Capt. Foley's flight were Maj. Bryant Heston, Maj. Ford H. Smart and Capt. Christopher H. Brown. Other 469th pilots completing their 100th missions during the period were Majors James J. Mizner and Donald J. Sisk, Captains William O. Harris III, Nobe R. Koontz, Ronald R. Myers, Harold E. Murk, Thomas H. Platt, Robert L. Riedenauer and David M. Roeder.

"In August and again in September, tragedy struck two members of the 469th. On Aug. 17, 1968, [a pilot] was killed in a freak landing accident at Da Nang Air Force Base in South Vietnam. On Sept. 19, 1968, [a Major] was shot down during a rocket delivery pass just north of the DMZ in North Vietnam. He ejected successfully from his disabled F-105 but was taken captive shortly after. ... Our sympathies go out to these men and to their families.

"The 469th Tactical Fighter Squadron will become an F-4E squadron on November 1968. Present members of the squadron will join the 34th Tactical Fighter Squadron here at Korat [RTAFB, Thailand] and some will transfer to the 355th Tactical Fighter Wing at Takhli. This conversion will mark both the end and beginning of one of the most significant chapters in the history of aerial warfare. The record of the F-105s of the 469th Tactical Fighter Squadron stands by itself. We are confident the new members of the 469th will carry on the outstanding accomplishments of the 469th in the months ahead."

As of 30 September 1968, the 469th had assigned 28 line pilots, two staff pilots, and five attached pilots. The pilots averaged 350.4 flying hours in the F-105. The pilots and their sortie counts were:

Name	Total Missions	Counters
Lt Col Victor R Hollandsworth	61	54 (469 TFS Commander)
Lt Col James H. Broussard	51	45
Lt Col John J. "Jack" Gaudion	15	13 (2nd Tour)
Maj Vandevender	7	2
Maj John F. O'Donnell	72	66
Capt Gene D. Hartman	91	75
Capt Ronald A. Shoemake	93	79

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Capt Richard E. Tracey	41	36
Capt Barry G. Swarts	14	14
1Lt Robert John Zukowski	45	41
1Lt Robert Clifton Edmunds	39	35
Maj George C. Avila, Jr.	110	95
Maj Albert E. Oppel	18	15
Capt Jack S. Houser	92	78
1Lt Robert E. Bryan	43	40
1Lt David Thomas Dinan III	49	40
1Lt Barry D. Wyttenbach	45	39
Maj Paul F. Swanson	60	55
Major Aultman Doty	37	35
Capt Douglas R. Young	22	13
Capt Joseph C. Howard	17	16
1Lt Phillip A. Miller	48	41
Maj Will Carroll, Jr.	87	74
Capt Kenneth G. Lindell	46	41
1Lt Clarence J. "Skip" Holm	44	40
1Lt Marshall D. Tilley	47	44
1Lt John W. Crotty	15	14
Col Alen K. McDonald	32	32 (388 TFW/VC)
Col Felix A. "Doc" Blanchard	85	75 (388 TFW Asst DO)
Lt Col Rufus M. "Mike" Monts III	110	99
Maj Sterling H. Wood	97	84
Maj Wicks	4	2
Capt Brown	115	102
Capt Robert L. Riedenauer	114	100
Capt David M. Roeder	115	100

<http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/history/vietnam/469th/p36.htm> & 388 TFW History, Jul - Sep 68, USAF microfilm NO585, frame 0797 & 388 TFW History, July - Sep 1968, AFHRA microfilm NO585, frames 0274 - 0282.

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)
 Lt Col Isaac M. Glass AM (1 OLC) SO G-3291 23 Oct 68 (25 Aug - 29 Sep 68)

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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.

24-Feb-84

2135

On a cold, snowy, overcast weekend in February 1984, over 200 former F-105 pilots and maintenance crews gathered at Hill AFB in Utah to celebrate the final farewell to the Thunderchief. The affair was called "The Thud Out" and the gathering was hosted by the Air Force Reserve's 419 TFW, the last unit to operate the F-105. A couple of months before the event, an announcement letter from the 419th's Project Officer, Major Tom "Waldo" King, circulated throughout the Air Force and units of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. Maj. King invited everyone. "If you (or your unit) were ever associated with the F-105, you should be here." He had carefully planned the festivities that included sorties by the last three flyable F-105s, all two-seat F-105Fs, a memorial dedication for all F-105 pilots killed while flying the Thunderchief, and a sit-down steak dinner for all.

The Thud Out started Friday morning with arriving guests registering and encountering people they had known during their F-105 days. On Friday evening they gathered in the officer's club for drinks and the telling of favorite Thud stories. MSgt John Coon, a former F-105 maintenance troop who made it to the Thud Out, remembered, "that evening at the Officers Club was another gathering of old friends, many of whom had not seen each other for some time. The atmosphere was social and convivial with everyone exchanging remembrances and 'war stories'." Vendors in hallway booths exhibited Thunderchief memorabilia and sold pins, T-shirts, and made-to-order hand-carved models. A popular item was a plastic F-105 model on an arrowhead base that sold for \$45.00. The party lasted until well after midnight and prepared the group for the next day's more formal activities.

Among the 306 attendees listed in the sign up roster were former Wild Weasel pilot Francis A. "Frosty" Sheridan and former POW Col Robert B. "Percy" Purcell. Col Ray H. Bryant, who flew 100 missions with the 469 TFS in 1966 - 1967 also attended. Lt Col Edward L. Sykes, who flew with the 34 TFS in 1969 at Korat, was on the attendance roster as was Robert V. "Boris" Baird who had flown missions with the 67 TFS in 1965. Benjamin W. Bowthorpe, who had flown 100 missions with the 354 TFS in January 1966, was registered for the Thud Out. Barry G. Swarts was registered as an attendee.

Lt Col Bruce A. Brandt, an F-16 pilot from the Reserve's 466 TFS at Hill, attended. He had previously flown the F-105. His last F-105 flight was in November 1983. He had accumulated 1,459.2 hours in the airplane. "It will always be my favorite aircraft and I've flown the F-16 for several years. ..."

Thud-Out Program Handout & Thud Out attendee, Victor Vizcarra, e-mail, 4 Jan 01, & Thud Out List of "Known Attendees" & Bruce Brandt letter dated 18 Jan 88 to Bauke Jan Douma.