

# William E. Augsburger

## F-105 History

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17-Jan-67

1090

F-105 pilots of the 421 TFS and 34 TFS, 388 TFW, struck the Thai Nguyen Railroad classification yard (JCS 21.11) at 21-33-33N and 105-51-05E. Returning pilots reported, "... 8 - 10 large sections exploded and numerous smaller explosions. CBU impacts were on flak sites northwest of target. Whole area covered with black and brown smoke. Of 14 rail lines, 1 is serviceable and 1 possibly serviceable, 12 pieces of rolling stock derailed and damaged. Repair and service area heavily damaged. Fairly accurate 37/57/85-mm also heavy barrage. Heaviest flak from northwest of the target. Saw MIGs inbound but they could not get behind the flights."

"Three of the strike flights were flown by members of the 34 TFS. The Force Commander was Maj Carl W. McKenzie [the squadron's Operations Officer] ... and the Deputy Commander was Maj William E. Augsburger ... . Flight assignment was as follows:

"Dallas" - Maj McKenzie, Capt William W. Kennedy, Maj Augsburger, Capt Jackie R. Youngblood.

"Blackjack" - Maj Leo F. Callahan, Maj Earl Johnston, Maj Robert G. Miner, Capt John W. Swanson, Jr.

"Flapper" - Maj Homer T. Terry, 1Lt Gary G. Catren, Capt Alan J. Fick.

"Flak in the target area was described as light to moderate 37/57-MM. Bomb damage was extensive as supported by bomb damage assessment photos."

Homer Terry described the mission. "We ... received orders from the White House to take out the railroad marshalling yard adjacent to the steel mill by a maximum effort of forces from Korat and Takhli; 16 aircraft each from Korat and Takhli. Korat was in first and I was leading the fourth flight. We rolled into our dive bomb runs and were off target in very quick order. I had a problem! When I pushed my bomb release button, my bombs did not release. As I started to pull off target, I ejected my entire rack. No one ever asked about the collateral damage that was inflicted on the roundhouse.

"Takhli followed close behind us. Neither base suffered an aircraft loss. Photo recon showed the marshalling yard was obliterated, but about ten days later recon photos showed the North Viets had laid several tracks back into place and the steel mill had not yet suffered any great loss of production from the actions we had taken." (Homer Terry memoir, "Destroying The Steel making Capability of NVN #2", via e-mail 27 March 2010.)

As Flapper Lead, Maj Terry was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for this mission. "Major Homer Terry distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as an F-105 pilot in Southeast Asia on 17 January 1967. On that date, while attacking a high priority target, despite concentrated and accurate ground fire, continuous missile warnings and MiG warnings, he delivered his ordnance with unerring accuracy causing extensive damage to the target. ... "

Maj Raymond D. Anderson from the 421 TFS was awarded a Silver Star for gallantry for flying on this mission. (7AF SO G-374 14 Mar 1967)

The F-105F Wild Weasel crew of Capt Jerry N. Hoblit and EWO Capt Thomas W. Wilson, Jr. from the 357 TFS at Takhli, were each awarded a Silver Star for supporting a mission near Hanoi on this date. They decoyed SAM sites to protect the force, bombed one site, and suppressed two others with anti-radiation missiles. (E-Mail, Tom Wilson to Ron Thurlow, 7 Jul 2003.)

*388 TFW history, Apr - Dec 1967, USAF microfilm NO463 frame 1218 & Homer Terry, letter to Ron Thurlow, undated.*

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**18-Jan-67**

1512

Four flights of F-105s from the 388 TFW "... struck the Don Muc Railroad Bridge (21-27-12N 106-14-01E). Especially significant, was the fact that the entire strike force was flown by pilots of the 34 TFS. This was the first time in the history of the 388 TFW that one of its assigned squadrons conducted a complete strike from within its own resources."

"The Force Commander was Lt Col Richard M. Heyman, Jr., and the Deputy Force Commander was Capt David E. Weaver. Flight assignment was as follows:

"Muskrat" - Lt Col Heyman, 1Lt Donald O. Austin, Capt Weaver, 1Lt Catren.

"Rip" - Maj William E. Augsburger, Maj Clarence Kough, Jr., Maj Edward C. Jones, Capt Alan J. Fick.

"Tamale" - Maj McKenzie, Capt Kennedy (two members were forced to air abort).

"Cheeta" - Maj Callahan, Maj Johnston, Capt John W. Swanson, Jr. (one member air aborted)."

"The flights reported heavy AAA in the target area and also 15 NM from the target during ingress and egress. Heavy 85 mm was encountered during the ingress and egress to the target. BDA photos ... substantiated pilot observations as two spans of the bridge were destroyed, leaving it in an unservicable condition."

Maj Augsburger was awarded a Silver Star for galantry for flying this mission. (7th AF SO G374 14 March 1967)

*388 TFW history, Apr - Dec 1967, USAF microfilm NO463 frames 1218 and 1219.*

**04-Feb-67**

1515

F-105s from Korat and Takhli conducted a "... full scale strike ... against (JCS 60), [the] Thai Nguyen Army Supply complex [BE 616-0210 at coordinates 21-38-18N and 105-51-04E]. The 34 TFS [from the 388 TFW] supplied three strike flights and led the entire strike force. Mission Commander was Maj Edward C. Jones. Flight lineup [was] as follows:

"Hotdog" - Maj Edward C. Jones, Capt Donald S. Aunapu, Maj Leo F. Callahan, Maj Clarence Kough, Jr.

"Domino" - Maj William E. Augsburger, Capt Coy W. Gammage, Maj William C. Eagle, Capt William W. Kennedy.

"Acorn" - Lt Col Richard M. Heyman, Jr., 1Lt Donald O. Austin, Maj Homer T. Terry, Maj Harry Pawlik."

Pilots from the 469 TFS also participated in the strike.

"Strike flights were loaded with 3,000-pound GP bombs (M-118s). The strike was most successful and although no BDA is yet available the target was heavily damaged. Strike cameras carried by the second flight recorded the results of the flak suppression attack. The CBU-24s were released on target and gave complete coverage ... . Pilots reported very light inaccurate 37/57/85-MM AAA in the target area. Nine SAMs were observed to airburst within five nautical miles of the strike flights on the inbound run, and four SAMs observed to air-burst within ten nautical miles. During egress from target, 8 MiG aircraft were observed during the attack."

As Hotdog 1, mission commander Maj Edward C. Jones received the Silver Star for leading this mission. (Ed Jones letter to Ron Thurlow, 25 March 01.) His citation read, in part, "... Maj Jones was the mission commander in the lead of 40 aircraft directed to attack and destroy a complex Army supply depot. With a complete disregard for his personal safety, he successfully led his strike force through intense AAA, SAM launches, and hostile aircraft to accomplish the assigned

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mission. ..." (Ed Jones e-mail 26 Apr 2010.)

As Acorn 3, Maj Homer T. Terry received the Distinguished Flying Cross for this mission. "Major Homer Terry distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as an F-105 pilot over North Vietnam on 4 February 1967. On that date, Maj Terry attacked a high priority target at Thai Nguyen, North Vietnam. Despite intense and accurate hostile ground fire, continuous surface-to-air missile warnings and numerous launches, he delivered his ordnance with unerring accuracy on the target, causing extensive damage. ..." (Homer Terry, letter to Ron Thurlow, undated.)

Maj Ralph Laurence Carlock from the 357 TFS, 355 TFW, was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry for flying on this mission. The award was made posthumously after he died in combat in Laos on 4 March 1967. (Hq 7th AF SO G-453 dated 29 March 1967.)

*388 TFW history, Apr - Dec 1967, USAF microfilm NO463 frames 1221 and 1222.*

### 10-Mar-67

880

On 10 and 11 March 1967, seventy-eight F-105s from Korat and Takhli and 22 F-4Cs from Ubon bombed the Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel plant, JCS 76, BE 616-00214, at location 21-33-29N and 105-52-08E in RP-6A. The Air Force had scheduled missions against this target twice each day since 24 February, when the target was first added to Rolling Thunder 54, but all missions up to today's had been diverted due to bad weather over RP-6A. (PACAF Rolling Thunder briefing to CINCPAC for the period 20 Feb - 19 Mar 1967.)

"The Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel Combine, located approximately three miles southeast of Thai Nguyen, was the first large plant of its kind built in NVN. According to official estimates by the NVN government, the complex would satisfy 20 percent of the country's iron and steel requirements when it was in full production. Important products produced at this plant in early 1967 included steel barges, POL tanks, and bridge trusses." (Project CHECO, Rolling Thunder, 17 November 1967, pg 7.)

"This showpiece of North Vietnamese industrialization was located thirty-five miles due north of Hanoi and about three miles south of the small city of Thai Nguyen. The Chinese began construction of the plant in 1958 to take advantage of iron ore deposits on the northern edge of the delta. Pig Iron production began in 1963, and by 1967 the plant made barges and fuel drums out of imported steel. The plant's own steel mill was nearly ready to begin operation. There were only two other ironworks in the country, both of them much smaller. While they produced perhaps fifteen thousand metric tons a year, the Thai Nguyen works were designed to produce three hundred thousand of pig iron and two hundred thousand of steel. The complex, including its power plant, occupied two square miles along the railroad that connected it with Hanoi. About ten thousand people worked at this, the largest industrial facility in North Vietnam." ("To Hanoi and Back", pg 57).

F-105 pilots from the 388 TFW flew the first wave in the attack.

The 469 TFS was fragged to form a flight without bombs to provide weather reconnaissance and MiG CAP to precede Korat's main strike force. The flight lineup was:

- #1 - Maj John M. Rowan, 469th Operations Officer
- #2 - Maj Ray H. Bryant, 469th Assistant Ops Officer
- #3 - Lt Col Gordon Albert "Swede" Larson, 469th commander
- #4 - Maj Roy S. Dickey flying his 48th mission into NVN.

Maj Dickey described his mission. "The weather reconnaissance flight trolled the area for over 30

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minutes and received no enemy fire whatsoever. As it turned out, the weather over target was CAVU, we saw no MiGs, and had no bombs with which to kill, maim women and children, or blow up the steel mill. It was a perfect day for putting the bombs down the stack. ... I did wish that we had bombs aboard that day." (Roy Dickey, "The Saga of the Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel Works", in his scrapbook.)

The 8 TFW from Ubon contributed F-4Cs to the mission as "Strike-Cap" flights in which the F-4s carried bombs as well as air-to-air missiles. The F-4s were assigned to strike the target but were to jettison their bombs and protect F-105s if MiGs became a clear threat on ingress. To continue their protection against MiGs, the F-4s were to follow F-105s out of the target.

The 388 TFW provided four F-105 strike flights. Korat's "... mission commander and the first three strike flights were provided by the 34 TFS." The 34th's flight lineup was:

### "Chevrolet"

- #1 - Lt Col Joseph C. Austin, Mission Commander
- #2 - Capt Jack A. Phillips flying his 16th combat mission. Awarded the DFC.
- #3 - Maj Edward C. Jones flying his 95th combat mission. He was awarded the DFC\*.
- #4 - Maj Harry Pawlik, awarded DFC 1st OLC\*.

### "Possum"

- #1 - Maj Homer T. Terry, awarded Silver Star
- #2 - Maj Dewey Lee Smith
- #3 - Maj William C. Eagle
- #4 - Capt Jackie R. Youngblood.

### "Random"

- #1 - Maj Robert W. Johnson
- #2 - Maj Charles E. Irwin, awarded DFC\*
- #3 - Maj William W. Augsburg, awarded DFC 5th OLC\*
- #4 - Maj Robert G. Miner, awarded DFC\*

(\* DFCs awarded under Hq 7 AF Special Order # G-1093)

The 469 TFS provided Korat's fourth strike flight, "Harpoon", led by Capt Charles C. "Clint" Murphy.

Unlike the earlier weather reconnaissance flight, most of these strike flights encountered enemy MiGs, AAA, and SAMs. "Enemy defense reaction was withheld until just prior to CBU release at which time the area erupted with heavy, accurate 37/57/85/100-mm. A layered barrage of light AAA formed an almost continuous carpet at 5 - 6 M. This barrage was largely suppressed when the CBUs impacted. 85 & 100-mm continued to burst at higher altitudes in the target area and up to 10 NM out along the egress route. ..." (388 TFW OPREP 3, TWX 101254Z Mar 67, in PACAF DO Read File folder, 9 - 11 March 1967, AFHRA Call # K717.312, IRIS # 898698.)

On the day he flew as Korat's mission commander, Lt Col Joseph C. Austin assumed command of the 34 TFS replacing Lt Col Richard M. Heyman, Jr. Austin, "Chevrolet 1", "... led the force with a flak suppression flight being first on target. Ingress to target was conducted in defensive box formation at 16,000 feet. Low ceilings prevailed over the entire route, breaking up short of the target area. Preselected flak sites were struck by the CBU flight and strike flights struck assigned targets within the complex. Heavy 37/57-mm fire was encountered as strike aircraft initiated their roll-in and the flak suppression flight dropped a portion directly on the target complex, thus silencing many of the gun emplacements. Bomb damage was extensive, ... although a blast

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furnace area escaped damage completely. As aircraft egressed the target area, they encountered moderate to heavy 85-mm fire within five miles of the target. This barrage necessitated continuous jinking to slip through the barrage." (388 TFW history)

As "Chevrolet 3", Maj Edward C. Jones from the 34th received the Distinguished Flying Cross. "At this time pilots weren't required to fly into Route Pack VI (Hanoi) after the 95th mission. This was my 95th. Shortly after, the criteria was changed to 90 missions. I would have really been upset if I got nailed on that mission." (Ed Jones, letter to Ron Thurlow, 25 March 2001.) His award citation read, in part, "... Maj Jones delivered his ordnance with precise accuracy on the Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel complex through one of the heaviest concentrations of AAA fire ever encountered over NVN. Major Jones's task was compounded by the attack of hostile aircraft and SAMs upon his formation. ..." (Ed Jones, e-mail 26 April 2010.)

As "Possum Lead", Maj Homer T. Terry received the Silver Star for gallantry. "... Major Terry led the first attack upon the Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel Works which is in one of the most heavily defended areas known to modern aerial warfare. Major Terry's conduct during this mission displayed his total disregard for his own personal safety while under continuous and extremely heavy fire. ..." (Homer Terry, letter to Ron Thurlow, undated.)

Later, Maj Terry described what happened to him during this mission. "We came upon some pretty fierce defenders, but again we got all 16 aircraft on and off the target without anyone being hit, although I got the scare of my life when I thought I was hit. Fuel from our droppable fuel tanks was fed into the main fuel supply by compressed air from the engine compressor. When the droppable tanks are empty, air gets into the main fuel system and causes a hammering effect just like when air gets into your water pipes at home. To avoid air getting into your main fuel supply, we had a 'saber drain' relief near the rear of the aircraft and some fuel is ejected with the air. Fuel released from the drain pipe causes a visible vapor that can be seen by ground defenses, ergo, we had a checklist item to turn off the external fuel flow before entering the target area. On this day, I forgot to follow the check list! As I was pulling off the target, a greater than normal hammering noise started and simultaneously, #2 called and said 'lead you are hit and on fire'. I almost swallowed my tongue. The best way to extinguish a fire is to climb as rapidly as possible and starve the fire of oxygen, so I maintained the afterburner climb and shortly thereafter my wingman called that my fire was out. My engine instruments never gave any indication of a problem. When we got into a safe area, my wingman carefully checked me over and there was no apparent damage. An after landing check confirmed 'no damage'. My wingman said that just before the fire began a cluster of AAA rounds had been tracking right up to my tailpipe. We surmised that they ignited the fuel from my saber drain." (Homer Terry, "Destroying the Steel Making Capability of the NVN", via e-mail 27 Mar 2010.)

On egress, "... fifty miles from the target, a MiG-21 engaged 'Random' flight [led by Maj Robert W. Johnson] just after they had recovered from a SAM attack. The MiG launched one air-to-air missile at the flight, but evasive action caused the missile to burn out short of its intended target and the MiG-21 broke off his attack. No aircraft were lost or damaged during this strike." (388 TFW history)

A 388 TFW OPREP 3 described this MiG encounter in more detail. "Random 1 - 4 was on egress route heading 270, location 21-55/104-55, altitude 20,000, speed 500 knots, time 0753Z. Flight observed a MiG-21 approaching them from 6 o'clock position heading 270, altitude 18,000 ft. When MiG-21 was approximately 5 miles away, he fired a missile at the flight. Missile appeared to have a white streamer trailing behind it. Flight took evasive tactics by turning approximately 45 degrees, climbing toward the sun. Flight observed missile to approach about 2 miles behind flight, then began to lose momentum and arch toward the ground. Missile impact not observed. MiG did not pursue attack and broke away after missile launch. Flight then continued on egress route." (388 TFW OPREP 3, TWX 101139Z Mar 67, in PACAF DO Read File folder, 9 - 11 March 1967,

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AFHRA Call # K717.312, IRIS # 898698.)

Four of Ubon's F-4Cs in a "CAP-Strike" flight that followed Random flight were involved in this MiG 21 encounter. "They first met up with the F-105s over northern Laos inbound to the target and maintained position above and behind the last F-105 flight for ingress and egress. After the MiG-21 fired its missile at Random flight, number 3 in the F-4C flight rolled inverted, nose down, and fired a Sparrow missile without a radar lockon in an attempt to divert the MiG. His missile followed a ballistic path and missed the MiG by about 1/2 mile. Later, at a point on the Red River just below Yen Bai, with the flight of F-4Cs trailing the last flight of F-105s by 3 to 4 miles, at 14,000 feet altitude, the flight spotted four MiG-21s closing in on the F-105s from 5 o'clock at the same altitude. The F-4Cs turned toward the MiGs who did a hard turn away and escaped." (Red Baron Report)

*Red Baron Event III-87, pgs 97 - 98 & 388 TFW history Jan - Dec 67, AFHRA microfilm NO 583, frame 1226 & "100 Missions North", pgs 193 - 199.*

**12-Mar-67**

1274

Twenty-one F-105s and four F-4Cs struck the Viet Tri Thermal Power Plant (JCS 82.17) for the first time. Pilots reported one large secondary explosion with orange fire from the generator hall/boiler house and numerous fires. The coal treatment building and the transformer yard were heavily damaged. "... We estimate it will take approximately 18 months to repair this plant." However, the plant was struck again a week later, on 19 March.

Three flights from the 34 TFS, 388 TFW, struck the Viet Tri Power Plant at coordinates 21-17-57N and 105-25-26E. Flight lineup was:

"Finch"

- #1 - Maj William E. Augsburger, mission commander
- #2 - Maj John R. Whaley
- #3 - Maj Robert W. Johnson
- #4 - Capt John W. Swanson, Jr.

"Nelson"

- #1 - Lt Col Joseph C. Austin
- #2 - Capt David C. Carter
- #3 - Maj Donald F. Fryauf
- #4 - Maj Earl Johnston.

"Possum"

- #1 - Maj William C. Eagle
- #2 - Capt Jack A. Phillips flying his 17th & 18th missions into NVN. He was awarded an Air Medal.
- #3 - Maj Harry Pawlik
- #4 - Maj James N. McClelland.

The flight was probably recycled for RESCAP.

""Finch" flight acted as flak suppression and each member had a preselected gun emplacement to attack. The two strike flights carried two 3,000-pound bombs each and were to attack the boiler room and generator hall. Gun emplacements attacked were completely neutralized and the only ground fire encountered came from a suspected hospital area north of the target."

Pilots from the 469 TFS also flew on this strike.

"Pilot BDA reported complete destruction of the target. The photo aircraft covering this strike was

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shot down by a surface-to-air missile while egressing the target area."

The photo aircraft, "Neptune 2", was RF-4C 65-0877 from the 11 TRS, 460 TFW, from Tan Son Nhut. Capt Edwin Riley Goodrich, Jr. was KIA and 1Lt John Walter Clark became a POW.

An attempt to rescue the downed RF-4C crew was called off. "At 12/0309Z, Neptune Two was reported down at coordinates 20-55N and 104-45E [65 miles west of Hanoi]. No report of either chute or beeper. High performance aircraft as well as A-1Es made a search of the area with negative results. At 12/0429Z, the forces were withdrawn after SAMs were launched against the jets. At this time, 7th AF directed the SAR activity on this mission be suspended." (Rescue Opening Report 2-3-19 12 Mar 67, TWX 120719Z Mar 67 from 3 ARR GP OL 2, Udorn RTAFB, Thailand, in AFHRA Folder Call # K318.2411-5, IRIS # 1017063.)

"With no BDA available another strike was scheduled and pilots reported the target destroyed before they dropped their ordnance. Film strips taken from KA-71 strike cameras verified the boiler room and generator hall 50% destroyed with the remaining portion totally gutted."

*PACAF Rolling Thunder briefing to CINCPAC for the period 20 Feb - 19 Mar 1967 & 388 TFW history Jan - Dec 67, USAF microfilm NO 583, frame1226*

#### 30-Apr-67

5157

Two pilots assigned to the 34 TFS at Korat completed flying 100 missions during April 1967. They were:

Maj William E. Augsburgers  
Maj Homer T. Terry

When Maj Terry left Korat, Maj Charles E. Irwin replaced him as "Blue" flight commander.

*34 TFS web site on 2 April 2007 at <http://s88204154.onlinehome.us.34tfs/scarf.htm> & Chuck Irwin e-mail 6 Apr 10.*

#### 11-Nov-67

989

During a one-hour visit to McConnell AFB, Kansas, President Lyndon B. Johnson presented Silver Star medals to eleven F-105 pilots who had completed 100 missions over North Vietnam. Receiving the awards were: Capt Jack A. Phillips (Silver Star with two Oak Leaf clusters); Captain Winfield Scott Harpe, Major Richard E. Moser, and Captain Howard L. Bodenhamer (Silver Star with one Oak Leaf cluster); Majors Earl L. Thornton, William E. Augsburgers, Robert B. Bennett, Bobby L. Martin, William Campfield, Jr., Paul F. Koeltzow and Captain Jackie D. Stokes.

Capt Jack A. Phillips, an IP with the 560 TFS, recalled "This [award ceremony] was neat since I was born in Wichita and raised on a farm about 12 miles from McConnell, so my mother got to attend and meet all those important folks." (Jack Phillips, e-mail 18 Mar 11)

"After the President gave Captain Bodenhamer his decoration, the pilot received a personal gift -- the President's own Silver Star lapel pin which had been worn since World War II." After the awards ceremony, Maj Robert V. Baird presented an inscribed Thunderchief model to President Johnson on behalf of the 100 Mission Pilot's Club.

Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara, and the president's pet dog Suki, accompanied the President in Air Force One. They were met by General John P. McConnell, Air Force Chief of Staff, and Colonel Robert L. Cardenas, 835 Air Division Commander. In his address to the crowd that included wives of men still in Vietnam, the President said, "I give you the deep gratitude and the pride this nation feels in all of you. ... You hold in your hands the power to destroy any adversary on earth. And yet you are fighting a limited war with restraint, with skill, and with

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judgment and compassion. Together, we will persevere in making the skies over Vietnam an arena which history will honor as the place where freedom found a new life and peace was finally won."

*23 TFW History, 1 Jul - 31 Dec 65, USAF microfilm MO554 & Republic Aviation Thunderchief Report, Vol III, No. 3, Nov 1967 & National Archives motion picture film shot list control No. NWDNM(m)-342-USAF-43634.*

**15-Feb-68**

2354

(Approximate date) "At a special presentation ceremony last month at McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas, 55 Thunderchief pilots were awarded special certificates by Republic for completing 100 missions over North Vietnam."

"Air Force Cross Awarded To Thunderchief Pilot -- The Air Force's highest award for heroism was recently awarded to Lieutenant Colonel Harry Schurr, a 100-mission F-105 pilot who is now stationed at McConnell Air Force Base. The decoration was presented to the pilot by Lieutenant General Albert P. Clark, vice commander of the Tactical Air Command. Lt Col Schurr was cited for extraordinary heroism while leading a strike force of 20 Thunderchiefs over North Vietnam. Although his aircraft had been heavily damaged by enemy anti-aircraft fire, Schurr successfully destroyed a key railroad and highway bridge. He is now assigned to the Kansas base as commander of the 4519th Combat Crew Training Squadron." He previously commanded the 469 TFS at Korat. He was one of three F-105 pilots and one Wild Weasel EWO, along with F-4C pilot Col Robin Olds, who received the Air Force Cross for the successful attack on Hanoi's Paul Doumer Bridge on 11 August 1967.

Capt Bruce J. Lotzbire, an F-105 instructor pilot at McConnell, was among those who received Republic Aviation's 100-mission certificates. He had flown 100 missions while assigned to the 357 TFS at Takhli between April and October 1967. He remained as an instructor pilot at McConnell until December 1971. After 33 years in the Air Force, he retired as a Major General on 1 June 1995.

Capt Howard L. Bodenhamer, also assigned to McConnell, was one of the pilots who received a certificate. He had completed 100 missions in August 1967 while flying with the 354 TFS at Takhli.

Lt Col Gerald F. "Jerry" Fitzgerald, was one of the 55 pilots who received his 100-mission certificate. Previously he had commanded the 13 TFS at Korat, RTAFB, Thailand.

Capt Donald O. Austin was one of the pilots who received a 100-mission certificate. He was a former 34 TFS pilot who had flown from Korat but was now assigned to the 561 TFS as an F-105 RTU instructor pilot.

Maj Edward C. Jones, who had flown with the 34 TFS, received a 100-mission certificate.

Capt Steven J. Savonen, an instructor pilot in the 562 TFS, also received his 100-mission certificate. He had been assigned to the 469 TFS at Korat.

Capt Richard L. O'Connor was one of the pilots receiving a 100-mission certificate.

Lt Col William E. Augsburger was a former 34 TFS pilot who received a 100-mission certificate.

Maj Bobby L. Martin, the first Wild Weasel pilot to have flown 100 missions, received a 100-mission certificate. He had been assigned to the 354 TFS at Takhli but had flown missions with the 13 TFS from Korat.

Capt Jack A. Phillips, an IP with the 560 TFS, flew his 100th mission with the 34 TFS on 2 August

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1967.

Capt Robert L. Martin, who flew his 100th with the 34 TFS, received his Republic 100-mission Certificate at McConnell.

Maj Paul F. Koeltzow received his 100-mission certificate.

Capt Jackie R. Youngblood was a former 34 TFS pilot who received his Republic 100-mission Certificate at McConnell.

*Thunderchief World Wide Report, Vol III, No 7, March, 1968 & Gen Lotzbire's biography on [www.af.mil/news/biographies/lotzbire\\_bj.html](http://www.af.mil/news/biographies/lotzbire_bj.html).*