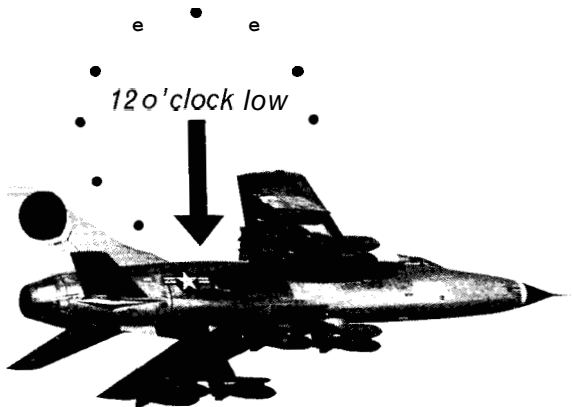


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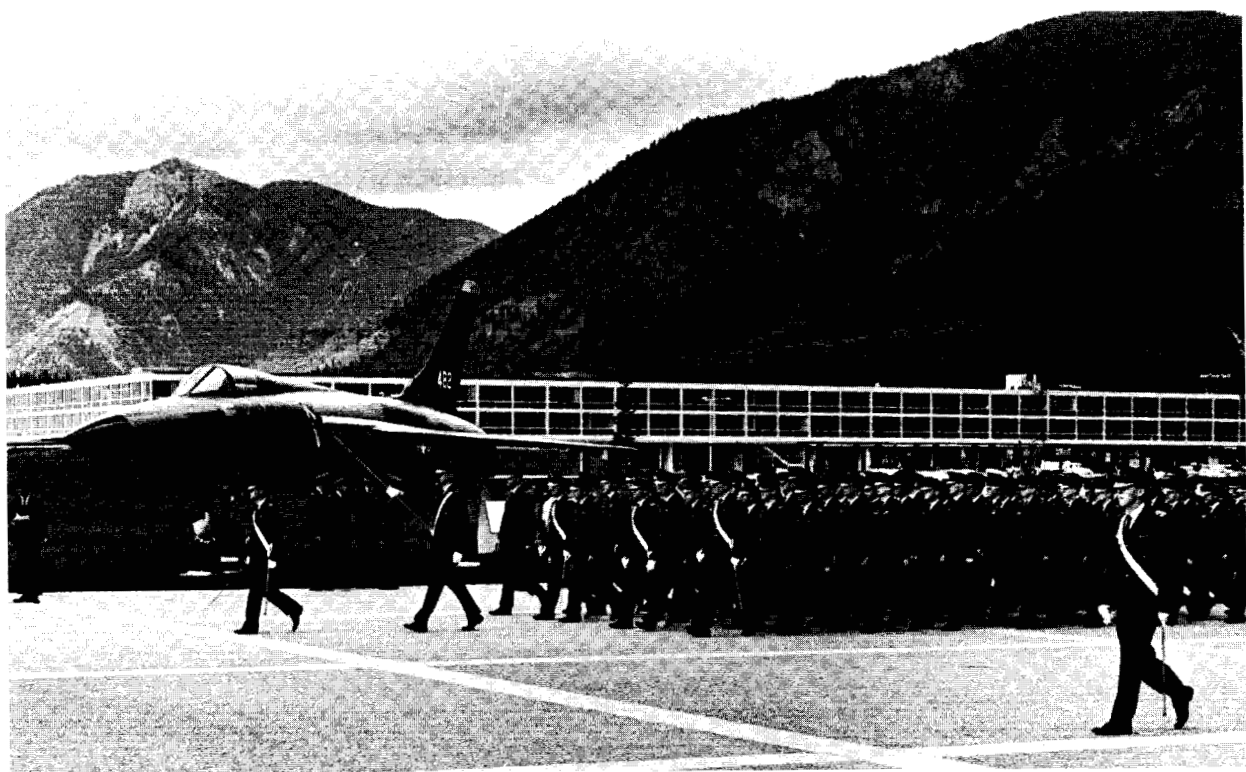
# Thunderchief

Worldwide Report  
on Republic's F-105  
Fighter-Bomber



FARMINGDALE, L. I., N. Y.

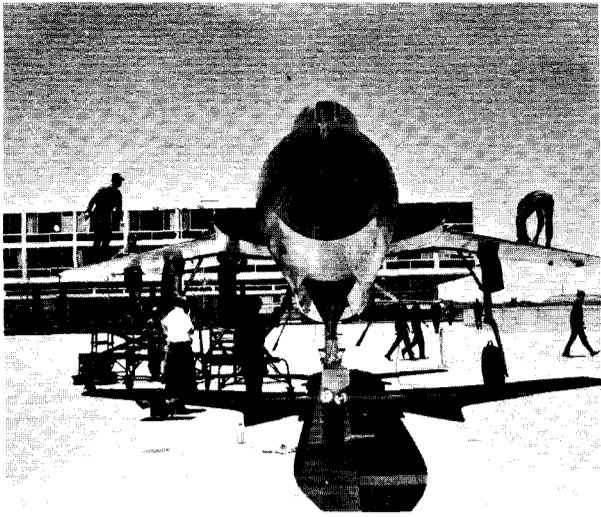
Vol. III No. 10 June, 1968



Members of the Air Force Academy Cadet Wing march past F-105 Thunderchief fighter-bomber.

THUNDERCHIEF FIGHTER-BOMBER AND SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED AT AIR FORCE ACADEMY -- During special ceremonies last month, an F-105 Thunderchief was put on permanent display at the Air Force Academy and a scholarship was dedicated in honor of Lt. Karl W. Richter, an F-105 pilot who was killed over North Vietnam after completing 198 missions.

The Thunderchief, built from parts salvaged from ten F-105s which had been battle-damaged in Vietnam, was presented to the cadets prior to the scholarship dedication. The F-105 was put together at Sacramento Air Materiel Area, McClellan AFB, California, by members of the 2951st Combat Logistics Support Squadron. Cadet Second Class Terry L. Balven, chairman of the Cadet Heritage Committee, dedicated the aircraft.



Made from battle-damaged parts of ten Thunderchiefs, the Academy F-105 was built and flown disassembled to Colorado Springs and then reassembled by members of the 2951st Combat Logistics Support Squadron,



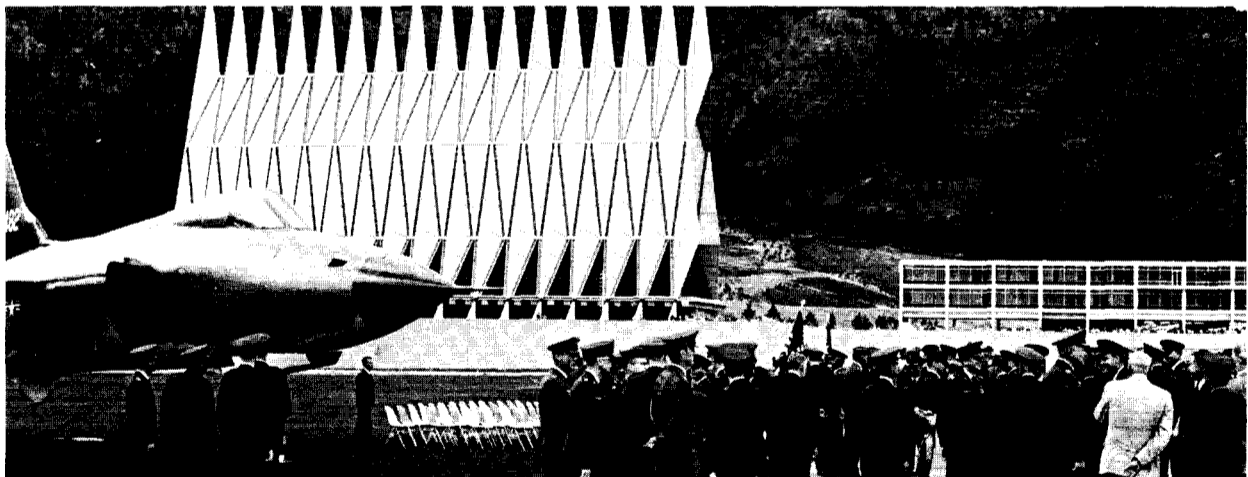
Nine members of the 2951st Combat Logistics Support Squadron who reassembled the Thunderchief at the Air Force Academy are shown in this photograph. They were, from left to right, Lt. Richard A. Follett, M. Sgt. Jack D. Jones, T. Sgt. Walter B. Hill, Sgt. John H. Russell, S. Sgt. Carl Dyer and Airmen 1. C. Marty Quattlegaum, Raymond E. Granstrand, Creighton P. Wong and Joseph D. Ayotte.

The Richter scholarship was presented by the Fairchild Hiller Corporation immediately after the dedication. Donald J. Strait, general manager of Fairchild Hiller's Republic Aviation Division, made the presentation of the annual Falcon Foundation grant in honor of the memory of Lieutenant Richter. Also, a portrait of the lieutenant, painted by artist Maxine McCaffrey, was presented to the academy. "Lieutenant Richter earned respect and admiration because he repeatedly demonstrated those traits of



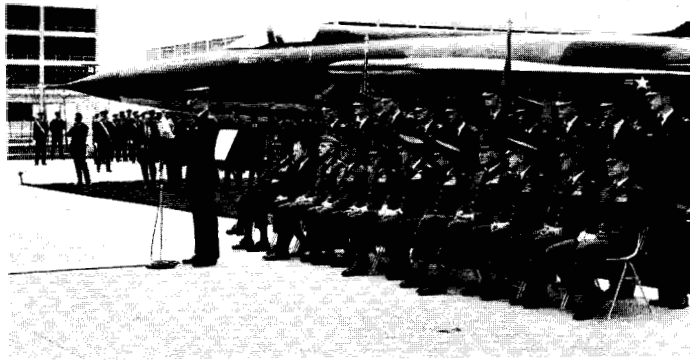
Lt. Gen. Thomas S. Moorman, Academy Superintendent, chats with Capt. Leonard "Lucky" Ekman, center, and Howard Bodenhamer, right. Ekman and Bodenhamer are both Academy graduates who have completed 100 combat missions or more over North Vietnam.

dedication, perseverance and courage ...", Strait said of the pilot during the ceremony. "Lieutenant Richter is representative of all Academy graduates who have served or who have died in Southeast Asia." Richter, who graduated from the Academy in 1964, was the first Air Force Academy graduate to be so honored. The yearly scholarship will provide a year's preparatory schooling to a qualified candidate who desires to enter the Air Force Academy.



Prior to the Thunderchief dedication, cadets and Air Force officials viewed the F-105 before the Air Force Academy chapel.

# Worldwide Report on Republic's F-105 Fighter-Bomber **Thunderchief**



In the photograph above left, Cadet Second Class Terry L. Balven, chairman of the Cadet Heritage Committee, addresses the Cadet Wing during the ceremony. Seated in the front row, from left to right, are: Lt. Gen. Thomas S. Moorman, Academy Superintendent; Donald J. Strait, General Manager, Republic Aviation; Maj. Gen. George B. Simler, Director of Operations, Hq. USAF; Brig. Gen. Robert F. McDermott, Academy Dean of Faculty; Brig. Gen. William S. Chairsell, Asst. for Southeast Asia, Air Force Systems Command; Col. Robin Olds, Cadet Commandant; Col. Robert R. Scott, who commanded the first Air Force F-105 squadron and later the 355th TFW at Takhli; Col. Frank Merritt, Athletics Director, Air Force Academy; Maj. Merlyn H. Dethlefsen, a former F-105 pilot and Medal of Honor recipient; and Capts. Leonard "Lucky" Ekman and Howard Bodenhamer, both academy graduates.

In the photo above, Simler addresses the cadets during the F-105 dedication while Chairsell speaks during the scholarship presentation in the photo left. Chairsell was Richter's wing commander in Southeast Asia.



The portrait of Lt. Richter is viewed by, from left to right, Donald J. Strait, Republic Aviation Division general manager, Robert J. Smith, Falcon Foundation president, and Ludwig Richter, the pilot's father.