WALKER, Thomas T.
Class of 1961

Captain Walker was known as a tough competitor and full of spirit. He was killed on 7 April 1966 in Vietnam combat. He was a navigator of a B-57. His plane struck trees as he attempted to pull off a target on a bomb run near Laos and crashed. He had been injured on another mission on 25 February 1966 when his RB-66 aircraft was struck by hostile fire and he was forced to eject over water, where he was rescued. Walker had participated in "Operation Dominic"--a joint Department of Defense Atomic Energy Commission nuclear test series in the Pacific in order to keep US defensive arsenal adequate for protection (compared to the former USSR). Walker had been a Cadet Squadron Supply Officer at the Academy. His name is on the USAFA War Memorial for his sacrifice while serving the country. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart.

Narrative compiled by Heather Beer, Association of Graduates intern, Summer 2005.