ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

COLORADO 80840

13 May 1966

TO THE CLASS OF 1963:

The fact that this letter follows so closely my letter to you of 7 March - concerning the deaths of several of your classmates - increases considerably my remorse at having to inform you of two additional losses within the past few weeks.

On 19 April 1966, while on an F-105 bombing mission in North Vietnam, 1Lt Lee A. Adams was killed as a result of the crash of his aircraft, for reasons yet unknown. Lee was carried in missing status until just recently, when Hq USAF released evidence sufficient to establish the fact that he died at the time of the crash. To date there has been no recovery of remains. Lee was single, survived by his parents. For those of you wishing to write the family, their address is:

Mr. and Mrs. Clive L. Adams
Star Rt #1, Box 115
Willits, California

Since I was not personally acquainted with Lee I can add little, other than my own personal regrets and prayers, to your private estimate of the loss involved. Needless to say, Lee was doing our primary job, and for that reason alone deserves our gratitude for his efforts.

Also, I must inform you that on 24 April 1966, while on a combat mission in North Vietnam, 1Lt Jerry D. Driscoll was forced to eject when his F-105 was struck by enemy ground fire. Just prior to reaching the target area, Jerry reported that his aircraft had been struck. One of the members of his flight sighted fuel streaming from the aft section, and then the plane burst into flames. Jerry ejected, with a good chute followed by beeper signals. Unfortunately, no recovery was possible due to intense enemy activity in the immediate area.

Jerry is single, and his mother, Mrs. Anne D. Driscoll, resides at 217 S. Bodin Street in Hinsdale, Illinois. I am sure that she would be happy to hear from any of you who care to write.

I met Jerry in late January on a trip to S.E.A., and I was most impressed with his professional approach to his job. Although junior in his job, he struck me as a capable and thorough tiger, a credit to each of you.

Once again I must extend to you the regrets of our group at the loss of one of ours. I trust that you will have a few moments in which to remember these fine people whom we must now replace by our own increased performance. Rest assured that their contribution is well marked by us, and that we sincerely appreciate their efforts and yours. To them, good luck and Godspeed.

Regretfully,

Richard T Mathews

RICHARD T. MATHEWS
President
Association of Graduates