



Klamath Falls is close to excellent training airspace, reducing the 'dead' time in transit to the exercise areas. The surrounding terrain offers different challenges, especially for the low-altitude portion of the syllabus.

upgrade and modify the F-15s. The wing has been allocated the necessary funding to incorporate all the ongoing modifications to the F-15, except maybe for the Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar upgrade that will take some years before it will be incorporated in the flying training unit, as war-fighting planes will be fitted first. All the other modifications we received first. Next year the plan is to integrate the Helmet Mounted Cueing System in the four-ship linked simulators to give the students some degree of familiarity with the system before they go to their operational unit. This we obviously need to address in the syllabus and integrate into the course."

"Thinking that an active-duty FTU only trains active-duty pilots and an ANG FTU only trains Guard pilots is a wrong perception. Both units at

Tyndall and Kingsley Field provide training to both active-duty and Air National Guard pilots, but as a result of the 325th becoming the FTU to train the new F-22 Raptor pilots, the active-duty training unit at Tyndall is no longer able to provide sufficient F-15 training hours and the 173rd has to a large extent taken on this training requirement. Consequently, the influx of active-duty students at Kingsley Field has increased significantly since, and in 2006 some 65 percent of the students are on active duty.

The total number of pilots is increasing too. In fiscal year '05 a total of 18 B-course equivalent (BCE) were trained, and in FY '06 and '07 this will be increased to 26 BCEs, while in fiscal year '08 it is projected that between 30 and 34 BCEs will be trained. This stepped-increase obviously has a significant impact on the amount of flight hours, considering that each student pilot requires a total of 118 sorties before graduation and that the total number of B-course students will nearly double in four years. In fiscal year 2005 the 173rd accumu-

F-15C 79-0022 is the 173rd FW's flagship, assigned to unit commander Colonel Tom 'Shoot' Schiess. It carries the 'Let's Roll' artwork on the nose, and wears an Iraqi flag to commemorate a 28 January 1991 kill over a MiG-23 trying to escape to Iran, achieved with an AIM-7 Sparrow. At the time of the kill the aircraft was flown by Captain Donald S. 'Muddy' Watrous, a pilot of the Soesterberg-based 32nd TFS but detached to the 525th TFS, 36th TFW flying from Incirlik. The aircraft itself was confusingly allocated to the 22nd TFS.

