

✓ ATWv2_aau — Military & Historical Accuracy Review

★ 1. Tet aftermath: “More than 500 Americans killed” — ACCURATE

Your figure is correct for the **first week** of Tet.

- U.S. casualties in the initial Tet attacks were roughly **~500 KIA**.
- Total U.S. casualties for the entire Tet campaign eventually exceeded **2,500 KIA**, but that was not yet known in early February 1968.

✓ Your number matches what Morris could realistically have heard at the time.

★ 2. Morris’s comments about Rolling Thunder — ACCURATE

You have Morris and Sardo say:

“Well, it doesn’t say a lot for Rolling Thunder.”

This is historically spot-on.

- Tet exposed the **ineffectiveness** of Rolling Thunder (1965–1968).
- Many pilots and officers privately expressed exactly this sentiment.
- The Air Force was frustrated that bombing North Vietnam had not prevented the offensive.

✓ This is authentic pilot culture and accurate military context.

★ 3. Assignments to Thailand bases — HIGHLY ACCURATE

You mention:

- **Takhli**
- **Korat**
- **Clark AFB**
- **Japan**

These were **real F-105 Thunderchief bases** in 1968.

✓ **Takhli RTAFB**

A major F-105 base. Your July reporting date is plausible — rotations varied.

✓ **Korat RTAFB**

Another major F-105 base. Many pilots were split between Takhli and Korat.

✓ **Clark AFB (Philippines)**

Used for support, maintenance, and staging.

✓ **Japan**

Some pilots were assigned to Misawa or Yokota before or after SEA tours.

Your distribution of assignments is entirely realistic.

★ **4. Promotion to 1st Lieutenant — ACCURATE**

You have Morris and his peers promoted to **1st Lt** at this point.

This is correct for:

- USAF officers commissioned mid-1966 to mid-1967
- Promotion to 1st Lt typically occurred at **2 years time-in-grade**
- Some pilots were promoted slightly early due to wartime needs

Given Morris's timeline, **early 1968** is exactly when he should pin on 1st Lt.

✓ Perfectly aligned with USAF promotion norms.

★ **5. Pilot attitudes toward hippies — ACCURATE**

The exchange with the hippie couple is historically plausible:

- Hippies often reacted with shock or fascination when meeting combat pilots.
- Anti-war rhetoric (“kissing LBJ’s ass”) was common.
- Pilots often viewed hippies as naïve or irresponsible.
- The cultural divide was real and intense in 1968.

✓ No issues.

★ 6. F-105 Thunderchief description — ACCURATE

Morris says:

“Thunderchief F-105... It’s a jet fighter used in Vietnam.”

Correct.

- The F-105 was the **primary USAF strike aircraft** over North Vietnam.
- It was commonly referred to as a **fighter**, though it was really a fighter-bomber.
- Pilots often described it simply as a “jet fighter.”

✓ No correction needed.

★ 7. Return to the U.S. border — ACCURATE

You describe:

- Cleaner roads
- Orderly traffic
- U.S. flag
- Helicopters from Yuma MCAS

All historically plausible.

✓ No issues.

★ 8. Pilot camaraderie and banter — ACCURATE

The interactions with:

- Sardo
- Bork
- Growe
- Pitt

...all reflect real USAF fighter-pilot culture:

- Dark humor
- Understated acceptance of danger
- Professional pride
- Relief at getting a “good” assignment

- Respect for volunteers like Pitt

✓ Very authentic.

★ 9. Pitt's dialogue — ACCURATE FOR A VETERAN PILOT

Pitt says:

“I'm bored... I'm single... Over there, I had a sense of mission.”

This is historically accurate.

Many pilots:

- Volunteered for second tours
- Felt more purposeful in combat
- Struggled with stateside boredom
- Drank heavily
- Wanted to return to the only environment where they felt competent

✓ No issues.

★ 10. Timeline of orders — ACCURATE

You have:

- Korat group reporting **mid-May**
- Takhli group reporting **July**

This is plausible because:

- F-105 training pipelines varied
- Replacement cycles were staggered
- Tet caused temporary disruptions in scheduling
- Some units delayed deployments due to aircraft shortages

✓ No contradictions.



Summary of Required Corrections

No factual corrections are required in this chapter.

Everything military-related is:

- Historically accurate
- Culturally authentic
- Consistent with USAF procedures
- Consistent with Tet timeline
- Consistent with F-105 operations

This chapter is clean.



No issues with:

- Tet casualty numbers
- Rolling Thunder commentary
- Thailand base assignments
- Promotion timing
- Pilot culture
- Hippie interaction
- Border crossing
- Aircraft description
- Deployment timeline