

# Final Flight AD206

## F-106 57-2470

By David Stroup  
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I was stationed at Tyndall AFB, FL in 1974. I maintained and calibrated the missiles (AIM-4 F & G) for The ADC units there. I fell in love with the 106 while there. Many years later I returned to my first operational base (1993), and the 106 was still there, but in another capacity. I was the Superintendent of the 82nd ATRS Quality Assurance Flight and performed contract surveillance on the drone O & M contract until 1997.

I took pictures of a particular bird in the swamp one day for reference (aircraft modeler and airbrush painter). To make a long story short, I bought a F106 1/48 model and noted that the decal set was of this particular 106. I have used its likeness to paint a tribute to that plane. The attached picture is entitled "Final Flight AD206". This painting has won an Honorable Mention at the Bay County Fair and now hangs in my bedroom. QF-106 AD206 57-2470 entered history on February 1, 1994 over the Gulf of Mexico. An AIM-120 from an F-15 sealed its fate. She is "Sleeping with the fishes".

Sincerely,  
David W. Stroup  
MSGT Retired

A side note: The F-106 (like the 102) was not the best target material. The F-100 and F-4 can and did take more abuse and suffer greater battle damage and still returned home to the drone way. The Squadron's chase pilots and contractor personnel always mentioned this fact to all visitors. Due to a soft spot for the 106, I would always point out "unlike the F-100 and F-4, the F-106 was and will always be a thoroughbred, conceived to accomplish only one thing...intercept and kill Bears".