

[MISSION NAME] 640216 Bloody Sunday over LAOS

TARGET: C-123 Provider
DEFENSES: none

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: Khe Phat Airfield
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (1) T-28D (VPAF)
ORD LOADOUT: 50 Cal.

CALLSIGN: Van Bay
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 0 / 27 NM
ETD: 09.57 TIME OVER TARGET: 10.10

WEATHER BRIEF: SCT 3000 FT WINDS 2702G03 VIS 25 NM

TOP SECRET



HISTORY

In 1960 a former RTAF (Royal Thai Air Force) T-28 pilots. Lieutenant Chert Saibory, defected in Laos.

Described by the US instructors as the "most aggressive" of all, he offered his services to commander Kong Le, but he was turned down. Remaining in Vientianne, Saibory joined the RLAF (Royal Lao Air Force).

Once General Phoumi returned to power he flew many combat sorties but was never promoted in rank. For unclear reasons, in September 1963 he decided to defect once more and during an airshow that was to be staged over Savannakhet he flew his T-28 away from the rest of formation, heading to North Vietnam.

Instead of commissioning him in their air force the North Vietnamese imprisoned Saibory. Several months later his T-28 was refurbished and serialled "963", in commemoration of the date when it was acquired.

The plane became the first operative fighter aircraft of the VPAF (Vietnam People's Air Force) and despite it was basically a trainer, it was used for different purposes, even as a night fighter.

On February 16 1964, while patrolling the border between Vietnam and Laos, pilots Nguyen Van Bay and Le Tien Phuoc shot down an US C-123 Provider, which is considered to be the very first American plane downed during the Vietnam War.

All but one crewman died in the impact and the circumstances and the exact location of the downing are still uncertain.



GAMEPLAY

Take off from Khe Phat airfield and follow all the waypoints, as you were performing a routine patrol flight. Once flying over the border between North Vietnam and Laos, in an area called Ban Raving, you will encounter a lonely C-123 Provider heading West. Take it down with your 50 Cal.



[MISSION NAME] 640802 Tonkin Gulf Incident (YAP version)

TARGET: P-4 PT Boats attacking USS Maddox

DEFENSES: 14.5 MM KPV
BEST BAILOUT: FEET WET

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: VF-53 CVA-14 Ticonderoga
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (2) F-8E Crusaders
ORD LOADOUT: (4) LAU-33A, 20MM

CALLSIGN: COWBOY
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 330 / 57 NM
ETD: 18.35 TIME OVER TARGET: 14.42

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN
WEATHER BRIEF: SCT 4000 FT WINDS 3603G08 VIS 40 NM

TOP SECRET



HISTORY

In August 1694, intelligence reports indicated that the North Vietnamese were becoming increasingly nervous about the DeSoto (DeHaven Special Operations off Tsigta0) Patrols performed along their coasts, to probe defences and targets.

The American destroyer USS Maddox DD-731 was steaming off the coast on the morning of August 2 when its radars picked distant contacts. By mid-afternoon three Soviet made P-4 PT boats materialised in column. Maddox opened fire as the enemy boats closed in and the Communist PTs answered back. The 20-minutes fight ended with all the P-4s damaged, while USS Maddox was hit by a single 14.5 mm round.

USS Ticonderoga F-8s answered the call for air support from the destroyer. VF-51 Cdr James Bond Stockdale and his wingman Lt(jg) Dick Hastings and Cdr Robair F Mohrhardt with number 2 Lt Cdr C Everett Southwick from VF-53 attacked the P-4s.

Stockdale and Hastings arrived first on the scene and fired Zuni rockets but both missed. When VF-53 Crusaders joined in Mohrhardt and Southwick strafed the PTs with 20mm cannons, leaving one boat smoking and eventually dead in the water.



GAMEPLAY

Take off from the Ticonderoga and head to the USS Maddox position to perform an anti-shipping attack against enemy PT Boats. Direct your wingman effectively. Engage and sink any enemy ship treating friendly forces, then return to the Tico to trap. Look for the Ball.

Formation flight. Flight discipline in picking targets the others don't hit. Getting back aboard ship.



[MISSION NAME] 640908 Daggers in the night

TARGET: trucks along Ho Chi Minh Trail
DEFENSES: 51mm, small arms
BEST BAILOUT: South, out of combat area

TOP SECRET

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 509th FIS Da Nang
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (2) F-102A Delta Dagger
ORD LOADOUT: (24) FFAR rockets, (6) AIM-4

CALLSIGN: DAGGER
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 180 / 80 NM
ETD: 20.00 TIME OVER TARGET: 20.15

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN
WEATHER BRIEF: CLEAR 4000 FT WINDS 2702G03 VIS 30 NM



HISTORY

Universally known as the "Deuce", the F-102 Delta Dagger served in Vietnam flying mostly as a patrol fighter and bomber escort.

Initially, F-102 detachments began to be sent to Southeast Asia in 1962, after radar contacts detected by ground radars were thought to be North Vietnamese Il-28 "Beagle" bombers, considered to be a credible threat in that period.

Later on, the B-52 Stratofortress strike missions codenamed "Arc Light" were escorted by F-102s and it was during one of these missions that one of them was shot down by a North Vietnamese MiG-21, in 1968.

The Deuce was also employed in the air-to-ground role with limited success, although neither the aircraft nor its pilots were designed for that specific task.

The 509th Fighter Interceptor Squadron arrived at Da Nang Air Base the 4th of August 1964 from Clark Air Base, Philippines. The planes were equipped with 24 2.75 inches FFAR rockets in the fuselage bay doors, which could be used against various types of North Vietnamese targets in daylight.

At night it proved less dangerous to use heat-seeking Falcon missiles in conjunction with the F-102's nose-mounted IRST (Infrared Search & Track) on high risk raids along the Ho Chi Minh trail.

Delta Daggers armed with unguided rockets made several attacks on various Viet Cong encampments, and the heat-seeking air-to-air missiles were even used to lock onto enemy campfires. The plane demonstrated to be surprisingly effective and pilots often reported many secondary explosions coming from their targets.



GAMEPLAY

Take off from Da Nang airbase and head North West following your waypoints. It will be extremely dark, so keep your lights flashing. You will then see some campfires and the lights of the trucks along the trail. They are your targets, try to eliminate as many as you can, then head home and land.



[MISSION NAME] 650403 First Shots (YAP version)

TARGET: destroy AAA defending Dong Phong Thuong Bridge

DEFENSES: HEAVY AAA

BEST BAILOUT: FEET WET

TOP SECRET

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: VA-211 "Fighting Checkmates" CVA-19 Hancock
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (4) F-8E Crusaders
ORD LOADOUT: (2) LAU-10A, (4) LAU-3A, 20MM
CALLSIGN: COBRA

HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 319 / 15 NM

ETD: 09.38

TIME OVER TARGET: 09.40

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN

WEATHER BRIEF: OSCT 7500 FT WINDS 27004G08 VIS 30.NM



HISTORY

The first acknowledged engagement between US Navy Crusaders and Vietnamese People's Air Force (VPAF) MiG-17s occurred on April 3 1965 during a Rolling Thunder strike. The targets were several bridges, considered to be a key part of the enemy supply lines to the south. A-4s Skyhawk from VA-212 and VA-216 were sent to hit the Dong Phong Thuong Bridge near Ham Rong, while VF-211 F-8Es from USS Hancock, armed with Zuni rockets, were supposed to suppress the AAA. The Crusaders, in sections of two planes each, were flown by Lt. Jerry Unruh and his wingman, Lt. Bobby Hulse, and by Lt. Cdr Spence Thomas and his wingman Ens. Ray Lorang.

The Crusaders climbed to 10,000ft, to start their run against AAA sites defending the bridge. Clouds and fog obscured the target and as they were closing up six MiG-17s of the 921st Fighter Regiment from Noi Bai, near Hanoi, rose to intercept. Two of them homed in on the F-8s whose pilots, now making a second run, were intent on the bridge. Lt. Cdr. Thomas F-8, hit by a 23mm and 37mm burst, literally seemed to explode.

The Crusader, although severely damaged, incredibly remained in the air. Thomas punched in his afterburner and raced away from the MiGs, diverted to Da Nang airbase and safely landed.



GAMEPLAY

This mission starts quite close to the target area. Your primary job is to suppress the enemy anti-air artillery operating in the vicinity of the Dong Phong Thuong Bridge. If you or the A-4s are jumped by the MiGs, jettison your ordnance and go after them. If you survive or when all enemy planes are down or gone go back to the Hancock.

This time you have no missiles but only 20mm cannons. Four stars if you manage to get aboard in one piece.



[MISSION NAME] 650403 First Shots VPAF

TARGET: A-4 Skyhawks
DEFENSES: F-8 Crusaders

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 921 FR, Quang To Airfield
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (3) MiG-17
ORD LOADOUT: 23MM, 37 MM

CALLSIGN: Nhat Chieu
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 188 / 12 NM
ETD: 09.38 TIME OVER TARGET: 09.45

WEATHER BRIEF: OCST 4000 FT WINDS 3603G08 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



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GAMEPLAY

The mission starts in the air. You are patrolling the area over the city of Thanh Hoa when the radio calls for several enemy aircrafts approaching from the East. Their objectives are various important structures in the vicinity, and your job is to intercept and prevent them to drop their ordnance.

Since you are closer to the A-4 Skyhawks, they will be your primary target. This mission takes part early in the war, and you are flying a MiG-17 Fresco-A with no afterburner.

When you are out of ammo go back to Quang To and land.



[MISSION NAME] 650920 Zippers over Hainan

TARGET: PLANAF Shenyang J-6s

DEFENSES: J-6s

BEST BAILOUT: feet wet West

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 436th TFS, Da Nang AB

AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (2) F-104C Starfighter

ORD LOADOUT: (4) AIM-9B, 20MM

CALLSIGN: PYTHON

HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 270 / 5 NM

ETD: 11.00 TIME OVER TARGET: 11.05

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN

WEATHER BRIEF: SCT 4000 FT WINDS 3603G08 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



F-104 Starfighters join the battle

September 1965

By Capt. JAMES ROZANSKI
USAF Combat News



Starfighters are the only aircraft capable of escorting strategic bombers.



HOW IT GOES — Maj. S. O. Blanchard (left), 436th Tactical Fighter Squadron flight leader, discusses the readiness of the F-104 Starfighter crewed by Maj. Robert L. Anderson (right), 26th Tactical Fighter Squadron, with a mission commander. (USAF Photo)



HISTORY

Designed in the middle Fifties by a team led by the head of Lockheed's Skunk Works, Clarence L. "Kelly" Johnson, the F-104 entered service as a multi-role fighter and fighter-bomber. The first unit to be equipped was the 479th Tactical Fighter Wing at George AFB California, in 1958.

In the early days of the Vietnam War, during operation "Rolling Thunder", the "Zip" was used both for air-superiority and air-support roles. Besides protecting USAF F-105s against VPAF MiGs, it was also used as an air defense for the RC-121D Warning Star, the airborne early warning platform patrolling the coasts of North Vietnam. The F-104s were successful in deterring enemy interceptors and performing CAS missions, however they were almost never involved in aerial combat and recorded no air-to-air kills during the conflict.

On 20 September 1965 three F-104Cs were lost when Captain Philip E. Smith strayed into Chinese airspace and was shot down. He was escorting an RC-121 over the Gulf of Tonkin when, due to equipment failure and incorrect navigational commands, he crossed the Chinese airspace over Hainan.

His aircraft was intercepted and shot down by two Shenyang J-6 fighters of the People's Liberation Army Naval Air Force (PLANAF). Captain Smith ejected successfully but was captured. He was first taken to Guangzhou for interrogation and then later transferred to Beijing.

Two more F-104Cs collided in mid-air the same day, while searching Smith's missing jet. He was released only on 15 March 1973, due to improving US-China relations following President Nixon's 1972 visit of the country.



GAMEPLAY

You and your wingman are just behind the Big Eye that you are escorting. All of a sudden, two bandits come out from the clouds and jump you. But they're not MiGs and they're not VPAF's: they're Shenyang J6s (Chinese MiG-19 copies) they're angry because you've crossed the border.

Do what you can and if you succeed try to go back to Da Nang. If so, you will need to get some fuel from Zebra on your way home. Remember: you have two Winders and the Vulcan and you are flying the fastest jet in the world: "the missile with a man in it".



[MISSION NAME] 650920 Zippers over Hainan PLANAF

TARGET: RC-121D WARNING STAR
DEFENSES: F-104C Starfighter
BEST BAILOUT:

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: Haikou Airfield, Hainan Island
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (2) Shenyang J-6
ORD LOADOUT: 30MM

CALLSIGN: LION
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 90 / 5 NM
ETD: 11.00 TIME OVER TARGET: 11.05

CONTROLLING AGENCY:
WEATHER BRIEF: SCT 4000 FT WINDS 3603G08 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



HISTORY

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GAMEPLAY

Now you are in the cockpit of a PLANAF (People's Liberation Army Naval Air Force) Shenyang J-6 scrambled from Haikou airfield on Hainan Island. The radar has detected a few unknown aircrafts approaching from East. They have entered the Chinese airspace and you must investigate. If they will not change their route you are authorized to open fire.

Take off and once in air tell your wingman to rejoin. The unknown planes are only 50 Km far from you, so you must act quickly. Take down the escort jets before and then the big plane.



[MISSION NAME] 651023 Skoshi Tigers

TARGET: VC Troops, Ben Cat village
DEFENSES: small arms
BEST BAILOUT: East, out of combat area

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 4503rd TFS, Bien Hoa Airbase SVN
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (2) F-5C Skoshi Tiger
ORD LOADOUT: (2) BLU-1C, (2) Mk82, (1) LAU-10A, 20MM

CALLSIGN: Anvil
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 180 / 15 NM
ETD: 10.00 TIME OVER TARGET: 10.10

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN
WEATHER BRIEF: SCT 4000 FT WINDS 2702G03 VIS 20 NM

TOP SECRET



HISTORY

In October 1965, the USAF began a five-month combat evaluation of the Northrop F-5A titled "Skoshi Tiger". A total of 12 aircraft were delivered for trials to the 4503rd Tactical Fighter Squadron, and after a few modifications, including the probe and drogue aerial refueling equipment, increased armor and improved instruments, they were redesignated F-5C.

Over the next six months, they flew in combat in Vietnam, flying more than 2,600 sorties, both from the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Bien Hoa over South Vietnam and from Da Nang Air Base, where operations were flown over Laos. Nine aircraft were lost in Vietnam, seven to enemy ground fire and two to operational causes.

Operations with 3rd TFW were declared a success, with the F-5 generally rated as being as capable a ground-attacker as the F-100, albeit having a shorter range. However, the program was more a political gesture that was intended to aid the export of F-5s, than a serious consideration of the type for US service.

From April 1966, the USAF aircraft continued operations under the auspices of the 10th Fighter Squadron, Commando, with their number boosted to 17 aircraft. In June 1967, the surviving aircraft of the 10th Fighter Squadron Commando, were transferred to the Republic of Vietnam Air Force.

In view of the performance, agility and size of the F-5, it might have appeared to be a good match against the similar MiG-21 in air combat; however, U.S. doctrine was to use heavy, faster and longer-range aircraft like the Republic F-105 Thunderchief and the McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II over North Vietnam.



GAMEPLAY

Take off from Bien Hoa with your wingman and head West, towards the village of Ben Cat. Friendly forces have been attacked and there is one downed Huey near the huts. Wait for the FAC to mark the enemies with his WP rockets and then hit the target with all you have: napalm, bombs, rockets and cannons. Direct your wingman also. Once you have depleted all your ordnance and ammo head back to Bien Hoa and land. Easy, but stay sharp.



[MISSION NAME] 670102 Operation Bolo (YAP version)

TARGET: VPAF MiG-21s

DEFENSES: MiGs, SA-2s

BEST BAILOUT: South, out of combat area

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 555th TFS - 433rd TFS

AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (20) F-4C Phantom II

ORD LOADOUT: (4) AIM-7E, (4) AIM-9E

CALLSIGN: OLDS

HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 143 / 24 NM

ETD: 13.30 TIME OVER TARGET: 13.35

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN

WEATHER BRIEF: OSCT 1400 FT WINDS 3603G08 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



HISTORY

In late 1966 the USAF was not permitted to bomb VPAF airbases and could only destroy enemy fighters in the air. Complicating this situation, enemy MiGs used to focus on heavy loaded F-105s and only initiated combat when they had a clear advantage.

In 1967 Col. Robin Olds, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing commander and his tactics officer, Capt. John "J.B." Stone, devised a masterful plan to lure and trap North Vietnamese MiG-21s by mimicking the vulnerable F-105s bombing formations and loadings.

On January 2nd, 555th TFS F-4s entered North Vietnam from North using the same route, altitude, and formation as a Thud strike. They also carried and operated electronic jamming pods commonly used by the F-105s. The North Vietnamese took the bait, and the MiGs came up to intercept what they thought was a bombing flight. At the same time, 433rd TFS F-4s came into North Vietnam from East to block the MiGs' escape to China and to orbit around their base, preventing them from landing.

Despite some problems caused by the overcast weather, the mission was a triumphant success. During the 12-minute engagement, seven North Vietnamese MiG-21s (about half of their operational force) were shot down with no USAF losses. Four days later another sortie, this time mimicking an F-4 reconnaissance flight, shot down two more MiG-21s. These crippling losses greatly reduced MiG activity for several months.



GAMEPLAY

The mission begins in air, near to the target. The MiGs are taking off from the Phúc Yên base. Destroy any enemy aircraft operating in the area. Use your wingman and your squadron effectively. When you are out of ordnance or all of the enemies are shot down, go back to your homebase at Ubon.

You are the Wolfpack Leader, a legend in the most powerful USAF fighter of the war. As Robin Olds used to say: "Go for it guys, I'm right with you!". Beware of SAMs.



[MISSION NAME] 670102 Operation Bolo - VPAF

TARGET: USAF F-4 Phantoms

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 921 FR, Noi Bai Airfield

AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (3) MiG-21F

ORD LOADOUT: (2) AA-2, 30MM

CALLSIGN: Le Hai

HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 270/14,5 NM

ETD: 13.30 TIME OVER TARGET: 13.40

WEATHER BRIEF: OSCT 1400 FT WINDS 3603G08 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



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GAMEPLAY

Your Flight has been scrambled from Noi Bai Airfield because the radar detected several enemy planes approaching from the North. Take off and try to get them over the clouds, before they could begin their bombing run and hit objectives downtown.

Try to get at least one Phantom and if you are lucky enough, land at your homebase. It will not be easy.

This mission is very hard: everyone thought they were slow and heavy loaded bombers, but in fact they are fast and heavy armed fighters. Seven MiG-21s were downed that day.



[MISSION NAME] 670501 The Mighty Scooter

TARGET: AAA emplacements and parked planes, Kep Airbase

DEFENSES: MiGs, SA-2s, AAA

BEST BAILOUT: East, out of combat area

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: VA-76, CVA-31

AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (4) A-4C Skyhawk

ORD LOADOUT: (8) ZUNI, 20MM

CALLSIGN: DAGGER

HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 311 / 48 NM

ETD: 09.38 TIME OVER TARGET: 09.44

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN

WEATHER BRIEF: SCT 4000 FT WINDS 2702G03 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



HISTORY

During the Vietnam War, the Navy's F-4 and F-8 squadrons were the main "distributors of MiG parts", but also the little A-4C contributed in: May 1st 1967, during a trip to the large VPAF base at Kep, near Hanoi.

On that day Lt. Cdr Ted Swartz, "TR", launched along with seven other VA-76 A-4s from the carrier Bon Homme Richard, CVA-31. VF-24 F-8s and A-4s from VA-212 made up the rest of the strike package of 22 jets.

Two of the F-8s turned back because of mechanical problems, leaving the rest of the strikes to press on. As they approached Kep, two MiG-17s appeared and a pair of F-8s broke off to pursue the interceptors.

Swartz was the leader of the AAA suppressor section, and was carrying Zuni pods, which each contained four big rockets. As the bombers hit the airfield, destroying as many as 30 parked MiGs, Swartz and his wingman, Lt John Waples, headed for flak sites on Kep's eastern side.

Diving towards his target, Swartz saw two MiGs taxiing onto the runway preparing to take off. He and Waples fired the Zunis, destroying both.

As they pulled up from the dive, they came under attack and tracers flew by their canopies. They spotted two more MiGs that had sneaked up behind them. Waples fired his cannon at the enemy fighters, but he had limited ammunition and he quickly ran out of bullets.

Swartz still had a few Zunis, and he slid in behind the MiGs and fired one of his rockets, which failed to hit the target. He fired again, but could not wait to see if he had hit the one in front of him. Just a few seconds later he saw a large column of black smoke on the ground.

He received a Silver Star for the only air-to-air kill made by an A-4.



GAMEPLAY

You are on route toward the VPAF's airbase of Kep, in the vicinity of Hanoi. Your main objectives are the surrounding AAA guns and radars, but also any other valuable target. There will be plenty of MiGs chasing you. It will not be easy to down them with the Zunis, but you also have guns...



[MISSION NAME] 670514 Gunfighter Kills (YAP version)

TARGET: VPAF MiG-17s

DEFENSES: MiGs, SA-2s

BEST BAILOUT: South, out of combat area

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 480th TFS

AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (8) F-4C Phantom II

ORD LOADOUT: (4) AIM-7E, (4) AIM-9D, SUU-16 Gunpod

CALLSIGN: GUNSLINGER

HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 90 / 2.5 NM

ETD: 15.30 TIME OVER TARGET: 15.35

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROSS

WEATHER BRIEF: SCT 4000 FT

TOP SECRET



MAXIMUM LOAD CAPACITIES

| STATION | WEIGHT (LBS) | | VOLUME (CU FT) | |
|------------------|--------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| | Basic | Maximum | Basic | Maximum |
| Outboard (1 & 2) | 10.0 | 20.0 | 5.0 | 10.0 |
| Inboard (3 & 4) | 10.0 | 20.0 | 5.0 | 10.0 |
| Centerline | 10.0 | 20.0 | 5.0 | 10.0 |
| Wing | 10.0 | 20.0 | 5.0 | 10.0 |

ACFT: F-4C Phantom II
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HISTORY

In the early days of the Vietnam War, the mighty F-4 Phantom II fighter jet had no guns. It was believed that guns were no longer necessary in modern dogfighting, having been replaced with IR missiles and homing radars. But American pilots soon learned that enemy MiGs had very big and devastating guns, and they wished to have one, too. The fastest and easiest solution was to carry a gunpod.

The SUU-16/A, a gunpod the Air Force shared with the Army, contained an M61A1 Vulcan cannon with 6 rotating 20mm barrels with 1200 rounds. The weapon could be installed both on the ventral attachment point (centerline station) and/or on the two external sub-wing pylons (outboard wing stations).

The pod was 16.57 ft long with a weight of 1,650 lbs. The pod was independently powered by a Ram Air Turbine (RAT), positioned on the right side of the gondola, which lowered into the slipstream to power the Vulcan's electric motor.

The 366th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW), based in Da Nang and known as "The Gunfighters," was the first unit to be authorized to use SUU-16 pods in air-to-air combat. The first cannon-armed F-4Cs began participating in operational missions in Route Packages V and VI on May 3, 1967. It did not take long to see results.

The first aerial victory of the SUU-16 came on May 14th, 1967, when Major Hargrove and Lieutenant Demuth shot down a MiG-17 aboard the F-4C serial number 64-0660, of the 480th TFS/366th TFW. Five minutes later, Captain Craig and his backseater 1st Lt. Talley made the second gun kill in another F-4C in the same battle.



GAMEPLAY

The mission begins in the air, above the city of Thai Nguyen. Your duty is to escort three flights of F-105 Thunderchiefs from 34th and 44th TFS en route to attack the city of Hanoi. Engage and destroy any enemy aircraft operating in the area. In addition to the standard AIM-9 Sidewinders and AIM-7 Sparrows, you and your flight will carry SUU-16/A gunpods loaded with 1200 rounds. You have plenty of ammunition, but use your fuel wisely as it's a long way home to Da Nang airbase.



[MISSION NAME] 670514 Gunfighter Kills VPAF

TARGET: F-105 Thunderchiefs
DEFENSES: F-4 Phantoms II

TOP SECRET

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 921 FR, Noi Bai Airfield
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (4) MiG-17F
ORD LOADOUT: 23MM, 37 MM

CALLSIGN: Tran Viet
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 0 / 30 NM
ETD: 15.30 TIME OVER TARGET: 15.50

WEATHER BRIEF: SCT 4000



HISTORY

In the early days of the Vietnam War, the mighty F-4 Phantom II fighter jet had no guns. It was believed that guns were no longer necessary in modern dogfighting, having been replaced with IR missiles and homing radars. But American pilots soon learned that enemy MiGs had very big and devastating guns, and they wished to have one, too. The fastest and easiest solution was to carry a gunpod.

The SUU-16/A, a gunpod the Air Force shared with the Army, contained an M61A1 Vulcan cannon with 6 rotating 20mm barrels with 1200 rounds. The weapon could be installed both on the ventral attachment point (centerline station) and/or on the two external sub-wing pylons (outboard wing stations).

The pod was 16.57 ft long with a weight of 1,650 lbs. The pod was independently powered by a Ram Air Turbine (RAT), positioned on the right side of the gondola, which lowered into the slipstream to power the Vulcan's electric motor.

The 366th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW), based in Da Nang and known as "The Gunfighters," was the first unit to be authorized to use SUU-16 pods in air-to-air combat. The first cannon-armed F-4Cs began participating in operational missions in Route Packages V and VI on May 3, 1967. It did not take long to see results.

The first aerial victory of the SUU-16 came on May 14th, 1967, when Major Hargrove and Lieutenant Demuth shot down a MiG-17 aboard the F-4C serial number 64-0660, of the 480th TFS/ 366th TFW. Five minutes later, Captain Craig and his backseater 1st Lt. Talley made the second gun kill in another F-4C in the same battle.



GAMEPLAY

Take off from Noi Bai and then head North West to intercept the incoming force of enemy strike aircrafts, whose objective is the city of Hanoi and the nearby airfields of Kep and Yen Bai.

Your primary objective are the F-105 Thunderchiefs but it will not be easy, because of the heavy escort of F-4 Phantoms.

Try to avoid them and concentrate on the bombers. Use your wingmen and then land back at Noi Bai. Five stars.



[MISSION NAME] 670721 MiG Masters (YAP version)

TARGET: VPAF MiG-17s and Shenyang J-5s
DEFENSES: MiGs, J-5s, AAA
BEST BAILOUT: feet wet East

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: VA24 - CVA-31 BON HOMME RICHARD
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (8) F-8H Crusader
ORD LOADOUT: (4) AIM-9D, 2MM

CALLSIGN: PYTHON
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 290 / 27 NM
ETD: 08.30 TIME OVER TARGET: 08.35

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN
WEATHER BRIEF: SCT 4000 FT WINDS 3603G08 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



HISTORY

US Navy Fighter Squadron 24, the "Fighting Renegades," was originally established as Fighter Squadron 211 in June 1955, at NAS Moffett Field. It was then redesignated VF-24 on 9 March 1959.

The first aircraft flown by the squadron was the FJ-3 Fury, aboard the USS Bon Homme Richard (CVA-31). In 1957, the unit transitioned to the new supersonic F8U Crusader, later renamed the F-8.

VF-24 made deployments to the Western Pacific aboard USS Midway, USS Bon Homme Richard, and USS Hancock from 1969 to 1975. While on duty, the squadron earned the Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation (2 awards), Meritorious Unit Commendation (5 awards), Battle Efficiency Award (1972), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (3 awards), and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

During the Vietnam War, while deployed on the Bon Homme Richard (Carrier Air Wing 21), pilots Lieutenant Commander Bobby C. Lee and Lieutenant Phillip R. Wood became the first VF-24 pilots to shoot down MiG aircraft over North Vietnam on 19 May, 1967. The MiGs were downed with AIM-9 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles.

Then on 21 July, 1967, Commander Marion H. Issacks and Lieutenant Commander Robert L. Kirkwood made the 3rd and 4th MiG kills for their squadron with 20mm guns and Sidewinder missiles, making VF-24 one of the Navy's first "Ace" squadrons: the "MiG Masters."



GAMEPLAY

The mission begins feet wet, not far from the target. Your duty is to escort friendly aircraft on their mission to Haiphong. Protect the five A-4 Skyhawk strike and SEAD flights from enemy interceptors. Then return to the Bonnie Dick to trap.

You will encounter some MiG-17F Frescos, a light and nimble Soviet single-seat jet fighter armed with deadly 23mm and 37mm cannons, as well as Shenyang J-5s, the Chinese licensed copy of the MiG-17. Three stars for the mission.



[MISSION NAME] 670721 MiG Masters VPAF

TARGET: A-4 Skyhawks
DEFENSES: F-8 Crusaders

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 923 FR, Cat Bi Airfield
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (4) J-5
ORD LOADOUT: 23MM, 37 MM

CALLSIGN: VAN COC
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 90 / 20 NM
ETD: 08.30 TIME OVER TARGET: 35.35

WEATHER BRIEF: SCT 4000 FT WINDS 3603G08 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



HISTORY

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GAMEPLAY

The mission begins in the air, short after takeoff. You have been ordered to intercept US attack aircraft coming from North. They are about 20 Km far from you, so you have a little time to plan your strategy. Your flight will fly Shenyang J-5s.

Unfortunately for you, they are not alone: just behind them you will discover a heavy escort force consisting in several F-8 Crusaders. You have 23MM and 37MM cannons, but they have IR missiles, so avoid to have one at your at six o'clock.

Use your wingmen and if you survive land back at Cat Bi. Five stars for this mission.



[MISSION NAME] 670811 Going Downtown (YAP version)

TARGET: Long Biên Bridge, Hanoi

DEFENSES: MiGs, SA-2s, AAA

BEST BAILOUT: South, out of combat area

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 333rd TFS from Takhli, RTAFB

AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (4) F-105D Thunderchief

ORD LOADOUT: (6) M-117, 20MM

CALLSIGN: AUSTIN

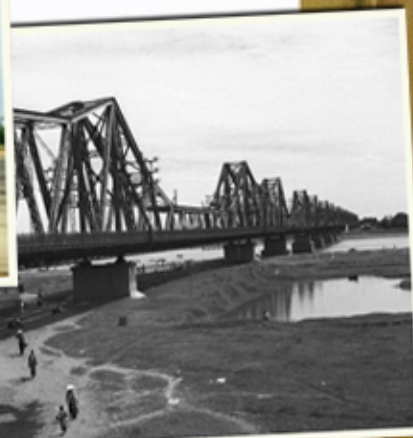
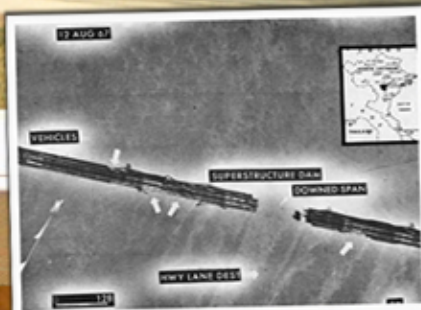
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 90 / 24.5 NM

ETD: 15.30 TIME OVER TARGET: 15.35

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN

WEATHER BRIEF: CLEAR 4000 FT WINDS 2702G03 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



HISTORY

On August 11th, 1967, the Long Biên Bridge in Hanoi, known to the Americans as the "Paul Doumer Bridge," was attacked by 20 USAF F-105 Thunderchief fighter-bombers, which managed to damage it with bombs.

The bridge was built between 1899 and 1902, designed by Daydé & Pillé architects in Paris, and opened in 1903. It was named in honor of Paul Doumer, the Governor-General of French Indochina who had commissioned its construction. Doumer would later become President of France in the 1930s.

With its 2.4 kilometres (1.5 mi) length it was, at that time, one of the longest bridges in Asia. Its construction was of great strategic importance in securing control of northern Vietnam and more than 3,000 Vietnamese workers took part in the building.

During the First Indochina War, it was across this bridge that the last contingent of French soldiers were evacuated along with the civilians on October 9th 1954, withdrawing from the Hà Nội Citadel. The Việt Minh then took possession of the bridge, officially renaming it Cầu Long Biên in October 1954, as Việt Minh troops entered the city.

Its strategic function later made it a key target for US bombers and the structure was heavily bombed during Vietnam War due to its critical position: it was the only bridge at that time across the Red River connecting Hanoi to the main port of Haiphong.

In March 1965, as the Americans unleashed "Operation Rolling Thunder", anti-aircraft guns were installed on the central towers. However, in the two following years the bridge was hit on no fewer than 10 times until August 11th 1967, when the central span was destroyed, severing the vital rail link across the Red River.



GAMEPLAY

The mission begins in the air, about 25 miles from the target. You are in command of a squadron, for a total of 8 aircrafts. Your primary task is to destroy or damage the bridge, but you can also command your wingmen to attack the AAA positions nearby. Beware of the many MiGs already airborne and SAMs.



[MISSION NAME] 670811 Going Downtown VPAF

TARGET: F-105 Thunderchiefs
DEFENSES: F-4 Phantoms II

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 921 FR, Noi Bai Airfield
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (4) MiG-17F
ORD LOADOUT: 23MM, 37 MM

CALLSIGN: Dang Khin
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 0 / 20 NM
ETD: 15.30 TIME OVER TARGET: 15.40

WEATHER BRIEF: CLEAR 4000 FT WINDS 3603G08 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



42. TOPKIN in flight - Photo by W. Frank Range (August 1967)



HISTORY

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GAMEPLAY

A massive enemy strike force is coming from North East. Take off from Noi Bai Airfield and stay low until you will see the F-105 Thunderchiefs, your main objective. Try to get them before they hit the bridge. If you are attacked by the Phantoms, try to make them follow you over a city or over an airfield, so that they will become an easy prey for the AAA and SAMS.



[MISSION NAME] Bombing of Lima 85 - VPAF

TOP SECRET

TARGET: USAF radar facility, troops and artillery

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: Dien Bien Phu Airbase

AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (3) Antonov An-2

ORD LOADOUT: (8) FAB-50 50kg bombs

WEATHER BRIEF: SCT 12000 FT WINDS 36002G02 VIS 40 NM



HISTORY

The monsoon kept American fighter-bombers from attacking North Vietnam for almost 6 months. A secret facility was built atop Phou Pha Thi mountain in Laos, not too far from Sam Neua, the home of the North Vietnamese communist ally, the Pathet Lao. Active for only a few months, it was a thorn in the side of the North Vietnamese and plans were laid to destroy it. This is one of the first attempts and a very strange story.

You may have seen the painting by Keith Woodcock at the Air America website (<http://www.air-america.org>). The whole story is there told accurately by its participants.

Four VPAF An-2 Colts departed Dien Bien Phu airport armed with mortar shells and rockets to destroy onto the facility that was aiding in the destruction of targets in NVN.

The two attacking aircraft were run down by an Air America Bell 204 and shot down by the mechanic. Amazing.



GAMEPLAY

You are in the cockpit of the third An-2 attacking Lima 85 site, callsign Van Phuong. Ngoc Dinh Lead and his wingman are just ahead of you. Your objective is to bomb the radar antenna and possibly the two M102 105mm howitzers on top of the hill.

Beware the Bell 204 and its deadly gunner, but do not get too low, or the small arms on the ground will tear you to pieces.

If you succeed to destroy the objective head back to Dien Bien Phu and land.

This one is harder than the the Air America's one. Four stars if you make it home.



[MISSION NAME] 680203 Deuces vs. MiGs

TARGET: MiG-21s

DEFENSES: MiGs

BEST BAILOUT: South, out of combat area

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 509th FIS, Da Nang

AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (2) F-102A Delta Dagger

ORD LOADOUT: (24) FFAR rockets, (6) AIM-4

CALLSIGN: VIPER

HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 338 / 60 NM

ETD: 09.30 TIME OVER TARGET: 09.40

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN

WEATHER BRIEF: SCT 4000 FT WINDS 2702G03 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



HISTORY

On February 3rd 1968 two F-102 Delta Daggers from the 509th FIS were flying an EB-66 escort mission at 3,000 ft near the Laotian border at Sam Neua. Major A.L. Lomax was the flight leader, with 1Lt Wallace Wiggins as his wingman.

In a VPAF airfield nearby, 921st FR pilots Pham Thanh Ngan and Nguyen Van Coc (who would end the war as the top VPAF ace with nine kills, including five F-105) took off on their fourth interception mission of the day, heading for a pair of enemy aircraft that had been detected on radar near Moc Chau.

As they approached the Laotian border, Ngan thought he saw a distant ECM Destroyer, but closer examination revealed the two Daggers. Lomax saw the MiGs, turned and fired three AIM-4D Falcons, all of which missed. Ngan manoeuvred into the blind spot behind Wiggins' aircraft and triggered an AA-2 "Atoll" missile, which remained stubbornly on its launch rail, and then a second missile, which hit the F-102A's tail. Van Coc also fired a missile, but it failed to guide correctly. The MiGs were then ordered to break off the engagement.

Wiggins reported a problem with his aircraft, and when Lomax checked it he saw the body of the unexploded "Atoll" protruding from the Deuce's rear fuselage. Lomax attempted to locate the MiGs again, but they rapidly departed and moments later he saw Wiggins' aircraft explode and disintegrate in flames. No ejection was attempted.

It was the only F-102 loss of the war to a MiG, and also a reminder the problems faced by a "Deuce" pilot: principally missiles that took 16 seconds to set up and minimal visibility from the cockpit, when caught by surprise by an expertly flown enemy MiG.



GAMEPLAY

The mission begins in the air, at 15,000 feet. You are just behind Hammer, the EB-66 Destroyer you are escorting. Stay with him and follow the waypoints. Red Crown will call for bogeys: stay sharp because they will attack the slower plane first. You must defend him, at all costs. Then go home.



[MISSION NAME] 680203 Deuces vs. MiGs VPAF

TARGET: F-102 Delta Daggers
DEFENSES: F-102

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 921st FR, Dien Bien Phu Airbase
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (2) MiG-21F13
ORD LOADOUT: (2) AA-2, 30MM

CALLSIGN: PHAM TUAN
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 0 / 42 NM
ETD: 09.30 TIME OVER TARGET: 09.40

WEATHER BRIEF: SCT 4000 FT WINDS 2702G03 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



HISTORY

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It was the only F-102 loss of the war to a MiG, and also a reminder the problems faced by a "Deuce" pilot: principally missiles that took 16 seconds to set up and minimal visibility from the cockpit, when caught by surprise by an expertly flown enemy MiG.



GAMEPLAY

Take off from Dien Bien Phu Airbase and head South at full speed: ground control radars have detected enemy forces approaching from that direction. You will find an unarmed EB-66 Destroyer ECM plane and his escort, a couple of F-102 Delta Daggers. Try to down all of them, then land.



[MISSION NAME] 690401 Into the Cauldron

TARGET: VC troops, Bien Gia village SVN
DEFENSES: small arms
BEST BAILOUT: North, out of combat area

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 604th SOS, Bien Hoa
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (2) A-37B Dragonfly
ORD LOADOUT: (2) Mk82, (2) BLU-23, (2) LAU-3, 7.62mm Minigun

CALLSIGN: COWBOY
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 180 / 30 NM
ETD: 16.00 TIME OVER TARGET: 16.30

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN
WEATHER BRIEF: OCST 4000 FT WINDS 2702G03 VIS 20 NM

TOP SECRET

USAF SERIES **A-37B** AIRCRAFT
FLIGHT MANUAL



CHANGE



HISTORY

The light attack concept has been under study since the 1950s, but in the opinion of many the Air Force only got it right during the Vietnam War: with the Cessna A-37 Dragonfly.

In August 1967, 25 A-37As were sent to Vietnam under the "Combat Dragon" evaluation program, and flew from Bien Hoa Air Base on USAF "air commando" missions, including close air support, helicopter escort, FAC and night interdiction.

Combat loads included high-explosive bombs, cluster munition, rockets, napalm and gunpods. During this period, the A-37s flew thousands of sorties. None were lost to enemy fire, although two wrecked in landings.

After this successful evaluation an improved Super Tweet, designated "A-37B", was produced by Cessna, with brand new airframes. They were stronger, and were built to have a longer fatigue life. The A-37B was fitted with General Electric J85-GE-17A engines, providing 2,850 lbf (12.7 kN) thrust each. Modifications were made to control surfaces to improve handling and the A-37B was fitted with redundant elevator control runs, that were placed as far apart as possible.

The A-37B excelled at close air support. It could engage targets at speeds 100mph slower than swept-wing fighters. The slower speed improved bombing accuracy, enabling pilots to achieve a greater accuracy.

The A-37B also added a probe in the nose for aerial refueling and required a relatively low amount of maintenance compared to other fighters: only two hours of maintenance for each hour of flight time.

Of the 577 A-37Bs built, the USAF provided 254 to the VNAF (South Vietnamese Air Force) to replace their aging A-1 Skyraiders.



GAMEPLAY

Take off from Bien Hoa airbase with your wingman and head South. Follow the waypoints and enjoy the landscape. As soon as you will reach the shoreline, you will see the FAC, an O-2A Skymaster, and the yellow smoke of friendly troops. The "Oscar Deuce" will mark the targets. Do your job.



MISSION NAME] 690614 OPERATION ARC LIGHT

TARGET: VIET CONG STAGING AREA E595

DEFENSES: LIGHT AAA

BEST BAILOUT: SOUTH OR WEST TOWARDS COASTS FOR FRIENDLY AREAS

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 4258th STRATEGIC WING, 3rd AD, U TAPAO RTNAF

AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: [3] B-52D

ORD LOADOUT: [108] MK82 500-LB BOMBS

CALLSIGN: DODGE

HEADING/DISTANCE TO TARGET: 095/ 183 NM

ETD: 0820

TANKER RENDEZVOUS: N/A

TIME OVER TARGET: 0915

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN

WEATHER BRIEF: SCT 15,000 WINDS 118 AT 8 VIS 15 NM

SECRET/NOFORN



HISTORY

The B-52 Stratofortress was used extensively throughout the war against Viet Cong positions in South Vietnam and along the Ho Chi Minh trail. The first of these missions, code-named "Arc Light," was in June of 1965, with aircraft flying from Anderson AFB on Guam. The decision to use SAC aircraft was politically controversial, based on the operating costs of the missions and the diversion of aircraft from SAC's nuclear mission.

However, commanders in Vietnam felt that the aircraft were extremely valuable, both for their destructive power but equally for their psychological effect. The B-52s were maybe the only American weapons in the war that the North Vietnamese admitted being afraid of. D-model B-52s underwent the "Big Belly" modification, maximizing their internal bomb load to 60,000 lbs. With 84 internal bombs and another 24 on external wing pylons, these Big Belly B-52s could deliver 108 Mk. 82 bombs on a target. The aircraft flew so high that their approach could not be heard and a raid was only discovered when hundreds of bombs began to hit their jungle targets. VC soldiers would often be found later in a state of shock, wandering the bombing area aimlessly or unmoving in their trenches.



The first B-52s began operation out of U Tapao airbase in Thailand in April 1967, with the stipulation from the Thai government that any missions flown from Thailand could not fly over Laos or Cambodia on their way to targets in Vietnam. A detachment of 15 aircraft were allowed to rotate in from Guam. This restriction would later be lifted and U Tapao would become the center of B-52 operations in Vietnam, supporting and coordinating 1,800 Arc Light sorties per month.



GAMEPLAY

Today's target is E595, a VC base in Tay Ninh province, northwest of Saigon. US Army 1st Cavalry Division has requested the strike, indicating that the base contains three base camps, two mortar positions, five AAA positions, trench systems, 73 bunkers under heavy jungle cover, and scattered huts and structures. 1st Cav recon has confirmed bicycle traffic in and out of the site, which has been identified as being a stop-off point for Viet Cong supplies and personnel destined for operations in the south of the province. The required check for noncombatants, religious shrines, or national monuments within one kilometer of the target has been made, no friendly troops are closer than 3 KM, and appropriate agencies have verified that all structures in the area are abandoned, destroyed, or converted to VC/NVA use. The Government of South Vietnam has approved the target.

You are in command of a 3-ship cell assigned to this target. The restrictions on flying over neighboring countries was lifted last fall, so you will fly direct to your initial point at 30,000 ft and 159 NM from the target. Approaching the camp, press the 'E' key to search for the primary objective. The radar bombsight of the B-52 is simulated here by a fixed bombsight. At FL300, maintain Mach .7 to release bombs when the target is in the center of the pipper. After all bombs are clear, begin a hard 60-degree bank to the left and exit towards waypoint 6. This was the standard nuclear delivery procedure of SAC, the same procedure retained for conventional bombing as the crews were already trained to do it.

Ground units of the 1st Cav will move in after your strike for ground follow-up.

NOTE: set "Visual Targeting" in options to "easy" or "normal" for this mission.



[MISSION NAME] 720510 Longest Day - Act I (YAP version)

TARGET: warehouse and railroad station, Haiphong

DEFENSES: MiGs, SA-2s, AAA

BEST BAILOUT: South, out of combat area

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: VA-147, CVA-64

AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (4) A-7B Corsair II

ORD LOADOUT: (12) MK82, (2) AIM-9G, 20MM

CALLSIGN: HAMMER

HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 270 / 28 NM

ETD: 07.50 TIME OVER TARGET: 08.08

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN

WEATHER BRIEF: CLEAR 4000 FT WINDS 2702G03 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



HISTORY

Undoubtedly one of the most important campaign, Operation Linebacker was the result of a joint operation conducted by US 7th Air Force and US Navy Task Force 77 with hundreds air interdiction missions flown against North Vietnam from 9 May to 23 October 1972.

Its purpose was to halt or slow down the transportation of supplies and materials for the Nguyen Hue Offensive, known as the Easter Offensive, that had been launched on 30 March. Linebacker was the first continuous bombing effort conducted against North Vietnam since the end of Operation Rolling Thunder, in November 1968.

Four were the main objectives:

- isolate the North by destroying railroad bridges around Hanoi;
- destroy primary storage areas and marshalling yards;
- destroy storage and transshipment points;
- eliminate or damage the North's air defense system.

With nearly 85 percent of North Vietnam's imports blocked or damaged, the US administration and the Pentagon believed that this would cut its final lines of communication with its socialist allies.

On 10 May the operation began with mass bombing operations against North Vietnam by tactical fighter aircraft from both USAF and US Navy. Their targets included the railroad switching yards at Yên Viên and the Paul Doumer Bridge, on the northern outskirts of Hanoi. A total of 414 sorties were flown on the first day of the operation, 120 by the Air Force and 294 by the Navy and they encountered the heaviest single day of air-to-air combat during the war, with 11 VPAF MiGs (four MiG-21s and seven MiG-17s) and two Air Force F-4s shot down.



GAMEPLAY

The mission begins in the air, 28 miles from the objective. You are the Lead of Hammer flight: four A-7B Corsair II armed with 12 Mk.82 bombs each. Your target is the big warehouse near the railroad station. Direct your wingman and if you can try to bomb other valuable targets. Then head to the boat and land.



[MISSION NAME] 720510 Longest Day - Act I VPAF

TARGET: A-7 Corsairs II
DEFENSES: F-4 Phantoms II

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 927 FR, Kep Airfield
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (2) MiG-21MF
ORD LOADOUT: (4) AA-2, 23MM

CALLSIGN: DHIN TON
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 0 / 28 NM
ETD: 07.50 TIME OVER TARGET: 08.00

WEATHER BRIEF: CLEAR 4000 FT WINDS 2702G03 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



TA NHẤT ĐỊNH THẮNG !



HISTORY

Undoubtedly one of the most important campaign, Operation Linebacker was the result of a joint operation conducted by US 7th Air Force and US Navy Task Force 77 with hundreds air interdiction missions flown against North Vietnam from 9 May to 23 October 1972.

Its purpose was to halt or slow down the transportation of supplies and materials for the Nguyen Hue Offensive, known as the Easter Offensive, that had been launched on 30 March. Linebacker was the first continuous bombing effort conducted against North Vietnam since the end of Operation Rolling Thunder, in November 1968.

Four were the main objectives:

- isolate the North by destroying railroad bridges around Hanoi;
- destroy primary storage areas and marshalling yards;
- destroy storage and transshipment points;
- eliminate or damage the North's air defense system.

With nearly 85 percent of North Vietnam's imports blocked or damaged, the US administration and the Pentagon believed that this would cut its final lines of communication with its socialist allies.

On 10 May the operation began with mass bombing operations against North Vietnam by tactical fighter aircraft from both USAF and US Navy. Their targets included the railroad switching yards at Yên Viên and the Paul Doumer Bridge, on the northern outskirts of Hanoi. A total of 414 sorties were flown on the first day of the operation, 120 by the Air Force and 294 by the Navy and they encountered the heaviest single day of air-to-air combat during the war, with 11 VPAF MiGs (four MiG-21s and seven MiG-17s) and two Air Force F-4s shot down.



GAMEPLAY

Take off from Kep airfield and head East to intercept the enemy strike force. Your primary target are the A-7B Corsairs II. You have 4 K-13 (AA-2 "Atoll") air to air missiles and the 23mm Gryazev-Shipunov GSh-23L autocannon with 200 rounds. Direct your wingman effectively and try to avoid the Phantoms.



[MISSION NAME] 720510 Longest Day - Act II (YAP version)

TARGET: MiG-21s, J-6s

DEFENSES: MiGs, Shenyangs, SA-2s, AAA

BEST BAILOUT: South, out of combat area

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 555th TFS, Udorn RTAFB

AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (4) F-4D Phantom II

ORD LOADOUT: (3) AIM-7, (4) AIM-9

CALLSIGN: OYSTER

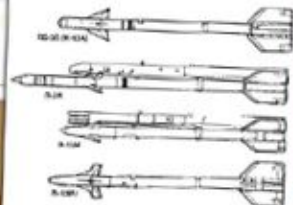
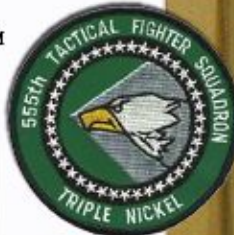
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 270 / 28 NM

ETD: 09.40 TIME OVER TARGET: 09.50

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN

WEATHER BRIEF: CLEAR 4000 FT WINDS 2702G03 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



HISTORY

On May 10 1972, first major day of air combat in Operation Linebacker. Pilot Robert Lodge and WSO Roger Locher were flying in one of two F-4D flights in MiG-CAP asset, Oyster Flight, composed of four Phantoms from the 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron based at Udorn, Thailand.

At 09:23 AM, Oyster Flight was warned by Red Crown of 4 MiG-21s headed towards them. These were from the 921st Fighter Wing. Four J-6s were also protecting the Thac Ba hydroelectric power station.

The Americans engaged the enemies head-on, scattering them. Lodge and Locher identified two hostile contacts 50 miles south of Yên Bái. At 09.48 they fired two AIM-7s and the second destroyed one MiG.

Oyster Flight shot down 2 more enemies. The second MiG-21 was downed by Lodge's wingmen, 1st Lt John D. Markle and WSO Capt Stephen Eaves. A few minutes later Steve Ritchie and Chuck DeBellevue shot down a third MiG. Lodge and Locher nearly got the fourth MiG-21, but fell victim to a MiG "Kuban tactics", in which the four ground-controlled J-6s were launched after the MiG-21s, so that they could be steered behind the American fighters and attack them.

Pilot Nguyen Manh Tung of No. 2 Flight came up from below in his J-6 and hit Lodge and Locher's as they were lining up on to a MiG-21. Locher successfully ejected at about 8,000 feet, but never saw Lodge's chute.

He was rescued on June 2 by a task force of several A-1H Skyraiders, two HH-53C Super Jolly Green Giant helicopters and F-4s and F-105s fighters providing air protection. Roger Locher successfully evaded capture for 23 days. The evening of his return, he was greeted at the Officers Club with an ovation lasting 20 minutes.



GAMEPLAY

The mission begins in the air. You are the leader of Oyster flight and your mission is to protect the strike birds attacking their targets. Your primary objective are the MiG-21s, but do not underestimate the J-6. You have 4 Sidewinders and 3 Sparrows: use them well. Then go back to Udorn and land.



[MISSION NAME] 720510 Longest Day - Act II VPAF

TARGET: F-4 Phantoms II
DEFENSES: F-4 Phantoms II

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 925 FR, Kep Airfield
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (4) J-6B
ORD LOADOUT: (2) AA-2, 30MM

CALLSIGN: MAHN TUNG
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 0 / 28 NM
ETD: 09.40 TIME OVER TARGET: 09.50

WEATHER BRIEF: CLEAR 4000 FT WINDS 2702G03 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



hunting
charlie



HISTORY

On May 10 1972, first major day of air combat in Operation Linebacker, Pilot Robert Lodge and WSO Roger Locher were flying in one of two F-4D flights in MiG-CAP asset, Oyster Flight, composed of four Phantoms from the 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron based at Udorn, Thailand,

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GAMEPLAY

You are the leader of the J-6B flight, based at Kep airfield. Take off and keep orbiting around the airfield until all your wingmen are in air. Then head toward the enemies and attack. You have two AA-2 "Atoll" IR missiles and three 30mm cannons. Direct your wingmen against the F-4s, then go back and land.



[MISSION NAME] 720510 Longest Day - Act III (YAP version)

TARGET: warehouse, Hai Duong - Colonel Tomb
DEFENSES: MiGs, SA-2s, AAA
BEST BAILOUT: South, out of combat area

TOP SECRET

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: VF-96, CVA-64 Yankee Station
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (2) F-4J Phantom II
ORD LOADOUT: (2) AIM-7, (4) AIM-9, (6) rockeye

CALLSIGN: SHOWTIME
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 344 / 35 NM
ETD: 12.30 TIME OVER TARGET: 12.40

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN
WEATHER BRIEF: CLEAR 4000 FT WINDS 2702G03 VIS 30 NM



HISTORY

The day was May 10 1972. Pilot Lt. Randy "Duke" Cunningham and Rio 2nd Lt. Willie Driscoll were flying an F-4J Phantom II from VF-96 Fighting Falcons, callsign "Showtime 100", off the carrier USS Constellation for a flak suppression mission over Haiphong, North Vietnam.

As they were approaching the target, the strike mission soon developed in an air battle. After having downed two MiGs with one Sidewinder each, Showtime 100 disengaged and approached the coast at 10,000 feet. Then a lonely MiG-17 closed in head-on, opening fire with his cannons,

What Cunningham and Driscoll didn't know was that their enemy was the legendary Colonel Tomb, the most famous among VPAF fighter pilots and the war's leading ace with 13 American kills to his credit. Myth or not, the pilot Showtime crew faced that day was a great dogfighter.

To separate from the MiG, Duke performed a 6Gs vertical pullup planning a Sidewinder attack once on the top of his zoom climb. Looking over his ejection seat he was astonished to see the MiG climbing canopy to canopy with his F-4J. He lit the burners, but pulling away in the vertical he gave his enemy the chance to fire with his guns. The two aircraft then entered a classic rolling scissors which forced the Phantom to slow down.

Cunningham was able to break free for two miles, but again Tomb followed, firing from beneath. At this point Duke dragged the throttle to idle and popped his speed brakes. The Phantom dropped below 150 knots airspeed and Cunningham lit the burners to stay in the sky and shot an AIM-9. Initially the missile seemed to miss the MiG, but after few seconds the VPAF fighter exploded and hit the ground at a forty degree angle.

After the engagement as they approached the North Vietnamese coast, their Phantom was hit by a SAM but luckily Cunningham and Driscoll were able to safely eject into South China Sea, where they were rescued.



GAMEPLAY

Well, Showtime 100 is in your hands today. Your mission is to protect the strike birds attacking Haiphong. There will be plenty of enemies around and a lot of SAMs and AAA. Try to down two MiG-17 on your way to the target, then drop your Rockeyes on the warehouse. At that point the final duel will begin.



[MISSION NAME] 720510 Longest Day - Act III VPAF

TARGET: A-6 Intruders, A-7 Corsairs II
DEFENSES: F-4 Phantoms II

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 927 FR, Yen Bai Airfield
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (2) MiG-19S Field Mod.
ORD LOADOUT: (2) AA-2, 30MM
CALLSIGN: PHAM TUAN
HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 0 / 60 NM
ETD: 12.30 TIME OVER TARGET: 12.40

WEATHER BRIEF: CLEAR 4000 FT WINDS 2702G03 VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



HISTORY

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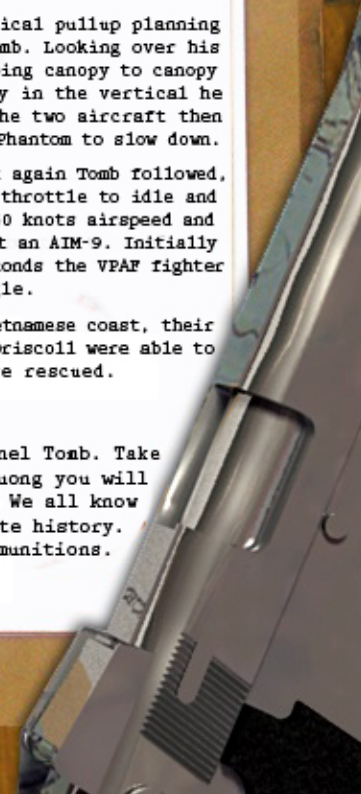
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GAMEPLAY

This time you are the leader of a 2 MiG-19S Field Mod. flight scrambled from Yen Bai base. Your primary target are the A-6s and A-7s on route to bomb Haiphong. Take off and go full speed to reach the strike aircrafts before they drop their bombs. If you survive land at Yen Bai or anywhere you can.





[MISSION NAME] 721226 Maximum Effort

SECRET/NOFORN

TARGET: Hanoi railyards

DEFENSES: AAA, SAMs

BEST BAILOUT: continue mission profile Southwest towards Thailand

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 307th Strategic Wing, 364th BS, U Tapao RTNAF

AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER: (3) B-52D Stratofortress

ORD LOADOUT: (108) Mk82 500lb bombs

CALLSIGN: AUSTIN

HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 029 / 581 NM

ETD: 21.30 TIME OVER TARGET: 22.41

TANKER RENDEZVOUS: NA

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN

WEATHER BRIEF: BKN 9800 WINDS 114 AT 10 VIS 15 NM



HISTORY

The "Christmas Bombings" of Operation Linebacker II were the result of failing peace talks between the United States, South Vietnam, and North Vietnam. The three countries had been discussing an end to the war since 1968, with little headway. U.S. President Richard Nixon felt that North Vietnam respected nothing but force and had no fear of the United States, thanks to the poor conduct of Operation Rolling Thunder, and now authorized a massive bombing of Hanoi to force the North back to the peace table.

The B-52 was chosen for its psychological effect as much as its destructive power. While fighter-bombers could have achieved the same results tactically, Nixon wanted to "create the most massive shock effect in a psychological contest. B-52s should be employed in the Hanoi area as close as can reasonably be risked. Attacks must be massive and brutal."

December 18, 1972 began the first night of 11 days of bombing of the capital region. 200 B-52Ds and Gs took off from Anderson AFB on Guam and from U Tapao in Thailand, supported by 39 tactical aircraft. 8 F-105G Wild Weasels hunted air defenses, 3 EB-66s jammed enemy radars, 20 F-4 Phantoms flew escort and MiGCAP, and 8 F-4s laid down a corridor of chaff ahead of the bombers.



B-52

This chaff highway was vital to protecting the B-52s from missiles, as was the bombers' advanced suite of on-board ECM. Over the course of the 11 days North Vietnam fired 266 SA-2 missiles, almost depleting their stockpile. 10 B-52s were shot down over Vietnam, with another 5 crashing in Laos and Thailand from heavy damage.



GAMEPLAY

It is the 8th night of bombing. You begin in the air over the Gulf of Tonkin, inbound to the Hanoi railyards at 36,000 ft. You may feel alone in the darkness up there, but listen in on the radio chatter and hear your escort flights striking airbases and SAM sites ahead of you.

B-52 flights are code-named after cities tonight, and are scheduled to hit Hanoi at two-minute intervals, starting with MEMPHIS from the west. Open your bomb bay doors about 1 minute from the target. This was done to ensure enough time in case the doors had to be opened with the backup system. Be alert as the open doors create a stronger radar target for SAMs to lock on to. The B-52's radar bombsight is simulated here with a fixed bombsight. Ensure your in-game HUD is on (ALT-D) and press E to select the primary target. The bombsight is calibrated for 36,000 ft at .8 Mach, so maintain speed and altitude on the approach and drop bombs when the target box is in the center of the pipper.

Remember that any bank on the aircraft will cause bombs to skew left or right, so maintain wings level during dropping. 30 seconds after dropping, all bombs should be clear and begin a 60-degree bank to the left, holding for at least 120 degrees off the bombing course. The post-target turn was a standard Strategic Air Command (SAC) maneuver used for atomic delivery, but was also in conventional bombing.

Over Hanoi this proved to be the B-52's most vulnerable moment, however. The B-52's jammers were directional and aimed downwards, and the result of the hard bank was to turn the jammers 60 degrees away from the vertical, leaving the big bomber far more visible to enemy radars. The turn also spread the aircraft out of formation, further reducing overlapping ECM protection.

The post-target turn, then, will be the most critical moment of the mission tonight. Be on high alert for incoming missiles until your 3-ship cell is re-established. Follow the waypoints southwest to return to Thailand and shoot a night approach into U Tapao for landing.

