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Author Topic: Operation Rolling Fire Mission #21

BeachAV8R
Member
Member # 3055

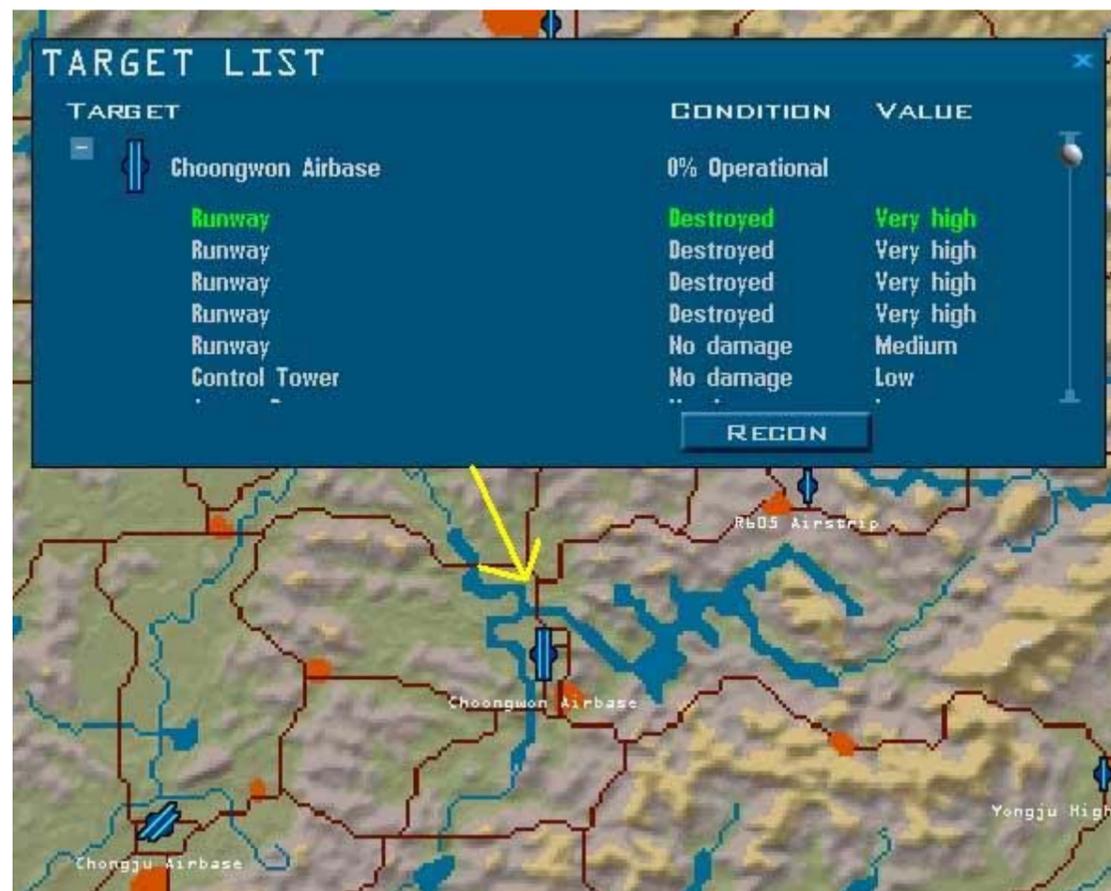
posted 11-23-2003 14:01

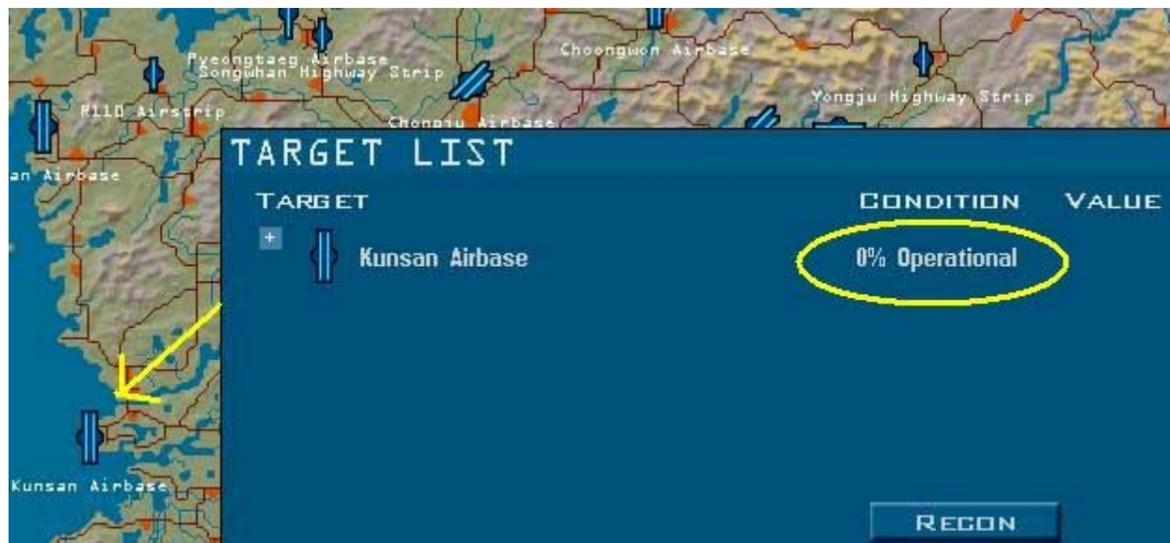
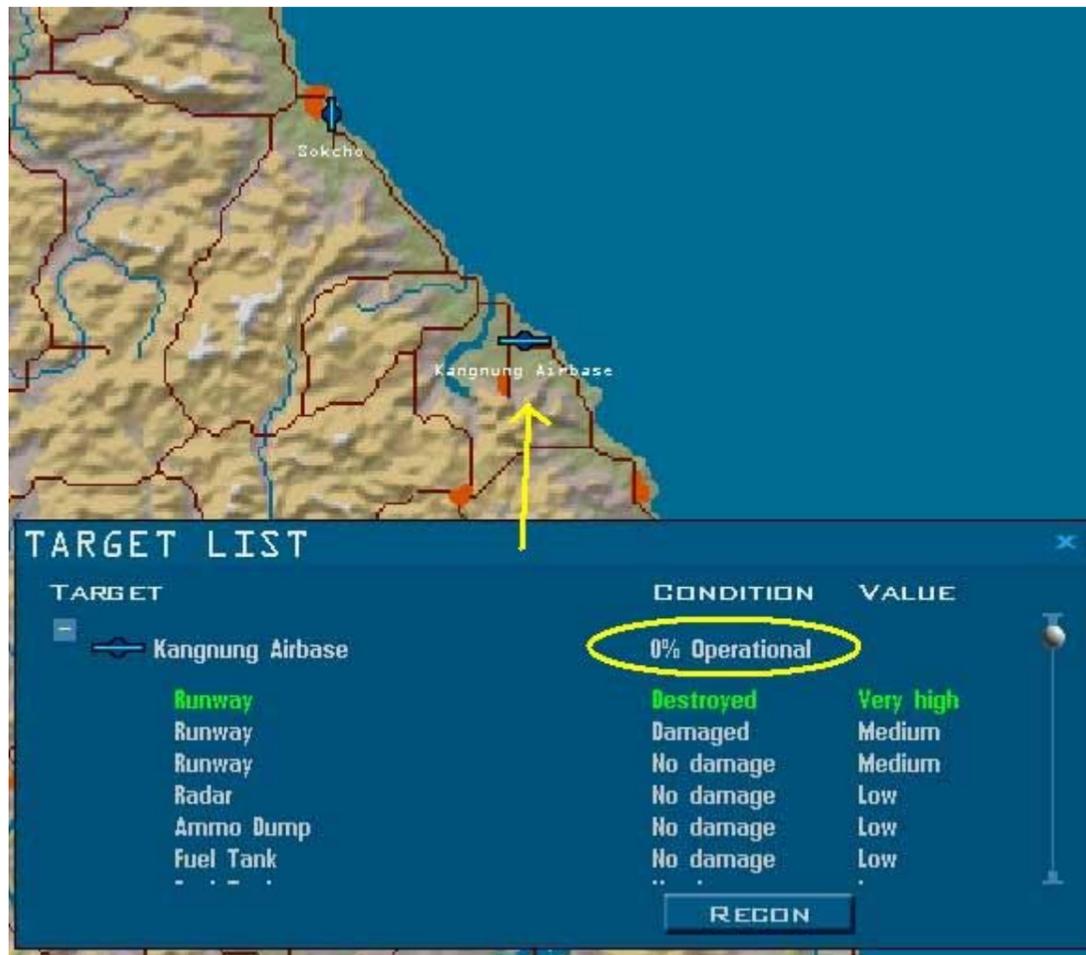
11/22/03
Falcon 4.0/SP3 Campaign Mission Report #21
OPERATION ROLLING FIRE
DAY 2 - 1650 HOURS

Campaign Status:

As the sun continues to fall inexorably toward the horizon we are scrambling to get a few more strike missions into the enemy held sector north of the Imjin River. Since we will soon be switching to strategic strikes (power plants, CCC, infrastructure) there is a definite air of uncertainty whether our forces will be able to continue advancing across the Imjin during the night hours.

Taking a bit of a theater-wide view using the intelligence feature I do see trouble in the form of several allied airbases that have been shut-down by earlier enemy strikes:





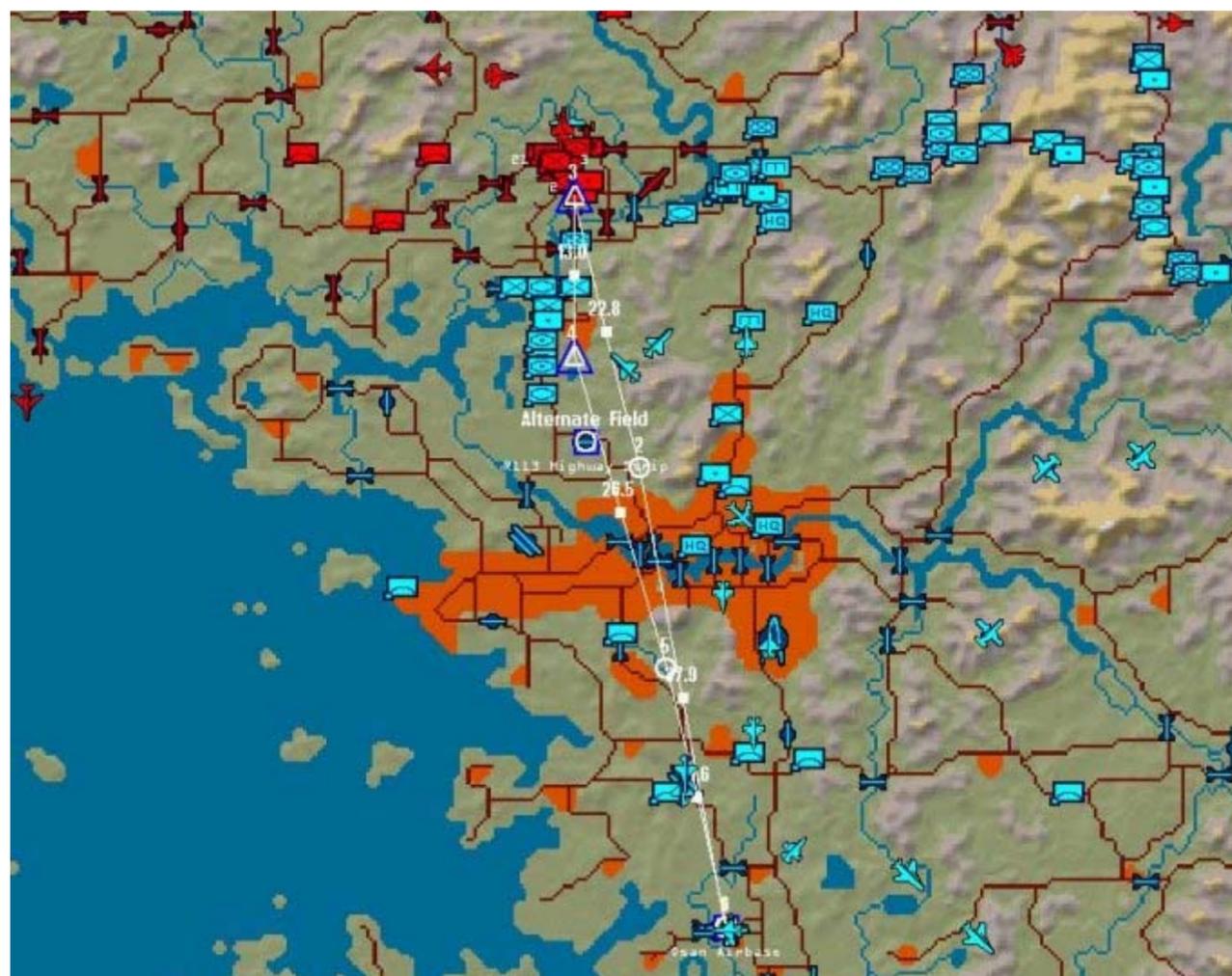
Additionally, Mandumi was taken in the initial onslaught and it would certainly be nice to regain control of this airbase for future offensive operations:



Statistically the campaign appears to be going quite well with heavy enemy vehicle and aircraft attrition compared to a level or increasing number of US/ROK assets:



Here you can see the disposition of allied and enemy ground forces in the Seoul area:



Cont...

<http://home.carolina.rr.com/beachav8r>

From: **Charlotte, NC USA** | Registered: **Jan 2001** | IP: [Logged](#)

BeachAV8R

Member
Member # 3055

posted 11-23-2003 14:01

Objective:

Our objective is to strike elements of the DPRK 3rd Infantry Battalion north of the Imjin River. Intel indicates a large influx of enemy armor and infantry with the probable goal of reinforcing their positions prior to nightfall. An additional note during the mission briefing states that we are to be aware of a major allied push toward P'Yongyang commencing at 1500 hours so we will have to be cognizant of our position over allied troops that might be on the move:

BRIEFING PRINT

MISSION: Search for and destroy enemy ground forces in the area around Chommal.
YOUR TASK: BAI

Station Area: 3 nm south of Chommal.
 Time on Station: 17:10:20
 Patrol Time: 00:11:36

SITUATION:
 Be advised: Starting at 15:00:00, our ground forces will be making a major push towards P'Yongyang.
 Army intelligence reports the DPRK 3rd Infantry Brigade is moving towards Wangch'on. Air command hopes to attrit their forces before they arrive at the front.

PACKAGE ELEMENTS:
Stallion2 (BAI) 4 F-16CG Search for enemy targets, engage and destroy at will

THREAT ANALYSIS:
 No enemy air response is anticipated.
 Known or suspected enemy air defenses along your flight path include:
 BMP-CMD missile launchers 2 nm south of Chommal

TOWED GUN BATTALION X

3rd Towed Gun Battalion

3rd Infantry Brigade
 81st Armored Division

Owner: DPRK
 Orders: Reserve Radar Site 4
 ETA: 17:02:36

Experience	Regulars
Supply	Normal
Morale	Low
Fatigue	Normal
Formation	Column

8 D-30
 6 KrAz F 255B
 1 Jeep
 5 KrAz T 255B

Planning/preflight:

I have altered the mission waypoints to align the strike waypoints into an easily discernable axis that should prevent fratricide. With the waypoints set along the FEBA I can be assured of good situational awareness by consulting my Horizontal Situational Display (HSD) during my ground attacks and attacking only targets north of that line:



We will be carrying 8 CBU-71/B combined fragmentation/incendiary bombs since our target is "soft":

Stallion2 T.O. - 17:01:00

ZLT. BEACH	LT. REIS	LT. DABROWSKI	LT. POSSIDENTE
------------	----------	---------------	----------------

Max Weight : 42300
 Gross Weight : 36595
 Clean Weight : 18700
 Munitions : 10733
 Fuel : 7162
 Drag Factor : 71.0

Loadout	INV	QTY	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
AIM-120C	MED	4	●	●	●				●	●	
ALQ-131	HGH	1					●				
CBU-71/B	HGH	8			●	●		●	●		

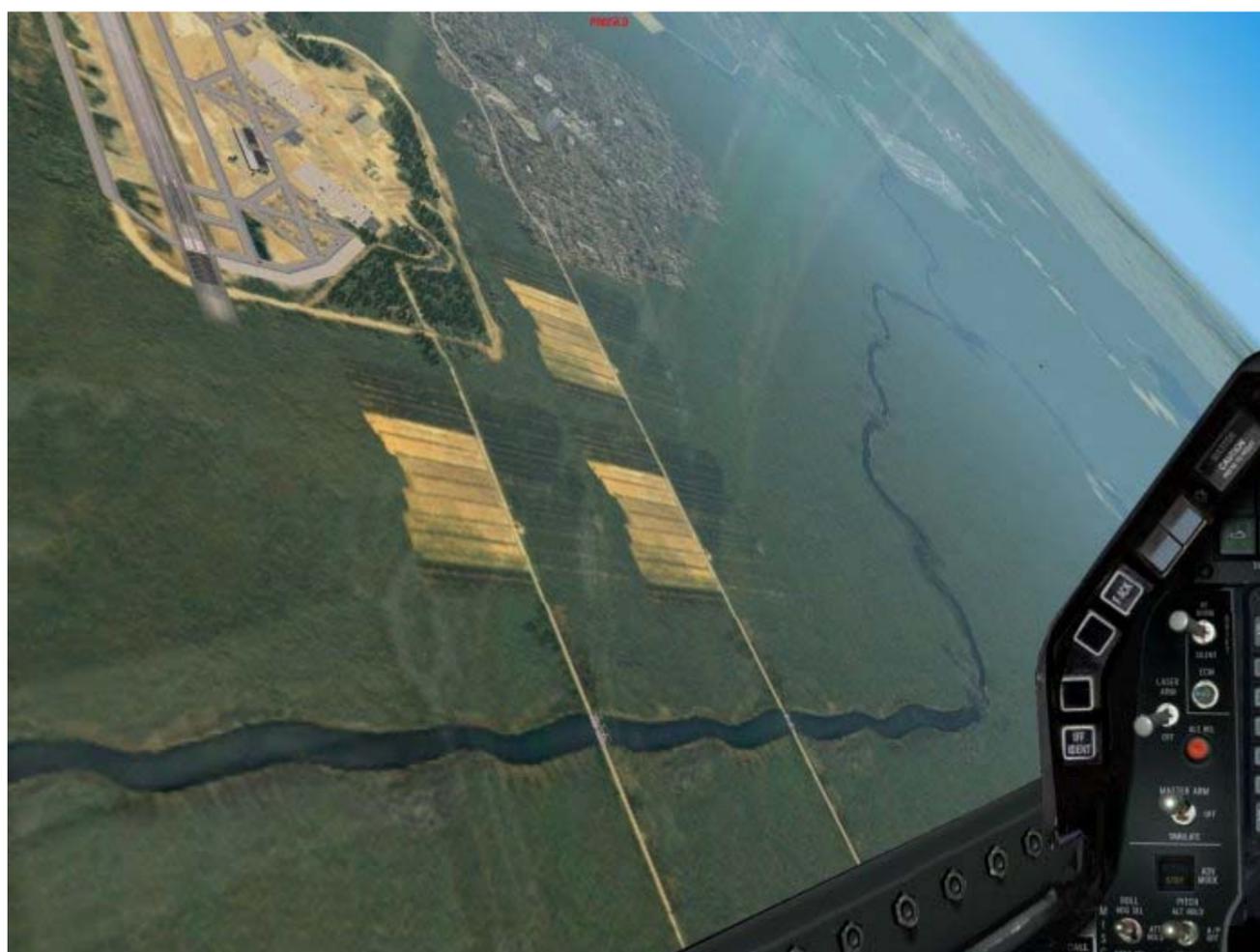
SAVE AS LOAD RESTORE CLEAR CANCEL OK

Debrief:

With weapons slung under my wings and a vow to try my very best on this mission I take to the sky:



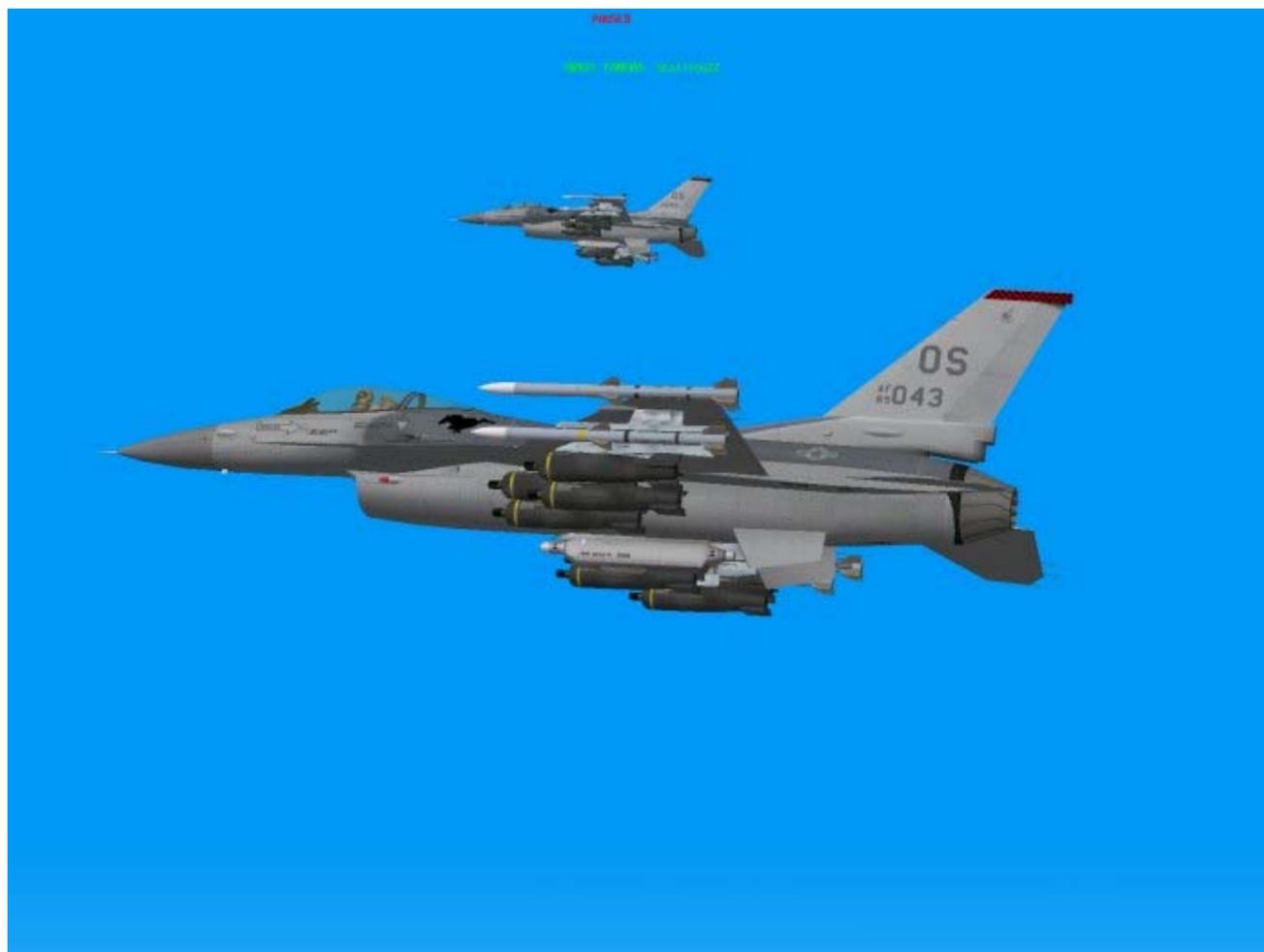
After takeoff I reduce my throttle to about 80% and enter a slow climbing orbit around the airbase to allow my wingmen to form up more quickly without them having to burn a lot of extra fuel:



While I orbit I set about arranging my air-to-ground weapons; setting my burst altitude for 2500 feet, an interval of 350 feet and 2 release pulses:



After my wingmen make the rendezvous I order them into a line abreast formation to provide a simultaneous launch capability for our AMRAAM missiles. This formation is useful for long range missile engagements where mutual support from your wingman isn't necessary and you are totally confident that your rear aspect is clear of enemy fighters:



Cont....

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BeachAV8R

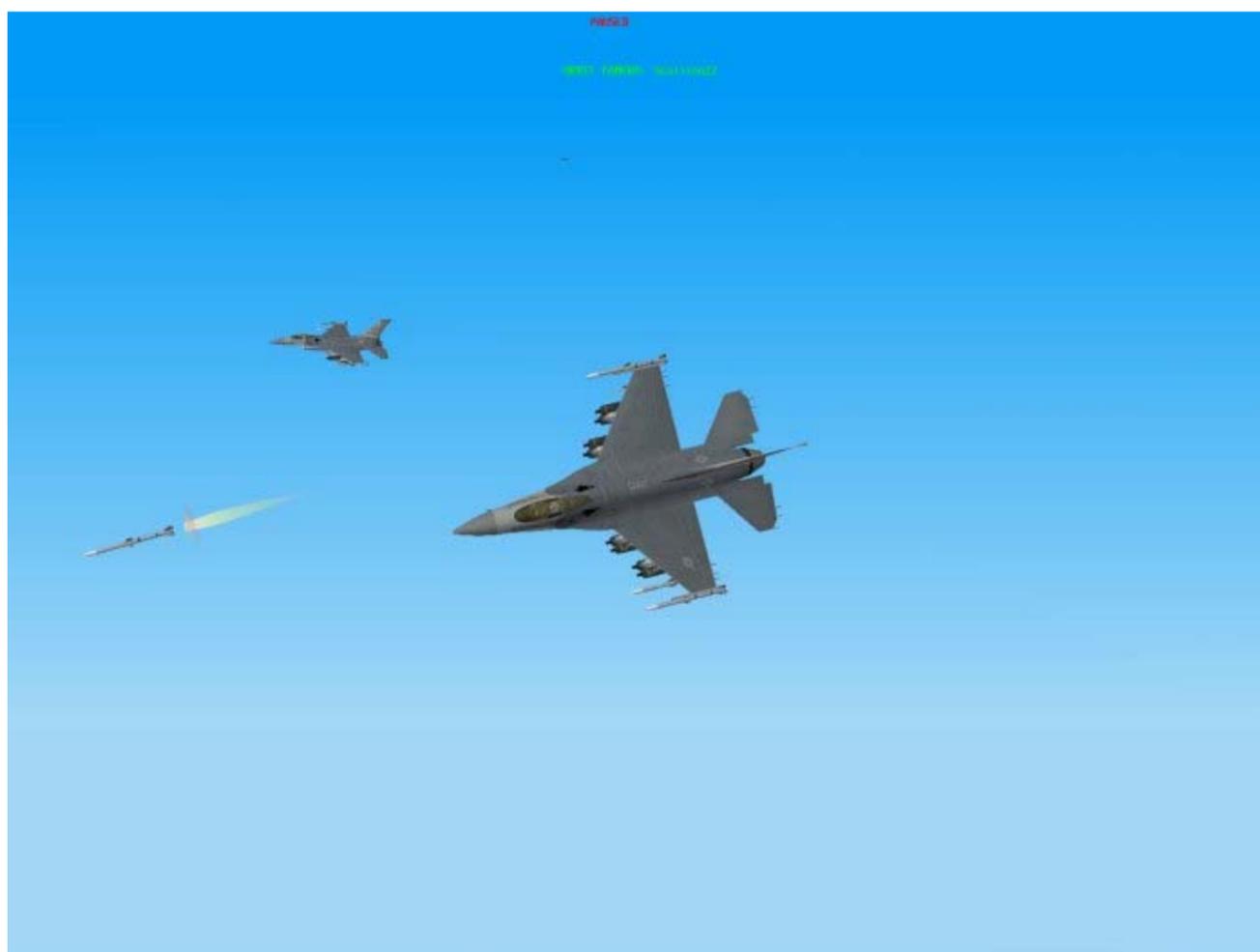
Member
Member # 3055

posted 11-23-2003 14:02 [Icons: Home, Mail, Print, Quote]

With my formation set I start querying AWACS in an attempt to grasp the big picture over the target area. AWACS responds with an immediate target identification of 2 MiG-23s at 330 degrees for 50 miles and 6000 feet. A few minutes later we get another response for a MiG-21 "single" at 320 degrees and 30 miles; he becomes the biggest threat:



I designate the MiG-21 and give my wingman (#2) the "CHAINSAW" command. He immediately snaps inverted, calls "stripping", rolls upright and fires an AMRAAM at maximum range:



After engaging the MiG-21 I lock up one of the fleeing MiG-23s and again give my wingman the "CHAINSAW" command with the intent of expending all of my wingman's missiles prior to using mine:



My wingman responds immediately with an AMRAAM shot. On these long-range, wingman shots the outcome is rarely known until the debrief since I'm already concentrating on the next target or maneuver:



Cont..

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BeachAV8R

posted 11-23-2003 14:02

Member
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After the engagement against the MiG-21 and -23 we turn in place and maneuver south to open up some space to set up another run toward the target area. The logic here is to "clean out" the airspace or at least find a gap based on the radar data that will allow us to penetrate to the target, drop our stores and egress with minimal risk. As we turn back northbound we pick up another enemy strike package over the highly contested Imjin River area:



What appears to be one or two airplanes on RWS mode de-aggregates into five distinct contacts once I switch to TWS EXP mode:



In TWS EXP mode I'm able to clearly target individual targets and hand them off to my wingman (#2) and element (#3 & #4). TWS EXP is invaluable in both designating your own targets and handing off targets to your wingman since you are less likely to "double kill" individual contacts. Here one of the radar contacts turns red indicating one of my wingman has launched on him. On the right side HSD you can see the blue wingman symbols in the spread formation commencing their attacks:



Behind the flurry of AMRAAMs from my wingmen we have, in effect, created our own gap in the enemy aircraft. Finding ourselves very near the attack area we seize the opportunity and switch to A2G mode. I turn on my A2G radar, switch to GMT and quickly locate a massive gaggle of "movers" right where my target area is supposed to be so I designate, roll in, and order my wingmen to attack:



I find myself a bit shallow and at a lower altitude than I had anticipated so I fly a nearly level attack as I start to see the billowing dust kicked up by the enemy vehicles:



Cont...

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From: **Charlotte, NC USA** | Registered: **Jan 2001** | IP: [Logged](#)

BeachAV8R

Member
 Member # 3055

📅 posted 11-23-2003 14:03 🗂️ 🏠 👤 📧 🗑️ “ ”

I hit the pickle button twice intending to drop all my weapons but only 4 come off before the release program is interrupted by me taking my finger off the pickle button. The reason I quit the run so quickly is a wingman call to "break high". I go to full military power and pull for the sky hoping I don't bend anything on the jet:



It isn't until later in the debrief that I find out I had been shot at by an SA-7 man-portable SAM. Luckily (not consciously) I didn't plug in the afterburner and my flares and chaff allowed me to escape above the missile envelope. It was a clear reminder that low altitude weapons delivery is just a bad idea.

My CBU spread turns out to be pretty good and my bomblets set many vehicles ablaze:



As I climb I query AWACS and find the nearest threat is a mere 5 miles off my right wing so I order my wingmen to rejoin, point the nose south and engage the afterburner in an attempt to get back into friendly territory. As I slowly decrease altitude over friendly territory I come across the remnants of a fairly impressive enemy strike from the past:



As I work my way south wingman #4 calls out desperately that he is engaged defensive and I eavesdrop on him and see the horror unfolding as 2 MiG-21s slide down his right side and start turning hard to engage him. He has wisely jettisoned his external stores:



I quickly give him the "weapons free" command so that he isn't a sitting duck while trying to re-form on me and I turn back to the north to assist him. In a flurry of keypresses I manage to find where he is, target a contact and wait long enough for AWACS to confirm the ID before I launch a missile at one of his attackers:





Cont...

<http://home.carolina.rr.com/beachv8r>

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BeachAV8R

Member
Member # 3055

📅 posted 11-23-2003 14:03 🏠 👤 📧 🗒️ “ ”

As I continue to close on the furball wingman #4 flashes by me headed the opposite way, probably grateful for the assistance:



Seconds later my AMRAAM finds one of his antagonists:



Unfortunately, during the engagement I lose wingman #2 to the second MiG-21. I order #3 & #4 to rejoin and we make our way south into the protection of friendly airspace. Later in the debrief I find I managed to spoof another AA-12 during the engagement or I would have joined #2 down on the ground!

At this point I feel my wingmen have contributed enough and send #3 and #4 for home base. I notice a -29 symbol on the RWR scope, query AWACS and they confirm a flight of MiG-29s up north 25 miles away:



With 3 AMRAAMS left on my rails I'm seeking a little revenge for my downed wingman and turn to engage them:



With high closure (992) I launch just at the top of the DLZ, turning the radar contact red and pull a hard 180 back to the safety of the south:





Splash two!



Cont...

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From: **Charlotte, NC USA** | Registered: **Jan 2001** | IP: [Logged](#)

BeachAV8R

Member
Member # 3055

📅 posted 11-23-2003 14:04 🏠 👤 📧 🗑️ “ ”

With 2 AMRAAMs on the rails, and 4 bombs, I know I'm still packing an offensive punch. Looking at the fuel gauge I see I'm down to 2000 pounds of fuel and I elect to visit the tanker to top off my tanks before continuing on the offensive. I query AWACS for a steer to the tanker and drag myself up to 25,000 feet to get into the refueling track. Just as I approach the boom the tanker alerts me that he will be commencing a turn in a minute:



I manage to get a good connect but fall off the boom 3 times. After a sweat inducing 10 minutes I've got a full tank:





I break away from the tanker and proceed toward the strike area:



As I work back toward the strike area I query AWACS for the threat analysis and he gives me a threat call of a single MiG-21 bearing 040, 40 miles and 9000 feet. A single MiG-21! Maybe the second half of the MiG-21 flight I shot down and maybe the one that got MY wingman!



As soon as I lock up the MiG-21 he turns and accelerates north-bound. I still have a good 300 knots of overtake on him though and I focus and patiently eat up the distance in a tail chase. I feel like the skies are a bit too clear though and I start to wonder if I'm not missing the big picture here. As you can see, I have the -21 designated (not locked though) and he's headed away from me at 9000 feet. At that particular cursor position my radar is only scanning a volume of airspace from sea-level to 16000 feet:



Unlocking the target for a second, I bump the antenna elevation up a bit using the rotary on my throttle and suddenly when the scan volume reaches 23000 feet the scope fills with contacts!



Quickly adjusting to the new scenario I finally put the pieces together and see the -21 was headed north at low altitude passing through a south-bound strike complete with MiG-29 escorts!! I take my attention off the fleeing MiG-21 and instead lock up one of the high-rate of closure (1065 knots!) MiG-29s:



Cont...

<http://home.carolina.rr.com/beachav8r>

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BeachAV8R

Member
Member # 3055

posted 11-23-2003 14:04    

Just outside of the top of the DLZ I launch one of my two remaining AMRAAMs:



Bunting the nose over slightly I re-lock the closer, but fleeing MiG-21 and launch my last AMRAAM:



The second AMRAAM reaches the MiG-21 first, scoring a kill:



The MiG-29 I fired on did a 180 and accelerated enough that my AMRAAM ran out of energy before reaching him.

Now out of A2A ordnance I take a hard look at the target area hoping that I would be able to squeak in and drop the rest of my bombs but the target area is saturated with enemy strike aircraft and their escorts:



The final straw is when an Su-27 (-29 symbol on the RWR) launches an AA-10 at me and I turn south and accelerate while going downhill and luckily get enough separation that the missile runs out of steam:





Cont...

<http://home.carolina.rr.com/beachav8r>

From: **Charlotte, NC USA** | Registered: **Jan 2001** | IP: [Logged](#)

BeachAV8R

Member
Member # 3055

📅 posted 11-23-2003 14:05 🏠 👤 📧 🗑️ “ ”

With no more A2A ordnance, no friendly flights in the area, and having been airborne for just over 1 hour (real time!) I reluctantly headed home with half my CBU's still slung under the wing:





Pulling onto the ramp next to other members of my flight I'm happy to have at least brought my bird back home:



Conclusions:

The mission is rated a success with 3 A2A kills and 7 A2G kills. The loss of Stallion 2-2 marred what would have been a fairly good mission overall:

DEBRIEFING

MISSION: Success (Search for and destroy enemy ground forces in the area around 3 nm south of Chommal.)
YOUR TASK: Success (Search for enemy targets, engage and destroy at will)
PILOT RATING: Excellent

Actual TOT: 17:24:24 (14 minutes late)
 Losses: 1

PACKAGE STATISTICS:

Flight	Aircraft	Comments
Stallion2 (BAI)	4 F-16CG	Mission success: Only light damage was inflicted to enemy.

[Event List](#)

FLIGHT STATISTICS:

Callsign	Status	Ordnance Fired	Results
Stallion21	Functional	4 x AIM-120C 4 x CBU-71/B	1 miss, 3 hits (75%) 4 hits (100%)
Stallion22	Destroyed	3 x AIM-120C 4 x CBU-71/B	3 misses (0%) 3 misses, 1 hit (25%)
Stallion23	Functional	1 x AIM-120C	1 hit (100%)
Stallion24	Functional	1 x AIM-120C	1 hit (100%)

PILOT STATISTICS:

Callsign	Aircraft	Pilot	Status	AA Kills	AG Kills	Rating
Stallion21	F-16CG	Lt. Beach	OK	3 (0)	7 (0)	Excellent
Stallion22	F-16CG	Lt. Reis	KIA	0	1	Average
Stallion23	F-16CG	Lt. Dabrowski	OK	1	0	Excellent
Stallion24	F-16CG	Lt. Possidente	OK	0	0	Excellent

RESULTS:
 The 3rd Infantry Brigade has taken 2 losses and is not likely to be committed in the near future, largely due to the efforts of your package.

I was pretty happy with my wingman management during this mission. The line abreast formation with the "CHAINSAW" command was effective in deterring enemy CAP forces from attacking us on the initial bombing run. As you can see from Stallion 2-2's statistics he released 3 AMRAAMS for no hits, but those were maximum range AMRAAM shots which obviously turned the enemy away from our strike group.

```

Beach joined as Stallion21 at 17:01:00
DPRK Tu-16 downed by Stallion23 at 17:10:51
SA7 launched at Beach 17:21:13
DPRK M-1974 destroyed by Beach at 17:21:16
DPRK M-1974 destroyed by Beach at 17:21:16
DPRK BMP-CMD destroyed by Beach at 17:21:16
DPRK BMP-CMD destroyed by Beach at 17:21:16
DPRK M-1974 destroyed by Beach at 17:21:16
DPRK KrAz F 255B destroyed by Beach at 17:21:16
DPRK M-1974 destroyed by Beach at 17:21:17
DPRK M-1974 destroyed by Stallion22 at 17:21:19
Stallion22 downed by DPRK MiG-21MF at 17:25:24
A.A-12 launched at Beach 17:28:56
DPRK MiG-21MF downed by Beach at 17:29:23
DPRK MiG-29A downed by Beach at 17:31:52
Stallion24 landed at 17:41:32
Stallion23 landed at 17:42:22
Missile launched at Beach 17:58:32
Missile launched at Beach 17:58:32
DPRK MiG-21MF downed by Beach at 17:59:38
A.A-10A launched at Beach 18:04:50
Beach landed at 18:11:09
Beach landed at 18:11:10
Beach exited from Stallion21 at 18:13:18

```

It was probably a bad idea to go hit the tanker and try to re-engage for several reasons. First I had no wingman support at that point and second, by being airborne for 1 hour and 8 minutes I was effectively keeping the 3 remaining planes in our flight from being tasked onto other campaign generated missions. The original mission was slated to be over at around 17:30 and I stayed out until 18:13, almost 45 minutes past the scheduled completion time. It's always hard to return to base with weapons still in place.

BeachAV8R

<http://home.carolina.rr.com/beachav8r>

From: **Charlotte, NC USA** | Registered: **Jan 2001** | IP: [Logged](#)

Zero Niner
Member
Member # 273

posted 11-24-2003 04:58     

Beach
Just a suggestion, why not load up full on A2A ordnance, since the air situation is still fluid? Drop your A2G in one pass and either RTB or take out some bandits first. My rationale is that you don't need to cause massive damage to ground forces, & you would do your own side no favours if you get shot down. Remember that getting home in one piece and accomplishing your assigned task makes the Blue side fight better.

Zero Niner, out.

From: **Singapore** | Registered: **Nov 1999** | IP: [Logged](#)

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