

48th Fighter Wing



BOLAR 34 Experiences in OPERATION ODYSSEY DAWN

Lt Col Tyler "Mask" Stark
Bolar 34B



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Overview

- Career
 - Mission
 - Problem
 - Recovery of 34A – the TRAP
 - Recovery of 34B
 - Homecoming
 - Closing Remarks
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Career

- **What's a WSO (Weapon System Officer)?**
 - **2006 to 2010: Flight Training with Navy**
 - **2010 to 2014: Operational at RAF Lakenheath**
 - **Deployments: Libya, Korea, UAE**
 - **2014 to 2019: Instructor Formal Training Unit, NC**
 - **2019 to Present: Air Advisor in UAE**
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The Mission – 21 Mar 2011

- Night 3 of OOD
- Step/Start/Taxi/T/O
- Into AOR
- Received Tasking
- Target Attack @ 2100L



Photo Credit: 31st Fighter Wing/Public Affairs



Photo Credit: 31st Fighter Wing/Public Affairs

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Aircraft Issues



Photo: Anja Niedringhaus / AP Photo

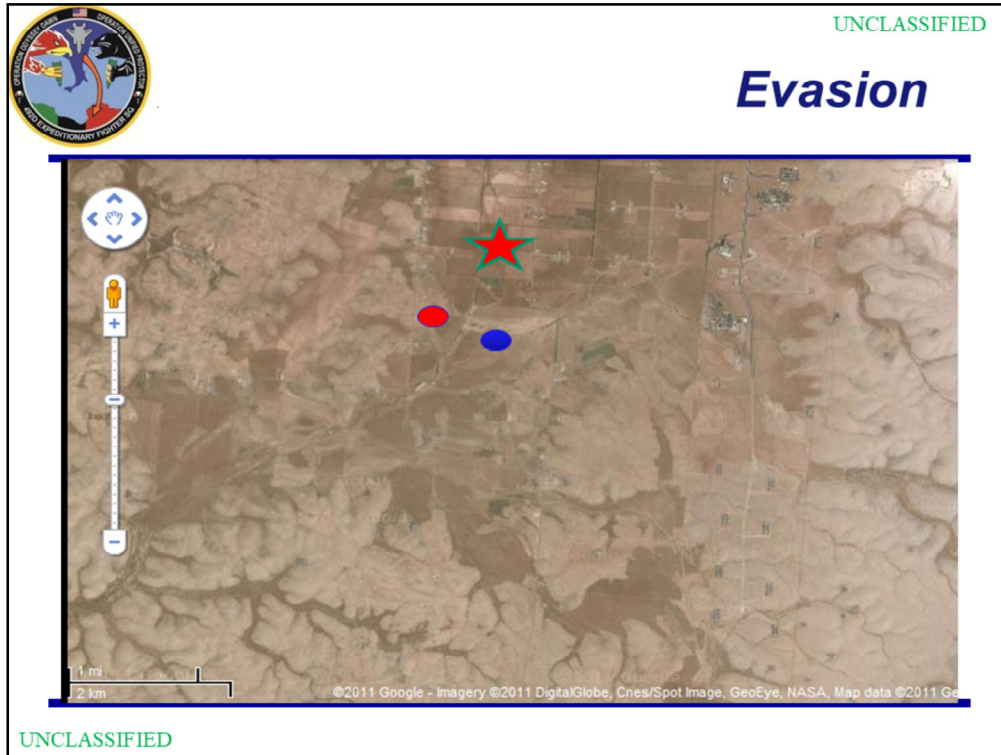
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- Off Target
- A/C Malfunction
- Like driving down a road and you hit a patch of ice, airplane started spinning out of control

What went wrong with the F-15 that night?

Investigators believe one of the flight maneuvers threw the plane off balance for a variety of technical reasons that the two-man crew could not have anticipated.

- Ejection Time – “Bailout, Bailout, Bailout”
 - 5715' AGL
 - 14kts CAS
- In the Chutes
 - Chute Malfunctions
- Separated after ejection



Star is crash. Circle is As positions. Don't know where B was.

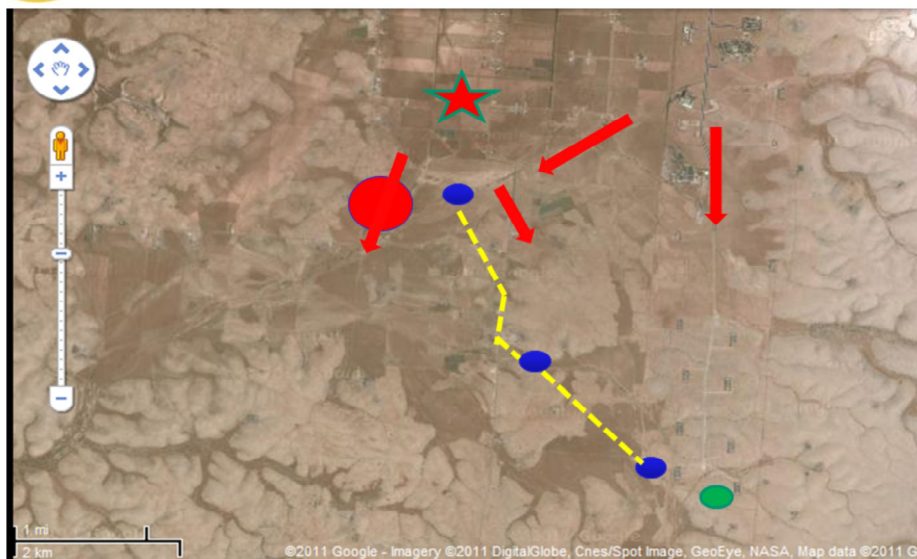
Initial Plan

Doffing Equip, survival Kit, & get out of area



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Evasion



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(Estimated ground track)



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Rescue 34A– The TRAP

"Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personal"



Photo: USMC/Public Affairs

- 1st OSPREY TRAP
 - 26th MEU
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Recovery – 34B

- Evasion & Escape plan - Limited mobility
- Discovered-> Benghazi
- Communication – CSEL, Skype, SAT phone
- On a boat - not the Kearsarge

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Re-integration



Photo: Technical Sergeant Lee A. Osberry, USAF

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Homecoming



Photo: Airman Cory Payne, USAF



Photo: Staff Sergeant Conor Estes, USAF

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Returned to Lakenheath on 26 Mar about 1 week after this whole adventure started
Families, friends, wing-leadership
Yellow Ribbon event

Media/SIB/AIB/Briefings



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Closing Remarks

- **BE PREPARED – IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU!**
- **KNOW YOUR EQUIPMENT**
- **RETURN WITH HONOR!**



Photo: USAF Public Affairs

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Questions?



Photo: Reuters

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Questions?