48th Fighter Wing

BOLAR 34
Experiences in
OPERATION
ODYSSEY DAWN

Lt Col Tyler “Mask” Stark
Bolar 34B
Overview

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

(Estimated ground track)
Rescue 34A– The TRAP
"Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personal"

- 1st OSPREY TRAP
- 26th MEU

Photo: USMC/Public Affairs
Recovery – 34B

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

Photo: Technical Sergeant Lee A. Oderry, USAF
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
Closing Remarks

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

Photo: USAF Public Affairs
Questions?