

[MISSION NAME] 540506 EARTHQUAKE

TARGET: DROP AIR CARGO TO CAMP ISABELLE
DEFENSES: 23MM, 37MM, 85MM
BEST BAILOUT: DEPART BATTLE AREA

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER (3) C-119
CALL SIGN: RAMBLER

HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 285/95 NM
ETD: 1500

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN

WINDS 4500 FT WINDS 3603G05 CU VIS 30 NM

TOP SECRET



HISTORY

On May 6, 1954, James "Earthquake" McGovern and Wallace Buford departed Cat Bi airbase for Dien Bien Phu along with five other CAT C-119s. They carried desperately needed ammunition for paratroopers holding out at an encampment named Isabelle, the last of the five firebases still in French hands. The first aircraft safely dropped its load, but as McGovern approached the drop zone, the port engine sustained damage from a 37-mm. A second hit damaged the horizontal stabilizer, severely impairing their ability to fly.

McGovern and Buford struggled for 40 minutes to keep their aircraft aloft on one engine—long enough to attempt an emergency landing at a remote landing strip 75 miles to the southwest in Laos. Just short of the landing strip, a wing tip clipped a tree. The aircraft cart wheeled and burned. McGovern and Buford died in the crash.

The remaining French forces at Dien Bien Phu surrendered the next day after Viet Minh forces overran the Isabelle base. This led to the end of the First Indochina War and marked the deaths of the first Yankee Air Pirates in the air war.



GAMEPLAY

After take off, fall into trail behind Rambler Lead and Two and proceed to Dien Bien Phu. There are two drops, Gopher Fight is dropping at Dominique to the north of Isabelle. Open your bomb bay, select the cargo and drop to put them all within the wire.

Then go to follow Lead out of the Valley to the west and land at an emergency strip in the jungle marked by smoke.

You might also try to go back to your airbase, if you wish.



It's tough hitting the DZ without being hit.

CAT



SECRET/NOFORN

[MISSION NAME] 620214 BEN CAT

TARGET: CLOSE AIR SUPPORT, BEN CAT
DEFENSES: SMALL ARMS
BEST BAILOUT: DEPART BATTLE AREA

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 2ND FIGHTER SQUADRON, VNAF
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER (2) T-28D
CALL SIGN: HAMMER

HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 275/15 NM
ETD: 1800

CONTROLLING AGENCY: RED CROWN

WEATHER BRIEF: SCT 4500 FT WINDS 3603G05 CU VIS 30 NM



HISTORY

In January 1962 the Farm Gate detachment began training 25 VNAF pilots to fly T-28's of the newly organized 2d Fighter Squadron. The Americans found that the VNAF airmen were excellent pilots, although few had night flying experience. Because the Viet Cong became active mostly after dark, the Americans emphasized the importance of night operations. Thus, shortly after their arrival in South Vietnam, the Farm Gate crews began experimenting with aerial flares, dropped from an SC-47, to light up a target for night strikes by the Vietnamese Air Force. The technique worked well and was quickly adopted by VNAF airmen, who began flying their own flare missions. The success of the flare-and-strike technique was apparent when the Viet Cong would break off their attacks when the flares ignited.



GAMEPLAY

After take off, proceed to Ben Cat, a village to the west of Bien Hoa airbase that is under attack. Wait for the flare ship and attack the enemy troops closing in on the garrison.

Then proceed to Bien Hoa and taxi to parking.



Like any night mission, you cannot see it but the ground is down there and it's hard.



THE IRON TRIANGLE

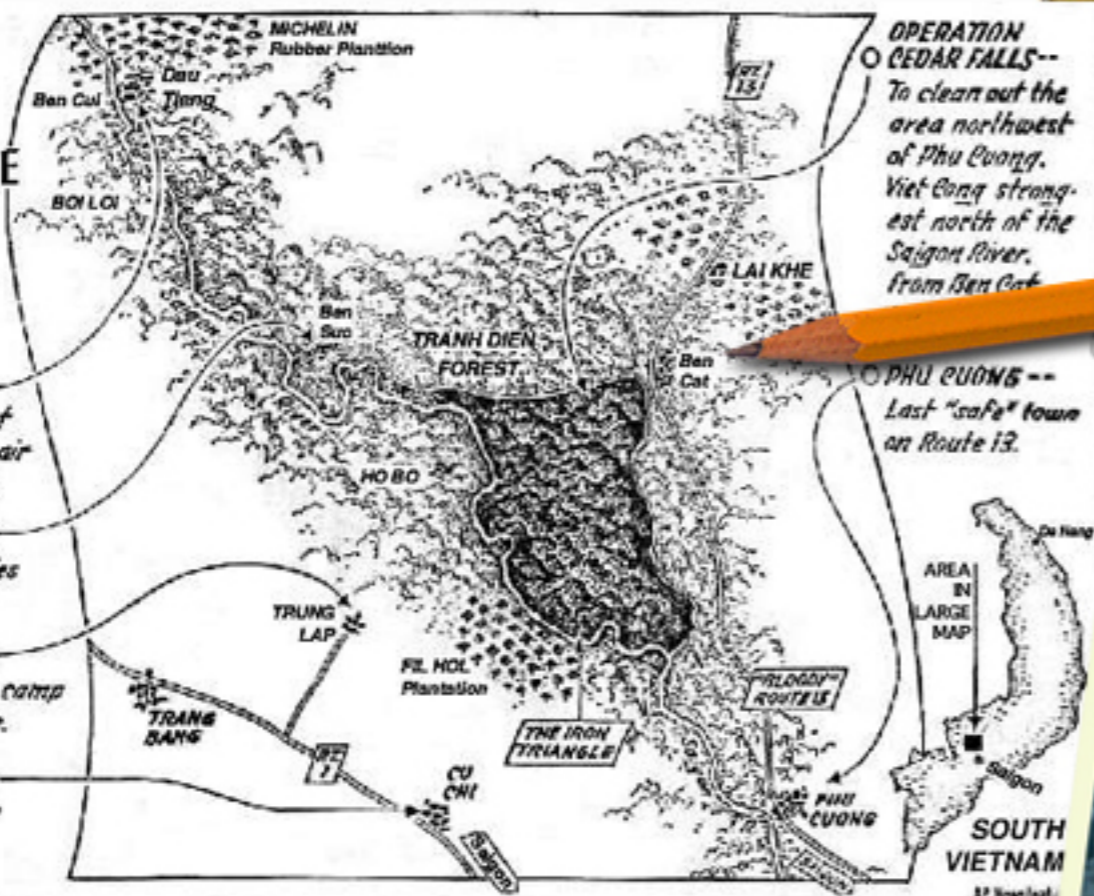
Rooting Out Viet Cong

DAU TIENG--
Held by allies but supplied only by air or river convoys.

BEN SUC--
Flattened by allies to foil VC.

TRUNG LAP--
Vietnamese army camp and Ranger base.

CU CHI--
Last "safe" town on Route 1.



OPERATION CEDAR FALLS--
To clean out the area northwest of Phu Cuong. Viet Cong strongest north of the Saigon River. from Ben Cat

PHU CUONG--
Last "safe" town on Route 13.



620322 FARMGATE

TARGET: GUERILLA POSITIONS, SVN
DEFENSES: AAA, SMALL ARMS
BEST BAILOUT: OUT OF COMBAT AREA

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 4400 OCTS, BIEN HOA AB, RVN
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER (2) B-26C
ORD LOADOUT: (4) BLU-27, (6) MK82, (4) LAU3, 50CAL
CALL SIGN: COWBOY


HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 300 / 18 NM
ETD: 1830 TIME OVER TARGET: 1100
WEATHER BRIEF: BKN 1800 FT WINDS 3606G10 VIS 20 NM

HISTORY

It's not often that we have the actual orders to explain the mission. Your specific area of interest is in paragraph 4. Jungle Jim became Operation Farmgate in Vietnam. You were supposedly training the South Vietnamese but, in fact, were engaged in combat almost immediately.

GAMEPLAY

Taxi out behind Lead to depart. Join and follow him to the target area. Stay in loose formation until he drops first. Then hit the targets. Take your time then go back to Bien Hoa and land. Taxi out of the way. This is a Top Secret mission.

 You are a volunteer with 5000 hours.
Fly smart and get home.

October 13, 1961

TOP SECRET

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 104

TO: THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Southeast Asia

The President on October 11, 1961, directed that the following actions be taken:

1. Make preparations for the publication of the white paper on North Vietnamese aggression against South Viet Nam which is now being drafted in the Department of State.
2. Develop plans for possible action in the Viet Nam ICC based upon the white paper, preliminary to possible action under paragraph 3 below.
3. Develop plans for presentation of the Viet Nam case in the United Nations.
4. Subject to agreement with the Government of Viet Nam which is now being sought, introduce the Air Force "Jungle Jim" Squadron into Viet Nam for the initial purpose of training Vietnamese forces.
5. Initiate guerrilla ground action, including use of U. S. advisers if necessary, against Communist aerial resupply missions in the Tchepone area.
6. General Taylor should undertake a mission to Saigon to explore ways in which assistance of all types might be more effective.

DECLASSIFIED
E. O. 11652, SEC. 3(E), 5(D), 5(E) AND 11
Committee Print of Pentagon Papers
BY H22 NARS DATE 7/15/77

TOP SECRET



621105 AIR COMMANDO

TARGET: GUERILLA POSITIONS, MEKONG DELTA, SVN
DEFENSES: AAA, SMALL ARMS
BEST BAILOUT: OUT OF COMBAT AREA

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: 1ST AIR COMMANDO SOC TRANG AB, RVN
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER (1) B-26C
ORD LOADOUT: (4) BLU-27, (6) MK82, (4) LAU3, 50CAL
CALL SIGN: COWBOY

HEADING/DISTANCE TO TGT: 260 / 14 NM
ETD: 1730 TIME OVER TARGET: 1745
WEATHER BRIEF: BKN 1800 FT WINDS 3606G10 VIS 20 NM



HISTORY

The B-26's were deployed from Bien Hoa to Pleiku in the central Highlands and Soc Trang in the Mekong Delta. These areas were hot from then until the end of the war.

As Jungle Jim became Farm Gate, the 4400 Combat Crew Training Squadron became the 1st Air Commandos and the plausible deniability began to melt away. These were American aircrews in combat against South Vietnamese rebels.



GAMEPLAY

Taxi ahead to the PSP runway and depart to the north. Follow your navigator down to the coast and look for campfires in the trees. Take your time and destroy all the targets.

Then return to Soc Trang. Use your landing lights to pick up the runway at landing. It's next to the village.



It's dark out there.
Just do your job and
return to land.



From Ambassador Taylor in Saigon to the State Dept 7 October 1964

In view of stand down on ground cross border operations and good possibility that ARVN will be unable afford detachment any significant ground combat capability for corridor in foreseeable future, air strikes are sole remaining dependable alternative.

Fixed targets will soon be destroyed if the RLAF performs as advertised and authorization received for Yankee Team strikes.

Saigon and Vientiane will further examine their assets and possibilities in this regard. Bangkok will explore availability and possibility of extending use of Thai assets in this connection.

There was also unanimous agreement that US participation in air operations in corridor is essential if such operations are to have desired military and psychological impact, particularly since initiative for operations came from us.

Although Vientiane believes Lao prepared to go ahead with strikes against first twelve targets authorized DEPTTEL 765 to Saigon, their initial enthusiasm may not survive loss of a few aircraft.

If so, if Lao do not hit those four targets for which US strikes are forbidden and are discouraged from strikes on Mu Gia Pass, many other targets in the corridor will go unscathed. These omissions will grossly diminish the military benefits of these bombings. The group thus hoped that Washington would reconsider present ban on RLAF attack on Mu Gia Pass and approve soonest Yankee Team strike on other targets.

Vientiane anticipates RLAF would initiate operations October 14. Affirmative decision re CAP prior to that date would be most helpful.

Vientiane does not expect RLG will initiate any publicity on strikes but will probably acknowledge RLAF operations in response to queries. Saigon and Bangkok will privately inform Khanh and Thanom prior to initiation operations. Vientiane will undertake keep Souvanna currently informed.



HISTORY

At left, the cable that started the bombing of the Ho Chi Minh Trail in neutral Laos. And, good to their work, the Laos struck on 14 OCTOBER 1964. The strike was near Mu Gia Pass at the town of Ban Phanop which became the most bombed area in the world.



GAMEPLAY

Depart Savanaket and join on Lead. Proceed to Mu Gia Pass and interdict the supply line at that point by attacking trucks or foot traffic.

Return to Savanaket.



★
Easy.
After this one, not so much.



MISSION] 670112 BOOGIES
TARGET PHOTO:

SECRET/NOFORN



CENTY
LAOTIAN BORDER
RTAFB, THAILAND

THOR POSTSTRIKE
04G08 VIS 30 NM



HISTORY

On January 12, 1967, elements of the 354th TFS were sent to destroy the Ha Gia Bridge fifteen miles north of Hanoi.

The bridge was one of several vital transportation choke points over which passed much of the supplies provided by China to North Vietnam to support the invasion of the South. A span was dropped but was back in place a few days later.

GAMEPLAY

Four F-105 Thunderchiefs are coming from Takhli to bomb the bridge, settling down their target run from the Thud Ridge.

Take off as Lead from one of the nearby airbases and follow your waypoints. You are flying a soviet MiG-17F fighter. When the radar calls for incoming enemy aircrafts drop your external tanks and tell your wingman to do the same. Then fall into chase and try to get as many as you can.

Best will be to get the leader first, then the others, possibly before they drop their bomb load. Another pair of MiGs will join the fight to help.

This mission has every element of a Rolling Thunder mission: Thuds, MiGs, AAA, weather and the confusion of air warfare.

If you get back and park your MiG near the others you deserve the 3 stars we rate this one.



[MISSION NAME] 680616 AIR AMERICA

TOP SECRET

TARGET: DELIVER 4 PACKAGES TO 4 LIMA SITES
DEFENSES: UNKNOWN

ASSIGNMENT: AIR AMERICA
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER (1) PC-6C
CALL SIGN: COWBOY

WINDS 3602G12 VIS 10 NM



HISTORY

The Secret War in Laos started before the public one in Vietnam. Keeping the American allies in the fight required a system of cargo delivery and personnel transportation between "Lima" sites scattered all over Laos. Air America, Byrd Air and Continental Air Services provided that process. They landed on impossible runways in terrible weather...consistently. These were some of the highest time professional pilots in the world at the top of their skills.

When a Pilatus representative visited to find out why their PC-6 was breaking so much, he went out on a flight. His conclusion was that Air America was operating their aircraft in a manner that no aircraft is made to survive. Their enemy was not men. It was lack of skill and lack of luck. A shortage of either was fatal.



GAMEPLAY

Depart Lima 20, a Hmong village on a mountain top and head southeast towards Lima 10. You will overfly Lima 102. If he lights a fire, it is clear to land and drop off one box. (CTRL-O, select and pickle.) Then resume your flight to Lima 10.

Look around before you try it. Get it slowed down to just above a stall and spike it on the end of the runway. Go full beta prop (UP ARROW), full throttle and full brakes. Put the package by the vehicle port, go all the way to the end, turn around and be at full throttle before you release brakes. Next up, Vientiane. Drop it by the big hangar. Then fly to "The Alternate" and drop the last package by the hut in back.



In Yankee Air Pirate,
you have to fly!

PILATUS



[MISSION NAME] 700128 JOLLY 71 KILLED

TARGET: RESCUE AIRCRAFT, VICINITY OF MU GIA PASS, LAOS

DEFENSES: A-1H, F4D'S EN ROUTE

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: VINH
AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER (2) MiG-21 PFM
CALL SIGN: PHAM TUAN, VINH AIRFIELD



HISTORY

We have been asked to stage another mission flown by the VPAF. Obviously, we have not interviewed the pilot. This story comes from the accounts of the Sandy pilots on the scene. A SAR was in progress for the two crewmen of Seabird 02, an F-105G, downed near Mu Gia Pass.

Rescue forces ignored several MiG calls by Red Crown allowing the MiG-21 flown by Vu Ngoc Dinh to the south of the force. He then made one pass firing missiles at Jolly 70 but hit Jolly 71, killing all aboard the rescue helicopter. The crew of Seabird 02 was never heard from again and was presumed to be executed.

GAMEPLAY

Take off and follow course as if directed by GCI until you are south of the rescue forces. Then locate an HH-53 and shoot your Atoll missile once you have a growl.

Then return to Vinh to land.



It is very hard to get a lock on the Jolly and kill it.



TOP SECRET

[MISSION NAME] 720112 SKYLINE RIDGE

TARGET: DESTROY HEAVY ARTILLERY SHELLING AIR BASE

DEFENSES: 51 CAL, SMALL ARMS

BEST BAILOUT: SOUTH TO LONG CHIENG

SQUADRON ASSIGNMENT: RLAF, VIENTIANE, LAOS

AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER (2) T-28D

ORD LOADOUT :

CALL SIGN: DAGGER

ETD: 1900

BRIEF: BKN 12000 FT WINDS 27001G03 VIS 30 NM



HISTORY

Long Chieng, was known as "The Alternate" to pilots in Laos but was, in fact, the headquarters of the General Vang Pao, the leader of the Hmong army fighting for the CIA.

Skyline Ridge is where huge forgotten battles were fought in this Secret War. The North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao moved heavy artillery to the ridge overlooking Long Chieng and the RLAF took part in destroying it.

The story is better told by the CIA operatives that knew it:

<http://combat-skyspot.tripod.com/skylineridge.htm>



GAMEPLAY

Long Chieng is under artillery bombardment. Depart Wattay airport in Vientiane and meet a Raven FAC directing strikes on artillery on Skyline Ridge above the airfield.

When you have expended all your ordnance, either return to Wattay or land at Long Chieng.



Easy flying. Hard bombing.





[MISSION NAME] 750429 SILVER LINING

DEPART GRASS STRIP, CON SON ISLAND.
FIND THE US FLEET.

HISTORY

This is the last mission in Yankee Air Pirate. The first of our great carriers that we built for YAP was the Midway because this is the story I wanted to tell from the start. It is a special mission. South Vietnam was collapsing. The people who had fought against the North Vietnamese invaders were going to be slaughtered

This is the story of Major Bung-Ly, a VNAF pilot. On this day, he loaded his entire family (wife and five children) aboard a tiny, two-seat Cessna O-1E Birddog. Braving ground fire, he took off and flew south into Tonkien Gulf in search of the US Navy. He knew they were out there but he had no way to find them.

He found the Midway. It became apparent that ditching was not an option because the children would probably not be saved. Dropping notes, one was finally grabbed by a crewman and taken to the captain. It read:

"Can you move the helicopter to the other side, I can land on your runway, I can fly for one hour more, we have enough time to move. Please rescue me! Major Bung Ly, wife and 5 child."

Captain Larry Chambers ordered everything that could not be moved out of the way pushed overboard. More Hueys landed and they went overboard also. He ordered 25 knots into the wind and in very bad weather and a wet deck, Major Bung Ly landed his family to the cheers of an entire crew of tough men.

Pilots from the Midway shot down the first and the last MiGs. The last Phantom the Navy launched was from the Midway. She served the US Navy for 47 years and 6 tours in the Tonkin Gulf. Many great acts of valor and sacrifice were committed by the crew of the Midway. Yet every telling of her history includes this story. A very bright spot on a very dark day.



GAMEPLAY

You know what he knew. The US Navy is out there somewhere. If you can find them, they will save you.



Welcome to America.

