



U.S. AIR FORCE

Rotary Club of Malibu *Making a Fighter Pilot*



Briefing Classification: None
Caveats: None

Fly, Fight and Win...



That Feeling? -> We call the “Jazz”

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Fly, Fight and Win...



Jim "Gweed" McMichael

LtCol USAF (ret.)



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Desert Storm

36

Southern Watch

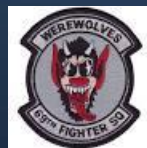
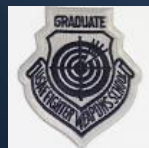
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Enduring Freedom

17

TOTAL

77



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Know the audience

- In fighter pilot lingo, what is a *Bag* ?
- What is BFM?
- A *Luftberry* is ...?
- Why do I recommend eating **bananas** before your F-16 ride?

Knock It Off?

As fragged?

Shack?



<- any idea ?

Ask me after the briefing

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Basic Requirements

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- **Must be a college graduate**
- **Obtain a Commission**
 - **Service Academy graduate**
 - **ROTC program graduate**
 - **USAF Officer Training School (OTS)**
 - **USN Officer Candidate School (OCS)**
- **Pass Air Force Flight Physical for Pilot Qualified**
- **Attend & graduate Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (SUPT) , it was just UPT in my day**
- **Pass ACM centrifuge “*Fuge*” ride**
- **Attend & graduate Basic Fighter Maneuvers course (known as “B” course)**

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How It All Began



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After College & OTS came UPT

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T-37 Tweet
Sub-sonic trainer
1st x-cntry to Reece AFB

50 weeks later, the prize ->



T-38 Talon
Super-sonic trainer





“Fuge” = Career builder or ender

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Slow buildup to 8 G's - no G-Suit (only run without the G-Suit)

6 G's for 30 sec

9 G's for 15 sec

7 G's for 10 seconds while checking six

ACM profile - you pull to 9 G's for 10-15 seconds and then back down to 4-5G's in between. You repeat this 3 or 4 times. Total of about a minute and a half under G.



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What a Fail Looks Like

This is what a future tanker or transport pilot looks like.

His shot at being a fighter pilot is over

This fellow not only failed his *fuge* ride but went home with a good case of the *Geasles* as a souvenir.



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Additional Training

■ **Be a better pilot**

- Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape (SERE)
- Become an Instructor Pilot (IP)
- Fighter lead-in school (LIFT) graduate
- Fighter Weapons School graduate
 - USAF – Weapons School
 - USN – Top Gun
- Air College and War College graduate
- Test Pilot
- Flight Demonstration Team member
 - USAF Thunderbirds , Viper East or West Demo team
 - USN Blue Angels, local squadron flt demo team

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Fighter Pilot 101



**Lead-in Fighter Training (LIFT) in the A/T-38, supersonic jet trainer
Holloman Air Force Base Alamogordo, NM**

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First Fighter



81-2 F-4 RTU Graduation

I also get asked if I have ever flown a passenger jet. I say "Yeah, the F-4"

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First Office



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Being a Phellow Phantom Phlyer was Phun

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PIT at Randolph AFB



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After PIT -> ENJJPT at Sheppard



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86 BAN Aggressor Class

A poster in the Aggressor squadron CO's office at Nellis summed it up well.

Over a picture of a Bengal Tiger were the words,

"If you want pilots to be tigers in the air, don't expect them to be house cats on the ground."



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Made it to a 4th Gen Fighter

F-16C block 30 jet RTU

Homestead AFB, 1987

After graduation, assigned to
421st Fighter Squadron
Hill, AFB Ogden, UT



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Weapon Systems Platform

Our Missions involve:

Attack in depth to

Disrupt

Defeat &

Destroy the enemy



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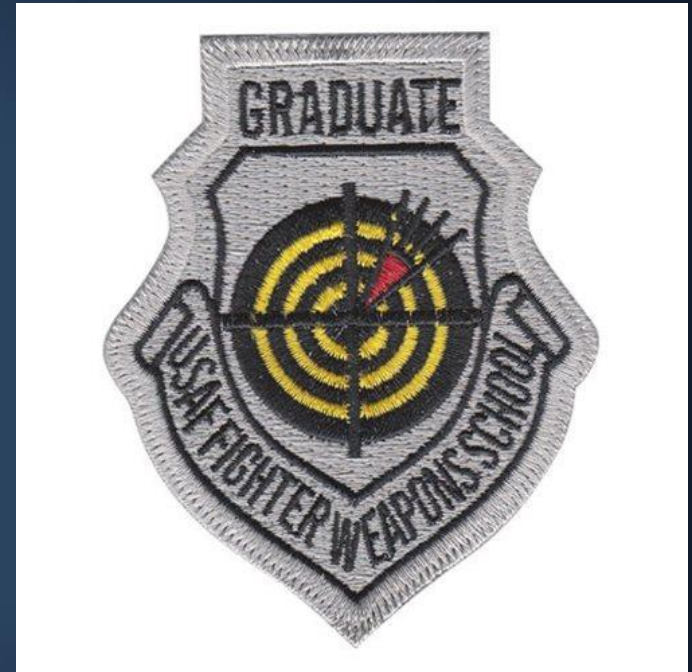


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Pride @ Being a Patch Wearer



Nellis AFB FWS Patch #449



BTW: Only 2% of all fighter pilots in USAF attend & graduate Fighter Weapons School
Each patch is numbered, mine is #449
16th WPS class 1989

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16 January 1991 *Liberation of Kuwait, a/k/a Desert Storm*

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We came for war

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Afghanistan Farewell 2003

Operation Enduring Freedom



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Rumors & Reality

- **You can always tell a fighter pilot but you just can't tell them much**
- There are only 2 kinds of fighter pilots: ..Those who walk to their aircraft knowing it's the last flight of their life, ..and those who walk to their aircraft not knowing it's the last flight of their life.
- **You negotiate with the enemy with your knee in his chest and your knife at his throat**
- Some guys have a thousand hours. Other guys have one hour a thousand times
- **When you start in this business, you are issued a bag full of luck and an empty bag of experience. Before the bag of luck is empty, the bag of experience had better be full**

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The Question

- **Well, that is all cool and fine
Sir but what is it really like to
be a fighter pilot?**

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Could it be meet celebrities?



Pat Boone & Jim
ROA Ball San Francisco
June 2007



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How about bonding with your ground crew?



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Maybe working with some awesome squadron-mates?

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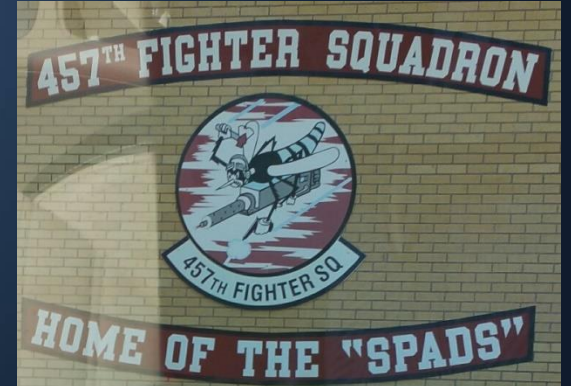
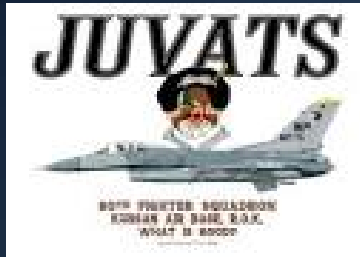


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How about the Squadron Camaraderie?



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Or lassoing a trophy spouse, that puts up with you, your BS higher, faster, farther stories & flight buddies for over 3 decades?



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Even Ladies can be Warriors

Every lady pictured is
either a F-16 or F-15
pilot

Red frizzy hair @ center
Is Melissa "Shock" May

Shock is married to
Michael "Mach" May.
Both Shock & Mach are
USAF Academy graduates



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The Correct Answer is

- All of the above **plus the most *fun* you can have with your clothes on and call it work.**



That's a tree folks!

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Add It All Up & You Get This



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Let's get to the flying stuff

"If you've been there,
no explanation necessary.

If you haven't, no
explanation is possible."



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What 9 Gs during dBFM looks like & why I walk funny

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**Note: Spine &
neck are
compressed
and twisted**

**Head weighs
about 90
pounds**

**Do that multiple
times per week
for over 20 yrs
and there is a
cost**



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Had your bananas this morning?

USAF Viper West Flight Demonstration

Rocket, Gweed, you're cleared as fragged



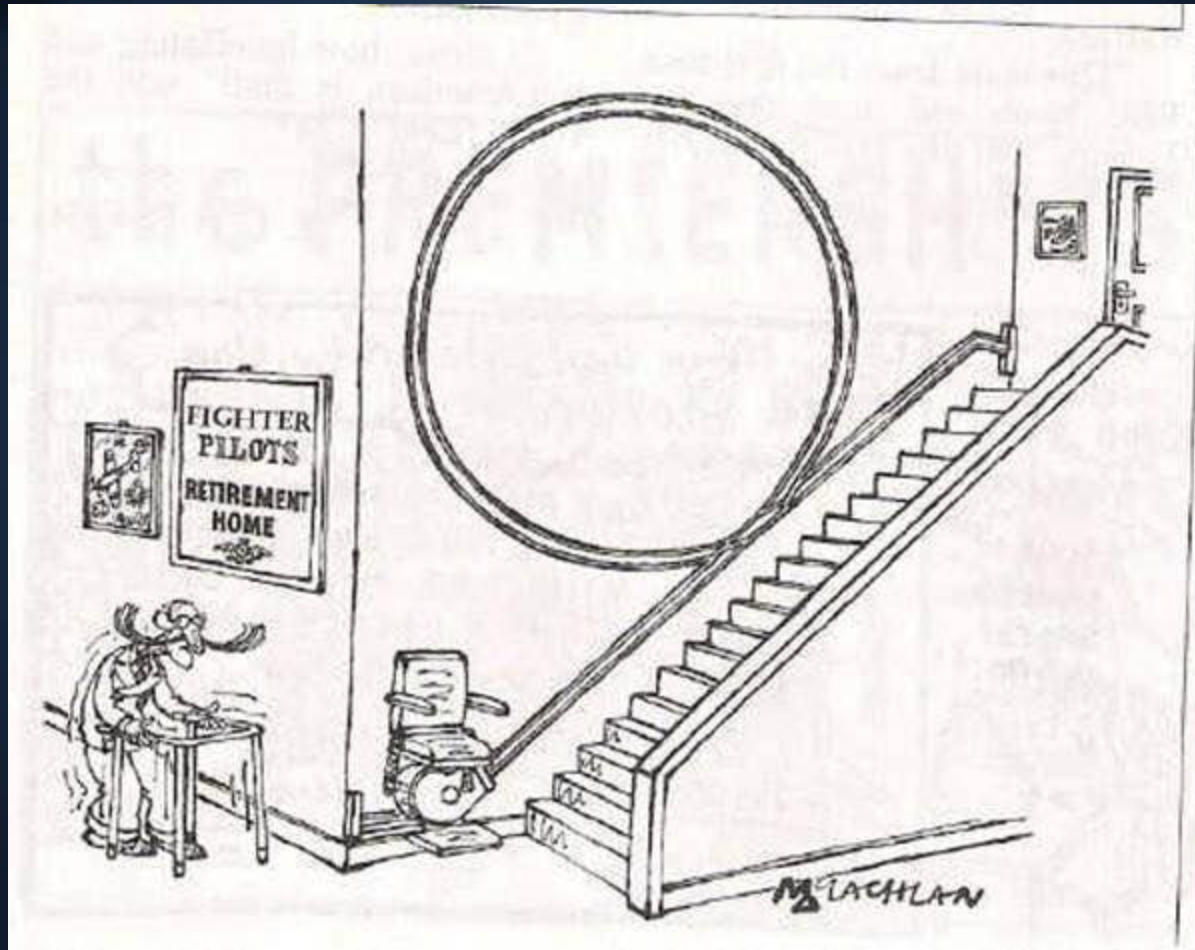
Attention to driver's view from cockpit, jet's roll rate and other things
that go bump in the night

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My Future



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Always Remember

It is an extremely dangerous job.

The seat we sit in has enough explosives to blow the seat and occupant clear of the jet while on the ground

We carry thousands of pounds of explosive missiles & bombs

We carry hundreds of gallons of fuel that gets spewed in the engine over an open flame

We carry hundreds of rounds of 20 millimeter explosive bullets

Still want to be a fighter pilot?



"Here's a nickel on the grass to you, my friend, and your spirit, enthusiasm, sacrifice and courage - but most of all to your friendship. Ours is a dying breed, and now you are gone, the world is a lesser place."

Toss a nickel on the Grass and save a Fighter Pilot's ass

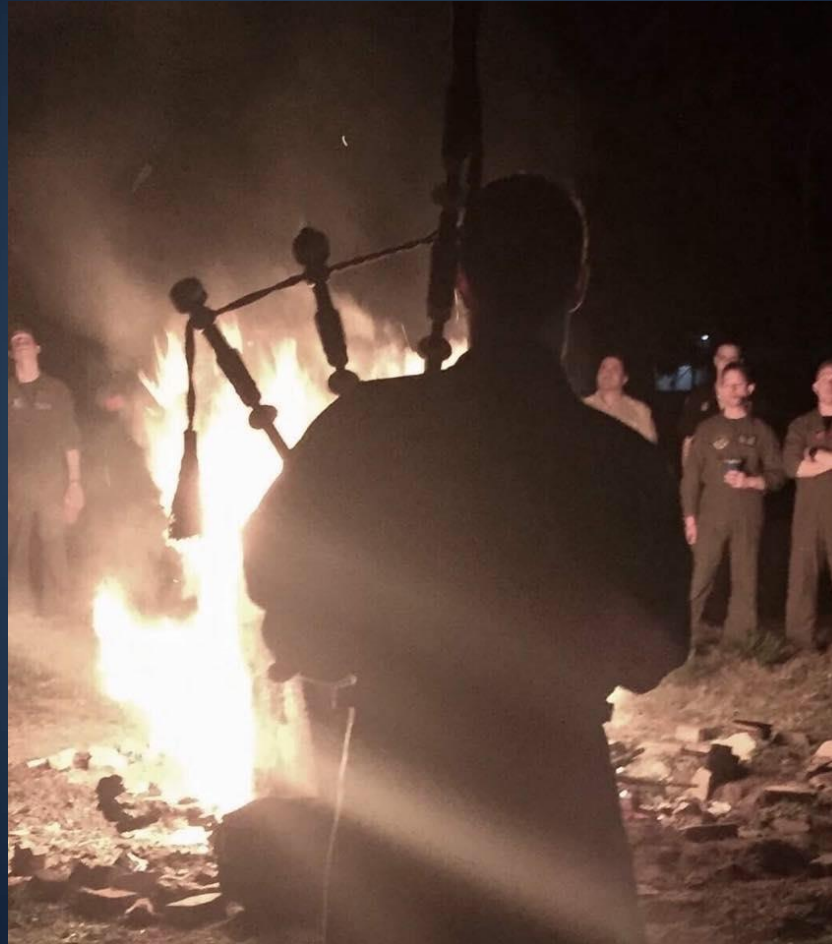
<- R.I.P Cajun

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Least We Forget



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Still Counting Smack, Even in Retirement

Case Study of US Fighter Pilots Incurring Injuries Caused by Dynamic Maneuvering

And

(Being Denied a Disability Rating from the Veterans Administration)

April 13, 2018



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Questions?



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Adios Amigos



Do as we do: *Push It Up*

Fly, Fight and Win...