

Declassified

# MILITARY SECRETS

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A lot of life's problems can be explained by the applications of the common sense from these recently declassified Military Secrets



***'Never fly in the same cockpit  
with someone braver than you.'***

***Q: What's the difference between a copilot and a jet engine?  
A: The jet engine stops whining when the plane shuts down.***

USAF Heritage Formation, Edwards AFB, 2005;  
F-117 Stealth Fighter, F-16D Fighting Falcons (Vipers), F-22A Raptor



***'There are bold pilots, and old pilots, but very few old bold pilots.'***

***– 1930s Army Air Corps Sign***

F/A-18F Super Hornet going transonic



***'Never tell the Platoon Sergeant  
you have nothing to do.'***

- Unknown Marine Recruit

***'Don't draw fire;  
it irritates the people around you.'***

Advice to new guy

A-10 Thunderbolt II  
(Warthog)



**'If your attack is going well, you have walked into an ambush.'**

- Vietnam era Army Training Guide

***'If the enemy is in range, so are you.'***

- Infantry Journal

***'Tracers work both ways.'***

- Army Ordnance Manual

***"Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo."***

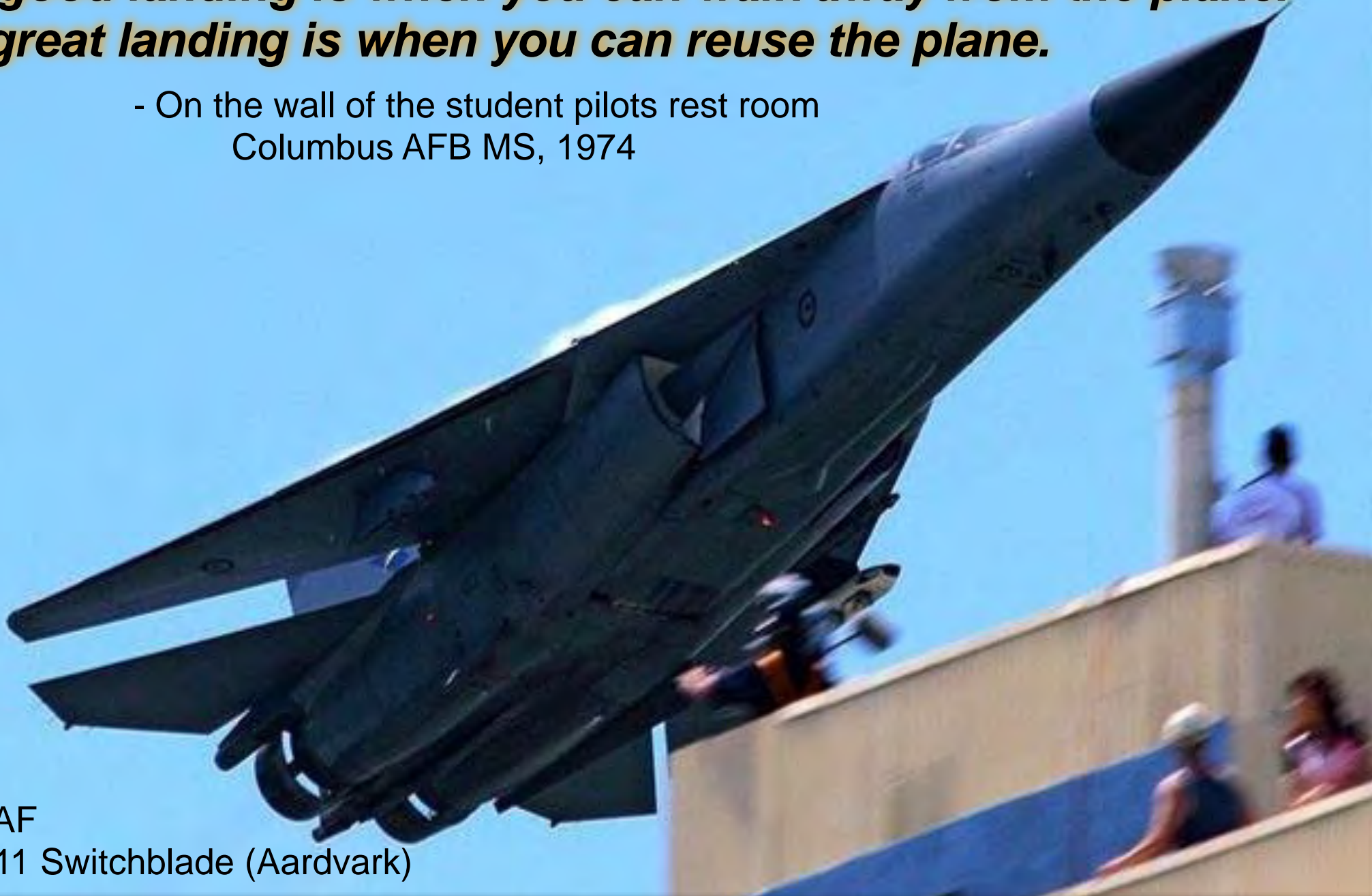
- Infantry Journal

***"Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid."***

- Col. David Hackworth

***'A good landing is when you can walk away from the plane.  
A great landing is when you can reuse the plane.'***

- On the wall of the student pilots rest room  
Columbus AFB MS, 1974



RAAF  
F-111 Switchblade (Aardvark)

***'Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last,  
and don't ever volunteer for anything.'*** US Navy

**C-17A  
Globemaster III**



***'There is no reason to jump out of a perfectly good airplane.'***

***-Sign at Pope AFB C-130 Squadron that supports Fort Bragg Airborne***

***'If something hasn't broken on your helicopter, it's about to.'***

***- Sign over Carrier Group Operations Desk***

**CH-53 Super Stallion**



**CH-47 Chinook**



***'The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.'***



C-130 Hercules, AKA "Blue Angel Fat Albert" JATO rocket assist

***'Flashlights are tubular metal containers kept in a flight bag for the purpose of storing dead batteries.'***



***'When a flight is proceeding incredibly well, something was forgotten.'*** - Infantry Journal

***'Five second grenade fuses last about three seconds.'***

- Infantry Journal -

Blue Angels flying Line Abreast, F/A-18C Hornet

***BASIC FLYING RULES.***

***'Try to stay in the middle of the air.***

***Do not go near the edges of it. The edges of the air can be recognized by the appearance of ground, buildings, sea, and trees.***

***It is much more difficult to fly there."***

**- W.W.II Undergraduate Pilot Training Sign**

***Do***



***Nothing is so good for the morale of the troops as to occasionally see a dead general.***

**- Field Marshal Slim**

***If you're faced with a forced landing, fly the thing as far into the crash as possible.***

**-Bob Hoover, renowned aerobatic & test pilot**



***'Friendly fire - isn't.'***

***'Radios will fail as soon as you desperately need fire support.'***

F/A-18C Hornet  
Carrier Take-off



***Aim towards the Enemy.***

- Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher

***'Airspeed, altitude, and brains. Two of these are always necessary to successfully complete the mission. The three most useless things in aviation are: Fuel in the bowser; Runway behind you; and Air above you.'***

- Basic Flight Training Manual



***'If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.'*** - Naval Ops Manual

C-130J Super Hercules

***"Things that must be together to work, usually can't be shipped together."*** — Supply Training Manual



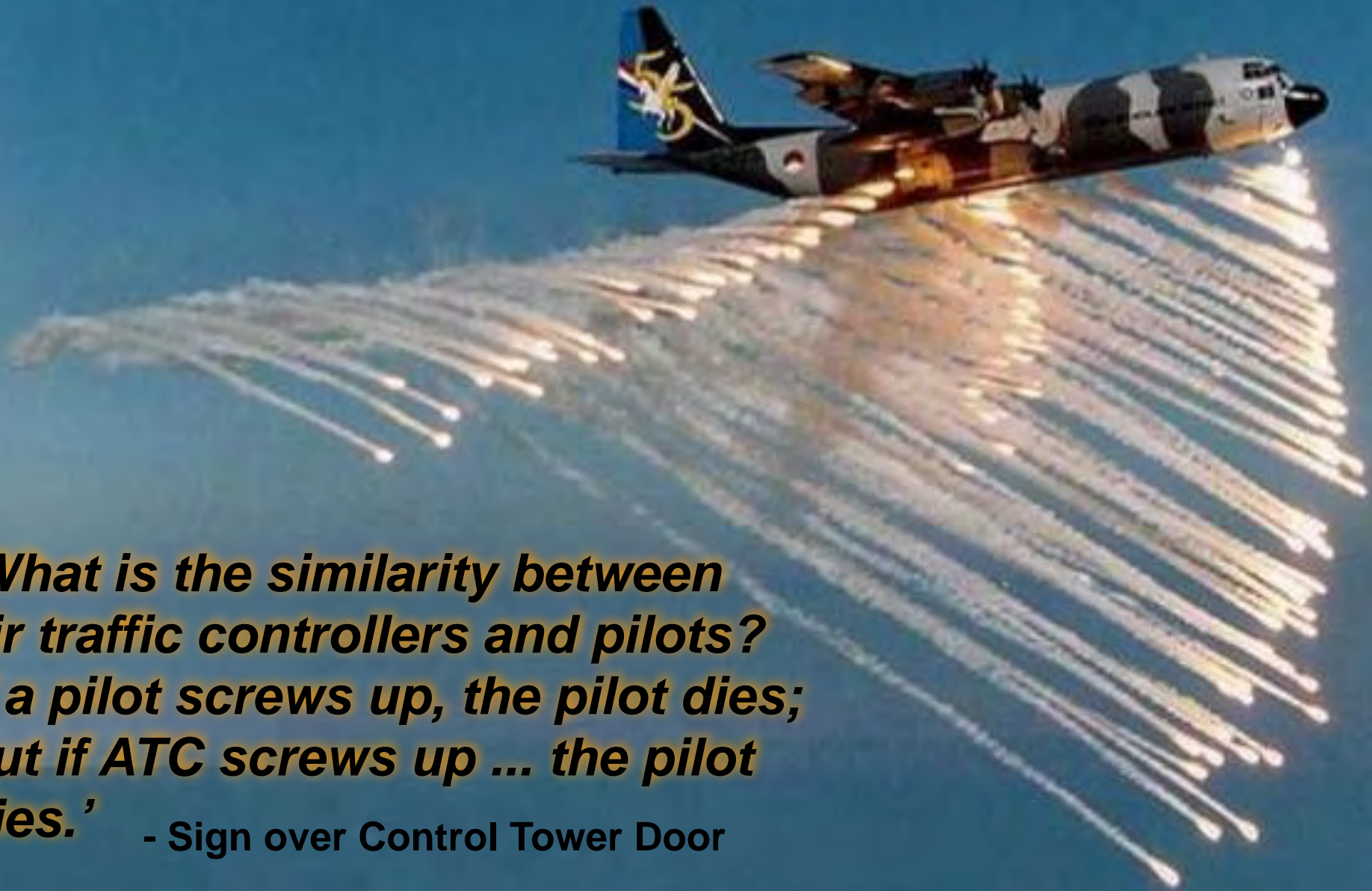
***"No combat-ready unit has ever passed inspection."*** - Joe Gay

***"No inspection-ready unit has done well in combat."*** - Annon

***Having lost sight of our objectives we need to redouble our efforts.***



***'Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once.'*** - Naval Ops Manual  
***'The easy way is always mined.'*** - Army Special Ops Manual

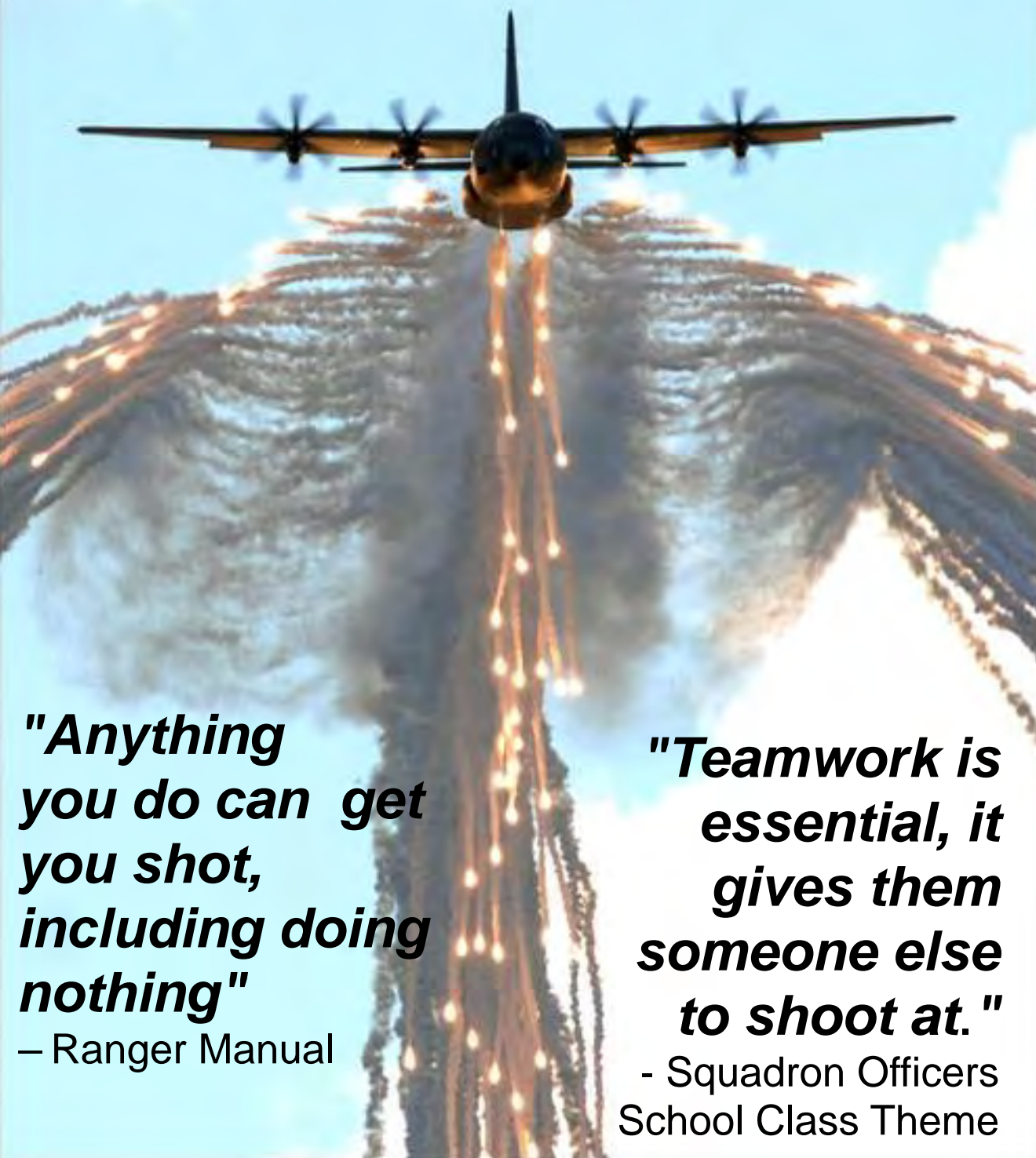


***'What is the similarity between air traffic controllers and pilots? If a pilot screws up, the pilot dies; but if ATC screws up ... the pilot dies.'*** - Sign over Control Tower Door

***'If you see a bomb technician running, try to keep up with him.'***  
- Infantry Journal-



C-130 Hercules



***"Anything you do can get you shot, including doing nothing"***

– Ranger Manual

***"Teamwork is essential, it gives them someone else to shoot at."***

- Squadron Officers School Class Theme

***'Flying the airplane is more important than radioing your "plight" to a person on the ground incapable of understanding or doing anything about it.'***

- Emergency Checklist

B-52H Stratofortress (BUFF) bomber



***'Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate.  
The bombs always hit the ground' - US Air Force***

*a real mechanic*



***'Pilots, please taxi up close when sumping your fuel cell. You may have lower manifold pressure and shorter exhaust stacks than you realized.'*** - Sign over men's urinal, Casey Jones Flying Service, Ontario OR 1968

***'The Piper Cub is the safest airplane in the world; it can just barely kill you.'***  
- Attributed to Max Stanley (Northrop test pilot)

AH-64D Apache Longbow



***'Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword, obviously never encountered automatic weapons.'*** - General MacArthur



***'If you hear me yell; "Eject, Eject, Eject!", the last two will be echos.'  
If you stop to ask "Why?", you'll be talking to yourself, because by then  
you'll be the pilot.'***

**-Pre-flight briefing from an F-15 Pilot**

Canadian T-33 Jet Trainer test ejection



***' A Purple Heart just proves that were you smart enough to think of a plan, stupid enough to try it, and lucky enough to survive.'***

***'Just remember, if you crash because of weather, your funeral will be held on a sunny day.'***



***'It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.'***

- US. Air Force Manual

USAF HC-130 King Bird &  
USMC CH-53E Super Stallion



***"An airplane is built to inherently want to fly. A helicopter is a compromised design that inherently wants to thrash itself apart."*** - 939 Rescue Wing Squadron lounge sign for HC-130 and HH-60 pilots



USAF Thunderbird Demonstration Team  
F-16C Fighting Falcon



**The three most common military aviation expressions (or famous last words) are: *'Did you feel that?'* *'What's that noise?'* and *'Oh Shit!'***

Thunderbird ejection prior to crash - pilot failed to set altimeter correctly before airshow



***“A good battle plan that you act on today can be better than a perfect one tomorrow.” - Gen George S. Patton***



***"The three best things in life are: A good landing, a good orgasm, and, a good bowel movement. The night carrier landing is one of the few opportunities in life where you get to experience all three at the same time'.***

- Ready room sign, USS Enterprise, 1969, Gulf of Tonkin

F-16C Fighting Falcon  
Misawa Japan



**Tower received a call from a crew asking, "What time is it please?"**  
**Tower responded, "Who is calling?"**  
**The crew replied, "What difference does it make?"**  
**Tower replied "It makes a lot of difference. If it is an American Airlines flight, it is 3 o'clock. If it is an Air Force plane, it is 1500 hours. If it is a Navy aircraft, it is 6 bells. If it is an Army aircraft, the big hand is on the 12 and the little hand is on the 3. If it is a Marine Corps aircraft, it's Thursday afternoon and 120 minutes to "Happy Hour".**

**'When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend.'** - USMC

F-16C Fighting Falcon  
From Moody AFB GA,  
In Iraq



***'If you find yourself in a fair fight, you didn't plan your mission properly.'*** - David Hackworth

***When you're short of everything but the enemy, you're in combat.***



***'Never trade luck for skill.'***

***'Without ammunition, the Air Force is just an expensive flying club.'***



***Everyone wants peace – and they will fight the most terrible war to get it. - Miles Kington***

SR-71 Blackbird (Slead)



***'You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3.'***  
- Paul F. Crickmore (SR-71 test pilot)-



SR-71 Blackbird, the fastest operational aircraft in the world



***'There is no reason to fly through a thunderstorm in peacetime.'***

***- Sign over Squadron Ops Desk at Davis-Monthan AFB , AZ.***

SR-71 Blackbird



***'Yea, Though I Fly Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death,  
I Shall Fear No Evil, for I am at 80,000 Feet and Climbing.'***

**- Sign over SR-71 Wing Ops**

CH-46D Sea Knight



***'If the wings are traveling faster than the fuselage it has to be a helicopter and therefore, unsafe.'*** - Fixed Wing Pilot

B-1B – Lancer (Bone)



***We are not retreating, we are advancing in another direction.***

F-4E Phantom II  
Osan AFB  
Republic of Korea



**You don't win a war by dying for your country. You win a war by making the other son-of-a-bitch die for his.**

- Gen George S. Patton

**Make it tough enough for the enemy to get in and you won't be able to get out.**

- WWII Infantry Manual

## B-2 Spirit & C-130 Hercules



***'When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane, you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash.'***

**-Multi-Engine Training Manual**

***'When in doubt, empty the magazine.'*** - Korean War Advice

**As a test pilot climbs out of an experimental plane having crashed tearing off the wings and tail, crash trucks arrive. A rescuer asks bloodied pilot, *'What happened?'* The pilot replies, *'I don't know, I just got here myself!'***



***‘Flexibility is the key to tactical success.  
Indecision is the key to flexibility’***



## C-40B (737-700) Combat Commander Transport



***If an airplane is still in one piece, don't cheat on it;  
ride the bastard down.*** - Ernest K. Gann, author & aviator

***"Now I know what a dog feels like watching TV."***  
- AF C-9 (DC-9) copilot attempting to check out in a 'glass cockpit' C-40 (Boeing 737).

## F-16C Fighting Falcon



***'You know that your landing gear is up and locked when it takes full power to taxi to the terminal.'***

Lead-in Fighter Training Manual



F-16C Fighting Falcon

***'Mankind has a perfect record in aviation - we have never left one up there!'*** - Unknown Author

***'Sometimes I think war is God's way of teaching us geography.'*** - Paul Rodriguez

Blue Angels F-18Cs fly over Liberty Island and The Statue Of Liberty

***'There are more planes in the ocean than submarines in the sky.'***

**- Blue water Navy truism**



***Coffee tastes better if the latrines are dug downstream from an encampment.***

**- US Army Field Regulations, 1861**

A-10 Thunderbolt II (Warthog) strafing with a  
30 mm GAU-8 six barrel Gatling gun cannon



***'Incoming fire has the right of way.'*** – Marine adage

***"No man is a leader until his appointment is ratified in the minds and hearts of his men"*** - Anonymous, "The Infantry Journal"

Military Secrets

*The End*

