

GHOST FIGHTERS

WGA number - 1863772

FADE IN:

Subtitles - Afghanistan 2007

FADE TO:

EXT 15,000 FT - SUNSET

POV as we fly over the cloud canopy. Below us a single F18A flies into view. A second F18A quickly follows. The aircraft insignia identify them as U.S. Marine. Both are armed with air to air as well as air to ground ordinance.

In the lead aircraft -

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - SUNSET

Marine Corps. Captain Chris Jackson (30), a man of African American descent is at the controls. His call sign is Stonewall.

His wingman -

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - SUNSET

Marine Corps. Captain Mike Ortega (30), his call sign is Mo.

MO
Stonewall, you feeling it yet?

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Twenty minutes ago, Mo. Stay focused.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

MO
Relax Baby. Just another walk in the park.

EXT. EXT 15,000 FT - CONTINUOUS

They break for the clouds below. Disappear into them. When they emerge,

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

STONEWALL

Two minutes to attack run. Arm ordinance.

EXT. LOWER ALTITUDE - SUNSET

We can see the mountainous terrain below.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

MO

Pickle's hot.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Let's hit the deck, Mo. Come at them right out of the setting sun.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

MO

Roger that.

EXT. LOWER ALTITUDE - CONTINUOUS

They go to a lower altitude that takes them into the mountains.

We then see overlapped images of both I/E cockpits as they maneuver through the mountain canyons. This is coupled with POV images from Mo's vantage point.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Target coming up.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - SUNSET

A column of military vehicles slowly move along the pass. Bad guys at the controls.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

MO

You can run, but you can't hide.

Close up POV image in infrared red of same military type vehicles.

MO (CONT'D)

You think he's in that convoy?

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Too late to determine that now.

EXT. LOW ALTITUDE - CONTINUOUS

The F18's haul ass and make it look easy.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - CONTINUOUS

The vehicles move along.

MO (V.O.)

Poor Bastards,

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

MO

Sometimes this just isn't a fair fight.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Policy is not our business, Mo.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

MO

Yeah, I know. But still.

EXT. LOWER ALTITUDE/ MOUNTAIN PASS - SUNSET

Overlapped images of the aircraft, the vehicles, and infrared red display.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Hack!

EXT. LOWER ALTITUDE/ MOUNTAIN PASS - MOMENTS LATER

The aircraft releases its ordinance onto the vehicles.
Explosions follow.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

MO

Hack!

EXT. LOWER ALTITUDE/ MOUNTAIN PASS - MOMENTS LATER

Same results. The F18's streak skyward.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

MO

Those guys were sitting ducks in
the open like that.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

STONEWALL

(annoyed)

What the hell, Mo?

(then add)

Don't go getting sentimental on me.
Stay on point.

EXT. EXT 15,000 FT - SUNSET

Back at altitude over the clouds.

TROOPER 25 (V.O.)

Mad dog, Trooper 25, we have a
bogey at your four o'clock.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

MO

Stonewall, you hear that?

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

STONEWALL

Copy!

(then ask)

Trooper, what's the altitude?

TROOPER 25 (V.O.)

Angels sixteen. Forty miles.

EXT. EXT 15,000 FT - CONTINUOUS

They cruise.

MO (V.O.)

Call it, Cochise.

Stonewalls aircraft break hard left. Mo's quickly follows.

EXT. 16,000 FT - SUNSET

Two Mirage fighters with no identifiable insignia fly in formation.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

STONEWALL

I have two bogeys coming right at us, Mo. You got 'em?

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

MO

Got 'em.

(then ask)

Trooper 25, Mad dog. Bogeys are not flashing IFF. Can you I.D?

TROOPER 25 (V.O.)

That's a negative, Mad dog. We have no other friendlies in the area.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Trooper are we clear to engage?

TROOPER 25 (V.O.)
Affirmative, Mad dog. You are clear
to engage enemy aircraft.

STONEWALL
Copy that.
(to Mo)
Lock 'em up!

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

MO
Way ahead of you.

EXT. 16,000 FT - CONTINUOUS

Mo's (wingman) aircraft breaks right. Stonewall's (lead) then follows.

The two Mirage break as well. In the distant background we see the F18's in pursuit.

Overlapped images of both groups of aircraft in a cat and mouse game.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Go get 'im, Mo.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

MO
Something's not right, Stonewall.
Why don't they dive for the deck?

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Don't second guess. You take the
lead, I got the wingman, copy?

EXT. VARIOUS ALTITUDES - SUNSET

The aerial maneuvers continue.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall glances down at his radar scope. We see the two Mirage blips are momentarily joined by a ghost image that quickly disappears.

STONEWALL
That's strange.

MO (V.O.)
What?

STONEWALL
Take a look at your screen.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

MO
I'm a little busy right now locking
this guy up. Whatcha got?

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall sees only the two Mirage blips on his scope.

MO (V.O.)
Talk to me, Stonewall. Whatcha got?

A moment.

STONEWALL
Disregard last. I got your wing.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

MO
Cool, 'cause I got radar lock.

POV through the windscreen as we see the two Mirage quickly break left and right respectively.

An instant later two black aircraft approach head on.

MO (CONT'D)
(complete surprise)
What the.....?

EXT. AIRCRAFT - SUNSET

We see the F18's and the two black aircraft merge for a minute second.

I/E. 16,000 FT - CONTINUOUS

Head on a swivel.

MO
(anxiety)
Shit, where did they come from?

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The black jets dive into the clouds below.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Head on a swivel.

STONEWALL
Trooper, this is Mad dog! You
picking up anything on our six at
angels fifteen!?

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The F-18's break.

TROOPER 25 (V.O.)
Negative, Mad Dog. All we have are
the two bogeys heading for angels
twenty, copy?

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Head on a swivel.

STONEWALL
We'll check again! Two more just
buzzed us going like a bat out of
hell to the west!

TROOPER 25 (V.O.)
Standby, Mad dog we're looking.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

MO
Stonewall, did you see where they
went?

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
No they were moving too fast.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

MO
Trooper, Mad dog. Keeps tabs on the
Mirages. We keep an eye out for the
new guys, copy?

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

As The F-18's break again.

TROOPER 25 (V.O.)
Mad dog, Trooper. We have four air
craft on our scope. Yours and the
two Mirage. Who are you chasing?

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Two very fast bogeys who were
heading one eight zero.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The F-18's cruise.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall's cockpit.

TROOPER 25 (V.O.)
Mad dog, Trooper. We think we have
your ghost. He's on your six angels
fifteen. Get outta there!

STONEWALL

Shit! How the hell did you not see him, Trooper!?

TROOPER 25 (V.O.)

We can't get a good radar return. He may be employing some type of stealth technology, copy!?

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Head on a swivel.

MO

Looks like our boy's using the clouds for visual cover.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Stay alert. We'll bait him. Wait for him to pop his head out.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The F-18's break into a combat spread.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

C'mon, Buddy. Show yourself.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - A FEW MINUTES LATER

The sun is lower in the sky.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

MO

Stonewall, I'm getting low on gas, Dude. We need to go.

Fuel gauge shows low fuel.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

STONEWALL

Damn, I don't like the idea of giving these guys a free shot at us while we high tail it home.

MO (V.O.)

You want to call a tanker?

STONEWALL

Too risky
(then ask)
Trooper, do you see him?

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

They cruise.

TROOPER 25 (V.O.)

Negative, Mad dog. You guys are all alone out there. The Mirage are out of the picture.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

MO

Call it.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

A pause, then

STONEWALL

Alright, let's ...

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The aft end of Mo's aircraft explodes.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Chaos.

MO

Shit! I'm hit, I'm hit! She's breaking up! I can't hold it!

Look to Stonewall.

MO (CONT'D)

Stoney!

Explosion.

INT. STONEWALL'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

MO

(faded voice)

Remember this.

We are in close on Stonewall's face as his eyes suddenly open. A few years older, his face is bathed in sweat. As he looks over, we can see the outline of someone under the sheets.

We then see the alarm clock; 04:43am.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Stonewall enters. We see a healed exit wound along his right upper chest area. As he runs the sink water, we see the healed entry wound along his upper back area.

Stonewall splashes water on his face, then looks in the mirror. A little boy around (8) appears at the door. Groggy, his name is Luke; he is Stonewall's son. Stonewall see him through the mirror, he turns.

STONEWALL

Hey Marine. What are you doing up so early?

LUKE

I heard you talking to someone.

As he picks up his son.

STONEWALL

You heard me talking to someone? Oh yeah, who?

LINDA (O.S.)

Mo.

Stonewall's wife, Linda. A white woman about the same age as he steps to them.

LINDA (CONT'D)

You're having the dreams again?

Stonewall has no reply. As Linda takes Luke from him and directs the boy out.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I thought we were pass this, Chris?
All those sessions.

STONEWALL

We are.

LINDA

Well apparently we're not.
(then adds)
And just when you stopped going to
therapy too. Don't you think that's
a coincidence?

STONEWALL

For two years I've been poked and
prodded Linda. I don't need anymore
damned Shrink.

He leaves the bathroom. As she follows,

LINDA

Then what do you need, Chris?

As Stonewall puts on a t-shirt.

STONEWALL

I need you to stay cool, Baby. I
got this.

He steps to her. They kiss lightly.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

Besides, in eight months I retire.
And we can put all this behind us.

LINDA

Are you sure about that?

STONEWALL

Retiring? We already talked about
this.

LINDA

Yes I know.
(then adds)
But can you honestly tell me that
you can put these last twenty years
behind you, Marine? All you've been
through.

STONEWALL
I'll never know until I try.

LINDA
That scares me.

STONEWALL
What? Where's this coming from,
Linda. Relax, it was just a dream.

Pause for effect.

LINDA
One of many.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Little league ball field. A practice day for Stonewall's team of eight year olds. A few parents sit in the bleachers. Stonewall stands at home plate with a bat and ball.

STONEWALL
Okay, Ritchie. This one's for you,
Buddy.

He bats the ball to Ritchie who stands at shortstop. The boy fields the ball clean, throws to first base. Luke is at first base to catch the ball.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)
Nice, nice, good job, Guys.

Stonewall glances to the bleachers. He sees Linda as she talks to some of the moms. He spots a man in military attire as he sits apart from everyone else. (40's) The man is in naval attire. We see his rank is Captain.

Stonewall returns his attention to his team. To his son in particular.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)
Okay, Luke. This one's for you.
Remember, keep your eye on the
ball.

He bats the ball to Luke. The boy misses the ball.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)
C'mon Buddy, you can do better than
that.

His mother can see that Luke is annoyed with himself.

LINDA

That's okay, that's okay, Sweetie.
We'll get it next time.

Stonewall glances to the bleachers again. The navy man is gone. He looks around, does not see the man. He then turns his attention back to the field.

STONEWALL

Okay, Luke. One more time. Make
sure you stay in front of the ball
this time.

He hits the ball.

EXT. MILITARY FRONT GATE - DAY

We see Stonewall in uniform as he pulls up to the security gate. The Marine Corp. sentry salutes, then waves Stonewall through.

CUT TO:

INT. MILITARY OFFICE AREA - DAY

Stonewall walks through the office area. We see U.S marines of various ranks and responsibilities. They show respect as he walks past. A young sergeant steps to him.

SERGEANT

Morning, Major. Uh, there's a
Captain Richards in your office.

STONEWALL

Captain Richards?

SERGEANT

Yes, Sir. Navy Captain Richards.

Stonewall gives the man a curious look. He then directs his attention to his closed office door.

STONEWALL

That will be all, Sergeant.

SERGEANT

Yes sir.

INT. STONEWALL'S OFFICE - DAY

We see the man who was seated in the bleachers, Captain Conner Richards as he looks at the wall full of awards and trophies.

Stonewall walks in, stops at a spot to show respect to the rank.

STONEWALL
Apologies, Sir. I was not made aware of a visit today.

As Richards looks at the wall.

RICHARDS
That's alright, Major. My being here today wasn't on any schedule.

Richards turns to Stonewall.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
Curious
(gesture to wall)
Nothing from Top Gun?

STONEWALL
I haven't had the honor of attending, Sir.

RICHARDS
Well you should. It's pretty kick ass.

STONEWALL
May I ask is that why the Captain's here today. To invite me to Top Gun

RICHARDS
Not yet. But one day we may have that conversation.
(then gesture)
Please sit down, Major Jackson. Or should I call you, Stonewall.

STONEWALL
Captain's discretion, Sir.

Stonewall sits as Richards steps to the window.

RICHARDS
You're named after a confederate General?

STONEWALL

Yes, Sir.

Richards gives him a curious gesture.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

Wasn't my doing, Captain. As you know call signs are given to us by fellow pilots.

RICHARD

I guess that's part of that Marine Corps. Humor I've grown so fond about over the years?

STONEWALL

It does take some getting used to, Captain.

Pause for effect.

RICHARDS

Tell me, Major. They say you passed over promotion because you like to fly? Is that true?

STONEWALL

Something like that, Sir.

Richards turns to him.

RICHARDS

You do realize that one of the perks of getting to the rank of flag officer is that you get to fly whenever you want?

STONEWALL

I am aware of that, Sir.

RICHARDS

So why pass? You afraid of the responsibility?

STONEWALL

Absolutely not, Sir!

RICHARDS

At ease, Marine.

Stonewall settles.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
I needed to make sure whether or
not your the man I'm looking for.

STONEWALL
Sir?

RICHARDS
A few years ago you were on a
mission that did not go well.

CUT TO:

EXT. FLASHBACK - ESTABLISH

Mo's aircraft explosion.

BACK TO:

INT. STONEWALL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall rubs his chest as he looks at a photo of him with
Mo. An F-18 is parked in the background.

RICHARDS
The debrief you gave during your
recovery definitely interested a
lot of people.
(redirect)
By the way. How is your recovery
going?

Stonewall is lost in thought.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
Major?

Still lost.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
(more abrupt)
Major!

Stonewall snaps too.

STONEWALL
Sir?

RICHARDS
You alright?

STONEWALL

Why are you here, Captain?

RICHARDS

Alright, straight to the point.

(debrief)

Since your encounter there have been more incidents with these..

(pause)

Ghost.

STONEWALL

Ghost?

RICHARDS

That's what we're calling them for now.

(then add)

The brass is starting to worry. So far we've been able to keep tight lipped about them. But sooner than later some media Joker's gonna get the scoop of the decade.

STONEWALL

Is that so bad?

RICHARDS

Hell no. It's all about public opinion, Marine. The good guys always win.

STONEWALL

So what does the Captain want with me, Sir?

Serious.

RICHARDS

A hornet's nest has been opened. I here to see if you're interested in putting it out.

STONEWALL

Why me, Sir?

RICHARDS

Why not you, Major?

STONEWALL

Captain, I'm putting my papers in. I'm out in eight months.

RICHARDS

Then we're wasting time.

(then adds)

I've assembled a team of pilots and
Reo's that have been training to
end,

(pause)

This inconvenience.

STONEWALL

Inconvenience?

RICHARDS

And right now I'm looking for the
right man to lead them.

(pause for effect)

You.

STONEWALL

Me?

RICHARDS

I've offering you the opportunity
to right an injustice. You are my
lone survivor, Major. You are the
key. You interested?

Stonewall looks at the photo of he and Mo. We pause for
effect, then we see as Stonewall does a series of slow nods.

STONEWALL

I'm listening.

RICHARDS

That's it. Your team is already
assembled. They're awaiting your
arrival.

STONEWALL

My arrival? I just can't leave.
I've got a job to do here.

RICHARDS

The perks of having the bird on the
shoulder. Your replacements on the
way. Any other questions?

Stonewall stands.

STONEWALL

Yes Sir. Why Reo's. You don't
really need them in F-18's.

RICHARDS
Who said you were flying F-18's?

STONEWALL
Stealth fighters?

Richards smirks.

RICHARDS
Orders are on your desk, Major
Jackson.

STONEWALL
Stonewall.

RICHARDS
Sorry.

STONEWALL
My call sign is Stonewall. Call me,
Stonewall.

RICHARDS
Well, at least for the next eight
months anyway.

Richards walks toward the door.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
You will assemble in seven days,
Major. Don't be late.

Richards step out. Stonewall picks up the file, begins to
thumb through it.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. STONEWALL'S HOME - DAY - ESTABLISH

Stonewall sits at a table as he helps Luke with homework.
Linda leans against the archway.

LINDA
Pensacola?

STONEWALL
To begin with.

LINDA
So let me get this straight. The
navy wants you to command a fighter
squadron in Florida.

STONEWALL
Something like that.

LINDA
A squadron of navy pilots?

STONEWALL
Not so much a squadron. More like a
small team.

LINDA
To do what?

Stonewall give her a "You know I can't tell you" look that
Linda gets.

LINDA (CONT'D)
So why you? You're out in eight
months.

STONEWALL
Hopefully this will be over by
then.

LINDA
And if it isn't?

STONEWALL
They'll have to find a replacement.
It's that easy.

LINDA
If this were the Marines I would
agree. But, this is the navy,
Chris.

As she walks away.

LINDA (CONT'D)
Since when have they've done
anything easy?

Stonewall is left to ponder the question.

CUT TO:

EXT. NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA FLORIDA - DAY

The base flight line with multiple aircraft parked in rows as
well as aircraft in taxi mode in the background.

In the foreground we see two pilots in flight gear as they
walk towards us. One male, the other female.

Both in their mid twenties, he is Max James, call sign, Chi town. She is Katherine Mathers. Her call sign is Streaker.

CHI TOWN

So where the hell did you learn that maneuver?

STREAKER

Video game.

CHI TOWN

Really? You'll have to show me that one.

(then add)

Over a bottle of wine.

STREAKER

Is that the best you got, Chi town?

CHI TOWN

I'm a naval aviator. As long as I got control of my stick and throttle anything can happen, Lady.

STREAKER

Well in that case you're better off reaching between your legs and pulling the ejection handle, Honey. Because that's all you're gonna get.

A humvee pulls up next to them. We see two individuals in the vehicle. They are Dan Curtis and Lou Cassero. All four are in the same age range.

Dan's call sign is Herc.

STREAKER (CONT'D)

Hey, Herc.

HERC

Get in. The Captain wants to see us.

STREAKER

Why what's up?

HERC

Apparently our new commander is here.

CHI TOWN

Have you seen him yet?

Lou's call sign is Nukem.

NUKEM

No, but the scuttlebutt's true.
He's a Jarhead.

STREAKER

(not pleased)
Seriously? A Marine?

CHI TOWN

There goes the neighborhood.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Chi town, Streaker, Herc, and Nukem sit in the room with four additional pilots. They all have various conversations amongst themselves. The door opens.

Navy Lieutenant commander Nick Luc enters first. His call sign is Flash.

FLASH

Room, text hut!

All rise to attention as Richards followed by Stonewall enters. Stonewall and Flash stay at the back of the room as Richards steps to the front.

RICHARDS

Be seated.

All sit on command. Richards stands before them.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)

Good morning.

As a group they all respond respectfully.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)

Today we enter the next phase of your assignment. The man who will be your commanding officer is on deck.

(gesture to Stonewall)

Major Christopher Jackson. Call sign.. Stonewall.

(to Stonewall directly)

Major Jackson?

Stonewall steps to Richards side.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
 Now, you were previously briefed
 Major Jackson background and his
 experience.

(then add)
 Forgetting the fact that he is a
 Marine.

Low chuckles in the room.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
 I fully expect you all to treat him
 with the utmost of respect in the
 finest of naval tradition. Is that
 clear?

"Yes Sir" from all.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
 They're all your, Major.

As Richards walks to the door.

FLASH
 Text hut!

All stand to attention.

RICHARDS
 As you were.

Richards exits. The room settles, but all still stand.

STONEWALL
 Be seated.

All sit.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)
 Alright people. I've read your
 bio's and have been brought up to
 speed as to why each of you were
 chosen as the primary and backup.

(then add)
 So, without any further adue, and
 in the finest of naval traditions
 (pause for effect)
 I'm not impressed.

Pause for reflection.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)
 Someone told me you people were
 pretty good.
 (MORE)

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

I have a funny feeling that I was
lied to.

(pause for effect)

Was I?

CHI TOWN

No, Sir.

Stonewall steps to him.

STONEWALL

Name and rank, Navy?

Chi town stands.

CHI TOWN

Lieutenant Max James, Major. Call
sign Chi town.

STONEWALL

Chi town huh? You the instructor
pilot?

CHI TOWN

Yes, Sir. And Top Gun trophy
winner.

A moment of contempt.

STONEWALL

Sit down, Lieutenant.
(to the room)

Next!

The seven look to one another. Streaker stands.

STREAKER

Lieutenant Katherine Mathers. Call
sign Streaker.

STONEWALL

Streaker?

Low chuckles in the background that include Flash.

STREAKER

Yes, Sir.

STONEWALL

Is there a story associated with
this name, Lieutenant?

STREAKER
 Yes, Sir but..
 (stop)

STONEWALL
 But what?

STREAKER
 You had to be there, Major.

STONEWALL
 That's usually how it happens,
 Lieutenant. Sit down.
 (to the room)
 Next!

Herc stands.

HERC
 Lieutenant Daniel Curtis, Major.
 Call sign, Herc.

STONEWALL
 Herc?

HERC
 I played football at the academy. I
 was given the name then.

STONEWALL
 The academy?
 (then ask)
 Were you any good?

HERC
 Up to when I blew my knee out, Sir.
 Yes.

STONEWALL
 I played a little ball myself,
 Lieutenant.

HERC
 Yes, Sir. I just found out this
 morning.

STONEWALL
 Well, take a knee.

Herc sits. Stonewall scans the room until he zeros in on
 Nukem. Nukem has a sense of nervousness about him.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

Next.

Nukem notices that Stonewall refers to him. He stands. There is a sense of nervousness in his demeanor.

NUKEM

Lieutenant Cassero sir, uh Major.
Lieutenant Lou Cassero.

STONEWALL

You okay, Son?

NUKEM

I'm fine, Sir.

STONEWALL

You nervous about something?

NUKEM

No, Sir. Just a little anxious to
get going, Major.

STONEWALL

Soon enough, Son. Soon enough.
Let's go ahead and settle down.

Nukem sits as Stonewall turns his attention to the rest of the room.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

Alright, I understand that the rest
of you are the backup crews in case
one of these guys blow it.

(pause for effect)

We'll talk later. Dismissed!

The room rises, all dismiss themselves as Stonewall watches them. Flash steps to his side.

FLASH

Don't let the cool exteriors fool
you. Captain Richards chose well.

STONEWALL

Did he, Commander?

(pause for effect)

I guess we'll see.

FADE TO:

BLACK:

We hear background vocals between aircraft and ground controllers. The sound of muffled aircraft engines is permeated as well.

FADE IN:

I/E: F-18 SUPER HORNET COCKPIT - SUNDOWN

Streaker is at the control as a desert terrain speeds by in the background.

GROUND CONTROLLER (V.O.)
Streak, you have hostiles at Angels ten. Two five zero your position. At thirty miles.

STREAKER
Copy that. Hostiles at Angels ten, thirty miles.

We see the high tech digital displayed cockpit instrumentation.

GROUND CONTROLLER (V.O.)
Streaker, that bogey is rolling in on our six. You'd better move, he's coming fast!

STREAKER
Understood.

We see the weapon's configuration digital screen as she taps the master arm switch.

STREAKER (CONT'D)
Pickle's hot.

We then see village lights quickly move past the canopy.

STREAKER (CONT'D)
Starting my attack run now.

GROUND CONTROLLER (V.O.)
Streaker, bogey identified as a Mig thirty five. Be advised, they carry the Hades air to air missile. You are well within his firing range.

STREAKER
Big Thirty five huh? It's About time they finally sent the big boys out to play.

POV through her heads up display. The mountainous terrain before her. Suddenly we hear the radar warning.

GROUND CONTROLLER (V.O.)
Streak! Bogey has lock on! Abort
your run, abort your run!

STREAKER
No! Stay on target.

GROUND CONTROLLER (V.O.)
He's firing! Break left!

Streaker does as commanded. Through the canopy we see the background jerk and maneuver around her.

GROUND CONTROLLER (V.O.)
He missed. But he's still back
there.

STREAKER
Copy that. Going for radar lock on
target.

Her digital display shows a tank in the distance. The vehicle is radar locked.

STREAKER (CONT'D)
I have radar lock. Firing!

POV through the heads up display as the missile shoots out in front of the aircraft.

The digital display shows the missile as it impacts the tank.

STREAKER (CONT'D)
Yeah! Scratch one tank.

The radar warning quickly sounds off.

STREAKER (CONT'D)
Shit!

Streaker pulls hard on the stick. Through the canopy the aircraft is seen to roll hard left.

CUT TO:

INT. SIMULATOR CONTROL ROOM - ESTABLISH

The ground controller watches his monitors. A hand touches his shoulder.

RICHARDS
Okay, that's enough.

Stonewall stands next to Richards.

GROUND CONTROLLER
Okay Streak. Knock it off. Come in
for a debrief.

STREAKER (V.O.)
Copy that.

CUT TO:

INT. F-18 SUPERHORNET SIMULATOR ROOM - ESTABLISH

Streaker climbs down the ladder. Takes off her helmet, then
turns to see Richards as he looks squared jawed at her.

STREAKER
Hello, Sir.

RICHARDS
What was that?

STREAKER
What was what?

RICHARDS
That bogey had you dead to rights.
What were you thinking?

STREAKER
With all due respect, Captain. He
missed.

RICHARDS
Because we made it that he missed,
Lieutenant. It's in the game.

He steps closer to her.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
Get something straight, Katherine.
(then add)
You're always lucky when it's a
game.

Richards turns, walks away. Streaker is alone, but she does
not feel it. She looks up to the control room.

Stonewall is still there. They lock eyes. We pause for effect. She then walks away.

CUT TO:

EXT. A BLUES BAR - NIGHT

Patrons walk in.

CUT TO:

INT. A BLUES BAR - ESTABLISH

Musicians perform on stage. Chi town is part of the band as we see him play a mean saxophone. Two women near the stage show they are definitely interested in Chi town.

Stonewall walks in, steps to the bar. He and the bartender discuss drink selection. The bartender nods, walks away as Stonewall turns his attention to the stage.

Chi town plays a mean sax.

CUT TO:

INT. A BLUES BAR - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Stonewall sits at a table as the music stop. The crowd claps wildly as the band exits the stage.

We see Chi town walk through the crowd to the two women. Stonewall sees this too. A waitress gestures to his empty glass. No, is the gesture back to her.

As he speaks to the two women, Chi town accidentally bumps a big man as he attempts to pass; not good.

BIG MAN

Watch what you're doing, Idiot.

Chi town gives the man a nonchalant response.

CHI TOWN

Relax, Dude. It's all good.

Chi town turns his attention back to the women. The big man grabs Chi town's shoulder. Chi town instinctively reacts to the sudden force.

CHI TOWN (CONT'D)

Don't put your hands on me, Man. I
said it's all good.

Chi town's four band mates move to his side. The big man's
two to his. Most of the bar is oblivious. Stonewall watches
them.

We pause for effect.

CHI TOWN (CONT'D)

Okay Fellas. Violence is not the
answer. Let's all just ease back on
the throttles and bring it in for a
nice landing.

BIG MAN

Ease back? What are you? A flyboy
or something.

CHI TOWN

No, that's the Air Force. Albeit an
honorable organization. But, not my
first choice.

Humor.

CHI TOWN (CONT'D)

No Sir. I play the saxophone. And
in my spare time I am what you may
call,

(emphasis)

A na..val avi..ator.

BIG MAN

You better not be lying to me, Boy.
I got a lot of respect for our boys
over there.

CHI TOWN

No Sir, I am not. In fact I just
returned from a deployment and I
was hoping,

(gesture to the women)

That these two lovely ladies were
going to remind me of what it is I
am actually fighting for.

A pause as the Big man looks at Chi town while he in turn
sizes up the mountain that stands before him.

BIG MAN

Name's Perry.

He offers Chi town his hand who enthusiastically accepts.

CHI TOWN

Max James. My friends call me Chi town.

The big man looks at the two women, smiles.

BIG MAN

Enjoy your evening.
(to Chi town)
Welcome home, Navy.

CHI TOWN

Well thank you very much. It's good to be home.

The big man and his friends walk away. Chi town's band mates breathe a sigh of relief. Chi town happens to glance over. He spots Stonewall at the table. The two look at one another.

Chi town is drawn back to the ladies by one of his band mates. A moment later he looks back to Stonewall who is no longer at the table.

Chi town give the bar a quick scan. He then turns his attention back to the ladies. A hand suddenly touches his shoulder.

Chi town dreads, but prepares himself. He turns ready to fight. Stonewall stands before him.

STONEWALL

We need to talk.

CHI TOWN

Can it wait? I'm kinda busy right ...

STONEWALL

(interrupt)

Now.

Stonewall walks off. Reluctantly Chi town follows.

CUT TO:

EXT. A BLUES BAR - MOMENTS LATER

A small crowd stands outside as Stonewall exits and steps to the street. Chi town curiously follows him.

CHI TOWN

Look Major. We're duty and I was
have a real ni..

Stonewall punches Chi town in the face. Chi town falls hard
against a parked car. Before he can recover, Stonewall has
him by the collar. He pulls Chi town to his feet.

STONEWALL

Captain Richards speaks highly of
you. Says you're a naturally gifted
pilot. The best he's seen in a long
time.

(jerk the collar)

I don't care how good you think you
are, Dickhead.

(anger)

Don't you ever insult the men and
women who have been in the fight.
You have not been in theatre yet!
And have no comprehension of what
they've sacrificed.

(then add)

You pull that bullshit again I will
personally flame your sorry ass. Do
you copy!

Stonewall pushes Chi town back against the car, walks away.

FADE TO:

BLACK:

FADE IN:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - FILTERED BLACK AND WHITE - SUNSET

A black and white image of Mo's aircraft engulfed in flames.

CUT TO:

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - FILTERED BLACK AND WHITE - ESTABLISH

Chaos.

MO

Stoney, I can't hold it! She's
breaking up, she's breaking up!

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - FILTERED BLACK AND WHITE - ESTABLISH

STONEWALL

Mo! You're on fire! Get out! Get
outta there! Eject, eject, eject!

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - A SECOND LATER

Mo's aircraft explodes.

CUT TO:

INT BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

VOICE

(faded)

Remember ...

Stonewall suddenly sits up in the bed bathed in sweat. The
moment settles, he rises from the bed.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - A SECOND LATER

Stonewall runs the sink water. He then cups his hand under
the faucet. He splashes the water on his face. Stonewall then
looks at his reflection in the mirror.

STONEWALL

I haven't forgotten, Mo. I haven't
forgotten.

CUT TO:

EXT. FLASHBACK - ESTABLISH

Stonewall's F-18 as it hugs the deck being pursued by an as
yet unseen adversary.

CUT TO:

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

Stonewall's head on a swivel.

BACK TO:

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall leans closer to his reflection. We pause for effect.

STONEWALL
Get your shit together, Marine.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - DAY

A single F-18 Superhornet has the sky to itself.

CUT TO:

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

Stonewall sight sees.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Another identical aircraft parks itself just off the left wing of the first; danger close

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

RICHARDS
Morning, Major.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
That you, Captain?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
So what brings you out on a lovely day like today?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Just keeping my hours up, Sir.

RICHARDS (V.O.)
That's civilian talk, Stonewall.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
You want to tell me something?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
All options are on the table.

RICHARDS (V.O.)
Don't give me that options crap.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
What's the motto? Once a Marine...
(then add)
Besides, I think you have a few
more demons you need to exercise,
don't you?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
What, you my shrink now?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
No, I just the guy who in about ten
seconds is going to kick your sorry
ass out of his sky.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Those sound like fighting words,
Swabby.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
You're damned right, Grunt. Let's
dance.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Richards break hard. Stonewall quickly follows as the
dogfight begins. Both pilots show off their respective
skills. The mock fight takes them low level.

BACK TO:

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
Not bad. Not bad at all.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Down low. You in my hood, Navy.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The low level pursuit continues. The aircraft buzz grazing
cattle.

BACK TO:

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
That guys gonna be pissed.

RICHARDS (V.O.)
Don't worry I know him.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
I know the guy.
(redirect)
(MORE)

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
I'm getting bored with this,
Marine. You on autopilot or
something?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
I'm just granting you one last
hurrah before I blow you out the
sky, Captain.
(then add)
You know, respect for rank and all.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
Oh,
(pause)
Well in that case.

Richards pulls hard on the stick.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Richards' aircraft does an expert low level barrel roll.

BACK TO:

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

POV through Stonewall's canopy as Richards aircraft rolls
over, then aft of his own.

STONEWALL
Shit, that was nice.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

POV. Through the canopy as Stonewall's aircraft flies out
front.

RICHARDS
You were saying?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
A barrel roll? Really?
(then add)
That's some old flight school shit
there, Captain.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
You'd be surprised what going back
to the manual can do for you every
once in a while.
(then add)
You ready to die?

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

As the lead aircraft climbs and the second pursues.

STONEWALL (V.O.)
Not yet.

A few more maneuvers.

BACK TO:

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
Okay, a little more to the right
please.

POV as we see Stonewall's aircraft roll over and dive.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
Or maybe not.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Both aircraft dive into a canyon.

BACK TO:

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
Where you taking us, Major?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Follow if you dare.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
Okay, so you want a gutter fight.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The fighters maneuver through the canyon danger close to the walls.

BACK TO:

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
This is nuts.

He pulls back on the stick.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

His hornet breaks off and pulls out of the canyon skyward.

BACK TO:

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
(to self)
I'll just wait for you at the other end.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Low level hauling ass. POV as we see where the canyon makes a hard turn.

BACK TO:

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
(anticipation)
Come out, come out where ever you
are.

POV through the front windscreen as we quickly approach the bend in the canyon.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
Damn it.
(concern)
Major, where are you?

POV through the canopy as we fly over the bend. All clear.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
Knock it off, knock it off.
Stonewall, answer me!

STONEWALL (V.O.)
I'm here, Captain.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

POV through Stonewall's windscreen as we see Richards out front.

STONEWALL
I was just thinking about how am I
gonna brief your next of kin. Your
dead, Sir.

POV as Richards is radar locked.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS

All options are on the table my
ass, Major.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The two aircraft form up.

BACK TO:

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS

Okay let's go home, Marine.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

They bank hard.

RICHARDS (V.O.)

You can tell me why you hit Chi
Town some other time.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICER CLUB - ESTABLISH

The place is full of military and civilian personnel. Chi
town, Streaker, Herc and Nukem are together at the bar.

HERC

(to Chi town)

No shit.

CHI TOWN

Yeah. Asshole sucker punched me
though. He's lucky I didn't see it
coming. I would have went all new
jack city on his punk ass.

STREAKER

Yeah, right.

CHI TOWN

What? You don't think I can take him?

STREAKER

No. I know you can't take him.

NUKEM

Yeah. I mean he's a frickin Marine, Dude. Those boys are psychotic.

CHI TOWN

But he's not a real Marine though. I mean not one of those get down and dirty grunt types.

(then add)

I'd even bet he played it safe his whole career.

HERC

Yeah well I have a friend in personnel who happened to see his file during his transfer.

STREAKER

Really? Did this friend have certain attributes?

HERC

What, like all her teeth?

(redirect)

Anyway she said he had a lot of combat history under his belt. stuff dating back to the gulf war.

NUKEM

The first one?

HERC

And a shit load of medals to boot. Including a, get this.

(pause for effect)

A Purple Heart.

CHI TOWN

A Purple Heart?

HERC

That's what she said.

NUKEM

Wait. Don't you have to be wounded in battle to get a Purple Heart?

HERC

Yep.

NUKEM

So how did a pilot get a Purple Heart?

STREAKER

Maybe he got shot down?

CHI TOWN

That would explain the attitude.

STREAKER

Chi town, I would have hit you too if I heard to you say that.

CHI TOWN

Hey, you weren't there. You didn't see that big moose. I had to think fast.

HERC

Only to end up getting a beat down anyway.

CHI TOWN

Ain't nobody beat me down, Herc. Nobody!

All quiet for a few second

NUKEM

Would smack down be better?

CHI TOWN

You little...

Nukem runs off with Chi town in hot pursuit. Streaker turns her attention to her drink. Herc turns his to her.

HERC

So Kat.

STREAKER

My herpes has flared up again, Herc.

HERC

Got it.

Herc is outta there. Streaker ponders alone.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - SUNSET

Two Apache helicopters fly CAP as a convoy of ten American humvee's and armored personnel carrier move in single file.

We can see that this is a joint U.S., and coalition unit as it moves in the direction of the setting sun.

The lead Humvee stops. The column stops behind him. An U.S. Army staff sergeant steps out the vehicle. He moves to the front as he peers directly into the setting sun with a pair of binoculars. Through his communications headset,

STAFF SERGEANT
Tango, this is Fox. You got
anything at our twelve o'clock?

CUT TO:

I/E. APACHE HELICOPTER - ESTABLISH

As the aircraft does a slow cruise above.

APACHE PILOT
Negative Fox. Your nose is clear.

BACK TO:

EXT. DESERT - CONTINUOUS

STAFF SERGEANT
How about two degrees elevation?

I/E. APACHE HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

APACHE PILOT
Nothing. You expecting someone?

EXT. DESERT - CONTINUOUS

STAFF SERGEANT
Nah. Just thought I saw something
over by this mountains to the west.

APACHE PILOT (V.O.)
Alright, we'll keep a sharp eye.

The Apache's assume stationary positions to either side of the convoy. The Staff sergeant is fixated as he looks west. His driver steps to his side; a young Iraqi private.

IRAQI PRIVATE
What is it, Staff sergeant?

STAFF SERGEANT
Just thought I saw something being
masked by those mountains coming
out of the sun.

The private looks through his own binoculars. He scans the horizon.

STAFF SERGEANT (CONT'D)
You see anything?

IRAQI PRIVATE
I do not.

A pause for effect.

STAFF SERGEANT
Alright, let's get moving. We need
to get back before it becomes too
late.

The private steps back to the driver's side as the Staff sergeant give the horizon one last scan. Satisfied, he too turns but then does a sudden double take back to the west.

An instant later the ground explodes in front of him from multiple heavy caliber bullet impacts that lead in a straight line to, the through the parked vehicles.

The Staff sergeant manages to dive away just as his vehicle is decimated by the impacts. His crew is killed instantly. The rest of the column suffers a similar fate.

As this happens, the second Apache helicopter explodes from a missile impact.

CUT TO:

I/E. APACHE HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

APACHE PILOT
Jesus Christ!

BACK TO:

EXT. DESERT - CONTINUOUS

Chaos and death. On the ground the Staff sergeant looks up in time to see the black silhouette of a bad assed aircraft come from out of the setting sun at a low level.

QUICK CUT TO:

I/E. APACHE HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

POV through the canopy as The black jet blows by the helicopter way too fast.

APACHE PILOT
God almighty!

CUT TO:

EXT. HELICOPTER - A SECOND LATER

The Apache turns quickly.

CUT TO:

I/E. APACHE HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

To his gunner.

APACHE PILOT
Shoot!

The gunner does as commanded.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - A SECOND LATER

The black jet streaks skyward as tracers trail off behind.

CUT TO:

EXT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

The helicopter unleashes its Arsenal. The helicopter is hit from behind by a missile.

CUT TO:

I/E. APACHE HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

The pilot and gunner are instantly engulfed by flames.

CUT TO:

EXT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

The helicopter explodes.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - CONTINUOUS

The Staff sergeant sees a second black jet do the same as the first as it flies by.

The Staff sergeant gets to his feet. He sees carnage. His convoy is destroyed before him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BOARD OF INQUIRY - DAY

The Staff sergeant stands before seven senior officers. We see an additional audience of the same number seated behind the sergeant. Richards and Stonewall among them.

STAFF SERGEANT

They came out of the setting sun.
Before we knew it, they were on us.

(then add)

And when it was over. Fourteen
soldiers were killed. Eighteen
injured. Seven had to be medi-
vaced to hospital critical.

Pause for effect.

INQUIRY OFFICER

Thank you, Staff sergeant. We know
this has been difficult for you to
relive.

(then add)

Now please understand that any
additional details. Anything at all
that you can give about the tactics
of this enemy will help us greatly
in defeating them, understood?

STAFF SERGEANT

Yes, Sir. Anything I can do to help, no problem.

A sense of conclusion in the room. the inquiry officer gives Richards a glance. The two have a silent agreement.

INQUIRY OFFICER

If no one has anything further.
(they don't)
Then thank you, Staff sergeant.
That will be all.

As all prepare to end the session,

STAFF SERGEANT

Excuse me, Sir. If I may?

INQUIRY OFFICER

By all means, Staff sergeant.

STAFF SERGEANT

The enemy, Sir.
(then add)
We could not track them. We couldn't see them. They were invisible to us and they knew exactly how,
(pause for effect)
And when to hit us. And I saw enough to know that if there are more of those planes out there.
(then add)
With all due respect, Sirs. We are in a world of shit.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE INQUIRY BUILDING - DAY

Stonewall holds the door open for Richards as they both leave the building. Outside, Richards suddenly stops.

RICHARDS

Did you get the part about their tactics?

STONEWALL

Yes, Sir.

RICHARDS

Can you use it?

STONEWALL
You got damned skippy I can.

RICHARDS
I'll take that as a yes.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Stonewall leads the briefing. Richards and Flash sit to his side. Streaker, Chi town, Herc, and Nukem sit forward while the four backup pilots sit aft.

CHI TOWN
Could they be Russian?

STONEWALL
Our former adversary is staying tight lipped on this one. Theirs is a wait and see strategy.

STREAKER
North Korea then?

HERC
We're giving those assholes way too much credit. It's more like China.

Stonewall looks at Richards. The captain stands, steps forward.

RICHARDS
What I'm about to tell you is highly classified.
(pause for effect)
Ten years ago we arranged for a very prominent aerospace designer to come work for us. His incite into the application of stealth technology as a weapons platform pre dated even our own.
(then add)
Unfortunately, at the time he was working for the other guy.
(in addition)
On the night we were supposed to pick him up, he vanished without a trace.

STONEWALL
But we believe his legacy didn't.

HERC

I don't get it.

STREAKER

Someone got him to talk. To use
what he knew about stealth.

(to Stonewall)

Then build it.

Stonewall hand gestures, Two.

STONEWALL

That we know of. And that is why
we're here, Kids.

CHI TOWN

Yeah, but we still don't know who
they're working for.

RICHARDS

True. The application of stealth
technology is not cheap. Our
players are well finances and well
motivated.

NUKEM

Terrorists?

CHI TOWN

Mercenaries.

STREAKER

Or Both.

A realization pause.

RICHARDS

It's time to take this to the next
level.

CUT TO:

EXT. ISOLATED DESERT AIRBASE - NIGHT

Two Blackhawk helicopters lands. Richards steps out of one.
Stonewall the other. We then see each set of team disembark
the crafts.

A transport pulls up. They all load into the vehicle. It then
drives off into the darkness.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - ESTABLISH

No windows as the eight pilots sit and talk amongst themselves. Stonewall enters. We pause for effect.

STONEWALL

Let's go.

He then exits, they all follow.

CUT TO:

INT. HANGER - ESTABLISH

Door closed, very minimal lighting. Richards stands under the main light source as Stonewall leads the others to him. We can see subtle enthusiasm among them as they approach. They seem to look past Richards.

Richards looks over his shoulder as they step to him.

RICHARDS

Their NATO designation.

(pause for effect)

We call them Ghost Fighters.

They all have the look of "hell yeah", except Streaker.

STREAKER

Fuck me.

As he stares and walks toward the sight before him like a kid in candy store,

CHI TOWN

I'll get back to you.

The rest follow.

RICHARDS

The generation six stealth fighter,
ladies and gentlemen. The F-44A.

We see the new stealth version of the Grumman F-14 Tomcat x two. Stonewall stands next to Richards as the others fan out around the two aircraft.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)

These are the first two operational models. The navy's waiting to see how they perform under stress prior to committing to build more.

Streaker stops at the cockpit section.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
You simulator training is over,
People. Its time to go to work.

Stonewall steps a few feet in front of Richards as he looks at the aircraft also. We pause for effect.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
Major.

STONEWALL
Sir?

RICHARDS
On the deck at 0600.

Richards walks off. As he holds his gaze on the aircraft.

STONEWALL
You're damned skippy.

CUT TO:

I/E. HANGER - SUNRISE

Various close up images of the F-44 Ghost Fighter start up sequence. This includes quick shots of the pilots as they ready themselves.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRBASE - SUNRISE

The Ghost fighters taxi.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRBASE - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost fighters go full afterburner. They then speed down the runway together.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - SUNRISE

POV through the canopy of the trail aircraft as we see it and the lead climb into to early morning sky.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - MORNING

The two F-44's in formation.

CUT TO:

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

Chi town is pilot, Nukem is his radar intercept officer, his REO.

CHI TOWN
What's the word, Nuke?

NUKEM
The word is awesome! This is
nothing like the simulator.

A very futuristic digital display. As Nukem looks over to the other aircraft.

NUKEM (CONT'D)
What do you say, Herc?

POV through the canopy as we see the second F-44A just off the wing of the first.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

Streaker is pilot, Herc is her REO.

HERC
Yeah it's okay. Touch pads are a
nice addition.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC (V.O.)
And I am curious about this terrain
following radar system.

NUKEM

It's an off shoot of the old TFR system the used in Vietnam. They say that was pretty kick ass.

CHI TOWN

Well enjoy it while you can, Guys. Gen seven will probably be drones.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

An F-18 Super Hornet pulls in formation behind the F-44's.

CUT TO:

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

STONEWALL

Alright, People. We need to see what these things can do. So I'll need you to stretch them out a little. Just a test run for now.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN

Well there just went the neighborhood.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER

Morning Major. What's you plan?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

The range runs to the coast. I want you to use Sutter's Cast lighthouse as your southern marker.

(then add)

Once there take it north to the Bree estuary. Then get back to base.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN
Easy enough.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC
A little too easy. What's the
catch, Major?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
You can go as low as you want. But,
your ceiling is four hundred feet.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

NUKEM
A four hundred foot ceiling?

STONEWALL (V.O.)
Is that a problem, Lieutenant?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Good.
(then add)
Oh, and the last one to form up on
my wing before we land buys a case.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN
How 'bout we make it two?

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Streaker listens.

STONEWALL (V.O.)
That sound fair to you, Lieutenant
Mathers?

Streaker looks over, smirks, reacts. She pulls hard right on
the stick.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The F-44 break hard right out of formation.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

I guess she's game on.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As Chi town watches Streaker break away.

STONEWALL (V.O.)

I believe that's your queue, Chi
Town.

CHI TOWN

Copy that.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Chi town goes after Streaker. The race is on as the both dive
for the deck over the desert mountain terrain.

We see scenes of aircraft and pilots as the traverse the
landscape.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

POV through front windscreen as we quickly approach the
mountains.

HERC

What's the plan here, Streak?

STREAKER

Get ready for TRF.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

POV through canopy as we see Streaker's aircraft fly close to
the ground about a quarter mile off the starboard side.

NUKEM

They're getting away from us, Chi
Town.

CHI TOWN

Oh yeah?

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Chi town's aircraft goes full afterburner. Again we see scenes of aircraft, pilots, and terrain overlap. The action takes us in to a mountain ravine. Low level and danger close.

Closer to the ground, Streaker's aircraft maintains the lead as they break out over the coastline.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER

There's the Lighthouse.

POV through her canopy as she flies past the lighthouse.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

They speed past the lighthouse out over the open water. Low, they both produce fishtails. Chi town pulls up along side hers. A drag race ensues.

EXT. BREE ESTUARY BRIDGE - MORNING

A long span. A single car commutes along the bridge that is fifty feet above the water line.

I/E. ESTUARY BRIDGE CAR - ESTABLISH

A man drives with his morning coffee in hand; oblivious.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Here they come at a low level.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

POV through windscreen from a few miles away.

STREAKER

And there's the bridge.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN
Twenty says you won't fly under it.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER
Fifty says you won't do it
supersonic.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN
Your on.

NUKEM
Wait? What?

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC
Yeah, hold on a damned minute!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Here we go at a lower level.

I/E. ESTUARY BRIDGE CAR - CONTINUOUS

The man is still oblivious.

EXT. AIRCRAFT/ BRIDGE/ CAR - CONTINUOUS

We blend all the scenes into one. Above the speed of sound both aircraft go under the bridge. We hold the shot on the car.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As he looks back.

HERC
Uh, oh.

I/E. ESTUARY BRIDGE CAR - CONTINUOUS

The delayed sonic boom scares the hell out of the driver.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As she looks back.

STREAKER

Oops.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Both aircraft climb into the morning sun.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OFFICERS CLUB - AFTERNOON

Stonewall pulls into the parking lot, stop. He see his four pilots walk into the building together. Their mood is jovial. We pause for effect. Stonewall drives off.

EXT. DESERT BLUFF - SUNSET

The humvee is parked near the edge as Stonewall sits on its hood. With a beer in hand and a cellphone in the other to his ear.

STONEWALL

Yeah, things are starting to move now.

(listen)

No, not yet. The Brass is still keeping us pretty much in the dark about that.

(listen a little longer)

Oh really? How'd he do?

(listen)

A triple, no shit? That's my boy. How's he doing in school; math?

(listen)

Yeah, we need to work on that when I get back.

Stonewall steps off the hood, paces.

STONEWALLWALL

What the hell, Linda? Of course I'm coming back. Why would you say that

(MORE)

STONEWALLWALL (CONT'D)

(listen)

Well that's not funny, Woman. Don't joke about things like that.

(listen)

Yeah I called you woman. Whatcha gonna do about it?

(listen)

Hello? Linda, wait hello?

Stonewall looks at the phone.

STONEWALL

Well I'll be God damned.

The call is ended. Stonewall looks out to the sunset horizon. He then begins to rub his right thigh.

QUICK CUT TO:

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - FILTERED BLACK AND WHITE - ESTABLISH

A flashback scene of Stonewall in his F-18A as the canopy shatters from the bullet strike that goes through his back, chest, then right thigh.

EXT. DESERT BLUFF - CONTINUOUS

The thought bothers him. We pause for effect. Stonewall then tosses the beer, get in the humvee, drives off.

INT. OFFICERS CLUB - ESTABLISH

Chi town an Nukem sit at the bar.

NUKEM

No way. Really?

CHI TOWN

If you don't believe me. Ask her yourself.

NUKEM

In flight school? I'm surprised those tight asses didn't kick her out.

CHI TOWN

Well, the scuttlebutt was, she had somebody pulling for her back then.

NUKEM

I still can't believe it.

She walks up.

STREAKER

Believe what?

CHI TOWN

How you got your call sign. Nuke,
here does believe it.

STREAKER

Why not?

NUKEM

You just don't seem the type.

Herc walk up.

STREAKER

And what type is that?

Nukem find it difficult to respond. We pause for effect.

EXT. BUNGALOW - NIGHT

Stonewall knocks on the front door. A few seconds pass.
Richards answers the door.

RICHARDS

Major?

STONEWALLWALL

Can I speak to you, Captain?

Richards gestures the man to come in.

STONEWALL

Outside, Sir. If you don't mind.

A momentary pause, then compliance to request.

EXT. BUNGALOW COURTYARD - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Stonewall and Richards walk.

RICHARDS

What's on your mind, Major?

STONEWALL

Level with me, Captain. No bullshit. Why am I here?

Richards is curious.

RICHARDS

Speak freely, Major Jackson.

STONEWALL

My papers came through. I am eligible for retirement.

RICHARDS

Go on.

STONEWALL

You knew they were in the pipeline before you asked me to come on board didn't you?

RICHARDS

I did.

STONEWALL

Then why, Sir. Why not just let me fly off into the sunset and be done with this?

(then add)

Any number of pilots would have jumped at the opportunity to have this assignment. Why me?

RICHARDS

That's a damned good question, Marine.

(then ask)

Now let me ask you this? After your encounter, you had the opportunity to medically discharge with honors when you got back. But you didn't, why?

STONEWALL

Because there was nothing honorable about that, Sir. I watched my best friend get blown to bit, and I was not far behind him. I got lucky.

RICHARDS

Is that what you think? You got lucky so you might as well finish out your tour then call it quits?

Stonewall stops abruptly.

STONEWALL

Is that what you think?

RICHARDS

If I thought that, Chris. We would not be having this conversation.

Silent agreement. They walk.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)

No. The reason I chose you is simple. I've seen men like you my whole career.

STONE

Like me, Sir?

RICHARDS

True believers, Major. Men who truly believe that they're very purpose for being, is righteous.

(then add)

Men who see it as their destiny to put the wrongs of this world right. Men with honor, Major. Men like you.

STONEWALL

You think I'm one of those people, Captain. A man with honor?

RICHARDS

Because you have to ask. I know you are.

(then add)

Admit it, Stonewall. You were waiting for that second chance to knock your door. And when I did, you had the opportunity to pass it up, but you didn't.

STONEWALL

Because of a sense of honor?

RICHARDS

A sense of purpose.

(emphasize)

You wanted a chance at redemption, Marine. And now you have it.

(then ask)

The question is? What are you gonna do about it?

A momentary silence.

STONEWALL

They're not ready, Captain. They're not ready for this fight.

(then add)

None of them have in theatre experiences. And if the reports coming in are true then...

RICHARDS

(interrupts)

Yes, but the man leading them does. And I don't think he will let them fail.

At first, gesture of reluctance, but then silent agreement.

STONEWALL

Then we will need to train them hard. It needs to become second Nate...

Streaker almost runs into them. She is nude.

STREAKER

Oh shit!

She runs off. In total disbelief,

STONEWALL

Lieutenant Mathers. Get your ass..!

Chi town run pass; also nude.

CHI TOWN

Evening, Sirs.

STONEWALL

What the hell?

Now in total surprise Stonewall and Richards can do nothing but look. Then comes Herc. As he runs pass, nude.

HERC

(oops)

Ah hell no.

RICHARDS

(disbelief)

Oh, where have I seen this before?

Now Stonewall and Richards are ready as they see Nukem walk to them, nude. They find the humor of the moment as he stops before them. Richards glances down, then -

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
Your mother would be proud, Son.

NUKEM
Thank you, Sir. I'm quite sure she is.

STONEWALL
They went that way, Lieutenant.

NUKEM
And thank you, Sir.

Nukem walks.

STONEWALL
Double time it, Sailor!

Nukem runs. Stone has a realization pause. Then,

STONEWALL (CONT'D)
(smirks to self)
Streaker. Now I get it.

RICHARDS
And you want to give this up?

CUT TO:

INT. BUILDING FOYER - DAY

Stairs that go up. Richards paces at the bottom of them. Streaker descends the stairs. She sees Richards, stops, quickly attempts to ascend.

RICHARDS
Get down here!

She stops, hesitates.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
Now.

Streaker turns. As she steps down to Richards,

STREAKER
Look I know. I take full responsibility for....

RICHARDS

(interrupt)

....For your action. Yeah, where have I heard that before.

(anger)

Shut up, Katie and come here.

Streaker steps to him like a daughter about to be yelled at by her father for coming home after curfew. As he continues to pace,

RICHARDS (CONT'D)

You just don't seem to get it do you?

(remind)

Just how important it is that you not screw this up?

STREAKER

With all due respect, Sir.

(ask)

Are you going to have this conversation with Chi town and the others?

RICHARDS

Look at me!

(ask)

Do I look like I'm gonna have this conversation with them?

STREAKER

I thought so.

RICHARDS

No, you didn't.

(inform)

Because if you did you wouldn't have pulled another one of your little stunts last night.

(remind)

You have no idea the strings I had to pull to get you in here.

STREAKER

Stings? What are you talking about?

RICHARDS

The Brass damn it!

(reveal)

Your reputation for shenanigans precedes you.

(inform)

(MORE)

RICHARDS (CONT'D)

They questioned my reasoning for bringing you to the table in the first place but I assured them, Lieutenant Katherine Mathers was ready.

(remind)

And now I'm wondering?

STREAKER

Wondering what, Captain?

RICHARDS

If bringing family to the table was the right thing to do.

STREAKER

I didn't ask you to do that. I didn't ask for any favors.

RICHARD (O.S.)

No. Of course you didn't. But that doesn't matter.

We pause for effect.

STREAKER

Was I the only one? The only one they questioned?

Step to her.

RICHARDS

Will it make a difference?

STREAKER

Yes it would.

In her face.

RICHARDS

Then absolutely.

Richards walks away,

RICHARD (O.S.)

Be on the deck at Sundown.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - NIGHT

Two Super hornets, two Ghost fighters in formation at 20,000 ft. Over the lights of a city.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

STONEWALL

I know you've done this a hundred times. But we need to get used to flying by instrumentation only. Now, Before you is the most advanced cockpit display in the inventory.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

STONEWALL (V.O.)

Chi Town?

CHI TOWN

Yo!

STONEWALL (V.O.)

You take lead.

CHI TOWN

Roger that.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Streak.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

Streaker's thoughts are elsewhere.

STONEWALL (V.O.)

You will be his wingman for this hop while Flash and I will hold back at about five miles.

(remind)

And for God sake, do not turn off your transponders.

HERC

Not that we would, but what if we did?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

You're flying an aircraft that has the ability to evade radar.

(MORE)

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

(remind)

Might I also add that you're flying it at night. The transponder is the only way we can track you.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL (V.O.)

We don't want any accidental collisions.

CHI TOWN

And here I was worried about scratching the paint. You ready, Streak?

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Streaker's aircraft alone in the night sky.

CUT TO:

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Her thoughts are still elsewhere.

CHI TOWN (V.O.)

Streaker, you copy?

Still elsewhere.

CHI TOWN (V.O.)

Streak?

HERC

Yo, Dawn. Chi Town is talking to you.

She snaps out of it.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER (V.O.)

Yeah, yeah I copy?

STONEWALL

Everything alright, Lieutenant?

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER

Relax, Major. I got this. Let's do the mission and call it a night. Is that okay with everyone?

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN

Who pissed on your Cheerios?

NUKEM

Must be that time of month.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER

Hey, you know what? Screw you. Screw all of you.

STONEWALL (V.O.)

Lieutenant!

STREAKER

I don't need the shit! I don't need it from anyone!

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Streaker, that's enough!

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC

Yeah, Girl get a grip!

STREAKER

Eat me!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

She breaks formation, dives for the deck.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Lieutenant Mathers, get your ass
back information!

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN
Streak, what the hell are you
doing?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Streaker, that is a direct order!
Get back up here!

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN
I'll go get her, Major.

STONEWALL (V.O.)
Negative!

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Flashes cockpit.

STONEWALL (V.O.)
You and Flash get back to base.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
And wait for us there.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall break formation.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC
Jesus Streak. What the hell are you
doing? They'll ground us for this!

STREAKER
They want us to fly instruments?
Let's fly instruments.

STONEWALL (V.O.)
Lieutenant Mathers, answer me!

STREAKER
Okay. Transponder off.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As the blip on his radar screen disappears,

STONEWALL
Shit!

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Streaker's POV through the front windscreen. We see the city
before them.

HERC
Whoa, whoa, whoa. Bad idea, Streak.
Very bad idea.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The F-44 goes low level over the city.

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Not busy, but enough vehicle and pedestrian traffic to keep
it interesting.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Five hundred feet above the city at 400 knots. Streaker's POV
as we just clear the tops of buildings.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Not feeling it.

HERC
Streaker, I swear to God. If you
kill me, I'm gonna beat you ass.

Streaker smirks.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Now down to two hundred feet; same speed.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Oblivious.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

One hundred feet.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Out of the darkness and along the street's centerline, the tranquil scene is suddenly shattered by the presence of a high performance aircraft at 400 knots, Angels fifty feet.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As he looks back.

HERC

Oh man. We are so going to Gitmo.

STREAKER

Relax, Herc. We're moving too fast.
Who's gonna know?

STONEWALL (V.O.)

I will.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Turn your transponder back on. Fall
in on me. You're done joyriding.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC

Damn it. How'd he know where we
were?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

I'm a Marine, you idiot. Low level
is my world.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The F-44 climbs fast. We then see as it forms up on the wing
of the Super hornet.

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Streaker and Herc stand at attention before a seated
Stonewall. Herc shows a slight sense of nervousness as
Stonewall stares hard at Streaker.

STONEWALL

Lieutenant Curtis?

HERC

Sir?

STONEWALL

Dismissed.

HERC

Major, I was with her. So I think
that we both...

STONEWALL

Herc, get the fuck out.

After an initial hesitation, Herc leaves.

STREAKER

With all due respect, Major. If I'm
gonna be court martialed then this
conversation is pointless.

STONEWALL

You disobeyed a direct order. My
direct order.

STREAKER

Yes, Major. I'm aware of that.

STONEWALLWALL

And now you're a smart ass too. The
hits just keep coming and coming
with you, don't they?

Stonewall tosses a file in front of her on the desk.

STONEWALL

Sign it.

Streaker retrieves then reads the file.

STREAKER

This is a reprimand?

STONEWALL

That will go in your personal file.

STREAKER

I don't understand?

STONEWALL

I do not have the time. Nor the desire to bring your replacement up to speed. The stakes are too high. Or have you forgotten that?

STREAKER

No I haven't, Sir.

STONEWALL

Then what the hell is wrong with you, Girl?

We pause as Streaker attempts to formulate her answer. She does not reply.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

I'm waiting.

STREAKER

All I want to do is fly. To be the best pilot in the navy.

Stonewall looks with contempt.

STONEWALL

Oh give a frick'n break.

She ponders a response.

STREAKER

How many black fighter pilots are in the Marine Corps right now? A handful?

STONEWALL

What?

STREAKER

Have you ever had to prove
yourself, Sir?

A realization pause.

STONEWALL

Where you going with this, Mathers?

STREAKER

I'm sorry, Sir. I don't know how to
ask this while being politically
correct.

STONEWALL

Well let me help you. You want to
know if my black ass had to work
much harder to prove myself in an
predominantly all white male's
club? Does that about sums it up?

STREAKER

Something like that.

An empathetic pause.

STONEWALLWALL

At ease, Katherine. Sit down.

After she sits.

STONEWALL

You do understand why he a little
harder on you than everyone else
don't you?

STREAKER

Yes I do.

STONEWALL

Are you sure? Because I really
don't think so.

A curious pause.

EXT. BUNGALOW COURTYARD - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Richards and Stonewall walk back towards Richards' bungalow
after the nudity incident.

RICHARDS

So you want to know why?

STONEWALL

It's just something I notice when you talk to Lieutenant Mathers. I meant no disrespect, Captain.

RICHARDS

None taken.

Richards takes a moment.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)

Her name was Ensign Alise Pauls. We were squadron mates on the Big E.

STONEWALL

The USS Enterprise.

RICHARDS

Ensign Pauls was among the first women trained to fly jets in combat. She was the first one in our squadron and I took it upon myself to make sure she wasn't going to be the last.

(then add)

Yeah, some of the old guys didn't like the idea of women serving in a frontline combat role.

(reason)

Didn't think it was the place for women.

STONEWALL

Sounds familiar.

RICHARDS

But Alise was determined to prove them all wrong. They all were.

(pause to reflect)

That kid flew her ass off.

More reflection.

STONEWALL

I don't think I'm gonna like where this is going, Captain.

RICHARDS

One day I got a call. Katherine was very ill.

Stop.

STONEWALL
Lieutenant Mathers?

RICHARDS
She's my niece, Major. She was
raised by me and her grandparents.
Well, mostly her grandparents.

(They walk)
Anyway. Katherine had an
appendicitis incident and I was
given emergency leave to go see
her. She almost didn't make it,
Major. It was touch and go for
sometime.

STONEWALL
Wow.

RICHARDS
I got the news while I was home. A
good friend of mine, Tom Braydon
called me. He said that there was
an... incident involving Alise.

(tell the story)
It was a night op that went well.
Or so they thought. They were
returning to the ship. The scuttle
butte was that Alise must have
received battle damage that was
somehow missed during the return to
base look over by her wingman.

(then add)
She was coming in for a landing
which hard enough when everything
is working fine.

STONEWALL
And at night.

Agreement.

RICHARDS
Something went wrong. And that was
that.

(pause)
They were able to recover her body,
and I was given the honor of taking
her home to her family in Vermont.

(then ask)
You ever been to Vermont, Major?

STONEWALL
No, Sir.

RICHARDS

I'm convinced I'm probably going to retire there; very pretty.

The two continue to walk; then.

STONEWALL

She reminds you of her doesn't she? Katherine, and Ensign Pauls?

RICHARDS

In so many ways, Major. In so many ways.

BACK TO:

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall stands before her as and Streaker sits.

STREAKER

He never told me that. I remember the appendicitis, and that sucked big time.

(tries to recall)

But, he never told me he had a squadron mate he cares so much about.

STONEWALL

A woman squadron mate. That he was determined to see succeed.

STREAKER

But didn't.

STONEWALL

You get it now?

Pause to reflect.

STREAKER

Should I talk to him?

Disbelief.

STONEWALL

This is not about him, you idiot.

Stonewall steps around the desk, but continues to stand.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

You have a character flaw,
Lieutenant.

(sits down)

And Captain Richards has left it to
me to affect change.

STREAKER

Affect change, Sir?

STONEWALLWALL

You need to be more disciplined.

A curious pause.

INT. GYM - ESTABLISH

As Chi town, Herc, and Nukem run around an indoor track.

HERC

She couldn't give me detail. But,
apparently she's being sent to a
thirty day detention unit.

CHI TOWN

Navy or Marine base?

HERC

Neither. Civilian program.

NUKEM

Civilian jail? Can Stonewall do
that?

HERC

Richards gave it his blessing.

CHI TOWN

Jeez.

(then assure)

Okay, look. How bad can it be. I
mean their civvies. What the hell
do they know about discipline?

INT. MRS GARCIA'S SECOND GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY

Twenty six second graders. Streaker is literally a fish out
of water as she stands near the teacher, Mrs. Garcia.

MRS GARCIA

Good morning, Children.

ALL THE KIDS
Good morning, Mrs. Garcia.

MRS GARCIA
Class, this is Ms. Mathers.

ALL THE KIDS
Good morning, Ms. Mathers.

STREAKER
(not convincing)
Hello.

MRS GARCIA
Ms. Mathers flies airplanes for the navy.

ALL THE KIDS
Uuuooooohhhh.

MRS GARCIA
Ms. Mathers is going to spend the day with us and you can ask her anything you like, okay?

All in agreement.

MRS GARCIA (CONT'D)
Ms. Mathers, why don't you go ahead and introduce yourself to the class

STREAKER
Uh, okay sure.
(to the class)
Hello again.

ALL THE KIDS
Hello, Ms. Mathers.

STREAKER
You can call me Katherine.

ALL THE KIDS
Hello, Katherine.

STREAKER
(to Mrs. Garcia)
This ain't so bad.
(back to the kids)
Like Mrs. Garcia said, I fly airplanes for the navy. So does anyone have any questions about what it's like to fly airplanes?

Many little hands go up. Streaker singles out a little girl.

STREAKER (CONT'D)
Go ahead, Sweetie.

LITTLE GIRL
What does the mile high club mean?

A little boy nearby smiles. Streaker does not. She looks to Mrs. Garcia who gives her a, "well?" gesture.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - SUNSET

Two F-22A Raptors cruise at angels twenty.

Subtitle: Syria

I/E. F-22 COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

F-22 LEAD
Busboy, this Hound dog. Show us
down range at this time, over.

BUSBOY (V.O.)
Roger, Hound dog. Good hunting,
over.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The aircraft break left.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - SUNSET

Two F-22 Raptors cruise in formation. Suddenly a single delta winged black jet with stealth technology incorporated into its design appear below and behind the two Raptors. A second identical black jet now appears off the first' wing.

Slightly larger than the raptors, with clean lines along their fuselage these are the aircraft designated, Ghost.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

The lead pilot dressed in full black and enclosed face shield.

Ghost leader's POV as he looks at the two raptors out front and above.

He then turns to his wingman, nods.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

The wingman dressed identically acknowledges.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The two black jets spread out just enough to achieve a position to fire.

I/E. F-22 COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

The lead pilot glances up to the mirror on his canopy rail. We see the lead black jet as it reflects in the mirror.

F-22 LEAD
Shit, break right!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Ghost lead fires a Gatling gun at Raptor lead. It misses the target as the raptor breaks hard.

I/E. F-22 COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

The wingman is caught off guard.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Ghost wingman fires his Gatling gun at Raptor wingman. Rounds rip into the airframe. The raptor bursts into flames.

I/E. F-22 COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

F-22 WINGMAN
Oh shit!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The raptor rolls over. The Ghost does the same in pursuit.

I/E. F-22 COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Raptor lead's POV as he sees his wingman dive in flames with the Ghost wingman in pursuit.

F-22 LEAD
 Two, break left. Get away from him!
 (redirect)
 Busboy, hound dog. We are engaged
 with the enemy. My wingman is hit.
 We are at zero three zero at two
 hundred miles!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

As raptor lead maneuvers with Ghost lead on his tail.

BUSBOY (V.O.)
 Roger, Hound dog. Can you identify
 the enemy? We're not picking them
 up on radar, over.

F-22 LEAD (V.O.)
 It's them. It's the Ghosts!

I/E. F-22 COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Lead's head is on a swivel.

F-22 LEAD
 My wingman is down. Send in the
 para rescue unit! I'm gonna take
 care of this asshole!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The high speed maneuvers begin. Multiple pilot's POV through the canopy windscreens.

I/E. F-22 COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

F-22 LEAD
 That's it, Imago. Come in closer

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Pilot's POV as we see raptor lead through the windscreen. He shoots

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The missile misses its target.

I/E. F-22 COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

F-22 LEAD
Alright. Enough of this shit!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The F-22 deploys its speed brake and vectors its engine nozzles the aircraft does a mid air roll maneuver. The Ghost lead aircraft flies by.

I/E. F-22 COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Pilot's POV through the windscreen as the Ghost lead flies pass and is now in front.

F-22 LEAD
Alright, Cookie. You're mine now.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The aerial maneuvers continue.

I/E. F-22 COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Lead goes for missile lock, but can't.

F-22 LEAD
C'mon damn it! Lock up!

Pilot's POV as the cockpit is suddenly engulfed in flames. We then see the pilot as he is engulfed. The cockpit is ablaze.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The raptor explodes. The Ghost wingman flies through the debris field that is raptor lead. The two ghost form up.

As debris falls from the sky in the foreground, we see the two jets streak off in the background.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Stonewall moves with purpose. There is a door at the end of the hall. He bursts through the door.

INT. OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Richards stands with two naval officers. He gestures Stonewall forward.

RICHARDS
That will be all, Gentlemen.

The two officers depart.

STONEWALL
It is true?

RICHARDS
Just confirmed. Two Air Force
Raptors blown out of the sky.

STONEWALL
Christ. Raptors are top of the
line.

RICHARD
It would appear not anymore.
(pause for effect)
Major, I think it's safe to say
play time is over.

STONEWALL
Yes, Sir. I agree.

They walk out the office.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Aircraft carrier battle group at sea.

EXT. CARRIER FLIGHT DECK - DAY

Multiple images of air operations.

I/E. HANGER DECK - DAY

The F-44's sit away from the rest of the aircraft. Officers and sailors alike admire the two new additions to the wing.

Richards stands next to the ship's captain. His friend Tom Braydon. Tom is short in stature.

BRAYDON

I was wondering when they were finally gonna release them to the fleet, Con. Navy hardware isn't meant to be dry docked for that long.

RICHARDS

Just wanted to make sure the time was right before I turned my girls over to you, Tom.

BRAYDON

I gotta tell ya. Seeing them there sitting like that. God, I miss the Tomcat.

RICHARDS

The F-14 was venerable. But, these babies. Believe me, Tom. These two prototypes will water your eyes as soon as you see them in action.

(redirect)

Speaking of that. I need you to make sure no pictures get out. At least for the time being.

BRAYDON

No problem. They won't go viral on my watch.

Pause for effect.

BRAYDON (CONT'D)

So how's the kid doing?

RICHARDS

Katherine's fine.

(a reflection moment)

She's doing well.

Braydon senses, but does not inquire.

BRAYDON

And what about this Marine, Stonewall? What's his story?

RICHARDS

He's a good man, Tom. Reminds me of you a lot.

BRAYDON

Oh, please tell me that's not the reason why you picked him?

Humor.

RICHARDS

That, and the fact he brings a unique perspective to the table.

BRAYDON

The only one who lived to talk about.

RICHARDS

His post evaluations over the last two years have been invaluable. I believe he's in the right place at the right time. His file show that.

BRAYDON

Wait, you read his psych files?

RICHARDS

That's why I chose him.

Braydon has a curious pause. Then,

BRAYDON

Have you read my file?

RICHARDS

Still do.

BRAYDON

Good reading?

RICHARDS

Straight up Navy, Jump shot.

Humor as they turn and walk away. A moment passes.

BRAYDON

Con, you've been my wingman for a long time and I never doubted you.
(pause)

RICHARDS

But?

BRAYDON

You sure these kids are ready for this.

(MORE)

BRAYDON (CONT'D)
 With the exception of the Marine
 none of them have any combat
 experience.

As they continue.

RICHARDS
 True. But at one time, Jump shot.
 Neither did we.

INT. HALLWAY - ESTABLISH

A knock on the door. A few seconds later Streaker answers.

STREAKER
 Chi town?

Chi town stands before her with a bottle of wine and two
 glasses that he presents to her.

STREAKER (CONT'D)
 You can't be serious? You know
 we're deployed?

CHI TOWN
 And I also know we're gong where no
 pilot has gone before and survived.
 (charming)
 And not knowing if I will be here
 tomorrow, I just thought...

Streaker closes the gap between them, plays along.

STREAKER
 You just thought what?

Chi town gestures the bottle. Streaker takes the bottle.

STREAKER (CONT'D)
 I'll tell you what. If we kill this
 guy tomorrow,

Streaker lean into him; whispers in his ear. Chi town shows
 some subtle surprise at what he hears. He gives his crotch a
 quick glance.

CHI TOWN
 You can do that?

Streaker winks, steps back, closes the door in Chi town's
 face. We pause for effect as Chi town stands pleased.

CHI TOWN (CONT'D)
I'm gonna need to shave.

He walks off.

INT. STREAKER'S STATEROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Streaker smiles as she leans with her back against the door. The smile then leaves as she now ponders.

STREAKER
Do what no one else has done.

A realization pause.

STREAKER (CONT'D)
Son of a bitch.

INT. STONEWALL'S STATEROOM - ESTABLISH

Stonewall sits in a chair. With his eyes closed he simulates as if he is seated in his aircraft's cockpit at the controls.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - SUNSET - FLASHBACK

Stonewall's F-18 with the two Ghost aircraft in hot pursuit. We see different angles of all aircraft and pilots. The Ghost fire their guns cannons.

The maneuvers continue. With some fancy flying, Stonewall manages to get between the two aircraft. He is now both the pursuer and the pursued.

The fight goes low level over the desert terrain. We hear no dialogue, but various cut to scenes of each pilot's cockpit.

INT. STONEWALL'S STATEROOM - CONTINUOUS

Eyes still closed as he simulates. We see as Stonewall rubs his right leg.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - SUNSET BLACK AND WHITE

Stonewall's aircraft is hit by cannon fire. He aircraft is wounded, but he's still in the fight. The lead ghost breaks left, Stonewall right. The wingman follows Stonewall towards a canyon wall; a narrow crevasse looms invitingly.

Stonewall rolls his aircraft ninety degrees, enters the crevasse. The ghost wingman bales right.

Stonewall emerges out the other side, levels out. His F-18a is now out over the ocean.

I/E. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall's head on a swivel.

INT. STONEWALL'S STATEROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gestures as if on a slightly smaller swivel. Then,

STONEWALL

Boom.

I/E. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall is hit. The bullet enters his upper back torso from a high angle of attack. It exits and strikes him in the leg.

INT. STONEWALL'S STATEROOM - CONTINUOUS

He opens his eyes. We pause for effect. Stonewall rubs the spot on his torso the bullet exited prior to going through his thigh.

STONEWALL

Low level?

Stonewall stands quickly, moves to a file on his desk. Opens it, begins to read. There's a knock at his door. As he looks at the file.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

Come.

Streaker enters.

STREAKER

Do you have a minute, Sir?

STONEWALL

What's on your mind, Lieutenant?

As she closes the door.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

Leave it open.

Streaker moves to a respectful spot then stands at parade rest.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

At ease.

Stonewall looks at his watch.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

Can't sleep?

STREAKER

Something like that, yes Sir.

STONEWALL

I personally wouldn't recommend it but, sickbay can give you something for that.

STREAKER

No thank you, Major. I need my shit wired tight tomorrow.

Stonewall smirks.

STONEWALL

I never heard a wo....
(pause)

An uncomfortable moment, just.

STREAKER

A woman, Sir.

STONEWALL

What can I do for you, Streak?

A pause for effect.

STREAKER

Am I gonna die tomorrow?

STONEWALL

What?

STREAKER

Don't get me wrong. We've been flying training missions for weeks preparing for this moment.

STONEWALL

And what, you don't think you're ready?

STREAKER

I thought I was, but now ...

STONEWALL

Relax, Lieutenant you'll be fine.

STREAKER

You sure? Chi town came to see me earlier and he seemed to sense the same thing.

Pause.

STONEWALL

Listen, a good pilot can get by with doing what the manual says. The great ones, rewrite it.

STREAKER

You think I'm one of the great ones?

STONEWALL

Oh hell no. But, you can be. Any good pilot can.

STREAKER

And how do I do that?

STONEWALL

For starters you flame this asshole tomorrow.

STREAKER

Then what? Write about it?

STONEWALL

If that's what it takes.

STREAKER

And after that?

STONEWALL

You do it again, and again, and again.

A pause to reflect. Then,

STREAKER

You think the Ghost is doing that?

STONEWALL

Your damned skippy he is. But, you can't let that stop you.

(MORE)

STONEWALL (CONT'D)
 Let it be an influence. But, don't
 let it be something that dominates.
 Let it define, but ...
 (realization pause)
 ... Not dominate; damn.

STREAKER
 You okay, Sir?

Silence.

STREAKER (CONT'D)
 Major?

STONEWALL
 You're gonna be fine, Streaker. You
 both will.

Stonewall steps to the door.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)
 Try to get some sleep. I'll see you
 tomorrow.

Streaker steps to the door; pauses, unsure.

STREAKER
 Thank you, Sir.

Streaker leaves. Stonewall takes a moment to reflect. He then
 looks at the now closed file he holds; again, reflects.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - SUNSET

The two F-44's in formation.

RICHARDS (V.O.)
 Your mission. Go out, find that
 Bastard, end this; period.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

As he looks at the sunset.

NUKEM
 I can never get tired of seeing
 sunsets from up here. They're
 always gorgeous.

CHI TOWN
And now deadly. Stay alert.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

As he looks at his radar returns.

HERC
Contact. Multiple bogeys. Left two
niner, fifteen miles.

STREAKER
Can you I.D?

HERC
Working it.

We see a close up of the IFF identify screen as it flashes an
IFF code.

HERC (CONT'D)
Their ours, Kids. Looks like a
strike package heading north.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

NUKEM
You would think the sky would be
full of our planes tonight. Where
is everybody?

CHI TOWN
The bogey man is out there
somewhere. I guess they're gonna
sit this one out and wait.

The radar warning suddenly squelches.

CHI TOWN (CONT'D)
Hang on. What's that?

NUKEM
Shit! Somebody pinged us!

CHI TOWN
Where?

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC

Behind us! They're locked onto you
lead, Break!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Both jets do a combat break. Chi town climbs as Streaker
banks hard right.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER

Herc! You see him?

HERC

Put us one eighty!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

An aggressive turn.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC

Got 'im! Single contact zero nine
zero!

(redirect)

Chi town, he's heading right for
you!

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN

You got 'im, Nuke?

NUKEM

I got 'im. Angels two five. He's
coming right at us.

CHI TOWN

I don't have visual.

(to Streaker)

Two, where the hell are you?

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As we hear the radar warning,

STREAKER

A little busy right now. Someone's
trying to lock us up!

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN

Well quit screwing around and get
your ass up here, Wingman!

STONEWALL (V.O.)

Don't bother, you're dead already.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - A SECOND LATER

An F-18 Superhornet streaks out of the sun.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

You hesitated, Lieutenant. You are
now an expensive fireworks display.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Chi town is stunned.

INT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Hornet dives past the ghost fighter.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL (V.O.)

Your lead is dead, Wingman. Get
ready to join him.

STREAKER

Screw that.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The ghost fighter's afterburners ignite as the wings sweep back.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

FLASH

I guess she's not ready to join him yet.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Go get her. I'll cover you. I want to see what she does.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The hornet dives after the ghost fighter. They both go low level.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC

I presume you have some kind of plan to loose this guy?

Streaker slams the throttles forward.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

They now break the sound barrier at low level.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Flashes POV as he watches the ghost fighter pull away.

FLASH

I can't keep up with her. Breaking off pursuit.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The hornet pulls away.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Herc looks back.

HERC

He's breaking off. He couldn't stay
with us.

Streaker jerks the stick hard left.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The ghost fighter reverses course.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

She's coming after you, Flash.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As he looks back.

FLASH

Looks like someone actually has a
pair.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Bring her to me.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

All aircraft maneuver into positions.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC

I've got them both on screen. Which
one do you want first?

STREAKER

Give me the guy on the right.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
(to self)
Don't do it, Katherine. It's too
aggressive. Way too aggressive.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

All aircraft merge with Streaker in trail.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Break now, Flash!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The hornets do a combat break. The ghost fighter pursues one.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Herc's POV as we see the hornet fill the windscreen in front
of them.

HERC
Okay, there you go Streak. Kill
that mutha.

STREAKER
Watch for his partner, Herc.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The hornet in a high g turn.

HERC (V.O.)
I see him. He's coming around our
five o'clock.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER
Watch him.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As they watch the maneuvers below,

NUKEM

C'mon, Streak. You can do this.

Chi town looks on with subtle contempt.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The maneuvers continue.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC

This guy behind us is lining us up
for a shot, Streak. If you're gonna
do something. Do it fast.

Streaker's POV as the hornet's tail pipe fills her
windscreen.

HERC (CONT'D)

Watch it. He's leading us!

STREAKER

I know. He's trying to bait us in
closer. Give his wingman a clear
shot.

(then add)

Not today, Boys.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Flash's POV as he trails Streaker with Stonewall in the lead.

FLASH

Bring her left, Lead. I've got the
shot ready.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Herc's POV as he sees Flash's hornet maneuver between the
ghost fighters twin tails.

HERC

Uhh, Streak?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Flash locks her up.

FLASH
Game over, Sweet pea.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC
Streak!

Streaker pulls hard on her controls.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Flash's POV as the ghost fighter fish tails then rolls inverted. The aircraft then literally flips over the top of Flash's canopy.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Herc' SLOW MOTION POV as he and Flash look directly at one another mere meters apart as the ghost fighter rolls over the top of the hornets' cockpit.

Normal speed -

HERC
Lord, God, Jesus!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The maneuver is executed perfectly. The ghost fighter is now low and behind the two hornets.

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

NUKEM
(excited)
Whoa! Chi town, did you see that?

CHI TOWN
(not)
Yeah, I've seen it before. She got it from a video game.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Flash, you okay?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

FLASH
Let me check my draws and get back
to you.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Alright. Knock it off.
(then add)
Let's form up and take it back to
the ship for a debrief. No one dies
tonight.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The four in formation against a twilight sky.

INT. OFFICER'S LOUNGE - ESTABLISH

Streaker, Herc, and Nukem sit together as they discuss and
gesture tactics. Streaker looks over. We then see Chi town
sits at the bar. A beverage sits in front of him.

Chi town glances over to the group. He and Streaker make eye
contact. Her expression is of curiosity while his is of
reassurance. He then faces forward.

RICHARD (O.S.)
James?

Richards steps to him.

CHI TOWN
Sir.

RICHARDS
What's the word, Lieutenant?

CHI TOWN
I lasted thirty seconds today,
Captain. That's a hard pill to
swallow.

RICHARDS

So what are you doing here? Why are you not discussing tactics with the others?

They look over to the three who still debrief in their own way.

CHI TOWN

In a minute. I just needed a moment to myself.

We pause for effect.

CHI TOWN (CONT'D)

Can I ask you something, Captain?

RICHARDS

Shoot.

CHI TOWN

Who was Miguel Ortega?

A curious pause.

RICHARDS

Where did you hear that name?

CHI TOWN

Actually it was Herc who found him.

RICHARDS

Why were you looking for him?

CHI TOWN

We weren't. He popped up in one of Major Jackson's file.

As he looks at Herc,

RICHARDS

I think I need to have a talk with Mr. Curtis and his security access.

CHI TOWN

Don't blame him. I was the one who asked him to dig around.

RICHARDS

You don't trust my judgement, Sailor?

CHI TOWN

It's not that, Captain. I was just curious about a Marine in a navy outfit.

RICHARDS

You do realize the Marine Corps fall under the Department of Navy umbrella?

CHI TOWN

Well aware, Sir.

RICHARDS

So what's your question about Ortega?

CHI TOWN

Where do I begin.

(then add)

Top five at Annapolis. Top Gun graduate. Combat experienced.

STONEWALL (O.S.)

And now a footnote in history.

Chi town turn to see Stonewall sit next to him.

CHI TOWN

Oh hello, Major.

STONEWALL

Miguel Luis Ortega. Call sign Mo.

(then ask)

Sounds like you did your homework on a good man, Lieutenant?

CHI TOWN

With all due respect, Sirs. A little too good.

(then add)

This guy sounds like the poster child for a recruitment drive.

Richards and Stonewall share a quick glance.

RICHARDS

I'll leave you two to discuss.

(to Chi town)

Don't forget to debrief with your team, Lieutenant. On deployment, there's no better feedback. Am I right, Major?

STONEWALL

Damn skippy.

Richards leaves. Stonewall gives Streaker a glance. She sees this, sneaks a smile at him.

CHI TOWN

So he a friend of yours, Major?

STONEWALL

More than that.

Pause for effect.

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

He was my best friend. We went through the academy together. I don't think I would have gotten through it without him.

(pause)

Mo was the best. A naturally gifted pilot.

CHI TOWN

So what happened?

Wait.

STONEWALL

Complacency, routine, arrogance. You name it. We screwed up big that day. And Mo paid the ultimate.

CHI TOWN

But you made it.

Pause to reflect.

STONEWALL

I got lucky. Nothing more.

Streaker, Herc, and Nukem step up. Stonewall does not notice them at first. When he does we pause for effect; then,

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

Mo was good. He new how to fly the F18 to its limits. We both did. We made a terrible mistake.

Stonewall looks at his audience. Then,

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

(address all)

Up to today its been a game.

(MORE)

STONEWALL (CONT'D)

You kids playing with your shiny new toys.

(then add)

Play time is now over. Tomorrow, we send you out on the real thing.

(pause)

I'm not going to sugar coat this, People. You get serious, or you get dead

(then add)

Our time together has not been about tactics. You're all very experienced pilots. Trained by supposedly the best ever.

(stipulate)

But that is not what this's been about.

STREAKER

So what's it been about, Major?

STONEWALL

Attitude, Lieutenant. Aggression, instinct. You need to embrace it. You need to unleash it.

(look at Chi town)

You hesitate, you die. You die we mourn. We mourn, we replace you.

(to all)

That is combat, period.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - SUNSET

Ghost fighters in formation.

STONEWALL (V.O.)

Sunset is the hour of the Ghost.
The best pilots are aggressive.
Tonight, that has to be you.

The fighters cruise.

EXT. CARRIER FLIGHT DECK - NIGHT

The Ghost fighters sit parked side by side. As ground crews attend to them Chi town, Streaker with Herc and Nukem in tow step to a waiting Stonewall.

CHI TOWN

Our friends never showed.

STREAKER
Or they couldn't find us.

HERC
And us, them.

NUKEM
Stealth on stealth makes it pretty
hard to find each other unless you
get lucky.

Stonewall takes it all in. Satisfied, he leads them towards
the Carrier's island superstructure.

I/E. STERN FANTAIL - LATER

Below deck, Streaker's alone. In her own world, Chi town
steps to her.

CHI TOWN
Hey, Wingman.

STREAKER
Hey, Max.

CHI TOWN
You okay? What are you doing out
here?

STREAKER
Hopefully having some quiet time to
myself.

Chi town feels dismissed. He starts to walk away.

CHI TOWN
Okay.

STREAKER
Chi town wait.

Stops.

STREAKER (CONT'D)
I'm sorry.

CHI TOWN
So what's up?

STREAKER
Look at where we are, Chi town.
We're in the shit. Chris is right.
(MORE)

STREAKER (CONT'D)

We'd better change our thinking out here or we're not going home.

CHI TOWN

Chris?

STREAKER

Stonewall.

CHI TOWN

Yeah, I know. Since when did we start calling him Chris?

STREAKER

Can you be serious for a moment? He's been here before. And it almost killed him the last time.

CHI TOWN

Look, the Brass chose you and me for this assignment. If they didn't think we could do the job ...

(pause)

Don't let what Stonewall says change that fact. We are the best. And if you can't believe that then I will for both of us.

STREAKER

I don't think he's not saying that, Max.

CHI TOWN

So then what's the problem, Chica?

STREAKER

The Ghost has been blowing pilots out of the sky. It's like he knows our playbook better than we do.

CHI TOWN

Maybe he does, but who cares.

STREAKER

I care, Max. I care about you, I care about Herc, and I care about Nuke. I don't want to see any of you die out here.

CHI TOWN

We're not.

Chi town begins to walk away.

STREAKER
You promise.

He stops.

CHI TOWN
Cross my heart.

He continues to walk as she turns back to the horizon.

CHI TOWN(O.S) (CONT'D)
Hey, Kate?

STREAKER
Yeah?

CHI TOWN
We're a good team, you and I?

STREAKER
I got your six, Chi town.

Both satisfied.

INT. STONEWALL'S STATEROOM - ESTABLISH

Stonewall look some paperwork over. We close in the see that it is retire paperwork. Stonewall looks, but does not write.

EXT. CARRIER AT SEA - MORNING

Flight operations.

INT. HALLWAY - ESTABLISH

Chi town knocks on a cabin door. A few seconds later Stonewall answers.

STONEWALL
Chi town?

CHI TOWN
I got an idea.

INT. RICHARDS STATEROOM - ESTABLISH

Richards sits at his desk as Stonewall and Chi town stand before him.

RICHARDS
So what do you think, Major?

STONEWALL
It can't hurt, Captain. And it
definitely put the odds in our
favor.

Pause for effect.

RICHARDS
Agreed. Set it up.

The two aviators are pleased as they walk towards the cabin door.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
Gentlemen.

They stop, turn to Richards.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)
I want in.

Stonewall smiles, winks, leads Chi town out.

EXT. CARRIER FLIGHT DECK - AFTERNOON

Flight operations. Two Super hornets prepare to take off. They go through the standard routine. Both catapult into the sky.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - LATE AFTERNOON

Super hornets in formation as we see the ground transition from water to land.

RICHARDS (V.O.)
Dragon three two three, feet dry.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

Richards.

COMANCHE (V.O.)
Copy, Dragon. Feet dry, good
hunting.

Looks at his wingman.

RICHARDS
How's it feel, Major?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - ESTABLISH
Stonewall.

RICHARDS (V.O.)
To be back in the badlands again.

STONEWALL
I'll let you know in a minute.

RICHARDS (V.O.)
Well don't take too long.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS
As he looks at the sun low on the horizon.

RICHARDS
The sun's going down. This is the
time of the ghost.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Richards aircraft breaks towards the sun. Stonewall follow

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
I can't imagine my world without
this, Stonewall.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
It's gotta end sometime.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
Never, Marine. I'll die navy.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Let's hope that's not tonight, Sir.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRCRAFT - SUNSET

The Ghost breaks through the low clouds. His wingman quickly follows.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

Ghost lead looks at his scope. We see two blips on the screen. He looks over to his wingman, nods.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

Ghost wingman acknowledges.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The wingman breaks off as we hold the image of the Ghost.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The super hornets fly over a rugged mountainous terrain.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As he scans the horizons,

RICHARDS

All things considered. This is a beautiful country.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

They're all beautiful from up here, Sir.

RICHARDS (V.O.)

We still have good people down there doing a difficult job.

STONEWALL

This is where Marine pilot's excel.
Close air support of our Marines on
the ground.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS

You'll get no argument from me,
Major.

EXT. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS (V.O.)

Like me, your home. Leading pilots
into battle.

STONEWALL

You are persistent, Captain. I will
give you that.

CHI TOWN (V.O.)

Lead, break left!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Richards aircraft breaks left as Stonewall's goes into an
instant climb.

We hold steady as tracer rounds blanket the area the two
aircraft just occupied.

The Ghost appears.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As he looks over his shoulder.

RICHARDS

Is that our boy!?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As he too looks back.

STONEWALL

That's him! Where's his wingman?

EXT. AIRCRAFT - ESTABLISH

The Ghost fighters at Angels thirty.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

STREAKER
Stonewall! Seven o'clock!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - ESTABLISH

The Ghost wingman fires his cannon at Stonewall.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall's Super hornet does evasive maneuvers as tracer miss danger close.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
Alright. Shotten boys and girls!
Chi town, you're with me. We'll
kill the leader!
(then add)
Katherine, you're with Stonewall.
Kill the other guy!
(commanding)
Now go to work people!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The maneuvers begin. We have overlap POV shots from cockpits and aircraft structural points as Richards command to divide the two enemy planes apart is followed.

Ghost leader takes Richards and Chi town skyward.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Richards POV as the Ghost lead fills his windscreen in front of him.

RICHARDS
(to ghost lead)
That's a good looking airplane,
Meat.

He shoots.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The ghost breaks hard as tracers miss their target.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS

Shit!

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN

Stay on him. Don't let him go.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

They maneuver at a high altitude.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Low altitude maneuvers. Stonewall is chased by the wingman as Streaker maneuvers for a shot. The fight brings them over a typically small middle eastern city.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Streaker's POV as she attempts to line the wingman up.

HERC

Go get 'im, Streak. He's yours
baby.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

I can't hold this guy in check
forever, Streak. Take the shot.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The wingman fires a heat seeking missile at Stonewall. The Super hornet immediately releases flares. Stonewall then pulls hard on the stick. The jet maneuvers violently. The decoy works.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Any god damned time, Lieutenant!

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER
I don't have tone!

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Screw the computer! Go with your
gut! Shoot this Bastard!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Low over the city. The Ghost wingman fires his cannon at Stonewall. Tracers impact buildings, vehicles and people alike.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As he sees the chaos below,

HERC
Jesus take the wheel.
(concern)
Streak!

STREAKER
I know.
(to Stonewall)
Lead, I have no shot! I repeat, I
have no shot! Climb, climb, climb!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

At twenty thousand feet.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN
Lead, I got the shot. Do I have
permission to fire?

NUKEM

He's pulling away from us, Chi town.

CHI TOWN

I know, I know.

(to Richards)

Dragon lead, he's getting away.
Permission to take the shot?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS

Hold your position.

Richards fires his sidewinder missile.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

We see the weapon streak off the wing tip missile rail. We then watch as it trails the Ghost.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS

C'mon Baby. There you go.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost banks hard as the missile explodes close by. The aircraft is not damaged.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS

Damn it!

(pause)

Two!

CHI TOWN (V.O.)

Yes, Sir?

RICHARDS

Go get him!

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN

Yes, Sir.

Chi town firewalls his throttles.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost fighter flies past Richards in full afterburner.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS

(controlled anger)

We are killing something tonight,
People. That is an order!

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Alright listen to me. We have an
advantage over this guy. Go up to
five thousand and wait for me.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER

Sir?

STONEWALL (V.O.)

Just do it, Lieutenant.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost fighter climbs out of the fight.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Alright, shit for brains. Let's do
this.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall banks his aircraft into a tight turn. The Ghost follows. The jets proceed skyward. The tight turns continue as we see the Ghost's wings begin to shutter.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

The wingman realizes that there is something wrong.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
That's what I was waiting for.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

We see as he breaks off the pursuit.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost wingman breaks off and rolls back toward the ground.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER
He's trying to build his speed back up. I got the shot!

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Kill 'im!

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Streaker's POV as she see the Ghost out front.

STREAKER
Goodbye, Asshole.

We see as Streaker pulls her gun trigger and pickles his missile release.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost fighter unleashes hell at the Ghost wingman. The aircraft is blown apart a few meters above the ground. It hits the ground in a fireball as it tumbles end over end.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Streaker and Herc show their excitement.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The wreck comes to a stop. Secondary explosions.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall is a little more reserved, relieved.

STONEWALL

(to Mo)

We got one, Mo. We got one.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - EVENING

Stonewall and Streaker in formation. Richards Hornet forms up on his other wing. Chi town slots in just beyond.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS

Well done, You two. Well done.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

NUKEM

How's it feel, Streak? Your first kill.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER

Stonewall deserves the credit. He set that Bastard up nicely.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
How 'bout the lead, Sir?

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL (V.O.)
Did you get him?

CHI TOWN
Negative. He got away ... This
time.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
Well get him next time.
(redirect)
Alright, Team. One down, one to go.
Tomorrow we finish it. Stonewall?

STONEWALL (V.O.)
Sir?

RICHARDS
You have the lead. Take us home.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL (V.O.)
Roger that.

Stonewall engages his afterburners. The other follow his
lead.

EXT. CARRIER AT SEA - NIGHT

Flight operations, 24/7.

INT. STONEWALL'S STATEROOM - ESTABLISH

As he looks at the image of Linda on his laptop.

STONEWALL
We got one. The other got away.
We'll get him next time.

LINDA (ON SCREEN)
You think there will be a next
time?

STONEWALL
I would imagine so. This guys a
fighter pilot. As Captain Richards
would say. This shit's in our DNA.

INT. STONEWALL FAMILY HOME - EVENING - ESTABLISH

Linda sits on the couch with a laptop computer. We see
Stonewall on the screen.

LINDA
So does that mean you're having
second thoughts about retiring?

A moment to reflect.

STONEWALL (ON SCREEN)
I want to finish this, Linda. I
have to.

LINDA
You alright? How do you feel?

STONEWALL (ON SCREEN)
So much has been lost. I can't
imagine walking away now. Not until
I close the book on this guy.

LINDA
Chris, you're starting to sound
obsessed. That's scaring me.

INT. STONEWALL'S STATEROOM - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
I'm good Linda. Don't worry, Baby.
(reflect)
When this is done. I'm coming home.

LINDA (ON SCREEN)
Promise me.

STONEWALL
(curious)
What?

INT. STONEWALL FAMILY HOME - CONTINUOUS

LINDA
 Promise me that my Chris is coming home.

A pause for effect.

LINDA (CONT'D)
 Chris?

Quickly.

STONEWALL
 I promise.

Not convinced.

LINDA
 Call me tomorrow about the same time. I'll keep Luke up.

STONEWALL (ON SCREEN)
 We don't ...

Linda ends the connection. Had a moment to herself. Linda begins to tear up.

LUKE (O.S.)
 Was that Dad?

Luke stand nearby. Linda composes herself.

LINDA
 Yeah, Sweetie.

LUKE
 He coming home soon?

As Linda looks at her son, we -

CUT TO:

EXT. SMALL REMOTE DESERT AIRSTRIP - DAY

Two aircraft shelters built into the hillside.

INT. HARDENED AIRCRAFT SHELTER - ESTABLISH

From the back of the shelter we look towards the front. Directly in front of us is the Ghost leader's aircraft ready for action.

Outside the shelter we can just make out three people in what appears to be an argument. As a jeep blocks the taxiway we can make out the Ghost pilot from behind as he argues with a man in desert fatigues. The other man stands close by. They seem to argue about the aircraft.

A moment later the Ghost leader pulls a gun, shoots both men before they can react.

EXT. HARDENED AIRCRAFT SHELTER - DAY

The jeep sits parked next to the taxi way. Two dead body lie next to the vehicle. The Ghost's aircraft taxi's past them.

EXT. CARRIER AT SEA - DAY

Flight operations, 24/7.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - ESTABLISH

We see Stonewall in his flight suit as he comes to a junction. He see Richards and Streaker as they have a private conversation at the end of the hall. Streaker is in her flight suit with her mobility bag as they seem to have a father daughter interaction.

Stonewall then see them hug. He then continues down the passageway. As he does, we hear over the ship's intercom,

SHIP'S INTERCOM
(male voice)
Attention on deck. Captain
Richards, Major Jackson, please
report to CIC.
(I repeat)
Captain Richards, Major Jackson
please report to CIC. That is all.

INT. CIC - ESTABLISH

Admiral Braydon stands behind one of his radar stations as Stonewall enters. As he steps to Braydon we can hear ship to aircraft communications in the background.

STONEWALL
Sir?

BRAYDON
Major. I think you may find this
interesting.
(MORE)

BRAYDON (CONT'D)
(to radar intercept)
Turn it up.

The controller does.

PHEONIX (V.O.)
Contact is still bearing zero five
zero below Angels one.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - DAY

An E3 Hawkeye cruises alone at altitude.

PHEONIX (V.O.)
Moving at point nine Mach.

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
What the hell?

Richards steps in.

RICHARDS
Report.

BRAYDON
Looks like your boy didn't like you
killing his friend last night. He's
doing a suicide run against us.

RICHARDS
You can't be serious?

BRAYDON
At his present course and speed
he'll get to us in four minutes.
But, that ain't gonna happen.

STONEWALL
This doesn't make sense.

EXT. OCEAN - SAME TIME

The Ghost cruises at wave top level; point nine Mach.

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

BRAYDON
Where's our combat air patrol?

CIC CONTROLLER

On route to intercept. Forty five seconds.

BRAYDON

Make sure Pheonix keeps us abreast of any course changes.

RICHARDS

You think he's bluffing?

BRAYDON

Con, every ship in the fleet's got their guns trained on that spot. I sincerely hope he is.

STONEWALL

How are you picking him up on radar?

BRAYDON

Electronically he's lit up like a Christmas tree. He's got more pings than my wife's fat assed sister.

Stonewall moves in whisper close to Richards.

STONEWALL

Something's wrong, Captain. This doesn't feel right.

RICHARDS

Agreed, get moving. I want our people airborne.

Stonewall exits, Richards steps to Braydon's shoulder.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)

We may have a situation here, Admiral.

EXT. CARRIER FLIGHT DECK - AFTERNOON

The Ghost fighters taxi into the catapult positions. Stonewall walks to his Super hornet. Flash sits in his Hornet parked next to Stonewall's; he prepares.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

We see Chi town and Nukem get ready.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

We see Streaker and Herc prepare as well.

EXT. CARRIER ISLAND CROWS NEST - A SECOND LATER

Richards emerges. Immediately he searches for his team. From his vantage point we see the two Ghost fighters at catapult positions. We then see the two Super hornets as they complete their pre taxi checklists.

EXT. OCEAN - AFTERNOON

A Mirage fighter at wave top level cruises at a high speed. The fighter suddenly breaks hard right.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The E3 Hawkeye high above.

PHEONIX (V.O.)
Papa bear, Pheonix. Our bogey is
bugging out at this time.

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

PHEONIX (V.O.)
His new heading is two seven zero.

BRAYDON
(to CIC controller)
Make sure our CAP tails him until
bingo.

Braydon then exits.

EXT. CARRIER FLIGHT DECK - CONTINUOUS

Chi town and Nukem catapult off the ship. Airborne, the Ghost fighter does a leisurely climb out to the left. Aircraft handlers then move around Streaker.

The shooter signal her. She signals back she is ready. The afterburners ignite. The jet is ready to roll.

EXT. CARRIER ISLAND CROWS NEST - CONTINUOUS

Richards looks on. He then sees Stonewalls aircraft begins to taxi to the CAT three station. Richards smile. Braydon joins him.

BRAYDON
Where are your people?

RICHARDS
One's up, the others will join him
shortly.

As he then glances out over the bow of the ship Richards does a double take as he sees something; not good.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As she looks at the shooter, Streaker then glances forward.

STREAKER
What the...?

HERC
What?

A realization moment.

STREAKER
Are you kidding me?

EXT. CARRIER ISLAND CROWS NEST - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
Shit!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

We see as The Ghost opens the small weapons payload bays on either side of the intakes. Inside each faring are two anti ship missiles ready to be unleashed.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

The ghost's POV as we do a high speed head on approach towards the carriers from about four miles away.

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

CIC CONTROLLER
Radar contact, four miles true.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost pitches up then barrel rolls over as he fires his anti ship missiles and cannons simultaneously.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall in disbelief.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

Flash in disbelief.

FLASH
Oh, fu ...!

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Streaker closes her eyes, waits.

EXT. CARRIER FLIGHT DECK - CONTINUOUS

One missile hits, then skips along the deck. It explodes as it tumbles fore to aft. A fireball follows. The second one hits two parked aircraft. Chaos ensues as cannon fire then creates its own results.

The Ghost over flies the carrier at a low level.

Flash's aircraft is damaged by flying debris. The jet catches fire. Flash manages to escape just in time. The jet explodes. Stonewall looks on at the fast approaching flames.

EXT. CARRIER AT SEA - ESTABLISH

Fleet escorts open fire on the fast moving jet as it quickly egresses the area.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

The sounds of general quarters is heard over the comm. nets. As he looks back.

CHI TOWN
What the hell just happened?

NUKEM
The Carrier! The carrier's under
attack!

CHI TOWN
Where's Streak, where's Stonewall
and Flash? Did they get airborne?

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Streaker opens her eyes. Relieved, she looks around. POV
through the aircraft's canopy we see carnage along the flight
deck.

HERC
Streak! We need to bail out!

Pause for effect.

HERC (CONT'D)
Streak!

STREAKER
(snap too)
Bullshit!
(catapult officer)
Cut me loose, now!

INT. CATAPULT LAUNCH CONTROL BUBBLE - ESTABLISH

The officer depresses the button.

EXT. CARRIER FLIGHT DECK - CONTINUOUS

The jet catapults.

EXT. CARRIER ISLAND CROWS NEST - CONTINUOUS

Braydon looks at the flight deck. He is not pleased. Braydon
scans the sky for the Ghost's black jet. He spot the jet now
far off in the distance.

BRAYDON
(angry)
Oh, you black mutha...!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

A quick shot of the ghost as it flies by. The carrier in the background as it billows smoke and fires.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN
There he is!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost back again at wave top.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN
No way, Meat. You're ass is mine.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Streaker's Ghost fight.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER
Chi town, where are you!?

I/E. F-44A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN
Zero two zero going to fifty feet!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Ghost fighter at wave top level.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER
I see you. I'm on my way.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN

Don't bother. This will be over in
about ten seconds!

NUKEM

I can't get a radar lock.

CHI TOWN

Going to heat seeking!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost fighter fires a sidewinder missile. The Ghost banks
hard as it releases flares. The missile impacts the flare.

The Ghost engages his afterburners.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

NUKEM

He's trying to run!

Chi town firewall's his throttles.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost fighter's wings sweep back as its afterburners
ignite.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Streaker sees this. Slams her throttles forward.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Her aircraft does the same as Chi town's.

INT. CIC - ESTABLISH

Richards enter the near chaotic room as controllers direct
damage control crews and airborne assets alike. They step to
the same controller from previously.

CHI TOWN (V.O.)
 Papa bear, Ghost fighter. Enemy
 aircraft is attempting to run. We
 are in pursuit.

Richards takes command of the station.

RICHARDS
 Ghost fighter, Papa bear. You are
 to pursue and destroy that
 aircraft. If you have to, follow
 him to hell.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

NUKEM
 You heard the man.

CHI TOWN
 Roger that.

Nukem's POV as he looks forward. We see a partial view of Chi town in the front seat and through the windscreen, the Ghost off in the distance. Both aircraft maneuver hard. Far beyond them we see dry land.

CHI TOWN (CONT'D)
 (to self)
 Wow, this shithead's pretty good.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

POV at fighter jet speeds, we see the transition from water to land.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN
 Ghost fighter's feet dry. We are in
 the badlands.

CIC CONTROLLER (V.O.)
 Copy Ghost fighter. We have your
 transponder. We show you feet dry.

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

RICHARDS
Chi town, watch for SAM's. Intel
says the area you are entering is
full of them.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

NUKEM
Okay, now that's interesting.

CHI TOWN
Shut up, Nuke! We're going in.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC
Streak?

STREAKER
You heard him.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

All three aircraft maneuver the landscape.

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

Braydon walks in covered in soot. Richards see this.

RICHARDS
How's your ship, Tom?

BRAYDON
She'll live. You kill that Son of a
bitch yet?

RICHARDS
We're working on it.

Braydon looks at the screen.

BRAYDON
You tell them about the SAM's?

RICHARD
They're aware.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

POV of mountainous terrain.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

The radar screen lights up.

HERC
SAM radar looking for us.

STREAKER
Chi town, you copy?

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN
They can't lock on to what they
can't see. Don't worry about it.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER
Yeah but it's the seeing part that
worries me. They get a visual then
it's over.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN
(annoyed)
We will deal with it then! Now just
shut up and cover me, Wingman!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Through the mountains.

EXT. SAM SITE - AFTERNOON

Two missiles launch.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

NUKEM
Launch! We got a launch! One
o'clock!

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER

Christ! Chi town, he's baiting us!
He's baiting us right into them!

HERC

But they can't lock.

STREAKER

They don't need to when they have a
visual. Shit! I was afraid of this.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Chi town quickly turns his jet into the missiles. The both
explode danger close but miss.

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

Ship's intercom.

STREAKER (V.O.)

Lead, break off! Break off! Climb
to Angels twenty!

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN

Negative, Two. I'm gonna finish the
job this time. You bail if you want

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

Ship's intercom.

MAX (V.O.)

Besides, I'm pretty sure there are
some guys back on the carrier that
would like a little payback.

(to carrier crew)

Am I right Papa bear?

Lead by Braydon, the responses from the CIC controllers is
colorful, but not X rated.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER

Herc?

HERC

Wherever you go I go. Call it. And we do have four Mavericks onboard.

EXT. SAM SITE - ESTABLISH

Second site fires two missiles.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC

Incoming!

STREAKER

I see them. We're going in. Get ready.

HERC

I got all four site coordinates locked in. Shoot when ready.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost fighter dives. The missiles miss. Low level they release the maverick missiles. We track the missiles.

EXT. SAM SITE - CONTINUOUS

Boom.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As he searches the sky.

CHI TOWN

Nuke, you see him?

As he does the same.

NUKEM

No, I lost him when we were dodging missiles.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost swoops in behind the Ghost fighter.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As he looks back.

NUKEM

Shit! He right between our tails!
Break left!

Chi town reacts.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Ghost POV as he fires his cannons at Chi town. Hit on the Ghost fighter's tail section.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

NUKEM

We're hit!

CHI TOWN

I know! Hold on!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost fighter dives with the Ghost in pursuit. Through the mountains we go.

I/E. Ghost fighter cockpit - CONTINUOUS

HERC

That four sites down, but..

STREAKER

But what?

HERC

Damn, we missed one.

STREAKER

Where?

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Chi town leads the ghost through the mountain valley. The Ghost suddenly peals away.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As they both looks back,

NUKEM

He's breaking off! He couldn't stay with us!

(look forward)

Way to fly, Chi..

(surprise)

SAM!

Chi town turns forward.

CHI TOWN

Shit!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

POV from the Ghost fighter's nose as a SAM comes directly at them. The jets starts an evasive climb. The SAM explodes a few meters below the aft fuselage.

The Ghost fighter is mortally wounded.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As he fights to maintain control of the aircraft.

CHI TOWN

God damn it! Papa bear, Ghost fighter lead!

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN (V.O.)

May Day, May Day! We are hit! We are hit!

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN (V.O.)

I'm gonna try to make it back to sea!

As she scans the sky.

STREAKER
Herc, you see 'em?

HERC
Seven o'clock. Heading one eighty!

Herc's POV as we see Chi town and Nukem's jet climb a few miles away. The jet trails smoke and flames.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost cruises high above.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Ghost POV as we see the Ghost fighter in flames. We then see as Streaker's jet move quickly towards her wounded friend's aircraft.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Alarms sound in the smoke filled cockpit.

CHI TOWN
There's the ocean. Hang on Nuke.

As he looks aft to the fire glow directly behind him.

NUKEM
I don't think we're gonna make it!

CHI TOWN
Yeah we will. Just hang on!

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER
Lead, your tail section is fully engulfed! If those flames get to you fuel tanks, it's over, copy!?

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

As she pulls into formation next him.

CHI TOWN (V.O.)
We just need to make it to the
water.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN
Once we are safe over the ocean,
we'll eject.

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

CHI TOWN (V.O.)
Papa bear, have Air Sea Rescue
standing by, copy?

CIC CONTROLLER
Roger, Ghost fighter. Chopper is in
route.

RICHARDS
Two, where's the enemy aircraft? Do
you have visual?

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER
That's a negative, Papa bear. The
enemy is not...
(she see him)
Oh no.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

As he banks, the Ghost fires a heat seeker missile.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER
Max! Eject, eject, eject!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The missile tracks towards Chi town and Nukem.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Chi town sees the missile. We see as he reaches for the ejection handle.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Impact! Fireball! We acquire the Ghost as he flies along the debris trail. He then banks hard toward us.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC

Streak?

STREAKER

I see him.

(to CIC)

Papa bear, Ghost flight. My lead is gone.

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER (V.O.)

I say again, my lead is gone.

Richards slams his hand on the table. The man is visibly angry.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC

Papa bear we saw no chutes.

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

HERC(V.O.)

I say again. No chutes.

As Richards paces.

BRAYDON

Call it a day, Con. Save your aircraft.

RICHARDS

Is that an order, Admiral?

BRAYDON

No but you're on track to loose
both your prototypes. Bring her
home, Man.

Pause for effect.

RICHARDS

No. We've come too far. One way or
another it ends today.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost and the Ghost fighter cruise parallel to each other
about a mile apart.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC

You believe this guy.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - ESTABLISH

The Ghost fighter banks towards the Ghost. The Ghost reacts.
Streaker gets behind the Ghost. The pursuit begins.

EXT. CONCEALED ANTI AIRCRAFT BATTERY SITE - ESTABLISH

The big gun barrel waits.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost leads them low over the terrain.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

POV of the Ghost a few hundred yards out front.

HERC

You've got a beautiful shot there,
Streak. Take him out.

EXT. CONCEALED ANTI AIRCRAFT BATTERY SITE - A SECOND LATER

Open fire.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Flak explodes danger close. Shrapnel hits the Ghost fighter.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Alarms sound.

STREAKER

Damn it, we're hit!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost fighter maneuvers through the flak; evades, all clear.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC

Okay, we're clear, we're clear.
Jesus, that was close.

EXT. SAM SITE - ESTABLISH

Two missiles launch.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Alarm sounds.

STREAKER

SAM launch. Two o'clock!

POV as two missiles track towards them.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

A the first SAM is defeated by the flare. The second continues its track the Ghost fighter's tail pipe.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As he looks aft.

HERC

First one's down. Second is still
back there.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The aircraft continues to bank hard to evade the missile. Moments from impact we see a dart like object streak in and hit the missile. The SAM explodes in mid air.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

STONEWALL

Alright, Ghost fighter. Your ass is clear.

CUT TO:

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL (V.O.)

Now form up on me and let's finish this guy.

RICHARDS

Stonewall?

BRAYDON

Looks like your Marines in the fight.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER

We're bleeding hydraulics, Major. I don't think we're gonna be in this fight much longer.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Can you get back to the ship?

STREAKER (V.O.)

I think we can make it.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

As the two aircraft form up.

STONEWALL (V.O.)

Then do it. I'll cover you.

The Ghost swings in from a high angle of attack, fires a missile.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As the cockpit alarm pings loudly.

HERC

Launch! We got a missile tracking toward us!

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

He's locked on to me. Break left!

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The two aircraft break formation. The Ghost maneuvers for another shot.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As he sees the Ghost.

STONEWALL

I see you Asshole. Let's dance.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER

Major, I'm right below you at your seven o'clock. I'm coming to you.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Negative, your aircraft is wounded. Get your butt back to the carrier!

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

As they listen.

STREAKER (V.O.)

But, Sir

STONEWALL (V.O.)
That's an order, Lieutenant.

I/E. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

We overlap images of Stonewall and the Ghost as they merge into a dogfight.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Three years. Three years I waited
for another chance at you.

A moment later.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
(American accent)
I was wondering if you would ever
return.

STONEWALL
What?

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

THE GHOST
Three years ago I let someone live.
I always wondered if he would come
back to seek redemption.
(then ask)
Is that you,
(pause for effect)
The one they called, Stonewall?

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC
Oh shit.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
So, you know me, Meat. What's your
name?

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

THE GHOST
For you my friend, my name is
vengeance, payback.

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

THE GHOST (V.O.)
All those reasons that motivated
you to rise every morning during
your period of ... reflection.

BRAYDON
Somebody find out how this Bastard
managed to hook into my comms!

RICHARDS
He's been listening all along. All
this time. Every encounter. Son of
a bitch.

BRAYDON
How?

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER
Fuck'n Snowden.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
It doesn't matter how he got in. He
ain't getting out.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

THE GHOST
(smirk)
Typical.

INT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost activates his speed brake fairings. His aircraft
slows down. Stonewall flies past him. The pursuit begins.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

THE GHOST

This time, Stonewall. Or should I
say, Ghost fighter. You will die.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost unleashes cannon fire. The Superhornet evades the
projectiles.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Nice try, Asshole. But, you want to
know something?

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall dives abruptly. The Ghost follows.

STONEWALL (V.O.)

You are right.

CUT TO:

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

I lived of this moment ever since
you killed my friend.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

THE GHOST

Ah, your wingman that glorious day?

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

THE GHOST (V.O.)

What was his name. Mo wasn't it?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

That's Mr. Ortega to you.

I/E. AIRCRAFT/ COCKPIT POV - ESTABLISH

The Superhornet goes low level into a canyon. The Ghost follows. Both aircraft miss the canyon walls by mere feet.

STONEWALL

Welcome to my world, Bitch.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

HERC

Where'd they go?

STREAKER

Into that canyon. Hold on. I'm gonna activate the TFR.

CUT TO:

I/E. AIRCRAFT/ COCKPIT POV - ESTABLISH

The Ghost fighter dives into the canyon. They too fly danger close to the canyon walls.

CUT TO:

EXT. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As he nervously scans the surroundings.

HERC

What are you, Luke Skywalker? This is some real Death star shit, Navy.

STREAKER

Tell me about it. And, you want to know something else?

HERC

What's that.

STREAKER

(raise hands)

I'm not flying the jet. She's on TFR auto pilot.

HERC

Damn! Why you have to tell me that. Jesus, please take the wheel!

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

POV as we high speed through the canyon.

THE GHOST
(to self)
This is lunacy.

POV as the Ghost maneuvers within the confined space.
Suddenly he see an impact crater a quarter mile ahead. Smoke
and fire billow from the site.

THE GHOST (CONT'D)
Ahh,

He flies past the point of impact.

THE GHOST (CONT'D)
How unfortunate. It would appear
your man made a fatal mistake.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost flies out the canyon.

INT. CIC - CONTINUOUS

THE GHOST (V.O.)
Is there no one to challenge me?

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

THE GHOST (V.O.)
Were these sacrificial dogs of war
all that you have?

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

THE GHOST
Tell me, America. Once I kill your
pup below. Who is left to save you?

STONEWALL (V.O.)
A US Marine.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

POV as we see the Ghost out front.

STONEWALL
Goodbye, Dickhead.

INT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Superhornet fires its nose cannon into the ghost's airframe. The aircraft and its pilot are mortally wounded. However, the Ghost manages to keep her airborne. Stonewall moves to a position above the Ghost.

The Ghost fighter forms up just off his wing.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER
You okay, Major?

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall gives Streaker a quick glance then looks down at the Ghost.

STONEWALL
I thought I told you to go home?

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER
Sir, I ...

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL
Save it. We'll talk later. Stay here.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Superhornet banks down towards the Ghost. Stonewall positions himself parallel to the aircraft.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Stonewalls looks over to his adversary.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As his cockpit fills with smoke and as he struggles to maintain control of his aircraft, the Ghost looks over at Stonewall.

THE GHOST

How? I thought you crashed.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Once I lost sight of you I fired my remaining missile into the canyon.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

THE GHOST

A trick. Not very sporting.

STONEWALL (V.O.)

Fuck sporting.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

This was going to end today one way or another.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

THE GHOST

Do you remember our last encounter?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FLASHBACK - EVENING

A wounded F18A attempts to gain altitude. Stonewall's F18A. It is the day he encountered the Ghost for the first time.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

Stonewall struggled to control his aircraft as blood soaks his flight suit. He looks to his right.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - ESTABLISH

The Ghost pulls along side. His wingman is seen in the background.

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - ESTABLISH

The Ghost looks at Stonewall.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As he looks at the Ghost.

 STONEWALL
 (in pain)
 C'mon, Asshole. Finish it!

I/E. GHOST COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

A pause for effect. Then the Ghost gives Stonewall a salute: an American salute.

 THE GHOST
 Remember this.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost waggled his wings momentarily, then he banks away. His wingman follows.

I/E. F18A COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

The cockpit fills with smoke as alarms tell Stonewall to eject. He readies himself. Stonewall pulls the handle, ejects.

 BACK TO:

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall continues to look at the Ghost.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost fighter banks to position itself behind the Ghost.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER

I have good tone. Just say the word.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Negative, Streak. Stand down.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STREAKER

Sir, we need to finish this.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

And I said stand down, Lieutenant.

STREAKER (V.O.)

Why?

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Ghost explodes before them.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

STONEWALL

Because it's over.

I/E. GHOST FIGHTER COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As she and Herc look at the debris fall from the sky.

HERC

Yes it is. Finally.

I/E. F-18 SUPERHORNET COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Stonewall looks on as well, then.

STONEWALL

Let's get you home.

EXT. AIRCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The two bank off into the twilight sky.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CARRIER FLIGHT DECK - NIGHT - ESTABLISH

The rescue helicopter lands. We see medical move to the chopper as the door opens. Chi town jumps out

From his vantage point on the crows nest. Still in his flight suit, Stonewall looks on. Flash stands next to him.

Chi town steps aside as we see a stretcher that bares Nukem is removed from the chopper. Chi town follows his REO to the access hatch. Streaker emerges from the hatch, runs to Chi town. They hug tightly. She then turns her attention to Nukem as the stretcher passes. She pauses to look up just before she enters.

Streaker and Stonewall make eye contact. They hold each other's gaze momentarily. She smiles, he winks. Streaker disappears through the hatch.

Stonewall scans the flight deck below. It is filled with activity. Richards then steps up, stands next to Stonewall. Both remain silent for the moment to just take it all in. Then,

RICHARDS
So you finally got him.

STONEWALL
Yes Sir, we did.

RICHARDS
Don't be modest, Major.

Richards places his hand on Stonewall's shoulder.

RICHARD
I have a funny feeling you will
sleep good tonight.

Richards walks off. Stonewall looks at the Ghost Fighter as the aircraft sits alone on deck.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. MIRAMAR NAVAL AIR STATION - SUNSET - ESTABLISH

On the Tarmac, Richards stands next to a military vehicle.

We then see Stonewall with Linda and Luke as they have a family moment next to his car. Stonewall's rank is Lieutenant Colonel.

STONEWALL
You sure about this?

LINDA
Are you?

Stonewall looks over at Richards who has a "I knew you wouldn't" look on his face. Stonewall smirks.

STONEWALL
He was right. I'm a fighter pilot,
Linda. This is where I belong.

Linda leans in, kisses her husband.

LINDA
Where we belong.

To Luke.

STONEWALL
What are your orders, Marine?

LUKE
Take care of Mom.

STONEWALL
And?

LUKE
Do my homework.

STONEWALL
And?

LUKE
Keep my eye on the ball.

STONEWALL
Outstanding.
(gesture hand shake)
Gimme some.

They shake, then embrace. Now back to Linda; Stonewall gives her a wink as they share a silent moment.

He then picks up his duffle bag and walks to Richards as Linda and Luke get in the car.

RICHARDS
Welcome to Miramar, Colonel.

STONEWALL
Thank you, Captain.
(pause to reflect)
I'm glad to be here.

RICHARDS
You won't be saying that once the best fighter pilots in the world start humiliating your ass during Top Gun.

Humor.

STONEWALL
Yeah well, we'll just have to see about that.

RICHARDS
Sleep well?

STONEWALL
Hmp. You have no idea.

Stonewall steps to the passenger side of the vehicle.

We change to a high angled camera shot as Stonewall then Richards get in the vehicle. The vehicle then drive off.

STONEWALL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
What are you smiling about, Sir?

RICHARDS (O.S.)
You're a warrior, Stonewall. I knew you'd realize that in the end.

STONEWALL (O.S.)
Oh so you think you're pretty good at figuring people out, huh?

RICHARDS (O.S.)
You're damned skippy.

FADE OUT.

THE END.

