



"Dog" Day Afternoon Over Gerbia

On May 4, 1999 a pilot from the 78th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron Bushmasters) achieved the first USAF-16CJ air-to-air kill of the Kosovo war. Going by the call sign of "Dog", the pilot shot down a Yugoslav MiG-29 fighter near the city of Belgrade.

A/C 91-353 was part of a four-ship flight, call sign Puma 11 that were on a force protection mission. Their mission was to provide both SEAD and CAP support for two waves of strike aircraft over Western Serbia. The first strike package consisted of both British and French Jaguars and Dutch F-16s.

Puma 11 completed the first portion of their mission and handed off their luties to another flight of F-16CJs. Enroute to their tanker, Puma 11 received a call from a NATO AWACS.

After being alerted by a British E-3D AWACS that an unidentified aircraft was airborne, the four ship went to investigate. The MiG-29 had taken off rom Batajnica Air Base, near Belgrade at 1241 hours. The AWACS vectored he flight towards the radar contact and directed that they make a visual dentification of the aircraft. During the intercept however, the lead aircraft Dog) of Puma 11 was "spiked" (locked

on by the MiGs radar) by the bogey.
At 1246 hours, "Dog" fired two AIM120B AMRAAM missiles and a minute
later both he and his wingman
witnessed the MiG-29 executing some
evasive maneuvers. The MiG did not
succeed in shaking the AMRAAMs
though and exploded in a fireball as it
fell to the ground. AWACS confirmed
the explosion by reporting that the
MiG radar contact had disappeared.

After the shootdown, the F-16CJ fourship tanked up and returned to Western Serbia to fly SEAD and CAP for another strike mission.

Yugoslav reports indicate the pilots name was Col. Milenko Pavlovic, Commander of the 204th Aviation Regiment. They also claim he was downed by friendly fire.

Loadout for A/C 91-353 for this mission was typical of all Block 50 CJ Falcons during the Kosovo War:

Stations 1/9 - AIM-120 AMRAAMs
Stations 2/8 - AIM-9 Sidewinders w/
ALE-50 Towed Decoy Pylons
Stations 3/7 - AGM-88 HARMs
Station 4/6 - External Wing Tanks
Station 5 - ALQ-131 ECM Pod
Right Intake Station - ASQ-213 HARM
Targeting System (HTS) pod

1000™ COMBAT SORTIE



On 10 Jun 1999, Lt. Col Clyde T.
Bellinger flew the 1,000th strike sortie
of Operation Allied Force. Flying
under the call sign of Cutlass 12, Lt.
Col Bellinger flew Mission #2101F into
the Kosovo Engagement Zone (KEZ).
This turned out to be the last sortie of
Operation Allied Force that was flown
into the KEZ. Shortly thereafter, the
Serbian military began withdrawing
their troops to meet the NATO
imposed deadline of 15 June 1999.

Shaw AFB personnel were able to launch a phenomenal number of sorties in record time, an astonishing 1,000 sorties in only 53 days. Shaw's F-16s were the only wing at Aviano AB to accomplish this feat in such a short span.

"The folks out here.... My hats off to them," Bellinger added. "They deserve this honor, I just happened to drive the bus so to speak."

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