

Two Accurate, Two Colorful
Twobobs!

- WHAT'S OUT THERE?
1/48 Revell Promodeler Strike Eagle
1/48 Hasegawa Strike Eagle
1/48 Academy Strike Eagle
Black Box Cockpit Set
Aires Cockpit Set
Aires Exhaust Set
Eduard Photo-Etch Update Set
Cutting Edge Canopy and Wheel Masks
Verlinden Detail Set



Weapons loadout for the missions on 4 March were:
 (9) GBU-12s (four on each CFT and one centerline)
 (2) AIM-120s (outside rails)
 (2) AIM-9s (inside rails)
 (2) Wing tanks

F3561118
 Testors MM 1723
 Humbrol Hu125
 Gunze Sangyo H305

81701
 90487
 90471

Nose Gear Door
 Markings

1	0	0
7	4	4
0	8	7
1	7	1

Special Thanks to:
 Don Russell
 "Spliff"
 "Panzer"
 "Gringa"
 and all the other great folks at
 the 335th Fighter Squadron!!

Gunfight on Roberts Ridge

4 March 2002 will forever be remembered as one of the greatest displays of airmanship and bravery in the history of modern warfare.

On that day, two F-15E's from the 335th Fighter Squadron were working targets in the Shah-e-kot Valley in Afghanistan. The aircraft were providing ground support to US Special Forces during Operation Anaconda.

While patrolling the target area, Twister 5-1 ("Junior" and "Meat") and Twister 5-2 ("Panzer" and "Spliff") picked up a distress call from a ground controller going by the call sign of Mako 3-0.

Mako 3-0 was part of a Navy Seal team in desperate need of close-air support and he stated that he had one KIA and two wounded.

"Junior" and "Meat" in Twister 5-1 rolled in on the enemy troops and dropped a GBU-12 but then had to leave to get fuel.

A second quick reaction force was sent in on two MH-47s. They were also tasked to recover the body of Petty Officer Neil Roberts. Roberts was a Navy Seal who had fallen out of his helo during the opening hours of Operation Anaconda.

Razor 1 and Razor 2 were the two teams sent in and Razor 1 immediately took fire as they tried to land. Multiple RPGs ricocheted off the helos and the teams took defensive positions under the barrage of

gunfire that had erupted around them. Numerous members were either killed or wounded. SSgt Gabe Brown, a Combat Controller, and the rest of the group rallied behind the helo "to figure out what the hell was going on".

Brown and fellow PJs, TSgt Miller and SrA Jason Cunningham, began tending to the wounded and gave them shelter in one of the downed helos'.

Other soldiers from the 75th Ranger Regiment were joined by the remaining aircrew members and charged up a hill. They set up two positions roughly 150 feet from the enemy bunker that most of the enemy fire was coming from.

Two miles southwest of Razor 1's position, TSgt Jim Hotaling, an AF Combat Controller, was watching the battle unfold. He heard Brown on the radio and the two of them formulated a plan. Brown would coordinate all air strikes within a half mile of the downed helicopter and everything outside of that would be Hotaling's responsibility.

Grenades and mortar shells were falling to within 5 to 10 feet of the Ranger's positions. The quick-reaction force commander made the decision to storm the enemy bunker but called his troops back since the assault wasn't successful due to the deep snow on the mountain. Just as the leader pulled his troops back, he was greeted with some good news from Brown. Brown had gotten the frequency for Twister 5-1 and 5-2!

Brown's communication to the aircraft was, "We have enemy troops 75 meters away... I need guns only!"

Brown talked both F-15s in onto a specific target, a lone pine tree near the enemy bunker. Brown specified guns since he was too close to the enemy for the GBU-12s that Twister 5-1 and 5-2 were carrying.

Twister 5-1 rolled in on the target at 575 mph and had to hit a lone tree with his 20mm. A tall order for a Strike Eagle but "Junior" had a few things working in his favor. He had awesome equipment, a kick-ass ground controller and three years of A-10 time prior to flying the Strike Eagle.

On the first two passes Brown waived Twister 5-1 off. The third time was the charm though. With a one second squeeze of the trigger, "Junior" ripped into the enemy position with 100 rounds of 20mm. As "Panzer" puts it, "Junior then proceeds to cut some trees down."

The tree that "Junior" had targeted splintered directly in front of the Rangers position. "Direct hit! I can smell the pine! Good guns!" was the call from Brown.

The battle on the ground raged for another 14 hours and Twister 5-1 and 5-2 made numerous passes with their guns and bombs until they were totally "Winchester" (out of ammo). They gassed up and returned home.

F-16s from the 18th FS arrived on the scene

and provided additional ground support. Later on, F/A-18s, F-14s, B-52s and AC-130s were called in to provide ground support during the exfiltration of the ground troops. A CIA Predator UAV (not confirmed) finished the job with a Hellfire missile.

For their actions that day, "Junior", "Meat", "Panzer" and "Spliff" were awarded the Air Force Silver Star. More importantly though, they saved countless lives and had a huge impact on the war on terrorism. These men along with all of the troops on the ground are true heroes.



"Spliff", all suited up and ready to go on another mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Many thanks for all the reference material, 20mm rounds, GBU-12s and bomb craters.

Twobobs' goal is to provide you with the most thoroughly researched decals that money can buy. We go beyond using traditional reference resources and many times speak with the actual aircrews and maintainers of our subject matter. Being modelers ourselves, we understand that there is no substitute for this painstaking research and we are proud to offer, what we feel, are the best decals on the market. If you have any subject matter that you feel should be the next Twobobs creation, let us know. We'll be happy to listen to any and all customer input.