

## **My Most Satisfying HARM Shot Ever**

### **By Uke**

It was 20 Jan 1991 (night 4) of the Gulf War and Lt Col Gelwix and I, as Michelob 61, were leading a 4-ship of F-4Gs supporting Boston 30, a three-ship cell of B-52s attacking the Medinah Republican Guard Div. HQ located just outside the NW border of Kuwait. We had talked with Boston 30 on the STU III so we knew their TOT and the attack axis was 150 with an egress to the South.

We had already stepped and were checking the flight in at engine start time when we got a call from squadron ops informing us our tanker for the night had aborted and Riyadh said there were no spares. Knowing the Buffs had already departed Cairo West and were flying across the barrens of West Iraq we were betting they were unaware of our dilemma. We were already going to be well beyond planned Joker/Bingo with no chance of a post attack refueling and it would mean landing short at one of the coalition bases just South of the Kuwait border.

To cover the Buffs vulnerability period in the threat ring we decided on breaking the flight into 4 singles with 20 mile in-trail spacing to extend our collective on-station time. Once airborne it all went pretty much as planned and as we approached the target from the South we were able to find Boston 30 on radar, still about 15 miles from the threat ring. Less than a minute later an SA-6 target tracking radar is up and we start working him. As the Buffs are still outside the threat ring and betting the SA-6 is focused on the Buffs we delay the shot for a few seconds. We shoot, make the perfunctory Magnum call and verify the Time to Impact cue looks good. Just as the SA-6 missile guidance radar comes up we get an excited call from the lead Buff EWO informing us he thinks they're going to shoot and I'm able to tell him OK, HARM Time to Impact is x seconds as they are launched on. He doesn't need to tell me, we're seeing it too as the flyout cue soon goes :00 and 4 seconds later the SA-6 "goes dotted". Boston 30 is one happy Aircraft Commander who promises us a case of scotch...still waiting. "Zoom for the moon" for fuel, do our best imitation of a space shuttle descent and able to make it back to Shaikh Isa logging a single bag 1.9.