

THE PIT HANGAR BAY.



ALTITUDE
CHAMBER
CERTIFICATION
CURRENT?

CHECK.

FLIGHT
PHYSICAL
CURRENT?

CHECK.

EJECTION
PROCEDURE
CERTIFICATION?

YES, I'VE
GOT ALL THE
CLEARANCES.
ROADBLOCK.
ALL OF THEM...

DON'T
WANT NO
SNAGS,
DUKE.



NOT
ON *THIS*
TRIP.

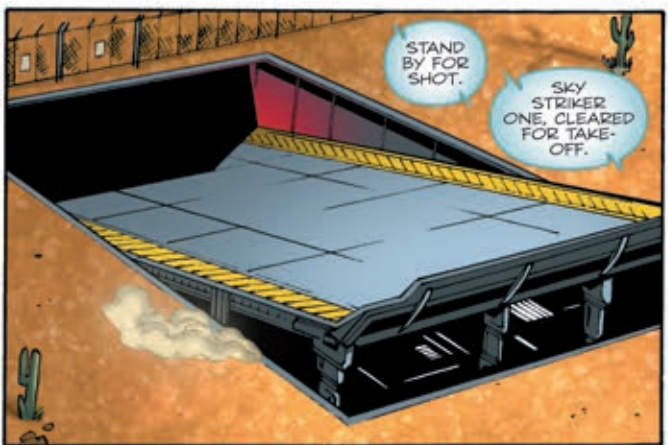
DOD MUST WANT YOU AT
THE PENTAGON IMMEDIATELY
IF THEY ORDERED ME TO GO
AFTERBURNER ALL THE
WAY TO JOINT BASE
ANDREWS!

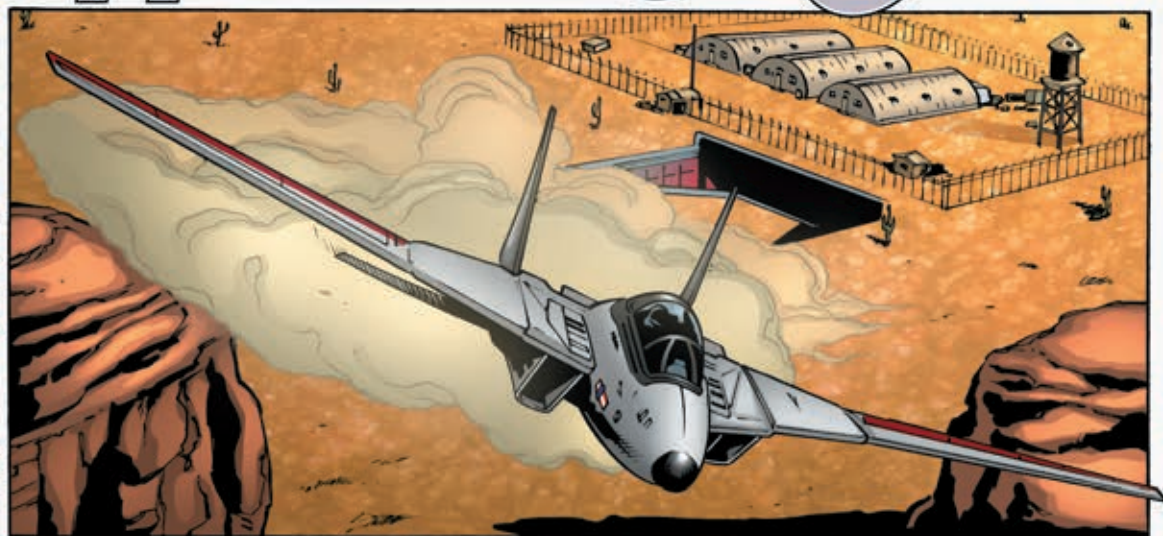
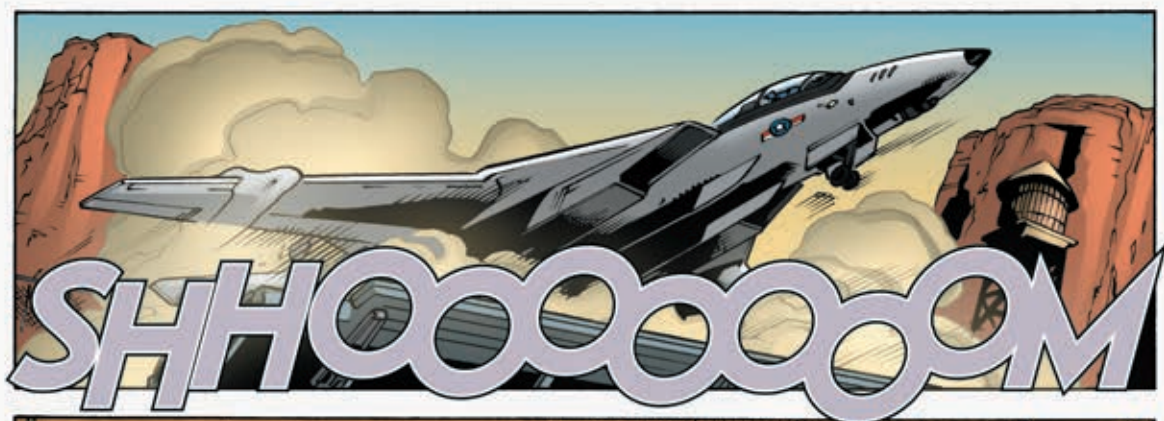
THAT'S
GOING TO TAKE
THREE TANKER
REFUELINGS EVEN
WITH DROP
TANKS.



YEAH.
RIGHT,
ACE.

OKAY, DUKE, GET
STRAPPED IN,
HOOKED UP,
AND WIRED
IN.





THE COBRA SILENT CASTLE.

THE SKY STRIKER JUST TOOK OFF FROM THE BASE IN UTAH...

...AND IT'S FLYING FULL AFTERBURNER ON A STRAIGHT COURSE TO ANDREWS.

THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE!

ASTOUNDING! IT'S NOT DATA— THEY ARE MOVING A WARM BODY...

COBRA COMMANDER, A WORD, IF YOU PLEASE—

IT HAD BETTER BE IMPORTANT, I'M ON A REAL STREAK HERE.

WE THINK DUKE OR HAWK IS ON A DIRECT SUPERSONIC FLIGHT FROM THE PIT TO THE PENTAGON. IT'S UNPRECEDENTED. THE IMPORTANCE OF AN IMMEDIATE FACE-TO-FACE—

WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT? AHA! IT'S BECAUSE THEY'VE GOTTEN INTEL ON MY SECRET PLAN!

WE HAVE TO MOVE UP THE ACTIVATION DATE! ALERT! ALL THE SIEGIES!

WE COMMENCE THE PROGRAM TOMORROW!



SOMETHING JUST SPOOKED THEM! THEY'RE SENDING OUT HISSE TANKS TO BOLSTER PERIMETER SECURITY...



...AND DOUBLING THEIR LISTENING POSTS.

IT'S A FULL ALERT, AMBUSH.

THAT'S HOW I'D CALL IT, RAMPART. CALL IT IN, BOMBSTRIKE.

DID THEY DEPLOY FLAKVIPER6 ON THE BATTLEMENTS, RECOIL?



THAT'S AFFIRMATIVE. BIG THINGS GOING DOWN IN COBRAVILLE.



I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ENCRYPT AND SEND IT AS A BURST ON THE SECURITY CHANNEL.



DEEP DELVING ONE, THIS IS SNAKE SPOTTER FOUR...