

PUGADLAWIN



2010



**Dulang
pampelikula ni
NOEL DE LEON**

Sinopsis

LUMAKI SI JAKE SALAMANCA na may pasang emotional baggage — Bunga siya ng isang broken family.

Ang ama niya — si TED SALAMANCA — ay isang fighter pilot. Nasaksihan ni Jake ang pagpapatiwakal ng kanyang ama. Binaril ni Ted ang sarili matapos maghinala na pinagtataksilan siya ng asawa niyang si SARAH. Ang ugat ng pagseselos ay isang kapwa piloto na kilala lamang ni Jake sa pangalang “JOSHUA GUERRERO.”

Mula noon ay nagkalayuan ng loob ang mag-inang Sarah at Jake. Naging piloto rin si Jake tulad ng yumaong ama. Tuluyang pinutol ni Jake ang relasyon nila ni Sarah. Lahat ng tangka ng ina na magkabalikang-loob sila ay hindi binigyang-halaga ng anak.

Taong 2010, isang krisis ang di-sinasadyang naging dahilan upang magkatagpo sina Jake at si Joshua Guerrero. Isang spy boat mula sa “Bansang Pula” ay lumubog sa loob ng nasasakupan ng Pilipinas. Ang mga tripulante nito ay nailigtas — at pinigil pagkatapos — ng mga awtoridad na Pilipino. Nagbanta ang “Bansang Pula” na, kung hindi palalayain ang kanilang mga espiya, gagamit sila ng dahas laban sa Pilipinas. Dinispatsa nila ang kanilang aircraft carrier — ang *Yangtze* — patungong Pilipinas upang patunayang seryoso ang kanilang banta.

Bilang bahagi ng depensa, tinalaga ang squadron ni Jake (isa na ngayong tenyente) sa isang lihim na air base na tinaguriang “Pugadlawin.” Ang base commander ng Pugadlawin ay si Lt. Col. Joshua Guerrero. Bilang paghahanda sa nalalapit na labanan, sinanay ni Guerrero sa air combat sina Jake at ang mga kapwa nito bagitong piloto. Gustong ipahiya ni Jake si Guerrero sa kanilang paligsahan. Subalit bagama’t mahusay siyang piloto, marami pa rin siyang kakaning bigas kung ihahambing kay Guerrero.

Hindi nakatiis si Jake at minsang sinolo niya si Guerrero. Pinamukhaan niya si Guerrero sa kaugnayan nito sa pagkamatay ng kanyang ama. Naging mahinahon at mapagkumbaba ang ganti ni Guerrero. Sinabi niyang pinatawad na siya ng Diyos sa mga pagkakamali niya nuong araw. Hiling niyang patawarin na rin siya ng kanyang mga sinaktan. Sinabi rin niya sa binata na walang kasalanan ang kanyang ina.

Ang kumprontasyon pala nila’y narinig ng second-in-command at best friend ni Guerrero, si Maj. NICK LAGAYA. Sinolo rin ni Lagaya si Jake. Pinagtapat sa kanya ang katotohanan. Ang tunay na magkasintahan nuong araw ay sina Guerrero at Sarah. Gumawa ng panlilinlang si Ted, kung kaya’t nagkahiwalay ang magkasintahan, at ang nagkatuluyan ay sina Sarah at Ted. Hindi lumigaya si Sarah sa piling ni Ted. Abusado ang lalaki. Binalaan ni Guerrero si Ted tungkol sa pagmamalabis nito kay Sarah. Naghinala si Ted na nagtataksil si Sarah, at ang naging wakas ay ang kanyang pagpapakamatay. Sinisi ni Guerrero ang sarili sa nangyari. Kusa siyang lumayo kay Sarah. Nag-volunteer sa lahat ng krisis at labanan na puwedeng salihan. Nitong huli nga’y nag-volunteer na madestino sa ilang at lihim na himpilan ng Pugadlawin.

Bago maiwasto ni Jake ang gusot niyang kinalagyan, pumasok ang *Yangtze* sa sakop ng Pilipinas. Sinagupa nina Jake at kasamahan ang unang pangkat ng mga eroplanong kaaway, at kanilang napagtagumpayan. Ngunit marami pang naka-reserbang eroplano ang *Yangtze*. Posibleng kalauna’y madaig sina Jake sa dami ng bilang. Nag-volunteer si Guerrero na lusubin at palubugin ang *Yangtze* mismo.

Habang pasalakay ang eroplano ni Guerrero sa barkong-pandigma, nagkasundo na pala ang mga matataas na pinunong Pilipino at ng kaaway na itigil ang labanan. Ngunit huli na para kay Guerrero. Natuklasan na ng pangkat ng *Yangtze* ang kanyang pakay. Tinira siya ng missile. Bagamat hindi napuruhan ay napinsala pa rin ang eroplano ni Guerrero at siya'y malubhang nasugatan.

Sinaklolohan ni Jake si Guerrero. Inalalayan ng binata ang pilay na eroplano ni Guerrero hanggang ito'y makabalik sa Pugadlawin.

Umatras ang mga kaaway. Nanumbalik ang kapayapaan. Nagkabalikan sina Jake at ang kanyang ina, gayundin sina Guerrero at si Sarah. Muling nailagay sa ayos ang mga relasyong naputol o hindi nabigyan ng pagkakataong magkabunga. Muli — sa Pugadlawin — ilang nilalang ang nakatagpo ng kalayaan.

Dramatis Personae

(Major characters are shown in capitals)

The fighter pilots of the 21st Squadron

(All are in their early 20s)

- 1Lt. JAKE SALAMANCA (“Bulldog”)** The leader of the pack. Serious. Reserved.
At first glance, people would call him a very “deep” person.
- 1Lt. VON ALCOPA (“Snake”)** The gigolo.
- 2Lt. PAUL JERICO (“Hi-Tech”)** The brainy type. Intellectual. Analytic.
- 2Lt. GLEN OLIVER (“Mustang”)** The big man. When not flying, probably spends all his time in a gym.
- 2Lt. CRYSTAL IMPERIAL (“Jezebel”)** They don’t usually make fighter pilots as beautiful as her...or as gutsy.
- 2Lt. KITTY FLORES (“KitKat”)** Shy and unassuming, until she gets on a plane — then she’s all business.

Pugadlawin Forward Air Base

- Lt. Col. JOSHUA GUERRERO (“Freezer”)** Late 40s. Pugadlawin Base Commander.
Hard to believe that under his modest demeanor is a fighter jockey with multiple kills.
- Maj. NICK LAGAYA (“Showtime”)** Pugadlawin Executive Officer. Guerrero’s best friend.
- Bartender** In the Officers’ Club
- Tower NCOs (2)**
- Maintenance Crew Men (5 to 10)**
- Doctor**
- Ambulance Driver**
- Firemen**

Battle Group Kanluran

- Lt. Gen. MOISES AVANTE (“Vader”)** Commander of Battle Group Kanluran.
Freezer’s boss. Stern. Built like a bull.
- Col. J.R. FERRER (“Shotgun”)** Head honcho of the Command and Control Center.
- YOUNG LIEUTENANT** Nerdy type. Smart but excitable.
- Other Officers and NCOs of the Control Room**

Malacañang Palace

- Pres. JUAN MAGDANGAL (“Big Cheese”)** A different type of politician who puts country before self.
- Sec. MARIO MACAIBA (“Sidekick”)** Secretary of Defense. A real pro. Dick Cheney in barong tagalog.
- Officers and NCOs of the Malacañang Stituation Room**

The women

SARAH Beautiful even at 45. Jake Salamanca's mother. The woman Joshua Guerrero never stopped loving.
First Lady President Magdangal's wife
Mrs. Avante General Avante's wife.

109th Air Defense Squadron

CAPT. REMIL PERLAS ("Lineball") Officer-in-charge of decoy aircraft
Bunker NCO
NCOs and enlisted men operating the decoy launchers

The "Changwu" — a spy boat masquerading as a fishing trawler

CHANGWU CAPTAIN
Chagwu Radio Operator
Changwu crew men (2 or 3)

RPS Ramon Magsaysay — a Philippine Navy frigate

MAGSAYSAY CAPTAIN
MAGSAYSAY EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Other Magsaysay crew men
Magsaysay frogmen
Magsaysay Marine guards

Enemy pilots

MiG LEADER Leader of the MiG-29 escort fighters
HONG LEADER Leader of the H-7 attack fighter/bombers

Nichols Air Base

WILLY About 10 years old. The Chief's grandson.
BEBOT About 8. Willy's kid brother.
Officers of the honor guard For Bulldog's and Jezebel's post-wedding walkthrough
Priest
Other wedding guests

Other characters

Ambassador LEE JIAN LING Envoy of the "Red Country" to the Philippines
TED SALAMANCA Sarah's husband. Bulldog's father. Seen in flashback scenes.
YOUNG JAKE Bulldog as a teen-ager
JUNIOR Gen. Avante's son. High-school age.
Presidential Security Guards (4)
Hospitality girls in a beerhouse (3)

SEQ. 1: VARIOUS.

FADE IN FROM BLACK.

This story begins with A MONTAGE OF VARIOUS SCENES — shown in quick cuts:

FADE IN:

A computer-enhanced satellite image of Southeast Asia, with focus on the Philippines. OMINOUS MUSIC sneaks in at background.

Text appears at bottom of screen, as if burned by laser, then fades out after some time.

TAONG 2007

GUERRERO (*Voice over*)

Taong 2007, nagising ang Pilipinas. Ang mga karatig-bansa natin sa Asya ay yumayaman. Tayo ay naiiwan. Kumakain tayo ng kanilang alikabok.

CUT TO:

File photos of foreign warships and structures on Spratly Islands. Superimpose appropriate images of newspaper front pages: **“MORE SPRATLY ISLANDS TAKEN OVER” — “FOREIGNERS AIDING MUSLIM REBELS” — “RP IS DUMPING GROUND FOR ASIAN DRUGS”**

GUERRERO (*Continued, V.O.*)

Dahil sa kanilang yaman, ang mga bansang ito ay naging palalo at arogante. Ang tingin sa atin ay kayan-kayanan lamang. Naroong mangisda sa ating karagatan. Naroong humukay ng langis sa ating bakuran. Naroong gawin tayong bagsakan ng droga. Naroong manggatong ng gulo sa Katimugan.

CUT TO:

File film clips of Mig-29 Fulcrums and Su-27 Flankers, preferably those showing Communist markings.

GUERRERO (*Cont., V.O.*)

May lakas silang pinagmamalaki. Mga eroplanong pang-digma. MiG-29. Su-27. Top of the line.

CUT TO:

Newsreel-type shots of JUAN MAGDANGAL. Mid-50s. Graying hair. One who seems to have lived through many years of hard work. A simple, no-nonsense guy — not a flashy politician. He is shown here delivering a speech before Congress.

GUERRERO (*Cont., V.O.*)

Isang lider ang lumitaw. Si JUAN MAGDANGAL. Isang ex-OCW. Dalawampung taong nanilbihan sa Gitnang Silangan. Batid ang buhay ng api-apihan. Pag-uwi sa Pilipinas, pumasok sa pulitika.

MAGDANGAL (*Speaking before Congress*)

...Hindi pwedeng magpatuloy ito. Hindi pwedeng gawing kawawa ang Pilipino. Nananawagan ako sa ating mga kababayan. Mag-ambag tayo ng ating makakayanan. Walang pera ang gobyerno upang palakasin ang ating militar. Ang lakas ay kailangang manggaling sa inyo!

CUT TO:

A corner of a lobby inside a shopping mall. A small stand that serves as a donation center. Appropriate posters and banners say “**BARYA MULA SA IYO — SANDATA NG BAYAN MO.**” Schoolchildren drop some bills and coins into a large glass jar, already half-filled with donations.

GUERRERO (*Cont., V.O.*)

Tumugon ang mga karaniwang tao sa panawagan. Mga barya-barya mula sa mga estudyante at empleyado. Perang kinita ng mga Pinoy sa ibayong-dagat. Nagtipid sila at kusang nagbigay.

CUT TO:

Film clips of the GRIPEN fighter in flight — going through various maneuvers, firing missiles or delivering bombs. It’s a lean but mean machine.

BACKGROUND MUSIC segues to fast-paced martial type.

GUERRERO (*Cont., V.O.*)

Sa makabagong digmaan, ang unang sagupaan ay gaganapin sa himpapawid. Dahil dito, binigyang-diin ang pagbuo ng isang malakas na Air Force. Tatlong fighter squadrons ang nabuo. Mga maliit at pinakamurang eroplano na kayang bilhin. Maliliit, ngunit matitinik.

CUT TO:

Quick cuts of split-screens, showing — in turn — the pilots who are the main characters of the story. All are young and looking very, very confident.

GUERRERO (*Cont., V.O.*)

Gayundin ang mga napiling fighter pilots. Mga bata, ngunit magagaling. Agresibo. Sigurado sa sarili. Tinatawanan lamang ang panganib. Walang takot humarurot sa Mach 2.

As each pilot is shown, laser-like text appears at bottom of screen to identify who they are:

1Lt. JAKE SALAMANCA

“Bulldog”

BULLDOG gets inside the cockpit of a Gripen. He puts his helmet on. He’s all business. Cold and hard as steel. He’s got good looks — the type girls would love to fall for if only he were not too serious.

1Lt. VON ALCOBA

“Snake”

SNAKE *is* the ladies’ man. Mustachioed, suave, slick, easygoing. Shown here tearing the asphalt off the road on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

2Lt. PAUL JERICO

“Hi-Tech”

The brainy type. HI-TECH sits behind a computer, his intense face illuminated by the CAD image of a fighter plane on the screen. On his desk is a calculator and thick books with technical graphs and specifications.

2Lt. GLEN OLIVER

“Mustang”

Mr. Muscles. MUSTANG wears a karate uniform with black belt. Full concentration in front of a pile of bricks. He takes a deep breath, raises his fist, and brings it down with a yell. The bricks disintegrate as if hit by a sledge hammer.

2Lt. CRYSTAL IMPERIAL

“Jezebel”

A face and a figure that can raise any man’s blood pressure skyhigh — that’s JEZEBEL. She’s in a shooting range. Her body-hugging T-shirt and shorts reveal her physical assets. She fires a full magazine with her 9mm Beretta. After the last shot is fired, she removes her earmuffs and shooting glasses, then gives the camera a heartbreaking “Do-you-like-what-you-see” smile.

2Lt. KITTY FLORES

“KitKat”

KITKAT is the classic kid-sister type. Petite and cute. Show her in the pilots’ locker room. She has just finished putting on her flying suit and is ready to go to work. One final touch — She takes her pet teddy bear out of her locker and gives it a goodbye kiss.

CUT TO:

EXTERIOR SHOT. The six pilots are on the runway, lined up in a row, and WALKING TOWARD CAMERA — all the while engaged in friendly banter with one another. Most of them are wearing regulation flying suits (olive green), except for some who are sporting custom-made suits. Bulldog’s suit is blue; Snake’s has jungle-camo patterns; Jezebel’s is red.

A flight of Gripens zooms overhead. They all stop and look appreciatively as the planes fly past them.

CUT TO:

Computer-generated 3D (or miniature) model. OVERHEAD SHOT of a strip of highway in the country.

It looks like a peaceful rural setting, complete with church and schoolhouse. Until the camera CHANGES ANGLE and ZOOMS closer to show that the church's belfry is a disguised control tower. The "schoolhouse" is actually an Operations building.

Camera PANS more to show that there are hangars in the near neighborhood. They are inconspicuous from afar because they are painted with camouflage patterns.

GUERRERO (*Cont., V.O.*)

Sa digmaan, ang unang lulusubin ng kaaway ay ang malalaking air bases. Kung kaya naman, pinasya ng militar na magtayo ng mga sekretong **forward air bases** sa mga ilang na lugar. Mga highway na hindi punadong paliparan. Isa sa mga baseng ito ay ang **Pugadlawin**. Ito ang teritoryo ko.

ANGLE ON: The "schoolhouse."

A modest sign above the door says "**PUGADLAWIN FAB — OPERATIONS.**" The door opens and COL. JOSHUA GUERRERO comes out. Late 40s. Dressed in black flying suit. Compact built without an ounce of useless fat. Guerrero is the picture of a Tested-and-True-Warrior. Thinning hair resulting from years of wearing a flight helmet. Face hardened by long exposure to sun and wind.

TIGHT ON Guerrero. He puts on his blue beret as he surveys his turf.

GUERRERO (*Cont., V.O.*)

Ang ngalan ko'y **Guerrero**. Joshua Guerrero. Lieutenant-Colonel. Call sign, **Freezer**. Ako ang Base Commander ng Pugadlawin.

Laser-etched text appears at bottom of screen and fades out after some time:

Lt. Col. JOSHUA GUERRERO
Pugadlawin Base Commander
"Freezer"

Guerrero walks toward and into camera. He returns the salute of two noncoms that he meets.

FADE TO BLACK.

SEQ. 2: EXT. SOUTH CHINA SEA. A STORMY NIGHT.

FADE FROM BLACK.

A sharp flash of lightning breaks the darkness. We see a fishing boat caught in the middle of a nasty storm at sea. Heavy rain, strong wind and huge waves threaten the pitifully helpless boat.

Laser-etched text appears at bottom of screen:

TAONG 2010
SOUTH CHINA SEA
Malapit sa baybayin ng Lingayen

CUT TO:

CU of boat's prow. We see the name of the boat: "**CHANGWU.**" The boat is starting to list to the port side.

CUT TO:

The boat's topside. The *Changwu's* CAPTAIN, soaking wet despite his rain gear and hanging on for dear life, surveys the sea with his binoculars. Seeing nothing, he turns around and goes below.

CUT TO:

Inside the boat. The engine room is flooded. Water is coming in fast through an ugly-looking hole in the hull. Three crew men are desperately manning the pump but it looks like a losing battle.

CHANGWU CAPTAIN
(To the crewmen) (In Mandarin)
May pag-asa ba?

CHANGWU CREW 1
(Shakes his head) (In Mandarin)
Hindi kaya ng bomba, Kapitan. Masama ang pagkaka-sadsad natin.

C. CAPT.
(Angrily) (In Mandarin)
Kasalanan mo! Ikaw ang nakatingin sa depth finder! Bakit hindi mo sinabing babangga tayo sa batuhan?

The Captain turns away and, after stumbling and falling a few times, makes it to the radio room. There, the boat's RADIO OPERATOR is receiving a signal in Morse.

C. RADIO OPR.
(*Alarmed, to Captain*) (*In Mandarin*)
May papalapit na barko, Kapitan!

C. CAPT. (*In Mandarin*)
Sino?

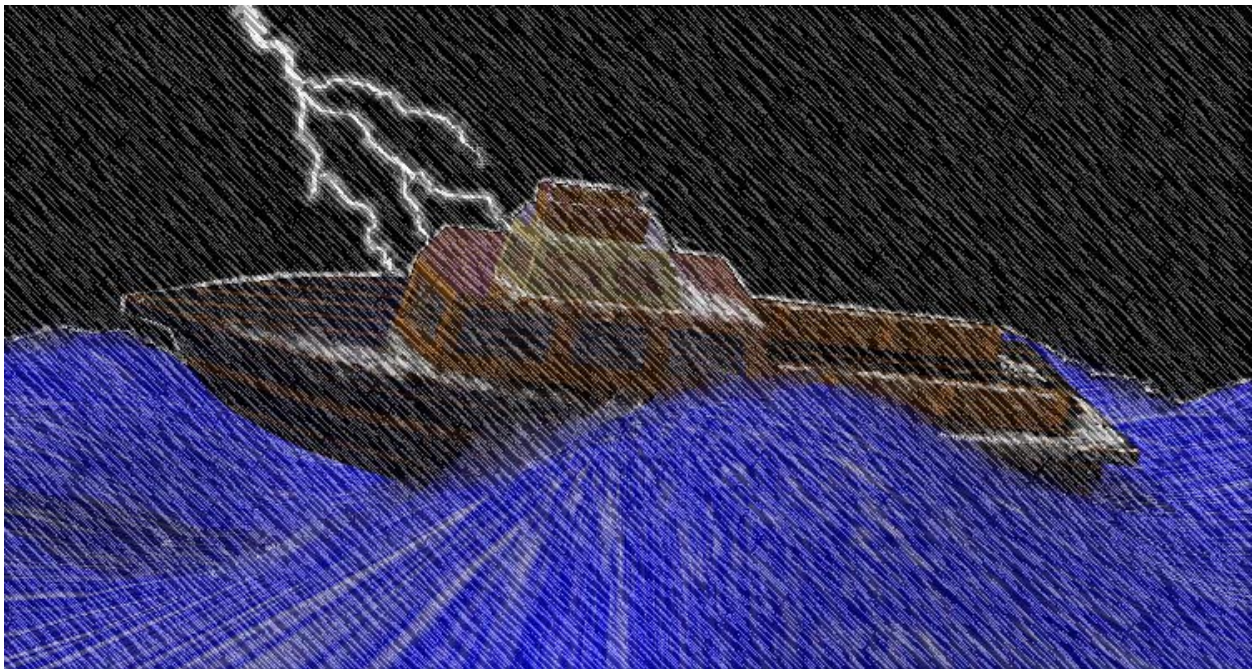
C. RADIO OP. (*In Mandarin*)
Ramon Magsaysay. Philippine Navy.

C. CAPT. (*In Mandarin*)
Lintik! Nadiskubre na tayo!

He hurriedly goes to the flooded engine room, where his crew are still trying to pump water out.

C. CAPT. (*To his men*) (*In Mandarin*)
Tigilan na n'yo 'yan! May papalapit na barkong Pilipino. Abandon ship!

The men scamper out and go topside, the Radio Operator joining them there. The boat has listed badly now. They launch a life raft. They jump to the water and swim to the raft. The huge waves do not make their escape easy.



CHANGWU CAPTAIN: “*Nadiskubre na tayo! May papalapit na barkong Pilipino! Abandon ship!*”

Inside the *Changwu*, the Captain grabs a jerry can of gasoline. He goes to his cabin and makes a desperate effort to gather classified documents together. He douses them with gasoline. He loads a flare pistol and aims it at the pile of paper.

But the boat heaves and he is knocked off his feet as he fires the pistol. The flare bounces off the cabin ceiling. The captain's clothes, soaked by gasoline, catches fire.

The Captain screams and blindly runs out. Like a human torch, he falls to the water. His men could only stare in shock and disbelief.

FADE TO BLACK.

SEQ. 3: EXT. THE SEA. NEXT DAY.

FADE FROM BLACK.

The morning after the storm. The sea is calm now.

ANGLE ON a Philippine Navy frigate. Nearby is a rubber boat from which FROGMEN alternately dive to scour the water where the *Changwu* sank.

Laser-etched text appears at bottom of screen:

Kinaumagahan...
RPS RAMON MAGSAYSAY
Philippine Navy frigate

Aboard the *Magsaysay*, the *Changwu*'s survivors are huddled together — wrapped in blankets and sipping coffee. They are guarded by Philippine Marines.

Nearby, the *Magsaysay*'s CAPTAIN watches as his frogmen go about their salvage work.

The Magsaysay's EXECUTIVE OFFICER approaches the rescued *Changwu* crew. He converses with them in fluent Mandarin.

M'SAY EX-O (*In Mandarin*)
Uulitin ko ang tanong: Sino kayo at ano'ng ginagawa n'yo dito?

CHANGWU CREW 1 (*In Mandarin*)
Mangingisda kami. Dagat namin ito.

The Ex-O shakes his head in resignation. He walks away to where his Captain is.

M'SAY CAPT.
So?

M'SAY EX-O (*Shakes his head*)
Gano'n pa rin, Sir. Mangingisda sila at dagat daw nila ito.

M'SAY CAPT.
Standard nilang palusot. (*A beat*) Kumusta 'yung nasa sick bay?

M'SAY EX-O
Grabe ang pagkakasunog, Sir. Pero mabubuhay daw, sabi ni Dok.

Their attention is drawn to the rubber boat close by. The frogmen have re-surfaced. They have retrieved a locker box from below.

FROGMAN (*Calling out to Captain*)

Skipper! Jackpot! Kasama rito ang log book nila!

CUT TO: The *Changwu* crew. They grasp the significance of the discovery. One of them ominously slides a finger across his neck.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 4A: EXT. MALACANANG PALACE. DAY.

FULL SHOT to establish.

Facade of the presidential office.

Lasered text appears at bottom of screen:

MALACAÑANG PALACE
Maynila

We start to hear PRESIDENT MAGDANGAL's voice over.

PRESIDENT (*Voice over*)
Mga espiya sila? Iyon ang gusto mong sabihin? Hindi sila
mangingisda?

CUT TO:

SEQ. 4B: EXT. A WALKWAY ON MALACAÑANG GROUNDS.

ANGLE ON the President and the SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (SECDEF), walking together on the Palace grounds.

Lasered ID text appears at bottom of screen:

JUAN MAGDANGAL
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
"Big Cheese"

PRESIDENT (*Cont.*)
Seryosong paratang ito. Sigurado ba tayo sa binibintang natin?

ANGLE ON the SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

Lasered text appears at bottom of screen:

MARIO MACAIBA
Secretary of National Defense
"Sidekick"

SECDEF
Marami kaming nabawing dokumentos mula sa lumubog na
trawler, Mr. President. Kasama ang log book nila at mga ID cards.

Regular navy sila ng kabilang panig, Sir. Ang communications equipment nila ay ayon sa military specs. May satellite link sa Mainland.

PRESIDENT

Nasaan ngayon ang crew?

SECDEF

Ah...ini-“interview” ng ating Intelligence, Sir. Nasa magkakahiwalay na lugar, in case may magtangka ng rescue operation. Ang Kapitan nila ay nasa ICU ng V. Luna.

PRESIDENT

Alam na ba ng Intelligence kung ano ang misyon ng *Changwu* dito?

SECDEF

Hindi pa masyadong malinaw, Mr. President. Maraming possibilities. Maaaring nag-insert sila ng isang undercover agent...o kaya’y nag-resupply ng isa nilang agent na narito na.

PRESIDENT (*Chuckles*)

Sangkaterba na ang espiya nila dito sa Pilipinas! Hindi pa ba kasya sa kanila ‘yon? (*Slight pause*) Kailangang ipaalam natin sa Embassy nila ang tungkol dito. Protocol...alam mo na.

SECDEF

Nagawa ko na ‘yon, Sir. In fact... (*Looks at his watch*) ...magkikita kami ng Ambassador nila in half an hour.

PRESIDENT (*Smiles*)

Hinahon ka lang pag nag-usap kayo. Isa lang siyang bayarang empleyado...tulad mo at tulad ko.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 4C: INT. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE’S OFFICE. SAME DAY.

The Secretary of Defense has for a visitor the AMBASSADOR OF “THE OTHER SIDE.” The Ambassador appears grim. He has decided to use the “scare tactic” for an opener.

Lasered text appears at bottom of screen:

**Ambassador LEE JIANG LIN
ng “Bansang Pula”**

AMBASSADOR

The *Changwu* was fishing on international waters when it was attacked, Mr. Secretary.

SECDEF

Wrong on two counts, Mr. Ambassador. First, I can take you to where the *Changwu* sank. It's well within Philippine waters. Second, it was not attacked. On the contrary, we came to the rescue of the crew.

AMBASSADOR

Where are they? I must see them.

SECDEF

In due time, Sir. Right now, they are undergoing medical care...and enjoying our hospitality.

He takes out some ID cards — retrieved from the *Changwu* — and lays them on his desk for the Ambassador to see.

SECDEF (*Cont.*)

Did you say they were fishing? That's interesting...considering that one of them holds the rank of Commander in your navy, while the others are non-commissioned officers.

AMBASSADOR

These men must be released immediately. Or there may be grave consequences.

SECDEF

I hope that's not a threat, Mr. Ambassador. If it is, I'll pretend you didn't say it, and I didn't hear it. In this country, sir, we do business on the basis of respect...not threats.

AMBASSADOR

All I'm saying is, my people are very, very upset. They may react angrily to this provocation.

SECDEF

Provocation, Sir? Giving aid and comfort to foreigners in distress is not provocation. And there's no cause to be upset or angry. We think this incident is no big deal. We're keeping our cool about it. We advise you to do the same.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 5A: INT. BULLDOG'S FLAT. EARLY EVENING.

It's a studio-type apartment — living room, dining room and bedroom all rolled up into one space — just right for a bachelor. Simple but adequate furniture items. On the wall are framed posters of fighter jets. On top of a study table are models of fighter jets. The person living here obviously lives and breathes jets.

It's dark inside but there is enough light from the outside for us to see the scene by.

CUT TO:

The bed. BULLDOG (Jake Salamanca) and JEZEBEL (Crystal Imperial) together — sleeping. Underneath the blanket, it is safe to guess that they're both naked.

CUT TO:

CU of Bulldog. He's softly moaning. He's having a restless sleep.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 5B: INT. THE SALAMANCA HOME. NIGHT — FLASHBACK.

We see the dream that goes on through Bulldog's mind — all in surreal colors.

YOUNG JAKE — in his late teens — is looking through the half-open door of his parents' bedroom.

CUT TO: Inside the bedroom from the boy's POV. His father TED and mother SARAH are having a violent argument. We hear their voices in reverb, as if from the past.

Ted slaps Sarah hard, sending her reeling backward.

TED (*Shouts angrily*)

Akala mo'y hindi ko alam na pinagtataksilan n'yo ako ni Joshua?

SARAH (*Shakes her head*) (*Crying*)

Nagkakamali ka..hindi 'yan totoo...

TED

Ano'ng akala mo sa akin, Sarah? Tanga? Ano'ng dapat kong gawin para malimutan mo si Joshua, ha?

He opens a desk drawer and pulls out a pistol. He cocks it. Sarah stares at him wide-eyed, really terrified now.

TED
P'wede kong patayin si Joshua —
(Points gun at Sarah)
P'wede kitang patayin —

Sarah covers her face in fear.

TED
O p'wede kong patayin ang sarili ko —

He points the gun at his head. Sarah rushes to stop him.

SARAH
Ted! Huwag!

But before she could do anything, there is a loud BANG! Ted has pulled the trigger. He falls on the floor lifeless. Sarah screams.

The door opens.

YOUNG JAKE *(Shocked) (Shouts)*
Papa!!!

SARAH
Jake!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 5C: INT. BULLDOG'S FLAT.

Bulldog wakes up in cold sweat, panting.

Jezebel is also roused from sleep. She turns on the bedside lamp.

JEZEBEL *(Concerned)*
Jake?

We are right. They are wearing very little.

JEZEBEL
Dating panaginip na naman?

Bulldog says nothing.

JEZEBEL (*Starts to get up*)

Ikukuha kita ng tubig.

BULLDOG (*Stopping her*)

Huwag na. Okay na ako.

JEZEBEL (*Sighs*)

Sabi ko na sa iyo — hangga't kinukulong mo 'yan sa sarili mo, babalik at babalik lagi ang panaginip mo. Kaylan ka makikipag-reconcile sa Mama mo? Hanggang kaylan mo siya iiwasan? Kung ako ikaw —

BULLDOG (*Rudely interrupting*)

Hindi ako ikaw, okey? Hindi ka rin psychiatrist, piloto ka! Huwag mong himayin ang utak ko!

JEZEBEL (*She's no pushover*)

Hey! Huwag mo akong pagtaasan ng boses! Hindi komo sumisiping ako sa iyo, p'wede mo na akong sigawan!

BULLDOG (*After a beat*) (*Nods*)

Sorry, Jez...hindi maganda ang gising ko, okey?

The cellphone beside Bulldog chirps. He picks it up.

BULLDOG (*Over cellphone*)

Hello?...Ito nga....Kaylan, ngayon na? Ano'ng mayroon?...Okey...Sino? Si Lt. Imperial?...

(*He looks at Jezebel, who returns an inquiring look*)

Alam ko kung saan siya hahanapin...Ipapasa ko sa kanya ang message.

He puts the phone down.

BULLDOG

Squadron Admin. Nire-recall sa base lahat tayong mga piloto. Urgent daw.

She gets up, walks to the wardrobe closet, and starts to put on her clothes.

JEZEBEL

Hindi maganda ang vibes na napi-feel ko. Mukhang may emergency.

BULLDOG

Kung sinunod mo 'yung sinabi kong mag-resign ka na ng iyong commission, exempted ka na sana sa anumang emergency tulad nito, kung mayroon man.

JEZEBEL (*Turns at him*)

I worked hard for my commission — at enjoy ako sa trabaho ko! I'm a damn good fighter pilot. But I'll give it up gladly if I find the right man. Kailangang willing siya na maging bahagi ako ng kanyang buhay. Bigyan mo ako ng magandang dahilan, Jake, kung bakit dapat kong tigilan ang ginagawa ko. I want to hear the words.

Bulldog remains silent.

JEZEBEL

Tama ang suspetsa ko. Wala nang natitirang tunay na lalaki sa mundo.

(*Opens the door to leave*)

See you at the base, Bulldog. Thanks for the workout.

TIGHT ON Bulldog. He knows when he's met his match.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 6A: EXT. SKY OVER PALAWAN. DAY.

FULL SHOT of a flight of JAS-39 Gripen fighters. TOP ANGLE.

There are six planes in all. They have just crossed the sea and are now over land (i.e., “getting feet dry,” in pilot jargon). CAMERA KEEPS PACE with the fighters.

SNAKE (V.O.) (*Filtered, over comm radio*)

Bulldog, Snake.

TIGHT ON Bulldog. Inside the cockpit of his aircraft.

BULLDOG

Go, Snake.

SNAKE (V.O., *filt.*)

Ipaliwanag mo uli sa amin kung ano’ng ginagawa natin dito?

BULLDOG

Yellow Alert tayo. May impending threat, with moderate to high probability of hostilities. Kapag Yellow Alert, inaalis sa main bases ang mga eroplano at kinakalat sa mga forward air bases — para hindi tayo easy target.

SNAKE (V.O., *filt.*)

Thank you, Teacher. Ang gusto kong sabihin ay — Bakit tayo narito? May air base ba dito?

BULLDOG

Good question. Hi-Tech?

CUT BACK TO: Full shot of Gripens.

HI-TECH (V.O., *filt.*)

Go, Bulldog.

CUT TO: Overhead shot of the ground below from the pilots’ POV.

BULLDOG (V.O., *filt.*)

May nakikita akong simbahan, eskwelahan, highway, mga puno ng niyog...pero walang air base. Ikaw ang genius. Ano’ng say mo? Naligaw ba tayo?

HI-TECH (*V.O., filt.*)

Ayon sa GPS reading ko, we should be on top of Pugadlawin right now.

CUT AGAIN TO: Full shot of Gripens.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Bulldog to flight. Fuel status? Sound off.

SNAKE (*V.O., filt.*)

Snake is close to bingo.

HI-TECH (*V.O., filt.*)

Hi-Tech here. Almost empty.

MUSTANG (*V.O., filt.*)

This is Mustang. Naghahanap na ako ng gas station, flight leader.

KITKAT (*V.O., filt.*)

KitKat. Naghahanap ng gas station at Jollibee.

JEZEBEL (*V.O., filt.*)

Jezebel. Gas station *at* beauty parlor.

SNAKE (*V.O., filt.*)

Snake here. Pagkakatanda ko, nasa Balintawak ang Pugadlawin. Baka wala talagang air base dito?

GUERRERO (*V.O., filt.*)

O baka naman hindi kayo marunong maghanap?

An F-5 Freedom Fighter in camo paint zooms from offscreen and overshoots the Gripens, slightly rocking the planes in its path.

QUICK CUT TO: Bulldog, in his cockpit. His plane sways slightly in the backwash of the F-5.

BULLDOG (*Surprised and irritated*)

Hanip! Sino 'yon?

SNAKE (*V.O., filt.*)

F-5 Freedom Fighter. Ten o'clock high. (*A beat*) Akala ko'y nasa museum na'ng mga iyan.

QUICK CUT TO: The F-5 from Bulldog's POV, shot through his canopy. The Freedom Fighter is now climbing vertical.

BULLDOG

F-5 pilot, identify yourself!

QUICK CUT TO: FULL SHOT of the F-5. Now at the top of its climb and rolling to level. Painted on its nose is this name: **"SOMEDAY SARAH."** (And we will focus on this a few scenes later.)

GUERRERO (*V.O., filt.*)

The name is Freezer, from Pugadlawin.

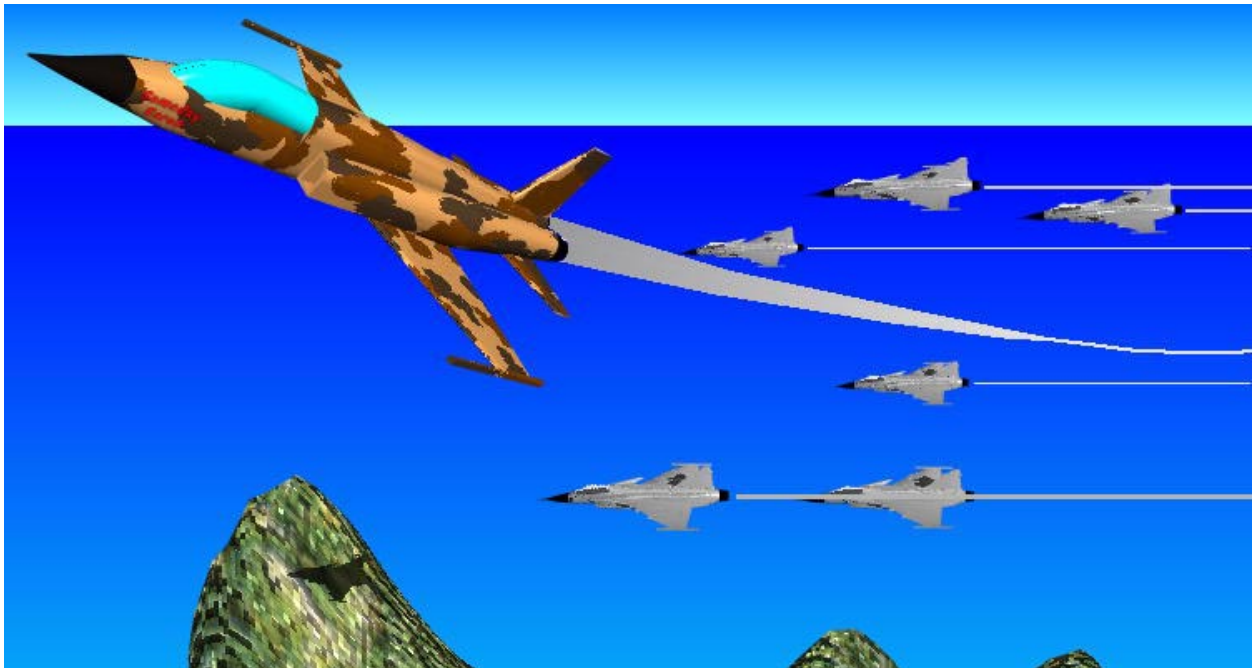
BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Sir, we are elements of the 21st Squadron, requesting permission to land on your base — if we can find it.

GUERRERO (*V.O., filt.*)

Formate on me. I'll show you where to land.

CAMERA IS TRACKING BEHIND (i.e., at "6 o'clock) and slightly above the Freedom Fighter. The Gripens slowly slide behind it.



BULLDOG: *"F-5 pilot, identify yourself."*

GUERRERO: *"The name is Freezer, from Pugadlawin."*

The F-5 banks and descends until it is aligned with the highway, at which end is the concealed air base. The narrow highway is flanked by trees. Landing here is clearly a one-chance-is-all-you-get undertaking.

GUERRERO (*V.O., filt.*)

You're looking at the runway, boys and girls.

SNAKE (*V.O., filt.*)

Freezer, Snake.

GUERRERO (*V.O., filt.*)

Go ahead.

SNAKE (*V.O., filt.*)

Ah — hindi kaya — medyo makitid? Mukhang tricycle lang ang p'wedeng magkasya diyan?

GUERRERO (*V.O., filt.*)

Children, I take off and land here everyday. Your cute little airplanes are designed to use small strips like this. Kaya iyan ang binili para sa inyo...hindi mga higanteng eroplano. I suggest you make your approach and get on the ground one by one — bago kayo maubusan ng gas. I'll see you at Ops after landing.

The F-5 again climbs vertical, leaving the Gripens.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 6B: EXT. PUGADLAWIN AIR BASE — THE RUNWAY.

CAMERA ON THE RUNWAY. Focus on the first Gripen coming in for a landing. It's Bulldog's plane. Telephoto lens makes it look like a slow ballet.

Other Gripens are circling above at far background, waiting to take their turn.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 6C: INT. BULLDOG'S COCKPIT.

The runway from Bulldog's POV as he descends. The ground is coming up faster, faster. The trees *are* indeed frighteningly too close to the right and to the left.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)
Gears down — Canards forward — Nose up — 50 feet,
30...*Touchdown!*

Contact with the ground! CAMERA VIBRATES with the aircraft.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 6D: EXT. THE RUNWAY.

Camera SWISH PANS to follow Bulldog's Gripen rolling down the flightline.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)
Bulldog to flight. Piece of cake. Kayo naman.

SNAKE (*V.O., filt.*)
Hoo-wah! *Lagitik!* Snake coming in.

SEQ. 6E: INT. THE TOWER.

Inside the "church belfry," which commands a good view of the site.

MAJ. NICK LAGAYA ("Showtime") and a NONCOM man the tower's few but adequate communication equipment. Both wear headphones with microphones attached — similar to what football coaches use on the field.

Bulldog's fighter is already opposite the tower, taxiing to the hangar area.

Snake's Gripen has landed and is halfway down the runway.

A third Gripen is just about to land.

LAGAYA
(*Mimicking airport arrival blurb to lighten up the mood*)
Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Pugadlawin. Thank you for avoiding the trees on your way down. The local temperature is hotter than where you came from. Your ground crew will direct you to your parking space. Tipping your ground crew is optional.
(*A beat*)
By the way, the Base Commander wants to meet you ASAP.
Please proceed to the Ops Briefing Room after parking. Have a nice day.

CUT TO:



LAGAYA: *“Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Pugadlawin. Thank you for avoiding the trees on your way down...”*

SEQ. 6F: INT. OPS ROOM.

It’s a medium-sized briefing room — about 9 x 9 meters. Rows of wooden chairs for a small audience of about 15. Rostrum at the front. Overhead projector close by and screen on the wall.

The six pilots — still in their flying suits — are all seated, swapping the standard bull that all pilots are good at. Bulldog and Jezebel exchange glances that say, “Had a good time last night, but today let’s concentrate on business, shall we?”

SNAKE

Para tayong pumasok sa time warp. Pang-World War II itong lugar na ito!

The door opens. GUERRERO and LAGAYA briskly walk in.

BULLDOG (*Barks*)

Flight, *tep-chon*!

All the pilots snap to attention.

GUERRERO

Take seats.

They do so.

GUERRERO

At ease. *(To Snake)* Lumaban sa WW2 ang lolo ko. Hawak niya ay P-26. Wingman ni Villamor. Maaaring hindi class ang lugar na ito, boys and girls. Pero five-star pa rin kung ikukumpara sa dinaanan ng lolo ko.

SNAKE *(Mutters)*

Sorry, Sir.

GUERRERO

I'm Freezer. I'm your Base Commander. Full name, Joshua Guerrero. Light-Colonel.

CUT TO: CLOSE-UP of Bulldog. Hearing the name hits him with an impact, though he manages to keep his emotions contained. "Aha, ikaw pala!"

CUT BACK TO: Guerrero.

GUERRERO

(Indicates Lagaya)

This is Major Nick Lagaya. Call sign, Showtime. Siya ang aking Ex-O.

(A beat)

Bago kayo umalis sa inyong home base, sinabi ba sa inyo kung bakit kayo pinadala dito?

The pilots mumble negative remarks.

BULLDOG

We're on Yellow Alert, Sir. Iyon lang ang alam namin.

GUERRERO

Okay, Maj. Lagaya will fill you in. Showtime?

LAGAYA (*Taking his place at rostrum*)

A few days ago, isang fishing boat na Tsekwa — kung tawagin ay *Changwu* — ang lumubog ilang kilometro ang layo mula sa Lingayen, Pangasinan —

The pilots snicker and exchange derisive remarks (“Hah! Fishing boat!”, etc.).

LAGAYA

Matagal nang palihim na labas-pasok ang mga — “fishing boats” — nila sa teritoryo natin. May hinala tayo kung ano’ng ginagawa nila, pero wala tayong ebidensya — *until now*. Nakakuha tayo ng statements mula sa kanilang crew. Plus maps and photographs recovered from their boat. I can use nice words but why should I? They’re goddamn spies!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 6G: SPLIT-SCREEN — INT. PRESIDENT’S OFFICE / INT. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE’S OFFICE. DAY.

President Magdangal and the SecDef conversing on the phone. Theirs is a dramatization of what Lagaya is briefing the pilots.

SECDEF

Hindi maawat sa “pagkanta” ang mga tauhan ng *Changwu*, Sir. Tuwang-tuwa ang Intelligence natin. Marami tayong nakuhang pangalan ng mga agents nila dito. Mga drop points, pick-up points... Doon naman sa na-recover na mga mapa at litrato, na-identify nila ang mga weak points sa ating coastal defense. Mga weak points na p’wedeng ma-exploit in case of hostilities.

PRESIDENT

I expect fast follow-up action on the basis of what we have discovered.

SECDEF

Yes, Sir. (*A beat*) Tumawag sa akin kangina si Ambassador Lin.

PRESIDENT

Yes?

SECDEF

Nagbigay ng ultimatum.

PRESIDENT

S'yanga? Ultimatum?

SECDEF

More or less, Sir. Sabi niya, "Release the crew of the *Changwu*, or else — "

AMBASSADOR (*Voice over*)

If my diplomatic request fails, some officials in my country are advocating the use of force.

SECDEF

Sabi ko sa kanya, for the sake of formality, kinasuhan natin ng illegal entry ang mga tauhan ng *Changwu* — and that it would take some time to resolve the case.

PRESIDENT

Good. Mukhang hindi ka worried sa banta niya?

SECDEF (*Sighs*)

Oh, I'm worried, Mr. President. Walang matinong tao ang kusang naghahanap ng away. Ten years ago, I'd probably say, "Hindi natin kaya ang mga ito. Mag-bow na lang tayo, kahit sila ang mali at tayo ang tama." But we're different now than we were ten years ago.

PRESIDENT

God, I hope so. And I hope Ambassador Lin knows that too.

INTERCUT WITH:

SEQ. 6H: INT. OPS ROOM.

Back to the briefing at Pugadlawin.

LAGAYA

Pero mukhang gustong ipagyabang ng mga Tsekwa ang kanilang muscle —

He places a transparency slide on the overhead projector and turns it on. What we see on the wall screen is a satellite shot of an aircraft carrier task force leaving a port.

LAGAYA (*Cont.*)

— Kuha ito kahapon ng isang satellite. Ang brand-new aircraft carrier ng Bansang Pula — ang *Yangtze*. Accompanied by one destroyer, two frigates, and one supply ship. Departing their port in the southern Mainland.

Places another slide.

LAGAYA (*Cont.*)

Kuha naman ito kanginang umaga. Now, if you trace a straight line between Position #1 yesterday and Position #2 this morning — mapapansin n'yo na patungo ang *Yangtze* sa isang familiar destination. Yes, sir — our beautiful, lovable city of Manila!

INTERCUT WITH:

SEQ. 6I: SPLIT-SCREEN — INT. PRESIDENT'S BEDROOM / INT. SECDEF'S OFFICE. NIGHT.

The President and the SecDef are again on the phone. The President — in pajamas — is talking from a study table in his bedroom. At background, we see the FIRST LADY asleep on the bed.

PRESIDENT (*Low voice*)

Kaylan sila aabot sa ating boundary?

SECDEF

At their present cruising speed — we estimate in two days, Sir.

PRESIDENT

Tinawagan mo si Ambassador Lin? Tinanong mo kung bakit may aircraft carrier silang papalapit sa atin?

SECDEF

Kung ilang beses akong tumawag, Sir. Same reply. "Sorry. The Ambassador is indisposed. He'll return your call when he's feeling better."

For a while, the President mulls over this in silence.

SECDEF

Mr. President, do you want me to inform the Americans?

PRESIDENT

Mayroon silang satellites. Siguradong alam na nila.

SECDEF

We can invoke our mutual defense treaty, Sir.

PRESIDENT

We can invoke it. I don't think they'll do anything about it. (*Acidly*) Pag foreign policy ang pinag-uusapan, ang ginagamit ng mga Amerikano ay ang "Coca-Cola test."

SECDEF

Sir? Coca-Cola test?

PRESIDENT

Itatanong nila: "Saan ba tayo mas maraming nabebentang Coca-Cola, or McDonald's, or whatever? Sa Pilipinas o sa mga Tsekwa? Sagot: Sa mga Tsekwa. Therefore, pabayaang mga Pinoy."

(*A beat*)

Ang pwede lang nating asahan ay ang ating sarili. But go ahead — For the sake of courtesy, inform the Americans. Ang mga Hapon din, ang Taiwan, ang ASEAN —

(*A beat*)

But before anything else, Mr. Secretary, let's go to Yellow Alert.

SECDEF

Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT (*Looking at his table clock*)

Alas-tres na ng umaga, Mario. Nasa opisina ka pa ba?

SECDEF

Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT

Umuwi ka na. Try to get some sleep. Let's meet first thing in the morning. (*A beat*) Time to earn our pay.

SHIFT FROM SPLIT-SCREEN TO FULL SCREEN, favor to the President. He goes back to bed. The FIRST LADY stirs slightly.

FIRST LADY (*Sleepily*)

Sino 'yon?

PRESIDENT

Si Secretary Macaiba.

FIRSTLADY

Importante ba?

PRESIDENT (*Casually*)

Nah! Exercise lang. Matutulog na uli ako. Ikaw din.

INTERCUT WITH:

SEQ. 6J: INT. THE OPS ROOM. DAY.

Back to the pilots' briefing.

GUERRERO (*Taking over the briefing*)

Which explains why...narito kayo sa hamak na lugar ng Pugadlawin. The *Yangtze* has about 40 warplanes — mostly MiG-29Ks and H-7s — and enough weapons to destroy all our main bases. But not enough to destroy all the small highways and secret air bases like this one.

MUSTANG

Sir? Palagay ninyo'y lulusob sila?

GUERRERO

Let me put it this way — Hindi sila pupunta rito para mag-swimming sa Boracay.

Laughter from the group. That breaks the tension.

GUERRERO

I can say the same thing about you. Hindi kayo narito para magtago o magliwaliw. My job — aside from babysitting you — is to make sure that you're fit and ready in case you're ordered to fly and fight. So — simula bukas — we'll have exercises in air combat maneuvers. Twenty-first Squadron versus Freezer and Showtime. One-vee-one.

The young pilots exchange amused, confident glances — except Bulldog, who seems to be studying Freezer very seriously.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 6K: EXT. RUNWAY/HANGARS.

The pilots walk out of the Ops Building, headed for their Bachelor Officers' Quarters.

Passing by an open hangar, Bulldog notices Guerrero's F-5 parked inside. He walks toward it for a closer look.

He notices the sign painted on the F-5's nose: **"SOMEDAY SARAH."**

CUT TO:

CU of Bulldog. Resentment and tension on his face.

CUT TO:

Jezebel looking at Bulldog from a distance, with sadness, understanding and pity. A man who can't break away from his bitter past is not an easy person to know...or love. She turns and walks away.

CUT TO:

The Ops Building. From behind his office window, Guerrero also looks at Bulldog. There is sadness on his face, too.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 7A: EXT. SOUTH CHINA SEA. LATE AFTERNOON — SUNSET.

FULL SHOT of the aircraft carrier *Yangtze*. Big, ugly, terrifying — bearing down toward the camera — cutting the waves as it sails full speed ahead.

Lasered text appears at bottom of screen:

**Aircraft carrier YANGTZE
ng Bansang Pula —
Isang araw na lamang ang layo mula sa Philippine territory**

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 7B: EXT. GEN. AVANTE'S HOUSE. SAME NIGHT.

The house is silhouetted against the starry night sky.

It's a modest-looking bungalow — even for a senior military commander like GEN. AVANTE — indicative of an officer who has spent much of his career hopping from place to place and just gotten around to settling down.

AVANTE (*Voice over*)
Tira na. Kangina pa ako naghihintay.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 7C: INT. GEN. AVANTE'S HOUSE. SAME NIGHT.

Inside Gen. Avante's house, the living room. The General and his son, JUNIOR (about high school age), are in the middle of what looks like a crucial chess game.

Gen. Avante is a huge man. If he were not a military commander, he'd make a good professional wrestler — in any case, someone you wouldn't want to tangle with.

ANGLE ON the General. Lasered text appears at bottom of the screen:

**Lt. Gen. MOISES AVANTE
Commander, Battle Group Kanluran
“Vader”**

MRS. AVANTE, the wife, comes out of the bedroom.

MRS. AVANTE
Kayong dalawa, bedtime na. Hindi pa ba matatapos 'yan?

The two don't even pay her much mind. Annoyed at the snub, Mrs. Avante retreats back to the bedroom.

JUNIOR

Lilinawin ko lang, Da — Pag nanalo ako sa game na ito, ibibili mo ako ng scooter, right?

AVANTE

Iyon ang pangako ko.

JUNIOR

Gusto ko lang na nagkakaintindihan tayo. Kasi, two moves na lang at may scooter na ako.

AVANTE

Hindi mo ako makukuha sa psycho warfare, anak.

Junior takes his knight and moves it threateningly closer to his Dad's king. Gleefully, he makes the motions of revving up an imaginary motorcycle.

JUNIOR (*Smiling*)

Brumm-brumm!

A nearby red-colored phone rings. Avante stands up and picks the phone.

AVANTE

(In a low voice, so his son can't hear)

Vader. (*A beat*) Basahin mo ang message.

(Another pause, while he listens to the caller.)

Okay. One, magpadala ka ng reply, saying "Message received."

Two, launch Snoopy One in the morning. Three, cancel all leaves.

And, Colonel, try to make everything look normal. Good night.

He gets back to the chess game. Without bothering to sit down, he picks up his queen. It crosses the whole chessboard to capture his son's rook at the far side.

AVANTE

Check...mate. Sorry, son, wala munang scooter. Siguruhin mong nakakandado ang mga pinto at bintana bago ka matulog. Good night.

He heads for the bedroom to retire, leaving his son in a state of semi-shock.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 7D: INT. GUERRERO'S OFFICE / SALAMANCA HOME. SAME NIGHT.

Guerrero is working late. On his desk are satellite photos of the *Yangtze* and its convoy, which he is analyzing. He has a big glass of milk and cookies close by. Looks like he intends to burn the midnight candle.

The phone on his desk rings. He answers it.

GUERRERO

Guerrero.

No answer.

SPLIT SCREEN with CU of Sarah in her living room. She's the party on the other end of the line.

GUERRERO

Hello?

SARAH (*Can't believe she's talking with him*)

Joshua?

GUERRERO (*Recognizing her voice*) (*Instantly tender*)

Sarah...ikaw nga ba?

SARAH

Ako nga. Hindi ko akalaing...ikaw ang sasagot.

GUERRERO

Kakaunti lang ang nakakaalam ng numerong ito. Paano mong — ?

SARAH

May mga kaibigan pa rin ako sa Air Force, Joshua. Tinawagan ko si Jake sa bahay niya. Walang sumagot. Nagtanung-tanong ako. Na-TDY daw sa ibang base. Binigay ang number na ito. Saang location ito?

GUERRERO (*Laughs mildly*)

Hindi ko p'wedeng sabihin sa iyo, Sarah. Classified. Pero, oo, narito ang anak mo.

SARAH

Nakilala mo agad ang boses ko? Sa kabila ng maraming taon?

GUERRERO

Lagi naman kitang naririnig. Parang tape na paulit-ulit sa aking isip.

SARAH

Hindi ka na sana lumayo...kung iniwasan mo lang ako.

GUERRERO

Sabi ko sa sarili ko, iyon ang pinakamabuti...para sa iyo...para sa akin...para sa lahat. (*A beat*) Pero heto, natagpuan mo pa rin ako. Naunahan ka ng anak mo.

SARAH

Kumusta siya?

GUERRERO

Mahusay siyang humawak ng eroplano. Mahusay ring magtago ng galit. Pero nadarama ko ang galit niya sa akin, kahit tahimik lang siya.

SARAH

Hindi pa rin katumbas ng galit niya sa akin. Mula nang pumasok siya sa PMA, tuluyan na siyang lumayo sa akin. Madalas ko siyang tawagan, pero ayaw niya akong kausapin. Palagay mo kaya— ?

GUERRERO

Nasa Officers' Club siguro siya ngayon. Gusto mo siyang tawagan doon?

SARAH

Kung p'wede.

GUERRERO

Same number, extension 19.

SARAH

Salamat, Joshua. Good night.

GUERRERO

Good night.

He slowly puts the phone down. Split-screen disappears.

Guerrero reaches for a pocket Bible on his desk. Inserted between the pages is an old photograph.

CU of the photo. It is a picture of Sarah.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 7E: INT. THE OFFICERS' CLUB AT PUGADLAWIN.

It's a modest-sized recreation center —adequately furnished, cozy looking, with a bar, piped-in music and all. Three tables are all it could take, plus a pool table, a large-screen TV and a couple of video game machines.

The 21st Squadron's pilots — now in casual attire — have the place all to themselves. An enlisted man, working part-time as a BARTENDER, keeps the beer and the music flowing.

Mustang is playing one of the video games. It's a "shoot-em-up, jet-combat" type. He is winning.

MUSTANG (*Punching the air*)

Yeah! Five MiGs down! Isa na akong ace!

Snake is hogging the telephone.

SNAKE (*To Mustang*)

Hey, Ace! Time out! Itigil mo muna ang giyera. Hindi ko marinig ang kausap ko sa telepono.

(*Gets back to phone*)

Hi, Alma! Si Von...

KitKat, standing near Snake, "lip-syncs" his lines. She has obviously heard this before and has memorized Snake's standard dialog with women.

SNAKE (*Cont.*)

Sorry, hindi kita mapuntahan. Naka-alert kami...Hindi ko p'wedeng sabihin. Secret...S'yempre lagi kitang iniisip...Ikaw, nami-miss mo ako?...S'yanga, ha?...Wow, lagitik.

At the bar, Hi-Tech is toying around with his laptop computer.

HI-TECH (*Staring at the laptop screen*)

Oh-oh.

JEZEBEL

Ano ‘yon, Hi-Tech?

HI-TECH

Nag-E-mail ako kangina sa isang kaibigan ko sa HQ. Humingi ako ng backgrounder tungkol kay Freezer. Heto ang sagot niya.

(Slight pause as he skims over the info on the screen)

Joshua Guerrero...First Filipino Top Gun, ASEAN Red Flag, 2002...U.N. Peacekeeping Medal, Taiwan Emergency, 2004...Distinguished Flying Cross, Second Gulf War, 2006. Confirmed two kills — one Su-25 Frogfoot and one MiG-23 Flogger, both Iraqis.

(Awed)

Ito ang makaka-dogfight natin bukas? This guy is a master!

MUSTANG

Hindi sa minamaliit ang record niya — Bukas, mga Pinoy ang makakasagupa niya, hindi mga Iraqi. Malaki ang pagkakaiba.

The others ad lib their agreement. (“Right!” “Roger that!” Etc.)

MUSTANG *(Leads the cheer)*

“Mess with the best — ”

ALL *(Finishing it)*

“ — Die like the rest!” Twenty-first, fight! Hoo-wah!

They all shout and clap their hands. Bulldog just smiles and looks on in silence. Shortly, he walks to the bar.

BULLDOG *(To Bartender)*

Dalawang beer.

With the two bottles in hand, he walks to the door.

The phone rings. The Bartender gets it.

BARTENDER *(Over phone)*

Officers’ Club... Yes, Ma’am... Who’s on the line, please?... Sandali po...

(To Bulldog, who’s just about to exit)

Lt. Salamanca!... Para sa iyo, Sir.

TIGHT ON Bulldog. He raises his eyebrows to mean, “Who is it?”

TIGHT ON Bartender, still holding the phone.

BARTENDER

Mother mo raw, Sir.

BULLDOG (*Shakes his head*)

Sabihin mong umalis na ako.

He gets out.

JEZEBEL (*Quickly*) (*To Bartender*)

Ibigay mo sa akin. Ako ang kakausap.

(*She takes the call*)

Mrs. Salamanca? Good evening po. Na-miss n'yo si Jake, kalalabas lang. Hindi po n'yo ako kilala, pero madalas kayong maikuwento sa akin ni Jake. Ako po si Crystal...Kuwan po — (*A beat*) (*Clears her throat, then quickly*)— Girlfriend po ako ni Jake.

CUT TO: The others. They all look at her, surprised by what they just heard.

HI-TECH (*Low*)

Hoo-wah.

KITKAT (*Smiles*)

Lagitik.

JEZEBEL

(*Stares back at them as if daring them*)

May ipasasabi po ba kayo kay Jake?

CUT TO:

SEQ. 7F: INT. GUERRERO'S OFFICE.

Guerrero puts the satellite photos of the *Yangtze* aside. He turns to the Bible, looks again at Sarah's picture, then folds the book close when he hears —

The standard double-knock on the door, which is half-open anyway. It's Bulldog, holding the two bottles of beer.

BULLDOG

Permission to enter, Sir?

GUERRERO

Come in, Bulldog. Wala ka na sa PMA. No need to be too formal. Maupo ka.

Bulldog forgets to close the door when he enters.

Bulldog tries to offer Guerrero a bottle. The colonel declines, pointing at his own drink — the glass of milk.

BULLDOG

Baka nakaka-istorbo ako, Sir? May binabasa yata kayo?

GUERRERO

Ang aking game book.

BULLDOG

Game book, Sir?

GUERRERO (*Smiles*)

Ang Bible.

BULLDOG

May sinasabi ba diyan, Sir, kung paano tatalunin ang isang MiG-29 o H-7?

GUERRERO

Not exactly. Ang paulit-ulit na sinasabi dito ay good guys always win and bad guys always lose. Size is not important. David beats Goliath, Samson beats the Philistines, dahil may power sila na galing sa Itaas.

(*A beat*)

I'm a Bible-believing Christian, Lieutenant. Which means I'm basically optimistic. It's not the plane that counts — it's the man flying it. Pero hindi ko kailangang ipaliwanag iyan sa iyo. Nakita ko ang record mo. Kasali ka sa ASEAN Red Flag exercise two years ago. You fought with MiG-29s and you had...Ilan nga ang kills mo?

BULLDOG

Tatlo, Sir.

GUERRERO

Leading contender ka sa pagiging Top Gun. And then...on the day before the final contest, you were disqualified and sent home. Ano'ng nangyari?

BULLDOG (*After a brief hesitation*)

May naka-away akong pilotong Tsekwa, Sir. Tie kami sa number of kills. Siya ang kalaban ko sana kinabukasan. I offered him a handshake. Sabi ko, “May the best man win tomorrow.” Sabi niya, “I don’t shake hands with monkeys.” Akala daw niya, sa pagnanakaw at pagpatay lang mahusay ang mga Pinoy. “I didn’t know monkeys could fly,” sabi pa niya.

GUERRERO (*Shrugs*)

Trash talk. Standard technique ng mga basketball players. Some fighter jockeys are good at it. Kumagat ka naman?

BULLDOG

Pinadugo ko ang ilong niya, Sir.

GUERRERO

Kaya ka pinatalsik. Siya ang naging Top Gun at sa iyo napunta ang Hothead Award. May natutunan ka bang leksyon sa nangyaring ‘yon?

BULLDOG

Pikon-talo, Sir.

GUERRERO

Exactly! We don’t take things personally, Lieutenant. It’s up in the air where we prove who’s the best man — not on the ground.

BULLDOG

‘Yung mga kills mo sa Second Gulf War, Sir...F-5 ang gamit mo noon?

GUERRERO

Oo.

BULLDOG

Pangalan ng Mama ko ang nakalagay sa eroplano mo.

GUERRERO

Posibleng nagkataon lang.

BULLDOG

I don’t think so. Nuong bata ako, madalas kong marinig ang pangalan mo pag nag-aaway ang mga magulang ko. Hindi ko mai-reconcile ang Joshua Guerrero na kaharap ko ngayon — nagbabasa

ng Bibliya — at ang Joshua Guerrero na nagtulak sa ama ko na magpakamatay.

GUERRERO

Marami akong pagkakamali nuong araw. Pinatawad na ako ng Diyos sa mga nagawa ko. Sana'y patawarin na rin ako ng mga nasaktan ko.

BULLDOG

Nawalan ako ng ama dahil sa iyo. Paano kita mapapatawad?

GUERRERO

At least huwag mong pahirapan ang Mama mo. Wala siyang kasalanan.

BULLDOG (*Rising angrily*)

Go to hell, Colonel, Sir! May pananagutan ka sa pagkamatay ng aking ama. Bakit ako makikinig sa iyo?

GUERRERO (*Calmly*)

Nakainom ka, Lieutenant. Daanin mo sa tulog. We'll forget this conversation took place.

Bulldog storms out of the room. He does not notice Maj. Lagaya standing at the doorway of his nearby office.

Lagaya slowly walks to Guerrero's room.

GUERRERO (*Surprised when he sees Lagaya*)

Hindi ko alam na nag-o-overtime ka rin.

LAGAYA

Bakit hindi mo sinabi sa kanya ang totoo?

GUERRERO

Hindi ka dapat nakikinig sa mga private na usapan.

LAGAYA

Hindi mo dapat iniwang bukas ang pinto mo.

GUERRERO

Akala ko'y pinaka-remote station na ng Air Force itong Pugadlawin. Hindi ko akalaing matagpuan pa ako dito ng pinagtataguan ko.

LAGAYA

Siguro'y dapat ka nang tumigil sa pagtatago. Siguro'y dapat ka nang bumalik kay Sarah.

GUERRERO (*Shakes his head*)

She deserves — someone — better than me.

(*A beat*)

Kaya mo na bang patakbuhan ang base na ito...sakaling mag-early retirement ako?

LAGAYA

Joshua, breaking away is not the solution. Malao't-madali, mauubusan ka ng tatakbuhan.

GUERRERO

Pagod na ako, Nick. Sooo...tired...

He leans back against the chair and closes his eyes.

FADE TO BLACK.

SEQ. 8A: EXT. SOUTH CHINA SEA. NEXT DAY.

FADE FROM BLACK.

EXTREME CLOSE-UP of a miniature TV camera covered by a clear plastic dome. The TV camera is shooting, as indicated by a glowing red light.

PULL BACK CAMERA to reveal that the TV camera is under the belly of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flying leisurely in the sky. This is SNOOPY ONE — a remote-controlled, pilotless, propeller-driven, small-sized aircraft used for surveillance.

Lasered subtitle FADES IN and OUT at the bottom of the screen:

**“SNOOPY ONE”
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)
sa South China Sea**

PAN CAMERA around Snoopy One — keeping it within frame all the time — to show that Snoopy is hovering over the aircraft carrier *Yangtze*. Snoopy is keeping watch over what takes place on the carrier’s deck.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 8B: EXT. THE CONTROL ROOM OF BATTLE GROUP KANLURAN. SAME DAY.

It is a fairly large, auditorium-type room — filled with computers, communications equipment, giant-screen TVs — and the OFFICERS and MEN who busily operate them.

Three giant-screen TVs dominate the front wall of the room. Screen #1 (left screen) monitors video from Snoopy One. Screen #2 (middle screen) is an electronic situation map. Screen #3 (right screen) is for data — kind of a large computer monitor.

Right now, Screen #1 shows a live video feed of the *Yangtze*, as seen from Snoopy. Screen #2 shows a situation map — a “god’s-eye view” of the *Yangtze* and its convoy approaching but still outside the Philippine boundary. Screen #3 is a scrolling list of numbers and data.

Lasered subtitle appears:

**COMMAND AND CONTROL ROOM
Battle Group Kanluran**

A MILITARY POLICEMAN at the door sees Gen. Avante coming and salutes smartly as the General walks by — accompanied by an AIDE.

COL. J.R. FERRER (“SHOTGUN”) approaches Avante. Ferrer is the “head bee” of this beehive.

SHOTGUN

(Saluting Avante and shaking hands with him)

General Avante, welcome, Sir.

Lasered text appears at bottom of screen:

Col. J.R. FERRER

“Shotgun”

AVANTE *(Points at Screen #1)*

Kuha ba ‘yan ng Snoopy One?

SHOTGUN

Yes, Sir. Real-time.

AVANTE *(Grumbles)*

So iyan ang *Yangtze*. Ugly S.O.B. Ang maton ng South China Sea.

(A beat)

May direct feed tayo sa Malacañang? Nakikita nila ang nakikita natin?

SHOTGUN

Yes, Sir.



AVANTE: “*So iyan ang Yangtze. Ugly S.O.B. Ang maton ng South China Sea.*”

AVANTE

Good.

Avante spots a computer-printed paper banner hanging on the wall. It says: **“NO MORE BATAAN — NO MORE CORREGIDOR — THIS TIME WE WIN!”**

AVANTE (*Pointing at banner*)

Sino’ng gumawa niyan?

A red-faced YOUNG LIEUTENANT monitoring one of the big screens nervously raises his hand.

YOUNG LT.

Ah...ako po, Sir. (*A beat*) Tatanggalin ko ba, Sir?

AVANTE

No. Pabayaan mo siya. In fact, bigyan mo ako ng kopya.

YOUNG LT. (*Smiles in relief*)

Yes, Sir!

AVANTE (*To Shotgun*)

Saan ang pinakamalapit na forward air base natin, kung kailangang mag-scramble tayo ng interceptors?

SHOTGUN

(*Points at Screen #2 — the situation map*)

Pugadlawin, Sir. Nag-deploy tayo kahapon doon ng units ng 21st Squadron.

AVANTE

Sino ang commander ng Pugadlawin?

Shotgun punches some queries on his computer keyboard. Almost instantly, Guerrero’s personnel record and photo appears on the data screen (#3).

SHOTGUN

Guerrero. Light-Colonel Joshua Guerrero.

AVANTE (*Smiles in recognition*)

Freezer... (*A beat*) I-patch mo nga ako sa kanya.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 8C: INT. THE F-5 HANGAR ON PUGADLAWIN. SAME DAY.

FULL SHOT of Guerrero's F-5 inside its hangar.

Guerrero and his MAINTENANCE CREW CHIEF (a grizzled, tough, cigar-chomping Master Sergeant in grease-stained coveralls) go through a walkaround pre-flight check of the Freedom Fighter. Two or three other AIRCRAFT MECHANICS are in the immediate vicinity — putting away tools or doing other tasks.

GUERRERO

Mukhang ready to fly si Sarah, Chief. Good work.

CHIEF

Thank you, Sir.

GUERRERO

Alam mo'ng sabi ng mga batang piloto natin? Pang-museum na ang eroplanong ito.

CHIEF (*Reacts*)

Kalokohan, Sir! May edad na siya, pero marunong pa rin siyang lumandi.

(*Instantly apologetic*)

Sorry sa...dumi ng bunganga ko, Sir.

GUERRERO

(*Smiles and taps him on the shoulder*)

Okay lang. Alam ko'ng gusto mong sabihin.

(*A beat*)

May pustahan ba kayo tungkol sa labanan ngayon?

CHIEF

Yes, Sir! Pumusta ako sa inyo ni Showtime, Sir.

GUERRERO

Mas kikita ka siguro ng pera kung pupusta ka sa mga rookie, at kusa kaming magpapatalo ni Maj. Lagaya.

CHIEF

Huwag mong gagawin 'yon, Sir. Paano matututo ang mga batang 'yan kung hindi mo ilalampaso?

GUERRERO

Chief, anytime na malibre ka at walang naka-schedule na mission si Sarah —

CHIEF

Yes, Sir?

GUERRERO

— Burahin mo ang nakapintang pangalan niya.

CHIEF (*Surprised*)

Sir? Sigurado ka?

GUERRERO (*Nods*)

Yes, Chief.

The sound of a telephone chirping is heard offscreen. A MECHANIC enters scene, holding a cordless phone which he hands to Guerrero.

MECHANIC

Call, Sir. Sa secure line.

GUERRERO (*Over phone*)

Freezer.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 8D: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

TIGHT ON Avante, talking over phone.

AVANTE

Freezer? Vader. Long time no see.

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 8E: INT. F-5 HANGAR ROOM.

TIGHT ON Guerrero.

GUERRERO (*Smiles*)

Long time, Sir — mula nang nagkasama tayo sa Dhahran. Good to hear you again, General.

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 8F: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

TIGHT ON Avante, still taking on phone.

AVANTE

Freezer, gusto kitang bigyan ng advance warning —

CUT TO:

SEQ. 9A: EXT. THE RUNWAY. SAME DAY.

Guerrero's F-5 and Mustang's Gripen are lined up at the tower end of the runway — both ready to take off.

GUERRERO (*V.O., filtered*)

Good morning, Mustang. This is Freezer. Hope you had a good sleep and a nice breakfast?

MUSTANG (*V.O., filt.*)

Freezer, Mustang. If we can disregard ranks for awhile, Sir — Yes, Sir, I had a good sleep. I dreamed of killing an F-5 today, Sir — And no, Sir, hindi ako kumain ng breakfast. I'm going to eat an F-5 for breakfast...Sir!

Guerrero is correct. The “psyching” begins even before the fighting takes place.

GUERRERO (*V.O., filt.*) (*Laughs*)

Bilib ako sa attitude mo, Rookie. Pero mag-ingat ka. Naka-tape itong usapan natin. Baka mapahiya ka pag ni-replay mamaya.

QUICK CUT TO:

Maintenance crews and other enlisted men watching from the sidelines. More money changes hands. The betting pool gets bigger.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 9B: INT. OPS ROOM.

The five remaining pilots of the 21st, all in their flying suits, waiting for their turn to dogfight.

Hi-Tech fixes a scoreboard on the wall which says:

21 st SQUADRON	OLDIES
0	0

HI-TECH

(*A la Olympic Games master of ceremonies*)

Let the games begin!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 9C: EXT. THE RUNWAY.

TIGHT ON Guerrero's F-5, camera at 5 o'clock. Focus on the exhaust outlets of the twin engines. Flames shooting out at full afterburner. The engines are screaming angrily. Guerrero releases the brakes and the Freedom Fighter surges forward.

After a short while, it starts to climb. Guerrero pulls the gears up as soon as they clear the ground.

QUICK CUT TO:

TIGHT ON Mustang's Gripen taking off after the F-5. The canards allow it to take a much shorter ground distance than the F-5 did.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 9D: EXT. THE SKY.

CAMERA TRACKING AHEAD (i.e., shooting from the nose) of the F-5, through the cockpit and at Guerrero. The F-5 is still climbing and the ground is, thus, rapidly fading away.

At the background, Mustang's Gripen may be seen hotly closing in.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 9E: INT. THE TOWER.

With Showtime gone, two NCOs man the tower. Both are wearing the standard headphones-and-mikes. The SENIOR NCO is looking out and up the at sky with binoculars.

Guerrero's voice booms out of the tower's speaker.

GUERRERO (*V.O., filt.*)

Tower, this is Freezer. I'm at angels five.

TOWER NCO 1

Copy that, Freezer. Angels five. Fight's on! Repeat, *fight's on!*

SEQ. 9F: EXT. THE SKY.

Inside Mustang's cockpit. Mustang's POV, looking through his HUD (head-up display).

He's chasing Guerrero's F-5. He can't keep Guerrero fixed on his HUD. The F-5 banks much too hard and Mustang finds it difficult to keep up.

The hard turns subject Mustang's body to tremendous G-force (force due to gravity). Blood rushes down from his head and to his lower body. Mustang finds it hard to breathe and stay awake.

MUSTANG (V.O.) (*Labored breathing*)

Akin ka, Freezer...wala kang kawala...Saan ka tatakbo?

We hear the tone of a heat-seeking missile acquiring target — the same tone Mustang would hear through his helmet headphone.

MUSTANG (V.O.)

I got tone.

But it's a very brief and weak tone. Mustang quickly loses it.

GUERRERO (V.O., *filt.*)

No good, Kid. Kailangang at least 5 seconds, or it's no count.

(*A beat*)

Kangina pa ako nagpapahabol sa iyo, wala ka naman palang ibubuga.

MUSTANG (V.O.) (*Sounds like he's choking*)

Blacking out...blacking out...

CAMERA QUICKLY BLACKS OUT — the same momentary blackout that Mustang would experience when he reaches the point of G-LOC (loss of consciousness due to G-force).

ANGLE ON the F-5 and the Gripen.

Mustang's brief blackout causes his Gripen to overshoot the F-5. Guerrero takes advantage of this and positions his F-5 at Mustang's tail!

QUICK CUT TO:

Inside the F-5 cockpit, this time from Guerrero's POV. Mustang's Gripen is an easy target.

He hears a long and clear growl. At the same time, a sign on his HUD flashes: "TGT LOCK."

GUERRERO (*V.O.*)

Good tone! Fox Two! Thousand one, thousand two, thousand three, thousand four, thousand five. Patay ka na, Mustang. Get back to base.

ANGLE ON the F-5. Guerrero does a victory roll.

SEQ. 9G: INT. OPS ROOM.

CU of the scoreboard. Somebody writes:

21st SQUADRON	OLDIES
0	1

ANGLE ON Lagaya at the door. Points at Hi-Tech.

LAGAYA (*Curtly*)

Hi-Tech! Tayong dalawa, next! Move it!

ANGLE ON Hi-Tech. He raises his fist.

HI-TECH

Right!

SEQ. 10A: EXT. THE SKY.

Hi-Tech's Gripen attacks Lagaya's F-5 from above. The Freedom Fighter climbs to evade.

LAGAYA (*V.O., filt.*)

Come on, Kid. Pahangain mo ako.

The Gripen and the F-5 enter what fighter pilots call a “vertical rolling scissors” situation — a corkscrew-like cycle where the two planes alternately climb and dive, climb and dive — exchanging roles as attacker and defender — all the while losing altitude.

It's a game of “chicken” — the first plane to get out of the scissors dies.

TIGHT ON Hi-Tech inside the Gripen. The ground looks dangerously close and getting closer.

HI-TECH

Two thousand feet, Showtime. Disengage. Hindi kita titigilan.

LAGAYA (*V.O., filt.*) (*Laughs*)

Ikaw ang bumitaw, Kid! Kaya kong gawin ito hanggang bukas.

Hi-Tech's POV. His turn as attacker. He sees Lagaya's F-5 through his HUD. He hears the tone of his missile acquiring target. A weak and uncertain tone.

HI-TECH (*V.O.*) (*Excitedly*)

Got tone!

Silence again.

HI-TECH (*V.O.*)

Shit! Lost it!

The F-5 also disappears from view. Hi-Tech knows *he* is being chased now.

EXTREME CU on Hi-Tech's altimeter. One thousand feet and going down.

ANGLE ON the two planes. Still doing the scissors and still losing altitude.

LAGAYA (*V.O., filt.*)

Hi-Tech, naikuwento ko ba sa iyo? Kasali ako sa Blue Diamonds nuong araw. Kaya kong lumipad ng 20 feet above the ground...inverted! Kaya mo bang gawin 'yon?

CUT-TO-CUT:

TIGHT ON Hi-Tech. He lifts his shaded visors. Eyes wide open. He can't believe he's dog-fighting *this* close to the ground.

XCU on his altimeter. 500 feet...400 feet...300...

The coconut trees on the ground, looming up. The details of the leaves and the trunks are sharp now.

LAGAYA (*V.O., filt.*)

Two hundred feet, Hi-Tech...one-fifty —

ANGLE ON the two planes, seemingly just an arm's reach away from solid earth. A double suicide about to happen.

LAGAYA (*V.O., filt.*)

One hundred! Alam ba nila ang address ng nanay mo?

Zoom! It's Hi-Tech who chickens. He disengages and does a frantic climb. Lagaya's F-5 follows, chasing his tail. The sonic booms created by their abrupt about-face are enough to rattle the coconut trees below.

LAGAYA'S POV. On his HUD, Hi-Tech's Gripen makes an excellent target. A loud and clear growl on Lagaya's headphone.

LAGAYA (*V.O., filt.*)

I got tone! Fox Three! Guns-guns-guns-guns-guns! Adios, Hi-Tech!

ANGLE ON Lagaya's Freedom Fighter as he does a victory roll.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 10B: INT. OPS ROOM.

The scoreboard is updated.

21st SQUADRON	OLDIES
0	2

A phone rings. Bulldog picks it up.

BULLDOG

Ops. Bulldog.

He listens briefly, then puts the phone down.

BULLDOG (*To Jezebel and KitKat*)
Jez, KitKat...launch!

The two women stand up, looking fierce. They exchange “soul sister” fist-shakes.

JEZEBEL
Payback time!

KITKAT
Hoo-wah!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 11A: EXT. THE SKY.

CAMERA IS INSIDE LAGAYA'S F-5, looking through his HUD from his POV. KitKat's Gripen is an easy target in front of him.

LAGAYA (V.O.)

Pipper on.

An animated symbol appears on Lagaya's HUD, suggesting where to fire his gun to get a solid hit on KitKat. We hear an electronic growl, indicating Lagaya would score a kill if he chooses to fire.

He chooses to let the opportunity pass.

LAGAYA (V.O.) (*Annoyed*)

Pipper off.

The gun lead symbol on the HUD disappears. The growl goes off.

LAGAYA (V.O.) (*Angrily*)

Come on, KitKat! Saan ka nag-aral lumipad? Sa Socialite Driving School? Bigyan mo ng konting excitement ang labanan! Kangina ka pa sana patay kung ginusto ko lang! Kaunting hustle naman diyan, kaunting ilag...

KITKAT (V.O., *filt.*)

Baka talagang sinasadya kong hindi umilag — ?

QUICK CUT TO:

ANGLE ON Kitkat's Gripen and Lagaya's F-5. Camera tracking ahead of the two planes — Kitkat at foreground, the F-5 chasing her at 6 o'clock.

KITKAT (V.O., *filt.*) (*Cont.*)

— Baka sineset-up kita para sa aking wingman?

A third plane — Jezebel's Gripen — slides into scene at background...going after Lagaya's F-5!

LAGAYA (V.O., *filt.*)

Ha? Sino'ng wingman? Saan?

TIGHT ON Jezebel inside her cockpit.

JEZEBEL (V.O.)
Yoo-hoo! Showtime! Remember me, Jezebel? Nasa likuran mo!

CAMERA TAKES JEZEBEL’S POV, looking through her HUD.

JEZEBEL (V.O.)
Kit! Break left, now!

KitKat does a hard turn, getting out of harm’s way. Now it’s only Jezebel and Lagaya.

A sign flashes on Jezebel’s HUD: “TGT ACQ.” A good and clear tone is heard. “TGT LOCK.”

JEZEBEL (V.O.)
Good tone! Fox Two! *BOOM!* Sorry, Showtime, game over —
you’re dead — knockout — the end!

LAGAYA (V.O., *filt.*)
Shit!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 11B: INT. OPS ROOM.

Jezebel and KitKat — both highly-charged — enter the Ops Room, loudly reciting the PMA victory cheer they used to know during their cadet days.

Bulldog changes the scoreboard to:

21st SQUADRON	OLDIES
1	2

The phone rings again.

Snake gets up and heads for the door, even before Bulldog could answer the call.

SNAKE
Para sa akin ‘yan! I’m on the way! Hoo-wah!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 12A: EXT. THE SKY.

FULL SHOT of Lagaya's F-5 in the air.

LAGAYA (*V.O., filt.*)

Hey, Rookie, nasaan ka? Magpakita ka, Snake —

TIGHT ON Lagaya, inside the F-5 cockpit.

LAGAYA

Isa ka raw sa pinakamayabang sa Officers' Club kagabi. Tingnan ko nga kung matapang ka talaga — pag hindi ka lasing.

QUICK CUT TO:

FULL SHOT of Snake's Gripen, bearing down on camera — on full afterburner.

SNAKE (*V.O., filt.*)

Showtime, I'm at your 12 o'clock, level and closing in.

TIGHT ON Snake, inside the Gripen cockpit.

SNAKE

I'm going head-to-head with you, man. Say mo? Balik sa iyo ang tanong, Showtime: Tingnan ko nga kung matapang ka talaga.

QUICK CUT TO:

EXTREME CLOSE UP of Lagaya's radarscope. It does show a blip (Snake's Gripen) somewhere out front and on a collision course with his F-5!

TIGHT ON Lagaya.

LAGAYA

Snake, alam mo ang safety rules. Walang head-on engagement. Break off, Kid.

TIGHT ON Snake.

SNAKE

No way, man. Ikaw ang unang lumabag sa safety rules. Nakuha mo sa bluff si Hi-Tech. Ikaw ang umilag, kung hindi mo kaya. I'm heading straight — at — you!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 12B: INT. THE TOWER.

Guerrero has joined the two NCOs in the tower. They are following the progress of the fight on their radarscope.

TOWER NCO 1

(Seated in front of the radarscope) (To Guerrero)

Sir, hindi maganda ito.

CUT TO:

EXTREME CLOSE UP of the radarscope in the tower. Two blips going fast forward to a possible head-on smash-up.

Over the Tower's speaker, we hear Lagaya's and Snake's arguments, now bordering on panic. ("Snake! Break off! Hindi ako nagbibiro!" "You break off! Hindi rin ako nagbibiro!" Etc.)

QUICK CUT TO Guerrero.

GUERRERO

(Mutters)

Sira ang ulo...

(Grabs a microphone and shouts at it)

Showtime, Freezer! Break off! Now!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 12C: EXT. THE SKY.

The F-5 and the Gripen. With only a few feet to spare, Lagaya disengages. He banks sharply to avoid a crash. This gives Snake a good opening. He quickly maneuvers his Gripen behind Lagaya's F-5.

We hear the loud and sweet tone of a weapons lock.

SNAKE *(V.O., filt.)*

Fox Three! Gun-gun-gun-gun-gun! Good kill!

TIGHT ON Snake, inside his cockpit.

SNAKE

(Laughs insultingly and imitates a nervous chicken cackling)

Puk-puk-puk-puk-puk! Pukputak! Pukputak!

FULL SHOT of Snake's Gripen. He does a victory roll.

SNAKE (*V.O., filt.*)

La-gi-tik!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 12D: INT. OPS ROOM.

The pilots of the 21st are gathered around the scoreboard. Somebody updates it:

21st SQUADRON	OLDIES
2	2

The phone rings. Bulldog picks it up.

BULLDOG

Bulldog.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 12E: INT. THE TOWER.

TIGHT ON Guerrero.

GUERRERO (*Speaking over phone*)

Let's do it, Kid.

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 12F: INT. OPS ROOM.

Bulldog simply puts the phone down. He stands up and heads for the door.

The others cheer him on and ad lib words of encouragement (“Go for it, man!” “Tie-breaker, Jake!” “Kick ass, Bulldog!” Etc.)

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 13A: EXT. THE SKY.

START WITH AN EMPTY SKY. Suddenly, Bulldog's Gripen and Guerrero's F-5 slide into view — engines booming. Guerrero is chasing Bulldog. Camera tracks ahead of them for awhile.

CUT TO:

CAMERA SHOOTING FROM BEHIND GUERRERO'S SEAT in the F-5, i.e., shooting over his helmet. Out front, we see Bulldog's Gripen "jinking" (i.e., turning hard right and left) to elude the F-5.

A growl is heard as the F-5 acquires target.

Bulldog jinks again to break the lock. The growl is cut off.

GUERRERO

Good move, Kid.

Two more times the F-5 tries to lock on. Again and again, Bulldog manages to break away.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 13B: INT. THE TOWER.

The two Tower NCOs follow the fight on their radarscope. Lagaya enters. The NCOs start to stand up to give respect.

TOWER NCO 1

Sir —

LAGAYA

(Motions at them to remain seated)

As you were.

(A beat) (Looks at radarscope)

Gaano katagal na sila naghahabulan?

TOWER NCO 1

(Looking at clock)

May 15 minutes na, Sir. Tumawag na ng "bingo" si Freezer two minutes ago.

TOWER NCO 2

Siguradong paubos na rin ang fuel ni Bulldog.

LAGAYA

Sino'ng nananalo?

TOWER NCO 1

Walang maka-lock nang matagal, Sir. Palitan sila sa paghabol.
Minsang si Freezer, minsang si Bulldog.

TOWER NCO 2

May sinasabi ang Rookie, Sir.

LAGAYA (*Smiles*)

Carbon copy ni Freezer...nuong bata pa.

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 13C: EXT. THE SKY.

The F-5 chasing the Gripen.

GUERRERO (*V.O., filt.*)

Kid, pareho tayong almost empty na. How about a draw? Time to go home.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Negative! Kaya kong ipanalo ito.

GUERRERO (*V.O., filt.*)

Medyo ambisyoso, Kid...considering ako ang nasa six o'clock mo.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Not anymore. Panoorin mo ito —

Bulldog climbs vertical to elude the F-5. Easy for the Gripen to do. Guerrero tries to follow, but his old plane just doesn't have the punch to do it.

GUERRERO (*V.O., filt.*)

Not fair, Kid. Alam mong hindi ko abot ang altitude mo.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Not my problem, Sir. Pabili ka ng bagong eroplano.

Guerrero has no choice but to break the pursuit and dive. Bulldog does a quick Immelman turn.

Now he's chasing the F-5!

CUT TO:

CAMERA SHOOTING FROM BEHIND BULLDOG'S SEAT in the Gripen this time (shooting over his helmet) — similar to POV two sequences ago. Out front, we see Guerrero's F-5 jinking to elude the Gripen.

BULLDOG

Endgame, Freezer.

A tone is heard as the Gripen acquires target.

Guerrero jinks again to break the lock. The tone is cut off.

Two more times the Gripen tries to lock on. Again and again, Guerrero manages to evade.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 13D: INT. THE TOWER.

ANGLE ON Lagaya and the Tower NCOs.

LAGAYA (*Over microphone*)

Ah...Freezer, Tower. Just a reminder — Baka nalilibang kayo, hindi n'yo napapansin ang fuel meter n'yo? Suggest RTB, over.

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 13E: EXT. THE SKY.

The Gripen pursuing the F-5.

A loud and clear tone is heard. The Gripen has definitely locked on target!

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Good tone! Fox Two! Thousand one, thousand two —

The F-5 suddenly seems to freeze in mid-air. Guerrero has cut off his throttle, causing his plane to stall. The F-5's nose dips down, like a cobra attacking to bite.

The Gripen overshoots! The target lock is broken. The tone goes out.

Guerrero recovers. He fires up his engines again. The F-5 quickly climbs and goes after the Gripen. Guerrero is once more in the position of the hunter.

CUT TO:

CAMERA SHOOTING INSIDE THE F-5 COCKPIT — behind Guerrero and looking over his helmet. Bulldog's Gripen is a helpless target out front.

A loud and distinct growl as the F-5 locks on for the kill.

GUERRERO

Gotcha! Fox Three! Gun-gun-gun-gun! Checkmate, Kid.
Let's go home.

CUT TO:

The F-5 doing a victory roll past the Gripen.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 13F: INT. THE TOWER.

REACTION SHOT.

The Tower NCOs cheer and exchange high-fives at Guerrero's victory.

LAGAYA (*Looking up at sky*)

Shit hot! Freezer, you're the man!

CUT TO:

SEQ. 14A: INT. THE F-5 HANGAR. SAME DAY.

Guerrero has parked his F-5 inside its hangar. The canopy has been raised.

Guerrero removes his helmet and hands it to his MAINTENANCE CHIEF. He climbs down the plane. Other enlisted men of his MAINTENANCE CREW go about their tasks of preparing the F-5 for bed-down.

Lagaya waits for Guerrero on the ground. CAMERA TRACKS AHEAD OF THEM as they walk out of the hangar.

GUERRERO

So? Ano sa palagay mo?

LAGAYA

Akala ko, makaka-grand slam tayo. Hindi ko akalaing pahihirapan nila tayo.

GUERRERO (*Nods*)

Roger that. (*A beat*) Muntik ka nang namatay kangina.

LAGAYA

Pag natapos na ang gulong ito, ipaalala mo sa akin na kailangan kong sapakin si Snake.

Guerrero laughs.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 14B: INT. THE OPS ROOM.

The pilots of the 21st look glumly at the final score. It says:

21 st SQUADRON	OLDIES
2	3

SNAKE (*Consoling Bulldog*)

Muntik mo na siyang nayari, Bulldog.

GUERRERO (*Offscreen*)

Hindi acceptable sa air combat ang “muntik na.”

BULLDOG

Tep-*chon*!

ANGLE ON Guerrero and Lagaya as they enter and walk to the front of the room.

GUERRERO

At ease. Take seats.

The pilots sit down.

GUERRERO

Okay, critique time. Saan kayo nagkamali?

(A beat)

Mustang! Alam mo kung ano'ng problema mo?

MUSTANG *(Meekly)*

G-LOC, Sir.

GUERRERO

Exactly. Loss of consciousness due to high gravitational force.

(A beat)

Sinadya kitang nilagay sa sitwasyon kung saan makaka-experience ka ng excessive G-force. I can tolerate high G, but obviously you cannot. Sumabay ka sa akin. Maaga kang nag-blackout. Nag-disengage ka sana at humanap ng ibang approach. Remember this: Control the situation. Don't get suckered. Don't fight the way the enemy wants you to fight. Make *him* fight according to your terms. Copy?

MUSTANG

Copy, Sir.

LAGAYA

Hi-Tech! Ang pinaka-grabeng sitwasyon na pwede mong kalagayan ay ang "rolling scissors" — tulad ng nangyari sa atin. Break off early, before you get caught in a game of chicken. Many times, there are no winners. Walang gustong mag-quit, so they both crash and burn.

TIGHT ON Hi-Tech. He nods in agreement.

GUERRERO

Bulldog! Ang ginamit ko sa iyo ay ang "cobra maneuver." Paboritong technique ng mga MiG-29 pilots. Madaling gawin sa MiG-29 ang gimik na ito, unlike other aircraft.

*(He finds two wooden aircraft models
and uses these to demonstrate)*

Hinahabol mo siya. He stalls in mid-air. His nose dips down — parang kobra na tumutuklaw. You overshoot. Suddenly he becomes the hunter and you're the hunted.

SNAKE

Any counter, Sir?

GUERRERO

Wala akong alam na pangontra. Nothing that works.

LAGAYA

Eject! 'Yon lang ang magagawa mo. He's got you.

The pilots take this in silently.

GUERRERO

It's been a long and tiring day, ladies and gentlemen. You're excused for the rest of the day. Rest. Relax. Today was practice. Bukas-makalawa, it may be the real thing.

The pilots stir and start to leave.

BULLDOG

Permission to address the group, Sir?

GUERRERO

Go ahead.

BULLDOG (*To the other pilots*)

Guys, mayroon pang natitirang kaunting daylight. Let's get up again. I-correct natin ang mga pagkakamali natin. Snake, work with Mustang. Kailangang malaman niya kung saang point siya tinatamaan ng G-LOC.

SNAKE

Right!

BULLDOG

Hi-Tech, KitKat. Rolling scissors.

HI-TECH

Copy that.

BULLDOG

Jez, you're with me. Kung kaya niyang gawin ang "cobra" sa F-5, we can do it too.

JEZEBEL

Affirmative.

SNAKE

Okay, you heard the man. Let's move! Let's hustle!

They all pile out of the room, leaving Guerrero and Lagaya.

LAGAYA

Ganoon ba tayo kabaliw nuong araw?

GUERRERO (*Laughs*)

Mas baliw tayo. Kung anu-anong pasirko-sirko ang ginagawa natin noon...gayong ang hawak natin ay mga antigong F-5 at "Tora-Tora."

LAGAYA

Himalang umabot tayo sa ganitong edad, ano?

GUERRERO

Roger that!

They are both silent for awhile, contemplating this.

LAGAYA

Beer?

GUERRERO

Club soda. Ako ang taya.

LAGAYA

Okay. Mas mataas ang ranggo mo. Baka magalit ka kung hindi ako pumayag.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 15A: EXT. MALACAÑANG PALACE. NIGHT.

FULL SHOT to establish the Presidential palace. Night shot.

We hear the sound of a telephone ringing. The ringing continues, even as we —

CUT TO:

SEQ. 15B: INT. PRESIDENT'S BEDROOM.

Telephone ringing.

A bedside lamp is turned on. We're in the President's bedroom. He picks up the phone.

PRESIDENT

Yes?...Tinuloy nila, ha?...Okay, magkita tayo sa Situation Room
in 15 minutes.

He looks at the clock. It's almost 4:00 AM.

FIRST LADY (*Stirs from sleep*)

Exercise na naman?

PRESIDENT (*Getting out of bed*)

Uh-huh.

FIRST LADY

Bakit ba sa disoras ng gabi n'yo ginagawa ang mga exercise na
'yan?

PRESIDENT

Para huwag silang matuksong pumunta sa mga night club.

FIRST LADY

Puro ka kalokohan.

PRESIDENT

Kaya nga ako binotong presidente.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 15C: INT. BACHELOR OFFICERS' QUARTERS AT PUGADLAWIN.
SAME NIGHT.

The room is completely dark.

We hear urgent pounding on the door. The door opens and we see Lagaya's figure silhouetted against the hallway light.

LAGAYA (*Barks*)
Bulldog! Ops Room in 15 minutes! Move!

TIGHT ON Bulldog, instantly awake.

Offscreen, we hear Lagaya going from room to room and rousing the others from sleep.

LAGAYA (*O.S.*)
Snake! Ops Room! Now! (*Pause*) Jezebel! Ops Room! On the
double! (*Etc.*)

SEQ. 15D: INT. OPS BRIEFING ROOM. SAME NIGHT.

Guerrero scans the faces of the pilots gathered before him. They all look attentive and eager.

GUERRERO
Okay, this is it. We're now on Red Alert. One hour ago, pumasok
na ang *Yangtze* sa Philippine waters. Tayo ang pinakamalapit na air
base. Kung naghahanap sila ng away, tayo ang una nilang makaka-
enkwentro.

MUSTANG
(*Tries to suppress his delight but couldn't*)
(*Almost to himself —*)
Hoo-wah!

GUERRERO
Maj. Lagaya will brief you on what to expect.

Lagaya turns on the overhead projector and places a slide on it. It's a telephoto shot of the *Yangtze's* deck, taken by Snoopy One. Four MiG-29s and two H-7s are being readied and armed.

LAGAYA
Kuha ito ng surveillance aircraft natin a few hours ago, bago

dumilim. Most probably, the enemy will start the attack with these six aircraft. The Hong-7s are the bombers. Mapapansin n'yo na kinakargahan sila ng laser-guided bomb of the 2,000-pound variety. Bunker busters.

HI-TECH

May intelligence ba tayo kung ano ang target nila, Sir?

LAGAYA

Again, draw a straight line from where they started...through their halfway points...and your line will end up in Manila. Tanungin n'yo ang sarili n'yo: Ano ang magandang target sa Maynila? At huwag n'yong sabihing Luneta. Kung ako ang kaaway, hindi ako bibiyahe nang pagkalayu-layo para bombahin ang isang target na walang kuwenta. I would strike at the head.

KITKAT (*Gasps*)

Malacañang?

LAGAYA

Kung ako ang kaaway, iyon ang pipiliin kong target. Kayo rin, di ba?

(*A beat*)

Okay, back to this picture. The MiG-29s are the escorts. Now, be advised — (*Points at screen*) These MiGs are armed with PL-7 close-range missiles, katumbas ng Sidewinders na dala n'yo. Walang problema doon.

(*Another tense pause*)

But in addition, mayroon din silang AA-9 long-range, radar-guided missiles. Amos. Range, 150 clicks. Beyond-visual-range, fire-and-forget missiles.

SNAKE (*Tentatively*)

So...they can shoot us down kahit hindi pa nila kami nakikita? 'Yon ang gusto mong sabihin, Sir...right?

LAGAYA

Basically, yes. As long as they can see you on their radar, they can fire their Amos missiles at you.

The pilots exchange slightly apprehensive glances.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 15E: INT. THE SITUATION ROOM IN MALACAÑANG. SAME NIGHT.

It's a junior version of the Kanluran Command and Control Room — giant-screen TV, computers, communication equipment, hot-line telephones — but in fewer numbers, because it's meant for one person only: the President. A smaller entourage of OFFICERS and NCOs operate the equipment.

The same slide as in Pugadlawin appears on the President's wall screen. The Secretary of Defense is giving him a briefing similar to what's taking place in Pugadlawin.

PRESIDENT (*Aghast*)

Kaya silang tirahin ng kaaway mula sa malayo? Dehado ang mga bata natin!

SECDEF

We tried to get the same weapons from the Americans, Sir. Pero binalaan sila ng mga Tsekwa. Kung bebentahan daw tayo ng mga long-range missiles, mahihirapan ang Amerika na mag-negosyo sa Bansang Pula. Nag-bow na lang ang mga Amerikano.

PRESIDENT

Bakit tayo sobrang umaasa sa Amerika? Gumagawa ang mga estudyante natin ng mga computer virus na tumitimbog sa Internet, hindi natin kayang gumawa ng missiles? That's hard to believe!

(*A beat*)

When this is all over, make that Number One on your list. We make our own weapons!

SECDEF

Yes, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT

Nasaan si Ambassador Lee habang nabubulabog tayong lahat dito?

SECDEF

Every 15 minutes ay tumatawag kami sa kanilang embassy, Sir. Hindi daw ma-locate si Ambassador Lee.

PRESIDENT

Mahirap hanapin ang ayaw pahanap. Itutuloy na lang natin ang party kahit wala siya.

SECDEF

Mr. President, you should consider the possibility that you are the target. I suggest we evacuate all employees from this compound, except key personnel...at lahat ng residente within three clicks.

PRESIDENT (*Nods*)

Do it.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 15F: INT. OPS ROOM.

BACK TO the pilots' briefing.

GUERRERO

Huwag kayong kabahan sa mga long-range missiles nila...we have countermeasures for them.

HI-TECH

Ano'ng klaseng countermeasures, Sir?

GUERRERO

I'm not free to discuss that right now. Just trust us. Hindi namin kayo isusubo sa pahamak.

LAGAYA

Assignments! Bulldog, Snake — Blue Flight. Bulldog has lead.

(*A beat*)

Jezebel, Hi-Tech — Red Flight. Jez, ikaw ang point.

(*A beat*)

Mustang, KitKat — Yellow. Mustang, you call the shots.

(*A beat*)

We fly combat air patrols every hour, on the hour. Bulldog, Snake — kayo ang una. Take off at 0700. Questions?

SNAKE

Rules of engagement, Sir?

Lagaya gives way to Guerrero, who steps up to take over the briefing.

GUERRERO

ROE? Simple lang. They take hostile action, you *kill* them. They can reach Manila in a few minutes. No time to be polite.

SNAKE
(*Whistles*)

GUERRERO

Ladies and gentlemen, this is going to be a quick fight. Kayo ang aming first line of defense. Huwag n'yo kaming bibiguin. God bless and...check six. That's all.

The pilots stand up and ad lib cheers as they exit the room ("Hoo-wah!" "Rock and roll, baby!" Etc.)

CUT TO:

SEQ. 15G: INT. CORRIDOR.

As the pilots troop out, Lagaya calls out after them —

LAGAYA

Bulldog!

Bulldog stops and turns when he hears his name.

BULLDOG

Sir?

LAGAYA

Sa opisina ko. May pag-uusapan tayo.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 15H: INT. LAGAYA'S OFFICE.

Lagaya enters, followed by Bulldog.

LAGAYA (*Curtly*)

Isarado mo'ng pinto. Maupo ka.

Bulldog does so.

LAGAYA

Gusto kong kausapin ka tungkol sa isang obvious weakness mo —
Miscalculation.

BULLDOG

Kung tungkol sa pagkakamali ko sa dogfighting kahapon, Sir —

LAGAYA (*Cuts him abruptly*)

Miscalculation sa kapwa-tao ang gusto kong sabihin. Specifically, sa maling akala mo kay Col. Guerrero.

BULLDOG (*Arrogantly*)

Begging your pardon, Sir. It's none of your business.

LAGAYA

Kita mo na? You're miscalculating again. Akala mo, p'wede mo akong sagutin nang pabarumbado tulad ng ginawa mo kay Freezer kagabi. No way, Rookie. You piss me off, you'll be sorry. I'll bust you out of Fighter Wing. Ita-transfer kita sa Transport. Habambuhay kang magpapalipad ng C-130. Taga-hakot ng basura. You copy?

Bulldog says nothing.

LAGAYA (*Continues*)

Hindi mo kilala si Joshua Guerrero tulad ko. Sabay kaming lumaki. High school...PMA...Flying School...

CUT TO:

SEQ. 15I: INT. A BEERHOUSE. NIGHT. (FLASHBACK)

Flashback visualization of what Lagaya is narrating. Surreal colors. JERKY STOP-AND-START CAMERA MOTION. Out-of-this world sound and music.

Lagaya and Guerrero in much younger days — deliciously and hilariously drunk as they face a table crowded with bottles of beer. A young, pretty girl sits on Lagaya's lap. Guerrero has his arms around two.

LAGAYA (*V.O., cont.*)

I was wild, pero siya'y mas doble pa sa akin. Tumba na ako sa pagkalasing, si Joshua ay umiinom pa rin. Kung may kasama akong babae, kay Joshua ay dalawa.

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 15J: INT. LAGAYA’S OFFICE.

FAVOR TO Lagaya.

LAGAYA (*Cont.*)

Then, may dumating na babae sa buhay niya — si Sarah.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 15K: EXT. RUSTIC COUNTRY SETTING. DAY (FLASHBACK)

SOFT, GAUZE-FILTERED SHOT. SLOW STRING MUSIC AT BACKGROUND.

A younger Joshua Guerrero and Sarah strolling together in an idyllic country locale — flowers, trees, birds, butterflies — a setting meant for romance. They are so happily in love with one another.

LAGAYA (*V.O., cont.*)

Espesyal na babae ang iyong Mama, kahit noon. Mahal ni Sarah si Joshua — not the wild man that he was, but the good man he could be. Alam mo ‘yung kuwentong “Beauty and the Beast?” Bumait ‘yung Beast dahil sa pag-ibig ni Belle? Same thing. Kaya lang, ang pangalan ni Beauty ay Sarah, ang Beast ay si Joshua.

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 15J: INT. LAGAYA’S OFFICE.

Back to Lagaya and Bulldog.

LAGAYA (*Cont.*)

May kontrabida sa kuwentong ito — isang kapwa namin piloto na may gusto rin kay Sarah. Ang pangalan niya’y Ted Salamanca.

Bulldog starts to stand in angry protest.

BULLDOG

This is bullshit.

LAGAYA (*Barks*)

Sanabagan, Lieutenant! Akala mo’y nagbibiro ako? Maupo ka’t makinig hanggang matapos ako, or I’ll ground you from this mission!

Bulldog obeys, but not very happily.

LAGAYA

Galit ka dahil tinawag kong kontrabida ang Papa mo? Hey, I was being kind. Sa totoo lang, he was a bonafide asshole! Siya ang dahilan kaya hindi nagkatuluyan sina Sarah at Joshua.

(A beat)

Kinumbinse niya ang isang ex-girlfriend ni Joshua. Pinuntahan ng babae si Sarah, sinabing buntis siya at si Joshua ang ama. Naniwala si Sarah. Nagkahiwalay sila ni Joshua, at ang Papa mo ang napangasawa niya.

BULLDOG

Sinungaling ka, Sir. Hindi gagawin ng Papa ko 'yon.

LAGAYA

Oh, yeah? Ibibigay ko sa iyo ang pangalan at address ng babae. Minsang malibre ka, interbyuhin mo. Iko-confirm niya ang papel ng Papa mo sa pandaraya nila. The woman is sterile. Walang anak hanggang ngayon. Imposibleng nadisgrasya siya ni Joshua.

(A beat)

Lumigaya ba naman si Sarah sa piling ng Papa mo? Ikaw ang magsabi sa akin. Ikaw ang kasama nila sa isang bubong. Testigo ka sa madalas na pag-aaway at pananakit. Ikakaila mo ba?

Bulldog remains silent.

LAGAYA

Hindi rin 'yon nalihim kay Joshua —

CUT TO:

SEQ. 15K: INT. AN OFFICE. DAY. (FLASHBACK)

An office room in a military building, to be specific. Again, the poster-like colors and the JERKY CAMERA SHOT would indicate that this is a flashback.

LAGAYA (*V.O., cont.*)

— Binalaan niya si Ted. Sinabing kung hindi niya titigilan ang pang-aabuso kay Sarah, magbabayad si Ted sa kanya.

Guerrero confronts Ted Salamanca. A heated argument follows. We don't need to hear what they're saying to know that angry words are being exchanged. This leads to a fistfight, with Guerrero landing more blows than Ted. The fight is brief, though. Lagaya steps in to stop it.

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 15L: INT. LAGAYA'S OFFICE.

Lagaya and Bulldog.

LAGAYA (*Continues*)

Alam mo na ang mga susunod na kabanata.

CU on Bulldog. He does know what happened next. It's the bad dream he relives over and over again.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 15M: INT. THE SALAMANCA HOME. NIGHT — FLASHBACK.

Replay of an earlier scene. Again, we see what goes on in Bulldog's mind — all in surreal colors.

Young Jake — in his late teens — is looking through the half-open door of his parents' bedroom.

CUT TO: Inside the bedroom from the boy's POV. Ted and Sarah are having a violent argument. We hear their voices in reverb, as if from the past.

Ted slaps Sarah hard, sending her reeling backward.

TED (*Shouts angrily*)

Akala mo'y hindi ko alam na pinagtataksilan n'yo ako ni Joshua?

SARAH (*Shakes her head*) (*Crying*)

Nagkakamali ka..hindi 'yan totoo...

TED

Ano'ng akala mo sa akin, Sarah? Tanga? Ano'ng dapat kong gawin para malimutan mo si Joshua, ha?

He opens a desk drawer and pulls out a pistol. He cocks it. Sarah stares at him wide-eyed, really terrified now.

TED

P'wede kong patayin si Joshua —

(Points gun at Sarah)

P'wede kitang patayin —

Sarah covers her face in fear.

TED

O p'wede kong patayin ang sarili ko —

He points the gun at his head. Sarah rushes to stop him.

SARAH

Ted! Huwag!

But before she could do anything, there is a loud BANG! Ted has pulled the trigger. He falls on the floor lifeless. Sarah screams.

The door opens.

YOUNG JAKE *(Shocked) (Shouts)*

Papa!!!

SARAH

Jake!

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 15N: INT. LAGAYA'S OFFICE.

FAVOR TO Lagaya.

LAGAYA

Sinisi ni Joshua ang sarili niya sa nangyari. Kung hindi siya nakialam, wika niya, hindi siguro namatay ang Papa mo...at hindi nabuwag ang pamilya n'yo. Kusa siyang lumayo kay Sarah. Saan man magkaroon ng giyera o gulo, nag-volunteer siya — sa Mindanao, sa Taiwan, sa Middle East... Parang mayroon siyang death wish. Kaya rin siguro siya bumaling sa Bibliya. Mabigat ang pasanin niya sa kalooban. Naghahanap siya ng peace of mind.

(A beat)

Nagsasabi ako ng totoo, Kid. Ano'ng pakinabang ko kung magsisinungaling ako? Ikaw na'ng nagsabi — Wala akong pakialam sa iyo. You're just another rookie to me. But I do care about my buddy, Joshua Guerrero.

(Beat)

Go on, get out. Mayroon kang trabaho. Ginawa ko na ang akin.

This time, Bulldog seems to be glued to his chair, deep in thought. Reluctantly, he stands up and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 150: INT. THE PILOTS' LOCKER ROOM.

Jezebel is alone in the locker room. She is in the final steps of dressing up for flight. She has just finished zipping up her survival vest, and is now putting on her LPU-9 life preserver — mandatory wear for missions over water.

The door opens and Bulldog enters. He says nothing. Jezebel looks at him curiously and worriedly.

He heads straight for a phone. He pulls a notebook out of his flight suit pocket. It takes him some time to look for a number he has long forgotten. Finally finding it, he punches the numbers on the keypad.

BULLDOG *(Over phone)*

Hello?...Ma?...Si Jake...Hindi ko alam kung saan ko
uumpisahan...Marami tayong dapat pag-usapan —

CUT TO: CU of Jezebel. She is smiling. She's happy for Bulldog, in spite of the tears that are now starting to mist her eyes.

BULLDOG *(Offscreen, continues)*

— Bago ang lahat...gusto kong humingi ng tawad sa paglayo ko sa
iyo...

CUT TO:

SEQ. 16A: INT. THE TOWER. DAY.

SHOOTING FROM INSIDE THE TOWER, with a view of the flightline and runway outside.

Guerrero, Lagaya and two Tower NCOs watch as — on the ground — Bulldog's and Snake's Gripens line up, ready to launch.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 16B: EXT. RUNWAY.

TIGHT SHOT of Bulldog inside his cockpit.

BULLDOG

Tower, Bulldog. Blue Flight requests clearance to take off.

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 16C: INT. TOWER.

Inside the tower.

LAGAYA (*Over comm*)

Blue is clear. Take off when ready. Head 270 and report to
Shotgun on Button 7. Good hunting.

GUERRERO (*To Lagaya*)

Matagal kayong nakakulong sa opisina mo kangina. Ano'ng pinag-
usapan n'yo?

LAGAYA (*Evasively*)

Cobra maneuver.

GUERRERO

Ah!

CUT TO:

SEQ. 16D: EXT. RUNWAY.

FULL SHOT of the Gripens on the runway. The engines are screaming on full afterburner. They're itching to go.

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 16E: INT. TOWER.

Inside the tower. FAVOR TO Guerrero and Lagaya. Guerrero takes out a pocket Bible and reads from it.

GUERRERO

“Maghahari ang kapayapaan sa inyong lupain at walang gagambala sa inyo...Matatakot sa inyo ang inyong mga kaaway at malulupig ninyo sila sa labanan. Sapat na ang lima sa inyo upang talunin ang sandaang kaaway...at ang sandaan para sa sampung libong kaaway. Madali ninyo silang malulupig.”

He notices Lagaya and the NCOs looking at him curiously.

GUERRERO

(Explains)

Leviticus 26.

LAGAYA

*(He is not religious, but he is awed
by the solemnity of the moment)*

Roger that.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 16F: EXT. THE RUNWAY.

FULL SHOT of Bulldog's and Snake's Gripen. The brakes are released. The two planes leap forward and speed down the runway — Bulldog leading.

TRACK ON the planes as they climb, fold their landing gears, and immediately bank right to a preset heading.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 16G: INT. THE TOWER.

FAVOR TO Guerrero and Lagaya.

BULLDOG *(V.O., over tower's speaker)*

Tower, Bulldog. Leaving channel and switching to 7.

LAGAYA (*Over comm*)
Roger, Bulldog.

GUERRERO (*Mutters*)
Go with God, gentlemen.

LAGAYA (*Over comm*)
Red Leader, Tower.

JEZEBEL (*V.O., over tower's speaker*)
Red Leader. Go.

LAGAYA (*Over comm*)
Jez, Hi-Tech, taxi to runway and stand by.

JEZ (*V.O.*)
Tower, that's a rog. Taxiing now.

LAGAYA (*Over comm*)
Yellow Leader, Tower.

MUSTANG (*V.O., over tower's speaker*)
This is Yellow. Go.

LAGAYA (*Over comm*)
Mustang, KitKat, on runway after Red and stand by.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 16H: EXT. HANGARS / RUNWAY.

FULL SHOT and BIRD'S-EYE VIEW of the four Gripens as they leave their individual hangars. They start to taxi to the spot on the runway vacated by Bulldog and Snake.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 17A: EXT. THE SKY.

CAMERA TRACKS ON Bulldog's and Snake's Gripens from behind. They're airborne but still low.

They round a mountain and head for the sea.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filtered*)

Shotgun, Blue Lead checking in. Bulldog and Snake on station.
Feet wet.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 17B: INT. COMMAND AND CONTROL ROOM.

FAVOR TO Gen. Avante and Shotgun. They're looking at the situation map on center screen.

Bulldog and Snake appear as two blips on the map — still too far from the *Yangtze*.

SHOTGUN (*Over comm*)

Bulldog, this is Shotgun. Copy that. Maintain CAP as briefed.
Advise radio and radar silence.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 18A: EXT. THE SKY OVER SOUTH CHINA SEA.

FULL SHOT of Snoopy One, still hovering faithfully up in the sky — its camera still shooting.

PAN AROUND Snoopy — keeping it within frame — until we see its object of interest (the *Yangtze*) in the background.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 18B: EXT. THE SEA.

FULL SHOT of the *Yangtze*.

The attack flight on deck starts taking off. One MiG-29, followed by a second — both zooming by camera with loud BOOMS after leaving the deck.

Two more MiGs are readied for launching on deck. Behind them, two H-7 bombers — the killer punch.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 18C: INT. THE CONTROL ROOM.

Screen #1 shows the attack starting from the *Yangtze*, as seen from Snoopy.

Screen #2 (the “god’s-eye-view” situation map) reflects this development. Two new blips appear on the screen, departing the carrier. A flashing sign also appears at center of this screen: **“BANDITS LAUNCHED.”**

SHOTGUN (*To Avante*) (*Excitedly*)

Yangtze has launched, Sir! One MiG...two. Dalawang MiG pa ang nasa catapult at kasunod ay dalawang Hong-7.

AVANTE (*Deep sigh*)

Okay, they want to play, pagbibigyan natin. Contact Lineball. Prepare to launch decoys.

SEQ. 18D: EXT. A BEACH. SAME DAY.

ESTABLISHING SHOT of a peaceful, pristine, but empty beach. White sand. Coconut grove. It’s a perfect scene for a tourist travel guidebook —

Until CAMERA ZOOMS OUT a bit to include — at foreground — a concrete bunker painted in camouflage pattern. The door of this bunker opens and out of it comes a young Captain. He is

LINEBALL. He surveys the sea and takes in the fresh morning air.

Lasered subtitle appears at bottom of screen:

Capt. REMIL PERLAS
109th Air Defense Squadron
“Lineball”

From inside the bunker, we hear the faint sound of a field phone chirping.

A noncom (BUNKER NCO) comes out, looking for Lineball. The NCO has a worried look on his face.

BUNKER NCO
Skipper, urgent! Shotgun.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 18E: INT. THE BUNKER.

Lineball comes back inside with his NCO and takes the phone.

LINEBALL (*Over phone*)
Lineball...Yes, Sir...Yes, Sir...Copy that!

He flicks a switch on the console. This time, he speaks to his field units.

LINEBALL
All units, this is Lineball. Prepare to launch. I say again: Prepare to launch. This is not a drill. Repeat, this is NOT a drill.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 18F: EXT. THE BEACH.

Lineball and the NCO hurriedly come out of the bunker. At background, a line of about ten military flatbed trucks come out of the grove. Mounted on each truck is a huge device covered by camouflage netting.

The trucks stop as soon as they are out in the open. Soldiers scamper to remove the nettings, and we see now what they have been covering.

They are aircraft decoys on rail launchers — reminiscent of the German V-1 buzz bombs of WW2.

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 18G: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

Shotgun receives a call.

SHOTGUN (*To Avante*)

Decoys ready, Sir.

AVANTE

Alam ba natin ang frequency na ginagamit ng bandit flight?

SHOTGUN

Yes, Sir.

AVANTE

Obligado tayong magbigay ng routine warning, right? Let's do it.
Put me on, please.

SHOTGUN

(*Flicks a switch and hands a microphone to Avante*)

You're on, Sir. Go ahead.

AVANTE (*Over mike*)

To the pilots of the aircraft carrier *Yangtze*... This is Gen. Avante of Battle Group Kanluran. Be advised: You are flying illegally over Philippine territory. Please make your intentions known...or abort your flight and return to your ship.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 18H: EXT. THE SKY.

FULL SHOT of the bandit aircraft flying in tight formation.

A high flight of two MiG-29s out front. A middle flight of two H-7 bombers follows. A low flight of another two MiGs bringing up the rear. Classic escort/bomber/escort formation.

AVANTE (*V.O., filtered*)

I say again... To the pilots of the aircraft carrier *Yangtze*... This is Gen. Avante of Battle Group Kanluran. Be advised: You are flying illegally over Philippine territory...

CUT TO:

SEQ. 18I: EXT. THE SKY.

TIGHT ON the MiG LEADER inside his cockpit. He hears the message.

AVANTE (*V.O., filtered*)

...Please make your intentions known, or abort your flight and return to your ship.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 18J: INT. MALACAÑANG SITUATION ROOM.

The President and the Secretary of Defense — along with others in the room — listen to Avante's repeated warnings over the room's speaker.

AVANTE (*V.O., filt.*)

To the pilots of the *Yangtze*...This is Gen. Avante of Battle Group Kanluran. You are flying illegally over Philippine territory...

SEQ. 18K: EXT. THE SKY.

FULL SHOT OF Bulldog's and Snake's Gripens. They, too, are party to Avante's on-the-air message.

AVANTE (*V.O., filt.*)

...Please make your intentions known...or abort your flight and return to your ship. Acknowledge, please.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 18L: EXT. THE SKY.

FULL SHOT of the bandit planes.

TIGHT ON the MiG Leader inside his cockpit.

MiG LEADER

(*In accented English*)

This is *Yangtze* flight leader. We do not talk to monkeys.

CUT-TO-CUT in quick succession:

- Avante in the Control Room
 - The President in Malacañang
 - Bulldog in his Gripen
- They're all ticked by the rude rebuff.

CUT TO:

TIGHT ON the HONG (BOMBER) LEADER.

HONG LEADER

(In Mandarin) (Amused)

Natahimik, Flight Leader.

CUT TO: MiG Leader.

MiG LEADER

(In Mandarin) (Arrogantly)

Bale-wala ang mga Pilipinong ito. Nakikipagdigma na ang mga ninuno natin, naglalambitin pa sa mga puno ang mga lolo nila.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 18M: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

FAVOR TO Avante.

AVANTE *(Can't believe what he heard)*

Tinawag ba niya akong "unggoy"?

SHOTGUN *(Reluctantly)*

Iyon ang narinig ko, Sir.

AVANTE *(Incensed)*

Biyenan ko lang ang p'wedeng magsabi sa akin ng gano'n. Patch me to Malacañang.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 18N: INT. MALACAÑANG SITUATION ROOM.

A red phone rings. The SecDef picks it up.

SECDEF *(Over phone)*

Sidekick... Yes, Vader, narinig namin sa monitor...

CUT TO:

SEQ. 18O: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

AVANTE

I intend to execute, Sir. I'm informing you, not asking your approval. Do you and the President agree?

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 18P: INT. MALACAÑANG SITUATION ROOM.

SECDEF

Stand by one. *(Covers his mouthpiece) (To President)* Mr. President, itutuloy ni Vader ang intercept. Do you concur?

PRESIDENT *(Musing; faraway look)*

Alam mo, matagal akong contract worker sa Middle East. 'Yung mga kagaya namin — pag nakursunadahan ng mga Arabo — sinisigaw-sigawan...sinasampal...binabatukan. Tiniis namin dahil kami'y dayo lamang. Puwes, narito na tayo sa sarili nating bayan. Hindi na tayo dapat ginagawang kawawa.

(A beat)

Sabihin mo kay Vader, gawin niya ang trabaho niya.

SECDEF *(Over phone)*

Vader! Sabi ni Big Cheese, "Go!" Go, go, go!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 18Q: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

VADER

(Puts the phone down) (All pumped up)

Shit hot! Okay, let's take these bandits out! One, launch decoys! Two, vector Bulldog and Snake to a rear quarter ambush! Three, call Pugadlawin. Launch Red and Yellow to back up! Let's go!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 19A: EXT. THE SKY.

FULL SHOT of Bulldog's and Snake's Gripens.

SHOTGUN (*V.O., filt.*)

Bulldog, this is Shotgun. Vector 315, climb angels 25. Expect tally-ho in 5 minutes, bandits 12 o'clock low and crossing.

Snake slides alongside Bulldog where they can clearly see each other. In lieu of radio talk, they exchange hand signals. Bulldog clenches his fist and does a hacking motion, to mean "Let's separate." Snake acknowledges with a nod, a thumb-up, and a salute.

The two Gripens both climb in separate directions — Bulldog going left, Snake right.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 19B: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

SHOTGUN (*To Avante*)

(*He points at blips representing Blue Flight*)

Bulldog and Snake in battle formation, Sir.

AVANTE

Looking good.

SEQ. 19C: INT. THE TOWER.

LAGAYA (*Over comm*) (*Urgently*)

Red Flight, Yellow Flight, scramble! Instructions in air. Red, head 270 after takeoff . Yellow, 330. Contact Shotgun at 7. Scramble, scramble, scramble!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 19D: EXT. THE RUNWAY.

FULL SHOT of the four remaining Gripens on the runway — engines on and eager to go.

JEZEBEL (*V.O., filt.*)

Red 1, Red 2 copy. Taking off now.

MUSTANG (*V.O., filt.*)

Yellow Flight copy. Will follow.

Brakes are off and the Gripens roar down the runway — Jezebel and Hi-Tech first, followed shortly by Mustang and KitKat. CAMERA TRACKS BEHIND THEM as they lift off the ground, pull up their landing gears, and break right as they climb.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 19E: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

Four new blips appear on the situation map.

JEZEBEL (*V.O., filt.*) (*Over speaker*)
Shotgun, Red Flight checking in. Jezebel and Hi-Tech on station.

MUSTANG (*V.O., filt.*) (*Over speaker*)
Shotgun, Yellow 1 here. Mustang and KitKat airborne.

SHOTGUN
Red 1, Yellow 1, roger. Red, maintain heading. Yellow, vector 45.
Climb to angels 25. Zip radio and radar until judy.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 19E: EXT. THE SKY.

Hi-Tech closes the gap between him and Jezebel. They exchange hand signals to maintain radio silence.

Jezebel makes the same hacking signal we saw from Bulldog earlier, meaning “Let’s spread out.” Hi-Tech replies with an “on-the-money” signal.

The two Gripens split and climb in opposite directions.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 19F: INT. LINEBALL’S BUNKER.

LINEBALL (*Over comm*)
All units, this is Lineball. Launch, launch, launch! I repeat, launch at will!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 19G: EXT. THE BEACH.

The long row of truck launchers. Amid fire and smoke — in sequence from front to rear — the decoys blast off from their rail launchers and zoom to the sky.

CUT TO:

CAMERA TRACKING AHEAD of the decoys. Their rockets take them up, up, up...as they leave the beach farther and farther behind.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 19H: INT. MALACAÑANG SITUATION ROOM.

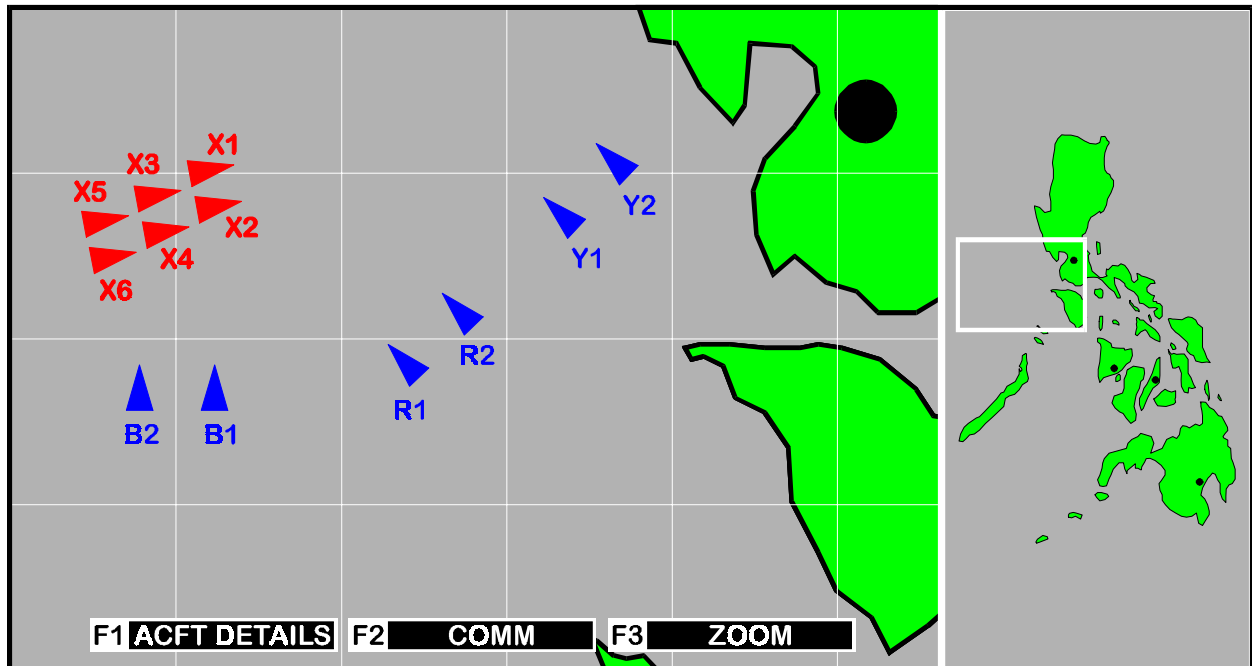
SecDef is giving the President a play-by-play account, while pointing at the figures on the giant screen.

SECDEF

Ito ang Blue Flight, Sir. Bulldog and Snake. Minamaniobra sila ni Shotgun para umatake sa hulihan ng kaaway...sa kanilang blind side.

(A beat)

Ito naman sina Jezebel at Hi-Tech. Red Flight. Mukhang flank attack naman ang gagawin nila.



SECDEF: *"Ito ang Blue Flight, Sir..."*

(Another beat)

Yellow Flight sina Mustang at KitKat. Sa endline sila pupwesto. Sila ang blocking force, sakaling may makakalusot kina Red at Blue.

PRESIDENT

Hindi ba sila nakikita ng kaaway?

SECDEF

They're under orders not to use their radio and radar, Sir...until they're very close. So far ay mukhang hindi pa sila nade-detect ng kaaway.

The President points at ten new blips that appear on the screen — headed for the bandits.

PRESIDENT

Ano naman ang mga ito?

SECDEF

Atin ang mga iyan, Sir. Mga decoys.

PRESIDENT

Decoys? Ano'ng decoys?

CUT TO:

SEC. 19I: EXT. THE SKY.

FULL SHOT: CAMERA TRACKING AHEAD of the bandit flight.

MiG LEADER (*V.O., filt.*) (*In Mandarin*)

Time to target, Bomber 1?

HONG LEADER (*V.O., filt.*) (*In Mandarin*)

Five minutes, Flight Leader.

MiG LEADER (*V.O., filt.*) (*In Mandarin*)

Para tayong namamasyal sa parke. Easy job.

QUICK CUT TO:

ECU of Hong Leader's radarscope. The decoys appear as blips. Still distant (i.e., at the top edge of the scope) but bearing toward the bandit flight.

HONG LEADER (*Alarmed*) (*V.O.*) (*In Mandarin*)
Flight Leader! Bogeys! 12 o'clock! Mukhang isang buong
squadron!

CUT TO:
TIGHT ON MiG Leader.

MiG LEADER (*In Mandarin*)
Nasa range na sila. Fire Amos missiles! Fire at will!

CUT TO:
FULL SHOT of the bandit flight. The MiGs and the Hong's independently fire their Amos
missiles. The missiles streak TOWARD CAMERA, leaving trails of smoke behind.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 19J: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

The situation map shows missiles leaving the bandit flight and zooming toward the decoys.

SHOTGUN (*To Avante*)
Missiles fired, Sir. Mga Amos, palagay ko, considering malayo pa
sila.

AVANTE
Ilan?

SHOTGUN
Mukhang full load nila, Sir.

AVANTE (*Smiles*)
Kumagat. Well, sabi nga, nasa huli ang pagsisisi...

CUT TO:

SEQ. 19K: EXT. THE SKY.

The decoys — in flight.

CUT TO:

The Amos missiles — zooming at Mach 3 speed.

CUT TO:

IMPACT! The Amos missiles find their targets and blast the decoys out of the sky.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 19L: INT. MALACAÑANG SITUATION ROOM.

SecDef and the military men in the room cheer as they see the decoys and the Amos missiles colliding on the screen and disappearing.

SECDEF (*Delighted*)

Yes! Good!

PRESIDENT

Hindi ko maintindihan. Pinasabog nila ang mga eroplano natin, and you say it's "good?"

SECDEF

(*Patiently, like a teacher to a neophyte*)

Sir, gaya ng sinabi ko, they're decoys. Wala silang piloto. Mga glorified kwitis lang, kung бага. We built them for 100 thousand pesos each. On the other hand, ang ginamit ng kaaway ay Amos missiles, costing half a million dollars each. Luging-lugi sila sa palitan, the way I see it.

(*A beat*)

But more important, Sir, wala na silang natitirang long-range missile ngayon. Patas na ang labanan from this point on. Close-in fighting...tulad ng gusto natin!

PRESIDENT

(*Digesting this*)

Tama ka...Good!...Very good!

CUT TO:

SEQ. 20A: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

CU of situation screen: The bandits proceeding toward their target; the fighters of the 21st converging on them.

FAVOR TO Avante and Shotgun.

SHOTGUN

Any minute now, Sir.

AVANTE

Still undetected. Magugulat sila.

The Young Lieutenant of several scenes ago hesitantly calls their attention to the screen he's monitoring — the Snoopy screen.

YOUNG LT.

Ah...excuse me, Sir..?

SHOTGUN

Ano 'yon, Lieutenant?

YOUNG LT. (*Points at screen*)

Sir, sa *Yangtze*...Naghahanda na naman silang mag-launch ng panibago...

CU of Snoopy screen. Six more MiGs are on the deck, being loaded with weapons.

AVANTE (*Mutters*)

Sanabagan!

The red phone rings. Shotgun answers it.

SHOTGUN (*Over phone*)

Yes?...Yes, Sir!...Right away, Sir!

(*Hands phone to Avante*)

General?...Big Cheese.

AVANTE (*Over phone*)

Yes, Mr. President?

(*Beat*) (*Looks at Snoopy screen*)

Yes, Sir, we're looking at it right now. Sa estimate ko, Sir, they can launch a new attack within 15 minutes.

(*Beat*)

We can scramble the 22nd Squadron from Pugad-Agila, Sir. At kung may susunod pang attack, we can scramble the 23rd from Pugad-Palkon. After that, our fighters will have to return to base, reload, refuel, then take off again to intercept. As long as we have planes surviving.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 20B: INT. MALACAÑANG SITUATION ROOM.

ANGLE ON the President and the SecDef.

PRESIDENT (*Over phone*)

General, sa pagkakaintindi ko, mayroon silang apatnapung fighters sa *Yangtze*. Kaya nilang lumaban nang ubusan. Hindi tayo kakagat sa kanilang style. You-attack-with-six, we-counter-with-six...that's bullshit. Mayroon akong suggestion.

(*A beat*)

Tirahin natin ang *Yangtze*! Palubugin ang aircraft carrier. Tapusin na natin ang labanan — right now, hangga't maaga pa!

Silence in the room. Everyone stops what he's doing and looks at the President with awe and respect.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 20C: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

FAVOR TO Avante.

AVANTE (*Over phone*)

Mr. President, 'yan ang gusto kong marinig sa aking Commander-in-Chief. Outstanding idea, Sir! Exactly my sentiments.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 20D: INT. THE TOWER AT PUGADLAWIN.

FAVOR TO Guerrero and Lagaya.

The phone rings. Guerrero picks it up.

GUERRERO (*Over phone*)

Freezer... Yes, General?

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 20E: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

CU on Avante.

AVANTE (*Over phone*)
Freezer, ano ang anti-shipping ordnance mo diyan?

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 20F: INT. TOWER.

FAVOR TO Guerrero.

GUERRERO (*Over phone*)
Mayroon kaming AGM-84, Sir. Harpoon. Luma na, but still usable.

Lagaya's ears perk up when he hears the name of the weapon.

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 20G: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

AVANTE (*Over phone*)
Paano mo ide-deliver?

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 20H: INT. TOWER.

GUERRERO (*Over phone*)
May isa pa kaming F-5 na naka-standby, Sir.

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 20I: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

AVANTE (*Over phone*)
Load. Launch. Instructions after take-off. Go!

SEQ. 20J: INT. TOWER.

Guerrero puts the phone down.

LAGAYA (*To Guerrero*)

Hanip! Big fish!

Guerrero makes one more quick phone call.

GUERRERO (*Over phone*)

Chief? Freezer. Kung kakargahan mo ng Harpoon si Sarah, gaano katagal aabutin?...Ten minutes? Gawin mong five. Papunta na ako diyan.

He puts the phone down and prepares to leave.

LAGAYA (*Stopping him*)

Joshua, ipaubaya mo sa akin ito.

GUERRERO

Mahusay kang piloto, Nick. But you haven't flown this kind of mission before. I have...in the Gulf. Isa pa, may pamilya ka. I got nobody. Maiwan ka dito. Hold the fort. Akin ito.

LAGAYA

(*Nods*) (*Reluctantly offers a handshake*)

Check six, Boss.

Guerrero smiles at his friend and hurriedly leaves.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 21A: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

FAVOR TO Shotgun, speaking over comm.

SHOTGUN (*Over comm*)

All flights, this is Shotgun. Weapons tight! Expect to eyeball bandits any minute. On tally, you are free to judy.

CUT TO:

CU of situation map screen. Shotgun is right. All flights are now very close to striking distance of the bandits — Blue Flight from behind, Red Flight from the side, Yellow from the front.

SHOTGUN (*V.O.*)

I say again, weapons tight! On visual, engage and destroy at will!

CUT TO:

SEQ. 21B: EXT. THE SKY.

Inside Bulldog's cockpit, CAMERA SHOOTING OVER his helmet, looking ahead.

We see the bandit flight out front, still unaware of the approaching interceptors. Bulldog has selected his target — a MiG-29 positioned at the low rear end. Bulldog is attacking fast.

BULLDOG

Tally ho! Bulldog engaging!

CUT TO:

CAMERA TRACKING AHEAD OF the two low MiG escorts. At background, Bulldog's Gripen slides into view behind his target.

We hear the loud and clear tone of Bulldog's missile locking on his target.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Lock on! Fox Two!

Bulldog fires a Sidewinder missile. It zooms into one of the MiGs. BOOM! The MiG erupts in a fireball.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*) (*Excitedly*)

Target destroyed!



BULLDOG: *"Tally-ho! Bulldog engaging!...Fox Two!"*

The other MiG frantically breaks away.

CUT TO:

TIGHT ON Snake in his cockpit.

SNAKE

Snake engaging!

CUT TO:

CAMERA SHOOTING THROUGH Snake's HUD. He's chasing the other MiG.

Solid tone as Snake locks on to his target. At the same time, a sign flashes on his HUD: "TGT ACQ."

SNAKE

Snake has tone! Fox Two!

CAMERA TAKES Snake's POV. A Sidewinder missile leaves his plane and flies to his target. The MiG makes one last try to evade but it's useless. The missile follows the heat of his engine. ANOTHER BLAST! The MiG goes to pieces.

SNAKE (*Excitedly*)

Good kill! Good kill! Splashed one MiG!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 21C: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

FAVOR TO Avante and Shotgun. The whole room erupts in cheers.

AVANTE (*To Shotgun*)

All right! Two down!

CUT TO:

SEQ. 21D: EXT. THE SKY.

CU of Jezebel inside her cockpit.

JEZEBEL

Red engaging. Bulldog, Snake, amin ang dalawang Hong. Sa inyo ang natitira pang mga MiG.

CUT TO:

FULL SHOT of the bandits. The two remaining MiG escorts (high and out front) scatter to put up a fight. The two Hong bombers stay on course.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Jez, that's a rog. Wow! Parang putakting binulabog!

One of the Hongs suddenly jettisons his bomb and breaks away — indicating he too intends to dogfight to protect his partner. This now leaves only the Hong Leader committed to the bombing mission.

JEZEBEL (*V.O., filt.*)

Hi-Tech! Kunin mo 'yung breakaway! Hahabulin ko 'yung leader!

HI-TECH (*V.O., filt.*)

Copy, Jez.

CUT TO:

FULL SHOT. Hi-Tech pursues the breakaway Hong-7. He does not notice that a MiG has now entered scene and is pursuing *him*!

SNAKE (*V.O., filt.*)
Hi-Tech! Check six! MiG kasunod mo!

CUT TO:

TIGHT ON Hi-Tech in his cockpit. He looks back. Snake is right. There's a big bad MiG after his ass.

HI-TECH
Shit! Snake, switch! Sa iyo ang Hong! Iilagan ko itong MiG!

CUT TO:

FULL SHOT. Hi-Tech breaks hard left and jinks to get away from his pursuer. But the MiG keeps after him.

CUT TO:

CU of Snake in his cockpit.

SNAKE
Bandit at 12!

CUT TO:

CU of Snake's radarscope from his POV. It shows a blip directly ahead of him and coming fast at him on a direct collision course!

SNAKE
Anak ng pating! Babanggain niya ako!

CUT TO:

The bandit in question. It's the breakaway Hong — coming STRAIGHT AT CAMERA.

CUT TO:

TIGHT ON Snake.

SNAKE
Ako'ng tatakutin mo? Ako'ng umimbento ng "chicken," gago!
Fox Three!

CUT TO:

CU of Snake's gun firing.

CUT TO:

The Hong. Snake's tracer bullets miss it. But this is enough to disconcert the bandit. He breaks away, avoiding a crash with Snake. Snake turns expertly, then positions himself at the tail of the Hong.

CUT TO:

CU of Snake. There's the sweet sound of a lock-on tone.

SNAKE

Fox Two!

CUT TO:

FULL SHOT of the Hong. Snake's Sidewinder flies true and deadly. BOOM! The Hong explodes to pieces.

SNAKE (*V.O., filt.*) (*Highly-charged*)

Yeah! Hong destroyed! Snake has two!

CUT TO:

CU of Hi-Tech. He keeps looking back at the MiG chasing him.

HI-TECH

May MiG pa rin ako sa six! Hanip! Ayaw akong tigilan!

CUT TO:

FULL SHOT of Hi-Tech's plane and the pursuing MiG.

The MiG opens fire with his gun. Hi-Tech climbs sharply, avoiding the bullets. The MiG overshoots. Hi-Tech attempts to maneuver behind. But the MiG copies his move, starting a cycle that Hi-Tech hates so much —

CUT TO:

CU of Hi-Tech.

HI-TECH

Oh, no! Rolling scissors!

LAGAYA (*V.O.*) (*Echo*)

Hi-Tech! Ang pinaka-grabeng sitwasyon na pwede mong kalagyan ay ang "rolling scissors" — tulad ng nangyari sa atin. Break off early, before you get caught in a game of chicken. Many times, there are no winners. Walang gustong mag-quit, so they both crash and burn.

CUT TO:

FULL SHOT. Hi-Tech quits the scissors early, before it could get worse. He sees a thick cumulus cloud bank nearby and heads for it — the MiG after him.

SNAKE (*V.O., filt.*)

Hi-Tech! Hinahabol ka pa rin!

HI-TECH (*V.O., filt.*)

Heading for cloud cover!

CUT TO:

The cloud bank. It's so huge and dense it looks like a giant white cotton candy in the sky.

Hi-Tech's plane enters the cloud bank, as if swallowed by it. The MiG follows a split second after. They both disappear from our view.

CAMERA TRACKS the whole length of the cloud. At the end, it's the MiG that first comes out of the cloud. Hi-Tech comes out next. We don't know what trick he did while inside the cloud, but Hi-Tech is now in the position of the hunter.

HI-TECH (*V.O., filt.*)

Hey! Ponga! Ako ba'ng hinahanap mo?

A solid tone is heard. Missile lock!

HI-TECH (*V.O., filt.*)

Fox Two! *Sai-jinn*, asshole!

A Sidewinder flies from Hi-Tech's plane. BLAM! The MiG doesn't have a prayer.

Hi-Tech does a victory roll.

HI-TECH (*V.O., filt.*)

Hoo-wah! Good kill!

CUT TO:

SEQ. 21E: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

FULL SHOT. Again, Avante, Shotgun, and their people break into cheers, claps and whistles.

SHOTGUN

All right, Hi-Tech!

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 21F: EXT. THE SKY.

SHOOTING FROM INSIDE Bulldog's cockpit, over his helmet, looking forward at the MiG he's chasing. It's the Mig Leader.

The MiG turns hard — better than Bulldog's Gripen can. Bulldog knows he's going to lose him.

BULLDOG

Switching to gun.

He hears a weak tone.

BULLDOG

Firing! Fox Three!

CLOSE UP of Bulldog's gun spewing out rounds.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON the MiG — still turning. Bulldog's rounds whiz by the bandit harmlessly.

CUT BACK TO:

Bulldog. CAM INSIDE HIS COCKPIT, SHOOTING OVER HIS HELMET.

BULLDOG

Missed!

(Beat) (Labored breathing as he turns hard to keep up with the MiG)

Mahusay siyang lumiko...Makakawala siya...

(Beat)

Pulling high G's...seven G's...eight...

SNAKE (V.O., *filt.*)

Bulldog! Ingat sa G-LOC!

CUT TO:

CU of Bulldog. CAMERA HAS EXAGGERATED TILT, to suggest hard and sharp turn that Bulldog's plane is making.

GUERRERO (*V.O.*) (*Echo*)

Control the situation. Don't get suckered. Don't fight the way the enemy wants you to fight. Make *him* fight according to your terms. Copy?

BULLDOG

Disengaging!

CAMERA QUICKLY rotates to level. Bulldog has decided to quit the turn.

FULL SHOT of Bulldog's Gripen breaking away. The MiG seizes the opportunity to turn the tables. It positions itself behind Bulldog's Gripen.

CUT TO:

CU of Bulldog, looking back every now and then at the pursuing bandit.

BULLDOG

MiG at my six!

Warning tone on his headset.

BULLDOG

Naka-lock siya sa akin!

FULL SHOT. CAMERA TRACKING AHEAD of Bulldog's Gripen and the MiG behind him. The MiG fires a missile.

BULLDOG (*V.O.*, *filt.*)

Tinira niya ako ng missile! Shooting flare! Shooting flare!

Bulldog releases several high-temperature and luminous flares — countermeasures to heat-seeking missiles. The MiG's missile is fooled by these flares and — instead of following the Gripen — is diverted and explodes away from Bulldog's plane.

BULLDOG (*V.O.*, *filt.*)

Hanip! This guy is good!

Bulldog is still turning — the MiG still following but much too fast. A mistake. Bulldog executes a “high G barrel roll” — something like a roll around the axis while turning...or Mr. Miyagi's “wax-on, wax-off” motion. The MiG flies past him. Bulldog is back in the position of pursuer!

Folks, we are watching the duel of two highly-skilled, acrobatic fighter pilots! A nip-and-tuck contest. No quarters asked or given. Too close to call.

But just as Bulldog is beading for a shot, the MiG suddenly stalls in mid-air and does what Bulldog has been warned about — the “*cobra!*” Effective. Bulldog overshoots. The MiG recovers and gives chase. A reversal of roles once more.

CU of Bulldog, looking behind him.

BULLDOG

Shit! Cobra!

CU of MiG Pilot.

MiG LEADER (*In accented English*)

Good fight, Filipeen. But now I must kill you.

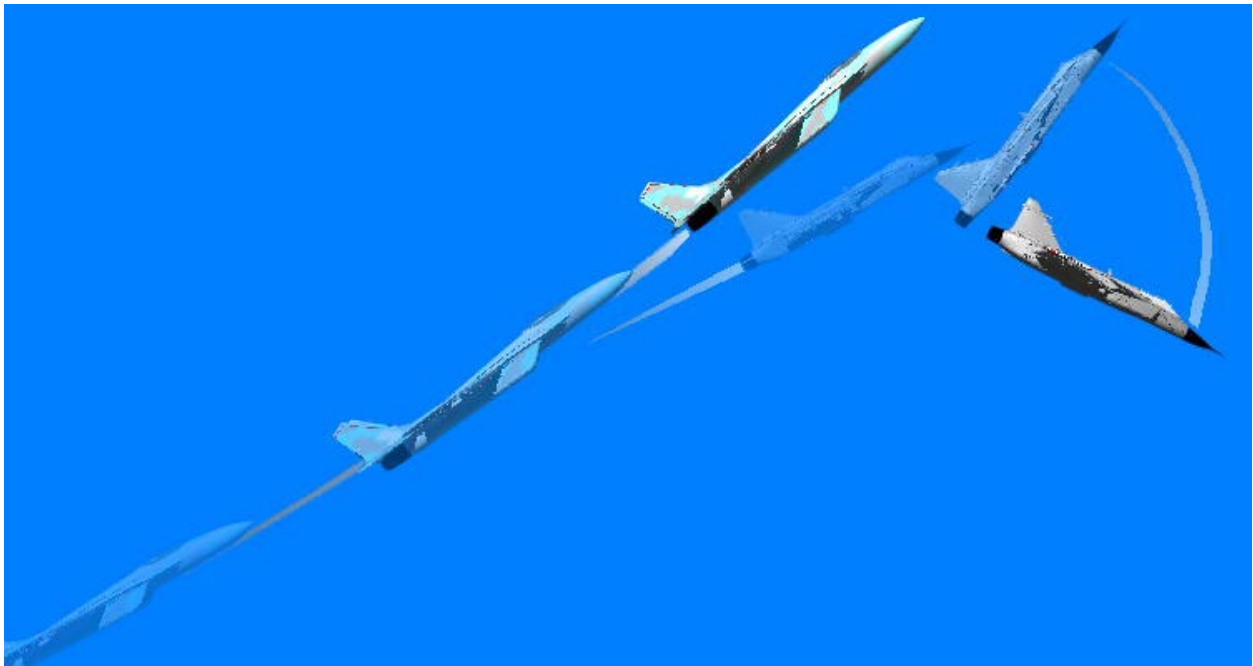
Clear and solid tone of a missile lock-on.

FULL SHOT. Before the MiG could fire, Bulldog — in a surprise move — does his *own* “cobra!”

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

No way, man! Akala mo, ikaw lang ang marunong?

The maneuver works. The MiG zooms past. The missile lock is broken. Bulldog gets back to the fight — again as pursuer.



BULLDOG: “Akala mo, ikaw lang ang marunong?”

CU of MiG Pilot, frantically looking back. He can't believe it, he thought only MiGs could do the "cobra." He doesn't know how to counter it.

CU of Bulldog.

BULLDOG

Sorry, Mister. Walang uwian.

Good tone! Bulldog has target lock!

BULLDOG

Fox Two!

FULL SHOT of Bulldog's plane, CAMERA TRACKING AHEAD of it. Sidewinder missile is fired. It zooms fast TOWARD AND PAST CAMERA.

CUT TO:

FULL SHOT of fleeing MiG. The missile overtakes it. KABOOM! Bulldog is right — it's not going home.

TIGHT ON Bulldog, watching the flaming remains of the MiG falling to the sea.

BULLDOG (*Very businesslike*)

Shotgun, MiG destroyed. Bulldog has two.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 21G: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

REACTION SHOT. Again, the room erupts in wild hurrahs. Shotgun holds up a hand, indicating "five down."

AVANTE (*Hushing them*)

Okay, okay, quiet! One more to go! At siya ang maydala ng big bomb!

CUT TO:

SEQ. 21H: EXT. THE SKY.

FULL SHOT. Jezebel's Gripen going after the Hong-7 bomber. Both are in full afterburner.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 21I: INT. MALACAÑANG SITUATION ROOM.

TIGHT ON President and SecDef. Both are looking at situation map screen.

SECDEF (*Muttering*)

Come on, Jezebel. Tapusin mo na. Malapit na siya sa amin.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 21J: EXT. THE SKY.

CU of Jezebel.

She hears the tone of her missile locking on.

JEZEBEL

Good tone! Firing! Fox Two!

FULL SHOT of Gripen and Hong. Jezebel's Sidewinder missile seems to be flying straight and true. But at the last moment, the Hong jinks and releases flares for countermeasure. The missile is fooled and explodes ineffectively away from the Hong.

JEZEBEL (*V.O., filt.*) (*Angrily*)

Missed! Resuming chase!

CUT TO:

SEQ. 21K: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

ANGLE ON Avante and Shotgun, looking at the situation map screen.

AVANTE

He's crazy! Cornered siya —

CU of the screen they are looking at. The bandit is, as Avante observed, flying into a trap. Four blips form a letter "Y" — the Hong at center, Jezebel at 6 o'clock, Mustang at 10, and KitKat at 2. The "Y" is getting more and more compressed, as the three Gripens close in for the kill.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 21L: EXT. THE SKY.

CU of Hong Leader. A growl is heard over his headset — a clear and unmistakable warning.

CU of his radarscope from his POV. He sees the same “Y” pattern and realizes he’s in deep trouble, without any chance of escaping. A red light on his panel flashes a warning. He has been targeted.

CU of Jezebel. She has tone.

JEZEBEL

Give it up, man!

CU of Mustang. He too has tone.

MUSTANG

Saan ka pupunta, Akong?

CU of KitKat. Her tone is solid.

KITKAT

Checkmate! Resign!

CU of the Hong Leader — arrogant and defiant up to the very end. He lifts his visor and tears away at his oxygen mask.

HONG LEADER (*Shouts*)

Die, monkeys!!!

TRIPLE-SPLIT-SCREEN. Jezebel, Mustang and Kitkat — all in CLOSE-UP.

JEZEBEL / MUSTANG / KITKAT

(*Almost simultaneously*)

Fox Two!

FULL SHOT of the Hong. Three missiles zoom into it from different directions. Three explosions almost at the same time — plus the Hong’s bomb — create a gigantic fireball! The Hong simply evaporates!

MUSTANG (*V.O., filt.*)

You die, asshole.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 21M: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

Another pandemonium. The Young Lieutenant pulls down his banner from the wall and points at the part which says “THIS TIME WE WIN.”

Avante and Shotgun receive handshakes from everybody.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 21N: EXT. THE SKY.

The six Gripens are re-assembling together — Bulldog taking point.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Shotgun, this is Bulldog. All bandits destroyed. Blue Flight has zero Sidewinders, half gun load. Fuel close to bingo.

JEZEBEL (*V.O., filt.*)

Red Flight has one Sidewinder, full gun load. Fuel almost bingo.

MUSTANG (*V.O., filt.*)

Yellow has two Sidewinders, full gun load. Fuel at three-quarter.

SEQ. 21O: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

ANGLE ON Avante and Shotgun.

AVANTE (*Over comm*)

All flights, this is Vader. Blue and Red, return to base. Re-arm, re-fuel, await further orders. Yellow, maintain CAP until relieved.

(*Beat*)

Way to go, people!

Another round of cheers from everyone in the room.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 22A: INT. MALACAÑANG SITUATION ROOM.

SAME EUPHORIC ATMOSPHERE at the Presidential side. The President and the SecDef congratulate their staff and each other.

FAVOR TO a red hotline telephone at foreground. The phone rings. The President and the SecDef look at it. The SecDef picks it up.

SECDEF (*Over phone*)

Sidekick. (*Beat*) Okay, thank you.

(*Puts phone down*) (*To President*)

Sir, nasa labas si Ambassador Lee. Gusto kang makausap.

PRESIDENT (*Laughs mildly*)

Parang pulis sa pelikula. Pag malapit nang mag-“The End,” saka darating.

(*Beat*)

Ikaw na’ng humarap, Mario. Baka hindi ako makapagpigil, malimutan kong Presidente ako.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 22B: INT. RECEIVING ROOM IN MALACAÑANG.

A tense and worried Ambassador Lee waits all alone in the receiving room.

The door opens and the SecDef walks in. The Ambassador rises quickly and walks hurriedly to offer the SecDef a handshake.

CUT-TO-CUT as appropriate.

SECDEF (*Cordially*)

Ambassador Lee! How are you today? We were sorry to hear that you have been — indisposed — lately. Please have a seat.

AMBASSADOR

Mr. Secretary, I *must* speak to the President!

SECDEF

Oh, I’m sorry, Sir. The President himself is — indisposed — at the moment. How can we help you?

AMBASSADOR

I came here as fast as I could to warn you.

SECDEF

About what, Sir?

AMBASSADOR

My superiors informed me... A military commander in our Southern District — without authorization — sent our aircraft carrier, the *Yangtze*, here to attack you.

SECDEF

But that's an act of war, Sir! Why would he do that?

AMBASSADOR

I don't know the details, Sir. But I assume it is intended to — “convince” you — to release the crew of the *Changwu*. The commander has been arrested, of course.

SECDEF

Truly regrettable, Sir. We just shot down six of your fighters. If you had come a few minutes earlier...you could have saved those planes. And now...you may lose the *Yangtze* itself. You don't want your superiors to blame you for that.

The Ambassador's small eyes widen in shock.

SECDEF

We'd like to believe this is all a mistake. But first we'd like to see the *Yangtze* stop dead in the water — right now — and remove all aircraft from her deck. Then we'd like to see her turn back and leave Philippine waters immediately.

(*Beat*)

There's a hotline telephone in the next room. I'm sure you have satellite links with your superiors...and with the *Yangtze*. Please make it happen, Mr. Ambassador.

(*Rises to shake hands*)

You know what? Just this morning, I was planning to recommend to the President...to drop all charges against the crew of the *Changwu*...and let them go home. All in the interest of the friendship between our countries, of course.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 23A: EXT. THE SKY.

FULL SHOT. Guerrero's F-5 enroute to its target — the Harpoon anti-shiping missile prominently suspended from its belly pylon.

CUT TO:

CU of Guerrero inside the cockpit.

SHOTGUN (*V.O., filt.*)

Freezer, Shotgun. You are within range now. Weapons tight!
Launch at will.

GUERRERO

Roger, Shotgun. Radar on.

CUT TO:

ECU of multifunction display (MFD) on the F-5 cockpit panel. It shows the symbol of the plane with a flashing missile at center. Flashing text also appears: **"AG84 ARM."**

GUERRERO (*V.O.*)

Harpoon armed.

Lock-on tone is heard — weak at first but getting stronger.

CUT BACK TO:

Guerrero in CU.

GUERRERO

Target acquired. Commencing run. Lalapit pa ako para sigurado.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 23B: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

CU of situation map screen. It shows a blip (Guerrero's F-5) heading straight for the *Yangtze*.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM SHOT FAVORING Avante and Shotgun, looking at the screen.

Nearby hotline phone rings. Avante gets the call.

AVANTE (*Over phone*)

Vader... Yes, Mr. President? (*Beat*) Say again, Sir?... Pero, Sir, compromised na siya! He has broken radio and radar silence.

Bistado na nila ang kanyang location! *(Beat)* Yes, Mr. President.
Right away, Sir. *(Puts phone down)*

Avante grabs the comm, aware that the others in the room are looking at him inquiringly.

AVANTE *(Over comm) (Urgently)*
Freezer, this is Vader. Weapons hold! Abort mission!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 23C: EXT. THE SKY.

CU of Guerrero in cockpit.

AVANTE *(Cont.) (V.O., filt.)*
Repeat, weapons hold! Return to base! Abort, abort! Acknowledge!

GUERRERO
Copy, Vader. Holding weapons. Aborting.

ECU of MFD. Flashing weapon signal goes off.

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 23D: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

TIGHT ON Avante and Shotgun.

SHOTGUN
(To Avante) (Aware of possible tragic consequence)
Sir...pinahamak natin siya.

An angry Avante could only sigh deeply in reply.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 23E: EXT. THE SEA.

FULL SHOT, bird's-eye view, of destroyer escort in *Yangtze's* group.

There's a big puff of smoke on the deck. A surface-to-air missile (SAM) has been launched. It flies closer and closer TOWARD CAMERA.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 23F: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

The SAM appears as a new blip on the screen. A warning message flashes: “SAM LAUNCH.”

YOUNG LT. (*To Avante*)

Sir! Surface-to-air missile! Galing sa destroyer nila!

AVANTE (*Urgently, over comm*)

Freezer! SAM! Ikaw ang target! Evade! Evade!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 23G: EXT. THE SKY.

The F-5 as it is making a 180-degree turn to return to base.

A consistent growl lets us know that the SAM has a “fix” on Guerrero’s plane.

AVANTE (*V.O., filt.*)

Idispatsa mo ang load mo, Freezer! Para gumaan ka!

Guerrero jettisons the Harpoon. With excess weight gone, the F-5 climbs higher than before.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 23H: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

CU of the situation map screen. Focus on two blips: the fleeing F-5 and the SAM (traveling much faster at Mach 3) rapidly closing in.

TIGHT ON Avante and Shotgun, eyes fixed on the screen.

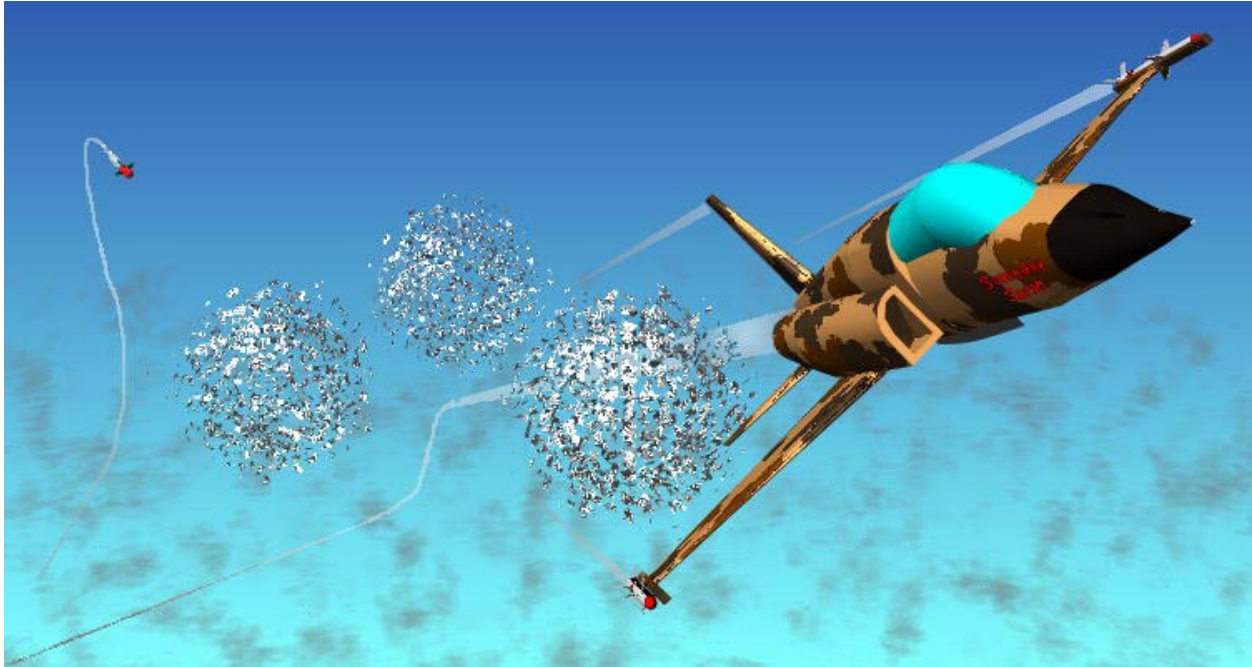
AVANTE (*Muttering*)

Come on, Freezer. Kaya mo...kaya mo...

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 23I: EXT. THE SKY.

CAMERA TRACKING AHEAD of the F-5. The SAM is visible now at background, leaving a trail of flame and smoke behind it, getting closer and closer.



GUERRERO: “*Shooting chaff! Shooting chaff!*”

GUERRERO (*V.O., filt.*)

Shooting chaff...shooting chaff...

Canisters eject from the F-5. These explode into clouds of metallic foil particles, meant to fool the SAM. For a while, the SAM is diverted this way and that way among the clouds of chaff. But the countermeasures do not work. It’s a newer-type, “smarter” SAM — able to distinguish false targets from the real. It gets past the chaff and acquires the F-5 again.

CUT TO:

CU of Guerrero. He lifts his visor to see more clearly.

GUERRERO (*Looking back at SAM*)

No effect! No effect! Last resort! Sasalubungin ko head-on!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 23J: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

TIGHT ON Avante and Shotgun.

SHOTGUN

Ha?! Naloloko ba siya?

AVANTE

Alam niya'ng ginagawa niya.

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 23K: EXT. THE SKY.

The F-5 climbs high, then does an Immelman turn.

CUT TO:

POV from the F-5, charging at the SAM head-on — 100 meters away, 50, 20 —

QUICK CUT TO:

A fraction of a second before impact, the F-5 breaks away hard and ejects more chaff. The SAM's high speed becomes its liability. At that close distance, the missile could not make a hard turn fast enough. It explodes into the cloud of chaff.

Although the F-5 does not take a direct hit, the proximity of the blast affects it just the same.

The concussion sends the F-5 rolling and spinning downward...downward...out of control.

CUT TO:

Guerrero in CU. The canopy is cracked like there are spider webs all over it — Guerrero can't see out. One eye is shut and bloody. Flashing lights and warning sounds going on all at the same time. The plane is spinning round and round.

GUERRERO

Freezer hit! Mayday! Mayday!

QUICK CUT TO:

SEQ. 23L: EXT. THE SKY.

FULL SHOT of Blue and Red Flights on the way back to the base — just about to go “feet dry.”

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

May trouble si Freezer!

CU of Bulldog in cockpit.

BULLDOG

Shotgun, Bulldog responding to mayday call.

SHOTGUN (*V.O., filt.*)

Go, Bulldog. Snake, take over.

CUT TO:

Bulldog's Gripen leaving the formation.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 23M: EXT. THE SKY.

Guerrero's F-5 — still spinning and going down. The engines have flamed out.

AVANTE (*V.O., filt.*)

Freezer! Eject! Eject!

TIGHT ON Guerrero inside the cockpit. Alarms still going on like crazy. Half-blind, he feels for the seat eject handle and pulls it. No response. A few more attempts fail.

GUERRERO

Escape system does not respond. Repeat, bailout not possible.
Susubukan kong maka-recover sa spin.

He fights the joystick hard. A sharp pain would sometimes make him let go and scream in pain — a fractured rib somewhere.

GUERRERO

Come on, Sarah! Kaya natin ito! Kaya natin ito!

TOP SHOT of the rotating plane. The sea below is zooming up closer and closer.

CU of Guerrero.

GUERRERO

One more time, baby! Go!

ECU of engine exhaust. The afterburner catches. A blast from a single working engine. Goes out. Catches again, and sustains power.

The F-5 stops spinning, perhaps only 300 feet above the water. It stabilizes and begins a slow and steady climb.

GUERRERO

Good work, Sarah. That's my baby.

He feels for a switch and turns the alarms off.

GUERRERO

Shotgun, Freezer. Regaining control.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 23N: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

FAVOR TO Avante and Shotgun. Cheers of relief among the Control Room crowd.

SHOTGUN (*Over comm*)

Freezer, Shotgun. Ano'ng status mo?

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 23O: EXT. THE SKY.

CU of Guerrero.

GUERRERO

One engine out. Bitak-bitak ang canopy. Outside visibility zero. Hindi ko alam kung may outside damage. Flaps working, pero matigas...lumalaban. Life support system, minimal. Mahina ang oxygen. Mahina ang AC.

CU OF instrument panel from Guerrero's POV. Some dials are dead.

GUERRERO (*V.O.*)

Electrical system may be partially dead. Hindi ko sigurado kung maaasahan ko ang instruments ko.

CU of Guerrero.

SHOTGUN (*V.O., filt.*)

Ikaw, Freezer? Ang status mo ang gusto naming malaman.

GUERRERO

Well...para akong binangga ng pison, sa totoo lang. Bulag ang isang mata, may bubog ng salamin. Posibleng may busted rib din. Hindi ko rin maikilos nang husto ang kaliwang paa ko.

SEQ. 23P: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

TIGHT ON Avante and Shotgun. They confer for a few seconds.

SHOTGUN (*Over comm*)

Freezer, iga-guide ka namin sa pinakamalapit na Philippine Navy ship. Pag nagtagpo kayo, you can ditch your plane in the water. Ire-rescue ka nila as fast as possible.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 23Q: EXT. THE SKY.

CU of Guerrero.

GUERRERO

Ano'ng pinakamalapit na Navy ship, Shotgun?

CUT BACK TO:

SEQ. 23R: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

Shotgun looks up at the situation map screen — focusing on a blip in the shape of a ship.

SHOTGUN (*Over comm*)

Ramon Magsaysay. About 250 clicks mula sa iyo.

GUERRERO (*V.O., over speaker*)

Fifteen minutes flight. Hindi ko alam kung tatagal nang gano'n ang fuel ko. (*A beat*) Okay, Shotgun, bigyan mo ako ng heading.

SHOTGUN (*Over comm*)

Vector 300, Freezer. Maintain altitude.

AVANTE (*To Shotgun*)

You are assuming na hindi malakas ang alon sa rendezvous point. You are assuming na hindi siya sasabog paghampas niya sa tubig. You are assuming na lulutang siya at hindi agad lulubog...at makakasaklolo agad sa kanya ang *Magsaysay*.

SHOTGUN (*Off the comm*)

Frankly, Sir, I'm assuming na may mangyayaring milagro. We don't have any other options, Sir.

Avante pounds his fist on the table helplessly.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 23S: EXT. THE SKY.

FULL SHOT of Guerrero's F-5 as it turns slightly to take the direction given.

CU of Guerrero.

GUERRERO (*Fighting to remain conscious*)

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul...Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me..."

Again, FULL SHOT of the F-5. It rocks slightly now and then as Guerrero borders between consciousness and sleep.

Bulldog's Gripen enters frame and slides close to the F-5.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Freezer, Bulldog.

CU of Guerrero.

GUERRERO (*Snapping out of stupor*)

Hey, hotshot! Nasaan ka?

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Three-o'clock, Freezer.

Looking out his cracked cockpit, Guerrero could see the dim shape of the Gripen.

GUERRERO

Ibang Shepherd and inaasahan ko...pero p'wede ka na rin.

(*A beat*)

Two kills! Good work, Kid!

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Mahusay ang teacher ko.

GUERRERO

Kid, kung hindi ko malalampasan ito...sabihin mo sa Mama mo —

BULLDOG (V.O., *filt.*) (*Interrupts*)
Ikaw ang magsabi sa kanya, Freezer...anuman iyon.

(*A beat*)

Pugadlawin pa rin ang pinakamalapit na base, Colonel. Gusto mong subukan nating mag-buddy-landing? Sasabihin ko sa iyo ang gagawin, sumunod ka lang.

GUERRERO

Negative! Tumawag ka na ng bingo kangina. Mauubusan ka na rin ng fuel. Iwan mo na ako.

BULLDOG (V.O., *filt.*)

Nagsinungaling ako. I got enough. Come on, Freezer! Basta mo na lang itatapon si Sarah sa dagat?

GUERRERO (*Hesitantly*)

Sigurado kang magagawa natin?

BULLDOG (V.O., *filt.*)

Piece of cake.

GUERRERO

Shotgun, Freezer. Paki-cancel ang date ko sa Navy ship mo. Babalik kami sa Pugadlawin.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 23T: INT. CONTROL ROOM.

FAVOR TO Avante and Shotgun.

SHOTGUN (*Over comm*)

Sigurado ka, Freezer?

FREEZER (V.O., *over speaker*)

Sabi ng bata ko, kaya namin. May tiwala ako sa kanya.

Shotgun looks at Avante, who nods approval.

SHOTGUN (*Over comm*)

Okay. Kokontakin ko ang Pugadlawin. Sasabihin kong maghanda sila for an emergency landing. Bulldog, call the shot. Good luck sa inyong dalawa!

CUT TO:

SEQ. 23U: EXT. THE SKY.

FULL SHOT of the F-5 and the Gripen side-by-side.

CU of Bulldog.

BULLDOG

Mali ang heading natin, Freezer. Papalayo tayo sa base. On three,
let's turn 30 degrees to the right. Ready?

FULL SHOT of the two planes.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

One...and two...and turn!

Like dancing partners, the two planes make a synchronized turn. It's like two machines doing a graceful ballet.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Hoo-wah! No sweat!

CUT TO:

SEQ. 24A: EXT. TOWER / HANGAR / RUNWAY AREAS.

CU of tower klaxon, sounding off a continuous and urgent alarm.

Lagaya gets out of Ops Building, running. A driver in an open Humvee is waiting for him. He jumps into it. Snake, Jezebel and Mustang — all just recently landed — come hurriedly and get into his Humvee too.

They drive off to join a small convoy of vehicles proceeding at top speed down the runway — a fire truck, an ambulance, a pickup truck with the Chief and his maintenance crew — all ready to assist the incoming crippled F-5.

SEQ. 25B: EXT. THE SKY.

FULL SHOT of Guerrero's F-5 and Bulldog's Gripen. Bulldog is now at 6 o'clock and a bit above — like a babysitter trailing behind a toddler. CAMERA TRACKS BEHIND AND SLIGHTLY ABOVE THEM as well. FAVOR TO the Gripen.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Looking good, Freezer. Naaaninaw mo na siguro na malapit na tayo sa lupa?

CU of Guerrero.

GUERRERO (*Peering forward with great effort*)

Heto na tayo sa mahirap na parte, ha?

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Akala ko, “basically optimistic” ka?

GUERRERO

Nu'ng sinabi ko 'yon, hindi pa ako pinuputukan ng SAM.

Warning light flashes, accompanied by urgent sound.

GUERRERO

Bingo warning.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Bawasan mo ang throttle mo. Aabot tayo sa natitira mong juice.

CUT BACK TO:

FULL SHOT. They cross land.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Feet dry, Freezer. Homestretch. Iikutan natin ang bundok. Slow turn, 15 degrees sa kanan. Ready?...Now!...And hold!

They turn round the seaside mountain. After a few moments of turning, the runway comes to view at background.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Okay...level...now! Pugadlawin straight ahead!

The planes quit the turn and level off — lining up directly with the runway.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 25C: EXT. THE RUNWAY.

FULL SHOT of the welcome party at the end of the runway — all looking anxiously up at the sky. Their vehicles are parked at the roadside. The runway is clear.

TIGHT ON Lagaya.

LAGAYA (*Pointing up*)

Heto na sila!

CUT TO:

SEQ. 25D: EXT. THE SKY.

REVERSE SHOT, this time FAVORING THE F-5.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Gear down, Freezer.

CU of the F-5 belly. The wheels swing down to position and lock.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 25E: EXT. THE RUNWAY.

CUT-TO-CUT. The waiting team — all looking tense, some muttering silent prayers.

- Lagaya
- The pilots — Jezebel with fingers crossed behind her
- The Chief and his maintenance crew
- The FIREMEN in flameproof suit, beside their fire truck
- The DOCTOR and the AMBULANCE DRIVER, beside their ambulance

SEQ. 25F: EXT. THE SKY.

REVERSE SHOT, FAVORING THE GRIPEN again. They are slowly descending now.

The F-5 is slightly off to the right of the runway.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Kaunting usad sa kaliwa, Freezer. Wala ka sa sentro.

Guerrero over-corrects and goes off to the left this time.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Sobra! Sobra! Balik nang kaunti.

Some more adjustments. He gets it finally — putting himself exactly at the center.

REVERSE SHOT one more time, FAVORING THE F-5 again.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Okay, Freezer, time to touchdown. Throttle down.

The sound of the F-5's engine becomes a soft whine as Guerrero cuts down on the throttle.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Nose up.

No response.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*) (*Repeats, urgently*)

Nose up, Freezer!

CU of Guerrero. He's fighting the joystick.

GUERRERO

Matigas ang joystick! Lumalaban!

It finally gives.

CUT TO:

The two planes, FAVOR TO the F-5. The nose tilts up slightly — the right angle for landing.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Brace up! Touchdown in five seconds...four...three...two —

SEQ. 25G: EXT. THE RUNWAY.

The F-5 lands hard, bounces once, then zooms down the strip.

Lagaya and party get on their vehicles and drive after the plane — sirens wailing and lights flashing.

Bulldog — his job done — flies up and away again, to prepare for his own landing.

BULLDOG (*V.O., filt.*)

Showtime, he's all yours!

TIGHT ON Lagaya on Humvee.

LAGAYA (*Over walkie-talkie*)

Freezer, reverse thrust! Slow down!

HELICOPTER SHOT or CRANE SHOT of the F-5 finally slowing down to a halt. The rescuers catch up with it. They clamber down their vehicles and converge hurriedly on the stricken plane.

CAMERA ON THE GROUND. The Chief and his crew are the first to climb the plane. After much effort, they pry the canopy open, disentangle the helpless Guerrero from his seat, and lift him out of the plane. Guerrero screams in pain despite the best efforts of those carrying him.

DOCTOR

Easy! Easy! May fracture siguro siya!

Guerrero is placed on a waiting stretcher.

LAGAYA (*Shouts*) (*To maintenance crew*)

Okay! Everyone off the runway! Dalhin dito ang tug! Wrecker kung kailangan! Itabi itong nakaharang na eroplano! La-landing pa si Bulldog! Wala na rin siyang fuel!

GUERRERO

(Desperate and confused) (Grabs the Chief by the lapel)
Chief! Chief! Baka i-junk nila si Sarah! Huwag kang papayag!

LAGAYA *(To Doctor)*

Patulugin mo siya, Dok.

FISH-EYE SHOT from Guerrero's POV. People swarming all over him. The Doctor prepares a hypodermic needle and gives him a shot of sedative.

GUERRERO *(V.O.)*

Chief! Huwag mong pabaya si Sarah!

His voice trails away, as the scene...

...FADES TO BLACK.

SEQ. 26A: EXT. THE SKY OVER PUGADLAWIN. LATE AFTERNOON.

An orange sun setting over the horizon backlights three helicopters approaching Pugadlawin. THE CAMERA (ALSO AIRBORNE) TRACKS ALONGSIDE the aircraft.

The huge white Blackhawk is the Presidential helicopter. Two MD500 Defender gunships serve as escorts.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 26B: EXT. THE RUNWAY.

Lagaya and a few others wait and watch as the Blackhawk descends to the ground. The two Defenders continue to circle overhead — standard precautionary measure.

Two burly Presidential Security Guards are the first to emerge from the Blackhawk — followed by the President, the Secretary of Defense, Gen. Avante, plus a couple more bodyguards.

Lagaya salutes the VIPs. They exchange handshakes and greetings before Lagaya leads them away from their aircraft.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 26C: INT. THE OFFICERS' CLUB.

The beer is flowing. The pilots ad lib animated talk as they recall the day's battle.

The door opens. Lagaya is the first to enter, followed by the VIPs.

BULLDOG (*Barks when he sees the new arrivals*)
Tep-chon!

Everyone snaps to attention.

LAGAYA

At ease.

(*To the visitors*)

Mr. President...Mr. Secretary...Gen. Avante...may I present the men and women of the 21st Squadron.

The VIPs shake hands with the pilots as they are introduced in turn.

PRESIDENT

(After the round of greetings is finished)

Kangina, kilala ko lang kayo sa pangalan. Natutuwa akong makaharap kayo nang personal. Sinubaybayan namin nang live ang buong labanan. Ngayon lang ako nakakita ng ganoong mismatched na bakbakan!

PILOTS

(Laugh and ad lib offhand boastful remarks)

No sweat, Mr. President! / Piece of cake, Sir! / Etc.

PRESIDENT

Bulldog? Balita ko'y magre-resign ka ng iyong commission?

BULLDOG *(Uneasy)*

Ah...yes, Sir. Ikakasal na ako, Sir. Gusto kong maghanap ng hindi delikadong trabaho.

PRESIDENT

Jezebel? Ikaw din ay nag-submit ng quit notice?

JEZEBEL

Yes, Sir. Ako ang mapapangasawa niya, Sir. Time to stay at home and start a family.

PRESIDENT

That's good news! But will you consider staying in the Air Force for a little more time? Kailangan nating magsanay ng next generation ng fighter pilots.

(Beat)

Pinag-usapan namin ni Secretary Macaiba habang patungo rito — Balak naming magtayo ng isang Top Gun school. Bulldog, ikatutuwa namin kung magiging isa ka sa mga instructors.

(Another beat)

Jezebel, kailangan ko ng piloto para sa aking Presidential plane. Komo hindi ako madalas bumiyahe, that should give you enough free time to start a family.

JEZEBEL *(Pleased)*

Pag-uusapan namin ng aking husband-to-be, Sir.

PRESIDENT

The rest of you can have any assignment of your choice.

KITKAT

Gusto sana naming mamalagi dito sa Pugadlawin, Sir...kung p'wede.

PRESIDENT

Unfortunately, this base is no longer a secret. Kailangang isarado na natin ito in the very near future.

The pilots moan and groan in disappointment.

MUSTANG

Mr. President?

PRESIDENT

May tanong ka, Mustang?

MUSTANG

Sir, si Freezer?

PRESIDENT (*To SecDef*)

Mario, ano'ng update natin?

SECDEF

Inooperahan si Col. Guerrero sa V. Luna, even as we speak. The best doctors ang naka-assign sa kanya. They're confident that they can fix his fractures and save his eye. At kung hindi pa sapat iyon...we'll send him to the U.S. for further treatment.

PILOTS

(*Ad lib remarks of relief and thanks*)

PRESIDENT

Ako ang dapat magpasalamat...if only I knew how. Let me begin by saying, "Drinks are on me!"

Cheers of approval.

LAGAYA

Beer para sa mga bisita natin!

PRESIDENT (*Raising his bottle*)

A toast. Sa ating mga Pinoy...taas-ulo mula ngayon!

PILOTS (*Ad lib*)

Hear, hear! / Roger that! / Etc.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 27: INT. V. LUNA HOSPITAL. DAY.

TIGHT ON Guerrero in a private ward. His injured eye is bandaged. His upper body is in a cast; so is his left leg. He is asleep.

CHANGE ANGLE to show the door at background. The door opens quietly. Sarah walks in.

She stands beside the bed...takes a few moments to look at her sleeping lover...gently brushes his hair.

He opens his eyes. Smiles. Searches for her hand.

GUERRERO (*Faintly*)

Ikaw nga ba?...O patay na ba ako at may anghel sa tabi ko?

Sarah can only smile and kiss his hand.

The opening strings of A LOVE THEME starts at background and will carry over to the next few scenes.

GUERRERO

Akala ko'y hindi na kita makikita. Akala ko'y hindi ko na masasabi sa iyong...mahal kita, higit ngayon kaysa noon.

SARAH

Bakit ka lumayo, kung gayon?

GUERRERO

Dahil sa takot...na baka hindi kita mapaligaya. Wala akong naibigay sa iyo kundi kalungkutan. Wala pa rin akong maipagmamalaki sa iyo, Sarah. At baka kaunti na lamang ang panahong natitira para sa atin.

She places a finger on his lips to hush him.

SARAH

Mula ngayon hanggang walang-katapusan — hindi pa ba sapat 'yon? Mahal kita, Joshua. Huwag mo na akong iiwan.

GUERRERO

Hinding-hindi na.

She kisses him gently.

LOVE THEME BUILDS UP and bridges to next scenes.

FADE TO BLACK.

SEQ. 28: INT./EXT. CHAPEL AT NICHOLS. DAY.

FADE FROM BLACK.

FULL SHOT of bride and groom — Crystal and Jake (nee Jezebel and Bulldog) — facing the altar, exchanging vows before a priest. He's in a Class A "white duck" suit — Captain's insignia prominent on his shoulders. She's in a stunning white gown.

LASERED SUBTITLE fades in, then out:

**NICHOLS AIR BASE
Maynila**

TIGHT SHOT. Crystal and Jake exchange tender glances.

CU of priest.

PRIEST

— I now pronounce you man and wife. You may now kiss the bride.

CU OF Crystal and Jake. He lifts his wife's veil. Every bride should look *this* beautiful. He wants to tell her, in his eyes she's the loveliest woman here and now, and forevermore. His kiss tells it all.

A SERIES OF QUICK CUTS showing the guests applauding the newlyweds. Guerrero and Sarah, President Magdangal and the First Lady, Sec. Macaiba, Gen. Avante, Lagaya, the pilots of the 21st. (Note: Guerrero is in civvies, not military uniform.) Guerrero's eyes are okay now, though there's still a noticeable squint in one. A walking cane is tucked under his arm.

CUT TO: Outside the chapel.

An honor guard of young Air Force officers has lined up where the newlyweds would walk through. The pilots of the 21st are part of this honor guard. In fact, Snake — also a Captain now — is guard commander. The others have been promoted to First Looeys as well. They stand out from the other officers because of the Distinguished Flying Crosses on their chests.

Jake and Crystal emerge out of the church.

SNAKE (*To honor guard*)

Draw...sabers!

(*Beat*)

Cross...sabers!

Their sabers form an arch. Jake leads his wife through the arch.

CAMERA TAKES THEIR POV as they pass by their smiling friends — Hi-Tech, Mustang, KitKat. Snake meets them at the end of the line and gives them a smart salute.

SNAKE

Congratulations, Captain and Mrs. Salamanca.

BULLDOG (*Returning the salute*)

Thank you, Captain.

They shake hands. Snake — who is also best man — gets the bride's second kiss.

The other guests swarm all over the newlyweds with kisses and congratulations.

CAMERA SLOWLY CRANES UP to take in the whole happy crowd.

DISSOLVE TO:

SEQ. 29: INT. AN OLD HANGAR AT NICHOLS. DAY.

LOVE THEME MUSIC bridges over to this scene but will eventually SNEAK UNDER and FADE AWAY.

Inside an old quonset-hut-type hangar. FULL SHOT of Guerrero's old F-5, "Someday Sarah."

It has been restored as best as possible — new canopy, fresh paint, shiny wax work. But the guns are gone. And the intake nozzles are covered with canvas shrouds.

GUERRERO (*Voice over*)

Lagi tayong babalik sa ating minamahal — anumang tagal at layo ang namagitan. Bumalik ako kay Sarah. Ngunit kapalit noon, kailangan kong magpaalam sa isa ko pang Sarah...isang naging katalik ko sa mahabang panahon.

Arm-in-arm, Guerrero and Sarah enter frame from offscreen. Guerrero still walks with a slight limp and has to use a cane for support. They stop in front of the plane.

CUT-TO-CUT as appropriate.

SARAH (*Really impressed*)

Maganda siya, Joshua.

GUERRERO (*Looks at her*)

Kaya pangalan mo ang binigay ko sa kanya.

She smiles and clings more tightly to him.

GUERRERO

Maraming taon rin kaming magkasama. Inalagaan niya ako nang mabuti.

SARAH (*Softly*)

Thank you, Sarah.

Two boys — WILLY, 10, and BEBOT, 8 — enter the hangar on bicycles. They stop before the plane, get off their bikes, and walk around the plane with unconcealed awe. Guerrero and Sarah might as well be invisible — the boys pay them no mind.

WILLY

Wowww! Natapos na ni Lolo ang pintura.

BEBOT

‘Ganda niya, ano, Kuya?

WILLY

Wowww! Parang bago si Sarah!

BEBOT

Ano nga ang kuwento ni Lolo, Kuya? Ilang kalaban ang pinabagsak ni Sarah?

WILLY

Sampu.

Willy’s hands will fly all over as he dramatizes the following story. Bebot’s eyes will pop and he will gasp in wonder as he listens again to a tale he has heard many times before.

WILLY (*Cont.*)

Sakay ng malaking bapor ang eroplano ng mga salbahe. Sampung MiG ang lumusob para pasabugin ang Luneta.

BEBOT

Ano nga ang MiG, Kuya?

WILLY

Ewan ko. Basta MiG. (*Beat*) Sinalubong sila ni Sarah. Tinira nila ng misel si Sarah.

BEBOT

Ano nga ang misel, Kuya?

WILLY

Parang kwitis pag Bagong Taon. Nailagan ni Sarah ang misel nila. Si Sarah naman ang tumira ng misel. Tatlong salbahe agad ang tinamaan. Pinaputok ni Sarah ang kanyon niya. Tatlo uli ang sumabog. Sa takot nu’ng mga natitira, nagkabangga-banggaan sila. Ayun, naubos sila!

BEBOT (*Reverently*)

Hoo-wah!

WILLY

‘Tapos, lumanding si Sarah sa bapor ng mga kaaway. Bumaba ang pilot niya. Freezer ang pangalan. Sabi niya sa mga salbahe, “Ano? Lalaban pa kayo? May matapang pa sa inyo?” Nanginig sa takot

ang mga salbahe. “Lumayas na kayo at huwag na kayong babalik pa rito!”

CU of Guerrero and Sarah. She shoots an inquiring look as if to ask, “Is it true?” He suppresses a laugh and shakes his head.

BEBOT

Paglaki ko, Kuya, magiging piloto ako.

WILLY

Ako rin. Ikaw ang gagawin kong wingman.

BEBOT

Ano’ng wingman, Kuya?

WILLY

Assistant. Parang sina Batman at Robin.

BEBOT (*Very happy*)

Sige, Kuya! Ako’ng wingman! Lagitik!

CHIEF (*Offscreen*)

Willy! Bebot!

WILLY / BEBOT

Lolo!

We see the Chief now. He has been somewhere inside the hangar. The boys run to kiss his hand.

Guerrero and Sarah are hidden from the Chief’s view. He is not aware of their presence yet.

CHIEF (*To boys*)

Sino’ng kasama n’yo?

WILLY

Si Daddy po. Nasa bahay, kausap ni Lola.

CHIEF

O, sige na. Bumalik na kayo sa bahay. Susunod na ako, para makakain na tayo.

The boys mount their bikes and depart.

Guerrero and Sarah walk into view.

GUERRERO

Mga apo mo, Chief?

CHIEF (*Happily surprised*)

Freezer!

He rushes to salute and shake hands.

CHIEF

Long time no see, Colonel!

GUERRERO

Mister na lang, Chief. Civilian na ako ngayon.

(*Indicating Sarah*)

Si Misis Guerrero, Chief. Siya ang tunay na Sarah.

CHIEF

Marcing Sampang po, Ma'am. Master Sergeant.

SARAH

Madalas kang ikuwento sa akin ng aking mister, Chief.

GUERRERO (*Indicating the plane*)

Parang brand-new si Sarah, Chief. Bilib ako talaga sa iyo.

CHIEF (*Sadly*)

Nang sabihin nilang ilalagay na siya sa museum, Sir, sabi ko, "Huwag n'yo siyang idispley na basag-basag at gusgusin. Hayaan n'yong ilagay ko siya sa ayos." Limang buwan ko rin siyang pinagtiyagaan, Sir. Sayang at hindi na siya lilipad muli.

GUERRERO

Kailangan na niyang magpahinga, Chief. Ikaw at ako rin.

CHIEF

Natutuwa akong makitang nakaka-recover ka na, Sir.

GUERRERO

Overhaul, Chief. (*He taps Sarah's hand.*) Mahusay rin ang mekanikong nag-aalaga sa akin.

Guerrero offers his hand to his old friend.

GUERRERO

Salamat sa lahat ng tulong mo, Sarge. All the best.

CHIEF (*Very emotional*)

Check six, Sir!

Guerrero and Sarah leave the hangar, still arm in arm. The Chief watches them from the hangar entrance.

SARAH

Ano'ng gusto niyang sabihin? "Check six?"

GUERRERO

Check six. "Lumingon ka sa likuran." Para mo na ring sinabing, "Mag-iingat ka lagi." "Good luck." "Godspeed."

SARAH

Noon ko pa gustong itanong — Bakit gano'n ang tawagan n'yo? Freezer...Bulldog...Snake...

GUERRERO

Pag mainitan ang laban, mas madaling sabihing, "Bulldog, MiG at six!" Imbes na, "November-Tango-One-Seven, may kaaway sa likuran!"

SARAH

Mami-miss mo ba ang pagiging si Freezer?

GUERRERO (*Shakes his head truthfully*)

Hindi. Iniwan ko na si Freezer sa Pugadlawin. Solong-solo mo na ako.

They smile lovingly at each other. A flight of six Gripens fly past overhead. They stop to watch.

CUT TO:

SEQ. 30: EXT. THE SKY.

The six Gripens are in echelon formation (side-by-side in a line).

CUT TO: CU of Lagaya in his cockpit.

LAGAYA

Okay, boys and girls. On cue, break left. One second intervals.
Go to delta, forming on me. Starting...*(Beat)* Now!

Back to FULL SHOT. One after another, the Gripens turn to the left. The last plane was a little bit out of sync — turning later than he should.

CAMERA TRACKING AHEAD of the Gripens — now in delta formation (a triangle like the first three rows of bowling pins).

LAGAYA (*V.O., filt.*) (*Angrily*)

Sanabagan, Mustang! Saan ka nag-aral lumipad? Sa Socialite
Driving School? Nahuli ka sa execution!

MUSTANG (*V.O., filt.*)

One second late lang, Showtime. Mental lapse. Sorry.

LAGAYA (*V.O., filt.*)

Hindi acceptable sa aerobatics ang “one second late.” ‘Buti na
lang at nasa hulihan ka. Kung nagkataong nasa gitna,
nagkabanggaan na ang mga kasunod mo!

CU of Mustang.

MUSTANG

Sorry, Skipper. Hindi na mauulit.

LAGAYA (*V.O., filt.*)

Better not. Isa pang screw-up, tatanggalin kita sa fighters. Ililipat
kita sa C-130. Taga-hakot ng basura. Copy?

HI-TECH (*V.O., filt.*)

Wow, pangit ang gising namin kanginang umaga.

FULL SHOT of the Gripens, still in delta.

LAGAYA (*V.O., filt.*)

Say again? Hi-Tech! Kilala ko ang boses mo!

HI-TECH (V.O., *filt.*)

Sir! Sabi ko, bagay kay Mustang ang taga-hakot ng basura, Sir!

LAGAYA (V.O., *filt.*)

Okay, knock it off! Susunod nating gagawin: Starburst! Ready?
On my cue, climb...now!

The delta climbs up in unison — Lagaya leading. FAST, CATCHY ROCK MUSIC FADES IN AT BACKGROUND.

LAGAYA (V.O., *filt.*)

Looking good. On my cue, smoke...now!

Red smoke comes out of Lagaya's smoke machine. All the others trail blue smoke.

LAGAYA (V.O., *filt.*)

Okay, boys and girls. Palakpakan ang mga tao sa ibaba at this point. "Wow! Super!" Dito natin ibibigay sa kanila ang golpe-de-gulat. On my cue, execute Starburst...now!

Lagaya's Gripen continues to zoom upward. The others do a backward flip along five points of the compass — then do corkscrew spins as they dive to the earth. A perfect starburst!

LAGAYA (V.O., *filt.*) (*Overjoyed*)

Hoo-wah! Lagitik!

FREEZE SHOT and SCROLL CREDITS to the tune of the rock music.

THE END

02 November 2000
quickbrownfox29@hotmail.com

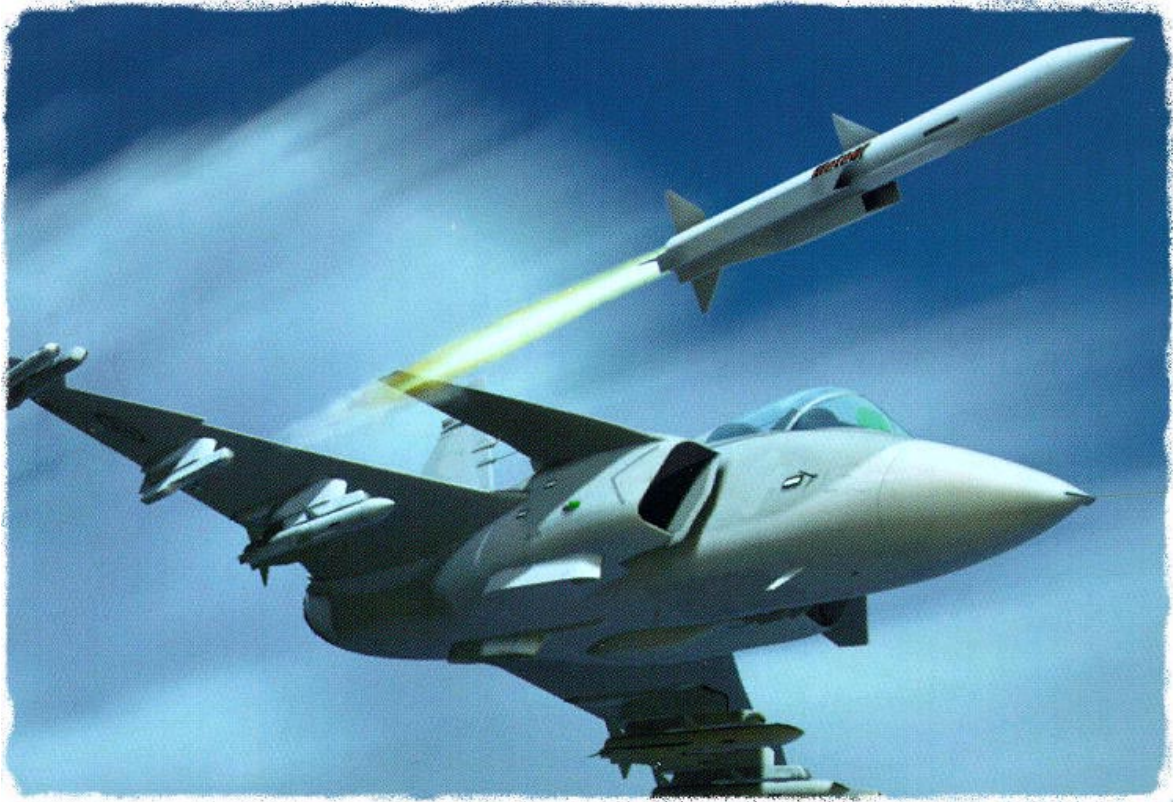


LAGAYA: *"Hoo-wah! Lagitik!"*

APPENDIX

Dramatis Machinae

(The flying machines cited in this story)



JAS-39 Gripen
Multirole lightweight fighter



F-5A Freedom Fighter



MiG-29 Fulcrum



Xian H-7 (“Hong-7”)
(Jianjiji-Hongzhaji) (Fighter-Bomber)



Seeker II Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)
Model for “Snoopy One” reconnaissance aircraft

The Language of Fighter Pilots

1-v-1	A single fighter against another. (Laymen would call it “One-on-one,” “One versus one,” or “Mano-a-mano.” But to a true pilot, it’s always “One-vee-one.”) There’s also “2-v-1,” “2-v-2,” “3-v-1,” etc.
AB	Afterburner. The extension on the rear of a turbojet engine which injects raw fuel into the exhaust, causing additional thrust; also AB thrust. Most pilots would say “burners” or “afterburners” in common usage.
AC	Aircraft commander.
ACT	Air combat tactics. The training and maneuvers of air-to-air combat, as in “ACT mission,” “fly ACT.”
Active	The primary runway currently in use. “Take the Active;” “the Active is 23 left.”
AIM	Air Intercept Missile, such as the AIM-9 Sidewinder, as opposed to AGM (air-to-ground missile). “Fire an AIM missile,” “an AIM attack,” “AIM tactics.”
Angels	“Angels 30” equals 30,000 feet, etc.
Auger in	Crash. “Buy the farm,” “Buy it,” die with the airplane.
Bandit	A known hostile or unfriendly aircraft, as in “Bandits at 2 o’clock low.”
Bingo	“Bingo fuel” is the amount needed to RTB (Return to Base). “Red 2 is bingo,” “Call your Bingo,” “Raise your Bingo for bad weather.” Also used for bullets, bombs, chaff, etc., as in “Bingo bombs.”
Blind	I do not have the friendly aircraft in sight.
Bogey	An unknown aircraft. “Read Lead, you have bogeys at ten high.” Become “bandits” when identified hostile.
Break	A maximum-G turn to avoid a missile or aircraft.
Burner	See <i>AB</i> .
Button	“Go Button 7” means “Go to Channel 7” on radio.
BVR	Beyond Visual Range. A BVR missile.
CAP	Combat Air Patrol. Pilots flying a course or orbit that provides protection to other aircraft or ground areas.
Chaff	Also “RBC” (Rapid-bloom Chaff). An electronic countermeasure, usually against an enemy radar or a radar-guided missile. This consists of dispensing canisters which explode and produce “clouds” of thin metallic foil or strips. The intention is to hide one’s aircraft from enemy radar, or fool an enemy missile to lock on to the chaff.
Check Six	Look behind you. Based on military convention where 12 o’clock is the front, and 6 o’clock is the rear. Over time, this phrase has come to mean “Take care” or “Good luck.”

Copy	Receive or understand. As in “Did you copy transmission?”
Dogfight	To undergo air combat maneuvers, either in training or in actual combat.
ECM	Electronic countermeasures.
Feet wet	Flying over water. “Going feet wet” is to leave land and start crossing water. Going the other way (inland) is going “feet dry.”
Fence	Fence in. Turn armament on, get ready for battle.
Flameout	When the engine stops. Used to happen all the time, causing problems in single-engine aircraft. Fortunately, now very rare with reliable engines.
FMC	Fully Mission Capable. Aircraft (or pilot) status in which all systems are up and the plane can perform all possible missions.
Fox Mike	FM radio.
Fox One	I have fired a radar-guided missile.
Fox Two	I have fired a heat-seeking missile.
Fox Three	I have fired my gun(s).
GCI	Ground Controlled Intercept. Ground radar station which vectors fighters to target.
G-LOC	Loss of consciousness induced by excessive gravitational force (G). Hard and abrupt flight maneuvers subject a pilot’s body to very high G, which tends to drain the blood from his brain and to his feet. This causes momentary “tunnel vision” or even blackout. The tolerance to high G varies from pilot to pilot.
Heater	A heat-seeking missile, such as the AIM-9 Sidewinder.
Hot	In firing weapons. “Cleared hot,” “Trigger is hot.”
HUD	Head-Up Display. Flight, navigation and weapon information is displayed on a wide glass in front of the pilot so that he does not have to look down into the cockpit while flying the aircraft and looking out visually.
IFF	Identification Friend or Foe. Electronic system which allows other radar sets to receive special codes of friendly aircraft.
Jink	To fly a fighter aggressively through an unpredictable flight path to avoid gunfire.
Judy	Pilot takes control of his own intercept from GCI.
Junk	To dispense chaff or flares while maneuvering a fighter defensively, to throw off enemy radar or a missile.
Mickey	Coded message sent between jam-resistant radios.
Mike-Mike	“20 Mike-Mike” is 20mm ammunition.
No joy	I do not have the aircraft in sight that you just told me about.
OB	Order of Battle. A list or summary of the enemy’s forces. GOB = Ground. AOB = Air.
OR	Operationally Ready.

Pipper	The point on the HUD or gunsight which is placed on the target.
Playtime	How long you can stay according to your remaining fuel.
Punch out	Eject.
Recce	Reconnaissance. “A recce bird,” “To do recce.”
Red Flag	Major, realistic, high-tech wargame involving fighter pilots.
ROE	Rules of Engagement. Predetermined headquarters control over a fighter pilot covering various contingencies.
Roger	Understand. (Maybe even agree.) “Bulldog, maintain heading. Do you roger?”
RTB	Return to Base. Go home.
SA	Situational Awareness. Knowing all the conditions around you in order to be able to make the right decisions.
SAM	Surface-to-Air Missile, usually that of the enemy, such as a SAM-7. A “SAM break” is a hard maneuver to avoid the missile.
SAR	Search and Rescue.
Scramble	A hasty take-off, sometimes from Ground Alert, to meet an immediate requirement.
Shit Hot	Slang phrase, meaning “Outstanding!”
Shooter	A member of the flight who is designated to fire at the enemy.
Tactical	Your current situation, as in “What’s your Tactical?”
Tally Ho	I have it/them in sight. “Red Lead, bogeys at 10 level.” “Tally.”
TDY	Temporary Duty. A temporary assignment, as opposed to PCS (a permanent change of station).
Trash hauler	A cargo aircraft or cargo pilot.
Vector	To direct, or cause to head to a certain direction.
Victor	VHF radio.
Visual	I have it in sight. I have a visual.
Weapons Tight	Operational, ready to fire.
Winchester	Out of ammunition. “Lead, Two is Winchester.”
Wizzo	WSO. Weapons Systems Operator. Back-seater in a two-seat aircraft.