



On 7 April 03, I was flying aircraft 987 on a Close Air Support (CAS) mission over Baghdad, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. While enroute to the target area we received a call from a Ground Forward Air Controller (GFAC) for CAS in northern Baghdad near the Tigris River. It was a "troops in contact" situation; his troops were taking fire from enemy forces. We responded immediately by firing several hundred rounds of 30mm and HE rockets in the target area. The GFAC then reported that they had stopped receiving enemy fire from that area. On climb out, after my last rocket pass, I heard a loud blast and felt a large jolt from the right side of the aircraft. My jet had been hit by enemy fire. I lost all hydraulics instantly and had to put the jet into manual reversion mode to regain aircraft control. It was an hour-long flight back to the base, but aircraft 987 was performing better than I ever could have expected. Our maintenance troops had done their jobs expertly. I had received battle damage at 0441z and by 0554z the jet was safely on the ground. Although aircraft 987 will probably never fly again, it had an impressive final flight.

Typical loadout for most of the missions flown by the A-10s of the 75th FS was as follows:

1150 rounds 30mm Combat Mix Station Load out: 1: ECM Pod (AN/ALQ-184) 2: HE Rockets 3: AGM-65 4. MK-82 5: MK-82 6: empty 7: MK-82 8: MK-82 9: AGM-65 10: WP Rockets 11: 2 x AIM-9s

Capt. Kim "KG" Campbell stands in front of her damaged jet with 75th Fighter Squadron Commander Lt.Col RickTurner. Photo countesyofthe75th FS he75th FS

NO STEP

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speak with the actual aircrews and maintainers of our subject matter. Being modelers ourselves, we understand that there is no substitute for this painstaking research and we are proud to offer, what we feel, are the best decals on the market. If you have any subject matter that you feel should be the next Twobobs creation, let us know. We'll be happy to listen to any and all customer input.