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DBond

11th December 1999 18:32

Spring Offensive

Version 1.1 has sent me headlong into another Spring Offensive. Thought I'd share some early reports of my progress. Day one, 5Jan, saw successful B-29 strikes on Seoul, Pyongyang and Seoul again. The morning strike was the same as every other SO I've played. Attack those damn airfields- Kimpo and Seoul. Split B-29's evenly to each target. Huge furball with 48 Sabres and Stars against 40 MiGs. No contest as the good guys won 35-3. 3 Forts also lost however. Midday session and another huge package of F-86/F-80 escort and B-29's to downtown PYang to hit the marshalling yard. Lots of damage to the target. Listed as destroyed. Second wave of T-Jets knocked out PYang Railbridge. Double whammy! Both the myard and railbridge destroyed on day one. Another engagement with similar numbers, but several fighters lost to ack-ack and crashing into the deck. Afternoon raid with B-29's to Seoul myard and bridge complex. One flight of Forts were tasked with the railbridge while the other 3 hit the yard. Heavy damage to the myard, downgraded from high activity to low. Somehow, the fourth flight destroyed all 3 railbridges and the roadbridge! I couldn't believe it. All 3 sesions of day one included Ponies flying Recon. Each and every one was a success and over 300 trucks/trains were destroyed. In addition both Mustangs and T-Jets were assigned to hit railbridges and Suwon, Osan and Pyongtaek supply points. Significant damage to all. Pyongtaek listed as destroyed.

Day two saw aggressive strategy. Morning mission was to Manpo in China with B-26's. Too far for the F-80's, so it was only Sabres for escort duty. Target damaged and reduced from high to very low activity. Several Sabres not coming home. Lots 'o MiGs. In just four sessions, the U.N. has claimed about 120 kills. Very intense and determined dogfighting. Midday raid on Nampo Port and Supply SW of Pyang. Standard huge package intercepted by 7 flights of MiGs. 4 from China, 3 from area fields. Lost about a dozen planes to MiGs. UN claimed 51 kills! We were engaged for what had to be an hour. Fantastic.. 5 precious T-Jets were shot down by AAA attacking the ships at the port. B-26's to Seoul Myard in the afternoon.

Day 3 and UN ground forces now on the offensive on western and central fronts. Strength favors UN, so it looks as though they'll push through. The 7th and 8th of Jan we scaled back the aggressiveness while licking our wounds from the previous couple of days. Both PYang railbridge and Seoul roadbridge had been repaired. Subsequent strikes to each saw Pyang knocked ot by two heavily escorted flights of F-84's. Really smacked it good. 7 elements of the bridge destroyed. Seoul roadbrige still stands. Thanks to KC, I now make it a point to scan the activity levels of towns and villages. This revealed Hoengsong was buzzin' with Reds. Listed as medium. I have learned when a town near the front is active, ya gotta hit it. A total of 3 B-26 raids were sent in the 2 days. Completely leveled Hoengsong. Have recieved 1 new section of both F-86's and F-80's. Most squadrons reduced to about 13 planes. Was pleased to discover at dawn of 9Jan, that the front had moved forward to Wonju. A little breathin' room. And that's the progress so far. Won't stop 'till Seoul is ours. Then maybe a couple days off and it's on to PYang!

Hengist

11th December 1999 21:53

Gripping report DBond...

Hengist.

Hengist's MiG Alley Site. <http://www.wulfhere.freeseve.co.uk/MigAlley/>

DBond

12th December 1999 00:17

Thanks~ 9Jan and the Reds are up nights working on the bridges. 4 previously destroyed railbridges are now listed as operational. MiGs are not venturing south. Currently all are based at the Sinmak-Sariwon cluster of airbases south of PYang. Daring, heavily escorted T-Jet strikes on Taeryong and then Sinuiju railbridges are met by determined resistance by China-based MiGs. It is reported but not confirmed that Sabres had crossed the river Both strikes perfect. Sinuiju is 6/7 destroyed. Should be down for while. Further unescorted F-80/F-84 attacks on frontline bridges are roughly 50% effective. Keeping the Mustangs on reconn. Unescorted B-26's are attacking Osan and Suwon towns. The engagements on the Sinuiju and Tearyong attcks have reduced the 1st Sabre Squadron to 9 planes. Not many more for the other squadrons. I flew one reconn near Kaesong in Sabres equipped with rockets. It was listed as high activity/high capacity. As, we neared the target area, we could make out the smoke of about ten trains. Ordered the wingies to engage and rolled into a dive to take a looksie myself. Made a high speed, low level 90 degree pass to inspect the trains and scan for AAA. Almost flew too low as my wingmen's rockets passed just below me! Luckily, they hit a train. It was close though. The trains were just locomotives. No cars in tow. Now, I've seen this in the SO before, but never in the first week. It appears, at least, that the focus on the rail system is paying dividends. We destroyed all the engines and upon return to base were credited with 27 vehicles destroyed and 273 tons! A large MiG formation that passed over us made for a anxious flight home, but they elected not to engage. Good thing too. Only 4 Sabres vs. 30 MiGs ain't what they taught you in flight training. No further progress on the ground to 11Jan. UN holds initiative on all fronts. All squadrons at about half strength.

It should be noted that Sinuiju railbridge is a vital target. But it's also very dangerous to attack. It lies just south of the Yalu, and is defended by several MiG bases in China. The destruction of this bridge will severely restrict the flow of supplies in the WSR. To compliment this tactic, I attack Taeryong railbridge because of it's strategic location further down the route. Of course, the more bridges you can destroy, the better. But the limited number of planes on hand makes picking the right bridges critical. It is equally important to hit the marshalling yards and trains if, like me, you make the destruction of the Red rail system the first strategic objective.

Two corrections from the first post in this thread: I mentioned attacking Osan supply. Meant to say Wonju. Doh! And the total of 300 trains/trucks was at the end of day two, not day one.

KC23

12th December 1999 00:27

DBond,

Wow, that is better than any start I ever had. Especially those a2a kill ratios.

I'm very interested to hear how long it takes you for victory. Keep the reports coming.

Ken "KC23" Cook
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Spring Offensive Strategy Guide

<http://www.frugalsworld.com/mig-guide.shtml>

DBond

12th December 1999 11:41

11Jan and we are informed B-29's are available. Back to page one of the target priority list! First mission was standard huge package tasked with hitting the marshalling yard at PYang, which was again running at high activity. Reds objected and sent four waves to intercept. Only two engaged however, and the UN mopped 'em up 41-2. MYard listed as destroyed. Midday raid to Hamhung myard. A large MiG formation from China was vectored to intercept, but never engaged. B-29's destroy 1350 tons. Intel indicated only 45 tons left. Good hit. Two Forts lost to AAA. Afternoon decision was to hit another high value target deep behind the lines. Chosan Supply and Comms was tasked to the Forts. Out of the range of the F-80's, it was 4 flights of 29's escorted by 5 flights of F-86's. 2 formations of MiGs were sent from China and were on an intercept vector halfway to Chosan. They flew right by and continued south. I couldn't help but think about those unescorted missions I left back near the front. Surprisingly, no MiGs challenged the B-29's and they destroyed 1029 tons. Chosan listed as destroyed. Upon RTB, learned that 2 F-84's were shot down attacking Hongchon supply point by those MiGs. Gotta start protecting these boys better. Air-to-air for the day: 51 kills to 4 fighters. Next morning I was surprised to see it was 13Jan. We skipped right by the 12th. I assume the weather forced a grounding of UN aircraft for the day. As a result, no missions flown on the 12th. Damn Reds must be doing a raindance or something. Despite my disappointment in not being able to keep the pressure up on the 12th, good news on the 13th from Allied ground commander. IX Corps launches offensive to take the town of Suwon. F-84's now based at Osan. F-51's at Pyongtaek. Capture of Suwon a major objective as a 2-squadron capable airfield is located there. New section of 84's arrived. More to come...

KC23

12th December 1999 16:43

DBond,

Man, those tonage levels are right out of this world. That is the best tonage mission I've ever heard of. To take out all but 45 tons in a single mission?

At this rate you'll have the boys home by Washington's birthday.

One of the things I love about the Spring Offensive is the unpredictability of the MiG squads. You are never quite sure who they will engage on, how many squads and how good those squads will be. If you run into an Ace level squad suddenly your ego gets knocked down a couple of levels.

Your kill levels are staggering.

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Spring Offensive Strategy Guide www.frugalsworld.com/mig-guide.shtml

[This message has been edited by KC23 (edited 12 December 1999).]

DBond

12th December 1999 21:10

I would have thought you guys are getting similar numbers on the B-29 strikes. Especially when it's the first trip there in a new campaign. I really didn't do anything special to get that tonnage. I just armed the B-29's with 1000 pounders and gave each flight a loading yard to target. I think there were two loading yards at Hamhung so it was two flights to each one. Then I just flew in the BARCAP. Didn't even fire a shot. There was a small amount of collateral damage to some warehouses. 1350 tons destroyed. Try targeting the loading yards with your bomber strikes. Especially with B-29's. And many myards have more than one loading yard. Seoul, for example has five. All of them need to be damaged. Man, I was sure you were already getting higher totals. Let me know if any of you have success with hitting the loading yards.

And the campaign is going very well. The focus on the rail system is paying off as there are only 3 or 4 railbridges in the entire theater listed at medium or higher activity. It is now the 15th of Jan. Yesterday the Reds withdrew to Seoul! The Seoul bridges are in UN hands but the battle for the city has yet to begin. Can't believe we're at Seoul already. Intel indicated UN preparing for offensive to take the town of Chuncheon. PYang railbridge has been repaired and another package of 8 F-84's with F-86/F-80 escort resulted in a failed mission with several planes lost to MiGs. No damage to the target. Will have to go back in. Chinese MiG squadrons have challenged virtually every mission north of Seoul so far in this campaign. Ground attack missions near the front have gone virtually unopposed. Both Sabre squadrons now based at Suwon. Air-to-air is 284 MiGs destroyed to 26 UN aircraft. And that includes the 3 Forts lost on the first day. 60 more planes lost to a combination of AAA and other. I don't know what to say about the progress so far. Much swifter advance than I anticipated. Gotta go prepare to take Seoul.

KC23

12th December 1999 23:23

DBond,

Geez, you got that Spring Offensive down to a science. I did report that I thought the Spring Offensive was still too easy, but you are making it look easier than even before. I'm hoping that once you get near the capital of the North that resistance with stiffen with lots of MiGs.

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<http://www.frugalsworld.com/mig-guide.shtml>

DiscoStu

13th December 1999 08:52

Sounds like fun! Havent had a chance to patch yet, I wanted to play the campaign I had going through to the finish but the F4 1.08 patch has kept me pretty busy last few days. I'll have to try some of the tactics listed here when I do start playing again, it sounds like they are extremely effective

KC23

13th December 1999 10:41

Disco,

Yeah, F4 has kept me from doing things I should be doing lately. Big improvement in F4.

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DBond

13th December 1999 12:54

It's now 17Jan. The U.N. launched offensives to take Seoul and Chuncheon on the 15th. The progress is slow as the strength on the ground is equal. I tried some CAS missions to see if I could swing the battle and test the new 1.1 CAS missions. On the 15th I sent 2 flights of F-84's to Chuncheon and 2 flights of F-51's to Seoul. Both returned with credit for no targets destroyed. Missions failed. Next, I flew in a single flight of 84's to Chuncheon. There were only troops and mortars in the area. We completely destroyed all available targets. One of my three wingmen actually attacked some of the targets. Got some hits too! The other two wingies just kept flying in formation. Oh well, we're getting there Mission results gave a mission failed rating and 4 platoons destroyed. Overview showed 11 troops killed. So, it looks as if the CAS missions still ain't right. But I'll try a few more before giving them up again.

Things have been going very well for the American pilots in the first 2 weeks of the Spring Offensive. Only 3 bombers have been lost to MiGs. The boys can be proud of that as they've been to some very dangerous targets. But so far they've brought 'em back alive everytime. Air-to-air kills have exceeded 300 for only 30 UN ships lost to MiGs. As usual, the ground fire is responsible for more losses than the MiGs. Despite the success, we were all in for a wake up call on the 17th.

Two new squadrons of MiGs had rotated in over the past two days. My experience has been that when this happens the new MiG squadron tends to be rather conservative in the first day or two after their arrival. The new arrivals were based at Hwangju and Sariwon. Considering the failed strike on PYang railbridge and the newly arrived MiGs, we decided to hit the railbridge again(the fifth separate strike on it in this campaign). 2 flights of F-84's with half-ton bombs escorted by four Sabre flights and 2 more of F-80's.

As we passed over Incheon, Dentist reports that MiGs are lifting off from both Hwangju and Sariwon. Whoever the new boys are, they appear to be ready to fight. Passing Munsan, I took the Sabres and swung west, gaining altitude and burning as much of the auxiliary tank as I could. The route I'd planned for the strike aircraft took them right over the airfields around Sariwon and they passed directly over the still-climbing MiGs. We dropped tanks and swung back east to try and head off the MiGs, who by now were at 16,000 ft. and closing on the F-84's. The MiGs passed in front of us at about 15 miles. We then passed behind them at about 4 miles. At this point the MiGs were chasing the 84's and at our 9 o'clock low. I called "combat spread" and "wait for my orders". We then dove to attack.

In the sun we could make out 20 MiGs reflecting in the light. Airspeed 530 MPH as we closed in from their 4 o'clock. They must have spotted us as the entire formation broke right. Immediately throttled down and called to engage. As the MiGs broke past us they rolled and I could make out the scheme for the first time. Oh Sh*t, Red-Tails! I've never hit the throttle as fast as I did right then! First instinct was to climb, so up we went. Looked over the shoulder at 4 o'clock and saw the MiGs were splitting. High and low. Left and right. Two MiGs had fallen already when I spotted a Redtail straight ahead, 2 miles low. Told my wingman I was padlocked and neg-g'd it on to his six. First few rounds found their mark and he broke high. Wingman told me to break, there was a bandit on my six. Looked behind me and there were three MiGs gaining on me. All of them Redtails. Panther five was

between the MiGs and I. He shot down the MiG I had been chasing seconds earlier. I was at the top of my loop, inverted, watching those oranges start to arc behind me. I could do nothing as the rounds meant for me ripped through Panther Five's fuselage. There was no chute. Now I'm pissed.

Unable to follow me over the top, the MiGs chasing me broke off to the left and disengaged. I took a quick moment to look around and get a grasp of the situation. Several Sabres were in a fight for their lives. Each side had now lost several planes. I could see a few more smoking. The most "This MiG's good" calls I've ever heard. What I had expected to be another "smoke 'em if ya got 'em" type dogfight had become a critical situation. I could hear Puma flight (F-80 escort) over the radio as they started to engage. Cougar flight (86 second sq) was now engaged as well. I was amazed to look around and see that the MiGs were still buzzing around in four-plane flights. Great discipline! Below, I could see a lone MiG sneaking toward the 84's, which were setting up on the target. I rolled and dove. Wingman said I was clear. I went full throttle and closed from above at what had to be 400 MPH. Opened fire from about 2000 ft and held it down! 50's ripped through the shiny new MiG right down the fuselage. From nose to tail. When the sparks reached the tail, the 50's ripped it off. I passed by the MiG at 550 MPH and still diving. Hard on the brakes and throttle all the way back. I thought she would break apart as the nose came skyward. As I started to regain altitude, I looked out of the canopy and saw in the sun a bright red tail section floating softly to earth.

KC23

13th December 1999 13:39

DBond,

Had me on the edge of my seat with that story. Those red tails are murder.

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<http://www.frugalsworld.com/mig-guide.shtml>

DBond

13th December 1999 16:29

Had the day off from work and it was raining so... played some more MA . Glad you liked the story. I'm sure you guys have had many times just like it .

I think Rowan took our questions about the paint schemes seriously. I don't ever remember the RedTails being *that good* before. Man, it was awesome to witness that dogfight. Just happy I lived through it .

Seoul and Chuncheon fell on 18Jan. Situation still promising as UN is preparing for offensives on all fronts. Forward elements have advanced to the Imjin bridge. PYang and Yesong railbridge again operational. Sinuiju railbridge was hit on the 17th by F-84's. Several fighters lost during the mission. 4-6 MiG formations are routinely patrolling the Yalu. Any strike in that area extremely dangerous. Sinuiju bridge again 6/7 destroyed. F-80's now at Seoul field. (Never noticed that was jet-capable before. But if the Reds can cheat and deploy at prop-only bases, then so can I!)

The 18th brought B-29's round once again. Morning mission to Hamhung MYard. 800 more tons destroyed. Midday raid to Sinuiju Warehouses (first time ever, so it'll be interesting to see the effect). Afternoon to PYang MYard. All targets destroyed. A handful of fighters lost for about a dozen more MiGs. Good day with the B-29's. 3 high-value targets destroyed. Don't think we'll be that aggressive

until the Forts come around next time. New section of 86's brings each squadron to an average of 8 planes. So, just 2 operational flights from each squadron available. But PYang railbridge and Yesong railbridge will be getting a visit from T-Jets on the 19th. No doubt.

KC23

13th December 1999 16:40

DBond,

I personally haven't gotten that far in the campaign so I'm gonna be very interested to hear if things get a little tougher when you get closer to the capital. I have been pitching for them to make the campaign a little tougher. I think it okay for it to be the way it is up until about Seoul, then I would like the MiGs to get tougher at that point.

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DBond

13th December 1999 16:57

It's interesting you said that. The arrival of the RedTails coincided with the fall of Seoul quite nicely, don't you think?

KC23

14th December 1999 09:20

DBond,

Yeah, I thought the same thing about the Red Tails showing up. Would be interesting if they stick around to harrass the UN flights.

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DBond

14th December 1999 12:37

23Jan. Offensives on Western and Central fronts have stalled due to fierce resistance by Red ground troops. Progress is slow. Battles taking place north of Chuncheon and NW of Munsan. Yesterday, the UN troops secured the west bank of the Yesong railbridge. Force levels on the ground had been equal

for the past 3 days. The UN is finally starting to outnumber the Reds, so the offensives may begin to move forward soon. Intel indicates Communist initiative on the Eastern front. Neither side has been aggressive in the air, and no engagements each of the past two days for the first time all campaign. I have stayed far away from PYang since the arrival of the RedTails. They have not ventured far from their base. So, better not to stir up the bees' nest. Even though there have been no further engagements with them, their presence has influenced my tactics and strategy. But it has helped that both the yard and railbridge in PYang are destroyed. If they fix that bridge, we'll go back in regardless of who don't like it!

One thing I love about the new patch is the vastly improved recon. I finally have something to do with those Mustangs. In this campaign, the 51's are credited with over 400 trucks. I never came close to that number in the previous campaigns with all of the aircraft! All told, 752 trains/trucks have been destroyed. Combine that with the focus on the rail system and the supply machine is at a crawl. And I've flown a couple of convoy interdictions in hopes of spotting the elusive donkeys I've heard so much about. Found plenty of trucks, but no donkeys. I'll keep hunting. KC, Hengist~ any tips on where they are?

And on a side note. Yesterday intel informed us that supplies were getting through at Chonglin MYard. That is the northernmost target on the map. But I have been conditioned to think that if supplies are getting through, then it's best to hit that target. Intel usually doesn't bother with the low priority stuff. So I gather up 4 B-26 flights and 4 fighter flights and fly all the way there. Milkrun type mission, bombers dropped and we fly home. Debriefing shows only 25 tons destroyed. But the funny thing is, there was only 100 tons left. You know things are going well when they bother to tell you supplies are getting through when there's only 125 tons there! Well, 100 now, but who's counting?

DBond

14th December 1999 13:09

Footnote to previous report. Both F-86 squadrons and the F-84's now based at Kimpo. I moved the F-80's back to Suwon from Seoul. I felt guilty using a prop base for jets. Well...er...or maybe because I couldn't take off on that short dirt strip.

KC23

14th December 1999 15:54

DBond,

Yeah, AI recon is way improved, although I have had some issues with some of the rail stuff as Daniele has pointed out. I haven't been paying attention to the weather much though so I'll have to start keeping a sharper look out.

That's funny about the short strip at Seoul. You outfoxed yourself. Regarding the milkrun. I think if you don't go up for some missions it doesn't matter where you go (except airbases) you are going to have a milk run. After you hit something it seems to wake up the MiG squads for a while.

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DBond

14th December 1999 17:18

Yeah man, I shoulda known better than to try to fly out of Seoul. Playing it by the book now .

I wish what you said about waking up the MiGs were true. Well, maybe not. But what I mean is the MiGs have virtually dissapeared. The RedTails are still based south of PYang, but they're not engaging unless a mission goes right by their base. The Chinese MiGs are quiet too. I can see them patrolling the Yalu, but they're not sending any flights into Korea. It's been this way for about a week. Missions to Chonglin, Manpo, Wonsan, etc., have gone unchallenged. I'm not sure it will last, but for now I can send strikes just about anywhere there isn't an active base.

For example, it's now the 24th of January in the campaign. Intel indicated both PYang myard and railbridge were back up and running. Also had B-29's. This is the fourth time we've had 'em. That's only 4 times in 19 days. So, use them wisely. Did the myard/railbridge combo thing that worked so well on day one. 3 flights of B-29's with 1000 pounders target the myard. 1 flight targets the railbridge. I only had 2 Sabre flights available and 2 F-80's. We all went to PYang. Fully expecting to be greeted by both the RedTails from Hwainju and some Chinese interceptors. None ever came. No air opposition over PYang. Don't know if that's ever happened before except for when the battle was for PYang itself.

While I'm circling above the city waiting for the Forts to drop, I thought, ya know I don't think I've seen B-29 bombs actually hitting the target. Always too busy fighting off the MiGs. So, I brought the flight down to 8,000 feet and did slow circles around the myard. All the targets in PYang are close to one another, right down by the river. We could easily see the railbridge and roadbridges as well as the myard and 3 non-active airfields. Viper one says bombs away and the first 3 flights drop. Man, carpet bombing at it's finest! Quite a show.

But what I was really interested in was the fourth flight's attack on the bridge. Dropped down to 5,000 ft. and got a good seat. It took about two minutes but I could soon see the 4 big bombers lining up with the bridge. They were roughly traveling parallel, but maybe 5 degrees off line. Viper 13 calls bombs away and I focus on the bridge below. I can see the bombs falling. For those who have never seen it, PYang railbridge is comprised of 2 large spans that connect in the middle of the river on an island. The first dozen or so 1000 pounders hit right where the spans connect. Several more fell in the river and about the last dozen hit the bank several yards from the bridge. Debriefing shows 13 of the 29 elements are destroyed. Along with the 4 bridges in one strike of the first day, the most destructive bridge mission for me ever. I don't think they'll be running trains across that bridge again if the campaign lasts until March.

DBond

14th December 1999 17:35

And I should add that it's been snowing quite a bit over the past week. Maybe the MiGs aren't too aggressive in the really bad weather. It's obvious they are airborne, but not straying far from their bases. I didn't pay much attention to the weather before either. But I've been making a point of it in this campaign. I escorted a F-84 strike on Nan bridge in the snow. Since no MiGs came to play, I just decided to watch and see what the 84's did. It was pretty much a solid overcast, but there were a few clear patches at 15,000 feet. The T-Jets never attacked and landed with the bombs still hanging. So, I tried again, but changed the IP altitude to 13,000. That's 2000 below the cloud layer. But when I flew the mission, the clouds seemed to be at 9,000 and again, the 84's didn't attack. It will take more experimenting, but weather and visibility must be a factor in why they never attacked. Have to try a few more things. And Hengist or KC~ earlier in this thread I mentioned it seemed how there was no 12Jan. Just went from the 11th to the 13th. Could that have been caused by bad weather grounding the aircraft? I remember reading somewhere that could happen in MiG Alley. Ever happen to you?

DBond

14th December 1999 20:00

Ya know, it was either in the manual or the companion guide that came with it that said in the Korean War the MiGs were reluctant to penetrate even a thin overcast. Maybe the lack of interceptions is the result of poor weather keeping the MiGs low and near their bases. The next day the weather was clear and a bomber strike on Hamhung was intercepted by a group from China. Gotta pay more attention to the weather from now on.

27Jan and the UN offensives succeed. As a result, the Reds pull back beyond Kaesong. If past campaigns are any indication, there will be heavy fighting in the Triangle. Aircraft levels are as low as any point since the campaign began. If we can push another 10 miles or so, the Reds will be forced to abandon the airfields around Sariwon. Something tells me it won't be easy.

DBond

14th December 1999 23:14

29Jan and the line now stretches from Kumchon in the west, through Kumwha, to Kojin on the east coast. Bad weather broke on the morning of the 27th and Migs are once again showing up at some targets. Only one skirmish as a result. 10 more RedTails bagged. NK capitol of Pyongyang now lies just 50 miles behind the lines. New section of 86's brings 1st sq up to 10 planes. Every other squadron down to 6 planes. All MiG squadrons have pulled back to the 3 PYang bases. Reds showing signs of resistance. A few front line towns are starting to become active. Air-to-air kills now exceed 400. Only 40 UN planes lost to MiGs.

Nevermind about the donkeys. Just found them. Flew a road interdiction in a Sabre with rockets and located the convoy. I couldn't make out what it was from so far out. We engaged and a 37mm in a truck opened up on the wingies from a hillside overlooking the road the convoy was travelling on. I immediately swung the guns on the truck and kicked up some dust. No more flying oranges. Climbed and banked back around to the road. It looked like the wingies were on target, so I decided to make a visual before wasting any ammo. Might be some trains nearby! As I passed over the road I saw a bunch of burnt carts. At the front of this long row of carts was one donkey standing there still attached to his cart. I felt so bad for him, that I ordered the wingies to rejoin and we flew home. It was just a sad sight. Poor donkey.

And I'm starting to be a believer in regards to the weather and how it affects the MiG activity. It's early, but I think we're on to something.

KC23

15th December 1999 10:27

DBond,

I really haven't paid any attention to the weather in regard to MiGs, but I will be from now on.

I too, couldn't help but feel a little odd when watching my wingmen make dog food of the donkeys.

Sounds like you may win the war very early. You can bet I'll be using your campaign in my winning beta report about the Spring Offensive being too easy.

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DBond

15th December 1999 11:22

Well, things have gone well so far, but the USAF took a beating which I'll describe below. Most of my highest priority targets are currently knocked out. But all of a sudden things ain't so rosy for the flyboys. We also lost another day in the campaign. I looks like we skipped right by the 28th. I don't know if it's a bug, or if we were grounded. I'll assume the latter. Makes it feel more like a war. Two whole days have now been lost to severe weather. And the stuff we've been flying in is no picnic. For the past two weeks, only two days have been clear. Snow or rain the rest of the time. Severe winds and gusting is making ground strikes difficult. My rockets are going all over the place.

31Jan. UN launches offensive in the Iron Triangle in the central sector. Up until now the campaign has been going very well. The strategy and tactics are working like a charm. Red supply machine is at a crawl. There are vitually no train bridges standing in the entire theater. Traffic is minimal. MiGs have been quiet. That was all about to change.

We awoke on the morning of the 31st to a bright sunrise. First sunny day in a long time. Upon arrival at Kimpo, Commander informed us that B-29's were on the table. And we were going to PYang to escort them to the MYard. I had mixed feelings. The last couple of runs to PYang were too easy. It gave me an uneasy feeling. With the clear skies, there was a chance they'd be ready for a fight. A little before eight in the morning, we lifted off, waited for Cougar flight to join, and went to find the Forts and the four F-80's tasked with close escort. Found them easily in the clear skies, and we flew off to PYang.

As we approached the city, it was obvious that we'd have some company today. 20 MiGs had lifted off from both PYang East and Downtown fields. Another formation was inbound from China. It was going to be 20 UN fighters and the Forts against over 60 MiGs. And 40 of those were RedTails. The formation from PYang East was first to engage. Normally we fly ahead of the bombers to disrupt the MiGs as they set up to attack. Today we stayed close to the bombers. Badly outnumbered, I wanted to try and concentrate our fighters around the bombers for some mutual protection.

Cougar flight engaged first. They peeled off to engage the RedTails now approaching the bombers from behind. We kept on with the bombers, which were only 10 miles from the pickle point. Panther Two spotted the Chinese MiGs approaching from 12 o'clock high. It was on. We swung around to see if the bombers were in any immediate danger(relative term in a situation like this!) and as I looked, I could only see the Camo painted MiGs. No RedTails in sight. Cougar flight was strangely silent. Panther flight was ripping apart the Camos. For this mission I had chosen the finest pilots in the squadron. I guessed we'd be jumped and the skill of the Panthers was showing. About 10 MiGs were dusted in 4 minutes. We had chased the Chinese MiGs down low and they appeared to be beating feet. Certainly no longer a direct threat to the B-29's. A quick check-in revealed both Panther Five and Eight were missing. We climbed to see if we could help Cougar and Puma flights. As we approached the RedTails, I was shocked to see they were in formation. 2 squadrons of RedTails heading straight for the unprotected bombers. They had completely destroyed second squadron and had already reformed! All eight 2nd Sq. Sabres lost in a few minutes! They then hit the Forts with fury. We tried to fight them off, but with 6 Sabres and only 2 F-80's there wasn't much we could do. We shot down another half dozen. Even watched as a B-29 smoked a MiG. 7 B-29's were blown from the sky. Some damage was done to the target. The mission cost us 14 fighters and 7 bombers for 18 MiGs killed. Second squadron is completely wiped out. Some of the finest pilots we had aren't coming home. The MiGs lack of activity had merely been the calm before the storm. And I find myself wishing for snow.

KC23

15th December 1999 19:01

DBond,

Wow, those Red Tails are the great equalizer. Funny how when I see them my attention level goes up several notches. My aggressiveness turns in to a "I hope I survive" attitude. Looks like you won't be seeing any Forts for awhile. When I get into your situation I use hit and run strike/recon missions. This is a great place to set your bingo levels up so they don't hang around target areas too long. It's also time to start going back and forth (west, central, east) to keep the MiGs squads guessing. I do NOT send strike aircraft in more than one spear of influence in the same session. Because of your previous efforts re-supply will still be at a crawl and you can continue to deny supplies to the front by harrassing convoys close to the front. Looking forward to your next report.

Ken "KC23" Cook
Senior Editor,
Frugal's World of Simulation

Spring Offensive Strategy Guide
<http://www.frugalsworld.com/mig-guide.shtml>

DBond

15th December 1999 21:33

You just described the current tactics to a tee. We have so few aircraft that the past few days have consisted mostly of unescorted B-26's going to some low priority fontline target. And me going to hit a bridge in T-Jets, or in a Sabre to hunt trains. MiGs have been coming to greet the bridge strikes, but they stay above 30,000 ft. We zoom above the hilltops, hit the bridge and leave the area. MiGs aren't diving to attack. But they are very active. They are also flying in single file formation most of the time. It was more of a box formation early on. But the single file is more common lately. Wonder what it means?

4Feb and the line has advanced to Sariwon. UN still holds initiative on all fronts, but I sense a shift in momentum. Just haven't been able to hit all the targets that need smacking. All MiGs now based north of PYang. We lost a third day to severe weather. After completion of the midday mission on 31Jan next period took us to afternoon planning session on 1Feb. 3 days worth of missions lost to weather so far. Could it be an effort by Rowan to slow the progress of the UN? I only noticed one lost day in previous campaigns. Don't really mind it, but wish there would be a message informing the player of this. Also, the player log/mission log does not update to reflect the date displayed in the upper left corner of the planning screen. Makes me think it's a bug, not a "feature". Weather forces the suspension of air operations in real wars, so it's realistic, whether it's intended to happen or not. But we're going with the date displayed in the corner of the planning screen. The log of missions is now 3 full days behind that date.

KC23

16th December 1999 09:21

DBond,

Thanks, all add that to my bug reports.

Ken "KC23" Cook

Senior Editor,
Frugal's World of Simulation

Spring Offensive Strategy Guide
<http://www.frugalsworld.com/mig-guide.shtml>

Flounder

16th December 1999 11:00

Hi there.

Following the examples of KC, Frugal and DBond i've jumped (head first) into the SO.

It is now day 5 and i'm doing pretty well (for some reason <g>) I've knocked out the entire bridge network near the front line, cept for the Seoul Bridges that prove to be a tough nut to crack, how do you go about wrecking 3 rail bridges and 1 regular bridge?

The B-26's aren't very usefull at hitting bridges, although the manage sometimes. I use spaced element and usually get good results with the F-80's and 84's. The Major airfields have been down since day 1. The Marsheling yards are proving to be a serious pain, they have alot of flack to throw at you and usually my packages are content at knocking out the yard, i get 100% success without a single ton of supplies destroyed while i'm getting intel that supllies are stockpiled.

Armed Recon is fickle, sometimes works, sometimes doesnt...it could go from 24-25 trucks destroyed to 1-6 trucks.

CAS is useless, so far i have yet to accomplish a single CAS mission.

Supply yards are my specialty <g> I take the entire F-51 Squad there...after flatening the damn structures they "guys" and me just go on a spree of destructions using rockets and guns we managed to reduce the nearest yard to 10 ton supplies remaining, on the first strike we got around 600!!! tons of supplies, you can tell when you got some supplies when you see the seconderies and those great mushroom shaped smoke stacks.

I'm down to about 50-66% percent of my forces, and the Migs are making a comeback, although not in a hurry to engage. But then again i'm not playing with the Enemy AI set to max, which also, probably, accounts for the very low kills i have...around 50 Migs so far in 5 days. At the lowest settings they dont engage or dont make an attempt to intercept you...

The UN is on the offensive on the West and Central regions, the Western offensive has went well, in the east the UN has the initiative. Things are looking good, for now.

Any idea how meny times a week do we get the 29's? the 26's need some work IMO, they are simply not very effective. I've tried them at low level and high level, with diffrent formations, they do very poor bridge work. Other then marsheling yards, and to some degree Supply yards, they aren't doing much. The only attack structures though, and almost never account for any supplies destroyed.

Thumper

16th December 1999 12:11

Kudos to all you guys. I walked into a CompUSA on Dec. 10 and walk out with a 32 MB video card and a shiny new copy of MA 1.1.

I have since made this forum and KCs strategy guide two of my frequently visited sites.

It's big help for a newbie, the provided documentation being very ... limited.

;h

[This message has been edited by Thumper (edited 16 December 1999).]

DBond

16th December 1999 12:25

Flounder~ Sounds as if you're off to a good start. About the Seoul bridges...They are indeed very resilient. Remember, the rail bridge earned the nickname "elastic bridge" during the war. Usually, it requires many strikes to keep them down, since the Reds continually repair them. In my current campaign, one flight of B-29's was diverted from the myard to the bridges. Those four planes were able to completely destroy all 4 bridges. I still can't believe it. Only the road bridge had been repaired by the time Seoul was captured. And an answer to your B-29 question. You can see in my reports of this campaign that they come on an average of once per week. Every 6 or 7 days. I can't stress enough the importance of using them on high value targets. Each B-29 carries five times the bomb load of a B-26. So, use them wisely. And about the myards. My strategy certainly includes attacking the myards. Along with train bridges, they are the number one priority. Don't worry if you hit them and don't get any credit for tonnage. My experience is that once you have destroyed the capacity for the myard to move those supplies, it might not matter how high they're piled. Hit the train bridges leading to and from the myard in question, and the railways extending from there. Those 1000 tons they had stockpiled won't last long without resupply. And if they are unable to resupply, the myards will be neutralized even without destroying those stockpiles. Only 2 out of 10 myard strikes result in any supplies credited. But the percentage destroyed steadily increases. Once all loading yards are about 50% destroyed, the marshalling yard should be all but silent. But destroy those loading yards and you'll soon see a drastic reduction in the activity levels if not the tonnage levels.

[This message has been edited by DBond (edited 16 December 1999).]

DBond

16th December 1999 19:30

Above, the 2 out of 10 ratio is what I get with B-29/B-26 strikes against myards. Fighter bomber strikes should be more likely to hit supplies since repeated passes allow you to root them out. And since I target predominately loading yards on myard strikes, I'm less likely to get tonnage than the player who targets warehouses, ammo and fuel. Hidden supplies are always a safe bet, but the hardest to destroy. Like I've said, in my opinion it's more important to restrict the ability to move the supplies than to destroy them. But it's a great campaign since your strategy might be to destroy the transportation network. Or focus on the supply. Of course, the best strategy will be the proper blend of the two. The fun part is finding that balance. I lean towards that rail system myself, but I'll be interested to read about other strategies here at Frugals.

7Feb and Pyongyang bridges are in UN hands. The offensive in the west has halted there while the UN attempts to catch up in the central. A ground offensive near Singye is being prepared. UN has initiative in east with forwrd elements holding the town of Kojo on the coast. Once the line is consolidated, the attack on PYang should closely follow. F-51's now based at Sariwon. Looking at the salient in the current line, I can't help but think about the Ardennes. Wonder if the Reds have a "Spring Mist" planned. (German code name for Battle of the Bulge offensive translated to Autumn Mist, right? I might be wrong on this one). We're attempting to conserve aircraft since I can't be sure how much fight the Reds have left. It's just B-26's near the front. And then I go in another mission. All other planes are currently grounded. I don't want to find I lost my last 4 Thunderjets because the AI flew them into the ground. We'll let the Reds call the shots for a few days, until we have enough fighters again to go on the offensive in regards to target selection. The Red's backs are against the wall. Basically they're cornered. PYang is the last line of defense. I expect a counter-offensive in the central, but we'll be doing everything we can to see it doesn't happen.

KC23

17th December 1999 05:49

DBond,

I have pretty much come to the same conclusion strategy wise. It is more efficient to restrict the flow of supplies than it is to eliminate the supplies.

My most in-efficient missions are typically Marshaling Yard and Supply depot strikes. The reds are just to clever at hiding and it is often too expensive (in number of aircraft lost) to root out the supplies.

Don't get me wrong, I believe in hitting both Marshaling yards and Supply depots with medium bomber strikes occasionally, but that seems to be the only real effective way to hit them IMHO.

I spend a very large percentage of my missions on Bridge, Armed Recon and Rail missions. I also throw in some raids on the southern most airfields to keep the MiGs from getting too aggressive. I don't actually try and bring the airfield down (these can be very dangerous for your medium bombers), I lure the MiGs off the airfield and try for high percentage of MiG kills to F86's lost kill ratios.

From reading DBond's exploits I've come to the conclusion that just hitting the local Bridge, Truck and Rail convoys is not the best way. It pays off to search out any high volume choke points regardless of where they are on the map. With this in mind, however you have to be careful not to fall into a MiG diaster on those northern strikes. DBond describes very well just what I'm talking about in his mission that got just about all his medium bombers blown out of the sky.

Even though hitting those northern targets is very helpful, it can be very destructive to you as well. These missions need to be planed very carefully and be well escorted. Using radio silence is extremely important in these missions. You also should NEVER attack deep into enemy territory in the same place on the same day. Once you've told the enemy you are interested in a particular target up north, he will place a MiG patrol in the area for a while.

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Spring Offensive Strategy Guide
<http://www.frugalsworld.com/mig-guide.shtml>

DBond

18th December 1999 18:25

KC~ glad we're on the same page strategy-wise. It took me several campaigns to switch from a airfield/supply strategy to a rail system/reconn strategy. And I only added the reconn since the patch. Man, it works good. Don't know how much weight the interdiction carries in the dynamic thing, but in one month of the SO, the UN has credit for 1000 trains/trucks. That's gettin' it done. And you are right about being careful with your strikes. I find myself getting lulled into complacency and becoming careless with planning. Lulls in MiG activity and I send more and more unescorted strikes. Sooner or later it bites my a\$\$\$. And as you know, all it takes is one time. It seems like replacements come at the rate of 8-12 new planes per week. One costly mission and it may be weeks before your

airforce recovers. Since that strike on PYang that went so wrong, I have basically resorted to sending one alpha-type strike per session. And alpha-strike is being generous. Not many planes. Maybe 8 or 12 fighters and the 16 bombers. One target per session is giving the Reds a respite. And it's all because of a bad mission two weeks before.

DBond

18th December 1999 18:48

9Feb. The line in the central sector has moved forward to Suan. This consolidation means the UN should be ready for the assault on PYang shortly. UN is currently unable to be aggressive in target selection. Sinuiju railbridge has been operational for 5 days. Railines into Korea are again running supplies to the troops near PYang. We just don't have the planes to risk an attack on such a well-defended target. Man, I want to hit that bridge! It's driving me nuts. MiGs are EVERYWHERE! Each and every mission is intercepted by multiple MiG formations. A recent alpha on PYang MYard was intercepted by well over 100 MiGs. Luckily, Red GCI must only be authorizing one or two formations to attack. Many MiGs are holding altitude over 40,000 ft. while the furball rages below. If they were to all attack simultaneously, there would be nothing we could do. We're barely surviving as it is. More aggressive tactics at this point by the MiGs would probably turn the momentum in their favor. Fortunately, they don't seem to realize this.

BTW, just got my 50th kill. In close to 70 missions in Sabres which resulted in about 25 engagements. Average of two per dogfight. Low target size. Complex AI on. Red AI set to medium. UN AI set to high. Maximum flight settings. Mid-air collisions off. No reloads. (Well, I'd be lying if I said I never re-racked the rockets on a train interdiction. But no reloads in air-to-air.)

DBond

19th December 1999 11:01

12Feb and IX Corps launches assault on North Korean capitol of Pyongyang. Ground strength even as the UN attacks the city from three sides. Sensing collapse, the Reds have been extremely aggressive in the air. Any UN plane that crosses the line is guaranteed to be met by multiple large MiG formations. There are hundreds of MiGs in the air at each target. I'm glad they didn't do this a month ago. If they had we wouldn't be attacking PYang right now. RedTails had rotated out about two weeks back and haven't been spotted since. It's mostly the polished metal and the red nosed squadrons we are encountering. The morning mission on the 12th was to PYang in support of the assault. One flight of T-Jets were tasked with CAS in support of the troops on the ground(they didn't destroy anything, but it felt more realistic with the CAS planes flying below), Mustangs from Sariwon escorting. B-26's were sent to hit the myard. Musta gone there two dozen times in this campaign. Could probably fly there in the dark by now.3 flights of fighters escorting. Nasty dogfight with MiGs going every which way. Bombers made the target, and afterwards, intel indicated there were only 10 tons of supplies remaining at the marshalling yard. Raillines from Antung to PYang are running at full capacity, so they may be able to resupply. But 10 tons won't get it done. Will fly several more missions in support of the troops to try and end the war before PYang can be resupplied.

BTW, the skies are so full of MiGs, that I actually decided to scrub two sessions on the 11th. Just thought it wasn't worth going into that hurricane. Man, I'm telling you the MiGs are thick. MiGs now based near the Taeryong River at Taechon, Saamcham and Sinanju airfields.

[This message has been edited by DBond (edited 19 December 1999).]

DBond

19th December 1999 11:10

13Feb 7:30 A.M.~ United Nations Forces have captured Pyongyang and Chinese Forces are retreating northwards. Delegations have arrived at Panmunjom to discuss peace. It is believed that the high

cost of sustaining the war and continued pressure from U.N. Forces will cause the Chinese to abandon North Korea.

The war is over.

Thanks for listening.

Hey KC, when's Washington's birthday again?

The assault on PYang lasted all of one day. Guess the Reds on the ground just didn't have any fight left in 'em. Or maybe they just didn't have anything left to fight with .

KC23

20th December 1999 04:05

DBond,

Was fantastic following your campaign. Unfortunately it still appears far too easy. I doubt if your settings were a little higher that it would of made much difference either. I play on the highest AI settings for both Reds and UN. I've been wondering why some of your kills ratios have been so high compaired to mine, but now I understand why.

As a tester following your campaign has confirmed several aspects of the Spring Offensive that I would like to see changed. Personally, I think the Reds should be well dug in at the Seoul line. This should be a much more difficult part of the sim. I'm struggling with how it should be harder as this could be done in several ways.

MiGs could be at higher levels of flying ability, but this wouldn't be realistic.

The MiGs could be more aggressive. This might be a good option.

Re-supply could be faster over all. Probably the most realistic, but not too interesting.

Air defenses could be improved. This might also be an option, but it would really ruin things if they over did it.

Slower resupply of your planes. Yawn.

Weather causeing grounding of your planes and providing unhindered resupply for the Reds. I like this idea.

My thoughts are that I would like perhaps one more squadron besides the Red Tails to be extra dangereous.

I would like the other squadrons to me a bit more aggressive.

Finally, I would like to have to skip days many more days due to weather.

Anyone else have any thoughts on this?

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Spring Offensive Strategy Guide

<http://www.frugalsworld.com/mig-guide.shtml>

DBond

20th December 1999 09:38

Yeah KC, the grounding is good. Like I detailed in the report, 3 full days-9 sessions- were lost to grounding(or is it a bug?Did Rowan plan this?) caused by severe weather. I'll have to try playing the next campaign with higher AI settings. When you crank up the MiGs AI, do you still run across newbies? No wonder I get all those kills compared to some other payers. We shot down close to 560 MiGs in that campaign. I'm sure it would be far fewer with maxed MiG AI. I would also like to point out that I played this campaign with one purpose. Win as fast as possible. The tactics used would certainly not qualify as realistic. I just tried to do what was necessary to beat the game. For instance, I sent alot of F-80's and F-84's on single flight, unescorted bridge strikes. I knew from playing a few SO's, that the MiGs rarely intercept East coast missions in the first couple of weeks(That does change later, believe me). In a real war, you probably would always escort a mission like that. I sent the minimum number of planes whenever possible, so I could hit as many targets as I could. Real tactics would put more planes in fewer missions, resulting in fewer targets attacked. And my next campaign, I will play it more realistically. My goal in that one will be to finish the war with as many planes left as possible, irregardless of the finish date. It's easy to be daring when planning missions for computer pilots. I'm sure Gabby Gabreski wasn't nearly as reckless in target selection and mission planning as I was.

About making the SO more difficult. Again, I point to how I played that campaign as to why it ended so soon. Plus, we were lucky. A few more costly missions early on and progress would have been slower. We were extremely successful in hitting targets. Sinuiju rail bridge and PYang railbridge were only operational for about 10 days the entire campaign. Seoul railbridge was knocked out on day one and was still down when Seoul was captured. Which bring us to what I think could be done to increase difficulty without affecting play balance to much. It seems that whenever the bomber strikes are intercepted, the MiGs time their attack just after the bombers have released their stores. So, even though it's no less dangerous for the UN planes (doesn't matter if you die going to the target or away from it, you're still dead) the bombers almost invariably hit the target. I think if more engagements began, say 10 minutes before the bombers released, more would be lost to MiGs before they reached the target and dropped their bombs. Resulting, of course in less damage per mission. Equals longer war. Now, I know that when the MiGs are still based at Kimpo and Seoul, they do engage before the target. The first mission of the campaign is testament to that for anyone who's tried it. But after the MiGs are chased to around Hwainju, they seem to time their attacks to when you hear "All Viper aircraft, bombs away". Then the MiGs come screaming down from altitude. Still lose bombers and fighters fighting through the MiGs. But the damage to the target is already done. If the MiGs engaged earlier sometimes, it would go a long to lenghtening the war. What do you think?

KC23

20th December 1999 15:43

DBond,

I like your idea, don't know how feasible it would be to get the enemy to the bombers sooner, but if they could that would be a good tactic.

As far as sending aircraft unescorted being unrealistic I'm not sure I totally agree. Obviously way up north, but short stops to the local bridges might not be out of the realm of possibilities. With decent intel it might of been a possible option.

The whole object is to get the game as realistic as possible while still being fun to play. I think the game should be designed so that real life tactics are what win the game for you. Basically what I'm

saying is that I don't think you should change your tactics to make it harder.

Your idea above is the kind of solution that is needed, but may not be practice programming wise. I will mention it in my request.

When I won the war about the same time you did in earlier versions they were shocked. They anticipated that it should take 4 - 6 game time months to win. So far they are still 2 months off their objectives.

Ken "KC23" Cook

Senior Editor,
Frugal's World of Simulation

Spring Offensive Strategy Guide
<http://www.frugalsworld.com/mig-guide.shtml>

DBond

9th January 2001 21:34

Up.

DBond
Contributing Editor
Frugal's World of Simulations

"Do not ask how strong the enemy is, but where he is to be found" Motto of the Russian Fighter Pilot

DBond

11th August 2001 04:04

Up once more time for old times sake 😊

DBond
Contributing Editor
Frugal's World of Simulations

"Do not ask how strong the enemy is, but where he is to be found" Motto of the Russian Fighter Pilot

HarryM

4th February 2003 20:05

Can't leave this old gem sleeping!

DBond

4th February 2003 21:39

Ahh, the memories. That sounded like fun ;)

HarryM28th January 2004 08:02

Re: Spring Offensive

My yearly *bump* :D

PipsPriller30th January 2004 05:02

Re: Spring Offensive

This has to be one of the classic reads on how to conduct a campaign in MiG Alley. Have lost count of the number of times I've read (and followed) this.

Still luv playing this game. :)

DBond30th January 2004 16:32

Re: Spring Offensive

Thanks Pips! I used to play the SO alot as you know. It took several campaigns to really get a feel for what was effective, and what was not. The strategies and tactics in this thread are what I came to feel were the most effective.

I still believe I have completed more SO's than anyone else, but there's no way to know for sure. I believe at last count it was 12. I was always a bit dissapointed that more guys didn't seem to get into the campaign. It's so freakin' awesome. But I suppose computer crashes and bugs turned some people off or prevented them from playing. What a shame. The SO is such a great mix of strategic and tactical planning and execution. I've recently gotten into Falcon 4 and it's campaign. Also outstanding. But as good as it is, there's not much responsibility for the player on the strategic or mission planning levels, like you have in MA. So in some respects, I still believe the SO is the best flight sim campaign of all time.

Haven't played MA in some time though. But I sure do like to discuss the campaign! I'm hoping that someday we might see the campaign playable from the Red perspective, and also perhaps that it would become playable as co-op. Ya never know!

HarryM30th January 2004 16:55

Re: Spring Offensive

Yep, can you imagine MA with II-2 style graphics, with a little "fatter" world like in F4 with aggregate units all over the place. That would be the dog's danglies.

I'll finish my current one off and then I'll have at least *one* under my belt. I am intrigued by F4's campaign esp. reading Beach's awesome reports, it's just the combination of steep learning curve and my limited stick time holding me back there, but the latest iteration is pretty damned sweet with TrackIR support. I'm more the "strap it on and fly" type.

HarryM30th January 2004 17:00

Re: Spring Offensive

One thing I have noticed is that my Rail Recon missions have been doing very poorly, these are typically rocket/bomb equipped F-80s. They just can't seem to come home with any tonnages even on heavy routes. The F-51 road recons always bring home the usual 96 tons or so. I'm concerned that some substantial supplies might be making it through via the rail net, even though the main bridges to the front are down.

DBond

30th January 2004 18:24

Re: Spring Offensive

I think the big problem may be that the rail targets are fewer and farther between? And perhaps the AI does not do a very good job of hunting? If the trains aren't right by the IP to target waypoints maybe they don't attack. Just speculating. Maybe try extending the waypoints to cover more length of track?

All times are GMT. The time now is 17:40.

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