

bruce powers

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 Subject: Homework - air-to-air combat

Albania induces Kosovar Muslims to assist Muslims in southern Serbia. Serbia responds with its army -- sent to the border to protect Serbs just north of Kosovo. In protecting Serbs, the army conducts cross-province raids that alarm NATO, as in 1999. After a period of sabre-rattling, NATO initiates a bombing campaign in Serbia to induce the Serbian Army to pull back from Kosovo.

Fewer political constraints are imposed on NATO commanders this time, so the bombing campaign includes few restrictions on targets and on flying altitudes for NATO aircraft.<sup>2</sup> NATO also increases its sortie rate over Serbia compared to 1999, but is constrained from attacking Serbian air bases and aircraft at them.

The small Serbian air force is used to harass NATO bombing aircraft in the vicinity of their surface targets. Serbian aircraft appear fleetingly with the intent to disrupt the concentration of NATO bombing aircraft. NATO aircraft that carry air-to-air missiles thus get only rare opportunities to shoot them at Serbian aircraft.

Devise advice for NATO pilots firing air-to-air missiles on how much of their loads of air-to-air missiles to shoot when they get an opportunity, including the wisdom of desperation shots. Offer this advice in the form of a short essay; include a recommendation on which kind of missile(s) to carry and shoot if you wish. Be explicit about your assumptions. Limit yourself to 300 words total. (But bring additional considerations to class discussion if you think them important.)

Don't hesitate to ask for elaboration at [dixclip@msn.com](mailto:dixclip@msn.com) or [bfpowers@nps.navy.mil](mailto:bfpowers@nps.navy.mil)  
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Most US tactical aircraft that fly over enemy territory can change the mix of ordnance they carry to render themselves more (or less) bombers or aerial fighters.

\* in 1999 combat, NATO tactical aircraft stayed above 15,000 feet over Serbia