

Jack McDougall

General Kills a

FIREBEE



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By Jack McDougall, F-106 Live Fire Program Manager

As F-106 Live Fire Program Manager at Tyndall I experienced many pilot mistakes. One dramatic event comes to mind.

A deployed unit had completed all shots except for a General officer that was the only pilot that couldn't manage to get a shot off. I set up a "duck shoot" where he could watch the launch and follow the drone to the range, get all permissions then take the shot.

Following a THOROUGH briefing the sortie began. General 'X' watched the launch, locked on and immediately fired and splashed the drone. Drone had not started survival counter measures, had not made it to the range nor had the pilot received clearance to arm or fire.

I was stunned.

I was ordered to meet the General at the cockpit and tell him how bad he had F***ed up. I replied by stating "you're shitting me". No I didn't do that. I understand he, the 07, was ordered to go to each squadron and brief them on range safety procedures at Tyndall for his punishment.