

HAPPENED RECENTLY ON AN AIRFIELD



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Not too long ago I was in the bar for an after-flight pint. The usual crowd was hanging out and a few air force chaps as well. We started talking and one story led into the next while the clock was ticking away and the fluids evaporating.

One guy apparently had spent some time on an aircraft carrier and had this story: *"A fighter pilot came in for landing and missed the bungies with the hook. When he noticed the aircraft failed him for relaunch he tried frantically to stop, but that is, of course, impossible. So, just as he tipped over the flight deck he ejected and got rescued the usual way. Later he was interviewed and guess what this cool boy said when he was asked the question: 'when did you decide to bail out?'"*

Silence for some time... *"This cool boy said 25 years ago – do you believe that!"*

Again some silence. Close shave? Okay. The aircraft was lost, but I don't think it was a close shave. For me, this guy had done his homework. Clearly 25 years ago he formulated a plan B for the situation; and a good one too. There are many scenarios in gliding that could be thought through sitting somewhere – winter is the THE time for it. Do you have a plan B – say for example when you realise you are running out of runway?

Invite a couple of comrades and make it an evening task developing such alternate plans. May you never be in need of them.

Safe soaring

