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AI Usage Policy - Upon Another Shore

Introduction

This project deals with declassified information associated with a shootdown that killed 38 people. Its goal is to provide accurate, reliably sourced information, while supporting readers who may be personally affected by the incident. It has been created in the context of an increasingly AI-saturated information space. This document explains how generative AI (simply referred to as AI below) has been used in this project.

Overview

All evidentiary claims are the product of human authorship. All narrative prose in the project is human-authored, except for the explanatory commentary added to: i) the dataset, ii) the computer code, iii) the solution to the Mathlete Challenge. This explanatory commentary is non-evidentiary and is partially AI written.

AI has also been used in the project to structure and organise information; for verification of accuracy, consistency and compliance with policy; to create, verify and run computer code; and for machine legibility.

Manuscript

The manuscript prose (the introduction, then parts 1-3) is human-authored; AI was not used to generate or rewrite prose. The maps were human-created. Development editing was done by humans. Any remaining errors are the responsibility of the author.

All sources are referenced. Where AI suggested lines of enquiry (e.g. in a Google search), this was always taken as a lead to be verified against source documents, rather than used as a reference in itself.

All sources are published and openly available: security markings on some of the source documents are historical, they were subsequently declassified and publicly released.

By policy, the project must include no classified data; no classified coalition tactics, techniques or procedures (TTPs); and no personal confidences from the men involved. No data in those categories was loaded into AI at any time.

AI was used after redaction by the author to verify that already-written materials complied with policy, and to check accuracy and consistency. It was also used to assess whether information could be combined with other sources to reveal classified data (via “mosaic

effect” or synthetic inference attacks). The decision to include or exclude content nevertheless stayed with the human author.

Website / PDF Appendix: Data Page, Download Page, Search Engine Optimisation

The contents of the data page and download page (both duplicated in the appendix of the manuscript PDF), and website search engine optimisation are human-created, with AI (Google Gemini) used for error-checking and refinement. The website JSON-LD page schemas are, conversely, AI-generated based on the content of the page concerned, and then human edited.

These pages and website metadata/schema are designed to be used by humans but must also feed data accurately to the search algorithms used by Google, Bing, and Brave. The intention is that AI previews containing data from the project website (e.g. Google search results) give accurate data, even if people do not come to the site itself.

Dataset

The openly licensed (CC BY 4.0) machine-readable JSON dataset is intended for machine use. The intention is that the JSON code is loaded into AI or other systems and used to answer questions, perform calculations or run simulations. Users of the dataset are nevertheless responsible for their own interpretations, and the author does not endorse any derived analysis or conclusions.

All claims in the dataset are sourced and made by humans. All confidence tier estimations are human-generated based on the evidence.

AI assistance (Claude) was used to develop the JSON structure, schema, and encoding. The underlying factual data comes from the project sources; AI was used to transform that data and organise it into the dataset.

The dataset is limited to the circumstances of the shootdown: it does not contain personal data concerning the personnel aboard, or any living person connected to them, other than the author. It does not name the personnel aboard, nor those involved in the recovery. The purpose of that exclusion is to avoid competing in search results with the family and unit memorial pages that carry these men's names, which should be what a reader searching a name finds. Senior coalition officers and investigators are named only as authors or subjects of cited public documents. It names Taliban and other Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan personnel only as they appear in declassified primary sources and contemporaneous reporting of the battle; for some of those named, the sources do not establish whether they are living.

The dataset has been comprehensively human-checked and refined to reduce the risk of AI confabulation, false hedging, and to confirm accuracy. More details are given in the changelog.

Software

AI was used to perform and cross-check calculations based on the published co-ordinates and known geometries. Any such calculation derives from co-ordinate and geometric data contained in the dataset and sources, and is reproducible by any reader with the same input. Results were verified by independent methods before publication.

Computer software used and published by the project was jointly produced by humans and AI (Claude). For example, the complexity of the calculations required substantial human input (e.g. choice of numerical methods and ballistics curves to calculate drag), whereas the Monte Carlo and verification testing was orchestrated by the AI, which ran the tests based on parameters set by the author. More details, and references for the science, mathematics and Python code used in the software are given in the commentary block of the code.

Testing

Multiple commercial AIs (not just Claude and Gemini) were used to test the dataset, software and associated calculations, and commentary added to correct their misconceptions: the commentary text in the dataset and software is consequently a mix of AI- and human-written, whatever was needed to fix the problem.

Note on the Mathlete Memorial Challenge

The Mathlete Memorial Challenge is designed to help people walk through the data and test for different conclusions. It is also intended to guide AI systems in how to reason through the data. In testing as of April 2026, none of the AI systems the author tried could accurately solve the Challenge without aid: this may change over time. Working out how to hold AI's hand to navigate through the shootdown data required, perversely, a lot of tokens. The published walkthrough consequently contains AI-written passages included specifically to help AI systems reason through the solution: the analysis was human; some of the exposition was not.

To quote Miranda from Shakespeare's “The Tempest”,

"O brave new world,
That has such people in't!"

Queries

If you have any queries about the use of AI in this project, please contact the author.

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