Twitter Thread by Farva Price



Farva Price
@FarvaPrice

Farva JO story!

As a new JO we had returned from deployment with some hours to burn, which meant JO cross-country machine was turned on.
I convinced the senior JO in the squadron to go to Tampa with me.
He agreed, leadership signed off, and away we go! /1

> Supersonic aircraft tracked off San Diego coincided with mysterious "skyquake":https://t.co/VQejR2OiKa
>
> — Tyler Rogoway (@Aviation_Intel) June 9, 2021

We 3-legged it to Macdill by the way of New Mexico and Pensacola.
From Pensacola to Tampa is a short jaunt over the Gulf of Mexico which means we also plenty of room with our left hand (I.e. gas).
The senior JO coordinated with Center ahead of time airspace FL400-FL500. /2

We blasted out of Pensacola as the sun was setting and never took the throttles out of afterburner. That takeoff is Still one of my fondest aviation memories.
Pretty quickly we were approved for the block of airspace and up we went. Halfway across the Gulf we pushed over. /3

It’s completely dark out now, so all I can see is the glow of the afterburner of my wingman a mile away from me.
We started from FL500 (ceiling of the Super Hornet) and dumped the nose 30 degrees nose low.
I saw Mach 1.6 and over a 1000kts ground speed (200 knot tailwind!) /4

There was a Standard Arrival Procedure into MacDill, so we slowed down to 250KIAS to fly the arrival.
On the approach to MacDill, the runway lights were off, so we had to depart and reenter for the overhead (which means we flew over downtown Tampa). Landing was uneventful. /5

As we are getting out of our flight gear and buttoning up the jets, one of line dudes asks “were you guys f***ing around out there?

“No, why?”

“We felt some pretty good shaking down here.”

Me and the other JO are looking at each other, we were subsonic pretty far out right? /6

No sooner than that thought pops into our head, a car pulls up with an Air Force captain; “The Colonel wants to chat with you.”

Yikes.

We walk into Base Ops and it is all over the news. Apparently the shaking was felt along almost the entire west coast of Florida.

Yikes. /7

The Colonel (an aviator), asks: “Did you guys break any rules?”

“No sir.”

“Then don’t worry about it.”

Meanwhile my friend calls me and asks if I am in town yet. I told him to turn on the news, and he started dying laughing. /8

We stayed that night on base. The senior JO was still sweating it (understandably).

We called our Skipper who pretty much echoed the Colonel.
/9

Next night we went out and had a blast. You bet I used my new found fame.
We went to a club in Ybor with a bunch of my friends and there was a huge line. I went up to the doorman and asked him if his house shook last night.
“Yeah it did.”
“That was us.”
“Bro, c’mon in!” /10

They pulled our flight records we we got back to Lemoore. We were in fact subsonic well outside MacDill’s airspace and within the rules.

We also registered a 2.7 on the Richter scale in Orlando. /fin

https://t.co/VbV11nhTAR