

# MAKO Flight: 212th Paladins

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This story is of a fictional nature and is inspired by the Starfleet Marines Aerospace Branch. The story MAKO Flight: 212th Paladins take inspiration not just by the SFMC but also real life Military branches as well as Military movies. Enjoy the short story.

The 212th MSG attached to the USS Ranger had its fair share of battles during the conflict with the Romulan Star Empire. The Empire after losing their Homeworld became much more aggressive and so a war began in 2391. The Ranger itself was a modified Akira Class Starship that served as a Carrier Vessel for the 212th.

The Ranger was conducting patrols inside Romulan space. The 212th had its pilots assemble inside the twenty man ready room. The Squadron was led by Lieutenant Colonel JC Prescott Callsign: Cowboy who was an ace from the Dominion War. This was Prescott's last deployment before going back to 29 Palms as an instructor.

His XO was Major Liam Donnelly Callsign: Celtic was a Marine Aviator who served in the corps for twelve years. Liam upon returning was informed that he would be receiving command of the 212th Paladins upon the Prescott's transfer.

Inside the ready room the men were standing and Prescott said, "At ease." With that the men sat down and Prescott said, "Today we are going to be on standard Combat Air Patrols with each team on for eight hours. Our mission is to patrol along the neutral zone and make reports. Do not fire until you have authorization." Prescott then said, "Flying lead will be Celtic wingman for Celtic will be Hammer." "Second set of wingmen will be Vodka and Wolf." You all will launch in half an hour."

All the pilots got up and saluted the Colonel and soon everyone headed to the locker room to change into their flight gear. Celtic and Hammer changed quickly into their PPG-24s first, then the AE-304B Survival vests and lastly the AE-40 helmet in hand ready to be put on. Celtic wore a set of Aviator shades and said to Hammer, "let's kick some Romulan ass." Hammer said, "Yeah let's do it Major." They fist bumped and walked through the Hangar Deck to where the deck crew had the fighters ready for launch. The 212th flew F-5 Tigersharks and were painted a chrome color with Celtic's craft number was 134 and written near the cockpit was, "Major Liam "Celtic" Donnelly." Hammer's craft was number 196 and written was Captain Jason "Hammer" Harmon." The plane captain's for each plane came up and saluted the pilots

and informed them their craft were ready and the two got inside their craft. The Control room said to Celtic, "MAKO Team you are cleared for launch." Celtic got on and says, "MAKO Team Launching."

The two pilots launched their craft and proceeded to coordinates five light years away at warp three. Hammer asked Celtic, "Hey Celtic what should we expect?" Celtic answered Hammer, "I'm not sure but Intel suggests maybe some Scorpion fighters." "We have clearance to fire immediately when in contact."

After a few hours, the two dropped out of warp. The two fighters flew well together and Celtic being got on the com. "Hammer you picking up anything?" Hammer said, "Yeah transponder signals about two light years away it's one of ours." "Roger that Hammer stand by." "Copy that Celtic." Celtic got on the communicator and patched in the signal to the Ranger. "Ranger this is MAKO Team we have a Starfleet Transponder signal." The Colonel came on and said, "Alpha 1 this is Ranger we are sending two more pilots to you now send us your coordinates." Celtic said, "Roger that." Celtic sent a message to Hammer on the LCARS system a text that said, "HOLD POSITION BACKUP IS ON THE WAY."

The two pilots decided to grab a meal while waiting and after an hour two other Barracuda's joined the two pilots. Soon the two pilots commed Celtic, "MAKO 1 this Razor and Scots joining MAKO Flight." Celtic said, "Roger that Razor you are MAKO 3 and Scots is MAKO 4."

Razor was a 1st Lieutenant who is only in his third year with the corps. A talented pilot from New York City and Scots was a new recruit who was a Second Lieutenant from Edinburgh, Scotland. Soon the newly christened MAKO flight began to move towards the transponder beacon. After moving at impulse power they arrived thirty minutes later to a terrible scene.

The four pilots saw the wreck of the USS Constitution NCC-1700-B. The Constitution was an Ambassador Class Starship that was over fifty years old. Inheriting her name from the lead ship of the Constitution Class and an Excelsior Class, the Constitution was a great vessel at one time now here she was foundered in empty space. Soon the flight maneuvered through the wreck to assess her condition. Razor got on and said, "She is in bad shape MAKO 1." Celtic replied to Razor, "Roger that MAKO 3 I'll report in immediately." Soon after saying that six scorpion fighters came out from the wreck and decloaked upon the flight. "Shields up," Celtic said.

Soon the Romulan fighters started to maneuver around the Barracudas and opened fire with their disruptors. MAKO 3 banked right as well as MAKO 4. MAKO 1 banked left as did MAKO 1. Soon MAKO flight was on its own and then Celtic said, "MAKO 3 and 4 take two of them and MAKO 2 and I will take the rest of them." Then Razor replied, "Roger that MAKO 1." MAKO flight split into two teams. MAKO 1 was flying lead with 2 and MAKO 3 was flying lead with 4. MAKO 2 had a Scorpion fighter locked on and began firing phasers immediately and

staying on the scorpion's tail. After a couple minutes, the scorpion fighter lost shields and Hammer got ready to launch a torpedo on the now unshielded Romulan fighter. "Firing," said Hammer and soon the phaser hit the Scorpion fighter blowing it up.

The lead Scorpion fighter for MAKO 1 and 2 had begun to maneuver and utilize a cloaking device on the two. Soon the pilots were looking for the Romulan but meanwhile MAKO 3 and 4 were having issues of their own. The two were engaged in all out fire with the Romulans. MAKO 4 was having issues but bypassed his systems to keep fighting relying on emergency power. Soon MAKO 4 shot down a Scorpion but then got hit hard by another one and lost engines as well as weapons as well as his hull integrity down to twelve percent. His power down to seven percent and said to the flight, "MAKO flight my fighter is falling apart I'm ejecting. MAKO 1 said, "Copy that MAKO 4." MAKO 4 initiated a command sequence and his cockpit turned into an escape pod and it ejected from the fiery craft that was about to explode.

MAKO 3 then began to engage their last fighter and the fighters began to maneuver anticipating the others moves. Soon the two began to fire on each other and both ended up taking down the other. MAKO 3 managed to launch his pod before his craft blew up and soon the two pilots left were MAKO 1 and 2.

The Romulan de-cloaked and sneak attacked MAKO 2 hitting his shields as well as his warp core damaging it just not destroying it. MAKO 2 on his console said STBD Weapons OFF PRT WEAPONS OFF, ENGNS OFF, COMMS 10%, LFE SPT 5%. MAKO 2 was sitting there and MAKO 1 began engaging the Scorpion fighter.

MAKO 1 moved in and closed the distance firing phasers at the enemy and the Romulan pilot did the same and opened fire on Celtic. Soon the two maneuvered around each other for what seemed to be ten minutes. However MAKO 1 managed to find an opportunity to end it and fired a phaser right into the cockpit of the Scorpion which hit and destroyed the cockpit bringing out the Romulan pilot from inside into space. MAKO 1 fired again destroying the fighter and finally breathed a sigh of relief.

He then began to hail the Ranger and said, "Ranger this is MAKO 1 we need SAR ASAP we have three down pilots." Soon after a minute Ranger said, "Ranger ETA Forty Minutes." With that Celtic said to everyone, "Good work MAKO flight in an hour we should be home." Soon Celtic heard on the radio the flight cheering from the other pilots and then he relaxed unknown exhaustion came over him and today he earned his fifth kill making him an Ace. MAKO 2 had gotten up to 4 kills today. MAKO 3 got his third kills and MAKO 4 only had two kills two his record.

After a bit, Celtic woke up and the Ranger came out of warp and hailed him. "MAKO 1 what's your status?" Celtic answered, "Just a bit cooked but still have power to make it back." "The others need to be beamed aboard ship." They replied, "Roger that MAKO 1." Soon Celtic

maneuvered his craft which was had forty seven percent power left. He shut off his weapons which gave him fifty nine percent and shut off shields.

The lone pilot was making a slow approach and said, "Ranger this is MAKO 1 requesting permission to land." Soon Celtic heard, "Permission granted to land Major welcome home sir." Celtic landed his scorch marked chrome painted F-5 Tigershark and then got out of the cockpit with help from the enlisted men and said his thanks then took off his helmet where he then walked out to find the rest of MAKO Flight was being brought aboard. Celtic went over to check on Hammer whose fighter was brought back aboard as well as two escape pods under tractor beam. The Captain of the Ranger and the CO of the Squadron Colonel Prescott came down to the hangar. Prescott came up to Celtic and said, "Major nice flying out there." Celtic saluted and said, "Thank you sir." Soon the pilots went with Medical staff except for Celtic who was deemed to not need medical attention.

Celtic wearing his flight suit still was going through the corridors until he reached Prescott's Office. The Major knocked and heard a deep voice say, "Come in." Celtic went in and stood at attention, "Sir." Prescott said, "Major I would like for you to report what happened today." Celtic nodded and gave the Colonel a full detailed report of the incident which the Colonel intently.

The Colonel was happy with his report and he said, "Ranger lost too many fighters and now we are being relieved by the VMF-187 and VMA-195 aboard the Ark Royal. We are on our way back to Earth as well as the 212th will be fitted with new F/A-35 Barracudas so we will be VMFA-212 Paladins. The Colonel also handed Celtic a Padd which had information. The Colonel stood and said, "Your promotion has been approved Lieutenant Colonel Donnelly." The new Lieutenant Commander saluted and said, "Thank you sir." The Colonel saluted back and then shook his hand. "Congratulations Colonel Donnelly." "Thank you sir," replied Donnelly.

The 212th left for Earth that night with the War with the Romulan Star Empire lasting only a few more months. Colonel Prescott went on to become Commander of 29 Palms with the rank of Brigadier General. Lieutenant Colonel Donnelly went on to serve as CO of VMFA-212 and eventually at the end of his Combat Career managed to achieve twenty four confirmed kills and then became an instructor for Black Flag at 29 Palms as well. Hammer went on to command the 212th after Donnelly left and became an accomplished ACE. Eventually Hammer was given a teaching spot at Annapolis. As for Razor he joined another squadron to get a chance to advance his career which towards the end of it brought him to 29 Palms as well. As for Scots, he was shot down towards the end of the Romulan war by a Mogai Warbird he was posthumously awarded the rank of Major and the Starfleet Medal of Honor.