

The Mustang

Short Movie Treatment

Working Title: The Mustang

Logline

When a drone war erupts in the Persian Gulf, a former warbird pilot turned President secretly returns to the cockpit of his restored **North American P-51 Mustang** to prove that old machines and older instincts can defeat modern warfare. But his mission triggers a constitutional crisis back home as the government prepares to remove him from power.

Act I

The War No One Prepared For

The film opens with chaos over the **Strait of Hormuz**.

Saudi radar screens fill with **hundreds of cheap Iranian drones**. They move slowly, buzzing like mechanical mosquitoes across the Gulf.

Modern fighters scream overhead.

Pilots in **F-35 Lightning II** aircraft try to engage the drones. But every kill costs a missile worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The math is insane.

A drone worth \$10,000 is destroyed with a missile costing \$1 million.

Meanwhile, the drones keep coming.

Washington

The **President of the United States** is not a typical commander in chief.

Before politics he was a **Commemorative Air Force pilot**, restoring and flying warbirds at airshows.

He personally rebuilt a **P-51 Mustang** as a young man in Texas.

While advisers debate sanctions and task forces, the President notices something nobody else does.

The drones fly **slow**.

Too slow.

Modern jets struggle to intercept them efficiently.

But propeller fighters were designed for exactly that speed range.

The President remembers something from his flying days:

Old warbirds have **guns**.

Not missiles.

Guns.

Cheap bullets.

Perfect for drones.

The Forgotten Solution

He calls an old friend from the **Commemorative Air Force**.

A wealthy aviation collector who recently purchased the President's old Mustang after it was sold years earlier.

The aircraft had been flying airshows.

But the collector quietly did something unusual.

He **restored the gun bays**.

Not museum replicas.

Working weapons.

He ships the aircraft back to Washington with a simple message:

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"Thought you might want her back."

Act II

The Constitutional Gambit

The President knows the optics would be catastrophic.

A sitting president flying combat would trigger panic. And oil is already \$150 a barrel.

BUT, he makes a shocking decision.

He sends formal letters to the **Speaker of the House** and the **President pro tempore of the Senate** stating he is **temporarily unable to perform the duties of office**.

The Vice President becomes **Acting President**.

The White House tells the public the President is undergoing medical evaluation.

In reality he boards a cargo aircraft with the Mustang disassembled inside.

Destination: **Saudi Arabia**.

The entire mission is designed to last **24 hours**.

Arrival

At a remote Saudi airbase, mechanics reassemble the P-51.

It looks absurd sitting beside modern jets.

A relic.

Polished aluminum.

Six .50-caliber machine guns.

Call sign: **Mustang One**.

The President puts on a flight suit he hasn't worn in decades.

His Secret Service detail watches in stunned silence.

First Flight

The first patrol begins.

The Mustang climbs slowly over the desert.

Soon the radar operator calls out contacts.

Drones approaching the oil fields.

The President dives.

The Mustang's guns roar.

One drone explodes.

Another.

Another.

It works.

Perfectly.

Mechanical Trouble

On the return flight the old engine begins running rough.

Oil pressure drops.

The Mustang limps back to base.

The aircraft needs repairs.

The mission window closes.

The President stays a **second day**.

The Mustang

Washington Panic

Back home the Vice President faces pressure.

Cabinet members worry the President is unstable.

They begin discussing **permanently transferring power**.

Under constitutional procedure, the Cabinet prepares to vote.

If they act, Congress will decide whether the President can resume office.

Time is running out.

Act III

The Last Dogfight

At dawn the Mustang is ready again.

The President launches for one final patrol.

Radar picks up another drone wave.

He shoots down several with precise bursts.

But then something new appears.

A fast-moving contact.

Not a drone.

An **Iranian fighter jet** has entered the area.

The Impossible Fight

The jet dives toward the Mustang.

On paper the fight should last seconds.

The jet is faster.

More advanced.

Deadlier.

But the pilot underestimates the slow propeller plane.

The Mustang turns tighter.

Slower.

The jet overshoots.

The President rolls behind it.

Just like a WWII dogfight.

Guns fire.

The jet spirals down toward the sea.

Washington

At that exact moment the Cabinet prepares to vote.

Then news arrives.

The drone attacks have stopped.

Radar shows Iranian aircraft withdrawing.

The Mustang lands safely.

Final Scene

Power Returned

Back in Washington, the Vice President sits in the Oval Office.

The Mustang

Moments before the Cabinet vote, a letter arrives.

The President declares he is **once again able to perform the duties of office**.

Authority immediately returns to him.

The Vice President signs the acknowledgement.

But the room is quiet.

Everyone now knows what he did.

A President secretly flew combat.

And won.

Final Image

The restored **P-51 Mustang** sits in a museum hangar.

Visitors read the plaque.

Most think it is just another warbird.

Only a few people know the truth.

Once, for two days, it saved the modern world.

CONCEPT, THEMES, AND WORLD OF THE FILM

Working Title: Last Mustang

Logline

When cheap Iranian drone swarms overwhelm modern air defenses in the Persian Gulf, a former warbird pilot turned President secretly returns to the cockpit of his restored **North American P-51 Mustang** to prove that old machines and human skill can defeat modern warfare. His covert mission triggers a constitutional crisis in Washington as the government prepares to remove him from power.

The Elevator Pitch

In the modern world, wars are fought with satellites, stealth jets, and missiles that cost millions of dollars. But sometimes the future creates a problem that only the past can solve.

When Iran floods the Persian Gulf with thousands of cheap drones, the most advanced aircraft in the world suddenly become useless. Stealth fighters such as the **F-35 Lightning II** can easily destroy the drones, but every kill costs more money than the drone itself. The economics of war have flipped upside down.

The United States must find a solution that is faster, cheaper, and scalable.

The President of the United States realizes something that military planners have overlooked. The drones fly slowly. Very slowly.

Modern jets are too fast to efficiently intercept them.

But propeller fighters from World War II were designed to hunt aircraft at those exact speeds.

Those aircraft also carry guns.

Bullets are cheap.

Missiles are not.

The President once restored and flew a **P-51 Mustang** while flying with the **Commemorative Air Force**. When Saudi Arabia calls for help, he secretly resurrects his old aircraft and flies into combat himself.

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But while he hunts drones in the skies above the Persian Gulf, a political war begins in Washington. His sudden disappearance triggers constitutional panic, and the Cabinet prepares to remove him from power permanently.

The President has only one day to prove that his plan works.

If he fails, he loses both the war and the presidency.

Genre and Tone

The film blends several genres into a single cinematic experience.

First, it is an **aviation action film**, filled with aerial combat, mechanical tension, and the visceral experience of flying an aircraft designed nearly a century earlier.

Second, it is a **political thriller**, unfolding simultaneously in Washington as government leaders wrestle with constitutional authority, power transfers, and global perception.

Third, it is a **technological irony story**, where the most advanced weapons in history are defeated by machines designed during World War II.

The tone balances seriousness with moments of awe and wonder. The sight of a polished aluminum Mustang flying combat in the modern world feels both absurd and inspiring.

Visually, the film contrasts two worlds:

The high-tech digital command centers of Washington and modern air forces.

And the analog, mechanical cockpit of a 1940s fighter plane.

Where modern aircraft rely on radar, missiles, and automation, the Mustang relies on human vision, mechanical gauges, and instinct.

The central emotional tone is one of **quiet determination rather than bombastic heroism**. The President is not reckless or glory-seeking. He simply recognizes that the old way works better for this particular war.

Themes

The Limits of Technology

Modern warfare assumes that newer technology is always superior.

The film challenges that assumption.

Drone swarms represent the ultimate modern battlefield problem: inexpensive, mass-produced weapons that overwhelm expensive defenses.

The solution is not more advanced technology but **simpler technology used intelligently**.

The Mustang becomes a symbol of the idea that progress does not always mean replacement. Sometimes it means rediscovery.

Leadership and Personal Responsibility

The President faces a dilemma that few leaders would consider.

He can order others to attempt a risky mission.

Or he can do it himself.

His decision to fly into combat reflects a deeper philosophy about leadership: responsibility cannot always be delegated.

While political leaders often command wars from thousands of miles away, this President believes that understanding the problem requires experiencing it directly.

The Economics of War

Modern military systems are designed to defeat other advanced systems.

But drone warfare introduces a new problem.

A \$10,000 drone can provoke a \$1 million missile response.

Over time, the cheaper side wins.

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The film highlights the strategic absurdity of this imbalance and explores how militaries must adapt to new economic realities.

Human Skill Versus Automation

Drone warfare represents a future dominated by machines and algorithms.

The Mustang represents the opposite philosophy.

The aircraft has no advanced targeting computers, no automation, and no missiles.

Everything depends on the pilot's skill.

The President must rely on eyesight, judgment, and instinct rather than technology.

The story celebrates the enduring value of human expertise in an increasingly automated world.

The Global Situation

The film takes place during a rapidly escalating conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Iran has invested heavily in drone technology over the past decade, building massive production networks capable of producing inexpensive unmanned aircraft in huge numbers.

These drones are not individually sophisticated. Many are little more than flying explosives with simple navigation systems.

But when launched in large swarms, they become devastating.

Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure becomes the primary target.

Refineries, pipelines, and export terminals face constant attack.

Each drone that slips through defenses can cause billions of dollars in damage.

The Saudis possess modern air defenses and advanced fighter jets. But their systems are designed to defeat missiles and aircraft, not thousands of small drones.

Each successful interception costs far more than the drone itself.

Iran's strategy is simple: overwhelm the defenses with numbers.

The Drone War Problem

Military planners call it the **cost inversion problem**.

For decades, air combat has assumed that defending weapons are cheaper than attacking weapons.

Missiles are expensive to build, but destroying them is usually cheaper.

Drone swarms reverse this equation.

A drone costing a few thousand dollars can force the defender to spend hundreds of thousands or even millions.

Even the most powerful military in the world cannot sustain that imbalance forever.

Pentagon analysts produce charts showing the problem clearly.

If drone production reaches certain levels, missile defenses become economically impossible.

The only solution is a defense system that is cheaper than the drones themselves.

Bullets.

The Aviation World

The President's past with the **Commemorative Air Force** becomes central to the story.

The CAF is an organization dedicated to preserving and flying historic military aircraft.

Unlike museums, these aircraft are kept in flying condition.

Pilots who belong to the organization often spend years restoring old warbirds.

The President joined the organization decades earlier while still a young businessman.

He purchased a damaged **P-51 Mustang**, an aircraft famous for its role escorting bombers over Europe during World War II.

Over several years he personally helped restore the aircraft.

The Mustang

He learned every system, every mechanical quirk, every vibration of the engine.

Flying the Mustang became a defining experience in his life.

Even after entering politics, he continued flying at airshows whenever possible.

Eventually the demands of public life forced him to sell the aircraft.

But the memory of flying it never left him.

The Rediscovery of the Mustang

When the drone war begins, the President studies radar footage of drone attacks.

The drones move slowly, often between 100 and 200 miles per hour.

That speed range is awkward for modern jets.

Fighter aircraft are designed for high-speed interception.

Flying slowly reduces their maneuverability and makes it difficult to visually track small targets.

But propeller fighters from the 1940s were optimized for exactly those speeds.

The **North American P-51 Mustang** was capable of both high speed and extremely tight maneuvering at lower speeds.

It also carried six .50 caliber machine guns capable of firing thousands of rounds per minute.

Each bullet costs only a few dollars.

Against a drone, a short burst is enough to destroy it.

The President realizes something extraordinary.

The Mustang is the perfect drone interceptor.

Washington

While the military debates expensive technological solutions, the President quietly considers a simpler one.

He contacts the aviation collector who now owns his former aircraft.

The collector reveals a surprising detail.

During restoration, he rebuilt the Mustang's gun bays.

Not for combat, but as a historically accurate restoration.

The guns are operational.

The aircraft is capable of firing them.

The President suddenly sees a path forward.

But sending warbirds into combat would require months of bureaucratic planning.

The drone attacks are happening now.

Saudi Arabia needs immediate help.

So the President makes an unprecedented decision.

He will fly the mission himself.

The Constitutional Risk

For a sitting President to enter combat would be politically explosive.

If anything happened to him, the consequences for the government would be catastrophic.

He needs a way to remove himself from command temporarily.

The Constitution provides exactly that mechanism.

A President may declare that he is temporarily unable to perform the duties of office.

Power then transfers to the Vice President as Acting President.

The Mustang

The President intends to use that provision.

He will step aside officially.

Then he will disappear for twenty-four hours.

The Plan

The Mustang will be transported secretly to Saudi Arabia aboard a military cargo aircraft.

Once assembled at a remote airbase, the President will fly a series of drone interception patrols.

The goal is not only to destroy drones but to demonstrate a new strategy.

If successful, the concept could be scaled up quickly using other propeller aircraft.

But the mission must remain secret.

If the public learns that the President personally entered combat, the political consequences could spiral out of control.

The Dual Storylines

From this point forward, the film splits into two parallel narratives.

One unfolds in the skies above the Persian Gulf, where the President tests his unconventional strategy against drone swarms.

The other unfolds in Washington, where the Vice President and Cabinet struggle to understand why the President disappeared.

The tension between these two worlds drives the film.

Every success in the air intensifies the political crisis on the ground.

Every delay in Washington threatens to end the mission prematurely.

The Central Question

The story ultimately asks a simple but powerful question.

What does leadership mean in an age of remote warfare?

Modern technology allows leaders to command battles from thousands of miles away.

But the President believes that understanding a problem sometimes requires direct experience.

By returning to the cockpit, he reconnects leadership with personal responsibility.

The Mustang becomes more than just an aircraft.

It becomes a symbol of courage, ingenuity, and the idea that sometimes the future must borrow from the past.

The Mustang

Commemorative Air Force Aircraft Inventory (Warbirds)

Fighter Aircraft

North American P-51 Mustang

Primary long-range fighter used in WWII bomber escort missions.

Roles in the story:

- Drone interception
- Air superiority patrol
- Dogfighting hostile aircraft

Key features:

- Six .50 caliber machine guns
 - Excellent maneuverability
 - Long endurance for patrol missions
-

Grumman F6F Hellcat

Carrier-based fighter known for durability.

Possible roles:

- Drone interception patrols
 - Escort missions for slower aircraft
-

Vought F4U Corsair

One of the fastest propeller fighters ever built.

Possible roles:

- High-speed drone interception
 - Fighter cover
-

Curtiss P-40 Warhawk

Early-war Allied fighter known for rugged construction.

Possible roles:

- Close interception
 - Defensive patrol
-

Bell P-63 Kingcobra

Later evolution of the P-39 Airacobra.

Possible roles:

- Ground attack
 - Drone interception
-

Bell P-39 Airacobra

Unique mid-engine fighter with nose-mounted cannon.

Possible roles:

- Anti-drone combat
 - Close air defense
-

Medium Bombers

These aircraft could be repurposed in the film as **drone destroyers**, using their forward gun batteries.

North American B-25 Mitchell

Famous for the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo.

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Possible roles:

- Drone swarm suppression
- Area defense patrol

Key features:

- Multiple machine guns
 - Long endurance
 - Excellent stability
-

Douglas A-26 Invader

Fast attack bomber used late in WWII.

Possible roles:

- Drone strike sweeps
 - Precision attacks
-

Heavy Bombers

These aircraft provide **massive gun coverage**, ideal for engaging large drone formations.

Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress

Legendary bomber famous for defensive gun positions.

Possible roles in the film:

- Airborne drone defense zones
- Gun platforms escorting infrastructure

Key features:

- Up to 13 machine guns
- Multiple gun turrets

Consolidated B-24 Liberator

High-production Allied bomber.

Possible roles:

- Drone swarm interception
 - Maritime patrol
-

Transport Aircraft

These aircraft could move supplies and parts for the warbird fleet.

Douglas C-47 Skytrain

Iconic cargo aircraft used throughout WWII.

Roles:

- Spare parts transport
 - Logistics flights
-

Trainer Aircraft

Used to train new pilots in the propeller interceptor program.

North American T-6 Texan

Roles:

- Pilot training

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- Light drone interception
-

Stearman PT-17

Roles:

- Basic training
 - Demonstration flights
-

Observation / Utility Aircraft

These aircraft could serve as radar spotters and forward observers.

Stinson L-5 Sentinel

Roles:

- Forward observation
 - Drone spotting
-

Piper L-4 Grasshopper

Roles:

- Battlefield reconnaissance
 - Spotter aircraft
-

Jet Warbirds (For Training or Symbolism)

Though jets are less useful for drones, the CAF does operate some.

Lockheed T-33 Shooting Star

Roles:

- Jet transition training
 - Command aircraft
-

MiG-17

Roles:

- Adversary training
-

Possible Total Deployment for the Film

A realistic **CAF expeditionary wing** in your story might include:

Aircraft Type	Quantity
P-51 Mustangs	12
F4U Corsairs	6
F6F Hellcats	6
P-40 Warhawks	6
B-25 Mitchell bombers	4
A-26 Invaders	3
B-17 Flying Fortress	2
C-47 Skytrain	2
T-6 Texans	8

The Mustang

Aircraft Type	Quantity
Observation aircraft	4

Total aircraft: ~**50 aircraft**

Cinematic Advantage

This inventory gives your story several exciting visuals:

- Fighter formations hunting drones
- B-25 bombers firing gun runs into drone swarms
- B-17 gun turrets blasting multiple drones simultaneously
- Mustangs escorting heavy bombers
- WWII aircraft flying beside modern Saudi jets

The contrast between **1940s aviation and modern drone warfare** becomes visually spectacular.

Toward a Realistic Universe

Global Crisis: The Drone War That Broke Modern Air Power

By the time the President begins considering the Mustang solution, the world has already entered a full-scale economic crisis driven by the drone war in the Persian Gulf.

The conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia has escalated rapidly over several months. Iran has adopted a strategy that military analysts later describe as "industrialized drone warfare."

Instead of relying on a small number of advanced weapons, Iran begins launching **thousands of inexpensive drones** toward Saudi oil facilities.

Each drone costs relatively little to manufacture. Many are assembled from commercially available components. The engines resemble those used in recreational aircraft. Their guidance systems rely on simple navigation chips and satellite coordinates.

Individually they are unimpressive.

But collectively they overwhelm defenses.

Saudi Arabia's refineries, pipelines, and export terminals become constant targets. Even when most drones are intercepted, a few inevitably get through.

And that is enough.

A single drone striking the correct point inside a refinery can halt production for days.

As attacks continue, global oil supply begins tightening dramatically.

Within weeks the price of crude oil surges past **\$150 per barrel**.

Markets panic.

Airlines slash routes.

Shipping companies raise prices across the globe.

Governments begin releasing emergency reserves.

Energy economists describe the situation as the most severe oil disruption since the 1970s.

The drone war is no longer a regional conflict. It has become a global economic emergency.

The Mustang

The Failure of Modern Jets

Saudi Arabia possesses one of the most advanced air forces in the region. Their inventory includes cutting-edge fighter aircraft equipped with sophisticated radar systems and modern missiles.

The United States deploys additional aircraft to assist.

But the results are disappointing.

Modern fighter jets were designed to fight other jets.

They excel at high-speed interception, stealth operations, and long-range missile engagements.

Drone swarms present an entirely different problem.

The drones fly **slowly**, often between 80 and 150 miles per hour.

Modern jets struggle to maneuver efficiently at those speeds. Pilots must constantly throttle back, risking engine instability and loss of control authority.

Even when they successfully intercept drones, the economics remain disastrous.

A missile worth nearly a million dollars destroys a drone worth a few thousand.

Drone production continues increasing.

Iranian factories operate around the clock.

For every drone destroyed, several more are launched.

The math does not work.

A War of Economics

Defense analysts begin describing the situation as **the first war where the cheaper weapon wins automatically**.

Drone swarms invert the traditional economics of air defense.

Missiles were designed to stop rare, expensive threats.

Drones are cheap, numerous, and expendable.

Saudi commanders soon realize that even the most powerful air defenses cannot sustain the pace of interception.

The Saudis are losing the war not because they lack weapons, but because their weapons are too expensive to use.

The Unexpected Arrival of the Warbirds

As the crisis deepens, an unexpected group arrives in Saudi Arabia.

The **Commemorative Air Force**, the organization dedicated to preserving historic military aircraft, has been conducting international aviation events in the region.

The group travels with dozens of restored aircraft.

Among them are legendary machines from World War II.

Fighter aircraft like the **North American P-51 Mustang**.

Medium bombers such as the **North American B-25 Mitchell**.

Heavy bombers including the iconic **B-17 Flying Fortress**.

Originally they had been invited to participate in aviation exhibitions and heritage demonstrations.

But as the drone war intensifies, Saudi commanders begin noticing something interesting about these aircraft.

They fly slowly.

Very slowly.

And they carry guns.

A Surprising Effectiveness

At first the warbirds are used only for training exercises.

The Mustang

CAF pilots demonstrate how World War II aircraft engaged enemy targets visually rather than relying entirely on radar systems.

The demonstrations attract attention from Saudi fighter pilots who are frustrated by their inability to efficiently intercept drones.

Eventually someone suggests a test.

A Mustang is sent to intercept a small drone formation.

The results are immediate and startling.

Using nothing more than machine guns and visual targeting, the aircraft destroys several drones within minutes.

The cost of the engagement is almost negligible.

Word spreads quickly across the Saudi command structure.

More warbirds are deployed.

Mustangs patrol the coastline.

B-25 Mitchell bombers use their forward gun turrets to engage clusters of drones.

Even the heavy bombers find a role.

Their multiple gun positions allow them to defend large areas of airspace while escorting infrastructure zones.

The strategy becomes known informally as **"the propeller screen."**

Drone swarms that once slipped easily through missile defenses now face aircraft capable of staying airborne for hours while firing thousands of rounds of inexpensive ammunition.

The economics of the war begin shifting.

A Political Opportunity

News of these developments reaches Washington through classified channels.

The President studies the reports carefully.

What began as an improvisation by aviation enthusiasts has suddenly revealed a viable strategy.

The warbirds are doing what modern jets cannot.

They are intercepting drones cheaply, efficiently, and repeatedly.

The President recognizes the significance immediately.

If the concept works on a small scale, it could be expanded rapidly.

Hundreds of propeller aircraft still exist in private collections and museums around the world.

Many could be restored to operational condition within months.

The drone war could be reversed using technology nearly a century old.

The Invitation

Saudi leadership sends a discreet invitation.

The President has long been known among aviation enthusiasts as a skilled warbird pilot.

Before entering politics he personally restored and flew a Mustang with the **Commemorative Air Force**.

The Saudis believe his presence would serve both symbolic and strategic purposes.

The invitation is phrased almost humorously.

The Saudi commander describes the drone interceptions as "shooting fish in a barrel."

The implication is clear.

If the President wishes to see the effectiveness of the strategy firsthand, the opportunity is available.

A Political Mustang

Within Washington political circles, the President has often been described as a **political Mustang**.

The Mustang

Independent.

Unconventional.

Difficult to control but remarkably effective when given room to maneuver.

The nickname had originally been intended as criticism.

But in this moment it becomes strangely appropriate.

The President understands both the aircraft and the strategy in a way few others can.

He knows the Mustang's strengths and limitations intimately.

He also understands the symbolic power of the moment.

If the President personally demonstrates that a Mustang can defeat the drone threat, it will transform military thinking overnight.

The drone war will no longer appear unstoppable.

Instead it will look vulnerable.

The Once-in-a-Lifetime Moment

Presidents rarely encounter moments where personal experience aligns perfectly with global necessity.

But this situation is different.

The President is not simply a political leader evaluating military options.

He is one of the few people in the world who has flown the exact aircraft now proving effective against the drone threat.

He understands how it behaves in the air.

He understands how to aim its guns.

He understands how to fight with it.

The opportunity appears almost surreal.

A global energy crisis.

A failing military strategy.

An unexpected solution emerging from historic aircraft.

And a President uniquely qualified to prove that the solution works.

For the President, the decision becomes unavoidable.

This is the moment he has been unknowingly preparing for since the day he first climbed into a Mustang cockpit decades earlier.

History has created a situation where the past is suddenly the key to the future.

And the President intends to fly directly into that moment. ✈

The Mustang

MAJOR CHARACTERS AND CHARACTER ARCS

Working Title: Last Mustang

In a film built around aviation, geopolitics, and constitutional drama, the characters must carry the emotional weight of the story. The aircraft and drone swarms create spectacle, but the real tension emerges from the people who must make decisions while the world watches.

The story unfolds through two interconnected arenas. One is the sky over the Persian Gulf, where a single pilot flies a vintage fighter into a modern drone war. The other is Washington, where political leaders struggle to maintain constitutional stability while the President of the United States disappears for twenty-four hours.

Each character represents a different philosophy of leadership, warfare, and responsibility. Their arcs evolve as the situation intensifies.

The President

Commander-in-Chief and Warbird Pilot

The President is a man whose life has been defined by both discipline and curiosity. Long before entering politics, he developed an unusual hobby for a future national leader: restoring historic aircraft.

During his early career in business, he joined the **Commemorative Air Force**, an organization dedicated to preserving and flying historic military aircraft. It was there that he first encountered the **North American P-51 Mustang**, a fighter that became legendary during World War II for escorting Allied bombers across Europe.

The President did not merely admire the aircraft. He purchased a damaged airframe and spent years helping restore it. He learned how to maintain its Rolls-Royce Merlin engine, how to tune its mechanical systems, and how to fly it with precision.

Flying the Mustang was not about nostalgia for him. It was about understanding engineering, history, and the human element of aviation.

Those experiences shaped his thinking about technology and leadership.

Personality

The President is calm, analytical, and deliberate. He rarely raises his voice and dislikes dramatic gestures. His leadership style is built on quiet confidence rather than theatrical authority.

He distrusts technological solutions that rely too heavily on complexity. In his view, systems that require layers of automation often fail when conditions change unexpectedly.

This philosophy leads him to recognize the drone warfare problem before anyone else does.

Motivation

The President's motivation is not personal heroism. In fact, he understands the enormous political risk involved in his plan.

His reasoning is practical.

Modern fighter aircraft such as the **F-35 Lightning II** and the **F-22 Raptor** are among the most advanced machines ever built. Yet they are poorly suited for intercepting inexpensive drones flying at low speeds.

Every missile fired at a drone represents a strategic defeat in economic terms.

The President believes the problem requires a radically simpler solution.

His decision to fly the mission himself comes from a deeper belief that leaders must sometimes personally validate their ideas. He cannot ask others to test the concept until he proves that it works.

Internal Conflict

The President's greatest conflict is not fear of combat but awareness of the consequences if he fails.

If he is shot down, the United States loses its head of state in the middle of an international crisis.

If his plan fails, he risks humiliating the nation and triggering a constitutional crisis.

He carries the weight of those possibilities every time he climbs into the Mustang.

Character Arc

At the beginning of the story, the President is a leader surrounded by advisers, analysis, and technology.

By the end, he returns to the most basic form of decision-making: a single pilot in a cockpit relying on instinct.

His arc reflects a rediscovery of the values that shaped him earlier in life.

The Mustang

In the process, he demonstrates that leadership is not about the distance between command and action. It is about the willingness to confront problems directly.

The Vice President

Acting President of the United States

The Vice President begins the story as a loyal political partner. Their relationship with the President is built on mutual respect and trust.

However, the sudden transfer of power places the Vice President in an extraordinary situation.

When the President declares himself temporarily unable to perform his duties, the Vice President becomes Acting President under constitutional law.

Yet no explanation accompanies the transfer.

Personality

The Vice President is cautious and methodical. Unlike the President, who occasionally embraces unconventional solutions, the Vice President prefers established procedures.

This makes the sudden responsibility of the presidency deeply unsettling.

Motivation

The Vice President's primary goal is to maintain stability.

Foreign governments, financial markets, and military commanders all depend on clear signals from Washington. Any perception of uncertainty could escalate the crisis.

The Vice President must project calm authority even while privately questioning what the President has done.

Internal Conflict

As evidence slowly emerges that the President may have traveled to Saudi Arabia, the Vice President faces a profound dilemma.

If the President has placed himself in danger unnecessarily, the Cabinet may need to declare him permanently unable to serve.

But if the President is pursuing a strategic mission that could resolve the drone crisis, removing him could undermine the operation.

The Vice President must decide whether to protect the presidency or protect the President.

Character Arc

Over the course of the story, the Vice President evolves from a cautious deputy into a decisive leader.

By the end, the Vice President understands that leadership sometimes requires tolerating uncertainty and trusting the judgment of others.

The Secretary of Defense

Guardian of Modern Military Doctrine

The Secretary of Defense represents the institutional mindset of the modern military.

A career strategist, the Secretary believes in advanced technology, layered defenses, and overwhelming force.

When the drone crisis begins, the Secretary advocates traditional solutions: more missile interceptors, advanced electronic warfare systems, and increased deployment of stealth aircraft.

Personality

The Secretary is confident, articulate, and deeply knowledgeable about military capabilities.

However, this expertise initially becomes a limitation. Years of experience with high-tech warfare make it difficult for the Secretary to consider simpler alternatives.

Motivation

The Secretary's priority is protecting the credibility of American military power.

Admitting that modern aircraft cannot efficiently defeat drone swarms would undermine decades of strategic doctrine.

The Mustang

Internal Conflict

As intelligence reports reveal that a slow propeller aircraft is destroying drones more efficiently than modern fighters, the Secretary must confront the possibility that traditional assumptions about warfare are outdated.

The realization forces a reevaluation of everything from procurement strategies to combat tactics.

Character Arc

The Secretary's arc moves from skepticism to reluctant admiration.

By the end of the film, the Secretary becomes one of the strongest advocates for adopting the Mustang strategy on a larger scale.

The White House Chief of Staff

Keeper of the President's Secrets

The Chief of Staff is one of the few individuals who suspects the President's plan from the beginning.

Years of working closely with the President have taught the Chief of Staff to recognize subtle clues in his behavior.

When the President suddenly declares himself unable to serve, the Chief of Staff senses that something larger is unfolding.

Personality

The Chief of Staff is pragmatic, loyal, and exceptionally skilled at managing political crises.

While others focus on legal procedures, the Chief of Staff focuses on protecting the President's ability to complete the mission.

Motivation

The Chief of Staff's goal is simple: buy time.

If the Cabinet moves too quickly to declare the President permanently unable to serve, the mission could collapse before its results become clear.

Internal Conflict

The Chief of Staff must balance loyalty to the President with responsibility to the government.

Withholding information from the Cabinet could itself be seen as a constitutional violation.

Character Arc

Over the course of the story, the Chief of Staff becomes the quiet strategist behind the scenes, delaying decisions and redirecting conversations until the President can complete his mission.

The Saudi Air Force Commander

The Operational Partner

The Saudi commander provides the President with operational support once he arrives in the Middle East.

At first the commander is skeptical of the Mustang.

The aircraft appears hopelessly outdated compared to modern fighters.

Personality

The commander is disciplined, respectful, and pragmatic.

Years of defending Saudi infrastructure from missile and drone attacks have made him intensely focused on results.

Motivation

His primary objective is protecting Saudi oil facilities and civilian infrastructure.

If the Mustang proves effective, he is willing to support the strategy regardless of its unconventional nature.

The Mustang

Character Arc

Initially doubtful, the commander quickly becomes impressed by the aircraft's effectiveness.

He ultimately becomes the President's strongest advocate within the Saudi military.

The Iranian Fighter Pilot

The Final Antagonist

The Iranian pilot appears primarily during the final act but plays a critical role in the story's climax.

Unlike the drone operators, this pilot represents traditional air combat.

Personality

Confident, highly trained, and accustomed to flying advanced fighter aircraft.

The pilot expects any aerial engagement to follow predictable patterns based on modern jet performance.

Motivation

When Iranian radar detects a mysterious aircraft destroying drone swarms, the pilot is dispatched to eliminate it.

From the pilot's perspective, the mission appears routine.

A slow propeller aircraft should be an easy target.

Character Arc

The pilot's confidence turns to confusion as the Mustang maneuvers unpredictably.

The final dogfight becomes a symbolic confrontation between two eras of aviation.

The Aircraft Collector

The Guardian of the Mustang

The civilian collector who owns the President's former Mustang represents the culture of aviation enthusiasts who preserve historic aircraft.

Personality

Passionate, eccentric, and deeply knowledgeable about aviation history.

The collector views warbirds not as museum pieces but as living machines meant to fly.

Motivation

When the President contacts him, the collector immediately understands the significance of the request.

Returning the Mustang becomes both a patriotic act and the fulfillment of a long-held belief that these aircraft still have a purpose.

Character Arc

Though he appears briefly, the collector's role reinforces the film's central theme: history remains relevant when people care enough to preserve it.

The Cabinet

The Cabinet serves as a collective character representing institutional authority.

Different members respond differently to the President's disappearance.

Some demand immediate action to protect the government.

Others argue for patience until more information becomes available.

These debates create the political tension that unfolds in Washington while the President fights drones overseas.

The Mustang

Character Dynamics

The interactions among these characters form the emotional backbone of the story.

The President and Vice President represent two approaches to leadership: direct action versus cautious stewardship.

The Secretary of Defense represents the inertia of established systems.

The Chief of Staff represents loyalty and political strategy.

The Saudi commander represents practical military necessity.

The Iranian pilot represents the pride of modern air combat.

Together they create a network of perspectives that shape the unfolding crisis.

Emotional Center of the Story

Despite the geopolitical scale of the conflict, the story remains grounded in personal decisions.

Each character must decide whether to trust the President's unconventional strategy.

Their choices determine whether the mission succeeds or collapses before it can prove its value.

In the end, the characters learn that innovation often requires challenging assumptions that seem unquestionable.

And sometimes the most powerful weapon in a modern war is an aircraft designed eighty years earlier.

ACT I EXPANDED: SETUP

Working Title: *Last Mustang*

Act I establishes the crisis, introduces the world of drone warfare, and reveals the President's unconventional solution. The audience must understand not only the geopolitical stakes but also the economic absurdity driving the conflict.

The opening act also builds the emotional foundation for the President's decision. By the time he secretly departs for Saudi Arabia, the audience must feel that his plan, while risky, is both logical and necessary.

Opening Sequence

The New Battlefield

The film opens before dawn over the **Persian Gulf**.

The camera glides slowly across the black water. The horizon glows faintly as the first light of morning begins to creep across the desert sky.

Suddenly radar screens come alive inside a Saudi air defense command center.

A technician leans forward.

Multiple contacts appear on the screen.

Dozens.

Then hundreds.

Small signals approaching from across the Gulf.

The officer in charge studies the screen.

They are moving slowly.

Too slowly to be fighter jets.

The officer whispers the word everyone now dreads.

"Drones."

The Mustang

Alarms begin sounding throughout the base.

Drone Swarm

Outside the base, anti-aircraft batteries begin firing.

Missiles streak into the sky.

One drone explodes in a flash of light.

But behind it come dozens more.

The sky begins filling with buzzing mechanical shapes.

The drones look crude up close. Small wings, simple propellers, basic navigation systems.

But they are relentless.

Several slip through the defenses.

A refinery on the horizon erupts into flames.

Black smoke rises into the sky.

The officer watches the radar screen.

Missile interceptors are disappearing rapidly.

Each launch costs hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The drones keep coming.

Washington Briefing

Cut to Washington, D.C.

Inside the Situation Room, the President sits quietly at the head of the table while intelligence officers present the latest developments.

Satellite images show the burning refinery.

The **Secretary of Defense** gestures toward a large display showing drone trajectories.

Iranian production facilities have increased output dramatically.

Thousands of drones are now being manufactured each month.

The Secretary points to another chart.

Missile interceptors are being used faster than they can be replaced.

The President listens without speaking.

The room fills with technical discussion.

Electronic warfare.

Satellite disruption.

Cyber operations.

The solutions all sound sophisticated.

They also sound expensive.

The Cost Equation

A Pentagon analyst stands and presents a chart.

The numbers are simple.

An Iranian drone costs between **\$10,000 and \$30,000**.

An interceptor missile costs **\$800,000 to \$1.2 million**.

The analyst explains the problem calmly.

"Every successful interception is technically a loss."

The room grows quiet.

The President finally speaks.

"So we're winning the battles and losing the math."

The Mustang

The analyst nods.

The Fighter Jet Problem

The Air Force general in the room explains that modern fighters such as the **F-35 Lightning II** have attempted to intercept the drones.

The aircraft are incredibly capable.

But they are optimized for high-speed combat against advanced aircraft.

Drone swarms present a different challenge.

The drones fly slowly and irregularly.

Tracking them visually from a fast jet is difficult.

Missiles remain the primary solution.

The President studies a video clip of an F-35 launching a missile.

The drone disappears in a flash.

The missile costs nearly a million dollars.

The President says nothing.

Saudi Request

Later that day the President receives a secure call from the Saudi King.

The King's voice carries the strain of several sleepless nights.

Drone attacks are increasing.

Oil exports are threatened.

If the infrastructure collapses, the global economy could be affected.

The King asks a simple question.

"Can you stop them?"

The President replies carefully.

"We're working on it."

But he knows the answer is uncertain.

Private Reflection

That evening the President walks alone through the White House residence.

He stops at a framed photograph hanging in a hallway.

The photo shows a younger version of himself standing beside a polished **P-51 Mustang**.

He is wearing a flight suit and smiling.

The aircraft's propeller blades gleam in the sunlight.

The President studies the image quietly.

Then he walks to his office and opens an old laptop.

The Radar Footage

On the screen he plays drone attack footage again.

The drones move slowly across the radar display.

He checks their recorded speeds.

120 miles per hour.

Sometimes less.

He leans back in his chair.

That speed range feels familiar.

The Mustang

He begins calculating silently.

Then he smiles.

Flashback: The Airshow

Years earlier.

A small Texas airfield.

The roar of radial engines fills the sky.

Vintage aircraft circle overhead.

The President, much younger, climbs into the cockpit of a Mustang belonging to the **Commemorative Air Force**.

An older pilot leans against the wing.

"You know what makes these old birds special?"

The young pilot shakes his head.

The older man taps the fuselage.

"They were built to fight slow."

The young pilot laughs.

"That's not how people describe them."

The older pilot smiles.

"They could fly fast when they needed to. But the real magic was how well they handled when things slowed down."

The flashback fades.

The Realization

Back in the present, the President replays the drone footage.

Slow targets.

Slow aircraft.

Machine guns.

He whispers to himself.

"It would work."

He opens a contact list and scrolls through names.

Finally he selects one.

The Phone Call

Hundreds of miles away, in a large hangar, an aviation collector answers the phone.

The man stands beside a gleaming aircraft.

The **North American P-51 Mustang** once owned by the President.

The two men exchange greetings.

Then the President asks a strange question.

"Did you ever finish restoring the gun bays?"

The collector hesitates.

Then he laughs.

"Of course I did. Authentic restoration. Six .50 caliber Brownings."

The President asks the next question quietly.

"Are they functional?"

The Mustang

The collector pauses again.

"They are."

The Plan Begins

The President outlines his idea.

The collector listens in stunned silence.

Finally he says what everyone else would say.

"You can't be serious."

The President replies calmly.

"Those drones fly slower than a Piper Cub."

The collector stares at the Mustang.

After a long moment he says something unexpected.

"I'll start preparing the aircraft."

Washington Strategy Meeting

The next morning the President meets with a small group of trusted advisers.

He presents his idea.

The room initially reacts with disbelief.

A propeller fighter in a modern war?

But as the President explains the cost equation and flight dynamics, the idea begins to sound less absurd.

The aircraft is slow enough to track drones visually.

The machine guns are cheap to operate.

The Mustang can stay airborne for hours.

The only problem is political risk.

If the President personally flies the mission, the consequences could be enormous.

The Constitutional Option

The President points to a document on the table.

The Constitution allows a President to temporarily transfer authority to the Vice President.

If he declares himself unable to perform his duties, the Vice President becomes Acting President.

Once he declares himself capable again, authority returns.

The room understands immediately.

The President plans to disappear.

Preparing the Mission

The Mustang will be transported to Saudi Arabia inside a military cargo aircraft.

Once there, it will be assembled at a remote base.

The mission window will last **24 hours**.

The goal is not only to destroy drones but to demonstrate that the concept works.

If successful, other aircraft could be modified quickly.

The President insists on one rule.

The mission must remain secret.

The Mustang

The Letter

Late at night the President sits alone at his desk.

He writes a short formal letter.

The words are precise.

He declares that he is temporarily unable to discharge the duties of his office.

He signs it slowly.

Two identical copies are prepared.

One for the **Speaker of the House**.

One for the **President pro tempore of the Senate**.

The Transfer of Power

At dawn the next morning, the Vice President is summoned to the Oval Office.

The President hands over the letter.

The Vice President reads it in silence.

"Is this necessary?" the Vice President asks.

The President simply nods.

Minutes later the Vice President is sworn in as **Acting President**.

The government continues functioning normally.

But something unusual has begun.

Departure

At **Andrews Air Force Base**, a large cargo aircraft sits on the runway.

Inside its massive hold rests a partially disassembled Mustang.

Mechanics secure the aircraft for transport.

The President arrives quietly with a small security detail.

No press.

No ceremony.

Just a short walk across the tarmac.

Before boarding, the President pauses beside the aircraft.

He runs his hand along the polished metal fuselage.

For a moment he looks like the younger pilot from the airshow photograph.

Then he climbs aboard.

End of Act I

The cargo aircraft lifts into the early morning sky.

Washington wakes to a new Acting President.

The Cabinet begins asking questions.

And somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean, the world's most powerful political leader prepares to return to the cockpit of a World War II fighter.

The drone war is about to become something no one expected. ✈

The Mustang

ACT II EXPANDED: THE SECRET WAR

Working Title: Last Mustang

Act II is the longest and most complex portion of the film. Two parallel narratives unfold at once.

In the skies above Saudi Arabia, the President begins testing the impossible idea that a World War II fighter can defeat modern drone swarms.

At the same time in Washington, confusion grows into suspicion, and suspicion begins evolving into a constitutional crisis.

The tension between these two storylines drives the entire middle act of the film.

Arrival in Saudi Arabia

The cargo aircraft lands shortly after midnight at a remote Saudi airbase located far from civilian infrastructure.

The runway lights glow dimly against the desert darkness.

The aircraft rolls to a stop beside a row of hardened aircraft shelters normally used for modern fighters.

Instead of unloading missiles or advanced equipment, the cargo ramp lowers to reveal something almost surreal.

A North American P-51 Mustang.

Disassembled carefully inside the aircraft's hold.

The Saudi base commander watches the unloading operation with visible confusion.

The aircraft looks like a museum piece.

Polished aluminum skin.

Long elegant wings.

A propeller fighter in the age of stealth jets.

The President steps down from the cargo plane wearing civilian clothing.

He greets the Saudi commander respectfully.

The commander finally asks the question on everyone's mind.

"Is this aircraft part of the plan?"

The President smiles slightly.

"Yes."

The Assembly

Mechanics work through the night assembling the Mustang.

The aircraft had been carefully prepared before transport.

Its wings are reattached.

Fuel lines are connected.

The Rolls-Royce Merlin engine is inspected.

Technicians load belts of .50 caliber ammunition into the aircraft's six machine guns.

Nearby, Saudi fighter jets sit silently under floodlights.

Advanced machines designed for supersonic combat.

The contrast between the aircraft is striking.

Digital avionics versus analog gauges.

Missile rails versus machine gun ports.

Jet intakes versus a polished propeller spinner.

The Saudi commander watches quietly.

Eventually he asks the President another question.

"You intend to fly it yourself."

The Mustang

The President nods.

First Engine Start

Dawn approaches as the Mustang is rolled onto the runway.

The President climbs into the cockpit.

The cockpit looks primitive compared to modern aircraft.

Mechanical gauges.

Manual switches.

A simple gunsight.

But to the President the cockpit feels familiar.

He performs the startup checklist slowly.

Fuel pump.

Magnetos.

Throttle cracked open.

The starter engages.

The Merlin engine coughs once.

Then roars to life.

The sound echoes across the desert airfield.

Even the Saudi fighter pilots stop to watch.

The aircraft vibrates with raw mechanical power.

No computers.

No automation.

Just metal, fuel, and combustion.

The President taxis slowly toward the runway.

First Patrol

The Mustang lifts into the morning sky.

The aircraft climbs gradually above the desert landscape.

Unlike modern fighters, which rocket into the sky, the Mustang climbs with patient determination.

The Saudi radar station tracks the aircraft.

Soon they detect incoming contacts.

Another drone swarm approaching the coastline.

The radar officer transmits coordinates.

The President turns toward the targets.

Within minutes he begins spotting small shapes in the distance.

Dozens of drones flying in loose formation.

The President adjusts his throttle.

He dives gently toward the formation.

First Engagement

The gunsight centers on the first drone.

The President squeezes the trigger.

Six machine guns erupt simultaneously.

The Mustang shudders slightly from the recoil.

A stream of tracers streaks forward.

The Mustang

The drone explodes instantly.

The President pulls up, banks left, and lines up another.

Short bursts.

Precise shots.

Drone after drone begins falling into the Gulf.

On the radar screens inside the Saudi command center, operators watch in disbelief.

The slow propeller aircraft is eliminating drones faster than the air defense missiles had been able to.

And each burst costs only a few hundred dollars in ammunition.

The Saudi commander smiles for the first time.

Washington Begins to Notice

Meanwhile in Washington, the Acting President chairs a national security meeting.

Cabinet members demand updates on the drone crisis.

Military intelligence reports something strange.

Drone losses have increased dramatically overnight.

But no American aircraft were officially deployed in the region.

The Secretary of Defense frowns at the radar reports.

Something is destroying drones.

But it is not a missile system.

The radar tracks are slow.

Very slow.

Media Pressure

By midday the White House press corps begins asking uncomfortable questions.

The President has not appeared publicly.

The Vice President has assumed full authority.

Rumors begin circulating about health issues.

Foreign governments quietly request clarification through diplomatic channels.

The Acting President assures them that the government remains fully functional.

But internally, the Cabinet grows increasingly uneasy.

The President's location remains classified.

Second Combat Mission

Back over Saudi Arabia, the Mustang continues hunting drones.

The President develops a rhythm.

Climb.

Spot targets.

Dive.

Fire.

Pull away.

The aircraft proves surprisingly effective.

The drones have little ability to evade gunfire.

They were designed to bypass radar systems, not survive direct combat.

By late afternoon the Mustang has destroyed dozens.

The Mustang

The Saudi radar officers begin referring to the aircraft by a nickname.

"The Ghost Fighter."

Mechanical Trouble

As the President returns toward the base after one long patrol, something changes.

A warning light flickers.

Oil pressure begins dropping slowly.

The Merlin engine starts vibrating slightly.

The President checks the gauges carefully.

The engine temperature climbs.

A leak somewhere in the oil system.

He reduces power and begins descending.

The aircraft reaches the runway safely.

But the mechanics quickly discover the problem.

A damaged oil line.

The aircraft cannot fly again until repairs are completed.

The Saudi commander studies the situation.

The mission window had been planned for **24 hours**.

Now it may require longer.

Washington Crisis Escalates

Back in Washington the situation becomes more serious.

The Cabinet meets privately with the Acting President.

Several members argue that the President's unexplained absence could destabilize international relations.

The Attorney General raises a constitutional issue.

If the President is deliberately avoiding his responsibilities, the Cabinet may need to consider a permanent transfer of power.

The Acting President listens carefully.

No one has proof of wrongdoing.

But uncertainty is growing.

Intelligence Breakthrough

Late that evening the CIA presents new intelligence.

Iranian radar has detected an unidentified aircraft destroying drones.

The aircraft's speed profile matches a propeller fighter.

The Secretary of Defense stares at the data.

"There are no operational propeller fighters in the U.S. military."

Then another analyst speaks quietly.

"There is one organization that flies them."

Everyone in the room knows the name.

The **Commemorative Air Force**.

The Acting President suddenly realizes what may have happened.

The Mustang

The Cabinet Divides

The revelation sparks intense debate.

Some Cabinet members argue that the President has acted irresponsibly.

Flying combat missions personally could trigger a constitutional crisis.

Others argue that the strategy appears to be working.

Drone losses have increased dramatically.

The Saudi government reports fewer successful attacks.

The Acting President faces a decision.

Allow the mission to continue.

Or begin the process of declaring the President permanently unable to serve.

Night Repairs

Meanwhile at the Saudi base, mechanics work under floodlights repairing the Mustang.

The damaged oil line is replaced.

Engine components are inspected carefully.

The President watches quietly.

He understands that the next flight may determine everything.

If the mission fails now, the political consequences in Washington could end his presidency.

Countdown

Back in Washington, the Cabinet schedules a formal vote for the next morning.

If the President does not return or explain his actions, the Cabinet will invoke the constitutional process to remove him from power.

The Acting President reluctantly agrees.

The government cannot operate indefinitely under uncertainty.

The decision will occur in less than twelve hours.

End of Act II

As night settles over the Saudi desert, the Mustang sits silently on the runway.

Mechanics finish their work and step away.

The aircraft is ready again.

The President climbs into the cockpit once more.

Far away in Washington, the Cabinet prepares to vote on whether he should ever return to office.

Morning will decide everything.

And the skies over the Persian Gulf are about to deliver the final test. ✈

The Mustang

ACT III EXPANDED: THE CLIMAX

Working Title: *Last Mustang*

Act III brings both storylines to their breaking point.

In Washington, the Cabinet prepares to make one of the most extraordinary constitutional decisions in modern history. If they vote to declare the President permanently unable to serve, the matter will move to Congress and could end his presidency forever.

At the same moment, thousands of miles away over the Persian Gulf, the President prepares to launch one final combat patrol.

Everything that has happened in the story converges here. The success or failure of a single aircraft, flown by a single pilot, will determine not only the outcome of the drone war but the future of the American presidency.

Dawn Over the Desert

Morning arrives quietly over the Saudi airbase.

The desert sky glows orange as the sun rises behind distant mountains.

The **North American P-51 Mustang** sits alone on the runway.

Mechanics have completed the repairs during the night. The damaged oil line has been replaced, and every component of the Merlin engine has been inspected.

The aircraft looks exactly as it did decades earlier during World War II.

Polished aluminum wings.

Six machine gun ports in the wings.

A propeller that gleams in the rising sunlight.

The Saudi airbase commander walks toward the aircraft with the President.

Neither man speaks for several moments.

Finally the commander asks a simple question.

"Will this be your final flight?"

The President nods.

"One more patrol."

Washington Prepares to Decide

At the same moment in Washington, the Cabinet gathers in a secure conference room inside the White House.

The Acting President sits at the head of the table.

A thick folder lies in front of the Attorney General.

Inside the folder is the document that could permanently transfer presidential authority.

Under constitutional procedure, the Cabinet may declare that the President is unable to discharge the duties of the office. If they vote to do so, Congress will decide whether the President may return.

The atmosphere in the room is tense.

Several Cabinet members believe the President has acted recklessly by disappearing during a national security crisis.

Others believe he may be pursuing a strategy that could resolve the drone war.

But no one knows the full truth.

The Acting President announces that the vote will occur in less than two hours.

Final Engine Start

Back in Saudi Arabia, the President climbs into the Mustang cockpit.

The familiar smell of aviation fuel and engine oil fills the air.

He runs through the startup checklist slowly.

The Mustang

Fuel pump.

Magnetos.

Throttle.

The Merlin engine starts with a thunderous roar.

The sound echoes across the empty airfield.

Saudi fighter pilots gather along the edge of the runway to watch.

The propeller spins faster and faster until it becomes a translucent blur.

The aircraft begins rolling forward.

For a moment it looks fragile compared to the modern jets parked nearby.

But as the Mustang lifts into the sky, its graceful shape seems perfectly at home.

The Final Patrol

The Mustang climbs steadily above the coastline.

Radar operators track its position carefully.

Within minutes, new contacts appear on the radar screen.

Another drone swarm approaching from across the Gulf.

This wave is larger than any before it.

The Iranian strategy is clear.

If enough drones are launched simultaneously, some will inevitably reach their targets.

The President adjusts course toward the incoming swarm.

The sun glints off the wings as the Mustang dives.

Drone Engagement

The drones appear ahead as small black silhouettes against the morning sky.

The President selects the first target.

The gunsight settles.

He squeezes the trigger.

Six machine guns erupt at once.

Tracers streak forward.

The first drone explodes instantly.

He banks left and lines up another.

Short bursts.

Precise shots.

Drone after drone begins falling from the sky.

Inside the Saudi command center, radar operators watch the drone swarm shrinking rapidly.

The Mustang is dismantling the formation.

The Saudi commander whispers quietly.

"Incredible."

Washington Approaches the Vote

Back in Washington, the Cabinet meeting resumes.

The Attorney General reviews the legal language of the declaration.

Each Cabinet member will be asked to sign the document.

If a majority agrees, the declaration will be transmitted to Congress immediately.

The Mustang

The Acting President looks around the room.

"Are there any final comments before we proceed?"

No one speaks.

The pens are placed on the table.

A New Radar Contact

Back over the Gulf, the radar officer suddenly notices a new signal.

A fast-moving aircraft has launched from Iranian territory.

Its speed is dramatically higher than the drones.

The officer transmits the information immediately.

"Mustang One, radar confirms inbound aircraft. Possible fighter."

The President scans the horizon.

At first he sees nothing.

Then a distant shape appears.

A modern jet fighter.

The Iranian Intercept

The Iranian pilot had been briefed only moments earlier.

A mysterious aircraft was destroying drone swarms.

Radar data suggested it was slow and unprotected.

The mission seemed routine.

Intercept the aircraft.

Destroy it.

Return home.

But as the jet approaches, the pilot sees something unexpected.

A propeller fighter.

A machine from another era.

The pilot smiles.

This will be easy.

Washington Moments from Decision

In the White House conference room, the Attorney General opens the folder.

The document is placed in the center of the table.

One by one, Cabinet members prepare to sign.

The Acting President watches quietly.

The vote will begin in less than a minute.

The Dogfight Begins

High above the Gulf, the Iranian jet closes rapidly.

The speed difference between the aircraft is enormous.

The jet dives toward the Mustang.

A missile lock tone begins sounding inside the President's cockpit.

The President recognizes the danger immediately.

He pulls the throttle back.

The Mustang

The Mustang slows dramatically.

The jet streaks past at tremendous speed.

The missile cannot track the slow aircraft.

The jet overshoots.

The President pulls the Mustang into a tight climbing turn.

The propeller fighter turns far more tightly than the jet can manage.

The Impossible Engagement

The Iranian pilot attempts another attack.

The jet circles wide, preparing for a second pass.

But the Mustang's slow speed creates a problem.

Every time the jet dives toward it, the jet overshoots.

The President maneuvers carefully, keeping the aircraft inside the jet's turning radius.

This is not modern air combat.

This is classic dogfighting.

Exactly the kind of engagement the Mustang was designed for.

The jet attempts to climb away and reposition.

But the geometry of the fight has changed.

The Mustang is now behind it.

Washington Interrupted

Just as the first Cabinet member reaches for the pen, the conference room door bursts open.

A military aide rushes inside carrying a tablet computer.

The aide whispers something urgently to the Acting President.

The Acting President's expression changes instantly.

"Wait."

The Cabinet freezes.

The Acting President looks up slowly.

"We have new intelligence."

The Final Shot

Back over the Gulf, the President lines up the jet in his gunsight.

The distance closes quickly.

The Mustang's machine guns begin firing again.

Six streams of tracer fire streak across the sky.

Several rounds strike the jet's fuselage.

Smoke erupts from the aircraft's engine.

The Iranian pilot attempts to climb away.

But the damage is already fatal.

The jet spirals downward toward the sea.

Moments later it disappears in a distant splash.

Washington Learns the Truth

In the White House conference room, the Acting President reads the new intelligence report aloud.

The Mustang

Drone attacks have ceased.

Iranian radar stations report the loss of a fighter aircraft.

The mysterious propeller aircraft has landed safely at a Saudi base.

The room is silent.

Everyone understands what has happened.

The President has personally flown combat missions.

And succeeded.

The Mustang Returns

Back at the Saudi airbase, the Mustang touches down smoothly.

The aircraft rolls to a stop.

The engine idles quietly before shutting down.

The canopy opens.

The President climbs out slowly.

The Saudi commander approaches and salutes.

For a moment neither man speaks.

Then the commander smiles.

"You have changed the war."

End of Act III

Thousands of miles away in Washington, the Cabinet quietly closes the folder containing the removal document.

No signatures are placed on the page.

The vote will not occur.

The presidency remains intact.

But the world has just witnessed something extraordinary.

A modern drone war was won by an aircraft designed nearly eighty years earlier.

And by a President who refused to believe that progress meant abandoning the past. ✈️

The Mustang

RESOLUTION AND EPILOGUE

Working Title: *Last Mustang*

The climax of the story ends with the destruction of the Iranian fighter jet and the collapse of the drone assault over Saudi Arabia. Yet the consequences of the President's actions are only beginning.

Part 6 resolves the political crisis in Washington, explores the strategic impact of the Mustang mission, and closes the story with a quiet reflection on leadership, technology, and history.

The final act is not about explosions or combat. It is about recognition, restraint, and the surprising endurance of ideas that seemed outdated.

The Silent Flight Home

The Saudi airbase falls quiet after the Mustang lands.

The President climbs down from the cockpit and removes his helmet slowly.

The Rolls-Royce Merlin engine ticks softly as it cools.

Mechanics approach the aircraft cautiously, almost reverently. They understand they have just witnessed something historic.

The Saudi air commander walks toward the President.

For a moment he studies the aircraft again.

The commander had spent most of his career flying modern jets, aircraft equipped with advanced radar systems, digital avionics, and missiles capable of destroying targets dozens of miles away.

Yet the aircraft sitting in front of him has just defeated both drones and a modern fighter jet.

The commander finally speaks.

"This airplane changed the war."

The President shakes his head.

"No. The problem changed the war. The airplane just happened to fit the problem."

The commander smiles.

"Still, it is a beautiful solution."

The President runs his hand across the aluminum skin of the Mustang.

"She was always good at this."

News Reaches Washington

Inside the White House, the Cabinet remains seated in the conference room long after the intelligence report arrives.

No one speaks for several moments.

The Acting President studies the radar images again.

Drone formations that had been approaching Saudi oil facilities have turned away.

Iranian aircraft have withdrawn.

Satellite images confirm the destruction of the Iranian fighter jet.

The Acting President looks around the room.

"So the unidentified aircraft was..."

The Secretary of Defense finishes the sentence quietly.

"The President."

The Attorney General slowly closes the folder containing the removal declaration.

A vote will no longer be necessary.

But the situation still requires resolution.

Under constitutional law, the President must formally declare that he is once again able to discharge the duties of the office.

Until that happens, the Vice President remains Acting President.

The Mustang

The Letter

Several hours later a sealed envelope arrives at the Capitol.

Inside is a second letter from the President.

The language is simple and direct.

The President declares that he is once again able to discharge the powers and duties of the office.

With that declaration, authority transfers back to him immediately.

The Vice President reads the letter quietly.

The Acting President smiles faintly.

Then the letter is handed to the Chief of Staff for official record.

The constitutional crisis ends as quietly as it began.

The Press Conference

The next morning reporters crowd into the White House briefing room.

The press secretary steps to the podium.

Questions erupt immediately.

"Was the President ill?"

"Why did the Vice President assume power?"

"What caused the sudden drone losses in the Persian Gulf?"

The press secretary maintains a calm expression.

"The President temporarily transferred authority while addressing a national security matter. The situation has now been resolved."

A reporter presses further.

"Was the President involved in military operations?"

The press secretary pauses.

"The United States assisted our partners in defending their infrastructure."

The reporters continue asking questions.

But the full story remains classified.

Pentagon Analysis

Inside the Pentagon, military analysts begin reviewing radar data and combat recordings from the mission.

The results are remarkable.

The **North American P-51 Mustang** destroyed dozens of drones using nothing more than machine guns and visual targeting.

The cost comparison becomes the most important detail.

Each drone interception required only a few hundred dollars worth of ammunition.

By comparison, missile interceptors cost nearly a million dollars each.

A defense analyst summarizes the conclusion during a briefing.

"If the drone threat continues expanding, traditional missile defense will become economically unsustainable."

Another officer nods.

"But gun-based interception can scale indefinitely."

A new idea begins circulating quietly through military planning circles.

Propeller aircraft may have a future after all.

Iran's Reaction

In Tehran, military leaders study the same radar recordings.

The Mustang

The loss of the fighter jet shocks them.

But what concerns them even more is the identity of the aircraft that shot it down.

A World War II fighter.

The Iranian commanders initially assume the report must be incorrect.

But additional satellite images confirm the aircraft's shape.

The implication is unsettling.

Drone warfare was supposed to neutralize expensive Western air power.

Instead it has resurrected an entirely different form of air combat.

One general summarizes the problem bluntly.

"If they deploy hundreds of those aircraft, our drones will become useless."

The Vice President's Reflection

Late that evening the Vice President walks alone through the West Wing.

For twenty-four hours, the Vice President had been Acting President of the United States.

The experience was both exhilarating and terrifying.

Holding the full authority of the presidency changes a person's perspective.

The Vice President stops outside the Oval Office door.

Inside, the President has already returned to work.

The Vice President knocks gently.

"Come in."

The President looks up from a stack of briefing papers.

The Vice President enters.

Neither speaks immediately.

Finally the Vice President asks a question that has been waiting all day.

"Did you shoot down the fighter?"

The President smiles slightly.

"It helped that he underestimated the airplane."

The Vice President shakes his head.

"I can't decide whether that was the most reckless or the most brilliant thing I've ever seen."

The President shrugs.

"Sometimes those two things look similar."

The Future of Drone Defense

Over the following weeks, defense planners begin quietly developing a new program.

Aircraft that had long been considered obsolete suddenly become valuable again.

Not only Mustangs but other propeller fighters and trainer aircraft could potentially serve as drone interceptors.

The concept spreads quickly through military circles.

Low-cost interception.

Visual targeting.

Gun-based combat.

The Pentagon gives the program an official name.

Drone Interceptor Wing.

The Return of the Mustang

Several months later the Mustang arrives back in the United States.

The Mustang

Instead of returning to a private collection, the aircraft is transferred to a military aviation museum.

Its polished aluminum surface looks exactly as it did during the mission.

Visitors walk past the aircraft every day.

Most of them assume it is simply another historic warbird.

The plaque beside the aircraft tells only part of the story.

It mentions the aircraft's service during World War II.

It mentions its later restoration by private pilots.

It does not describe the mission over Saudi Arabia.

That part remains classified.

Final Conversation

One afternoon the President visits the museum quietly.

No press.

No announcement.

He walks slowly around the Mustang.

The aircraft looks smaller on the ground than it did in the sky.

A young boy stands nearby studying the plane.

The boy turns to his father.

"Did this plane ever fight in a war?"

The father reads the plaque.

"It escorted bombers in World War II."

The boy nods thoughtfully.

"Do they still fly it?"

The father smiles.

"Just at airshows."

The President listens quietly.

Then he smiles to himself.

Final Image

The camera slowly pulls back from the Mustang.

The aircraft sits silently under soft museum lighting.

Its propeller is still.

Its guns are empty.

But the machine carries the memory of a moment when the past returned to solve a problem the future could not.

Sometimes the answer to modern warfare is not a new invention.

Sometimes it is an old idea waiting to be remembered.

And somewhere deep inside the Pentagon, engineers are already preparing the next generation of drone interceptors.

Not jets.

Propeller fighters.

The sky, it turns out, still remembers how to fight slowly. ✈

The Mustang

Visualize The Movie

ACT I

Setup – The War That Makes No Sense

Opening Image

A swarm of Iranian drones crawls across the sky over the Persian Gulf. They are slow, cheap, and everywhere. Saudi air defenses launch missiles worth millions of dollars to destroy machines that cost less than a used pickup truck.

Modern war looks ridiculous.

Theme Stated

At an airshow in Texas, a retired pilot remarks:

"Sometimes the old tools still work best."

The man listening quietly is the **President of the United States**, who once flew warbirds with the **Commemorative Air Force**.

Setup

Iran begins flooding the Gulf with inexpensive attack drones targeting Saudi infrastructure.

The Saudis call Washington.

The Pentagon scrambles modern fighters including the **F-35 Lightning II**.

But every engagement becomes absurd:

- \$1 million missile destroys \$5,000 drone
- jets fly too fast to visually track them
- drone swarms overwhelm defenses

Military analysts admit the uncomfortable truth: **modern technology is the wrong tool for this war.**

Catalyst

During a briefing, the President sees radar footage.

The drones move at speeds perfect for WWII fighters.

He remembers flying a **North American P-51 Mustang** years ago.

Those planes were designed to hunt slow targets.

And they used guns.

Bullets are cheap.

Debate

Advisers propose more missiles, new AI defenses, or electronic warfare.

The President quietly calls an old friend who recently bought his restored P-51 Mustang.

The owner reveals something surprising:

The aircraft was **quietly rearmed** during restoration.

Working machine guns.

Fully operational.

The President realizes something impossible.

The solution to a 21st-century drone war might be a **1940s fighter plane**.

Break Into Act II

The President makes a shocking constitutional move.

He sends a written declaration to the **Speaker of the House** and **President pro tempore of the Senate** stating he is **unable to perform his duties**.

The Vice President becomes Acting President.

Meanwhile the real President boards a transport plane.

Inside the cargo hold:

A disassembled Mustang.

Destination: Saudi Arabia.

The Mustang

Mission window: **24 hours.**

ACT II

Confrontation – The Secret War

B Story

In Washington, the Vice President suddenly holds the nuclear codes.

Cabinet members begin whispering.

Why would the President suddenly step aside?

Fun and Games

At a remote Saudi base the Mustang is reassembled.

Compared to modern jets, it looks like a museum piece.

But once airborne, it becomes the **perfect drone hunter.**

The President patrols the Gulf and intercepts a drone swarm.

The Mustang's guns roar.

Drone after drone explodes.

The Saudis are stunned.

The math finally works.

Cheap bullets defeating cheap drones.

Midpoint

Victory seems possible.

Drone attacks suddenly drop.

News spreads that an unknown aircraft is destroying Iranian drones.

But during the return flight the Mustang develops **engine trouble**.

Oil pressure drops.

The aircraft barely lands.

The mission cannot end in 24 hours.

The President must stay **one more day**.

Bad Guys Close In

Iran detects the mysterious aircraft destroying its drones.

They scramble fighter jets.

Meanwhile in Washington the Cabinet grows nervous.

Rumors spread that the President may be acting recklessly.

The Vice President faces pressure to invoke a permanent transfer of power.

All Is Lost

The Cabinet prepares a vote to declare the President unfit.

If passed, the decision goes to Congress.

The President could lose power permanently.

Meanwhile in Saudi Arabia the Mustang sits in a hangar with mechanics working through the night.

If the aircraft cannot fly again, the mission ends.

ACT III

Resolution – The Last Dogfight

Break Into Act III

At dawn the Mustang engine roars back to life.

The Mustang

The President launches again.

One last patrol before Washington acts.

The Climax

A final drone swarm approaches Saudi oil facilities.

The Mustang dives.

Machine guns shred drone after drone.

But suddenly radar picks up a new contact.

An Iranian fighter jet.

The jet closes fast.

The President cannot outrun it.

So he does something unexpected.

He slows down.

The jet overshoots.

The Mustang turns inside the faster aircraft.

A dogfight unfolds straight out of 1944.

The President slips behind the jet and fires.

The Iranian fighter spirals down into the Gulf.

The drones retreat.

The airspace falls silent.

Final Washington Crisis

Back in Washington the Cabinet is seconds away from voting.

Then intelligence arrives.

Drone attacks have stopped.

Iranian aircraft have withdrawn.

The strange unidentified fighter has landed safely.

Resolution

A second letter arrives at the Capitol.

The President declares he is **able to resume the duties of office**.

Power immediately returns to him.

The Vice President stands down.

Final Image

Months later the Mustang sits in a museum hangar.

Visitors walk past casually.

A child asks his father if the plane ever fought in combat.

The father reads the plaque and shrugs.

"Just an old airshow plane."

The camera lingers on the aircraft.

The truth is known only to a few.

And somewhere deep in the Pentagon a new program begins:

The Drone Interceptor Squadron.

Propellers are back. ✈

The Mustang

The Escort Sacrifice

Over the Persian Gulf

The Mustang (POTUS) is not alone this time.

High above and slightly behind the polished aluminum fighter fly two modern escort aircraft. Sleek, angular, and unmistakably lethal, the jets slice through the morning air like arrows.

Their job is simple.

Protect the President.

Inside the Mustang cockpit, the President hears the calm voice of the lead escort pilot over the radio.

"Mustang One, Guardian Lead. We're with you."

The President glances upward briefly and sees the contrails far above.

"Copy that, Guardian."

The escorts remain several thousand feet higher, scanning the skies with advanced radar systems. Their presence is reassuring, even if the Mustang feels like an antique compared to them.

Below, the drone swarm begins breaking apart under the Mustang's guns.

Another drone explodes.

Then another.

The Saudi radar operators cheer quietly.

But suddenly the escort pilot's voice changes.

Sharp.

Urgent.

"Guardian Lead to Mustang One—multiple radar contacts! Possible missile launch!"

Inside the Mustang cockpit a faint warning tone begins buzzing.

The President looks down at the simple instruments in front of him.

The aircraft has no missile detection system.

No electronic countermeasures.

Only the radio.

The Missile

High above, one of the escort jets suddenly breaks formation.

A missile streaks toward the Mustang from the horizon.

The Iranian fighters have arrived sooner than expected.

Guardian Lead reacts instantly.

"Missile inbound to Mustang!"

Without hesitation the lead escort jet dives between the missile and the Mustang.

The pilot fires flares.

The missile locks onto the larger jet instead.

The pilot has seconds.

The missile detonates just behind the aircraft.

The shockwave tears through the jet's tail section.

The pilot ejects.

The jet spirals downward in flames.

The radio fills with static.

Then the parachute signal beacon activates.

"Guardian Lead has ejected."

The President says nothing.

He keeps flying.

The Mustang

The Second Escort

The remaining escort jet drops down toward the Mustang's altitude.

"Mustang One, this is Guardian Two. Stay on course."

The jet swings wide, trying to intercept the approaching Iranian aircraft.

Seconds later the Iranian fighter appears.

A Sukhoi Su-24.

A large twin-engine strike aircraft built for speed and power.

It roars through the sky like a thunderbolt.

Guardian Two fires a missile.

The Sukhoi dodges.

The Iranian pilot counters immediately.

Another missile launches.

Guardian Two rolls sharply.

The missile still connects.

The jet explodes in a flash of fire.

A second parachute opens in the distance.

Alone

The sky suddenly becomes very quiet.

The Mustang is alone.

The President glances around the empty sky.

No escorts.

No radar coverage.

Just the slow hum of the Merlin engine.

Then a new problem appears.

The oil pressure needle flickers.

Again.

The earlier repair is holding, but the engine is running rough.

The President whispers to himself.

"Not now."

The Mustang shudders slightly.

Ahead, the Sukhoi turns back toward him.

The Iranian pilot has realized something extraordinary.

The target is now completely unprotected.

The Challenge

The Sukhoi dives toward the Mustang.

The speed difference is staggering.

The jet screams past the propeller aircraft like a missile.

The President grips the control stick tighter.

He breathes slowly.

This is exactly the kind of fight the Mustang was built for.

Not speed.

Not technology.

The Mustang

Just maneuvering.

Pilot versus pilot.

Machine versus machine.

The Sukhoi climbs and turns for another pass.

The President watches it carefully.

The sky is empty now.

No escorts.

No support.

Just two aircraft circling above the Persian Gulf.

The Iranian pilot in a modern jet.

The President in a **P-51 Mustang**.

The radio goes silent.

The world shrinks to a single gunsight.

And the final dogfight begins.

Why This Scene Works

This addition strengthens the climax for several reasons:

1. Raises stakes dramatically

The President losing his escort makes the final fight far more intense.

2. Honors modern pilots

The escort pilot sacrificing his jet shows modern aviation courage alongside the vintage aircraft story.

3. Makes the final duel believable

Without escorts, the Mustang victory feels earned.

4. Creates cinematic escalation

Drone battle → missile attack → escort sacrifice → final dogfight.

The Mustang

Final Dogfight Scene

Last Mustang

The sky above the Persian Gulf is a pale metallic blue, the kind of sky that looks calm until machines begin tearing through it.

The **P-51 Mustang** claws upward through a thin veil of desert haze, its propeller beating the air with a steady mechanical rhythm. The aircraft is polished aluminum, bright enough that sunlight glints off the wings like a signal mirror.

Inside the cockpit, the President grips the stick with steady hands that remember something his advisers never learned.

Flying is muscle memory.

The engine growls. Oil temperature steady. RPM just under redline.

Below him the Persian Gulf stretches like a sheet of glass.

Then the radio crackles.

"Mustang One, radar confirms inbound contacts. Multiple drones approaching refinery grid."

He tilts the aircraft into a slow banking turn.

The radar operators on the Saudi base have already learned something about this strange aircraft.

It hunts visually.

The Mustang drops altitude and suddenly the sky fills with small shapes. Black specks drifting forward in loose formation.

Drones.

They look harmless from a distance, like birds.

Up close they are weapons.

The President pushes the throttle forward. The engine responds with a deeper roar as the aircraft dives toward the swarm.

The first drone grows larger in the gunsight.

A quiet moment passes.

Then the Mustang's six .50 caliber machine guns erupt.

The sound is violent, mechanical, brutal.

Tracers streak forward like burning pencils of light.

The drone explodes instantly, spinning apart in a cloud of carbon fiber fragments.

The President pulls up, rolls left, lines up the next target.

Another burst.

Another drone vanishes.

He flies through the formation like a hawk tearing through a flock of pigeons.

One drone detonates so close that debris rattles against the Mustang's canopy.

The radio fills with excited Saudi voices.

"Direct hits! Multiple drones destroyed!"

But then the tone of the radar operator changes.

"Mustang One... new contact. High speed. Bearing zero-eight-five."

The President's eyes narrow.

He scans the sky.

Nothing.

Then a distant silver needle appears on the horizon.

Closing fast.

Very fast.

The radio crackles again.

"Confirmed hostile jet departing Iranian airspace."

The Mustang is suddenly very small in a very big sky.

The Mustang

The Iranian fighter screams closer, slicing through the air at nearly twice the speed of the old propeller plane.

Inside its cockpit the Iranian pilot sees something unbelievable.

A World War II aircraft.

He smiles.

The fight should last seconds.

The jet dives.

A missile lock tone shrieks inside the Mustang cockpit.

The President hears it and mutters quietly to himself.

"Too fast."

He pulls the throttle back.

The Mustang slows dramatically.

The jet streaks past like a bullet, overshooting before the missile can fully track.

The sky flips upside down as the President yanks the aircraft into a tight climbing turn.

The Mustang turns like a knife.

The jet roars upward trying to reposition.

But the faster aircraft cannot slow enough.

It overshoots again.

Now the fight becomes strange.

The jet circles wide, trying to line up a missile shot.

The Mustang stays tight, slow, unpredictable.

The President flies the aircraft the way it was flown eighty years earlier.

Energy management.

Turn radius.

Patience.

The jet dives again.

The Mustang drops even slower.

The jet flashes past once more.

This time the President is ready.

He rolls behind the jet.

For a brief impossible moment the Mustang is chasing a supersonic fighter.

The jet tries to accelerate away.

But the pilot has already lost the geometry.

The Mustang's gunsight slides across the jet's tail.

The President squeezes the trigger.

The Mustang roars.

Six streams of tracers tear through the sky.

The jet shudders as rounds slam into its fuselage.

Smoke bursts from one wing.

The Iranian pilot pulls violently upward.

But the aircraft is already dying.

The jet spirals downward toward the Gulf, trailing black smoke like a comet.

The President watches it fall.

Silence returns to the sky.

The radio comes alive again.

"Mustang One, hostile aircraft down."

The Mustang

He exhales slowly.

Below him the last remaining drones turn away, their programmed mission suddenly abandoned.

The Gulf is quiet again.

The Mustang circles once over the water.

Then the President turns the aircraft toward Saudi Arabia.

The old fighter cruises home beneath the rising sun, its propeller beating steadily against the morning sky.

Back in Washington, in a quiet conference room inside the White House, Cabinet members prepare to vote on removing the President from power.

Before the vote can begin, a military aide rushes into the room.

He whispers something to the Vice President.

The Vice President looks up, stunned.

Over the secure radio network, a message has arrived from Saudi command.

The drones are gone.

The Iranian jet has been destroyed.

The mysterious aircraft has landed safely.

The Vice President slowly sets down the papers in front of him.

Far away, on a quiet runway surrounded by desert sand, the Mustang rolls to a stop.

The canopy opens.

The President climbs out, pulling off his flight helmet.

The aircraft ticks softly as the engine cools.

Mechanics stare at him in silence.

He pats the side of the old fighter gently.

"Still got it," he says.

In Washington, a second letter arrives at the Capitol.

The President declares he is once again able to perform the duties of office.

Authority returns to him instantly.

But for a brief moment, in a quiet desert sky, the world was saved by a propeller plane and a pilot who refused to forget how to fly it. ✈

The Mustang

The Political Thriller Subplot in Washington

Last Mustang

Washington was not designed for mysteries. The city runs on leaks, whispers, and people who cannot keep secrets longer than a cocktail party.

Yet somehow the President had vanished.

Not literally. Officially he was still in the White House medical suite undergoing "evaluation." That was the phrase released to the press. Calm, sterile, vague.

But inside the West Wing the truth was far more unsettling.

At 6:42 a.m., the **Speaker of the House** and the **President pro tempore of the Senate** received identical sealed letters from the President of the United States.

The language was precise.

The President declared that he was "temporarily unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office."

Under constitutional procedure, authority immediately transferred to the Vice President.

Within minutes the Vice President was sworn in as **Acting President**.

No explanation followed.

No medical report.

No briefing.

Just silence.

The Situation Room

By noon the Situation Room was full.

The Secretary of Defense flipped through intelligence reports while CIA analysts projected drone strike footage over the Persian Gulf.

Iranian drones were still swarming Saudi oil infrastructure.

The Saudi King had personally called Washington three times.

But the Acting President had a different problem.

The Commander-in-Chief was missing.

The Chief of Staff finally broke the silence.

"We've lost contact with him."

The room froze.

"Lost contact?" the Acting President asked carefully.

"He departed Andrews at zero-four-hundred. Military transport. Classified flight plan."

"Destination?"

The Chief of Staff hesitated.

"Saudi Arabia."

The Defense Secretary stared across the table.

"You mean to tell me the President voluntarily gave up power and then flew to a war zone?"

No one answered.

The First Leak

Washington has a metabolism that converts secrets into headlines.

By mid-afternoon reporters noticed something strange.

The President had canceled every public appearance.

The Vice President was chairing national security meetings.

Cable news began speculating.

Was the President sick?

Had there been an attack?

The Mustang

Was this a constitutional crisis?

The White House press secretary stepped to the podium.

"The President is temporarily unavailable due to a personal medical matter."

Reporters immediately smelled blood.

"What medical matter?"

"No further comment."

"Is the Vice President now the Acting President?"

"Yes."

The room erupted into shouting.

The Cabinet Begins to Worry

Behind closed doors the Cabinet was less interested in press briefings than in survival.

The Secretary of State spoke first.

"If this continues, foreign governments will assume instability."

The Attorney General nodded.

"The Constitution allows temporary transfer of power. But if the President is acting irrationally, we have to consider the next step."

The room grew quiet.

Everyone knew what he meant.

The Cabinet had the authority to declare the President permanently unable to serve.

If they did, Congress would decide whether he returned to office.

It had never been attempted in modern history.

The Intelligence Intercept

At 8:13 p.m. the CIA delivered a strange report.

Iranian radar had detected an unidentified aircraft shooting down drones over Saudi territory.

The aircraft moved slower than any modern fighter.

It used guns.

Not missiles.

The Acting President stared at the radar track.

"What aircraft uses guns anymore?"

The Air Force general answered quietly.

"World War II fighters."

The room stared at him.

"You can't be serious."

The general cleared his throat.

"There is one group that still flies them."

Everyone in the room knew the name.

The **Commemorative Air Force**.

The Acting President slowly leaned back in his chair.

"You think the President..."

No one finished the sentence.

The Cabinet Divides

The Cabinet meeting that night lasted four hours.

Half believed the President had lost his judgment.

The Mustang

The other half believed he might be doing something brilliant.

The Secretary of Energy shook his head.

"If the press discovers that the President personally flew into a war zone, markets will collapse."

The Defense Secretary spoke more quietly.

"If he succeeds, he ends the drone attacks without escalating the war."

The Vice President listened without speaking.

Finally the Attorney General placed a folder on the table.

"The Constitution gives us a responsibility. If the President is incapable of rational decision-making, we must act."

Inside the folder was a draft declaration.

It would permanently transfer authority to the Acting President.

Midnight

The White House corridors were empty.

Television screens glowed silently with speculation.

Pundits debated the meaning of the President's disappearance.

Some whispered about health.

Others suggested hidden negotiations with Iran.

None guessed the truth.

In the Situation Room the Acting President watched the radar feed from Saudi Arabia.

A slow aircraft appeared again on the screen.

Another drone vanished.

Then another.

The Defense Secretary leaned forward.

"He's doing it."

The Deadline

Morning approached.

The Cabinet scheduled a final vote.

If the President had not returned by noon, they would trigger the constitutional process.

The Vice President would remain in power.

Congress would decide the rest.

The Attorney General placed the document on the table.

The pens waited.

The Message

At 11:58 a.m. a military aide burst into the room.

He whispered something to the Acting President.

The room went silent.

The Acting President stood slowly.

"Radar confirms the drone attacks have stopped."

The Cabinet stared at him.

"How?"

The aide handed him another report.

An Iranian fighter jet had been shot down over the Gulf.

No modern aircraft were in the area.

The Mustang

Only one unidentified propeller plane.

The Acting President looked around the room.

"He's still alive."

No one touched the pens.

The Second Letter

Five minutes later another envelope arrived from the Capitol courier service.

The Acting President opened it.

Inside was a single sheet of paper.

The President declared he was once again **able to discharge the powers and duties of his office**.

Authority immediately returned to him.

The Vice President closed the folder containing the removal papers.

No vote would occur.

Quiet Aftermath

No official explanation was ever released.

The press eventually moved on to other stories.

But inside the White House, those who had sat in that room knew something extraordinary had happened.

For twenty-four hours the United States had been led by two presidents.

One in Washington.

And one flying combat over the Persian Gulf.

