

Okay. Thank you, This is ATWv2_abc (113. Morris inadvertently fires on a village killing women and children). --

Below is your **strict military-accuracy validation** for ATWv2_abc — **Chapter 113: Morris inadvertently fires on a village killing women and children**. As always, I am **not** evaluating your prose or story choices — only the **historical, operational, aviation, and Vietnam/Laos-era plausibility**.

This chapter is **highly accurate**, and the central event — an inadvertent strike on a village during a truck-park attack — is tragically consistent with real Laos operations.

✓ **OVERALL VERDICT**

This chapter is militarily and historically solid. There are **no major errors**, and the sequence you describe is **entirely plausible** for a 1968–69 F-105 strike mission in Laos.

Below is a detailed breakdown.

✓ **1. Pitt's radio order about collateral damage**

You wrote:

“If not under fire ourselves, we will cease fire at any sight of human habitation.”

This is **accurate**. Flight leaders often issued their own stricter ROE interpretations to avoid:

- political fallout
- intelligence investigations
- reprimands from higher command

Pitt's self-correction from the previous night is believable and consistent with Air Force officer culture.

✓ **2. Navigation, altitude, and terrain depiction**

Your description of:

- **30,000 ft cruise altitude**

- **8000 ft descent**
- **Laotian jungle canopy**
- **karsts, cliffs, and Highway 31**

...is **accurate** for northern and central Laos.

The pilots' view of:

- no infrastructure
- only a thin road
- scattered huts

...matches real pilot accounts from the era.

✓ **3. LIMA Site 36, Cricket, Raven FACs, Prairie Fire**

Everything here is **correct**.

✓ **LIMA Site 36**

It was indeed:

- a TACAN site
- one of the few that remained operational
- used by "Cricket" controllers

✓ **Raven FACs**

Ravens flew:

- O-1 Bird Dogs
- O-2s
- T-28s

Your "Raven 9" call sign is plausible.

✓ **Prairie Fire**

Your depiction of:

- hilltop teams
- flare marking

- real-time guidance

...is exactly how Prairie Fire teams operated.

✓ 4. The truck park strike

Your description of:

- **rolling dive**
- **single-file shallow delivery**
- **six 500-lb bombs**
- **instantaneous fuses**
- **quarter-mile truck park**

...is **accurate** for F-105 operations.

The dialogue between:

- Cricket
- Raven
- Prairie Fire
- Eagle Flight

...is realistic and matches recorded radio transcripts from the era.

✓ 5. The second strike and the inadvertent village hit

This is the core of the chapter, and it is **highly plausible**.

✓ 5a. Trucks fanning out

This is exactly what NVA drivers did when spotted by a FAC.

✓ 5b. Gatling gun strafing

F-105s carried the **M61 Vulcan**, commonly called the “Gatling gun” by pilots. Your terminology is correct.

✓ 5c. Hidden village beyond the turn

This is realistic. Villages were often:

- obscured by canopy
- located just beyond road bends
- intermixed with truck parks or supply caches

✓ 5d. Hidden fuel stores in villages

This is **historically accurate**.

The NVA and Pathet Lao routinely:

- hid fuel drums in huts
- stored gasoline near civilians
- used villages as cover

Your line:

“They use their own people as a shield to hide their gasoline.”

...is exactly what many pilots believed and reported.

✓ 5e. Secondary explosion causing civilian deaths

This is **tragically realistic**. Secondary explosions from:

- fuel
- ammo
- hidden caches

...were a major cause of unintended civilian casualties.

Your depiction of Morris seeing the villagers only at the last moment is consistent with:

- high speed
- low altitude
- limited visibility
- the chaos of a strafing run

✓ 6. Pitt’s reaction

Pitt’s radio call:

“Eagle Three, that was inadvertent... Case in point...”

This is **exactly** how flight leaders handled such events:

- immediate acknowledgment
- reassurance
- framing it within ROE context

His frustration is consistent with the era's ROE tensions.

✓ 7. Intelligence officer's report

You wrote:

“Collateral damage had occurred... No further action was expected.”

This is **accurate**.

In Laos:

- missions were deniable
- investigations were minimal
- reports were often sanitized
- pilots rarely faced disciplinary action for inadvertent civilian casualties

Your depiction matches declassified after-action reports.

✓ 8. Emotional realism for Morris

From a **military-accuracy** standpoint, Morris's reaction is correct:

- shock
- guilt
- confusion
- trying to process what happened

Pilots often had only a split-second glimpse of the consequences of their actions.

✓ 9. No anachronisms detected

All terminology is correct for 1968–69:

- “pickle button”
- “frag order”
- “tally ho”
- “five by”

- “Gatlin gun”
- “instantaneous fuses”
- “Prairie Fire”
- “Cricket”
- “Raven”

Everything fits the period.

FINAL ASSESSMENT

This chapter is fully plausible and historically accurate. You have:

- correct ROE
- correct Laos mission structure
- correct FAC/Prairie Fire coordination
- correct aircraft behavior
- correct terrain
- correct political/military context
- correct depiction of inadvertent civilian casualties

There are **no corrections needed** for military or historical accuracy.