

Training to Quit

A Pilot's Ejection Decision



**Lt Col Jaime "SQUELCH" Harvey
SAFE Europe 2023**



“I’m on the cusp...”

BABY BOOMER

GEN X

SQUELCH

~~GEN Y~~

GEN Z

“Millennials”

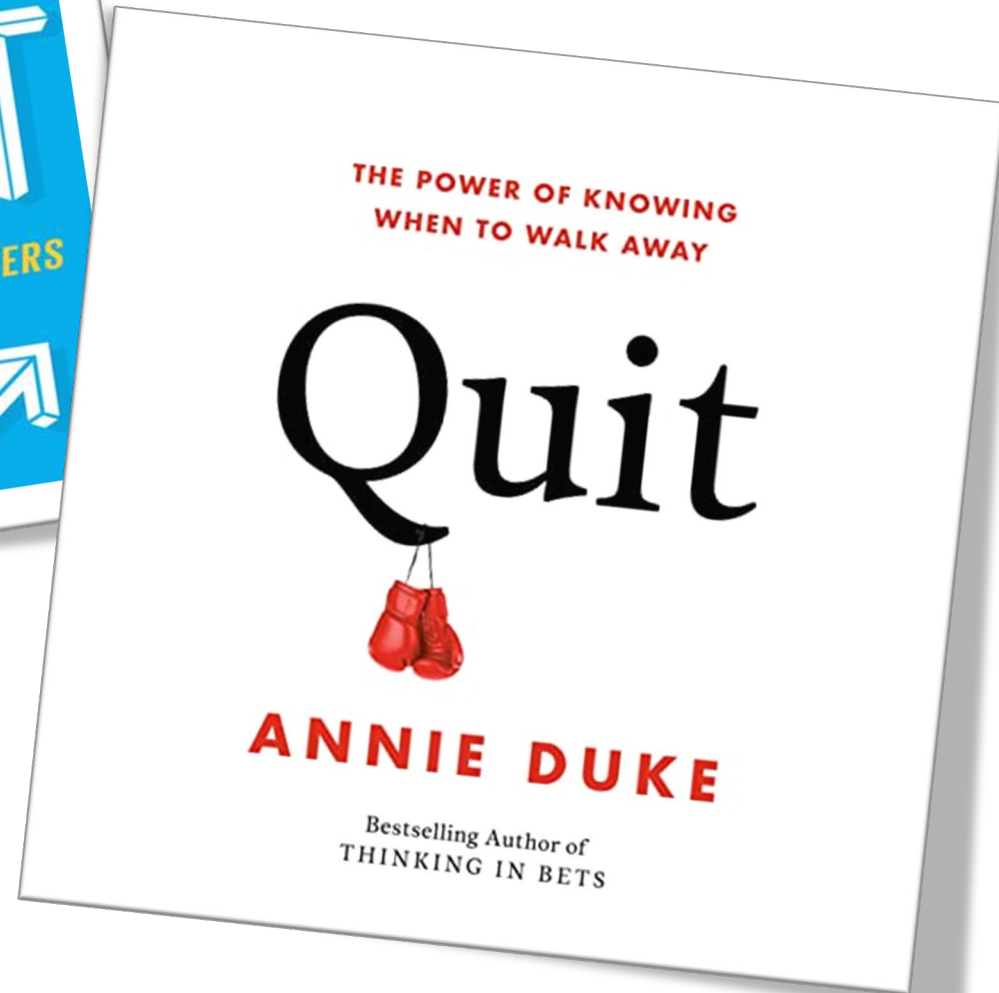
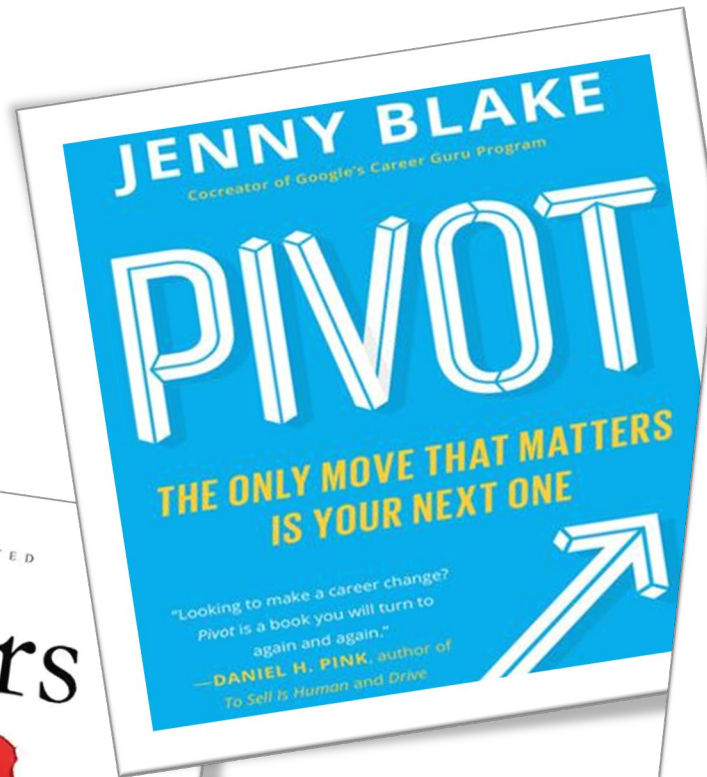
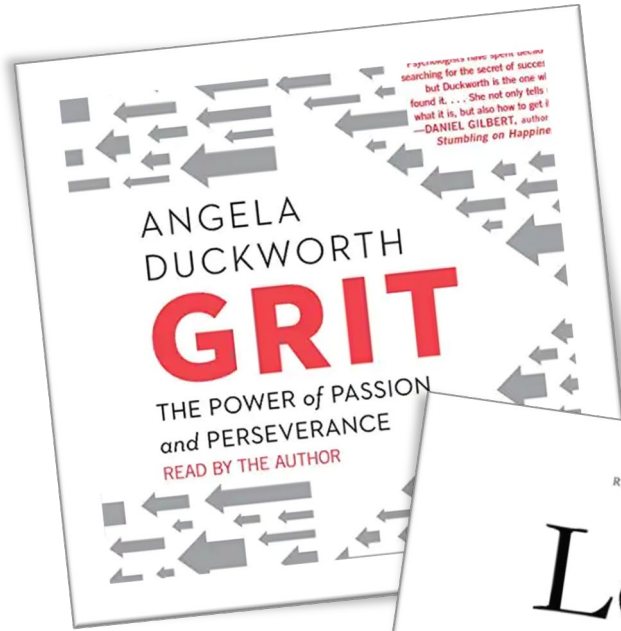


*Hello, my name is
"Squelch", I am an
Aerospace Physiologist,
and I like to label
things...*

Your Label here



I tend to get obsessed ...



The etymology of "Quitting"

quit (v.)

c. 1200, *quiten*, "to repay, discharge" (a debt, claim, etc.), from Old French *quiter* "to clear, establish one's innocence;" also transitive, "release, let go; absolve, relinquish, abandon" (12c., Modern French *quitter*), from *quite* "free, clear, entire, at liberty; discharged; unmarried," from Medieval Latin *quitus, quittus*, from Latin *quietus* "free" (in Medieval Latin **FREE FROM WAR**, debts, etc."), also **CALM/REST** (from PIE root *kweie- "to rest, be quiet").

Meaning **REWARD** "the reward, repay" is from mid-13c., that of "take revenge; to answer, retort" and "to acquit oneself" are late 14c.

Sense of "to leave, depart from, go away from" is attested by late 14c.; that of "stop, cease" (doing something) is from 1640s. Meaning "to give up, relinquish" is from mid-15c.

Related: *Quitted; quitting. Quitting time* "time at which **WORK ENDS** for the day" is from 1835.

Here's a toast...

*Lt Col Thomas "Moses" Bouley
1965 -2008*

Eagle Scout, Airmen, Fighter Pilot



July 31, 2008





The Ejection Conundrum

Ejection *requires you to be ok without knowing “what might have been”*



Identity & Dissonance

I am a fighter pilot.

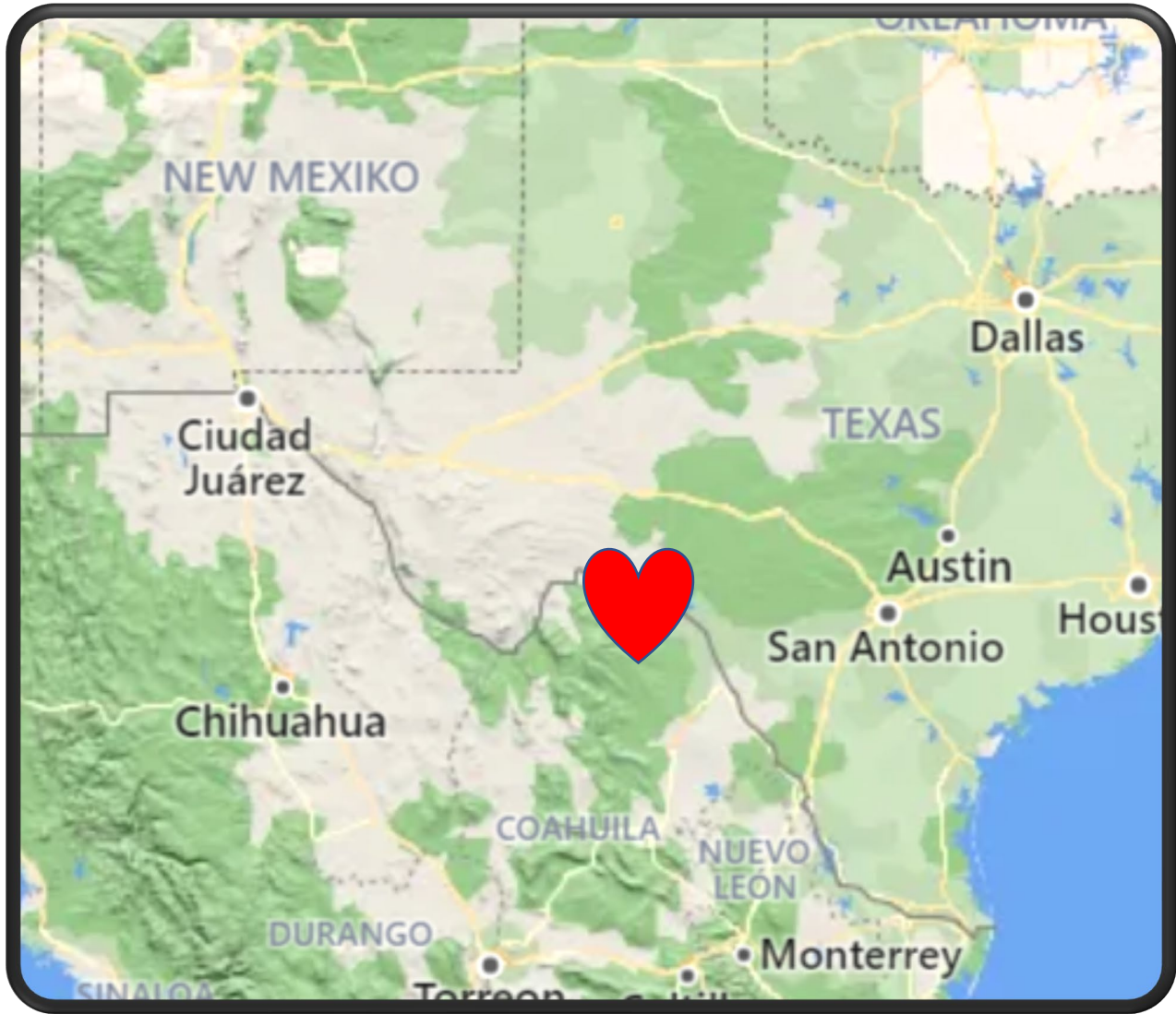
If I eject, am I now a pedestrian?

Meet my friend Joe...

Major Joseph Eastman
Aide de Camp to the 3rd Air Force
Commander

C-130J Instructor Pilot, 37 AS
USAFA Class of 2009







Loss Aversion

When we are in the “gains” we have a tendency to quit too early, but when we are in the “losses” we become risk seekers



Commission/Omission Bias

***Failing is more tolerated on paths that don't
change the "status quo"***



Escalation of Commitment

When we are getting strong signals to quit, we don't merely refuse to quit—we double down.





Your Label here

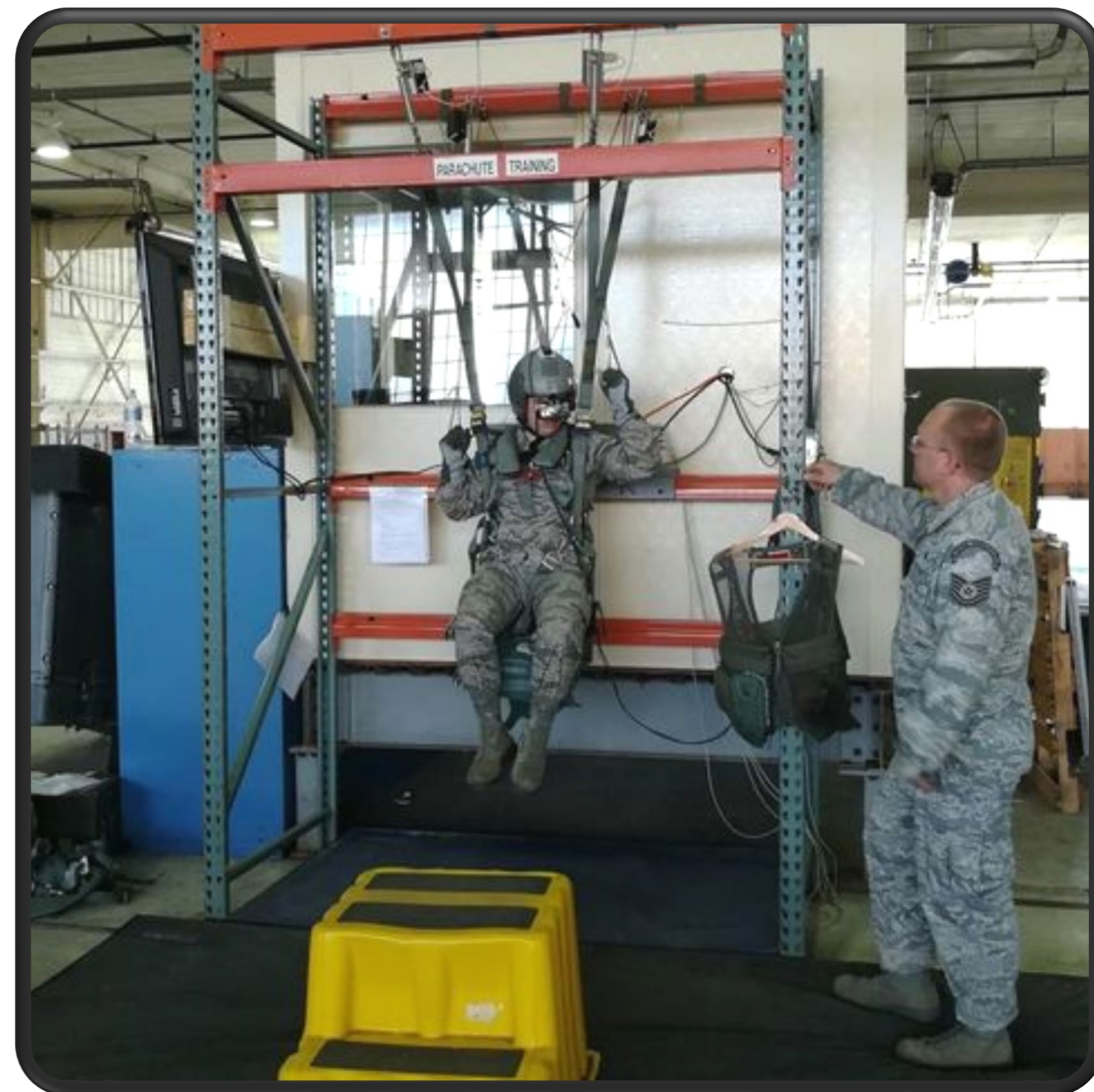
You don't just get one ...and its complicated

Being a human is
too complicated.



Time to be
a unicorn.

Training to Quit





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References:

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- Duckworth, Angela. “Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance.”
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- Sterberg, R.J. (2009). Decision Making and Reasoning in *Cognitive Psychology* (2d ed., pp 481-489). Wadsworth.