

MacGyver: "Pilot"
Season 1, Episode 1

Original Airdate: September 29, 1985

Opening Sequence Credits

Starring:

RICHARD DEAN ANDERSON.....**MACGYVER**
Michael Lerner.....[Ed Gantner]

Beginning Credits

Guest Starring:

Dana Elcar.....[Andy Colson]
Paul Stewart.....[Dr. Carl Steubens]
Michael C. Gwynne.....[Dr. Charlie Burke]
Michael Fairman.....[General Relkwin]
Shavar Ross.....[Reggie]
and Darlanne Fluegel.....*as* Barbara Spencer

Supervising Producer..... Mel Efros
Producer..... Vin Di Bona
Written by.....Thackary Pallor
Directed by..... Alan Smithee

End Credits

Co-Starring:

Olaf Pooley.....[Dr. Sidney Marlowe]
Charles Lanyer.....[Major Dennis]
Lawrence Casey.....[Colonel Keel]
Al White.....[Sergeant]

Featuring:

Charles Bouvier.....*as* Technician =1
Michael Johnson.....*as* Captain Taylor
Jerry de Wilde..... *as* Jerry
JoAnna Linn.....*as* Mary
Howard Schechter..... *as* Technician =2
Larry Watson.....*as* Technician =3

Music by..... Randy Edelman
Casting by..... Vicki Rosenberg
..... Helen Mossler
Director of Photography..... Tak Fujimoto
Art Director..... Daniel Lomino
Film Editors..... Jerry Young

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Transcript written by Kim (Ditto503).

Disclaimer: I do not own *MacGyver*—Paramount does. I don’t take any credit for the actual writing or creation of this episode; I simply transcribed it.

I give permission to distribute this transcript wherever you want; just remember to put my name somewhere. If you have comments or questions, please e-mail me at cat-fancier3@hotmail.com, and put “MacGyver” in the subject line. Don’t be afraid to correct anything, please—I’ll be happy to acknowledge and edit my mistakes.

I hope to make transcripts for more episodes, though I don’t know how far I’ll get. So stay tuned!

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Notes: (These apply to all of my transcripts.)

All of MacGyver's quotes are in color (blue, etc.) for easy reference.

Superscripts in the text (¹) indicate that there is a corresponding note in the section "Notes and Nitpicks," located near the end of the document.

VO (voiceover) indicates that the person (usually Mac) is talking to himself and not aloud. However, when the VO is in parentheses, it indicates dialogue spoken aloud but obviously not filmed at the same time.

My designations for certain small-role characters might not always follow who played who in the credits.

I've tried to come as close as possible to actually writing people's (especially Mac's) accent and slurring of words. The only two words that I didn't even try the accent on were "well" and "alright." "Well" often is pronounced "'ell," and "alright" is usually something like "arright." The dialogue's punctuation, while sometimes ungrammatical, has also been kept true to how the characters say it.

Note that I have decided not to write out the full swear words for principle's sake. Mac very rarely swears, and other characters swear little as well; so, there isn't much to cut out anyway.

And lastly, brackets in the credits indicate that the role of the actor is not specified on-screen, but that I have credited him or her with that role here.

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MACGYVER

Episode #1—PILOT

Opening Gambit

Mountainous landscape.

Subtitle: “...Somewhere in Central Asia
present day”

A tall vertical rockface. Someone is climbing on it. That someone is dressed in climbing gear, a blue coat, gray pants, blue and dark blue climbing boots, and a funny red hat.

MacGyver Voiceover: **It’s funny, ya know, the kinda stuff that pops into your head when you’re tryin’ to work. I remember there was this horse—a golden palomino. (On the top surface of the rockface, there is a camp with tents and soldiers, around a plane crash.) Old man McGinty had got him in a trade, I think. I couldn’t’ve been more than nine or ten at the time but I’d made up my mind that I was goin’ to ride that horse. ‘Course knowin’ old man McGinty, that was gonna take some doin’.**

MacGyver reaches the top of the cliff (he wears gray fingerless gloves) and spots the plane crash as well as the soldiers.

The tail of the plane reads “USAF 01545.” The Mongolian soldiers are dressed in warm khaki clothes and wear Russian-type winter caps, also carrying rifles. They talk to each other in their own language.

MacGyver climbs up and sits on the surface, taking off his climbing rope.

Mac VO: **Well first off there was this dog, Hector. They didn’t come any meaner or louder than Hector. One whiff of me headin’ for that corral and Hector’d have the old man down on me like a shot.**

Mac takes off. A soldier is sitting behind a rock barricade, a large gun next to him, and takes a drink from a tin cup. Suddenly Mac grabs him.

Mac VO: **So much for Hector.**

Several other soldiers are around, and they seem to be playing dice or something. Mac emerges in the clothes of the man he just took down, also carrying his rifle. He looks briefly at a soldier across from him, then takes a drink out of a sort of pan/cup.

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Mac VO: **Well I remember thinkin’ to myself as that palomino stared at me from across the corral with a real kinda proud an’ angry look, that if ever there was a time for turnin’ back this was it.** (He makes his way cautiously over to the plane crash, past some pine trees.) **But somethin’ else musta decided our paths were bound to cross that day, ‘cause my feet just kept right on goin’.**

Several soldiers are in front of him, and he quickly turns around before they see his face, taking another sip out of the cup. He turns his head slightly to see them walking away. He throws the cup away and walks in that direction, then reaches the plane. He takes a gun out of the cockpit and puts it in the bag he carries.

Mac VO: (as he watches the soldiers) **Now havin’ a golden palomino in a corral is all well and good. But actually gettin’ right up to ‘er—well that could be a whole ‘nother ball game. She was startin’ to look a little bit bigger than I remembered too.** (Mac spots the pilot, in a cage of wooden bars, raised above the ground on wooden poles.) **No, there was definitely more to ridin’ this palomino than had occurred to me the night before.**

One of the soldiers is meanwhile cutting another soldier’s hair.

Mac: (hidden in some pine trees, to pilot) **Psst. Psst!**

The pilot, Captain James Taylor¹, dressed in a red-orange coat, turns, and Mac puts a finger to his lips.

Mac: (whispers) **They didn’t say anything to me about any survivors. The missile—which tent?**

Capt. Taylor points a finger in the direction of the tent. There are guards by it.

Mac: (whispers) **Might wanna pass the time, by cuttin’ yourself a little elbow room.**

Taylor smiles as Mac takes out his Swiss Army knife and skillfully throws it so it lands in one of the wooden bars of the cage. Taylor takes it and nods in appreciation, starting to cut.

Mac: **Hey! I want that knife back, you know.**

Taylor just looks at him for a second and starts back at his task.

Mac sneaks behind the tent with the missile in it. There’s a guard on the other side of it. He squats down and starts to remove the tent stake.

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Mac VO: **I’d always heard in ridin’ horses, it was the horse that did the sweatin’. But I wasn’t even on it yet and you coulda wrung enough out of me to water the lawn.**

The guard is pacing back and forth nearby. Quickly Mac ducks under and into the tent, just before the guard comes around the corner.

Mac VO: **From here on it was easy-does-it. You move too sudden or worse, try jumpin’ on ‘er back, an’ you might just as well strap yourself to a—well, to a rocket.**

Mac approaches the missile inside the tent, stepping over it, and hangs his hat on one of its fins. He kneels down beside the missile, takes off his backpack, and takes out a small black leather case that contains several tools. He takes a screwdriver out and uses it to unscrew the cover off of a panel on the missile. Taking the cover off, he finds a panel with a flashing red light. He takes another tool out of the set and inserts it in a slot in the panel. Then he takes out a whole part of the panel, which sets off a timer with big red numbers, reading “030” and counting down. He slowly sets down the part he had taken out, then takes out some pliers from the tool set, using them to cut a red wire on the missile panel—the clock reads “013.”

Mac VO: **Alright hotshot. So you got a golden palomino between your knees and no reigns...Now what?** (Mac takes a paperclip out of his backpack and straightens it out, looking more nervous.)

As the clock says “003” he reaches into the panel and something clicks. The clock stops on “001” and a red light flashes. Mac looks completely relieved.

Then Mac peeks out from under the tent, shoves the rifle ahead of him, and climbs out from under it.

He has hung the rifle on a pine tree, and puts a string from around the tree branch to a stick that he has put through the trigger hole. He attaches a whole set of matches to the string and lights them.

He approaches Taylor, who is still freeing himself with the SAK. Mac smiles and gives him a thumbs-up, and Taylor smiles and holds up the knife in appreciation.

Mac: (whispering) **Cavalry should be here any minute.**

The fire burns the string, and the rifle is set off, shooting several times. The soldiers get up in alarm, grabbing their rifles and shouting. Mac holds up a hand to Taylor, as to say “not yet.” Then he says—

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Mac: **Now.**

Taylor puts the SAK in his mouth and opens the door of his cage, jumping out, as Mac runs over and hits a soldier in the face with his own gun. Taylor and Mac then run toward the edge of the cliff, the soldiers quickly running after them, shouting in their own language. They finally reach the edge and look down.

Mac: **God I hate heights.**

The soldiers take cover around the plane and start shooting at them. Mac and Taylor quickly duck behind a rock barricade. Mac takes a shot at the soldiers.² Taylor takes the rifle from him and starts shooting, while Mac takes a parachute pack from his backpack and puts it on. He then takes the gun that he had recovered from the cockpit of the crashed plane, and starts beating its barrel with a rock.

Capt. Taylor: **What're you doing?!**

Mac: **Makin' a rocket thruster.**

Taylor throws the rifle away and, as soldiers start coming towards them, he grabs on to Mac, who shoots his "rocket thruster" and falls over the cliff. The soldiers run to the cliff after them and shoot at them.

Taylor: (falling) **What are we doing??!**

Mac: **I'll tell ya later!!**

Finally a white and red parachute emerges and slows their fall.

[The following is a deleted scene, as aired on a Slovak TV station, dubbed in Czech. Much thanks goes to De.e for the translation.]

The show's intro consists of a continuation of the parachute scene, as MacGyver and Capt. Taylor float down farther and farther to the ground. The title "MacGyver" and the credits appear here.

The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

A man in Air Force dress blues, carrying a briefcase, walks down a hallway and turns to enter a room. The room is filled with men similarly attired. He (Major) approaches two men (Man and General) who are talking together.

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Man: **So what are you going to do?**

General: (closing a folder in his hands, turning to Major) **We're busy right now, so what do you want, Major?**

Major: **You know, sir, MacGyver; he's back.**

The General turns as MacGyver walks casually into the room (hands in pockets), followed by Capt. Taylor. Another man behind them, who escorted them, remains outside the room and closes the door. Taylor and MacGyver are still wearing the same clothes (Mac wearing his original clothes, not the enemy uniform).

General: **Captain Taylor. Oh my God, they did it.**

Taylor: **Yes.** (Behind him, Mac walks to the opposite wall.) **Unfortunately Myers lost consciousness when the plane crashed and he had to** [indistinguishable]. (Mac is filling a cup from a coffee machine).

General: **And the missile?**

Taylor: **I'd rather let MacGyver tell you himself.**

General: (looks at Mac) **Well?**

MacGyver turns to him, mug in hand.

Mac: (putting free hand in coat pocket) **Concerning the missile, sir, I think they should be able to get the traction engine going** (General gives a grave look) **but...** (fumbles in pocket, takes out a square metal object, turns it around in his hand and looks at it) **they won't have as much fun.** (throws it to the General)

The General catches it.

General and staff: (offscreen) (clapping) **Great! Well done!**

Mac turns back to the coffee machine. The officers continue to smile and clap, until the General holds up his hand.

General: **Enough, enough. Please contact the office and tell them to cease the negotiations, because we have the bomb now.**

Mac smiles, nods, and takes a drink.

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[back to English version]

Launch into Intro.³

A large white observatory with three domes, one on each side and the largest in the middle. It has an extensive lawn.

Reggie: (offscreen) **C’mon Mac, I’ve had Big Brothers before, none of them lived in a place like this.** (scene shows inside of dome, opened, and the large telescope)

Mac: (offscreen) **Well, it’s comfy—I call it home.**

Reggie: **I thought you had to be real normal to be somebody’s Big Brother.** (looking through telescope) **I mean this ain’t a normal place to live—this is weird.**

(Reggie is an African-American boy, Mac’s Little Brother, who wears jeans and a tan, plaid shirt over another shirt.)

Mac: **People a lot taller than yourself ‘ve said the exact same thing.** (adjusting something on the telescope) **I think it’s in’eresting.**

Reggie: **OK, it’s in’eresting. Now can I see Venus?** (looks through another lens on the telescope)

Mac: **You will be able to once that cloud clears.** (pauses, looking through the opening in the dome) **Tell you what, in the meantime whaddya say we go down and get a bite to eat?** (hits him gently)

Reggie: **OK.** (starts running)

Mac runs after him. (He wears a blue and green plaid shirt with a white shirt underneath, and camel-brown pants.)

A black car goes down a curvy dirt road through a pretty vegetated desert.

Voice on Radio 1: **State Department Vehicle J1765 requesting entry access to Kiva Level 1.**

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Subtitle: “Bannon, New Mexico”

The car pulls in front of a small white building with a wire tower near it.

Voice on Radio 2: **Clearance request granted. Proceed to Level 1.**

The car enters what looks like a garage door, into the building. On top of the building are the letters “KBEX.”⁴

Inside the building is a room totally full of high-tech computers and people milling about in white lab coats. There’s a glass barrier separating it with another room. A young blonde woman is showing something to a man (Technician 1). (A phone rings.) Turning around, she sees through the glass barrier the car pulling in. Then she walks away saying—

Barbara Spencer: (to Tech 1) **Will you excuse me please?**

(Spencer is wearing a white lab coat over a pink dress with white polka-dots and is wearing a gold watch and high heels. Her blonde hair is tied back.) (As she walks, someone in the background says, “Oh yeah I see what you mean. OK, that’s the discrepancy. OK, uh...”.) She goes around the glass barrier to the adjacent room, still carrying something.

Spencer: **Dr. Marlowe.** (Dr. Marlowe has just been led out of the black car by a security officer. He’s wearing a black suit with a white shirt and tie, is bald on top with brown-grey hair and beard, and wears glasses.) **Our director Dr. Burke was delayed, so on behalf of Dr. Steubens and the Sendrex Corporation I’d like to welcome you to the Kiva Laboratories.**

Dr. Marlowe: (with a British accent) **Thank you.**

Spencer: (forgetting) **Oh, I’m Barbara Spencer.** (shaking his hand and laughing)

Marlowe: (shaking her hand) **Oh, yes, yes his assistant, he’s mentioned you in his letters.**

Spencer: **Oh.** (laughs politely) **Dr. Steubens is waiting for us on the third level. Follow me please, the elevator’s this way.**

She leads him off in the direction indicated. (Dr. Marlowe is carrying an umbrella and a brown leather bag.) They turn a corner and reach the elevators. Beside it is a desk where a phone rings and someone picks it up. In front of Spencer and Marlowe is a small white circle on the floor.

Spencer: **If you’ll just stand completely within this circle, this will only take a moment.**

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Dr. Marlowe does so. A beam of blue light goes around him, then turns off. He walks out of the circle and follows Spencer to the elevator. Spencer enters a code on a keypad next to the elevator, then places her hand in a square slot, where a green light turns on.

Spencer: **Spencer, Barbara T. GL773. Clearance to Level 3.**

The elevator doors open and they enter.

Marlowe: (as they enter) **Such tight security. Should I be flattered?**

Spencer: **Standard procedure I'm afraid.** (as the doors close) **The Kiva has the most advanced security of all the Sendrex Corporations. Nothing moves in or out of here that isn't constantly monitored and controlled.**

The elevator wall is clear and allows one to see the floors they pass. (Spencer also wears a necklace.) On a panel in the elevator it says in green lettering: "200 feet" and then "300 feet," beeping as well. At the top of the elevator is another screen that first says in red: "WAIT. Pressure equalizing," then "CLEAR. Cabin pressurized." Spencer looks up at it, smiling, then walks out, Marlowe with her.

They open glass doors into another room. Two men who were talking to Dr. Steubens walk out. (Dr. Steubens is quite old with white hair, and wears a dark grey suit with white shirt and tie.)

Dr. Steubens: (enthused) **Sidney, dear Sidney, how are you? Ha ha.** (shakes his hand.)

Marlowe: (enthused as well) **I'm great, it's good to see you Carl.**

Spencer: **Well, should we start with a little tour of the facilities?**

Steubens: **Uh no, I've changed my mind about that. We have a serious matter to settle face-to-face.** (They walk toward a chess board on a table.) **As I recall your last telex, it was Queen to Bishop 4. Yes, correct?** (pulling out a chair)

Marlowe: (pulling out a chair) **Uh, you countered with Rook to King's 5th, pure suicide** (Steubens laughs), **uh, but far be it from me to stop you, Carl.**

The clock on the wall says about 10:35:20.

A little later, Marlowe moves his bishop forward.

Marlowe (VO): **It's your move Carl.**

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Steubens (VO): **Oh, I know.**

The clock reads 10:59:20.

Underneath a table is an explosive device with a timer, which is beeping. The timer reads "00'35."

Steubens moves a rook, then says—

Steubens: **I'm sorry Sidney.** (looks sideways)

As the clock strikes 11:00, a huge explosion occurs, shattering the glass wall nearby and throwing Steubens and Marlowe from their seats. The explosion affects many other lab rooms, and scientists in labcoats are thrown down, yelling. Outside of the complex, the explosion is heard.

Somewhere inside the complex, a cracking noise is heard, and a liquid starts streaming down. An alarm goes off.

Female Intercom Voice: **Acid leak, Level 3. Containment out of control. Acid leak, Level 3. Containment out of control.**

The acid flows down into the cement floor.

A helicopter flies low over some trees. MacGyver watches it from the balcony of his observatory home. It lands on the cement in front of the observatory lawn, just behind a large obelisk-shaped statue. Mac runs back inside to go down and meet it. A man, Ed Gantner⁵, opens the helicopter door and walks out. (He's wearing a dark grey suit with white shirt and tie, and has grey hair, slightly Asian-Indian features, and is a little stocky.) Mac and he meet each other near the white obelisk.

Mac: **Tell me you were just in a hurry to see me and there's no bad news.**

Ed Gantner: **Uuh, I was just in a hurry to see you and, uh, I'll save the bad news till we get inside.** (starts heading for the observatory)

Mac: **Uh, Gant, Gant—c'mon, let's have it.**

Gantner: **Alright.** (walks back up to Mac) **An accident in New Mexico. A lab that handles a lot of classified research. Something set off a series of explosions.**

Mac: **How bad?**

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Gantner: **Well most of the personnel got out, but at least 20 are still unaccounted for. Among them is a top British scientist named Marlowe. He was here visiting one of our own men, Steubens. They’re also both candidates for the Nobel Prize this year. Not exactly the publicity the State Department wants to hear.**

Mac: **They still alive?**

Gantner: **They survived the blast but they’re still trapped in the lab. They calculate the chance of anyone getting to Marlowe and Steubens is—(hesitates) well, it’s not great.**

Mac: **Well give me “not great” on a scale of one to ten.**

Gantner: **Minus three. That’s why we couldn’t order anyone to try. So uh, your name came up.**

Mac: **What other options do they have?**

Gantner hesitates.

Mac: (slightly smiling) **I’m it, aren’t I?**

Gantner: **You’re it. Now look Mac, (as Mac sighs) you don’t have to take this assignment, you know that.**

Mac pauses for a moment.

Mac: **Call the lab, Gant. Tell them we’re on our way.**

Outside of the Kiva complex are ambulances and soldiers.

Inside, they are treating the wounded, and a man wearing an oxygen mask walks by as another man tears a piece of paper from a machine. Two other men seem to be arguing over a large book—the stressed-out one says something like “I don’t want to hear excuses.” Another man, wearing a grey suit and blue shirt, having brown hair and mustache, Charlie Burke, is looking over some papers, then hands them to another man who walks away. A stocky, plaid-shirted man with fuzzy hair, Technician 2, holds a phone up to his ear, then says:

Tech 2: **I think we may be getting through again.** (hands the phone to Burke)

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Charlie Burke: **Dr. Marlowe**—(scene switches to room with Marlowe and Steubens)
(staticky) **Dr. Steubens, can you hear me? Gentlemen, can you hear me?**

Dr. Marlowe walks through the debris to the intercom.

Marlowe: **Yes, just-just-just a little. I-I think...Carl is** (switch to scene of Burke listening on the phone with a finger in his other ear) **regaining consciousness, but we-we do need a** (switch to Dr. Marlowe) **doctor down here.**

Burke: **Dr. Marlowe—hello?**

Marlowe: **Do you hear me? Hello?**

Tech 2: **Sorry sir, we lost it.**

Burke: **Keep trying.** (hands back phone)

Technician 2 nods and puts the phone back to his ear.

A military helicopter lands by the complex. Several soldiers are running around and the ambulances are still there. “Yes sir” and “move out” can be heard. One soldier runs toward the helicopter to meet Gantner, who runs out of it.

Gantner: **Colonel Keel.** (They shake hands.)

Col. Keel: **Gantner.**

Mac walks out of the helicopter behind them. (He’s wearing the same clothes he did before, but also wears a coat, a white baseball cap, and has a knapsack and a rolled-up paper, presumably a map of the complex.)

Mac, Gantner, and Keel enter the complex. (Mac no longer has his cap on.)

Female Intercom Voice: **Attention please. All Sendrex clearances must be approved on a priority basis. Check at your substation command post.**

The three of them arrive where Burke is.

Burke: **Oh Ed, I see you’ve already met Col. Keel.**

Keel: **I’d better keep things moving outside. I’ll check in with you later.**

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Burke: **Good.** (Col. Keel walks off.)

Gantner: **Charlie Burke, this is MacGyver. Charlie's director of the lab.**

Burke: (shaking hands with Mac) **Thank you for coming.**

Mac: (pink lighting behind him) **How's it stand right now?**

Burke: **Well, Marlowe's fine, Steubens was unconscious for a while but he's coming around, we've been unable to maintain any communication for more than a few seconds at a time.**

A digital clock on the back wall is counting up—"15:10:02." Andy Colson can now be seen in the back.

Mac: **You got any idea what set it off?**

Burke: **An explosion on the third level somehow made its way to the first and past that we're guessing.**

Mac: (nodding) **Uh, any chance it coulda had anything to do with their research?**

Burke: **No-no-no no-no, uh Steubens' research had to do with magnetic fields in the ozone layer.**

Mac: **Rainmakers?**

Burke: **Yep.**

Mac: **You're sure this was an accident, right?**

Burke: **Given the security of the Kiva Laboratories I don't see how it could be anything else.**

Mac: **Yeah right—uh, have you got somebody I can talk specifics with?**

Burke: **Andy Colson is our chief of operations.**

Mac: (setting map down on table) **Alright let's have him—that ten hours can't be gettin' any longer.**

Burke: (to Technician 2) **Get Colson down here.**

Technician 2 goes and gets him.

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Burke: (offscreen) **Now we started to drill an airhole from the outside but we had to stop.**

Gantner: **Why's that?**

Burke: **We hit sulfuric acid.** (Mac looks up.) **Explosion must've ruptured one of the tanks and it's uh, well it's leaking into the ground.**

Mac: **H's it reached the aquifer yet?**

Gantner: (getting behind in the techno-babble) **Whoa whoa what's that--?**

Burke: (talking at the same time as Gantner) **Aquifer, it's a uh layer of underground water—in this case it leads directly into the Rio Grande.** (motioning with pencil) **Now if the acid hits the river, we're gonna poison most of this state, Texas, and Mexico.**

Gantner: **What can you do about it?**

Burke: **Well we can neutralize it but in order to do that we have to flood the entire complex with sodium hydroxide.**

Mac stares off, and Gantner looks at him and back to Burke.

Gantner: **What's that?**

Mac: **Let's just say it's the same stuff they use to clean the flesh off o' skeletons.**

Gantner: **You're kidding.** (Mac shakes his head slightly.) **'S that true?**

Burke: (nods) **Yeah. There's a convoy of tankers on the way right now.**

Mac: **So it's not ten hours anymore.**

Burke: **No uh, given the rate of flow of the acid I'd say you have a little under five hours my friend.**

Mac: **Well you're just takin' all the fun out of this Charlie. Can you show me where that tank is?**

Burke: **Right there.** (points to map that Mac had been carrying) **Third Level, 300 feet below ground.** (Mac nods.)

Andy Colson walks up smoking a cigarette. (He's mostly bald, heavyset, and wears a white shirt and tie.)

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Mac: **You Colson?**

Colson: **That's right. You must be the screwball.** (Mac smiles a little.)

Burke: **Andy, c'mon.**

Mac: (turns back to map on table) **Yeah, it doesn't make much sense to go over every level right now** (putting pencil up to mouth) **but if you can wire me for two-way you can fill me in as I get to each one. First problem though is to get me inside.** (turns to Colson) **'Ve you got any ideas on that?**

Colson: **The only way to get down to the first level right now is through the elevator and we can't even open the doors up here. The whole shaft is protected by laser.**

Mac: **Infrared or gas discharge?**

Colson: **Gas. CO₂, 10,000 watts.**

Mac: (whistles, impressed) **You boys take your elevator shafts pretty seriously.** (pauses and looks at Colson's cigarette pack) **Spare a cigarette?**

Colson: **Oh sure.** (offers him to take one)

Mac: **Thank you.** (takes the pack from his hand)

Colson: **Take the pack why don'tcha.** (Mac puts the pack in his knapsack.) **Want my lighter too?**

Mac: **No thanks, I carry my own matches. Now this wiring duct here,** (indicates on map with pencil) **it looks like it runs into the elevator shaft—does it?**

Colson: **Yeah it does, and it's got a grate on the opening, but that's not gonna do you any good, you're still gonna draw the laser there.**

Mac: **That's what I'm countin' on.** (looks at Colson) **Can you get me inside?**

Colson: (looks doubtfully at Mac) **You know you're not gonna be able to see that laser.**

Mac: **Can you?**

Colson: **Yeah I can get you in. You know it's gonna take a lot more than you can carry in that knapsack to get you through all this.** (Mac looks down at his knapsack.)

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Mac: (looks at Colson) **Well, the bag's not for what I take, Colson, it's for what I find along the way.**

Someone removes a circular metal cover from an opening that leads to a red, steep metal staircase/ladder. MacGyver jumps through the opening onto the stairs/ladder and climbs down. Colson and Gantner look down at him through the opening.

Colson: **MacGyver, that mic is voice-activated. All you've gotta do is talk, we'll be listening.**

The gadget is attached to Mac's belt, and the mic is attached to it with a cord. Mac clips the mic to the strap of his knapsack that goes over his chest.

Mac: **Okey-doke.** (looks up to Gantner) **Ed, relax. I got a big date on Sunday. I'm playing ball with my Little Brother.** (waves index finger to Gantner)

Gantner gives him a quick thumbs-up in return, and Mac continues down till he reaches the floor. He reaches a lighted tunnel with a floor of metal grating. He adjusts his bag and then starts crawling through it, whistling (apparently the beginning of "The Streets of Laredo"⁶). At the end of the tunnel is a vertical opening covered in metal grating.

Mac: **Well, I've reached the grate.** (looking through it) **Can't see any damage so far.**

He sits down (adjusting the knapsack into his lap) and then uses his feet to kick the grate from its place. As it flies off, it hits the invisible lasers, which causes a great amount of sparks. For a few seconds through the resulting smoke the blue lasers are visible.⁷

Colson: (over radio) **What was that?**

Mac: **Yeah, well there's nothin' wrong with your laser.** (looking down through the shaft)

Colson: (over radio) **I told ya you couldn't get through.**

Mac: (pauses, then:) **Well, then maybe it's time for a smoke.** (He reaches into his knapsack, takes out the pack of cigarettes and takes three from it, setting two down along with the pack and holding the other.) (to laser) **C'mon pal, how 'bout a light?**

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Mac leans forward and slowly puts the cigarette toward the nearest laser. Once the cigarette makes contact with the laser, it lights. Mac starts to smoke it, but makes a face and coughs slightly, showing his evident dislike.

Colson: (over radio, as Mac replaces the one cigarette with the two other ones, lighting them with the original one) **Is he really taking the time for a smoke?**

Mac spits a little of the tobacco out, then puts all three back in his mouth, his eyes slightly watering. He blows the smoke from his mouth toward the lasers several times. Slowly the shaft fills with smoke and the lasers become visible, making a neat light show.

Mac: **Well that’s kinda pretty.** (He shifts position, reaches into his knapsack, and takes binoculars.) **Gant, remind me to get another pair of binoculars. J--- I hate to do this, you’re the best pair I ever had.**

He knocks the lens of the binoculars against a nail that is sticking out in the opening, breaking it.

Colson: (over radio) **Binoculars? What the—what are you doing with binoculars?**

He takes out the inside lens, wipes it with his fingers, and directs it toward the laser. The laser beam catches onto the lens and is refracted. Mac, watching with raised eyebrows, is then able to direct the beam toward the hole on the other side of the shaft, which the laser comes out of.

Mac: **Well I’ll tell ya—D’jou ever see a scorpion sting itself to death?**

The laser beam goes directly onto the hole, and an explosion ensues with sparks.

A bunch of dirt falls through an opening in the ceiling. A knapsack then falls through. Finally two legs emerge, and Mac hangs out of the opening. He then lets go to stand on the floor, looking around.

Mac: **Think I’m in.**

Colson: **What does it look like down there?**

Mac: (over radio) **Twilight Zone.** (walks through the debris, round the corner) **Elevator’s jammed in the shaft so I’m gonna hafta find another way to the lower level. I’m headin’ for the biolab.**

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A spark ignites for a second, causing Mac to jump slightly. Creaks and groans in the structure around him can be heard. As he walks along another spark goes off. He then comes to a dead end.

Mac: **We got a problem, boys.**

Gantner: **What is it Mac?**

Mac: **Well the corridor’s caved in ahead here.** (approaches and picks up a lady’s shoe from the debris) **I don’t think I c’n make that biolab.** (turns the shoe upside-down to get the dirt out of it)

Colson: **Back the other way, MacGyver, there’s a control room.**

A tapping on metal can then be heard.

Mac: **Hold it a second.**

He climbs up to the top of the debris that is blocking the corridor, still holding the shoe. He pauses, then hears the tapping again.

Gantner: **Mac what’s happening?**

Mac: **I’m getting a tapping sound coming from the direction of the lab. I got a pretty big girder in my way here though.**

Mac hits the girder with the shoe three times. Gantner flinches as the loud sound comes through his headset.

Mac: **Come on back to me one more time.**

Then three more tappings come from the other side.

Mac: **I got some life down here boys.**

Colson: **Uh MacGyver, the girder—can you move it?**

Mac: **Well that’d take some doin’. It’s wedged in here pretty good.** (over radio) **‘F I could raise it up ‘bout three or four inches I might be able to swing it to one side.**

Gantner takes a drink from a Styrofoam cup.

Mac: (over radio) **What’s that sound?**

Gantner: **It was me Mac, just taking a sip of water.**

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Mac: **Water.** (It's evident he has an idea.)

He quickly climbs down the barricade of debris and runs over to the wall a little ways, where there is built into it a glass case containing a fire extinguisher and hose. He grabs the hose and runs back with it up the barricade. Getting to the top he moves the shoe out of the way, then takes his SAK, opens it to a regular blade, and cuts the nozzle off the hose. Then he ties the end of the hose up in a tight knot. He digs a little to place the knot underneath the girder. He closes the knife and backs out. Running back to the case with the fire extinguisher, he turns on the water, which quickly fills up the hose. The girder groans as it lifts a few inches. Mac places his back against the girder and finds some good footing.

Colson: **MacGyver what are you doing down there?**

Mac: **Prayin' my back doesn't give out. Aaargh...** (pushes with all his might against the girder)

He crashes through the barricade, into the biolab. Several people, mostly dressed in labcoats, are standing around and exclaim when he comes through.

Mac: (still on the floor) **Is there anybody hurt seriously?**

Man (Jerry): **Some of us, but we can all walk.**

Behind him, Barbara Spencer is putting a cloth to a man's bloody face.

Mac: **Alright, let's get ya outta here.** (stands up) **One at a time up through that hole. Make your way to the corridor from there.** (They all proceed according to his directions. They are all dirty and some are very bloody.) **Colson, you got a whole bunch o' people comin' your way. A rope ladder in the elevator shaft oughta get 'em topside.**

Burke: **We'll see them on from up here. Thank you.** (takes off headset and walks out)

Mac: (over radio) **Well we got lucky, let's just hope it holds, huh?**

Gantner: (over radio) **Are you sure you can go on Mac?**

Mac: **Well unless you got another way to get to Marlowe and Steubens I'm just gettin' lazy.**

When Spencer, who is climbing up the debris to get through the hole, hears "Marlowe and Steubens" she turns and climbs back down.

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Spencer: (to Mac) **Marlowe and Steub—you're not saying they're still alive are you?**

Mac: **Yes ma'am. In the lab on the third level--?**

Spencer: **I know where. I-I mean I was just about to join them again in his lab when the first explosion hit. Are you going down after them?**

Mac: **Yeh well that's the plan. It sure would be a big help if you could tell me how you made it all the way back up here.**

Spencer: **I'll do better than that—I'll show you, I'm going with you.**

Mac: **N-w-whoa whoa, no no, I'm sorry but the only place you're going is up through that hole to the surface.**

Spencer: (shaking her head) **Oh no, not without Carl Steubens.**

Mac: **Look, uh—**(motions to ask for name)

Spencer: **Spencer, Barbara Spencer.**

Mac: (pauses, looking at her) **Barbara, what if I were to tell you that if I can't stop an acid leak down there, in a few hours they're gonna flood this whole complex with sodium hydroxide, hm?**

Spencer: **Then I'd say we're wasting time.**

Mac: (looks at her, then speaks into mic) **Uh guys, we got a little change of plan here, I have a Barbara Spencer on my hands...She's comin' with me.**

Mac: (looking down an opening into a large shaft) **God I hate heights.**

There's a ladder that extends down the middle of the shaft. He lets out a breath and then steps onto the ladder, climbing down. Spencer follows him.

Spencer: **I know this is a stupid time to ask, but—have you got a name?**

Mac: **MacGyver.**

Spencer: (laughs nervously) **MacGyver. That's a good name.**

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They’re now walking through another corridor with heavy debris on the floor.

Mac: **Any idea what set the blasts off?**

Spencer: **No, it was so sudden I barely had time to make it past the electronics lab before that exploded too.**

Mac: **Huh. Steubens’ lab, biolab, electronics. Seems like all the explosions were somehow connected to the labs.**

Spencer: **I don’t see how that’s possible, they’re all independent of each other.**

Mac: (indicates metal double doors) **Is this where you came up?**

Spencer: **Yeah, there’s a stairway—**(She’s about to touch the handle of the door.)

Mac: (running towards her and holding her back) **Heya, hold it, hold it.**

Smoke is coming between the crack between the doors. Mac goes to the nearby debris pile, kicking around in it a little, then picks up a metal bar. He touches the bar to the door handle, and it ignites. Spencer gasps. Mac holds it up to look at it.

Mac: **Another way down?**

Spencer: **The gas chamber.**

Mac: **The what?** (puts down bar)

Spencer: **It’s a nickname we have around here for a series of airlocks around a common lab that work with sensitive gases. This way.**

She turns around, and Mac follows her.

Burke is drinking from a cup. The other two are standing by.

Gantner: (into headset, as Colson hands him a paper) **Uh, you got three hours and twenty-seven minutes Mac. How’s Spencer holding up?**

Mac: (walking down corridor with Spencer ahead of him) **Well she likes my name. What more could I ask for?**

He stops in front of a pile of scattered chocolate bars from a broken vending machine.

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Mac: **Chocolate. Want one of these?**

Spencer: **No thanks.** (Mac squats down and picks up a few. Spencer has stopped to watch him.) **How can you think about eating candy at a time like this when the chances of us getting out of here alive—**

Mac: **I know what the odds are. But I thought we might be able to store up on a little energy before we pressed on.** (Spencer looks at him doubtfully.) **Let’s go.**

Spencer turns around and walks on. Mac gets up and follows her, unwrapping a candy bar and throwing the wrapper behind him.

In another corridor:

Spencer: (looking around) **Strange.**

Mac: (eating candy bar) **What’s that?**

Spencer: **Airlocks along the corridor are designed to close in any emergency.**

Right when she says this, an alarm sounds and red alarm lights flash. The doors behind them close, and the ones ahead of them start to.

Spencer: (yelling) **MacGyver!**

Mac grabs Spencer’s hand and they run through the corridors and through the doors before they close completely.

Spencer: **Hurry!**

Mac barely gets through the last one, his knapsack almost getting caught in it, while he makes a sound like “ugh—ow.”

They reach the wall of the final room and stand against it, breathing hard. Spencer turns around and walks away in the left direction while Mac wipes his face a little. Spencer looks through a window, and what she sees almost makes her cry as she mouths “my God.” Mac walks to the window and looks through. Through the window and below them is a laboratory filled with gas. Four scientists are visible, all dead. Mac and Spencer just stand and watch for a few moments.

In Steubens’ lab:

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Marlowe: **Carl.**

Steubens: **Ehh...**

Marlowe's and Steubens' clothes are torn and filthy, and they have scratched-up faces. Marlowe is holding a cloth to Steubens' bleeding face.

Marlowe: **Carl?**

Steubens: **We're still alive?**

Marlowe: **Well after that explosion it's a miracle we are, but, uh—we're—we're trapped down here and the intercom, it's-it's on-off, on-off.**

Steubens: **They-they-they know we're here?**

Marlowe: (nods) **Yes they're trying to get to us.** (They both look up as the structure of the building creaks.) **With all the damage on the upper levels it's a-it's a—**

Steubens: **Oh no...**

A military tent nearby:

A black soldier speaks into a radio:

Soldier: **Roger.** (puts radio down) **Colonel.** (Two men nearby look up from what they're doing.) **The hydroxide tankers are reaching the complex now.**

Of the two men, the man on the right speaks, presumably Col. Keel:

Keel: **Get Burke on the line.** (The scene switches to two tanker trucks speeding down the desert road.) (VO:) **Tell 'im we'll be ready to flood the complex in 55 minutes.**

Mac and Spencer are still by the window, Mac looking out and Spencer not being able to any longer.

Colson: (over radio) **Listen, we're repairing the circuits that open the airlock doors that are behind you.**

Mac: **I hear ya.**

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Colson: (Next to him, Technician 1 (a white-shirted, dark-haired man) is trying to repair something—the circuits.) **Ya have any idea what kind of gas is in there?**

Mac: **No, I sure don’t.** (turns to Spencer, who is still slightly disturbed) **Maybe Spencer does.**

She turns to him, and he gives her a slightly questioning look. She only turns away, apparently indicating that she doesn’t know.

Mac: **Yeah uh Colson, I don’t think we can get a fix on it just yet.**

Colson: **We’re gonna try the airlock circuits now.**

Mac: **OK.** (turns to look out window again)

Gantner and Colson (cigarette in hand) stand by as Technician 1 presses several buttons on the console. (Burke is standing a little off in the distance.)

Mac and Spencer are both looking through the window expectantly.

The three men up top jump back as sparks fly from the console and a little explosion occurs (with slight cries of “look out” and “aah”). A small fire is burning on the console, and a white-shirted mustached man, Technician 3, runs over with a fire extinguisher and puts it out.

Mac: (still expectant) **Colson?**

Colson: (after taking a smoke) **Yeah—sorry.**

Spencer looks at Mac despairingly as he looks a little worried (with thinking gears obviously going, though).

The black soldier and Col. Keel are walking together as the black soldier pulls some papers out of a holder.

Keel: **What’s the distance from here to the complex wall?**

Soldier: (looks at papers) **Uh, 895 yards—just over a half mile, and a straight shot.**

Keel: **Radio Burke. Tell him we found a spot.**

They both enter a military jeep.

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Mac: (next to window) **Colson—this is a gas lab, right?** (Gantner—on other side of glass than the others, Burke, and Colson are listening.) (over radio) **Shouldn’t there be some vacuum pumps to evacuate the air just in case of an emergency?**

Colson: (behind the glass) **Yeah that’s right, there are.** (over radio) **But you would have to go through the gas to get to them. And even then there’s no guarantee that they’ll work.**

Gantner: (holding up mic to his mouth) **Mac, you can’t. Once you break that airlock the gas’ll kill ya.** (Behind him, Burke takes off his headset and sighs.)

Mac: **Doesn’t matter Gant.** (looks at Spencer) **We’re gonna run outta air in here pretty soon anyway.**

Spencer: (indicates through window) **The switch for the pumps is on that panel—see it?**

Mac: (looking through the window) (softly) **Alright.** (Mac unshoulders his knapsack and drops it to the floor.) **When we open this airlock I want you to head straight for that passage down on the next level, alright?** (Spencer nods, and Mac takes the mic off his shirt.) **Here.**

He takes off his shirt (apparently by ripping the buttons off). Wearing a long-sleeved white shirt now, he rips his blue and green plaid one into three pieces.

Mac: **I want you to put this around your mouth and nose. Won’t keep out the gas, but it might help a little.**

Spencer: (looking at him softly) **MacGyver, if you don’t get the pumps started—**

Mac: **Heey, heey...**

Spencer: **—I just wanted to say—(kisses him) Thanks.**

Mac: (smiles) **You bet.**

They both then tie the shirt pieces around their faces.

With part of the shirt wrapped around his hand, Mac punches the glass of the window, shattering it, and sweeps his covered hand along the edges to break off the remaining pieces.⁸ A rhythmic beeping is heard. Pushing aside a few glass shards with his feet, he steps through the window, standing on a ledge, and takes Spencer’s hand to help her through (who has a little difficulty with

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her skirt). Mac goes down the nearby ladder, followed by Spencer, to the floor of the lab.

He automatically goes to a panel nearby and starts pushing some things on it. Spencer runs through the corridor (through the gas) and down some stairs. Mac meanwhile takes part of the panel off to reveal a bunch of wires. He pulls some of the wires out and connects them to each other. Mac looks up as the air vacuum suddenly turns on and starts sucking the gas out.⁹

Colson and Burke are standing by up top:

Colson: (looking at console) **The indicator lights for the pumps—they’re coming on.** (The air vacuum continues sucking.) **Can’t be positive they’re working,** (more loudly, to everyone) **but they’re on!**

Several exclamations like “alright!” ensue.

Mac is forcing a hatch open.

Technician 1 runs though the rooms to where Burke and Gantner are. In the room opposite them, Technician 2 is working on the blown circuits.

Gantner: **Mac—Mac, can you hear me?**

Tech 1: (to Burke) **Col. Keel’s confirmed, sir, they’re about to go into the launch procedure.**

Burke: **Thank you.**

Gantner: **Launch procedure? What launch procedure? What’s he talkin’ about Charlie?**

Burke: (over Gantner, making calming motion with hand) **Ed, Ed, Ed take it easy, we had no choice.**

Gantner: **‘Bout what?**

Burke: **About the acid—we can’t be sure the sodium hydroxide flooding’s gonna be enough. We have to fuse the sub-stratum rock between here and the aquifer.** (inhales) **And we think an underground missile aimed at the Kiva Foundation might do it.**

Gantner: **A missile? What happens to the Kiva?**

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Burke: **Below the first level there won’t be a Kiva.**

The missile is being aimed.¹⁰ An onscreen timer in the bottom left corner says “:31:30” in red and counts down.

Gantner: (urgently, into mic) **Mac—you’ve gotta get outta there. They’ve got a missile aimed at you.** (Burke stands by giving a look that says “there’s no point.”) **Mac!**

Just outside of the hatch Mac had entered, his intercom device is lying there.

Gantner: (over radio) **Mac, can you hear me? Mac! Mac, answer me! Mac, u-use your intercom—Mac!** (The onscreen timer disappears at “:31:13”.)

Spencer and Mac are together again, walking through a debris-filled, smoky corridor, with sparks igniting nearby.

Mac: **Bad news, Spencer—we lost the two-way mic.**

Spencer: **They don’t know where we are now.**

Mac: **Let’s find that acid leak.**

They enter another room, and Spencer coughs. (She is still wearing Mac’s shirt-bandana around her neck, but Mac has taken his off.)

Spencer: (walking ahead of Mac) **The tanks should be this way.**

Mac: **Watch your step now, this is nasty stuff we’re lookin’ for.** (looking around)

(In this scene, we can now see that Mac wears some sort of silver necklace—hidden before by his shirt.)

Spencer walks over to the right, while Mac walks forward. Spencer coughs again, walking around carefully in her high heels. The floor is wet.

Spencer: (spotting the acid leak coming from a large tank) **MacGyver!**

Mac: **Well it looks like the explosion cracked the foundation too. Acid’s runnin’ into the ground through that.** (indicates crack in the cement floor where acid is pouring through)

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Spencer: Well there's nothing we can do to stop it, is there?

Mac: **We might be able to whip up a Band-Aid.** (bounces a little and smiles) **Our first problem though is to get up to that crack.** (It's high up on the tank wall.) (talking loudly over sound of acid flow) (hands on hips) **Ya think you could balance against that tank if you stood on my shoulders? That might get us close enough to stop that leak.**

Spencer: **With what? That's sulfuric acid up there, remember?** (looking at him as if he's crazy)

Mac: (holds up chocolate bars) **With these.**

Spencer: (unconvinced) **Chocolate bars?**

Mac: (going off on a scientific spiel) **To you they're milk chocolate. To sulfuric acid it's lactose and sucrose. $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$, disaccharides. The acid will react with the sugar to form an elemental carbon and a thick gummy residue. It should be enough to clog up that rupture—temporarily at least.** (smiles)

Spencer (barefoot) stands on Mac's back, then his shoulders, steadying herself against the tank wall and standing up straight. Mac slowly stands upright.

Mac: **Comin' up.** (gets completely upright) **Alright, I'm movin' over.**

He sidesteps slowly, until they're close enough to the crack.

Mac: **Alright, bars comin' up—right hand.** (lifts about five chocolate bars up)

Spencer: (reaching for them) **A little closer.** (grabs them)

Mac: **Alright, start stuffin' 'em in at the angle and work your way over.** (pauses) **Oh, and Spencer—**

Spencer: **Yeah, make sure it melts in the acid and not in my hand, right?**¹¹

Mac: (smiling to himself) **Yeah.**

Spencer opens the wrappers and starts to stuff them in the crack. The acid starts to react with it. Meanwhile Mac watches as the acid flows down next to him.

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Gantner, Burke, and Technician 1 are standing together behind the glass partition, Burke writing on a clipboard. The clock behind them reads “18:31:28”.

Gantner: (looking at clock) **How much longer before they launch?**

Tech 1: **From our last synch check, 9 minutes and 30 seconds.**

Burke hands Technician 1 the clipboard.

Mac’s chocolate “Band-Aid” now completely covers the crack, and the acid has stopped flowing.¹²

Spencer: (looking at crack) **I think we got it!** (smiling, putting hand briefly on Mac’s shoulder)

Mac: (leaning on horizontal pipe and looking at crack, then turning to Spencer, smiling) **Yeah, nice work Spencer.**

They then walk through a large, loud room in which water is flowing, going down a walkway, over a bridge that spans the water, (Mac helps Spencer off the bridge with his hand) then into the part of the room where water is pouring down like rainfall. They exit this through a doorway. They run through an open door which says “Restricted Area.” They’re both completely soaked.

Spencer: **Oh no. There’s the door to Steubens’ lab right there, but with all this in the way** (referring to debris)—**I don’t know how we’re gonna get...**

Mac: **Well we’re just gonna hafta build ourselves a new door. Is there any way to communicate with them?**

Spencer: **There’s a lab-to-lab intercom. I’ll try it.** (turns around and walks over to it, while Mac stands observing the debris pile, thinking) (pushing button on intercom) **Dr. Steubens, Dr. Marlowe, can you hear me? Please! Can you answer this?** (Mac kneels down by the pile and fingers a substance, then smells it.) **Are you alright? Dr. Marlowe!**

Mac: (to himself) **Plastique...**

Spencer: (into intercom) **Can you hear me?**

Mac: (to himself) **A bomb.**

Dr. Marlowe walks quickly over to the intercom.

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Spencer: (over intercom) **Dr. Marlowe!**

Marlowe: **Yes.**

Spencer: **Is Carl alright?**

Marlowe: **Oh yes, he’s alright, but—**

Spencer: **We’re down here on the third level in metallurgy, (over intercom) just behind the back wall of your lab.**

Steubens: **No.**

Marlowe: **I-it’s them Carl, they’re right there! (points to wall behind him) Th-th-they’ve-they’ve come to get us.**

Spencer: **We’re gonna—**

Mac comes up behind her and puts his hands on her shoulders to indicate her to move aside.

Mac: **Dr. Marlowe, I want you to build yourselves a barricade as far from the back wall as you possibly can. We’re gonna try and blow an opening in that wall, do you understand?**

Marlowe: (nods) **We’ll do it.**

Spencer hits the button to shut off the intercom.

Spencer: **Blow an opening? (pauses for an answer, Mac sighs) With what? Don’t tell me you know how to make a bomb out of a stick of chewing gum.**

Mac: (turn to Spencer) **Why, ya got some?** (she looks at him, exasperated, and he gives her a look back) (walks back through the lab) **C’mon, this is a lab, right? There’s gotta be something here we can fake it with.** (stops and turn to Spencer) **What kinda lab is this anyway?**

Spencer: **It’s metallurgy.**

Mac: (whispering to himself) **Metallurgy, metallurgy, metallurgy—c’mon Mac-Gyver...** (lifts chin up and closes eyes, thinking, then suddenly the idea comes to him) **Sodium metal—that’ll do it. Any idea where they might keep it?**

Spencer: (pauses a moment) **In here.** (indicates a cabinet)

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She walks over to it, opening it, as Mac follows. She searches for a second then takes a silver canister from the third shelf down, and hands it to Mac.¹³

Mac: **Bingo.** (Spencer hugs herself and shivers.) **Alright we probably won't need much more than a few grams but we're gonna hafta contain it in something.**

Spencer: **Test tube?**

Mac: **No, much too big, and it's gotta be water soluble, something cellulose.**

Spencer pauses for a moment, then:

Spencer: (reaching into pocket of dress) **How 'bout a cold capsule?** (hands it to him)

Mac: **Yeah. Y'know Spencer I think you're startin' to get the hang o' this.** (She smiles, pleased.) **But I do wish I'd known you had a cold before I kissed you.**

He takes the canister and places it on a small round table nearby.

Military tent:

Four soldiers are visible, two underneath the tent. The clock on the bottom left of the screen appears again, counting down from ":06:00". A voice comes over a loudspeaker somewhere.

Voice: **Attention. Six minutes to missile launch. I say again, six minutes to missile launch.**

A hand reaches out and moves several switches, apparently on the launch control panel. (The onscreen clock disappears at ":05:54".)

Mac: (taking SAK out of knapsack) **Alright now try to find me a glass jar, about a quart size with a stopper in it, put some water in it, alright?** (opens knife)

Spencer nods, turns around and looks in the cabinet but finds nothing, then walks off. Mac takes one capsule out of the packaging and empties it of its contents. He opens the canister and takes out a little sodium metal on his knife, then carefully dabs it into the capsule with the knife.

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The clock comes back and reads ":05:28". Up top the room is busy with people in lab coats and also two people in silver hazmat suits carrying a large hose between them. Gantner is standing against a wall, a little nervous as well as angry. Burke walks past, pausing to look at him, then continues. (The on-screen clock disappears at ":05:15".

Mac: (digging in dirt debris as Spencer stands by) **Once the capsule hits the water it dissolves. The sodium'll give off hydrogen and enough of a reaction to ignite it.** (moves a bottle in the debris and places it firmly in the dirt, partly covered) (turns to Spencer) **Call Marlowe and tell 'im to get down.** (she turns to go) **We're ready.**

Spencer: (hits button and talks loudly into intercom) **Dr. Marlowe, we're gonna try and blow an opening in the wall now.** (hits button to turn it off)

Mac drops the capsule into the bottle, caps it, then covers it completely with dirt, flinging it off his hands a little afterward. Spencer is hunched down by the wall with the intercom, holding Mac's torn shirt over her mouth again. Mac joins her and says:

Mac: **Alright Spencer, do me a favor, will ya?**

Spencer: (uncovering mouth) **Name it.**

Mac: **Lemme go in after Marlowe and Steubens, you wait out here, alright?**

Spencer: **Why?**

Mac: **Well, chalk it up to superstition alright.**

The explosion then occurs, blowing an opening in the wall. Spencer covers her head and Mac covers her a little. After it, Mac gets up.

Mac: (walking away) **Wait here.**

He climbs through the opening and into Steubens' lab. Dust fills the air.

Mac: **Marlowe, Steubens! Y'alright?**

Marlowe: **Yeah, we-we're over here.** (behind several objects) (Steubens coughs.)

Mac moves the objects and leads them out.

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Marlowe: **Oh, oh, thank you.**

Mac: (over Marlowe) **Get on the intercom, and try to reach the surface.** (They both clutch each other's shoulders.)

Marlowe: **OK.**

Marlowe heads for the intercom, but Steubens draws out a gun.

Steubens: (to Mac) **You, back.** (Mac backs off) **Sidney, get away from that intercom.**

(The clock on the screen appears again at ":03:55".) Marlowe walks over to Steubens.

Marlowe: **Carl, what is this? What're you doing? Have you gone clean out of your mind?**

Spencer: (climbing through opening in wall) **MacGyver, is everyone alright?**

Mac: **Spencer, g--- d--- it, I told you to wait outside!**

Steubens: **I'm sorry, Barbara.**

Spencer: (shakes head with confused, hurt look) **Carl, I don't understand.**

Mac: **The explosion down here—it wasn't an accident. Everybody kept lookin' for an accidental explanation because nothing else made sense. With all the security of this place, who could possibly get a bomb to this level? You and Marlowe, you weren't s'posed to survive.**

Steubens: **No...**

Spencer: (shaking head) **Carl, this makes no sense!**

Mac: **Doesn't it? You told me Sendrex ordered a whole 'nother series of experiments but that Steubens refused to accept the results. So he invites the only other expert in the field to visit. One accidental explosion and all this research is set back twenty years, maybe more.**

Steubens: **They wanted it to become a weapon. I've spent my whole life to stop suffering.**

Spencer: (softly) **A weapon..?** (then, understanding, nodding) **Chain reactions in the ozone...**

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Mac: **Without the ozone layer the sun's ultraviolet rays would kill everything on Earth. I think Carl here discovered the key to make the ozone layer self-destruct,** (nods slightly) **didn't ya Carl?**

Steubens: (saddened) **The ultimate doomsday weapon. I couldn't give them that. I still can't. Sidney, we're the only ones who can stop this.** (points gun)

Spencer suddenly reacts.

Spencer: (running toward Steubens) **NO!**

Mac covers Marlowe. Spencer tries to take the gun from Steubens, but it goes off, and Spencer falls to the floor. Mac runs toward Steubens and takes the gun out of his hand. (The onscreen clock appears again at ":02:00".) Mac runs to Spencer's side.

Mac: **That was dumb Spencer, very very dumb.** (takes bandana off her neck)

Spencer: (holding wound on her side) **Yeah, it also hurts like h---**.

Mac: (inspecting the wound) **Aw, stop talkin', will ya?**

Gantner, Colson, and Burke are standing together.

Burke: **Colson, I want you to begin the flooding.** (walks away)

Colson nods. (The onscreen clock disappears at ":01:47".)

Mac is applying a handkerchief to Spencer's wound. (Spencer's head is resting on Mac's knapsack, and she's holding his hand.)

Mac: **Alright Spencer, it's time to get you outta here.**

Spencer: **You're a lousy liar MacGyver. We're out of time and they don't even know we're down here, do they?**

Mac: **There's gotta be some way to contact the surface.**

Spencer: **You did everything in your power Mac.**

Mac: (getting an idea) **Spencer, you're a genius!**

He kisses her and runs off, as she lies there gasping a little in pain. (The clock appears again at ":58".) Mac runs through the water room, to a room with a

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bunch of machinery along its walls. He runs by the machinery, inspecting it, looking for something. (The onscreen clock disappears at “:44”.) Finally he spots a control panel that reads “Master Light Circuit.” Alternately, he pushes the on and off buttons, looking up at the lights.

Up top, people look up as the lights start blinking.

Mac continues to press the buttons.

Technician 3 next to Technician 1 seems to get an idea, and writes something on a clipboard. (Note: Tech 3 is wearing a different shirt than before.)

Burke: **What’s going on with the lights Colson?**

Colson: **I don’t know. Will somebody tell me what’s going on?**

Technician 3: **Morse code, sir!**

Gantner: **What’s it saying?**

Mac keeps going.

Under the military tent:

The black soldier is speaking into the radio/loudspeaker as Col. Keel stands by.

Soldier: **20, 19, 18—**

A hand reaches out and moves more switches on the launch control panel. The missile is aimed and ready.

Soldier: **17, 16—**

Tech 3: **“Acid stopped, all safe, Mac.”**

They all cheer and start talking.

Burke: (suddenly remembering) **The missile, the missile—(grabs phone) Abort the launch.**

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Soldier: **Abort launch? Yes sir.**

Col. Keel hears and runs frantically over to another radio.

Keel: **Abort launch, abort launch! Repeat, abort launch!**

Spencer is being wheeled through the hallway on a gurney, with a blanket strapped over her.

When they reach Gantner, Colson, and Mac, Mac stops them.

Mac: **Hey, hold it a second guys.** (leans down to Spencer) **What is this Spencer? You tryin' to get outta here without sayin' goodbye?**

Spencer: (smiles, laughs) **I'd kiss you MacGyver, but I got this cold...**

Mac: (looking softly at her) **So what's a little cold between friends, huh?**

He leans down and kisses her.

Mac: (smiles) **You're terrific Spencer.**

She smiles back, and looks as if she would say something back but doesn't.

Mac: **Move her out.**

She smiles again and is moved out. Mac looks back at her with his trademark wry smile.

At Mac's observatory home:

Reggie: **You still haven't told me what you do for a living.**

Mac: (Reggie and he are sliding down a curving stair rail.) **Uh I'm sorta a repair-man, but I like playin' basketball with you best.**¹⁴

They seem to enter a kitchen/living room. (There's a bookshelf, and notice that in the corner there's a piano visible for a tiny bit. In the next scene, you can see into Mac's bedroom, as well a hockey bag and helmet against one

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wall.) (Also, notice that he’s wearing the same clothes as before, even the shirt he ripped up.)

From the end of the stairs Reggie grabs a soft orange ball (from atop a statue’s head) and runs and jumps to throw it into a basketball hoop in the room as he says:

Reggie: **OK, what’s the deal this time?**

Mac: **Championship.** (The boy catches it as it falls through the hoop and throws it again. Mac catches it.) **Seventh and final game of this awesomely contested match. 110-109—** (gives ball to Reggie) **My team on top of course.**

Reggie: **And the clock?**

Mac: (captioning says “mimics Howard Cosell”) **A paltry three seconds remain.** (Reggie throws ball, which goes through hoop.)

Reggie: **Ow, look at that!**

Mac: (catches it, hands it back to the boy) **Short stuff’s out.**

Reggie: **Alright. Wait, hold it, hold the phone.**

Mac: **What?**

Reggie: **You better get somebody ready to measure me for my championship ring because I’m gonna beat you—**

Mac: (over Reggie) **Alright—shoot it, shoot it.**

Reggie: (Mac attempts to block him) **Alright—Reggie stops, pops, and it’s in it up tops!** (slam-dunks it)

The scene freezes there as he dunks it.

Mac: **A phenomenal shot by a short kid! The fans go crazy!**

Launch into End Credits.^{15 16}

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Notes and Nitpicks:

Originally, Lee David Zlotoff (creator of MacGyver) had a script of 90 minutes. It was rewritten and shortened to an hour by Thackary Pallor.

The director's name, Alan Smithee, is a cover name for someone who didn't want to be recognized.

In some of the promotional information, MacGyver's first name was supposed to be Stace. Thankfully this never came through: his real name is much funnier ("Good Knight MacGyver," "The Stringer").

¹The name "Captain Taylor" is not actually said in the English version of the episode, but he is credited as such, and also in the second-season episode "Friends" they mention him as such.

²Hopefully you know by now that Mac hates guns. His character hadn't been fully established in the first episodes, though. When this gambit is recalled in "Friends," the scene of Mac shooting the gun is cut out.

³In the beginning credits, this is the only episode that uses a different explosion when "MacGyver" comes up. It uses the explosion scene from the episode.

Also, the only scene in the intro that isn't a real scene from the show is the one where Mac leans on the plane and smiles. This seems to have been shot during "Last Stand."

⁴On the outside of the complex is the name "KBEX," but everyone calls it "Sendrex." I'm not sure if that's a mistake or not.

⁵I think Ed Gantner was supposed to be the equivalent of the Peter Thornton of later episodes, but it didn't work out that way. Peter Thornton will be played by Dana Elcar, who plays Andy Colson in this episode.

⁶The song "The Streets of Laredo" (or Laredo) is a cowboy lament written in 1876, originating from Ireland. Mac whistling this tune seems to be in keeping with his country-boy upbringing. Go to these two links for variations of the lyrics and a midi sample:
<http://www.homestead.com/deesongs/laredo.html> and
<http://sniff.numachi.com/pages/tiLAREDS15.html>.

⁷The laser is supposed to be a carbon dioxide laser, as Colson said. This type of laser operates at a wavelength of about 10 micrometers (far infrared); so no matter how much smoke is in the air, they would in fact remain invisible.

⁸Before Mac rips up his green and blue shirt, he takes off his bag. Before he punches out the glass, he is *not* seen putting it back on. Yet, in the glass-punching scene, the bag strap is clearly visible across his chest, and in the following scenes he has it on.

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And despite the nitpick circulating online, Mac’s white shirt doesn’t seem to change appearance. This mistake probably comes from the fact that, later on, his collar is no longer buttoned and is folded down more, and his sleeves are rolled up. Tell me if I’m wrong.

⁹When Mac first comes to this panel, his sleeves go down to his wrists. However, in the scene where Mac looks up at the air vent, his sleeves are rolled up to his elbows. He would not have had time to roll them up between scenes.

¹⁰The whole idea of the missile might be a little impractical. Go here to see why: <http://www.nitpickers.com/tv/nitpick.cgi?np=8132>.

¹¹Spencer alludes to the idea that M&Ms will melt in your mouth and not your hand.

¹²As I think everybody already realizes, it would take a lot more than five chocolate bars to stop the acid leak. RDA even mentions this in an interview with Craig Kilborn.

¹³Since sodium metal is highly reactive, the container should have had warning labels on it. Also, apparently this sodium is normally in solid form, not granulated. Finally, sodium metal would *always* be stored in a vacuum—either a container with no atmosphere at all, a neutral gas (such as argon), or a container capped with a substance like paraffin. This is because sodium metal reacts with air, causing it to tarnish into sodium oxide.

¹⁴Mac had ripped up his green flannel shirt to use as a gas mask, but now he’s wearing it again.

¹⁵This is the only show in which the pictures during the end credits are actually moving clips.

¹⁶If you look closely at the clips shown in the end credits and compare them with the scenes in the show, you’ll find out that several (not all) are actually not in the show; they’re extras. The first extra clip is the one where Mac is working on the rocket in the tent. The second is where he is looking at the lasers. The third is the close-up of his eyes, where they turn to the side. The fourth shows RDA laughing as he plays with the light switches.

Credit for some of these notes goes to either MacGyverOnline, Mika’s MacGyver site, Wikipedia, TV.com, or Nitpickers.com. Others I observed on my own.

Useless Trivia: In this episode, Mac says “alright” about 17 times, and “well” about 22 times, often right in a row...!

Check out my own site, www.rdaetcetera.bravehost.com, for many links concerning MacGyver and Richard Dean Anderson.