

## THE DEADLY DEPTH OF DISTRACTION

U.S. Air Force pilot Capt. Jeffrey Haney had his mobility and vision restricted by the gear he wore during a night flight of his F-22 Raptor at 38,000 feet and 1039 KTAS. Then the jet cut off his main oxygen supply.

According to the accident report, Capt. Haney became distracted by the oxygen-system failure and attempt-



ing to activate the emergency oxygen system. After correctly initiating a descent, the distracted pilot failed to notice the fighter roll past inverted and nose down into a dive. This attitude resulted in a vertical speed of -57,800 fpm while he struggled to activate emergency oxygen.

The report noted the pilot's gear would have made reaching that ring difficult and failure of the oxygen system would have caused "severe restrictive breathing." He remained conscious throughout the event and recognized the jet's condition too late to prevent a left-wing low, 48-degree nose-down attitude impact attitude at 1.17 Mach.

Capt. Haney's death on November 16, 2010, highlighted problems with the F-22 Raptor's service and emergency oxygen systems and led, in part, to a months-long grounding of the expensive jet. Its oxygen-related problems remain unresolved at this time.