

Thunderchief Killers Vietnam Combat Aircraft

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a detailed history of the mig 17 and mig 19 units of the vietnamese people s air force packed with first hand accounts and colour profiles the erstwhile enemy of the usaf and us navy during the nine years of american involvement in the vietnam war the vietnamese peoples air force vpaf quickly grew from an ill organised rabble of poorly trained pilots flying antiquated communist aircraft into a highly effective fighting force that more than held its own over the skies of north vietnam as this book explores flying soviet fighters like the mig 17 and 19 the vpaf produced over a dozen aces whilst the americans managed just two pilots and three navigators in

the same period

having learned their trade on the subsonic mig 17 pilots of the vietnamese people s air force vpaf received their first examples of the legendary mig 21 supersonic fighter in 1966 soon thrown into combat over north vietnam the guided missile equipped mig 21 proved a deadly opponent for the us air force us navy and us marine corps crews striking at targets deep in communist territory although the communist pilots initially struggled to come to terms with the fighter s air search radar and weapons systems the ceaseless cycle of combat operations quickly honed their skills indeed by the time the last us aircraft a b 52 was claimed by the vpaf on 28 december 1972 no fewer than 13 pilots had become aces flying the mig 21 fully illustrated with wartime photographs and detailed colour artwork plates and including enthralling combat reports this book examines the many variants of the mig 21 that fought in the conflict the schemes they wore and the pilots that flew them

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the combat history of the f 105 thunderchief units during the vietnam war detailing the strengths and weaknesses of the aircraft and the difficulties it faced during many months of dangerous combat facing the most formidably concentrated air defences in history pilots of the f 105d flew against north vietnamese targets day after day during the 43 months of operation rolling thunder despite its limited maneuverability and the lack of self sealing fuel tanks which made it susceptible to combat damage the bombers shot down 27 mig fighters in 1966 67 this book illustrates the importance of the thunderchief in the rolling thunder campaign including the pioneering suppression of enemy air defences seed methods developed by the f 105 wild weasel crews discussing the aircraft s strengths and weaknesses and using first hand narratives peter davies captures the essence of flying the thud against heavy defences and describes the development of wartime tactics and the heroic accomplishments of a selection of its aircrew

in military communications a test for technology john d bergen develops the thesis that burgeoning technology in communications faced a severe test in vietnam he analyzes the advantages and drawbacks of new communications systems and the effects these systems had on decision making and on command in doing so he describes the difficulties that communications systems had in keeping pace with the information explosion and shows that command and control do not necessarily improve with enhanced communications the book illustrates that the communications missions of getting the message through was not only critical to the success of combat operations

but also as challenging as combat itself bergens clear understanding and description of these issues make this a valuable work for those responsible for the future success of command control communications and intelligence

although the f 4 phantom ii was the most important fighter bomber to see action with all three american services during the vietnam war it was essentially a u s navy design and the carrier borne squadron crews were its main operators in combat the aircraft pioneered the use of long range radar guided missiles in combat although the majority of its vietnam missions involved ground attack with a variety of innovative ordnance from 1968 to 1973 the phantom ii was the standard u s navy fighter in southeast asia having replaced several other types its performance and versatility enabled it to perform a variety of different missions and switch roles as necessary in the assault on some of the world s most heavily defended territory including detailed colour profiles and first person commentary from active participants in the f 4 s naval combat history this is a detailed study of the u s armed services most famous post war fighter

with the 400 profiles and illustrations contained in this book bruno pautigny the world famous illustrator paints the technical portraits of the most famous fighters and bombers of all the great conflicts of the previous century first and second world wars indochina korea and suez algeria vietnam etc

although designed as a carrier borne interceptor the f 4 phantom ii was a very successful ground attack aircraft for the us marines paving the way for its use in this capacity by the usaf and many other air forces it was closely involved in some of the toughest battles of the vietnam war twenty five us marine corps squadrons flew versions of the phantom ii and 11 of them used the aircraft in south east asia from may 1965 through to early 1973 rather than the air to air missiles that were the main component in the original f 4 armament these aircraft carried an ever expanding range of weaponry some toted 24 500 lb bombs and others strafed with up to three 20 mm gun pods while most flew daily sorties delivering napalm snakeye bombs and big zuni rockets many us marines holding small outpost positions in laos and south vietnam against heavy viet cong attack owed their lives to the phantom ii pilots who repeatedly drove off the enemy featuring stunning profile illustrations and photographs throughout this book examines these missions in the context of us marine corps close support doctrine using the direct experience of a selection of the aircrew who flew and organised those missions

an illustrated history of the f 105 s success against migs a relatively little known aspect of the vietnam war and a testament to the jet s versatility and the skill of the pilots involved despite its f for fighter designation the f 105 was designed and purchased to give the usaf an aircraft capable of the delivery of nuclear weapons at very high speed long range and below the radar altitudes however when the vietnam war began it also emerged as usaf s best available tactical bomber for a limited conventional war as well extensively targeted by mig 17s and mig 21s the f 105 pilots developed innovative tactics that allowed them to compete in air to air duels with their smaller more manoeuvrable enemies illustrated throughout with extensive photographs detailing weapon loads internal features and action shots of actual

engagements this volume examines the conduct of the rolling thunder strike missions and the tactics used for attack and defence by the attack escort fighter and radar monitoring elements within strike formations

meeting demand for small thermonuclear weaponry capable of penetrating soviet defences the f 105 evolved through many generations of prototype this work includes technical detail balanced by facts and insider stories missions production avionics development the people and the works

the f 4 phantom ii is perhaps the most famous post war fighter primarily used as a land based fighter bomber and reconnaissance platform its naval origins and the immense contribution made to the us war effort in vietnam by its original carrier based versions began its legend this title examines the unique aspects of the phantom that made it so crucial to us navy pilots during the vietnam war its massive engine power long range speed the most powerful airborne search and fire control radar installed in a fighter at the time and of course its versatility as a ground attack and air to air platform packed with first hand accounts unique profile artwork and rare photographs this is the history of one of the most important aircraft to be stationed on carriers off southeast asia during the war

intensifying geopolitical rivalries rising defence spending and the proliferation of the latest military technology across asia suggest that the region is set for a prolonged period of strategic contestation none of the three competing visions for the future of asian order a us led free and open indo pacific a chinese centred order or the asean inspired indo pacific outlook is likely to prevail in the short to medium term in the absence of a new framework the risk of open conflict is heightened and along with it the need for effective mechanisms to maintain peace and stability as asia s leaders seek to rebuild their economies and societies in the wake of covid 19 they would do well to reflect upon the lessons offered by the pandemic and their applicability in the strategic realm the societies that have navigated the crisis most effectively have been able to do so by putting in place stringent protective measures crisis management and avoidance mechanisms and even in the longer term wider arms control can be seen as the strategic equivalent of such measures and as such they should be pursued with urgency in asia to reduce the risks of an even greater calamity

revered by naval aviators as the last of the gunfighters due to its quartet of colt browning mk 12 20 mm cannon the f 8 crusader enjoyed great success against vpaf mig 17s during the rolling thunder campaign of 1966 68 but the mig 17 s unequalled low speed manoeuvrability small size and powerful cannon armament meant that the american forces didn t have it all their own way this fully illustrated book featuring photographs maps and battlescene artwork reveals the tactics that were developed by pilots on both sides to give themselves the edge in air to air dogfights allowing the reader to understand how the differing design and development doctrines played a part in combat

arriving on station with the uss ranger cva 61 in early december 1967 the first corsair ii squadron became operational immediately and sustained its first combat loss three weeks later this book tells how the a 7 soon proved its worth supporting ground operations in south vietnam as it continued to serve in the ground support role

the navy swiftly introduced the a 7e which soon ran into difficulties with supply lines perhaps on account of what many perceived to have been a rushed introduction to service once these teething problems were resolved the a 7e became the primary air to ground aircraft of the fleet

southeast asian countries represent a wide range of approaches to military modernisation due to their great diversity in politics economies geography and other factors bounded by the pacific and indian oceans and located between china and india is the setting for the geostrategic impacts of military modernisation in southeast asian countries differing from previous research focused on military acquisition this book additionally covers retention of assets and carefully examines the ageing issues that affect readiness and capabilities in doing so it provides a comprehensive view of military modernisation this book also compares each country s situation in the region in terms of military strength and security challenges to elaborate on the geostrategic impacts of military modernisation the ten cases of military modernisation in the post cold war context provide rich content for readers to explore the evolution of military modernisation in developing countries after 1991 this book sheds light on security studies of southeast asia and is a useful resource for academic researchers policy makers and defence practitioners

featuring first hand accounts from the men flying it and the men on the ground relying on it for protection an illustrated history of the unique role played by this aircraft in the war in vietnam right up to its possible role in a tactical nuclear strike and as a mobile nuclear deterrent the f 100 super sabre may have been superseded by the superior technology of the f 105 thunderchief and the f 4 phantom but by the vietnam war it remained in service the super sabre was deployed as an air defence fighter and was later given nuclear capability the f 100 s toughness adaptability and reliability made it ideal for the incessant missions that were demanded by close support and counter insurgency missions 242 super sabres and 87 aircrew were lost during the war but their role particularly in developing the tactics used for discovering and destroying sam sites was invaluable this book describes some of the most important actions that the f 100 took part in looks at the pilots who flew it and analyses the impact of the aircraft on the war

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