

## Thunderchief Killers Vietnam Combat Aircraft

MiG-21 Aces of the Vietnam WarThe American Combat Aircraft and Helicopters of the Vietnam WarMiG-17 and MiG-19  
Units of the Vietnam WarMiG-21 Units of the Vietnam WarF-100 Super Sabre Units of the Vietnam WarF-105  
Thunderchief Units of the Vietnam WarUS Marine Corps F-4 Phantom II Units of the Vietnam WarUS Navy A-7 Corsair II  
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Killers of the Vietnam WarF-8 Crusader vs MiG-17A-6 Intruder Units of the Vietnam WarUS Army AH-1 Cobra Units in  
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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

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 honed their piloting skills on the subsonic mig 17 and transonic mig 19 the vietnamese peoples 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 usaf navy and marine corps crews striking at targets deep into communist territory most of the vpaf s 12 aces scored their bulk of their kills in the mig 21 which was then the best fighter produced by russia s premier fast jet manufacturer mikoyan gurevich well over 200 mig 21s were supplied to the vpaf and the numerous models and the schemes they wore are chronicled in great detail in this unique volume

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

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

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 snakeeye 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

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

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

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

at the beginning of the vietnam war the vietnam people s air force vpaf were equipped with slow old korean war generation fighters a combination of mig 17s and mig 19s types that should have offered little opposition to the cutting edge fighter bombers such as the f 4 phantom ii f 105 thunderchief and the f 8 crusader yet when the usaf and us navy unleashed their aircraft on north vietnam in 1965 the inexperienced pilots of the vpaf were able to shatter the illusion of us air superiority taking advantage of their jet s unequalled low speed maneuverability small size and powerful cannon armament they were able to take the fight to their missile guided opponents with a number of vietnamese pilots racking up ace scores packed with information previously unavailable in the west and only recently released from archives in vietnam this is the first major analysis of the exploits of vietnamese pilots in the david and goliath contest with the us over the skies of vietnam

an illustrated combat history of the last of the gunfighters due to its quartet of colt browning mk 12 20 mm cannons the f 8

crusader was numerically the most populous fighter in the us navy at the start of america s involvement in the vietnam conflict in 1964 some 482 f 8c d es equipped 17 frontline units it enjoyed great success against north vietnamese mig 17s and mig 21s during the rolling thunder campaign of 1965 68 officially downing 18 jets which represented 53 per cent of all mig claims lodged by navy squadrons during this period this book explores the history of this fighter and its pilots during the vietnam war alongside an array of contemporary photographs

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

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

the complete story of a 6 combat operations during the vietnam war illustrated throughout designed in the years following

the Korean War and then manufactured for over 30 years starting in 1960 the A-6 quickly became the most capable attack aircraft in the US Navy's stable. The first squadron, VA-75, made its initial deployment directly into combat in South East Asia in 1965 and over the next eight years ten US Navy and four Marine Intruder squadrons would conduct combat operations throughout Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. After initial problems and a high loss rate, the type proved itself beyond all doubt as the Naval Services' best night and foul weather platform, particularly during the region's notorious monsoon season. The A-6 Intruder became a true classic of naval aviation over the skies of North Vietnam, but the cost was high as 69 Intruders were lost in combat to all causes during the war. This work tells the complete story of these aircraft in combat during the Vietnam War.

An illustrated combat history of Bell's AH-1 Cobra, the first dedicated helicopter gunship to reach frontline service anywhere in the world. Developed as a private venture by the manufacturer and based on the mechanics of the ubiquitous UH-1 Huey, the Cobra proved a huge success once introduced into combat with the US Army in 1966. Built as a key weapon in the advanced aerial fire support system concept of 1965, the AH-1 was one of the few aircraft to reach the combat zone. After actual combat experience went into its design, the AH-1 helped reduce the losses being suffered by vulnerable troop transport helicopters by providing effective fire suppression during airmobile operations. This book explores its history, technology, and crew.

The Douglas A-3 Skywarrior, though something of a cult favourite, remains a largely unremarked classic of naval aviation built for nuclear weapon delivery. The A-3 made its name in Vietnam as a conventional bomber, tanker, and electronic warfare platform. It was the largest aircraft ever regularly operated from the decks of aircraft carriers, earning it the fleet-wide nickname 'Whale'. It excelled in every mission area assigned to it and operated in the US Navy for more than four decades from 1956 through to 1991. Fully illustrated to depict the incredible array of paint schemes and its awesome size, this volume focuses on the type's Vietnam service, which saw the aircraft briefly used as a bomber over both North and South Vietnam.

from march 1965 before the skywarrior proved far more valuable as a multi role tanker ka 3b and tanker tactical jammer eka 3b the title includes details on all of these operations as well as more clandestine reconnaissance missions and provides information about the men that flew them

the second instalment of the history of this photo bird aircraft type featuring illustrations throughout although the crusader was built first and foremost as a navy interceptor as has often been the tradition with us fighters a photo reconnaissance variant was also produced by vought the photo bird s first operational test came in the autumn of 1962 when its overflights of cuba alerted the world to the likely presence of medium range ballistic missiles on the caribbean island the recce crusader s next action came during the long years of the vietnam war this volume is the second of two in the combat aircraft series devoted to the crusader the first title again by peter mersky having covered the f 8 fighter variants and their mig killing exploits during the vietnam war

usaf skyraider units were originally tasked to serve as quasi training units for the fledgling vnafl equipped only with the two seat models of the skyraider american pilots were required to have vnafl observers in the aircraft for every mission eventually this arrangement was changed as enough vietnamese pilots were trained to man their own squadrons while usaf squadrons were tasked with close support for us ground forces eventually no fewer than four usaf and seven vnafl skyraider units saw service in vietnam additionally one a 1 training squadron flew from hurlburt field florida throughout the vietnam war era in the ten years that this squadron was active nearly 1000 usaf and 300 vnafl pilots were trained in the skyraider while the core mission of all skyraider squadrons was close air support cas other missions were accomplished at various times among these were search and rescue sar night interdiction on the ho chi minh trail helicopter escort and special forces support to name but a few each of these missions took full advantage of the skyraider s ability to deliver a variety of munitions in close proximity to friendly forces while inflicting heavy casualties on enemy forces

a detailed illustrated combat history of an aircraft described as a legend in its own time the a 1 was designed for use in



world war 2 yet proved so versatile and capable that it saw service in the vietnam war some 20 years later nicknamed the flying dump truck the a 1 was a key component in naval air wings from the end of world war ii into the 1960s allowing the aircraft to play its part in the escalating conflict in vietnam both a 1 attack and ea 1f airborne early warning aircraft saw action in southeast asia from 1960 through 1969 when the last examples were finally retired from carrier decks the a 1s in particular bombed targets in both north and south vietnam despite the aircraft being highly vulnerable to enemy flak and fighters co written by a two tour vietnam war combat veteran in the a 1 and featuring stunning profile artwork this is the first book that focuses exclusively on the aircraft s service in vietnam

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