

NATO Tiger Meet 2017 Landivisiau

The annual NATO Tiger Meet is a highlight for aircrews and the modern military aviation enthusiasts lucky enough to attend the event. Flamboyant colour schemes and numerous training sorties – along with a wealth of associated squadron patches – mean the public days always attract ‘spotters’.

Fortunately, for those who are unable to visit these NATO exercises, the books prepared by Dr Kauschmann are the next best thing. Primarily a photographic record with extended captions, this is a thorough overview of last year’s Tiger Meet, documented with pin-sharp images from the flight line.

Beginning with the arrival of the air and ground crews and the unveiling of their ‘tiger themed’ aircraft, the book records the sortie planning, operations and the aircraft themselves, both in flight and while being serviced on the ground, in extensive

photographic detail.

The Aeronavale’s Flottille 11F, based at Landivisiau, was host nation for the 2017 event and a chapter is dedicated to the history of this squadron and its aircraft. But it’s the section explaining the procedures for landing a Rafale aboard a carrier, supplemented with diagrams illustrating the ‘overhead pattern’ that must be flown, that raises this edition above typical photo-documentary titles.

Despite being the seventh title in the series covering Tiger Meets, these publications are always a great read. The format remains little changed and, in this case, that’s a good thing. **Glenn Sands**



Publisher: NATO Tiger Association
 Authors: Dr Roland ‘Doc’ Kauschmann, Colonel GAF (ret’d)
 Pages: 224
 Price: £29.99
 ISBN: n/a

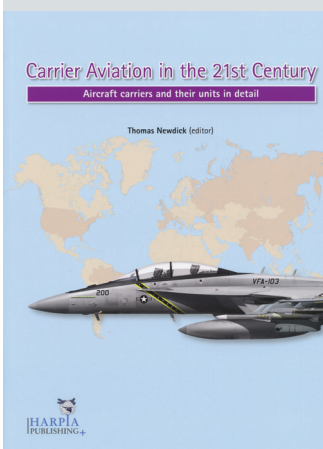
Carrier Aviation in the 21st Century: Aircraft carriers and their units in detail

With the editor of *AFM* at its helm, this was always going to be a good title. Little did I realise just how good. Neatly divided into host nations that currently operate or are planning to introduce a carrier within the next few years, the nine chapters provide the most comprehensive breakdown to date of the current and intended fleets of China, Brazil, France, India, Italy, Russia, Spain, the United Kingdom and United States.

The editor has brought together a raft of specialist writers to provide the text. A perfect example is highly respected author Andreas Rupprecht, who is well known for his in-depth analysis of China’s defence industry. Tom Kaminski is also an *AFM* contributor and is an expert on US Navy carrier activities. Regular readers of this magazine will be familiar with both authors.

A first for any publication are the illustrations of likely carrier battle groups for each nation, which helpfully include the mission radius of the embarked aircraft. The side-profile artwork is some of the best I’ve seen.

This is how a reference work should be put together and it deserves to be on the shelf of every modern military aviation enthusiast. **Glenn Sands**



Publisher: Harpia Publishing
 Author: Thomas Newdick (Editor)
 Pages: 255
 Price: £34.99
 ISBN: 9780997309225

Coccarde Tricolori Speciale 1: F-16A/B ADF



force until the planned arrival of the EF2000.

However, by the early 2000s the Eurofighter was facing delays, the Starfighters were being retired and the F3s were being returned to the UK. This situation forced the Aeronautica Militare (Italian Air Force) to look for a modern fighter capable of bridging the ‘gap’ in its air defence network.

Under the Peace Caesar programme, 30 F-16s were selected from the vast storage facility at the Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC)

at Davis-Monthan in Arizona. All were former Air National Guard examples, configured as Air Defence Fighter (ADF) variants, and they would serve across three squadrons.

It’s a fascinating story explained in remarkable detail within this

softcover publication. The dual-language series is well known for its focus on Italian subjects and this time the author charts the entire career of the Italian F-16s. From their initial acquisition, modification and pilot training to frontline operational service, everything is presented in a clear and concise layout. A host of high-quality colour photographs show every aspect of the jet and modellers will no doubt appreciate the close-up walk-around chapter. Colour profiles illustrate the Have Glass finish and weapons loads, along with the memorable anniversary colour schemes that were applied with typical Italian flair. Although their service was brief compared with other Italian fighters, the F-16s proved a highly effective stopgap. There won’t be a finer book on Italian F-16s. **Glenn Sands**

Publisher: RN Publishing
 Author: Riccardo Niccoli
 Pages: 96
 Price: £25.00
 ISBN: 9788895011127

Italy was one of the few NATO countries not to express an interest in purchasing the F-16 in the early days of the programme. Through a series of upgrades to its F-104 fleet, and a loan of RAF Tornado F3s, Italy intended to retain an effective air defence

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