

## F-16 Fighting Falcon

30 Years in Hellenic Air Force Service 1989-2019



with the Hellenic Air Force. It's a fantastic read, well laid out and, quite simply, one of the best aviation books to have crossed my path.

The author delves deep into air force records, beginning with the search for and selection of the new fighter back in 1989.

He details the Peace Xenia I and II programmes, which resulted in Block 30 and, later, Block 50 jets entering service and delivering a quantum leap in capability.

From illustrations of the camouflage pattern, which include FS paint numbers, to

plan views showing typical weapon loads carried by the F-16s, the level of detail is consistent from cover to cover.

Each squadron, active or disbanded, is listed, with a description of its role.

High-quality images appear throughout, showing F-16s in flight, being serviced, or on the taxiways. It's notable how weathered the Greek 'Vipers' appear, despite some examples having been in service for less than a decade.

Specially painted aircraft are also included, including the Zeus solo display jet and the colourful Tiger Meet examples of 335 Mira.

Thoroughly recommended for historians and aircraft modellers alike. **Glenn Sands**

**Publisher:** Icarus Workshop  
**Author:** Stathopoulos Dimitris  
**Pages:** 160  
**Price:** £29.99  
**ISBN:** 9786188441804

This book likely contains everything you'll ever need to know about F-16 operations

## Jagdbombergeschwader 35

JG 73 – JaboG 42 – LeKG 42 – JG 73 (F-4F) 1959-1997

This bilingual German-English publication charts the operational history of what is now JG 73

'Steinhoff' – one of the most famous post-war German fighter wings – up until the retirement of the Phantom.

Illustrated where possible with stunning colour images, this is one of the best collections to date of pin-sharp pictures of Sabre Mk6s and Fiat G.91s in Luftwaffe markings.

The author provides extensive captions for the photographs, which are interspersed with short but detailed text chapters describing the changes that took place from the late 1950s, as the Luftwaffe reinvented itself and entered the jet age.

It's obvious that the author has had the support of ex-squadron members as many of these images – and period squadron patches – have been

sourced from private collections and are previously unpublished.

Many enthusiasts will find the Phantom years to be particularly interesting.

The author describes the acquisition process, the aircrew training at George Air Force Base in California, and how the F-4Fs were brought home to Germany. Operations in support of NATO are comprehensively covered, as are upgrades, changes in camouflage and the final years of Phantom service, which, following German reunification, saw F-4Fs operating alongside MiG-29s.

A great addition to the prolific AirDoc series. **Glenn Sands**

**Publisher:** AirDoc  
**Author:** Daniel Kehl  
**Pages:** 133  
**Price:** £32.99  
**ISBN:** 9783935687966



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## Chinese Air Power in the 20th Century

Rise of the Red Dragon



China's development of the J-20 – a fifth-generation stealth fighter – demonstrated just how far the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) has come in a relatively short space of time. Author Andreas Rupprecht, who has penned several titles on Chinese military aviation, now provides a comprehensive study of the origins and rise of the PLAAF to the present day.

Given the secretive nature of China's military, this is an extraordinary work. The very earliest types are covered, and include rare photos of the P-51 Mustang and B-25 Mitchell.

The shift to communism brought support from the Soviet Union, and the first of many MiGs arrived to equip the PLAAF's squadrons. The changing structure of the air arm is described and it's worth examining these sections in some detail as the story is a complex one. The book contains colour and black-and-white photos, plus detailed maps.

My only gripe is with the chapter listing the various types that once served or are still serving with the PLAAF. Here, some larger images – particularly those of the rare Xi'an H-6N bomber – would have been welcome.

Once again, Harpia has produced a high-quality publication and I'm confident this one will soon be regarded as the definitive book on the history of the PLAAF. **Glenn Sands**

**Publisher:** Harpia Publishing  
**Editor:** Andreas Rupprecht  
**Pages:** 253  
**Price:** £34.99  
**ISBN:** 9781950394005

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