

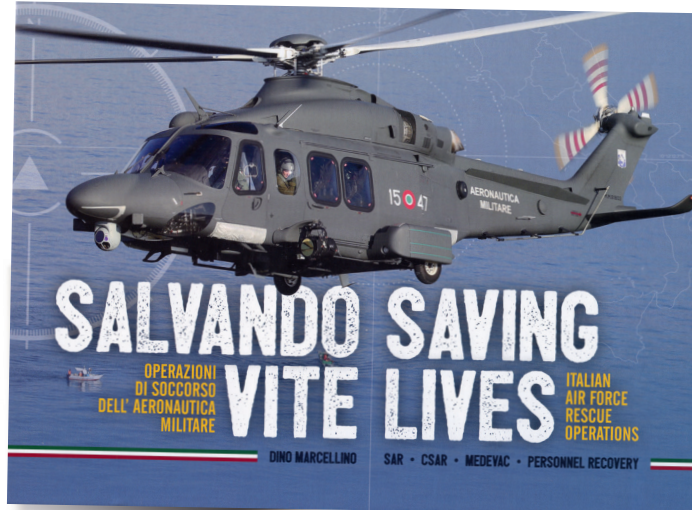
Saving Lives: Italian Air Force Rescue Operations

Dino Marcellino has forged an impressive reputation with his hardback glossy photographic books focusing on European helicopter operations. In his fourth, the author points his camera at Italian Air Force rescue units in a state of transition in terms of equipment and organisation.

With unrivalled access to personnel and helicopters, the writer has interviewed and flown with those crews, watched training exercises and recorded rescue operations. The book is divided into separate chapters for each unit. Their role is explained, together with how they interact during times of major crisis.

Particular attention is given to combat search and rescue (CSAR). It's an area many NATO countries have been concentrating on and new helicopters are currently being introduced to frontline service for this emerging role.

Europe's most capable CSAR helicopter is the HH-101A, a



type that serves with Italy's 15^o Stormo at Cervia air base. The author has done an excellent job of capturing this sinister-looking all-black helicopter in flight, as well as detailing the role of each crewmember during rescue operations.

There's plenty here for the modern military helicopter enthusiast to absorb and study.

It will be of particular value for anyone interested in how a NATO air force adapts its rescue fleet to evolving requirements and emerging threats. **Glenn Sands**

Publisher: Operazioni Volo
 Author: Dino Marcellino
 Pages: 216
 Price: £33.99
 ISBN: n/a

Decorations Speciales: Des Aéronefs de la Defense 2000-2011

The French military has never held back when decorating its aircraft for a special occasion. Whether it's the retirement of a specific type, a squadron anniversary or the NATO Tiger Meet, Mirages, Alpha Jets and Super Frelons have all worn non-standard colours at some point during their service.

Aviation publisher Delta Reflex, a company run by aviation enthusiasts, has collected colour images of all these special schemes in a second volume covering the years between 2000 and 2011. This bilingual book contains a wealth of high-quality images of every helicopter, fighter, heavy transport and logistical type decorated in non-standard colours during this period. Each image is accompanied by an extensively detailed caption, providing the reader with the unit, type, serial

and reason for the scheme. Where possible, more than one image of the aircraft is included to illustrate both sides or even an aerial view.

There are many highlights, including the Mirage F1, whose sleek lines served as the perfect canvas for many squadrons. The air-to-air images of F1CR 608 '33-NG' from ER 2/33 in its red and white scheme are stunning.

An ideal book for those looking for respite from the sea of grey paint that dominates the ranks of most modern military aircraft. **Glenn Sands**

Publisher: Delta Reflex
 Author: Eric Barelli
 Pages: 128
 Price: £19.99
 ISBN: 9782951952720



Modern Chinese Warplanes: Chinese Naval Aviation – Aircraft and Units

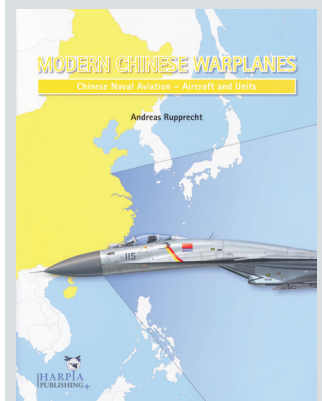
For the last decade, China's efforts to become the dominant maritime military force in the South China Sea region have been observed with alarm by the US and its allies.

Central to this expansion has been the establishment of additional air bases in the area – many on disputed islands – that can operate fighters and bombers. China is also working towards a carrier fleet able to match the US Navy's.

Author Andreas Rupprecht, a regular AFM contributor, is an acknowledged expert on modern Chinese military aviation and has used his own archive and contacts in the region to compile the most accurate and comprehensive book to date on the Chinese Naval Aviation units. This is a timely release given rising tensions in the region.

Beginning with a brief overview of the history of the air arm, the following chapters cover every aspect of its naval squadrons. They also clarify unit markings and explain the complex aircraft serial system. Sections on aircraft types are concise and detailed and, where applicable, describe current upgrades each fleet is undergoing.

With this latest publication, Harpia Publishing has once again added to its reputation – this is one of the best reference books of the year on one of the world's most elusive air arms. **Glenn Sands**



Publisher: Harpia Publishing
 Author: Andreas Rupprecht
 Pages: 96
 Price: £16.99
 ISBN: 9780997309256

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