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Magnum! The Wild Weasels In Desert Storm. The Elimination Of Iraq's Air Defence



Synopsis

his book is based upon a journal Jim Schreiner kept during his deployment to the Persian Gulf region for Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM. Building upon that record and the recollections of other F-4G Wild Weasel aircrew, the authors show a slice of what life and war was like during that time. The pawns in the game, the ones that had to actually do the fighting and dying were the hundreds of thousands of men and women who left their homes and families to live for seemingly endless months in the vast, trackless desert while the world stage-play unfolded. To them, the war was deeply personal. At times, the war was scary; at other times, it was funny as hell. Usually, if you survive the former, it turns into the latter.

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Customer Reviews

If you want to know what it was like dueling with surface to air missiles in the skies above Iraq, this is a book for you. Brick Eisel and Jim Schreiner did a great job describing what it was like fighting to gain and maintain air supremacy in Desert Storm. Magnum introduces you to the people and puts you in the cockpit of the venerable F-4G Wild Weasel where you will experience the hours of boredom frequently interrupted by moments of sheer terror while engaging SAMs, AAA, enemy

fighters, and scuds. You will experience the Wild Weasel challenges - planning a campaign using theoretical employment concepts while trying to convince the non believers that it would really work; then, evolving airpower tactics and ultimately revising air power doctrine as they executed an intense campaign. They say that all good war stories start out with, "There I was..." and this one does just that through Jim Schreiner's first hand accounts. From someone who has "been there and done that" this is a must read!"Victor" Ballanco

I really enjoyed this book. I flew as a Navy EA-6B Prowler crewman in the 2003 invasion of Iraq, tasked with suppression of air defenses. Though a different aircraft, service, and conflict, I found this account very similar to my own experience, capturing perfectly many of the emotions and considerations involved in that type of mission, one not often written about. On top of that, the narrative flow is excellent, making the book a great read. Not only are the descriptions of combat vivid, but the brief descriptions of expeditionary living conditions back at base are also enjoyable. One more factor that makes this book a gem is that it represents an account of the last major combat employment of the legendary F-4 Phantom. Highly recommended for any reader interested in modern air power at war, and any reader who appreciates a vivid, personal narrative that puts you in the moment. When my sons are old enough, I will encourage them to read this book to get a feel for my own wartime flying experiences.

The book may not be for everyone and compared to some of the really good Vietnam fighter pilot books, it's not as exciting and not as well written. On the other hand; for any who have an interest or connection to the WW mission it is definitely worth it. I was tangentially connected to the Weasel mission throughout this period and deployed with them for the war. It was fascinating to read of familiar events from the operator's perspective. Also enjoyed hearing the familiar names of people and places and it explained the rest of the story regarding issues and events I was aware of, but didn't know the whole story. Overall, a satisfying read.

having participated in Desert Shield Desert Storm as an electronics technician on C-130s i could relate to the tent city life, the chow, sheer terror followed by endless boredom when we going home? And to get some onsite on a fine aircraft the F-4 Phantom. I was an electrician on F-4s during the linebacker operation 1971-1972. with the 8th TAC FTR Wing Ubon RTAFB. home of the Wolfpack! Thanks again for a great book

As a retired elite operator/analyst, I found this book to be very interesting and accurate. It was interesting to read about the war from this perspective. I was assigned to a recon squadron during this war and have some personal memories of many of the actions described here. Highly recommend for anyone interested in the Wild Weasel program.

Nice in-depth look at F-4G operations in Desert Storm. Remarkable number of interviews included with many key players and wide selection of rank and file flyers. Good writing complements thorough research - recommended.

I don't know if it's images of the wild west or of a mad man, but facing a SAM head on takes a gutsy pilot. Here in vivid detail is the Weasel war over Iraq and the fourth largest army in the world. Written in a no nonsense manner, it accurately reflects both the rush of combat and the pain of deployment. The appendices are equally valuable with a trove of interesting data. This book is a must have for anyone who enjoys military history.

I liked the book, I felt it was an easy read where you were able to learn about what it was like to be in a Wild Weasel unit on deployment during the Gulf War. You learn lots of little bits of information that you won't discover in a normal overview of military operations. I was hoping for a perhaps broader view of Wild Weasel operations during the war and some more operation stories, but overall the focus on the personal experiences during the war was enlightening enough to make it a satisfying book to read.

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