The Untold Story of Corsair II Units 1975-91: A Force to be Reckoned With

When it comes to combat aircraft, few can match the versatility and success of the Corsair II units that served from 1975 to 1991. These fighter-bombers played a pivotal role in various conflicts and proved their worth as a formidable force in the skies. In this article, we delve deep into the history and achievements of the Corsair II units, showcasing their incredible capabilities and the men and women behind them.

A Legendary Design

The Corsair II, also known as the A-7, was a striking aircraft with its unique twinengined design and sleek lines. It was originally developed as a successor to the A-4 Skyhawk, but soon surpassed its predecessor in terms of capability and performance. Designed specifically for close air support and precision bombing, the Corsair II became an integral part of the United States Navy, the United States Air Force, and several international air forces.

The aircraft boasted impressive specifications, including a maximum speed of over Mach 1.2, a range of over 1,300 miles, and the ability to carry up to 15,000 pounds of ordnance. Its advanced avionics and targeting systems made it a deadly weapon in any combat situation.

A-7 Corsair II Units 1975-91 (Combat Aircraft Book

135) by Andrea Grosso Ciponte (Kindle Edition)

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Language	: English
File size	: 35844 KB
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Enhanced types	etting: Enabled



Word Wise Print length Screen Reader : Enabled : 150 pages : Supported

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Combat Successes

From the moment the Corsair II units entered service, they showcased their effectiveness in a range of conflicts. One of the notable operations involving the Corsair II was the Gulf War, where they proved instrumental in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. Equipped with advanced weaponry and systems, these aircraft wreaked havoc on enemy positions and provided crucial air support to ground forces.

Another significant moment in Corsair II history was their deployment during the Vietnam War. Despite facing immense challenges in the hostile environment of Southeast Asia, these units excelled in close air support, interdiction, and strike missions. The Corsair II pilots, known for their exceptional skills and bravery, played a vital role in turning the tide of the war.

International Influence

While the Corsair II units primarily served in the United States military, several other countries also recognized their capabilities and acquired these formidable aircraft. Greece, Portugal, and Thailand were among the nations that operated the Corsair II with great success. These units were an essential part of their respective air forces, providing a significant advantage in their defense strategies.

The Heroes Behind the Machines

Behind every successful aircraft lies the dedication and skill of the men and women who operate and maintain them. The Corsair II units were no exception. The pilots, ground crews, and supporting personnel worked tirelessly to ensure that these combat aircraft were always ready for action. From rigorous training sessions to strenuous maintenance routines, they invested their time and effort to keep the Corsair II at its peak performance.

The Corsair II crews often faced dangerous and high-pressure situations, demonstrating courage and resilience in the face of adversity. Their unwavering dedication and skill contributed significantly to the success of these units and solidified their place in aviation history.

Legacy and Retirement

As with any aircraft, the Corsair II's time eventually came to an end. With the advancement of technology and changing military requirements, the aircraft was retired from service in 1991. However, its legacy lives on. The Corsair II units left an indelible mark on the history of combat aviation, and their contributions are still remembered and celebrated today.

The Corsair II units of 1975-91 were a powerhouse in the skies, showcasing their versatility, firepower, and effectiveness in numerous conflicts. From their legendary design to their combat successes and international influence, these units paved the way for future generations of combat aircraft. The men and women behind the Corsair II played a crucial role in its achievements, leaving a lasting legacy. Though retired, the Corsair II's impact on the world of combat aviation will never be forgotten.



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At the A-7 Corsair II's peak in the mid-1980s, some 30 US Navy squadrons flew various versions of the aircraft, including six Naval Air Reserve units, and these many of these units saw action across the Middle East. By the time the jet saw combat in Operation Desert Storm (1991), there remained only two fleet squadrons – many fleet squadrons having either disestablished or transitioned to the F/A18 Hornet – but both of these units (VA-46 and VA-72) played a major role in the campaign to free Kuwait.

The book details the technological development and improvements that were introduced to the airframe post-Vietnam (the FLIR targeting pod from 1979 and AGM-88 HARM missile from 1983 being the most important), and how they shaped operational employment of the aircraft. The jet's combat experiences in conflicts during the 1970s (Cambodia), 1980s (Lebanon, Grenada, Libya and Iran), and 1990s (Iraq) are explained in detail, and Peter Mersky's expert analysis is supported by numerous first-hand accounts from naval aviators that saw action with the A-7 during these campaigns.

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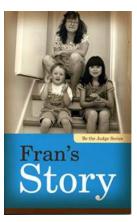
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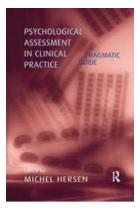
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