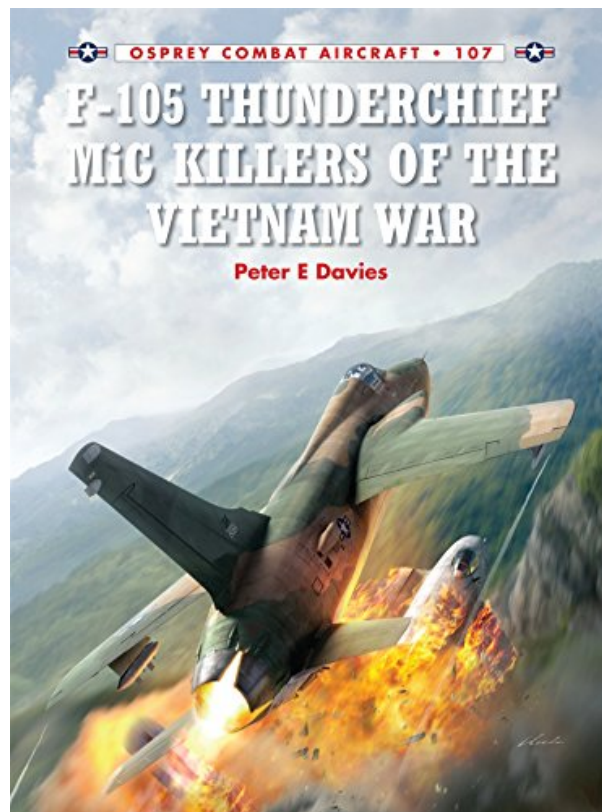
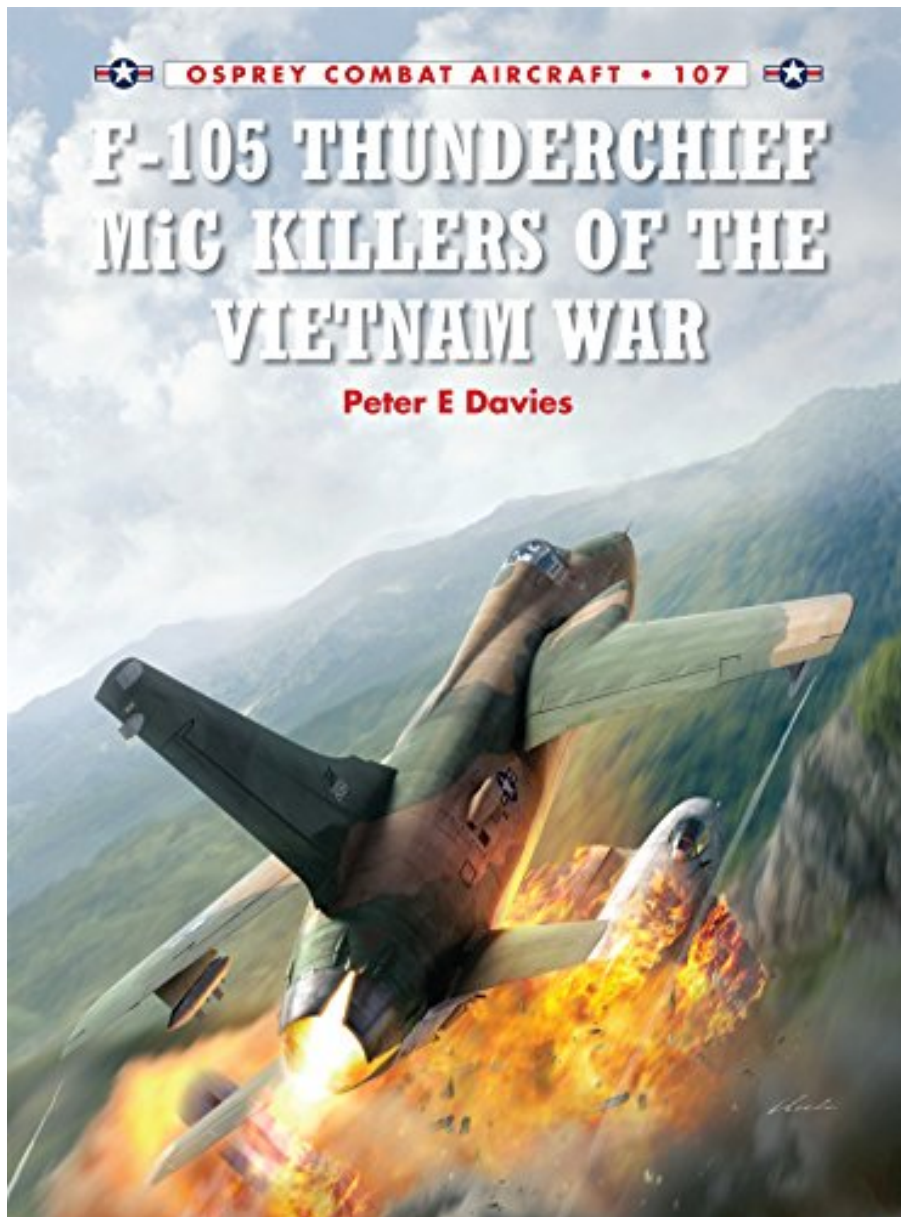


F-105 THUNDERCHIEF MIG KILLERS OF THE VIETNAM WAR (COMBAT AIRCRAFT) BY PETER E. DAVIES



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Review

“Peter Davies superbly summarizes this MiG-killing record in Osprey's F-105 Thunderchief MiG Killers of the Vietnam War. Beginning with a chapter dedicated to the Thunderchief's development and early operational history, subsequent sections in Davies' instructive narrative interweave data on F-105 pilots' training and tactics with dramatic descriptions of MiG battles. Decidedly recommended.” ?Rachel E. Veres, www.cybermodeler.com

About the Author

Peter E. Davies has published 20 books and several magazine articles, concentrating on modern combat aircraft and the Vietnam War. He has written eight previous Osprey titles and co-authored two others, with two of the latter on the F-105. The author lives in Bristol, England.

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USAF Rolling Thunder strike missions tactically assaulted North Vietnamese defenses, overcoming MiG fighter jets and SAM (surface to air) missiles to devastate North Vietnam's industrial base strategically.

Despite its "F-for-fighter" designation, the F-105 was designed and purchased to give the USAF an aircraft for delivery of nuclear weapons at very high speed, long range and below-the-radar altitudes. When the Vietnam War began, it was the USAF's best available tactical bomber for a "limited conventional" war as well. From 1964 to 1968 it flew the majority of bombing missions against North Vietnam, performing an effectively "strategic" role in assaulting North Vietnam's industrial and military heartland. Thunderchief crews faced North Vietnamese MiG-17s and MiG-21s more often than any other US flyers. Large formations of F-105s came under frequent attack by MiG pilots, and the F-4 Phantom II escorts that were meant to protect them were not always in the right position to fend off the attackers. F-105 crews would then defend themselves using their internal 20 mm cannon and occasionally AIM-9B Sidewinder missiles. Although their fighters were far larger, heavier and much less manoeuvrable than the adversarial MiGs, the F-105 pilots used speed and skill to down 27.5 MiG-17s - a tally in excess of that scored by USAF F-4 Phantom II crews in the same period between June 1966 and December 1967! In most cases the F-105 pilots concerned also succeeded in dropping their ordnance on targets during the same sorties.

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"Peter Davies superbly summarizes this MiG-killing record in Osprey's F-105 Thunderchief MiG Killers of the Vietnam War. Beginning with a chapter dedicated to the Thunderchief's development and early operational history, subsequent sections in Davies' instructive narrative interweave data on F-105 pilots' training and tactics with dramatic descriptions of MiG battles. Decidedly recommended." ?Rachel E. Veres, www.cybermodeler.com

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6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Thuds vs. MiGs...

By HMS Warspite

The F-105 Thunderchief was the workhorse fighter-bomber for the USAF over North Vietnam in the 1960's. Along the way, the F-105's had more than a few encounters with MiG's flown by the North Vietnamese Air Force. Although the F-105 was optimized for penetrating bombing runs, its pilots compiled an entirely respectable record of air-to-air combat record against highly maneuverable MiG-17s, their principal opponent. Peter Davies tells the story, and tells it well, in "F-105 Thunderchief MiG Killers of the Vietnam War."

This Osprey Combat Aircraft Series book reads like a series of after action reports. The author has done his considerable research. The narrative begins with the basics of the F-105 and the MiG-17, but the bulk of the book is devoted to the details of the period of air-to-air combat in 1966 and 1967. The text is much enhanced by a terrific selection of photographs and some great color plates of various F-105s in their different configurations. The author discusses a number of ongoing challenges for F-105 pilots, including a cumbersome air weapons system that took precious seconds to switch from bombing to air-to-air mode. In the end, aircraft speed and pilot skill proved to be a great equalizer. Highly recommended to aviation buffs.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Thuds Vs. MiGs Over Vietnam

By Robert I. Hedges

"F-105 Thunderchief MiG Killers of the Vietnam War" is another very good F-105 book by Peter E. Davies. Osprey has given several volumes to the Thud, and this one contains a brief history of the F-105 as well as background on the MiG-17 (the only type shot down by the F-105), and then gives a detailed synopsis of each of the F-105 victories as well as information on unsuccessful encounters and MiG victories against the venerable Thud. I thought Davies' concise overview of the capabilities and limitations of the two aircraft types was one of the strengths of the book. There are also numerous photographs, many of which avid F-105 fans will have seen before, but some of which were new to me. Perhaps best of all are the brilliant color (or "colour"; the book is from the UK) plates of various MiG killers on pp. 51-60, although annoyingly the guide to the plates is on pp. 93-95. I was particularly happy to see two plates of 61-0069 from two very different eras.

The book is generally well-written and Davies' command of the data involved is excellent, though I am unclear on his claim that F-105 production ceased in January, 1965 inasmuch as the 833rd and final F-105 built, 63-8366, was accepted by the USAF in December, 1964. I don't know when the line was formally closed, but obviously that is trivia of the most arcane sort anyway. Davies has done a marvelous job with this little volume, and I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the F-105, air combat history, or history of the Vietnam War.

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

The Mighty Thud's MiG-Killing Record!

By Mike O'Connor

During the Rolling Thunder phase of the Vietnam air war, Republic's needle-nosed F-105 Thunderchief flew the majority of USAF bombing missions against the North. Along with delivering untold tons of bombs on North Vietnam, Thud pilots also, surprisingly, chopped down 27.5 NVAF MiGs that opposed their strikes. Peter Davies summarized the MiG-killing record of the Thud in F-105 THUNDERCHIEF MIG KILLERS OF THE VIETNAM WAR. Part of Osprey's COMBAT AIRCRAFT series, Davies' book is #107 in that series.

The F-105's record against NVAF MiGs is one of individual pilots/aircrews rising above a lack of ACM

training, equipment not designed for air combat, tactics that worked in the MiGs' favor and the steep learning curve F-105 units experienced in the 1965-68 time-frame over North Vietnam. The Thud was definitely not designed for the hard-turning, yank-and-bank MiG engagements it found itself in yet talented pilots were able to triumph, time and again, against the MiG-17s and -21s encountered over North Vietnam.

Davies, who has done other MiG-Killer books for Osprey, turns in an informative, entertaining and insightful history that interweaves descriptions of MiG battles with behind-the-scenes information on weaponry, tactics, etc. His narrative is illustrated with many b&w and color photographs of aircraft, aircrew and air combat scenes along with Jim Laurier's always-excellent color side profiles.

Vietnam air war buffs will want to add F-105 THUNDERCHIEF MIG KILLERS OF THE VIETNAM WAR to their collection. It tells the little-known story of how Thud pilots thrived and survived against NVAF MiGs over North Vietnam. Recommended.

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