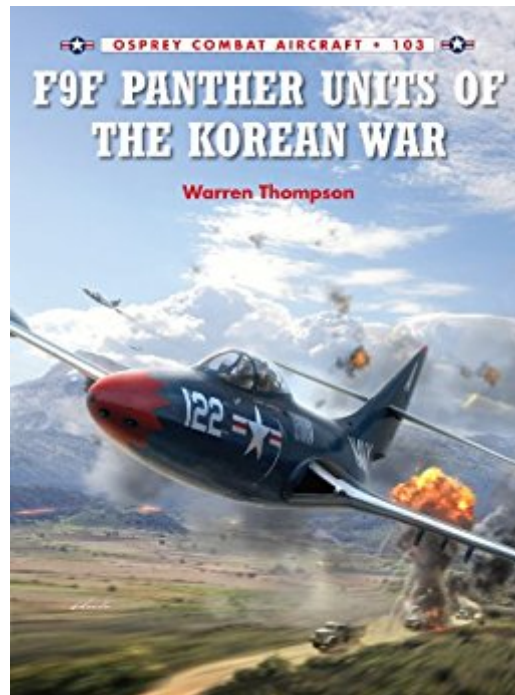


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F9F Panther Units Of The Korean War (Combat Aircraft)



Synopsis

In 1948 the USAF, Marine Corps and US Navy were concentrating on converting over to an all-jet force. When the Korean War started in June 1950, the USAF had built up a sizable jet force in the Far East, while the US Navy was in the early stages of getting F9F Panthers operational as replacements for its piston-engined F8F Bearcats. At about this time, the Marine Corps had also begun using the Panthers in limited numbers. Operating from aircraft carriers off the Korean coast, F9Fs helped stop the North Korean invasion within two weeks of the communists crossing the 38th Parallel. The Panthers, escorting carrier-based AD Skyraiders and F4U Corsairs, penetrated as far north as Pyongyang, where they bombed and strafed targets that the North Koreans thought were out of range. The Panthers also took the battle all the way to the Yalu River, long before the MiG-15s became a threat. The F9F's basic tasking was aerial supremacy and combat air patrols, but they also excelled in bombing and strafing attacks.

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Aviation

Customer Reviews

An excellent job, as I would expect from Warren Thompson . He does not give a detailed history of the technical development of the aircraft. Nor should he. That has been treated elsewhere (see e.g.:

Grumman F9F Panther/Cougar by Brad Edward, Specialty Press, 2010). Mr. Thompson sets out to discuss the units that flew the Panther and he properly concentrates on his chosen topic. I have only two "quibbles": One, the author makes the common error of misidentifying Marine regiments as divisions, see page 74 (with respect to the 7th Marines) and page 79 (with respect to the 5th Marines). These regiments were actually part of the 1st Marine Division. This problem may be caused by the fact that Marine regiments, unlike their Army counterparts, do not use the term "regiment" in their official designation; nor is their function (such as infantry or artillery) included in their designation. The other two regiments in the 1st Marine Division were the 1st Marines (an infantry formation) and the 11th Marines (an artillery formation). Two, the aircraft at plate # 7 on page 38 is identified as an F9F-2P, a photo recon version of the Panther. The markings are consistent with that version. However, the nose of the illustrated aircraft clearly shows the muzzles of 20mm cannon. It is my understanding that the four 20mm cannon of the fighter version were replaced by cameras in the nose of the photo version. All sources I have seen make that statement, including this book (see page 17). It would appear that the artist put the markings of an F9F-2P onto a standard F9F-2. Am I correct? Neither of these comments would cause me to give less than five stars for this book. I too would welcome a book on the F2H Banshee, especially by this author.

I like this book! I also realize the limitations of the format. Photo reproduction is good, although some are small, many are in color. Cover art is by Jim Laurier, (again). (Jim is a favorite aviation artist of mine.) I give it only four stars because I think Mr. Thompson missed an opportunity to go a step beyond other volumes written about the F9F Panther, (a very historically significant aircraft), by not writing about some of the missions of the famous, or soon to be famous, pilots that flew them. Although, he does mention John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, and Ted Williams, almost in passing, it would have been nice to read about their normal operations, not just Ted's crash landing. If my memory still serves, Williams was flying as Glenn's wing-man on that mission when his aircraft was hit by AA. That said, I thank Mr. Thompson for writing this book on the F9F for the Osprey Combat Aircraft Series, (No. 103). The majority of writing on Korean war aircraft goes to the F-86 & MiG-15. The roll that Navy and Marine pilots and aircraft played in that conflict tends to be overshadowed. Don't let my one negative comment stop you from purchasing this book.

My Dad's squadron, VF-721, was featured in this book, so of course I loved it! Beautifully illustrated, accurate accounting of the Korean War experience. I'd like to know where I can get a copy of the cover photo. It's great.

Was a very interesting book, really enjoy it. I had a uncle who was kill in the Korean war.

First rate writing and illustrations.

I really enjoyed it very much. Looking forward to a volume on Skyraider Units of the same conflict.

Excellent coverage of topic

Warren Thompson has done his usual excellent job!

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