

The Military Experience: In the Air

Tri State Young Adult Book Review Committee



Title: In The Air: Cargo Planes
Author: Corrigan, Jim
ISBN: 978-1-59935-380-7
\$27.45

Rating for this book: Very Good – Buy Now

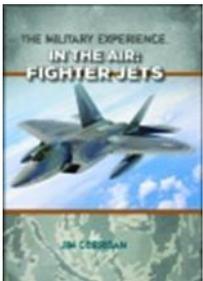
Summary: Air Cargo planes are the giants of the sky. The book tells their story helping readers understand that they are bigger, stronger and faster. First person narratives, quick fact boxes, and color photos augment the text. Grades 6-12.

Critical Annotation: After the appearance of an informative text, the most supportive factor of this book is visual appeal to young readers. The layout of the various pages is diversified and well balanced between text and full color illustrations and photographs so that concepts are grouped together. The flow and balance of both the text and visuals are integrated to present a very stimulating book for both young and reluctant readers. The inclusion of sources, glossary, bibliography, web sites, and index make this an important research tool for librarians.

Series Comments: The Military Experience, In the Air series contains 7 titles. Each covers a specific aircraft with one book discussing training needed for pilots. Crisp color photos, easy reading informative text accompanied by quick fact boxes, first person narratives. Gr 6-12.

Recommendations: This is a very well written book that will relate well to many young readers. It is recommended as a basic book for any middle or high school library. It would make an excellent selection for a basic books list for school libraries.

-Linda McNeil, May 2014



School Library Journal

Title: In The Air: Fighter Jets
Author: Corrigan, Jim
ISBN: 978-1-59935-376-0
\$27.45

Rating for this book: Excellent – Buy Now

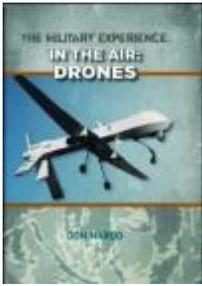
Summary: Discusses the history, development, and uses of fighter jets in the military. Includes German and Russian jets as well as American made jets. First person narratives, quick fact boxes, and color photos augment the text. Grades 6-12.

Critical Annotation: With awesome color photos, this book presents a history of jet fighters as well as their uses in war. Mostly focusing on American made aircraft, this book adds the unique feature of having first person narratives of what it is like to be a pilot on a military mission flying these phenomenally fast aircraft. The tension and sense of urgency in carrying out a mission quickly draws in the reader. Kudos to the author for including the narrative of a female pilot who was tasked with the job of intercepting the last plane during the 9/11 attacks should it attempt to reach Washington D.C. For young female readers, this opens up an entirely new outlook on what is possible—namely, being a pilot of a fighter jet. The uses of fighter jets by the military in WWII, Vietnam, and more recent conflicts in the Middle East are highlighted whether being based on Navy aircraft carriers or on land. The future of fighter jets and new aircraft being developed show that engineers are always looking to make a good product better and to expand their capabilities. It also shows that other countries are increasing the capabilities of their own fighter jets. Source notes, index, further reading, and glossary complete this wonderful book on military jet fighters.

Series Comments: The Military Experience, In the Air series contains 7 titles. Each covers a specific aircraft with one book discussing training needed for pilots. Crisp color photos, easy reading informative text accompanied by quick fact boxes, first person narratives. Gr 6-12.

Recommendations: Strongly recommended for public and school libraries. The first person narratives of pilots set these book apart from the traditional book on aircraft that just present facts about fighters and their missions.

-Linda McNeil, May 2014



Tri State Young Adult Book Review Committee

Title: In The Air: Drones
Author: Nardo, Don
ISBN: 978-1-59935-384-5
\$27.45

Rating for this book: Excellent – Buy Now

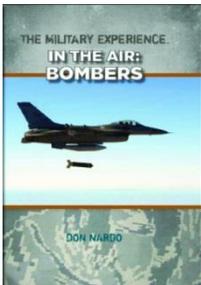
Summary: Provides a history of drone development and their current uses by the military. Awesome color photos showing the size (in relation to men standing nearby) and first person narratives from pilots provide readers with real life experiences. Gr. 6-12.

Critical Annotation: The newest form of military surveillance and assault aircraft has caused plenty of controversy. This book starts with the history of drone development, incorporates excellent photos that allow the reader to understand the size of drones used by the military, provides first person narratives by pilots and the emotional toll placed on them, and does not shy away from the controversies that have arisen over drone use. A first-rate place to start research on drones. The changes brought about by the use of drones and the impact they have had on warfare strategy, tactics, and resulting changes to deployment of military personnel are highlighted. The chapter on the future of drones both in civilian as well as military arenas, will give the reader much to think about. The only quibble is the caption to the photo on page 39. It says “American citizens hold a banner during a peach march in Tank, Pakistan.” Students may question this as the dress and facial features of the banner-holders seem to indicate they are natives of Pakistan. Were Pakistan-Americans really on site in Tank Pakistan for the protest or were these Pakistan citizens protesting? A first visual experience as well as a book that provides facts about the history and use of drones in military missions.

Series Comments: The Military Experience, In the Air series contains 7 titles. Each covers a specific aircraft with one book discussing training needed for pilots. Crisp color photos, easy reading informative text accompanied by quick fact boxes, first person narratives. Gr 6-12.

Recommendations: Highly recommended for public and school libraries. The first person narratives of pilots set these books apart from the traditional books that just present facts about drones and their missions.

-Lois McNicol, May 2014



Tri State Young Adult Book Review Committee

Title: In The Air: Bombers
Author: Nardo, Don
ISBN: 978-1-59935-378-4
\$27.45

Rating for this book: Excellent – Buy Now

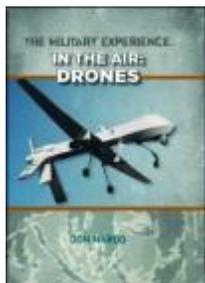
Summary: Traces the development of bombers, their use in war, the differences kinds of bombs dropped by aircraft from the atomic bomb to guided missiles and MOAB. Perfect reading for those considering a military life or career as an aviation engineer. Grade. 6-12.

Critical Annotation: With awesome photographs of the various bombers and their arsenals, this book will attract the casual browser as well as student researcher. Quick fact boxes are interspersed with text that reads easily and is loaded with information. The first person narratives of being a pilot associated with a bombing run shows the tension, urgency and need for precision that accompanies any flight mission. From the first use of Zeppelins to to the development of B-29, B-52, B-1B and B-2, each aircraft receives the attention needed to show the increased capabilities and unique characteristics of each bomber. Recent missions in Iraq and Libya show readers the awesome power that current bombers possess. There is a definite patriotic flavor that ends a couple of chapters touting the impressive might of the American military. For a quick introduction to bombers: how, when and why they are used and their effectiveness, this book will be a first place to start reading. The explanations of the various bombs: atomic, cluster, guided missiles, MOAB, and the differences between smart and dumb bombs give readers an understanding of the power and effects of each. For young readers, the future of the 2037 bomb being proposed will give them a perspective of what the future holds.

Series Comments: The Military Experience, In the Air series contains 7 titles. Each covers a specific aircraft with one book discussing training needed for pilots. Crisp color photos, easy reading informative text accompanied by quick fact boxes, first person narratives. Gr 6-12.

Recommendations: Strongly recommended for public and school libraries. The first person narratives of pilots set these books apart from the traditional books on aircraft that just present facts about bombers and their missions.

-Lois McNicol, May 2014



School Library Journal

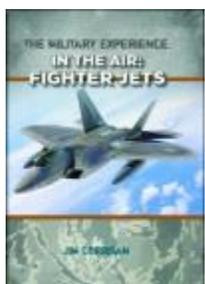
December 2013

CORRIGAN, Jim. *In the Air: Fighter Jets*. ISBN 9781599353760.

NARDO, Don. *In the Air: Drones*. ISBN 9781599353609.

ea vol: 64p. (The Military Experience Series). bibliog. glossary. index. maps. notes. photos. reprods. websites. Morgan Reynolds. 2013. lib. ed. \$27.45.

Gr 5-7—Colorful, eye-catching photos will capture the attention of young military enthusiasts and the content will keep their interest. Each title has five chapters that describe the history, present uses, and future of the featured aircraft. *Fighter Jets* begins with the use of F-16s on 9/11 and then takes readers back to 1944 and the introduction of the German Me 262, the world's first fighter jet. The role of fighter jets in wars in Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq is briefly discussed. The text also mentions the Soviet MIG and the new Chinese Chengdu J-20. Readers will likely find *Drones* to be more interesting since the use of those machines is relatively new. This title begins with a straightforward and slightly graphic description of locating and killing key al-Qaeda figure Anwar al-Awlaki. One chapter describes "How Drones and Their Pilots Operate" while another discusses "Arguing Over the Ethics of Drones." The text of both titles is superimposed on a gray camouflage-patterned background. "Fast Fact" text boxes provide additional information. The photos, which vary from wallet size to full spread, are well chosen. There are a number of books about fighter jets, and this one is comprehensive and current; *Drones* fills a void in most collections.—Eldon Younce, Anthony Public Library, KS



Booklist Issue

November 15, 2013

The Military Experience series. Morgan Reynolds. Gr. 7-10.

In the Air: Drones. By Don Nardo. Nov. 2013. 64p. illus. lib. ed., \$27.45 (9781599353845). 356.

In the Air: Fighter Jets. By Jim Corrigan. 2013. 64p. illus. lib. ed., \$27.45 (9781599353760). 358.4.

The excellent Military Experience series continues with these titles about air combat. Military books have the advantage over some nonfiction in being able to draw the reader in with exciting stories, and each of these begins with a riveting tale of fighters in action. With *In the Air: Drones*, seasoned nonfiction writer Nardo begins with the story of a drone strike on a group of terrorists having a picnic lunch. The surprisingly long history of drones, used to stop zeppelin attacks among other things, and the psychological effects of seeing the faces of the targets that pilots are striking are part of a well-rounded picture. *In the Air: Fighter Jets* kicks off with a female fighter pilot trying to intercept Flight 93 before its crash in Pennsylvania on 9/11. Corrigan discusses the different types of fighter jets and describes a combat mission as well as making predictions for the future. This series makes good use of photographs, bringing realism and immediacy, and includes quotes that add insight. "Fast Facts" highlight interesting bits of information—for instance, John Kennedy's older brother was killed on takeoff in an early drone, and it takes five successful battles to be considered an "ace." With drones in the news and young people considering military careers, these make a great choice for libraries serving middle-school and high-school students. —Susan Dove Lempke