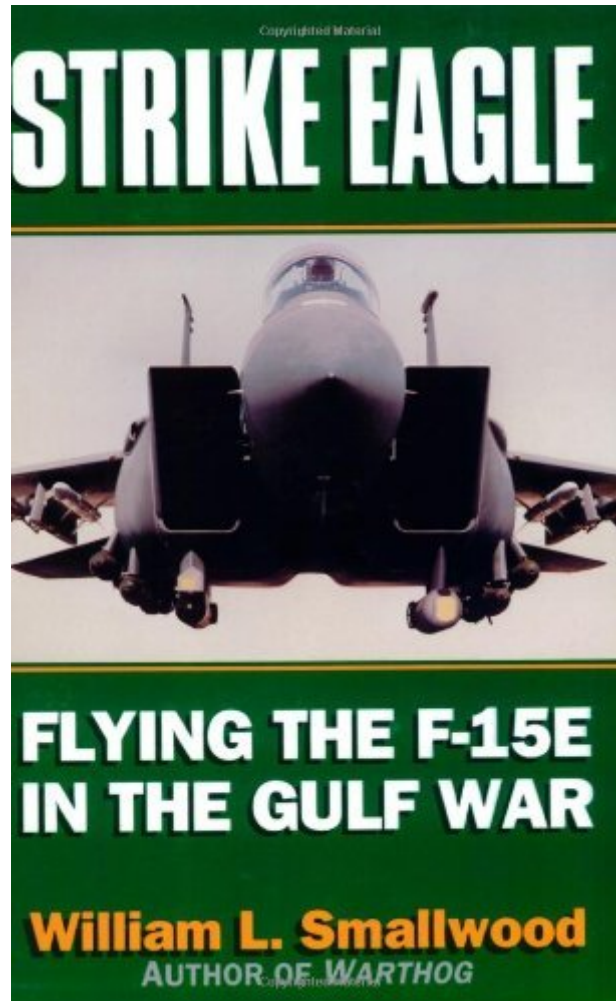


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Strike Eagle: Flying The F-15E In The Gulf War



Synopsis

Taking readers into the cockpit of the U.S. Air Force's F-15E, the pilot-author of Warthog: Flying the A-10 in the Gulf War recounts the all-too-human experiences of war in the skies over Baghdad.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a former F-15E WSO in the 336TFS depicted in this book, I can say with absolute confidence that this is a totally accurate account of the Strike Eagle in Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Mr. Smallwood took great pains to interview as many of us that flew the aircraft as was humanly possible and he has MORE facts than the Air Force in terms of the leadership problems and difficulties in fielding a new aircraft with new crewmember in a combat situation. This book brought back laughs, sobs and the very smell of being in the jet! He described instances that I was involved in as if he were standing there when it happened. If you ever looked at the F-15E and wondered what it would be like; read this book! It is very accurate and reflects the emotions of going off to "war" and being in combat. All of us that flew the aircraft salute Bill Smallwood for his insight and commitment to accuracy.

A great book about F-15E pilots experience in that war. It does not however specifically tell you anything much about how the aircraft performs or how it functioned in the gulf war out side of the pilots personal accounts. If you are interested in pilots war time experience - great. If , like me, you are more interested about the aircraft itself you might want to consider some thing else.

This book has brought me hours of enjoyment as I have read it three times. It is hard to get enough of the real-world action that this book delivers. I would recommend it as an addition to anyone's library.

This is an unbelievably enjoying book. It really shows that the fighter pilot role is not easy. An excellent supplement to this book is the combat sim Janes F-15. As you can gain the terminology that will translate both ways. Also you will understand the F-15E's complicated radar, and the load put on the pilots

It has been over 20 years now since I went with our F15Es to Oman and then to " Al's Garage". As enlisted men and women in POL, we filled these pilots planes with fuel and watched them take off, not knowing where they were going, and hoping they all came back. Some of them did not come back. Some planes I saw riddled with holes. I saw pilots get out of their planes with smiles and fist pumps, and some with blank stares on their faces. This book answered my questions about what happened out there when you left the comforts of our tent city paradise. We all knew this was a kick ass plane and many of us collected the bomb pins from the planes upon their return. I would have liked to hear more about the first night the air campaign started. I have never heard or seen anything more spectacular in my life with all the jets starting at the same time, the taxi way looked like a parade of Strike Eagle lights, and taking off with afterburners in the midnight sky until we could not see you any more. It was a very impressive show of force that gave us all goose bumps on the flight line. Thumbs up to this book! And thumbs up to all the Air Force personnel that kept these planes up in the air in Oman and Al Kharj.

The question for an author when starting a book about aerial war: do I concentrate on equipment or people? By making it personal, the readers will vicariously experience the sweaty palms of a crew facing enemy defenses. Compared to WW II when 100 B-17s might attack a target, only six or eight F-15E bombers could deliver the same weight of explosives. Each must run a gunfire gauntlet. No matter how much faster compared to earlier wars, these flyers know that their planes are vulnerable

and might burn. Only takes one 23mm shell to complicate an attack. Still, they kept pipper on target, released ordinance and only then pulled out of their dives. That takes courage every flight. My issue is that this is a collage of crew experiences, not a single biography of F-15 pilot.

Like going on a mission with these guys. I found myself in the first person as I strapped in the ejection seat to fly these real sorties against the enemy. Could actually see the aa in my mind's eye. This is excellent writing at its best.

I gave this book four stars, not because it is a bad book, but because the A-10 book by the same author set the standards way up high. But let's not talk about the A-10, but of the high-tech F-15E Strike Eagle. This book tells a compelling history of how an untested aircraft (not even certified at the time to drop some kinds of bombs) was rushed into battle and performed beautifully. This book showed me that I had the erroneous idea that the powerful, high-tech, well equipped U.S. war machine has everything set and figured out is not true when things get real, and pays homage to those people who were really heroic in creating bases that did not exist before, and fundamental to make the squadrons work despite all the difficulties and the changing nature of warfare. And for those in the cockpit, tells the histories of how tactics had to be changed, literally, on the fly, to fill the demands of the tactical and political backgrounds. A very good book, that in some moments, makes you feel like you are inside the cockpit reliving those events.

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