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Viper Pilot: A Memoir of Air Combat

By Dan Hampton



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Viper Pilot: A Memoir of Air Combat By Dan Hampton

THE *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING MEMOIR OF 21ST-CENTURY AIR COMBAT, BY "ONE OF THE DECORATED PILOTS IN AIR FORCE HISTORY" (*NEW YORK POST*)

151 combat missions
21 hard kills on surface -to -air missile sites
4 Distinguished Flying Crosses with Valor
1 Purple Heart

First into a war zone, flying behind enemy lines to purposely draw fire, the wild weasels are elite fighter squadrons with the most dangerous job in the Air Force

One of the greatest aviation memoirs ever written, *Viper Pilot* is an Air Force legend's thrilling eyewitness account of modern air warfare. For twenty years, Lieutenant Colonel Dan Hampton was a leading member of the Wild Weasels, logging 608 combat hours in the world's most iconic fighter jet: the F-16 "Fighting Falcon," or "Viper." He spearheaded the 2003 invasion of Iraq, leading the first flight of fighters over the border en route to strike Baghdad. Earlier, on 9/11, Hampton's father was inside the Pentagon when it was attacked; with his dad's fate unknown, Hampton was scrambled into American skies and given the unprecedented orders to shoot down any unidentified aircraft. *Viper Pilot* is an unforgettable look into the closed world of fighter pilots and modern air combat.



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Viper Pilot: A Memoir of Air Combat By Dan Hampton Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review This autobiography of a retired USAF F-16 pilot will remind seasoned readers of Jack Broughton's classic *Thud Ridge* (1969). It certainly offers the same gripping cockpit view of modern air combat, in this case over Iraq in two wars and patrolling U.S. skies after 9/11. Hampton recounts his training as a pilot, then his selection for F-16s—officially the Fighting Falcon but known in the USAF as the Viper—and finally his training for the most demanding flying done in the F-16, the Wild Weasel missions. These missions are dedicated to the neutralization or, preferably, destruction of enemy air defenses and date back to the first encounters with SAMs, in the Vietnam War. As the radars and missiles on the ground have improved, so have the technology and skills of the Wild Weasel pilots, who must keep themselves and their comrades alive in an air full of high-tech hostility. Hampton is a vivid writer and an unabashed warrior, and, like most such, he has doubts about the future of American armed forces if they are to be commanded by men who are neither warriors themselves nor particularly empathetic toward those who are. An outstanding work. --Roland Green

Review

"A rare riveting memoir of a highly decorated fighter pilot that's packed with grit, swagger, and great humor. Do not miss this one!" (W.E.B. GRIFFIN & WILLIAM E. BUTTERWORTH IV)

"Hampton's one of the most decorated pilots in Air Force history. ... We may never see his like again." (New York Post)

"Offers a gripping cockpit view of modern air combat ... Hampton is a vivid writer and an unabashed warrior. ... An outstanding work." (Booklist (starred review))

"*Viper Pilot* is an awesome adrenaline rush. If you love action packed modern day war stories then strap yourself in and get ready for a gut-wrenching, g-force defying thrill ride!" (ALEX KERSHAW, bestselling author of *The Liberator* and *The Few*)

"*Viper Pilot* is fantastic. Lt. Col. Dan Hampton offers a personal, irreverent, no-holds-barred look into the life of an Air Force fighter pilot. A great read!" (DALE BROWN, former USAF Captain and New York Times bestselling author of *A Time for Patriots*)

"*Viper Pilot* is an instant aviation classic. Dan Hampton's thrilling portrayals of combat missions kept me glued to the story, and he has captured the essence of Wild Weasel fighter operations as no one has before." (BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID L. MOODY (Retired USAF))

"Dan Hampton's *Viper Pilot* truly impressed me--if you're a combat vet, it's sweaty palms again; if not, strap in and get ready. Filled with lots of action, here's a real and up-close look at modern fighter combat, told straight from the cockpit." (COLONEL JACKSEL BROUGHTON (USAF, Ret.), recipient of the Air Force Cross for extraordinary heroism and author of *Rupert Red Two: A Fighter Pilot's Life*)

"Dramatic. ... *Viper Pilot* delivers 300 pages of aviation fireworks." (Kirkus Reviews)

"The best air combat memoir I have ever read... An incredible look into the unique culture of Wild Weasels." (Tyler Rogoway, Foxtrot Alpha, a Gawker Media site)

From the Back Cover

151 combat missions
21 hard kills on surface-to-air-missile sites
4 Distinguished Flying Crosses with Valor
1 Purple Heart

Sure to rank as one of the greatest aviation memoirs ever written, *Viper Pilot* is an Air Force legend's thrilling eyewitness account of modern air warfare

From 1986 to 2006, Lt. Col. Dan Hampton was a leading member of the Wild Weasels, the elite Air Force fighter squadrons whose mission is recognized as the most dangerous job in modern air combat. Weasels are the first planes sent into a war zone, flying deep behind enemy lines purposely seeking to draw fire from surface-to-air missiles and artillery. They must skillfully evade being shot down—and then return to destroy the threats, thereby making the skies safe for everyone else to follow. Today these vital missions are more hazardous than direct air-to-air engagement with enemy aircraft. Hampton's record number of strikes on high-value targets make him the most lethal F-16 Wild Weasel pilot in American history. This is his remarkable story.

Taught to fly at an early age by his father, Hampton logged twenty years and 608 combat hours in the world's most iconic fighter jet: the F-16 "Fighting Falcon," or "Viper" as its pilots call it. Hampton spearheaded the 2003 invasion of Iraq, leading the first flight of fighters over the border en route to strike Baghdad. In the war that followed, he engaged in a series of brilliantly executed missions that earned him three Distinguished Flying Crosses with Valor; he notably saved a U.S. Marine unit from certain death by taking out the surrounding enemy forces near Nasiriyah. Two years earlier, on 9/11, Hampton's father was inside the Pentagon when it was attacked; with his dad's fate unknown, Hampton was scrambled into American skies and given the unprecedented orders to shoot down any unidentified aircraft. Hampton also flew critical missions in the first Gulf War, served on the Air Combat Command staff during the Kosovo War, and was injured in the 1996 Khobar Towers terrorist attack.

With manned missions rapidly giving way to remote-controlled UAV drones, *Viper Pilot* may be the last memoir by a true hero of the skies. Gripping and irreverently humorous, it is an unforgettable look into the closed world of fighter pilots and modern air combat.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Doris Rice:

Book will be written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can realize everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A publication *Viper Pilot: A Memoir of Air Combat* will make you to be smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think this open or reading any book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you searching for best book or appropriate book with you?

Deborah Wilkerson:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read any book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day every day to reading a publication. The book Viper Pilot: A Memoir of Air Combat it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book offers high quality.

Lenora Dryer:

You may spend your free time you just read this book this guide. This Viper Pilot: A Memoir of Air Combat is simple to develop you can read it in the recreation area, in the beach, train along with soon. If you did not possess much space to bring the particular printed book, you can buy the actual e-book. It is make you simpler to read it. You can save the actual book in your smart phone. Therefore there are a lot of benefits that you will get when one buys this book.

Ruth Goodrich:

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