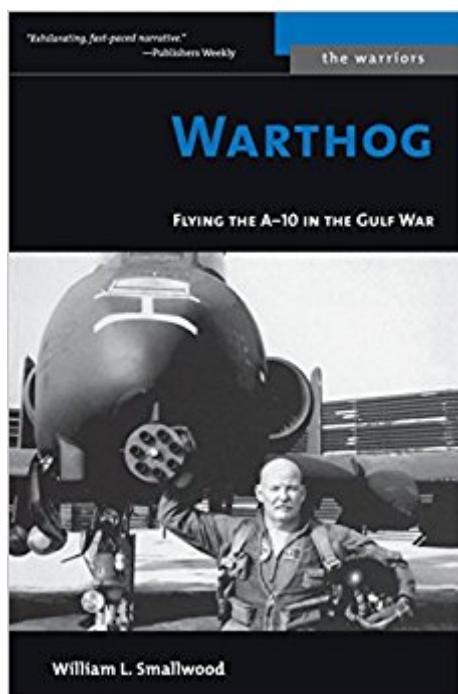


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Warthog: Flying The A-10 In The Gulf War (Potomac Books' The Warriors Series)



Synopsis

A valentine for one of the ugliest, albeit most lethally effective, warplanes ever built--as well as for the men who flew them during the Desert Storm campaign. Drawing on interviews with over one hundred A-10 pilots who served in the Persian Gulf during the 1990-91 hostilities, Smallwood (himself an aviator and Korean War vet) offers riveting perspectives on aerial combat. Setting the stage with an informative briefing on how, in the 70's, the Air Force developed the A-10 (a.k.a. ``Warthog'') as a means of supporting ground troops with massive firepower, he moves into anecdotal vignettes detailing the ways in which so-called ``hog drivers'' and their commanders whiled away the weary hours of the calm before the storm in Saudi Arabia's inhospitable clime. At the heart of his narrative, however, are vivid accounts of how A-10s accomplished their tank-busting missions and then some once the battle was joined. Tasked, among other objectives, to take out missile launchers and artillery emplacements far behind the front lines (assignments normally reserved for jet fighters), the slow-moving, heavily armed Warthogs were credited with over half the bomb damage inflicted on Iraqi forces and installations. Employing improvisational tactics, A-10s also flew reconnaissance and assisted in rescues of coalition pilots; they even scored air-to-air kills, downing a couple of enemy choppers. Indeed, the plane's ungainly Gatling-gun platform performed so well that pilots demanded their craft be redesignated ``RFOA-10'' (for ``reconnaissance/fighter/observation/attack'').

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Customer Reviews

The A-10 is a slow, stick-and-rudder airplane built around a Gatling gun capable of firing 4000 rounds a minute. It is an ugly beast (thus its nickname: Warthog), but "hog drivers" think highly of it because of its ability to remain aloft after absorbing gross punishment from enemy aircraft. Smallwood, who interviewed 143 of the pilots who flew the A-10 in the Gulf War, here presents an exhilarating, fact-packed narrative that conveys the emotional as well as the technical/tactical aspects of the Warthog effort during Desert Storm. In the war's first phase, A-10 squadrons carried out a precise preemptive campaign against targets that could affect the outcome of the allied ground campaign. Throughout that four-day operation, A-10s provided close air support for advancing coalition forces and decimated two Republican Guard divisions. The Warthogs flew an average of 193 missions per day for 42 days and are credited with destroying at least half of the Iraqi armor. Six Warthogs were lost. Two pilots were killed. A valuable addition to air-war literature. Military Book Club main selection. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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the Military Book Club) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Excellent book for those who enjoy true stories about actual sorties of fighter aircraft. The A10 is an awesome piece of military aircraft and unfortunately right now as of 12/2013 the Warthog is on the chopping block of the Pentagon budget which in my opinion as a military buff, is a big mistake. The A10 is a unique aircraft with abilities that are match by no other. I would recommend this book to read to any military buff.

When Saddam sent his armies south, I knew he would get hurt. The U.S. Air Force was configured for air combat; on paper, this added muscle to the Coalition. But he promised to dig in and bloody their noses with SAMs and AntiAircraft. Then the A10s arrived. Going low-n-slow, looking for new fortifications, destroying whatever found, continuing on until the big one: finding a depot on the Baghdad-Amman highway that they named 'home depot' (stocked to destroy homes, not improve them), and another called Hicksville. Containing hundreds of bunkers and unknown amounts of munitions, A10s devoted many trips to deny them to Iraqi forces. When Saddam tried to involve the neutral Israelis by firing Scud missiles eastward, the A10s hunted their mobile launchers. When Iraqi helicopters played cat and mouse, a Warthog shot one down. Need night coverage? SAM killers? 'Hogs answered the call, but nervously. This was more hazardous than Viet Nam. The Generals had to be pleased with those homely heroes. Final chapter told of the three Warthogs flown to Albuquerque for storage. Sadly, the Air Force did not want them anymore. 'Then they took their bags and turned their backs on the green machines that had carried them so many miles through fire and storm. The machines would go to the pickle factory to be embalmed, and, theoretically, they could be brought back to life should they be needed in an emergency. But none of the pilots expected that to happen. With their consciences weighed by guilt, they were leaving their perfectly healthy and faithful bird dogs at the pound and they knew their real fate.' (p. 217) See: Vipers in the Storm: Diary of a Gulf War Fighter Pilot, Strike Eagle: Flying the F-15E in the Gulf War (The Warriors).

The A10 Warthog a plane built at the army's request by a manufacturer who new his job and by pilots who refused to say it can't be done but just made it work. A plane that the air force had no place for but is still in the fleet and currently has no alternate replacement. To be flying a gun platform such as this with the fire power and accuracy must be awesome, no pointy nose jet jockey

can get close. Its one thing to deliver ordnance at 18,000 + feet but to be flying at less than 200 knots at ground level is something else. To be able to sneak up at 5000 feet and go surprise, that's one hell of a plane. This book was written to the dedication for and about a special breed of pilots who have the true spirit of aviation who believe so much of this oddball bird. Recommended as a must read.

So good that I gave it to my neighbor who was a ground supplier, armorer and fit right into the scene of battle in Kuwait and nearbys. I have been a pilot and love the A-10 and think the ignorant, inexperienced politicians who want to retire this bird should read this book before making any decisions. The F-35 succeeds only in that every part of it is made in every state in the union and the voter payback is indelible. But let them do this. Rebuild and up-to-date the Warthog and build about a dozen of the F-35's giving 3 each to each of the services. that'll satisfy some egos and politicians - What's the difference? I think that's the message of this book!

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and I look forward to reading other books by the author. The history and technical aspects of the A-10 are carefully preserved.

When most people think of the warplanes we defeated Saddam with in '91, the first types that come to mind are often F-16s, "stealth" fighters, or F-15 Eagles. But what this volume reveals is that while these other types made their contribution, the A-10 was THE indispensable warplane of that conflict. While no one jet and her crews can claim to have won the war by themselves, if any one could, it would have been the A-10. It wasn't designed to break speed records, and it wasn't designed to win beauty contests...it was designed to break the enemy and to win wars. And that it did, exceedingly well. This volume is a must-read for the modern military aerospace buff and military historian...it will serve as a revelation especially to those who have tended to turn their nose up at this 'ugly duckling' that was in fact a vicious bird of prey.

Great book with amazing accounts about this unbelievably tough plane. As much as I didn't want this book to end, I couldn't put it down

Great book. It not only tells the history of the airmen involved in the first Gulf War, but it is how the history is told that makes this a real page turner! Smallwood's way of telling the facts, the anecdotes, the pilots interviews is filled with tension, comedy, punch lines, drama... a very good

storyteller! The book itself covers the aspect of how the aircraft were deployed, that A-10s squadron were prepared and ready to go way before all others in the USAF, the difficulties of installing a functional airbase in middle of nowhere in Saudi Arabia, the unsung heroes that did that, and ultimately, how a very low-tech aircraft, and its pilots, came to be recognized as the most versatile platform in a war generally remembered only by the high tech world of guided munitions and stealth aircraft. if you ever was at least slightly interested in the A-10 and its exploits, this is a must have.

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