

Viper Pilot: A Memoir of Air Combat

By Dan Hampton

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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:

Ruth Brown:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled Viper Pilot: A Memoir of Air Combat. Try to make book Viper Pilot: A Memoir of Air Combat as your friend. It means that it can to be your friend when you sense alone and beside that of course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let me make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

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Beulah Scherr:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity this is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the whole day to reading a e-book. The book Viper Pilot: A Memoir of Air Combat it is quite good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book possesses high quality.

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