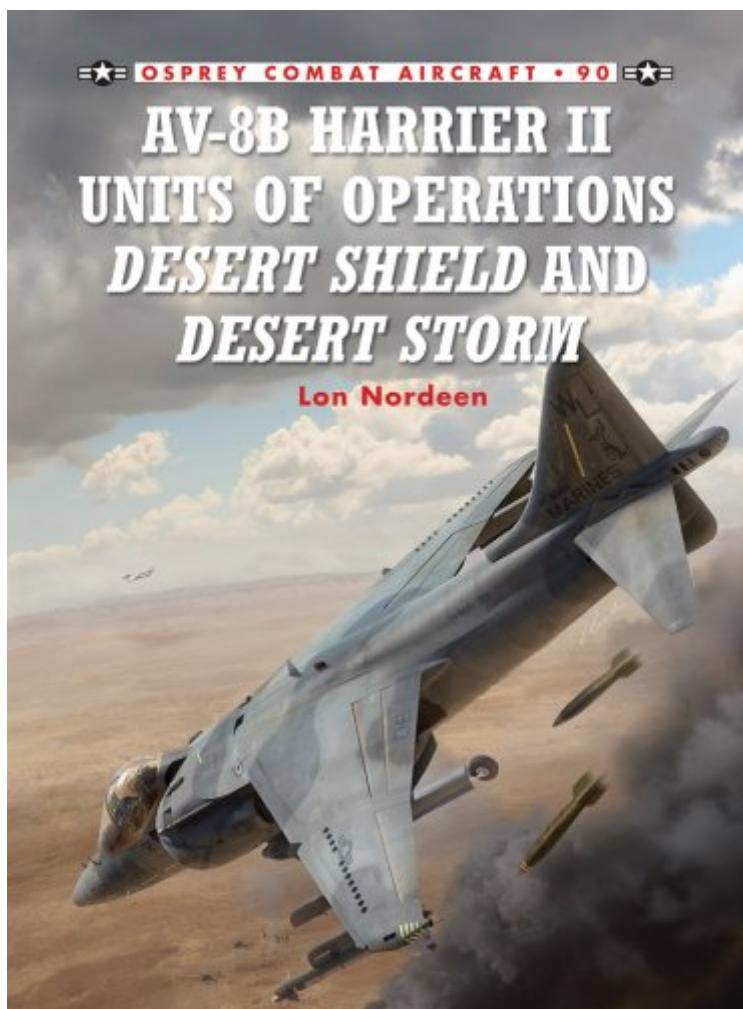


The book was found

AV-8B Harrier II Units Of Operations Desert Shield And Desert Storm (Combat Aircraft)



Synopsis

The AV-8B is the only tactical aircraft that can deploy with Marine forces on amphibious assault ships and provide air cover and close air support separate from large deck aircraft carriers. When Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, a coalition of nations launched Operation Desert Shield in order to defend Saudi Arabia, and the Harrier II was among the first tactical air assets to be deployed to the region. During Operation Desert Storm, the five units flying the AV-8B in-theatre became some of the top tactical squadrons of choice by air mission planners because of the pilots' skill as well as the plane's vertical take-off ability. The previously untold story of the AV-8B in this conflict is vividly brought to life by the author through first-hand accounts and period photography sourced from those that were there and official archives. This will be the first of three volumes on USMC Harrier IIs in combat, with follow-on titles covering the jet's operations in Iraq in 2003â "08 and Afghanistan in 2001â "2009.

Book Information

File Size: 18859 KB

Print Length: 96 pages

Publisher: Osprey Publishing; 1 edition (December 20, 2012)

Publication Date: December 20, 2012

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01DPPTM2S

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #631,472 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #26 inÂ Books > History > Middle East > Kuwait #49 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > Military History > Operation Desert Storm #130 inÂ Books > History > Military > United States > Operation Desert Storm

Customer Reviews

AV-8B Harrier II Units of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 came as a surprise to many but the response was creation of a coalition of nations

which sent military forces into the region to deter further aggression. Following the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, Iran-Iraq War and naval conflict in the Arabian Gulf, US defense planners had created the Central Command and prepared for operations in the Middle East. The Marine Corps, US Navy and other US forces had trained to deploy to the region to meet contingencies and prepositioned ships were located close to the battle zone with Marine Corps weapons and equipment. Marine Corps aviation forces were among the first to deploy to the region to help halt Iraqi aggression and included several AV-8B Harrier II squadrons. The Marine Corps has long been a proponent of tight air-ground teamwork and the AV-8B Harrier II was designed to provide close air support for the front line Marines. Due to its unique V/STOL operational characteristics, more than three AV-8B squadrons operated from King Abdul Aziz Naval air station, an austere airfield in northern Saudi Arabia which was the closest to the battle zone. Another squadron and a third of AV-8Bs flew from the assault ships USS Nassau and USS Tarawa to support the option of an amphibious attack into Kuwait or Iraq. I was honored to deploy to the region to support Operation Desert Shield as the Deputy Commander, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. From this position I saw firsthand the significant contribution made by the AV-8B squadrons to the military success of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

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