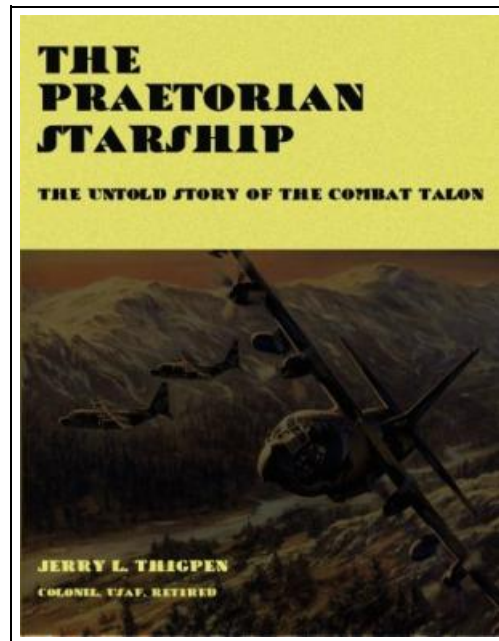


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THE PRAETORIAN STARSHIP - THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE COMBAT TALON



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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. 522 pages. Dimensions: 10.9in. x 8.3in. x 1.4in.FROM THE FORWARD: As a young lieutenant flying tactical C-130s at Langley Air Force Base (AFB), Virginia, in the spring of 1967, I heard one Friday night in the Officers Club that Tactical Air Command (our parent command) was looking for four C-130 copilots to transfer to Pope AFB, North Carolina, for training in a Top Secret C-130 squadron designated Combat Knife. That had to be more exciting than hauling trash, I thought. The following Monday I volunteered, and within a few months I was on my way to Pope AFB. This led to an exciting Air Force career flying the most versatile C-130 ever producedthe Combat Talon. Jerry Thigpens study on the history of the Combat Talon is the first effort to tell the story of this wonderfully capable machine. This weapons system has performed virtually every imaginable tactical event in the spectrum of conflict and by any measure is the most versatile C-130 derivative ever produced. First modified and sent to Southeast Asia (SEA) in 1966 to replace theater unconventional warfare (UW) assets that were limited in both lift capability and speed, the Talon I quickly adapted to theater UW tasking, including infiltration and resupply and psychological warfare operations into North Vietnam. After spending four years in SEA and maturing into a highly respected UW weapons system, the Joint Chief of Staff (JCS) chose the Combat Talon to lead the night, low-level raid on the North Vietnamese prison camp at Son Tay. Despite the outcome of the operation, the Talon I cemented its reputation as the weapons system of choice for long-range, clandestine operations. In the period following the...



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