



Transforming Joint Air Power The Journal of the JAPCC



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The JAPCC Interview
with Lieutenant General
Alexander Schnitger
Commander of the
Royal Netherlands Air Force

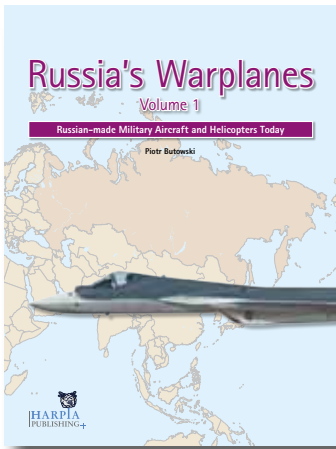
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How NATO Makes
the Unknown Known
A Look at the
Improvements to NATO
Joint ISR

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What's Past is Prologue
Why the Golden Age
of Rapid Air Superiority
Is at an End

‘Russia’s Airplanes – Volume 1’



By Piotr Butowski, Houston, TX,
Harpia Publishing L.L.C., 2015

Reviewed by:

Lt Col Ralf Korus, DEU A, JAPCC

Recent geopolitical developments at NATO's Eastern and South-Eastern flanks, not least Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula as well as its military intervention in Syria, led to the resurgence of Western analysts' interest in Russia's current military capabilities. Amongst these capabilities the Russian Federation's Air Force plays an important role. Since 2008, it has been significantly modernized with increasing budgets that had become available due to Russia's booming oil and gas exports.

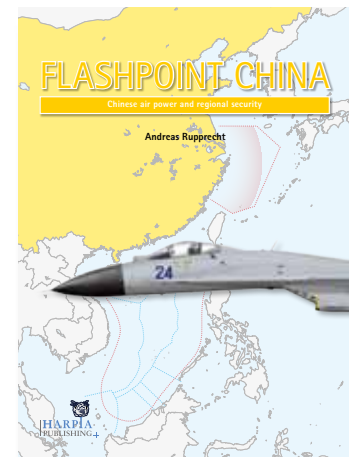
Piotr Butowski is a well-known expert who has outstanding connections within the Russian aerospace industry. In 'Russia's Airplanes – Volume 1', the author presents a complete overview of Russia's military aircraft inventory, encompassing tactical combat aircraft, attack, and transport helicopters, reconnaissance, and surveillance aircraft and special mission aircraft. Divided into four chapters, the book details the history and status of current Russian aircraft as well as the development of their prospective generations. Despite the fact Russia's currently declining economy will impact the sustainment of such ambitious military modernization efforts, with some of the described projects being cancelled or delayed, the value of this book cannot be disputed. It is an excellent overview of all current and future likely types of Russian military aircraft including their features. The book is not only directed at military analysts and subject matter experts but is valuable for anyone interested in Russian airplanes. ●

‘Flashpoint China – Chinese Air Power and Regional Security’

'Flashpoint China – Chinese Air Power and Regional Security' offers an overview of potential military conflicts along the borders of the People's Republic of China. In contrast to most other publications which merely list current equipment and new acquisitions of the Chinese military, this book provides a short historic introduction of each of the regional 'powder kegs' in question to help the reader understand when, where and why the People's Republic of China decided to wage military conflicts in the past. The book further summarizes the Chinese Air Power related orders of battle in the relevant geographical areas.

The book is divided into chapters according to the Chinese regional Theatre Commands with dedicated sections for every adjacent country in the respective region. Thus, providing the historical and current geopolitical background as well as an assessment of the Chinese capabilities and intentions in that area. The respective chapters further provide imagery and figures of the region's military aircraft, political maps with the locations of Chinese Air Force and Navy bases and the regional countries' Air Defence Interdiction Zones as well as satellite imagery of the disputed islands in the South China Sea.

Although the book contains only 80 pages, the author managed to distil the very essence of the relevant information and to provide a comprehensive overview of Chinese Air Power and Regional Security such as stated in the book's title. A very good and digestible read to gain insight and understanding of the complex political and military situation regarding the Chinese sphere of influence and interest. ●



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