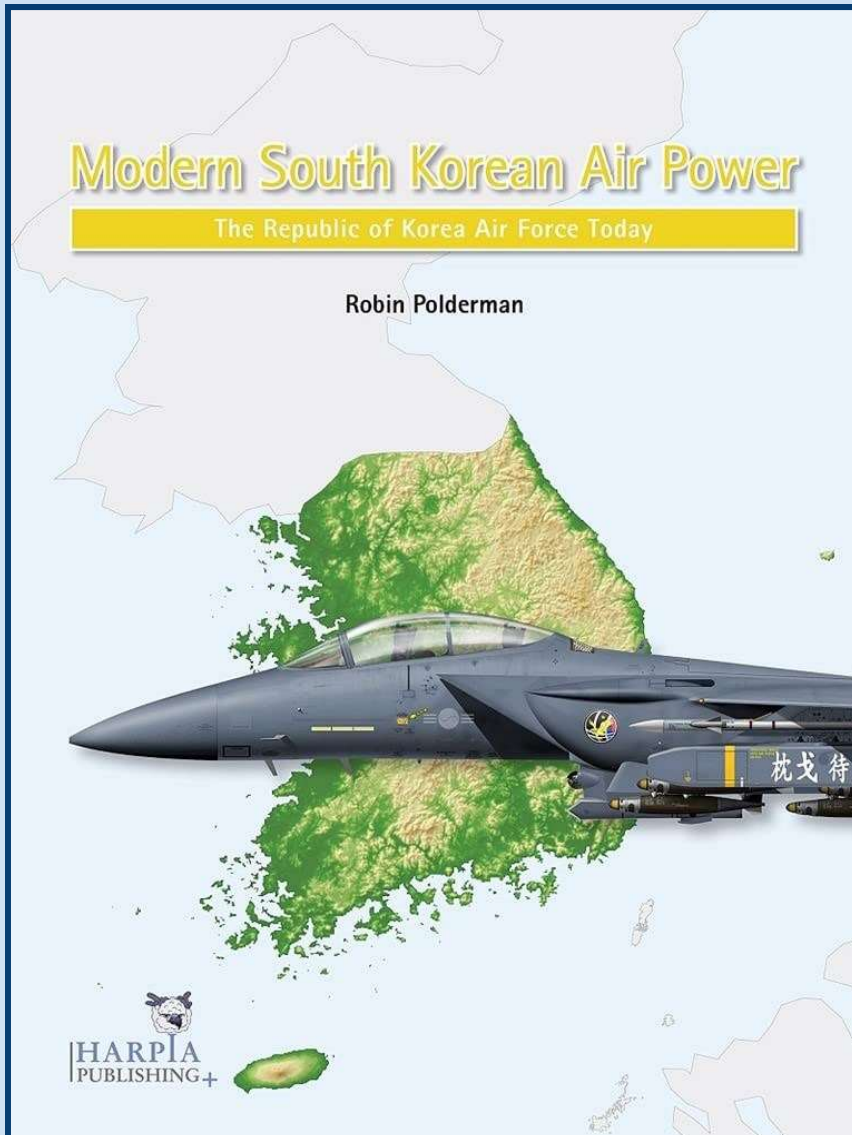


Modern South Korean Air Power by Robin Polderman



This is one of the most recent books in the ongoing series of publications from Harpia on the organisation and aircraft of a number of modern air arms.. Regular readers of this newsletter will have read several earlier reviews from this series.

So what do we find in this volume, is it very different to what we have seen before? The simple answer to that question is no, not really, with chapters covering the history, markings, weaponry, and perhaps more relevant to these times, a chapter on the nature of the relationship between South Korea and its neighbours, friends as well as those with whom relationships are not so friendly. The thirty plus pages of this part of the book, while not an exhaustive study of the geopolitics of this part of Asia, provide a concise and informative background to the more significant regional relationships, and could generate useful pointers to further areas of study for any interested readers.

What really made this book stand out for me, however, was that not only did it pique my interest in a major Asian air arm, but it seriously appealed to me as a modeller of Asian aircraft.

First and foremost, the Air Force of the Republic of South Korea is a major Asian ally of the United States and as such has primarily made use of American built aircraft, and, despite the evolution of a domestic aircraft industry, that remains true with the recent addition of the F35 Lightning II. This means that the vast majority of its inventory are available in model form in most of the major scales. A little bit of research on the net will quickly show what kits are on the market in whichever scale you build. Similarly, there are a number of decal sheets to be found which would enable you to build any one of your favoured machines.

As a further aid to the modeller, the book, as with all of this series, is lavishly illustrated with great photos drawn from a variety of sources. They are extremely

useful for anyone who decides to produce a model of any of the current South Korean aircraft.

In summary, what we have here is a book which delivers on two levels. Firstly it will be of interest to those of you with a straight-forward interest in the growth, current outlook and possible future challenges to this well equipped, modern air arm. At the same time, it provides a stimulus to those of us interested in modelling the aircraft of an interesting air arm using aircraft familiar to so many people but being used in what for some may be unfamiliar markings.

Perhaps not surprisingly I highly recommend this book to all and anyone with interest in this air force, students and modellers alike,now where is my Academy ROKAF F-4D?

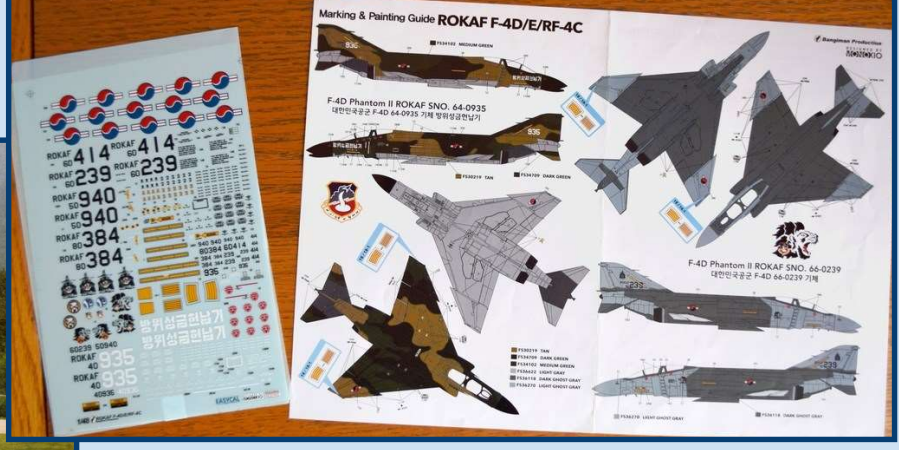
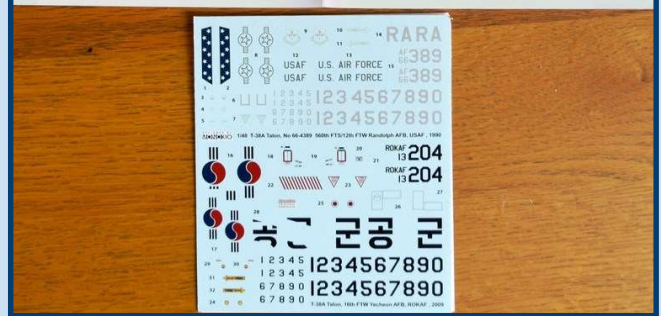
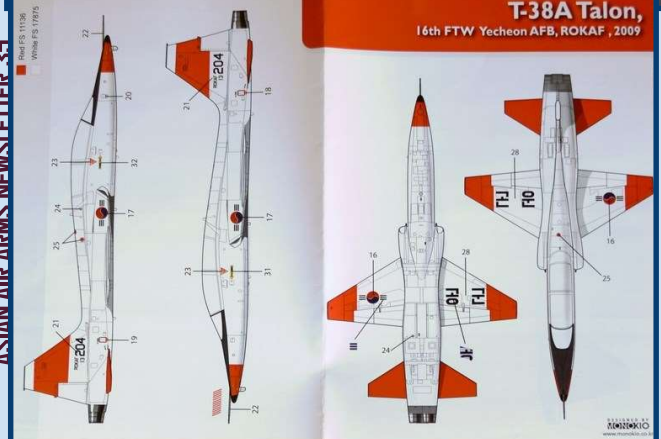
David Thomas, January 2023

Ed: What follows is a selection of images taken from the book, along with photos that David has kindly provided of some models from his own collection, both built and unbuilt, as well as some decal sheets covering RoKAF subjects.





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