



Transforming Joint Air Power The Journal of the JAPCC



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**NATO Air Power –
The Last Word**

By General (ret.)
Frank Gorenc, USAF

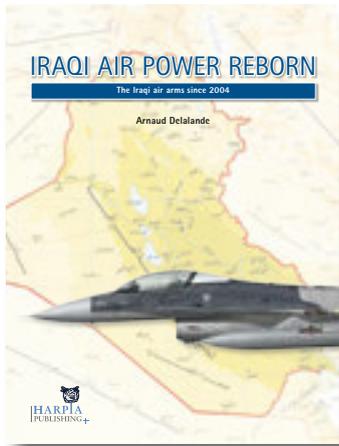
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**A400M –
Europe's Interoperability
Poster Child?**

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**Defending NATO
Aviation Capabilities
Against Cyber Attack**

‘Iraqi Air Power Reborn – The Iraqi Air Arms Since 2004’



By **Arnaud Delalande**,
Houston, TX,
Harpia Publishing L.L.C., 2016

Reviewed by:
Lt Col Ralf Korus, DEU A, JAPCC

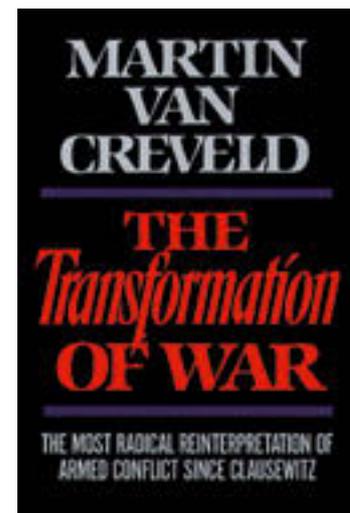
‘Iraqi Air Power Reborn – The Iraqi Air Arms Since 2004’ describes the evolution of the Iraqi Air Force (IQAF) from its early start as Royal Iraqi Air Force, in 1931, until now. This development is paralleled by the overall Middle East history, in which Iraq was involved in wars against neighbouring states, Israel, and Kurds as well as against US-led alliances until the Hussein regime was toppled. Today, the IQAF as well as the whole Iraqi Army Aviation (IAA) are no longer involved in combatting neighbouring states but have to fight against domestic insurgency on behalf of an elected government. The book consists of five chapters starting with a short introduction about the ‘old’ air force and its involvement in the Arab-Israeli wars, the war against Iran, invasion of Kuwait and the following US led interventions. The subsequent chapters provide insights into the build-up of today’s air power capabilities, a description of present IQAF and IAA equipment, ongoing procurement, and eventually the current counter-insurgency and counter-terrorist operations inside the country. The book concludes with an overview of today’s IQAF/IAA order of battle to include confirmed recent attrition rates.

Within less than 80 pages, the book author manages to provide a solid summary of Iraqi air power evolution. Most interestingly, the story reveals how the new IQAF cooperates with various world powers including former opponents, especially in terms of arms procurement from the US, Russia and China to reduce dependency from only one supplier. This book is not only written for military analysts and subject matter experts but is valuable for anyone interested in air force history. ●

‘The Transformation of War’

Written in 1991 one could easily believe that the scenarios and tendencies discussed in this book would be obsolete by now. However, ‘The Transformation of War’ discusses different reasons for the resurgence of low intensity conflicts, and many of those reasons still ring true today. The book starts boldly by stating that contemporary strategic thought around the fundamental questions of warring is imperfect, as future conflicts would no longer be inter-state wars. As stated in the book’s subtitle it may be the most radical reinterpretation of armed conflict since Clausewitz. Van Creveld supports his argument by debating the subject of war throughout the seven chapters of the book, addressing what war is all about, by whom it is fought, how, and why, before he shares his thoughts on future forms of warfare. Van Creveld forcefully argues that future conflicts will not necessarily be fought between states, and also claims that technology and military superiority do not guarantee victory in these conflicts.

Even though the book was written 25 years ago it continues to be thought provoking. Looking at the conflicts that occurred during the recent decades, one could hardly argue van Creveld’s assumption that future conflicts will mainly occur between state and non-state actors was wrong. Those having interest in the impact of technology on warfare, the emerging trend of globalization, or strategy in general should read this book and consider its implications for anticipating conflicts yet to come. ●



By **Martin van Creveld**,
Free Press/Simon & Schuster
Publishing (1991)

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