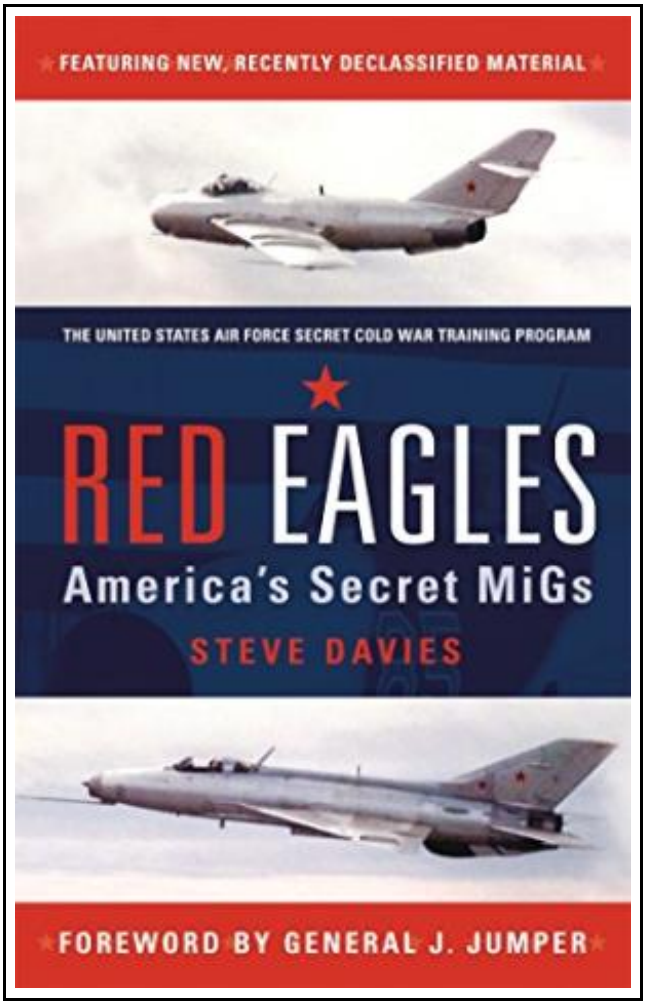
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RED EAGLES: AMERICAS SECRET MIGS

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Osprey Publishing. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 416 pages. Dimensions: 9.3in. x 6.4in. x 1.5in.When two Navy F-14 Tomcats engaged and shot down two Sukhoi Su-22 jet fighters in 1981, they drew on experience and tactics that they had learned from a previous encounter with MiG jet fighters. The difference between the two encounters was that in the first, the enemy fighters were flown by American pilots assigned to a top secret squadron hidden at a remote airfield in the ultra-secret Tonopah Nuclear Test range, Nevada. In the second, the Sukhoi fighters were flown by Libyan pilots attempting to enforce Colonel Qadaffis Line of Death over the Gulf of Sidra. From the mid-1960s until the end of the Cold War, the United States Air Force acquired and flew Russian-made MiG jets, eventually creating a secret squadron dedicated to exposing American fighter pilots to enemy MiGs. Following underperformance in the Vietnam War, the USAF began to study MiGs in order to improve fighter pilot training. This then developed into the black Constant Peg program. In this program, MiGs were secretly acquired, and made airworthy, a difficult task without manuals or parts. A secret base was found to operate the planes from; and then ace pilots were found and trained to not only fly the assets, but fly them as they were flown by Americas enemies. Finally, a program of exposing American fighter pilots to the MiGs was developed. In all, more than 1, 600 American fighter pilots would train against Americas secret MiGs between 1974 and 1989. Uncovering the story of the secret MiGs in America during the Cold War, and specifically Constant Peg and the 4477th Test and Evaluation Squadron, is a challenge because much of the information has been destroyed, or remains classified. To piece together the story of...

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