

The Century Series

The USAF Quest for Air Supremacy

This is the history of fighter aircraft that transitioned the United States Air Force into the supersonic era. By 1952 fighter designations that started with the Curtiss P-1 in 1923 reached the century mark with North American Aviation's F-100—thus the term Century Series. This occurred at the very point where operational fighters could exceed the speed of sound.

The useful lives of the six century series aircraft that saw operational service were long and varied—one performing its military role almost fifty years after its prototype first took to the air. Even today, more than a half-century later, current production fighters barely surpass the speeds and altitudes at which some of these aircraft flew. This book chronicles the development of each of these fighters and the different models.

The Century Series story is also one that moves past their initial operational period and into the war in Vietnam. This book includes first-hand accounts by men who flew intercept missions in the F-102 and F-106; reconnaissance in the F-101, Wild Weasel F-100 sorties, and F-105 bombing runs in Southeast Asia. Experience the tension of a night refueling in an F-100 or the exhilaration of strapping on an F-104 for a flight beyond Mach 2. This is their story; a chronicle of the men, machines, and ideas that set the standard for a half-century of fighter development—a must read for aviation enthusiasts.

Ted Spitzmiller is a noted author and life-long aerospace historian and pilot. He holds an FAA commercial pilot certificate and has been a Flight Instructor for over 40 years. Ted is active with the Civil Air Patrol and resides in Rio Rancho with his wife Donna. Email ted_spitzmiller@hotmail.com to obtain a signed copy.

