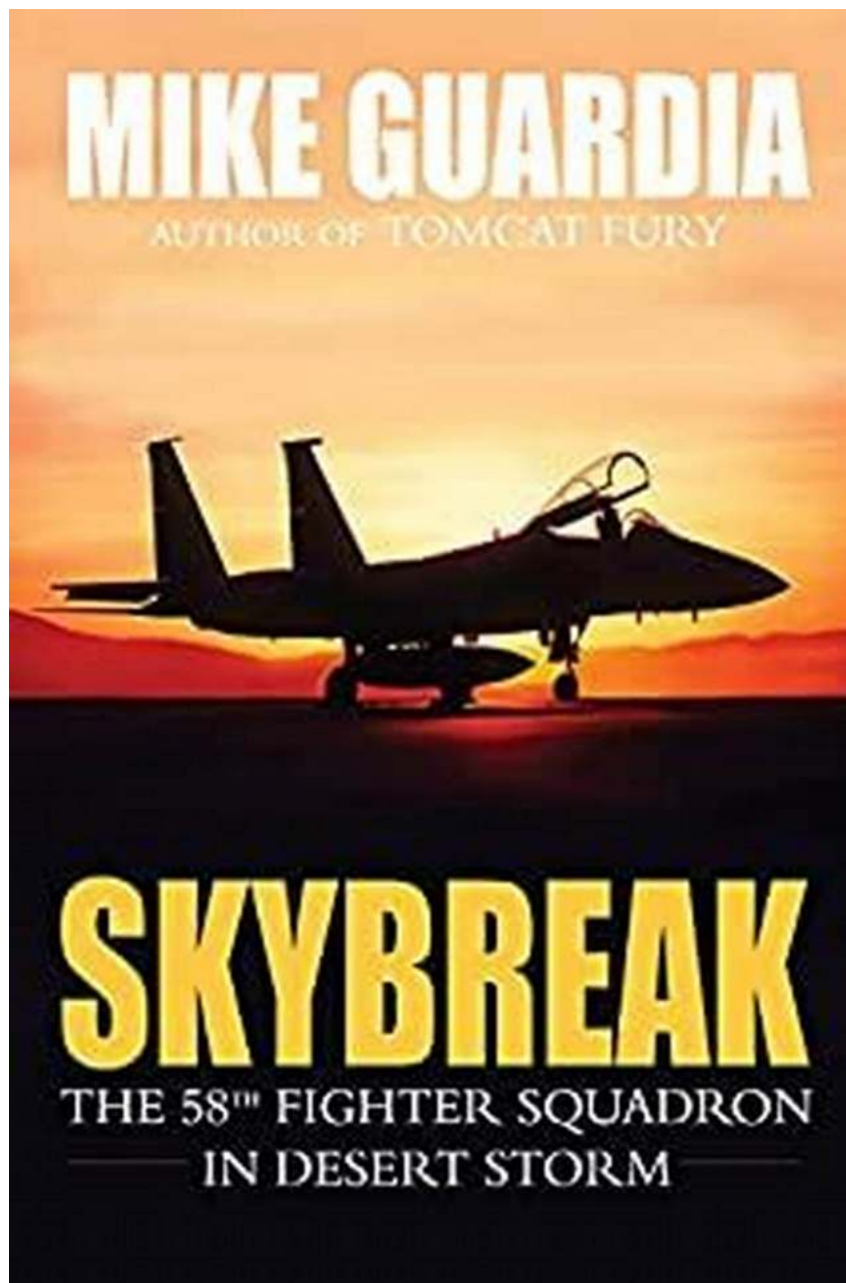


# The Untold Story of Skybreak: The 58th Fighter Squadron in Desert Storm

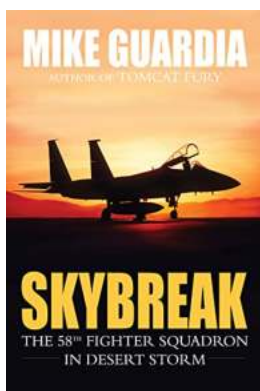


Desert Storm, one of the most iconic military operations in modern history, saw the sky ablaze with fighter jets, as nations came together to reclaim Kuwait from Iraqi forces. Among the numerous squadrons that played a crucial role, the 58th Fighter Squadron, nicknamed Skybreak, stood out for their extraordinary valor

and unwavering dedication. In this article, we delve deep into the untold story of Skybreak's heroism and their pivotal contribution during Desert Storm.

## The Birth of Skybreak

The 58th Fighter Squadron, known as Skybreak, was established in 1941 as a part of the U.S. Air Force. Initially formed to defend the United States against potential threats, the squadron went through various transformations over the years. By the time Desert Storm approached, Skybreak had become an elite force of highly skilled pilots and technicians.



## Skybreak: The 58th Fighter Squadron in Desert Storm

by Mike Guardia (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 9623 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 235 pages
Lending	: Enabled



## Preparation for Desert Storm

In the days leading up to Desert Storm, Skybreak was tasked with preparing their A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft, commonly known as the "Warthog." These aircraft were renowned for their ability to engage targets on the ground with deadly precision and offer close air support to ground forces. The members of Skybreak underwent rigorous training exercises and mock combat scenarios to ensure they were battle-ready.

## **The Start of Desert Storm**

As the storm kicked off on January 17, 1991, Skybreak was among the first squadrons to be deployed to the Persian Gulf region. They were stationed in Saudi Arabia, ready to support ground forces and engage enemy targets in the Iraqi-occupied territories.

## **Valor in the Skies**

Throughout Desert Storm, Skybreak operated relentlessly to establish air superiority. Their missions involved conducting combat air patrols, close air support, and antitank missions. Engaging in fierce dogfights with Iraqi aircraft, the pilots of Skybreak quickly gained a reputation for their exceptional skills and courage under fire.

## **Rescue Missions and Humanitarian Efforts**

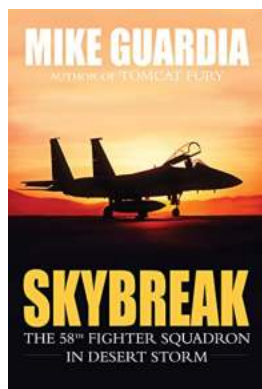
Aside from their combat duties, Skybreak also played a crucial role in rescue operations and humanitarian efforts. They performed search and rescue missions, recovering downed pilots from hostile territories, and dropping essential supplies to stranded civilians. These daring rescue missions demonstrated Skybreak's commitment to both their fellow servicemen and innocent civilians caught in the conflict.

## **The Aftermath**

Desert Storm marked a turning point in the history of warfare, and Skybreak's contribution was instrumental in achieving victory. The squadron successfully destroyed numerous enemy positions and facilities and provided indispensable air support to ground troops. Their efforts significantly weakened the Iraqi forces and set the stage for a swift coalition victory.

Although the war officially ended in February 1991, Skybreak's legacy lives on. They continue to play a crucial role in defending the United States, participating in subsequent military operations worldwide.

Skybreak, the 58th Fighter Squadron, etched its name in history as one of the most distinguished fighter squadrons of Desert Storm. Their unwavering bravery, exceptional skills, and dedication to their mission set them apart from the rest. Today, they serve as an inspiration to future generations of airmen, embodying the true spirit of heroism and sacrifice.



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The top MiG-killers of Operation Desert Storm.

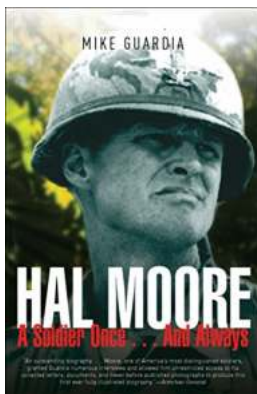
August 1990: Iraqi forces under the command of Saddam Hussein invaded the tiny emirate of Kuwait. Within hours, the Kuwaiti defenses collapsed under the onslaught of the Iraqi Army. In response, the US military led a coalition of thirty-four nations in what became known as Operation Desert Storm—a violent air and ground campaign to eject the Iraqis from Kuwait. At the tip of the spear were the men of the US Air Force's 58th Fighter Squadron.

Mounted aboard their F-15C fighter jets, these young aviators took to the sky against the Iraqi Air Force. Although confident in their capabilities, these untested American pilots were flying into combat against the latest-and-greatest of Soviet-built aircraft – including the MiG-29 ‘Fulcrum.’

Despite the odds, however, the men of the 58th Fighter Squadron decimated the Iraqi Air Force in one engagement after another. On the first day of the air war (January 17, 1991), Captain Jon “JB” Kelk claimed the first aerial victory of Desert Storm, downing a MiG-29 in combat. In less than 30 days, the 58th Fighter Squadron flew more than 1,600 combat sorties and destroyed 16 Iraqi aircraft – more than any other coalition air unit.

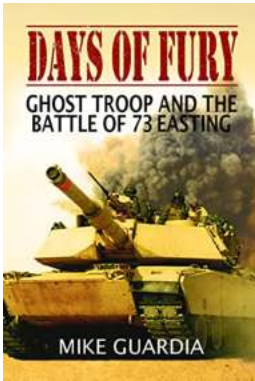
Based on hours of interviews and archival research by author Mike Guardia, this book reveals an intimate, no-holds-barred account of modern aerial combat...as told by the men who lived it.

Skybreak is their story.



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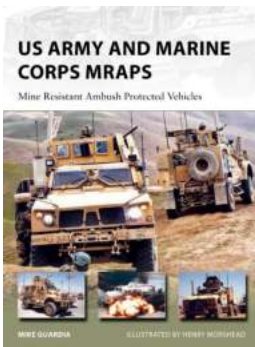
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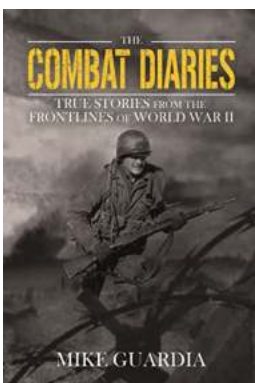
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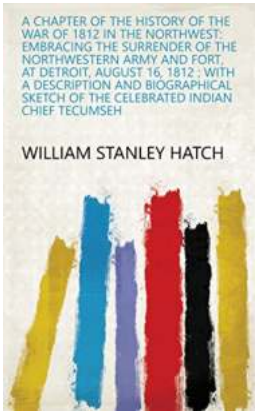
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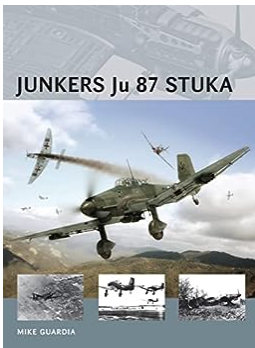
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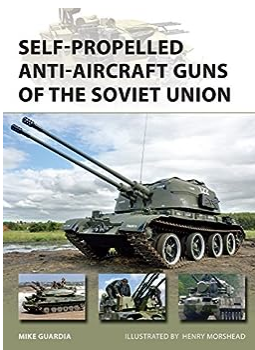
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