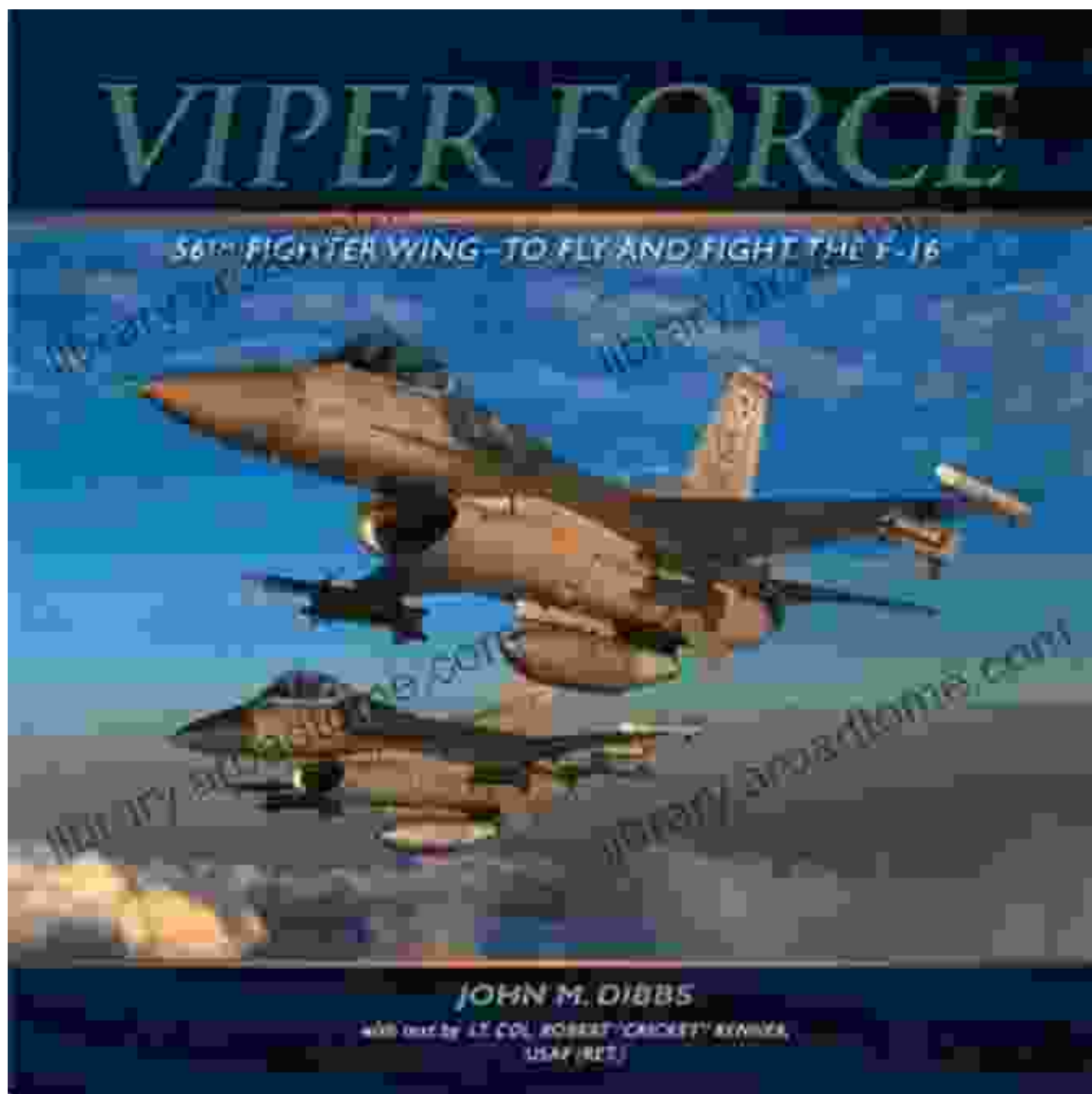


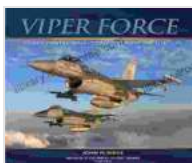
# 56th Fighter Wing To Fly And Fight The 16



## Overview

The 56th Fighter Wing is a United States Air Force unit stationed at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona. It is one of the most storied units in the USAF, and has flown and fought in every major conflict since World War II. The

56th Fighter Wing is currently flying the F-16 Fighting Falcon, and is preparing to transition to the F-35 Lightning II.



## Viper Force: 56th Fighter Wing--To Fly and Fight the F-16

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 45450 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 276 pages



### History

The 56th Fighter Wing was activated on January 15, 1941, at Selfridge Field in Michigan. It was originally equipped with P-40 Warhawks, and deployed to North Africa in 1942. The 56th Fighter Wing flew combat missions in support of the Allied invasion of Sicily and the Italian campaign. In 1944, the wing was transferred to the Pacific Theater, where it flew combat missions in support of the Allied invasion of the Philippines. The 56th Fighter Wing remained in the Pacific until the end of World War II, when it was inactivated.

The 56th Fighter Wing was reactivated in 1947, and was assigned to Luke Air Force Base in Arizona. The wing was equipped with F-84 Thunderjets, and later F-100 Super Sabres. In 1965, the 56th Fighter Wing was deployed to South Vietnam, where it flew combat missions in support of the Vietnam War. The wing remained in Vietnam until 1973, when it was

withdrawn as part of the American drawdown. After the Vietnam War, the 56th Fighter Wing returned to Luke Air Force Base, where it continued to fly F-100 Super Sabres. In 1980, the wing began to transition to the F-16 Fighting Falcon, which is still its primary aircraft today.

## **The F-16 Fighting Falcon**

The F-16 Fighting Falcon is a single-engine, supersonic multirole fighter aircraft. It was developed by General Dynamics (now Lockheed Martin) in the late 1970s, and entered service with the United States Air Force in 1979. The F-16 is a highly maneuverable and versatile aircraft, and has been used in a variety of roles, including air-to-air combat, ground attack, and reconnaissance. The F-16 has been exported to over 25 countries, and is one of the most widely used fighter aircraft in the world.

## **The F-35 Lightning II**

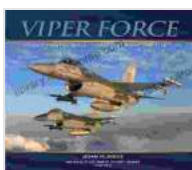
The F-35 Lightning II is a fifth-generation, single-engine, single-seat, all-weather stealth multirole fighter aircraft. It was developed by Lockheed Martin, and is intended to replace the F-16 Fighting Falcon and the F/A-18 Hornet. The F-35 is a highly advanced aircraft, and features a number of new technologies, including advanced avionics, sensor fusion, and stealth capabilities. The F-35 is expected to enter service with the United States Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps in the coming years.

## **The Future**

The 56th Fighter Wing is currently preparing to transition to the F-35 Lightning II. The wing is expected to receive its first F-35s in 2023, and will complete its transition to the new aircraft by 2025. The F-35 is a significant upgrade over the F-16, and will provide the 56th Fighter Wing with a

number of new capabilities. The F-35 is more stealthy, has more advanced sensors, and is more powerful than the F-16. This will make the 56th Fighter Wing even more effective in combat.

The 56th Fighter Wing is a storied unit with a long and distinguished history. It has flown and fought in every major conflict since World War II, and is one of the most respected units in the United States Air Force. The wing is currently flying the F-16 Fighting Falcon, and is preparing to transition to the F-35 Lightning II. The F-35 is a significant upgrade over the F-16, and will provide the 56th Fighter Wing with a number of new capabilities. This will make the 56th Fighter Wing even more effective in combat, and will ensure that it remains one of the most elite units in the USAF.



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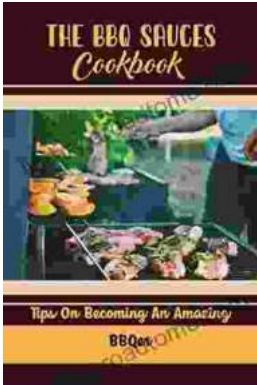
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