

“This book is the definitive work on the subject because it is produced by the NTA members themselves!!”

it...”. It’s that quiet pride one feels in knowing we’re part of something special. It’s “the buzz” in the air around a Tiger Gathering. It’s that feeling of professional accomplishment and not wanting to let fellow tigers down. It’s friendship nurtured by social intercourse. It’s “strutting our stuff”. Our Meets fairly ooze Tiger Spirit which infects all who come in contact, and the book will be conveying that feeling.

As you’ll see, the object of our annual Tiger Meets is to further the mutual understanding of roles, aircraft, and operational procedures both on the ground and in the air by communal, professional and social liaison. To this end the NTA has gone from strength to strength since 1961 when those three “founder squadrons” first met.



Surely we’ve also had our “low years”; for different reasons a few times in our history we were almost out of business. The book also alludes to those troubles.

The upcoming book will be the definitive work on the subject. It will appeal to everyone: current tigers, old tigers, their families and friends, aviation buffs, scale modelers, military historians, and anyone with unlimited imaginations and a love of worthy endeavors.

This 400 page, limited edition, hard back book, will be published in Spring 2011. It will retail for between 40 and 50 Euros. Information on where to purchase (several airshows in 2011 and through your local Tiger Squadron) or how to order online will be entered on our NTA website. To insure you’ll get a copy, pre-orders will also be possible from mid- 2010 on.

“Join us in this ongoing modern adventure as we share an insider’s view of this unique group of airmen.”



Financial partners and sponsors for this project are most welcome! Contact the production team at nta50@natotigers.org for full information on our attractive sponsor packages.

For more information on the NATO Tiger Association, its squadrons, and the annual NATO Tiger Meet, please visit our official website: www.natotigers.org

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*Working title

COMING OUT SOON

a new book celebrating the first 50 years of the



NATO TIGER ASSOCIATION

1961 - 2011

50 YEARS NATO TIGERS 1961 - 2011 LIMITED EDITION ANNIVERSARY BOOK

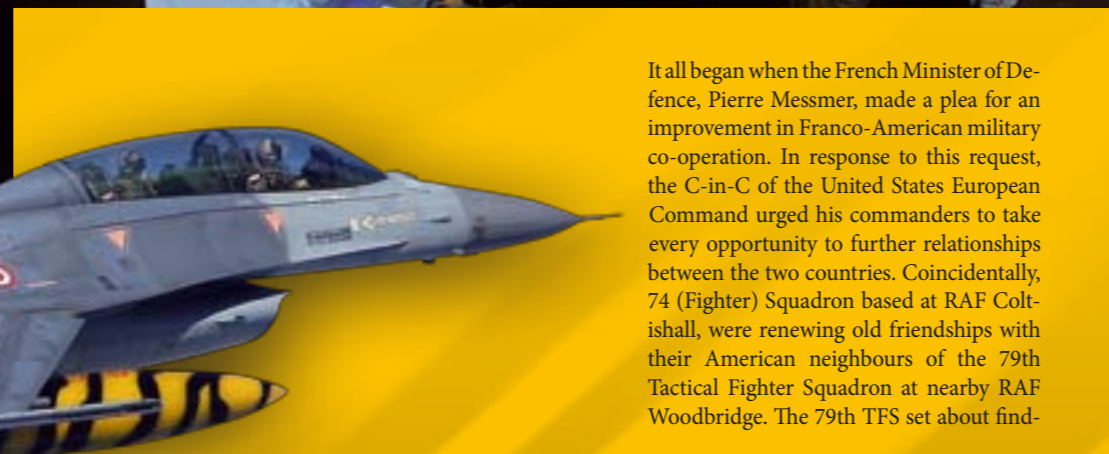
Fifty years of the NATO Tigers, you could be forgiven if you asked "What has NOT been written over the years about this famous group?" In our research the production team has come across material from several squadron archives and newsletters, countless magazine articles, original Tiger Meet guides, previously written memoirs, and numbers of internet sites. We have also spent years collecting fresh material. Therefore, the answer to the question is still, surprisingly, "plenty" ... In fact the stories are endless, but have nevertheless been hard to collect!

Within the book you'll find expanded histories of the annual meets; some famous mini-meets; profiles of all tiger squadrons; previously unpublished photos; stories from crewmembers who were there; reminiscences of our founding leaders and Tiger Generals; our relationship with the Royal International Air Tattoo; pics of our memorabilia; today's NTM mission scenarios; the Tiger Meet Of The Americas - our little brother, and inside glimpses of our



Meets. A big highlight, you'll agree, is a superb brand new collection of drawings and photos of almost all specially painted Tiger aircraft.

The team will also give our readers a sense of this oft-mentioned "Tiger Spirit". In all the years of the NTA, the question has been asked many times "What is Tiger Spirit?". We all know what the dictionary says, but we always say "for us it's hard to define, but you'll know it when you see



It all began when the French Minister of Defence, Pierre Messmer, made a plea for an improvement in Franco-American military co-operation. In response to this request, the C-in-C of the United States European Command urged his commanders to take every opportunity to further relationships between the two countries. Coincidentally, 74 (Fighter) Squadron based at RAF Coltishall, were renewing old friendships with their American neighbours of the 79th Tactical Fighter Squadron at nearby RAF Woodbridge. The 79th TFS set about find-

NATO TIGERS AIMS AND ORIGIN

In its relatively brief history, military aviation has spawned a considerable number of interesting and colourful institutions or associations, primarily to help in the promotion of interoperability, co-operation and morale amongst like minded aviators. For many involved in military aviation few of these institutions can compete with the NATO Tiger Association in demonstrating the capability and character of those unique individuals who defend their nation's skies.



ing a common theme that would link fighter units of the three nations' air forces and discovered that the Escadron de Chasse 1/12 of the Armee de l'Air shared a tiger squadron emblem with the two UK based squadrons. In 1961 EC 1/12 were invited to Woodbridge, together with the 74(F) Squadron and the first Tiger Meet took place. The one day meet was deemed a great success and word spread quickly throughout NATO. The common Tiger theme was retained and during the second Tiger Meet, no fewer than eight Tiger Squadrons representing six NATO nations were in attendance. In 1963, the Tiger Meet moved to continental Europe for the first time, taking place at Kleine Brogel, Belgium.

**"The NTA dates back to 1961,
the year of the first meet"**



Since those early days the NATO Tiger Association has steadily grown in international esteem and the Tiger Meet has become a firmly established annual event which is famous amongst members of the Association, NATO, and military aviation enthusiasts around the world. Since the very first Tiger Meet, the main objectives of the NATO Tiger Association have been to promote co-operation between the air forces, create a better understanding of NATO military objectives, and to develop unit interoperability. The maintenance of strong personal ties between the members of each Tiger Squadron are equally important.



Today the NTA is as strong as ever. Our recent Meets have generally integrated an average of 15 squadrons flying some 300+ sorties with 50+ aircraft, around 250 aircrew and 400 ground crew. The dedication of all the members is not in doubt as evidenced by a particular meet's non-participants mostly citing operational conflicts as the reason for not attending. Today's Air Arms of all nations are committed to a much higher level of real world operations than 20-50 years ago. Multinational peacekeeping missions, combat deployments, and world-wide training detachments, coupled with the ever-present pressure on military budgets and personnel, have not reduced the need for joint training. The annual Tiger Meet has proven itself, and is now firmly recognized, as an outstanding and cost-effective solution to fill this need.

**"Today's NTA counts 19 Full Members,
10 Honorary, 3 Probationary,
and 5 Disbanded"**

