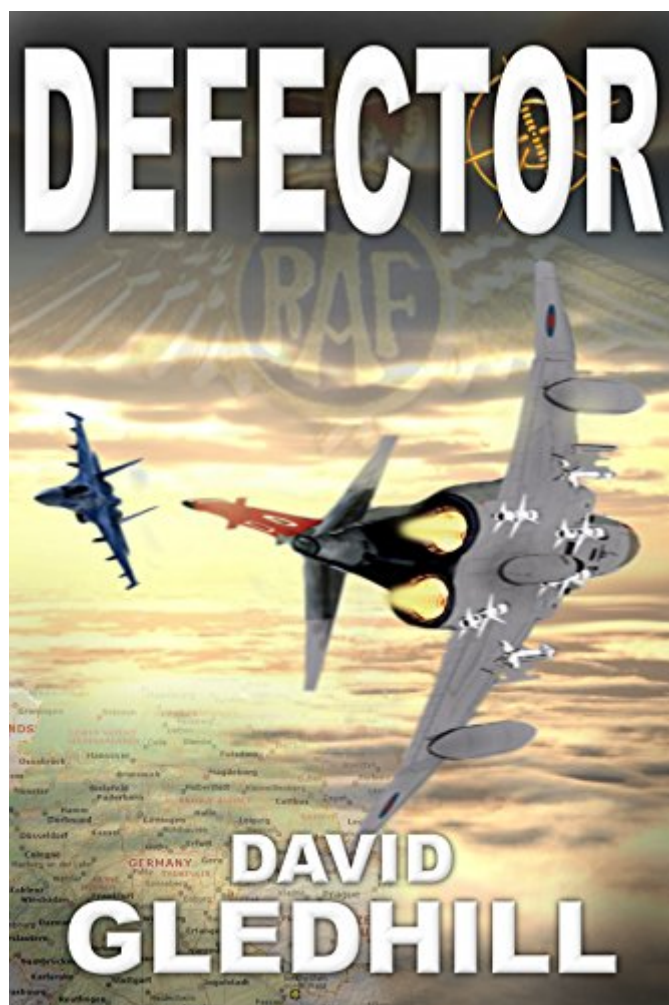


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Defector (Phantom Air Combat Book 1)



Synopsis

Defector (Historical Cold War fiction) Do you want to understand what it was like in the cockpit of the Phantom fighter during the Cold War in West Germany? Read on. Colonel Yuri Andrenev, a respected test pilot is trusted to evaluate the latest Soviet fighter, the Sukhoi Su27 Flanker, from a secret test facility near Moscow. Surely he is above suspicion? With thoughts of defection in his mind, and flying close to the Inner German Border, could he be tempted to make a daring escape across the most heavily defended airspace in the world? A flight test against a Mig fighter begins a sequence of events that forces his hand and after an unexpected air-to-air encounter he crosses the border with the help of British Phantom crews. How will Western Intelligence use this unexpected windfall? Are Soviet efforts to recover the advanced fighter as devious as they seem or could more sinister motives be in play? Defector is a pacy thriller which reflects the intrigue of The Cold War. It takes you into the cockpit of the Phantom fighter jet with the realism that can only come from an author who has flown operationally in the NATO Central Region. Scroll up now and Add to your cart.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've just discovered this author. I see from some of the reviews that several readers have complained about "too much flying minutia" or "takes too long to get to the story." Well, there's obviously no pleasing everyone, is there. Get over it. This NOT a Smash-Bang-Wallop-Zap!!!! "Gahhh! I can't get him off me!" "Pull up! Pull up!" Top Gun meets Transformers meets Jack Reacher type of book. There *is* most definitely a story and it is related in more real-world terms than the hyper-action style many books now find obligatory. What is truly exceptional is the ability of the author to put you in the cockpit of a Phantom... you can feel and smell and see what's going on. You truly get to be a participant in events. If aviation fiction is your thing and you feel you would prefer authenticity to artificial over-cranked 'drama,' then this would very probably be right up your alley. P.S. as it happens, I *like* to know when the flaps are engaged, and by how much...

My usual comment about aviation novels is that they contain too few details about the air mission. However, "Defector" is awash in minutia, a good bit of which adds little or nothing to the story. The reader must slog through a morass of details and acronyms before getting to the meat of the action. The basic plot is good, with an unusual twist in the last quarter of the book. But, the inclusion of so much trivia acts like a drag chute on the momentum of the story. Also, since most readers are unfamiliar with the area where the story takes place, a few maps would have been very helpful.

I have read many air combat/air war books by Stephen Coonts and Dale Brown plus other writers. By comparison this book is a very difficult read. Too many misspelled words, too many words that didn't make sense, plus many RAF terms I couldn't figure out. Some of this could be errors in transmission to my Kindle. Also, some of the scene transitions were difficult to sort out. Found myself going back to reread pages to sort things out. The actual flying and air combat portions are very good. The biggest disappointment or failing is in the ending. It is a total surprise, but not a Wow good one like O'Henry. It's more like.....WTF ! As if the last chapter belongs to another book. But there is very neat piece of poetic justice at the very end.

This is the sort of book that makes you want not to drop it until finished. A disgruntled Soviet pilot, high-ranking officer, decides to defect to the West. You will almost fly as a third crewmen in RAF Phantoms, feel the excitement in mock air combat exercises and then onto engagements with Soviet aircraft. It's gut wrenching following a damaged Phantom being flown by the pilot's fingertips as it is nursed back to a friendly air station West of the The Wall. The author, with many years of

experience as a frontline navigator in Phantoms stationed in RAF Germany, brings life back to those days when World War III was just round the corner. Fully recommended!

Gledhill's writing style is a bit confusing; put the book down and it takes some doing to recall the situation. Nonetheless, a decent read.

This book is well written, portraying the life of Phantom F-4E aircrews in Germany, as told through the fiction of a incident involving a Russian pilot defector. David tells the story while doing a great job explaining how a Phantom operates. Even more important to me, a former US Phantom pilot, he weaves in several flying scenarios, giving realistic details of air combat that brought back many memories of my time in Germany. This thriller would appeal to any fighter pilot or thrill-seeking fighter pilot wannabe. Readers of Tom Clancy or Richard Herman would also enjoy this.

Great book. It is nice to read a book written by someone who actually flew the aircraft. Even given the difference in terminology between the US and the RAF, the dialog and the story ring true. I have read all six of the books in this series and the author kept my attention through all of them.

Fair read

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