



# WITH THE VIETNAM WAR CAME A WHOLE NEW STYLE OF USAF CAMOUFLAGE. WE LOOK AT A FEW OF THE MANY TYPES OF AIRCRAFT PAINTED IN TACTICAL CAMOUFLAGE

## BY NORM TAYLOR



The venerable Gooney Bird fought long and hard during the Vietnam War. Douglas C-47B 44-76657 was photographed in Taiwan just after emerging from overhaul and repaint in tactical camouflage with black undersurfaces.



Douglas EC-47Q 43-30703 at Clark Air Base, Philippines, during September 1974. The EC Gooney Birds were fitted with a variety of electronic gear and their designations reflected their missions. Often flown at night, the slow moving aircraft were prime targets for enemy anti-aircraft weapons.

The drab and somewhat dreary colors of the new tactical camouflage looked distinctly out of place on sleek jets but seemed to be right at home on other types — such as the immortal Douglas Skyraider. Fully armed-up A-1H 139789 was photographed in tight formation with another 1st SOS, 6th SOW Skyraider when heading out on a mission over Vietnam during 1970. On 7 October 1970, Maj. John Williams was flying this aircraft on a strike mission over Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam, when the Wright R-3350 had a mechanical failure. The pilot activated his egress system but it did not work. He then attempted a forced landing near the A Shau Valley and was killed in the crash.



Like the Skyraider, the Douglas/OnMark A-26A Counter-Invader was a fearsome ground attack weapon. A-26A 64-17642 was photographed at Andrews AFB in June 1966, shortly after receiving a new coat of tactical camouflage. This aircraft was the third Counter-Invader built by OnMark. Created from A-26C USAAF 44-35435, this aircraft went on to be assigned to the 606th ACS, 56th ACW, at Nakhom Phanom. On 26 August 1967, it was being flown by commanding officer Lt. Col. Bruce Jensen and Capt. Francis Smiley on an armed night recon mission over Laos when plane and crew simply disappeared about 85-mi NW of Nakhom Phanom. Both men were eventually listed as KIA.



One of the most useful ECM aircraft of the Vietnam War was the Douglas EB-66E Destroyer and 54-0438 of the 388th TFW is pictured in flight wearing tactical camouflage. The aircraft last served with the 39th TEWS, 363rd TRW, before being flown to Davis-Monthan AFB for storage and eventually scrapping. **AC**



Even Stateside aircraft that did not serve in the Vietnam War received tactical camouflage as can be seen on Republic F-84F 51-1813 assigned to the 183rd TFG, Illinois ANG, and photographed at Springfield, Illinois, during February 1972. When built, the aircraft was originally assigned to the 366th Fighter-Bomber Wing and then went on to the 12th TFW and 15th TFW. It was then assigned to the 3600th Combat Crew Training Wing before going to the Georgia ANG's 158th FS and then the Ohio ANG's 164th FS before being assigned to the Illinois ANG. Note how the crew chief has affixed the boarding ladder to one of the drop tanks.

