

ONE HUNDRED STINGERS

A NOVEL OF THE AIR WAR OVER
THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL

PETER ADAMS YOUNG

SUMMARY

The so-called Ho Chi Minh Trail was the web of roads and trails that wound through the jungles of Laos, connecting the ports of North Vietnam with Communist fighting forces in the South.

Every night, the Trail came alive with troops and supply convoys—all heading for the battlefields of South Vietnam. The challenge of cutting off this steady flow of combatants and materiel pitted the technology of United States air power against the implacable resourcefulness of the North Vietnamese regime. The need to maintain the illusion of Laotian neutrality meant that this conflict was nominally conducted in secret.

This debut novel by a former US Navy bombardier relates the untold stories of heroism and sacrifice that unfolded during the clandestine war in the flak-filled skies of neutral Laos. It is the first of its kind to provide the warriors' perspectives of this little-known aspect of the US entanglement Vietnam War—a conflict that claimed the lives of hundreds of American airmen and tens of thousands of North Vietnamese.

One Hundred Stingers follows a young Navy flier as he experiences combat for the first time over the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos. Key locales move between life on a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, day and night combat missions over Laos, and a few rowdy shore leave breaks in the Philippines. Combat scenarios are not limited to the viewpoints of American fliers. Many scenes integrate the actions and perspectives of a diverse array of adversaries on the ground anti-aircraft gun and missile crews, truck drivers, "volunteer" female civilian road workers, and foreign military advisors.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter Adams Young is a native of Washington, DC. After graduating from the United States Naval Academy, he earned his wings as a Naval Flight Officer and trained as a bombardier/navigator in the US Navy A-6A Intruder all-weather attack aircraft. In the course of three Yankee Station combat deployments, he flew nearly one hundred combat missions over Laos and North Vietnam. He wrote the first chapter of *ONE HUNDRED STINGERS* in 1973.

Pete left the Navy in 1977 and began a career in the design and development of military command and control systems while working on his novel sporadically. Retirement in 2016 provided the opportunity to focus on completing *STINGERS*.

He and his wife Darlene have been married for forty-five years. They have two children and three grandchildren. After living in San Diego, California, and Portland, Oregon, they retired to Southwestern Washington state.

Pete remains active in various veterans' groups. He is currently writing the first of a series of contemporary murder mysteries set in and around Civil War battlefield

