



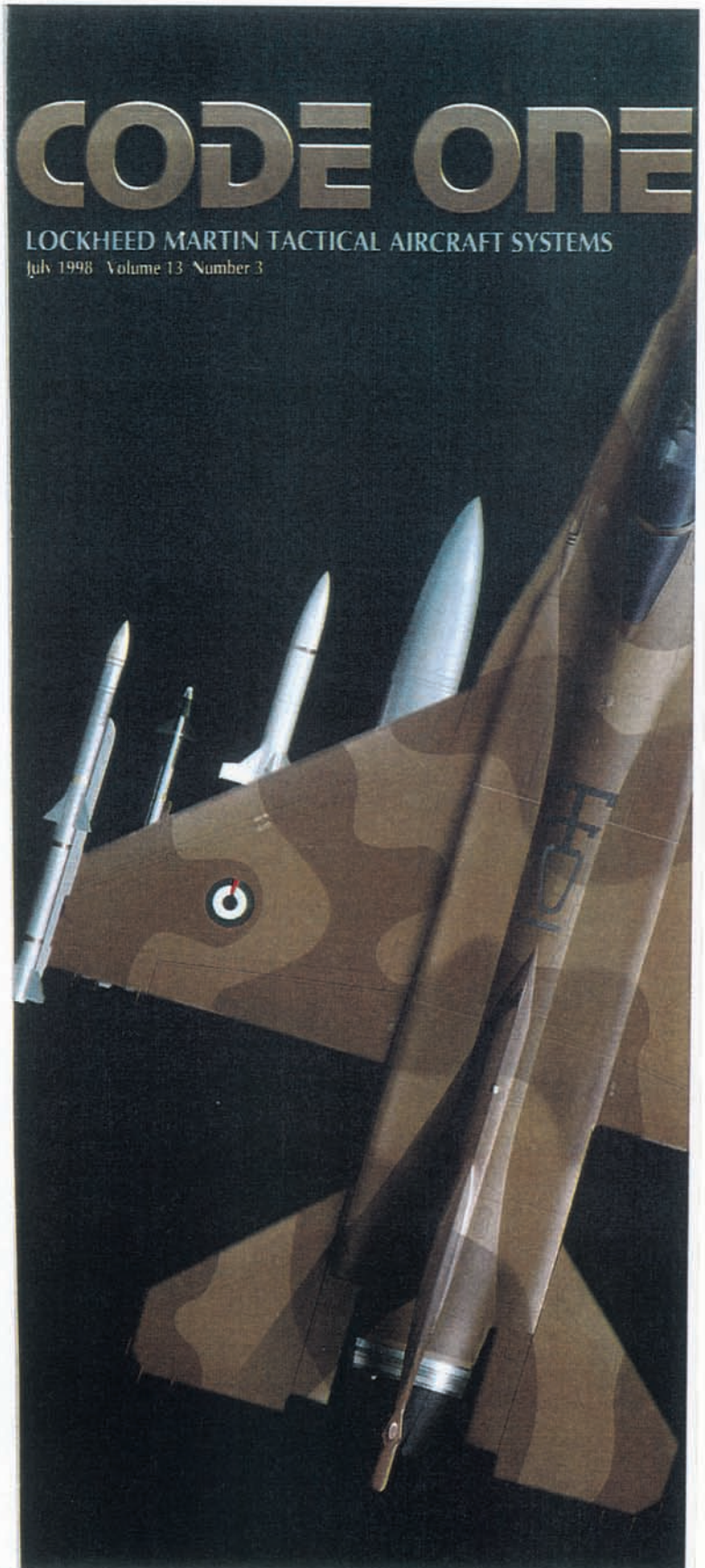
Astronaut Buzz Aldrin Flies F-16 With His Former Squadron

Apollo XI astronaut Buzz Aldrin added another aircraft to his logbook in April when he took to the skies in a Block 50 F-16 of his former squadron, the 22nd FS at Spangdahlem AB in Germany. Long before Aldrin made history with Neil Armstrong as one of the first two men to step on the moon on 20 July 1969, he was the D Flight commander in the "Big 22," flying F-100s while stationed at Bitburg AB from 1956 to 1959.

Lt. Col. Charlie Lyon, the current commander of the 22nd FS, flew with Aldrin. On their wing was Capt. Terry Virts, the current D Flight commander. In addition to experiencing the F-16 firsthand, Aldrin gave an inspiring presentation as the guest speaker at a dinner hosted by the squadron. At the age of 68, Aldrin admitted he doesn't spend much time golfing, but rather is promoting his latest book, *Encounter with Tiber*. He is also working on reusable rocket booster designs and plans for exploring Mars.



Aldrin (center) celebrates his first F-16 ride with Capt. Virts (left) and Lt. Col. Lyon of Aldrin's former 22nd Fighter Squadron.



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