

BOYD

The Fighter Pilot Who Changed
the Art of War

ROBERT CORAM



Little, Brown and Company
Boston New York London

a briefing
Patterns of Conflict
5.6 hours long

Wednesday evening at
Ft. Meyer.

Boyd 60 in 1987

On Aug 31, 1975 - Boyd
returns from A.F. (48)

entropy

the dialectic engine

How much oral
History is there?

How did you get to
see his ER's?

Is it good that the services
compete - F-15 vs F-14?

Who was the Finagle - Christa
operating outside of those
within vision

a word used to describe
Boyd - auto didact

Have you seen or
read the Briefing

Frank Pethinato
Chief life guard

b Jan 23, 1927 Eric P. d. March 1997 (70)

Ann - polio -
John started making airplane drawings in 3rd grade.
Jack Echerd - airplane ride
gifted in math - 1942 IQ 90 - swimming team
brother Bill dies in 44' a ship
Reported for duty - Army Air Corps APR 16, 1945 - Senior 1st Lt S
Boyd - his / Mary's / and their had 5 children - 3 boys two girls
Boyd 1962 - Georgia Tech - wrestles with Thermo - a big
graduated and moved to Edgin AFB. breakthrough

after retirement calls to the Academy - Christmas was deport,
bes of defense - all night long read 20 minute passages
from Hegel

Sept 3, 1976 - 11 page Destiny and Creation - with a few
exceptions it is the only thing Boyd ever wrote.
"a new explanation on how we perceive physical reality"

Korea - March 27, 1953

Damaged only one MiG - not allowed to fly into
Manchuria - did it anyway - He was a real talker
some didn't want to sit with him at dinner
he was "a great stick" single minded about aviation
MiG kill ratio at end of war 10 to 1 792 MiG shot down
78 F-86's

After Korea Boyd sent to Nellis AFB for 6 years.

Las Vegas - became integrated March 1960

Boyd taught - 20+ year olds -

no fighter pilot will ever be humble 1951

B. got flight training at Columbus, Miss. / prepared to Mon in Oklawaha
would at Christmas.

1952 - arrived Williams AFB, Arizona - F86 flight training

What is it to "hose" an enemy - What's a pepper

Sept 1952 - reported to Nellis for F-86 training

Stephen Boyd from Feb 14, 1953

chap 8 1959 still at Nellis - 5 1/2 yrs.

writing a manual - had to do it on his own time - he felt
he would snap if he had to write. -

Story of Ron Cotton - First Lt. Red Corvette - drunk - pushed
up in Las Vegas. - Boyd tells him he needs a perfect score

Manual - 150 page "Aerial Attack Study" - everything a fighter
needed to know was in manual - Boyd went Colonel's head

BOOKNOTES
BRIAN P. LAMB
C-SPAN AIR DATE

703. Robert Coram
Boyd: The Fighter Pilot Who Changed the Art of War
Taped: 12/19/02
Aired: 01/26/03
Tape #: 158365

chewed his finger nails
chewed calluses on his hand

BOYD

How did you get to read the ER's -
Vellis - Fighter Weapons School

fire walled
instructions

Hun - Beware of the Hun in the Sun
Eric Hartman - German West shot
down 352 planes

Bope Jones

Thunderbirds (P17) said he was invited

trained monkeys - circus performers - they have
nothing to do with flying combat.

Vernon "Spad" Spadling - Mr. Fighter Weapons School

Boyd was "obsessed" - "a little crazy" during FWS years.

F-100 - called the Hun as in Hundred

flat plating the bird -

"You just got hoed"

He solved the adverse yaw problem

Twenty-second Boyd soon changed to 40 Second Boyd

Eglin - "the mad major"

EM Theory - developed by using

Tom Christie's computer time

developed a rep. slovenly appearance

dining room habits

Boyd had no mandate from air force to work on E-Us

Letter
from
Worms
Springs

BOOKNOTES
2003-01-26

Copyright © 2002 by Robert Coram

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages in a review.

First Edition

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Coram, Robert.

Boyd : the fighter pilot who changed the art of war / Robert Coram.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN 0-316-88146-5 (hc)

1. Boyd, John, 1927-1997. 2. Fighter pilots — United States — Biography. 3. United States. Air Force — Officers — Biography. 4. Fighter plane combat. 5. Aeronautics, Military — United States — History — 20th century. I. Title.

UG626.2.B69 C67 2002

358.4'3'092 — dc21

[B]

2002022816

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Q-MB

Book design by Bernard Klein

Printed in the United States of America

Stole computer time at Eglin - for Euro theory
used Christie's time

to be or to do speech

F-111 - "a terrible mistake"

Plum - Christie named him Superlum Fairy

About the Author

Robert Coram is the author of three nonfiction books and seven novels.

Boyd and his briefing "Pattern of Conflict" was the
center of everything.

Generals are allowed to indulge their egos unlike
others in business -
It all revolves around the EP.

James Fallows 1979 - speech writer for J.C.

had talked to Bill Lind - Gary Hunt's office

Reformers - Reform Caucus on Hill - Cheney

Leopold ordered to Pentagon (Tac Air) from
AF academy -

Spinney giving briefing to AF Generals who call
himself Reformers. - 2 star colleague p 357

March 4, 1983 - Joint Senate hearing - Tower
and Measley - Spinney testified

Time mag cover story Spinney on the cover

Time - "that powerful protector of Republican causes"
1983 → p 367

Chap 25 Spirmey Report - one of the more important documents
to come out of the Pentagon (D 346)

Chap 24 OODA Loop -

He changed his briefings after he got out of the service
dense - packed with long sentences

* The briefing - 6 hours. - wouldn't shorten it. Some test
was 323 books. p 330 - Patterns - "one of the most influential
briefings ever to come from a military mind."
OODA Loop - Observe / Orient / Decide / Act (334) Briefing 185 slides
or "Boyd Cycle"
Boyd - horrified at being called a double dipper - he worked for
5 years w/o salary / not allowed a Corona - 4 stems
secret meeting
1974

Chap 21 Tom Christie comes to Pentagon in 73'

establishes Wednesday nights at Ft. Meyer.
Schlesinger tells him he wants a light weight fighter
Air Force doesn't - tries to keep money out of 75' Budget

- Spirmey - an acolyte - but known of them all
the most powerful ad hoc group
the Building had ever seen.
1. Christie the Finagler
 2. Sprey the Intelligent
 3. Leopold the First
 4. Spirmey the brack
 5. Burton the unbending

B-1 now cost 100 mil.
F-15 - 15 mil
light weight - 6 mil
A-10 3 mil.

Children's anger toward father became of living in
small apartment in Alexandria. P224
lived on Beauregard Street for 22 years
1968 - he lost interest in flying - he was in the Pentagon -
people did not know whether he was a genius or a wild man
He ask generals for written orders - Burned a hole in tel
Boyd wanted light planes - generals wanted heavy
Mach 3 vs. Mach 2
Fired wing vs. swing wing - Boyd testified that A.F.
was decided on pifed - FX becomes F-15 - The F-14
many plane author calls "lumbering, poor performing,
aerial truck
Oct 24, 1968 - Boyd says he'll retire the next year

Chap 16 Ride of the Valkyries 1969

Boyd loved Wagner
A-X to become 4-10 war hawk - light Combat Air Support
Plan to prevent A.F. losing a mission and money
Creation of Fighter Mafia - Everett Riccioni John Boyd
and Pierre Sprey

Chapter 17

Prolonged his retirement 1970 transferred to
Andrew - a non-job - overseeing F-115 contract - His
"grand strategy" build a light weight day fighter with
no radar that was inexpensive and would weigh 20,000 lbs
Boyd promoted to Colonel - Riccioni couldn't stop trying to
take credit for everything - memo to General -
Boyd kicked people out of his from companies wanting in
on action of light weight fighter - "God damn plane
is made of balonium" P280K

Chap 20 - after Thailand - wasn't going to make General

He would begin a 10yr. period into sacred realm of pure intellectual
The Building - Pentagon -
His new job was a dumping ground - He told
colleagues he didn't want to hear from them.
Raymond Leopold PhD EE Capt. reports for duty.
To be out to do speech from Boyd. - Has Leopold do Budget
found B-1 to cost 68 mil. costliest project in AIR Force on B-1

How did Pentagon establishment deal with Reformers
Bad reviews - take away parking space

Key of air to reg maneuver - Colonel falls out of chair and
Lath becomes A.F. Chief of Staff - was talking to Boyd on phone

In April of 72 sent NKP in Thailand - Boyd's only command -
Vice Commander of Task Force Alpha. He defused a revolt
situation - Then given command of 56th Combat Support Group.
Rabbit dogs - graffiti on latrine walls - junior officer's affair -
Pivot point in his career - a year in Thai

p425

Chap 31 - Testified April 22, 1991 House Armed Services Comm
Prostate Cancer - His relationship with Dick Cheney
Eyes to him during Gulf War -
WEB sites Belisarium.com | d-n-i.net
Is the full briefing of Boyd on tape

Chap 29 Water-Walker - Jim Burton - Air Force - 398
worked for asst. Sec of AF - sent to OSD - General rep. 18 stories
marched into Asst. Sec. Office trying to stop Burton from going to OSD
Burton challenged Army on Bradley fighting recruits - forced tests
Author calls military aid's spies - People think real business of
Pentagon has something to do with defending America. It does not. It's
selling weapons. Burton returns - exhumed after fighting Army.

Chap 27 - His ideas had no influence on Air F. and Navy but Army
adopted most of Boyd's theory regarding maneuver warfare.
Marines - more than a military organization - a national institution
Lt. Colonel Mike Wiley - Vietnam - James Webb - Naval Academy - Quantico
Boyd to Quantico in 1980 - Pattern of Conflict briefing
Told Marines - Army doctrine was "a piece of shit"
Mike Wiley became Sixth Acolyte

April 22, 1991

Marine 173,000
A.F. 359,000
Army 480,000
Navy 312,000

1 Mary Ellen - youngest - writes
computer manuals outside WASH.

2 John Scott - CA - computer industry

3 Kathy - lives in apt with mother
suffers from depression

4 Stephen - died 1998
stroke - chemo

5 Jeff - lives with mother
age 40 / snaker

Wife Mary - lives in
Delroy Beach

Cape John
Hot platters
turkey steaks
barbecue, succidees
garden hoses
hair to rug manure p262

1. Patterns of Conflict
2. Destruction and Creation
3. Organic Design for Command
and Control.
Fighter Mafia - Ezzell Rivioni
John Boyd
Brian Sperry

F-14
F-15
A-10
F-111

What's a Blue Hunter

4970 B.