13:13

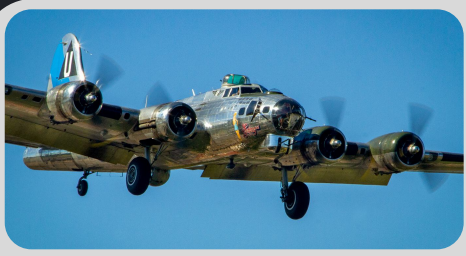
WELCOME TO THE MESA AIR MUSEUM

RAMP ACCESS

SCAN A SIGN

Point your phone at any aircraft to hear its story.

NEAR YOU - HANGAR 3 Map



B-17G Flying Fortress

Stop 5
WW2 Era heavy bomber



AV-8B Harrier

Stop 6
USMC “Jump Jet”



UH-1 “Huey”

Stop 7
Vietnam Era helicopter

Explore Scan Map Saved

13:13

THEN NOW



F-16 FIGHTING FALCON

Serial #78-0322

Overview | Service History | More Photos

#78-0322 was one of eight Israeli F-16s that struck Iraq's Osirak reactor in 1981, before being converted into a civilian operated aggressor with Top Aces.

The F-16 originated in a request for a lightweight fighter (LWF) which was intended as a lower cost option to other larger jets. Officially named "Fighting Falcon", the F-16 is affectionately called "Viper" by its pilots.

13:13

F-16A 78-0322

SERVICE HISTORY

1978-1980

Built by General Dynamics (construction no. 6V-15) for Iran's "Peace Zebra" order, which was canceled after the 1979 revolution.

SEP 1980

Delivered to 117 Squadron, Israeli Air Force, as Netz 129.

JUN 1981

Took part in Operation Opera, the strike on Iraq's Osirak reactor. Fourth of eight jets to drop, callsign Izmel 4, flown by Hagai Katz.

JAN 2021

Sold to Top Aces and shipped to Mesa, Arizona, aboard an Antonov An-124.

MAY 2021

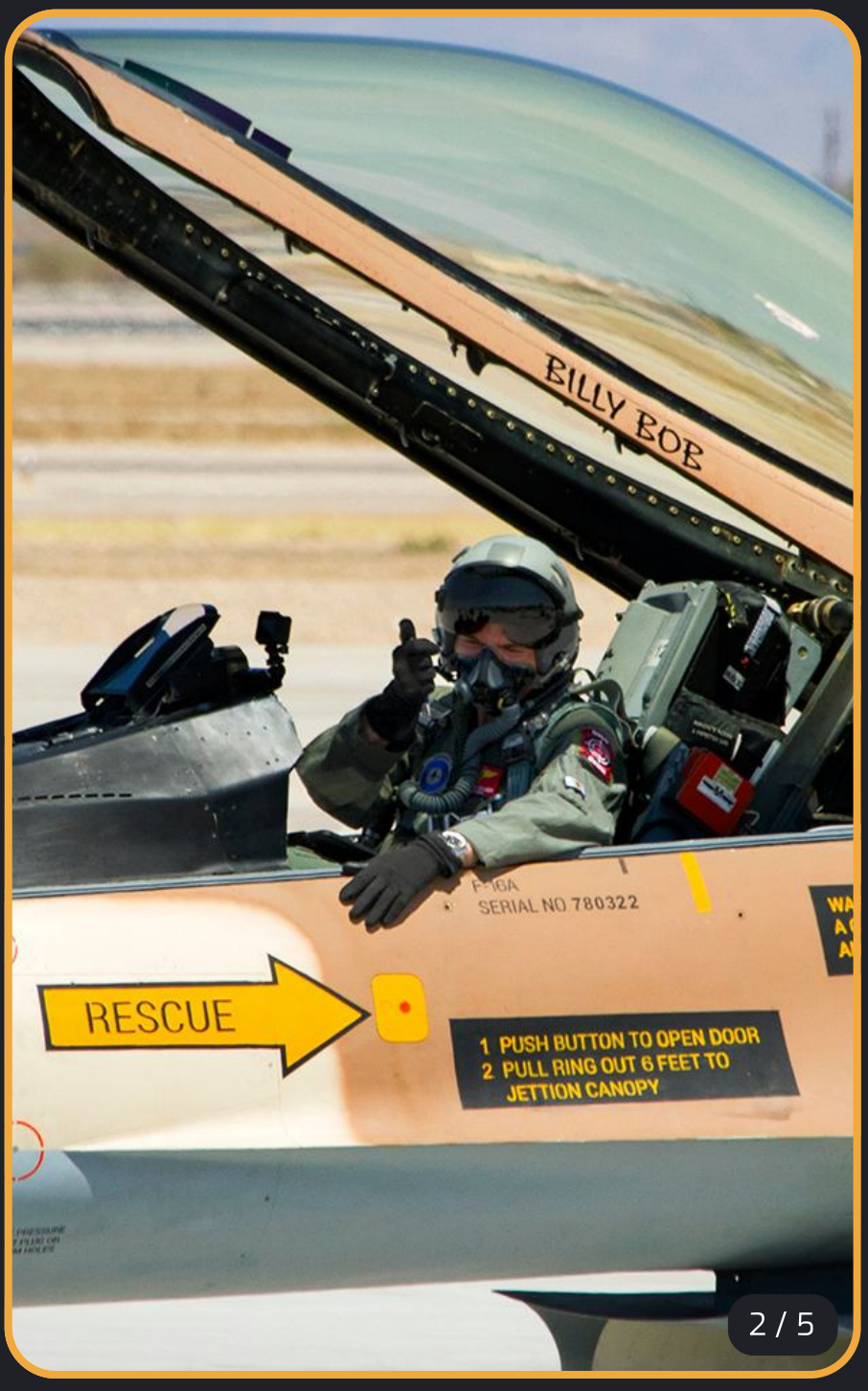
Made its first flight as N854TA at Mesa Gateway on May 18, the first time a civilian company had flown a 4th generation fighter.

2028

Donated to the Mesa Air Museum, on display.

F-16A 78-0322

PHOTOS



78-0322 on her first flight with Top Aces in May 2021. (Photo by Thomas Backus)





