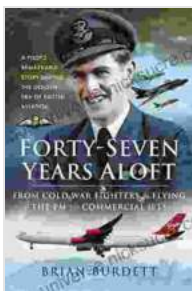


# From Cold War Fighters Flying the PM to Commercial Jets: The Journey of Test Pilots

The world of aviation is filled with stories of daring and adventure, and the lives of test pilots are no exception. These brave men and women are responsible for pushing the boundaries of aviation, testing new aircraft and technologies to ensure their safety and performance.

One such test pilot is Captain John "Jack" Wadhams, who flew the PM, a supersonic reconnaissance aircraft, during the Cold War. Wadhams was one of a select group of pilots who were chosen to fly this top-secret aircraft, which was designed to spy on the Soviet Union.



## Forty-Seven Years Aloft: From Cold War Fighters & Flying the PM to Commercial Jets by David Finch

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 25668 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 369 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Wadhams flew the PM on numerous missions over the Soviet Union, often flying at high speeds and low altitudes to avoid detection. He also tested the aircraft's weapons systems, including its cameras and radar.

After the Cold War, Wadhams retired from the Air Force and went on to fly commercial jets. He flew for a major airline for over 20 years, and he retired as a captain.

Wadhams' story is just one example of the many challenges and rewards that test pilots face. These brave men and women play a vital role in the development of new aircraft and technologies, and they help to make the world a safer place.

### **The Role of Test Pilots**

Test pilots are responsible for testing new aircraft and technologies to ensure their safety and performance. They fly aircraft through a variety of maneuvers, including high-speed dives, climbs, and turns. They also test the aircraft's systems, including its engines, flight controls, and avionics.

Test pilots must be highly skilled and experienced aviators. They must be able to fly aircraft safely and efficiently, and they must be able to think quickly and make decisions in high-pressure situations.

### **The Training of Test Pilots**

Test pilots undergo extensive training before they are allowed to fly new aircraft. This training includes classroom instruction, simulator training, and flight training. Test pilots must also pass a rigorous physical and psychological evaluation.

The training of test pilots is designed to prepare them for the challenges of flying new aircraft. They must be able to fly safely and efficiently, and they must be able to think quickly and make decisions in high-pressure situations.

## **The Challenges of Test Flying**

Test flying is a challenging and dangerous profession. Test pilots often fly aircraft that are still in development, and they may encounter unexpected problems. They must be able to think quickly and make decisions in high-pressure situations.

In addition to the physical and mental challenges of test flying, test pilots also face the risk of death or injury. Test pilots have been known to die in crashes, and they have also been injured in accidents.

## **The Rewards of Test Flying**

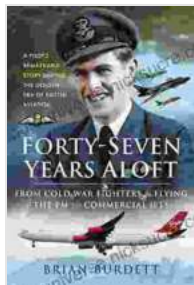
Despite the challenges, test flying is also a rewarding profession. Test pilots get to fly new aircraft and technologies, and they play a vital role in the development of new aircraft.

Test pilots also have the opportunity to make a difference in the world. They help to make the world a safer place by testing new aircraft and technologies.

Test pilots are brave men and women who play a vital role in the development of new aircraft and technologies. They are highly skilled and experienced aviators, and they must be able to think quickly and make decisions in high-pressure situations.

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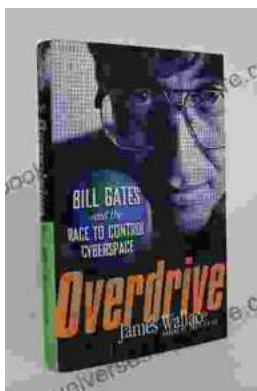
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