

Could the **FLYING TIGERS** fly again?

Can US pilots fly for the Ukrainians against Russia? There are several historic examples where this was done and could possibly be done again.

The first was when US flyers fought the Germans in WW I in the La Fayette Escadrille in France, before the US entered this war. They were volunteer US pilots fighting for the French in France and Germany in French uniforms with French planes. Although the Germans objected to US flyers from a neutral country fighting them, these flyers still fought on until the US entered the war - 13 months later. Then they became members of the US Army Air Service.

Again, before the US declared war on Japan in December 1942, US pilots were fighting the Japanese in China, with US planes (P-40's), in the Republic of China Air Force, wearing their uniforms - 9 months before Pearl Harbor was bombed. They were known as the famous "Flying Tigers."

Also in in Great Britain, during WW II, there were three "Eagle Squadrons" of American pilots fighting for the English in British aircraft as early as September 1940 - 15 months before the US went to war against Germany and Japan. When war was declared these pilots became part of the US eighth air force.

But of most importance in that war was the "Lend-Lease Act" of March 1941 - which followed the "Neutrality Act of 1939." Great Britain was in trouble from fighting Germany alone before the US entered. GB, along with China and the Soviet Union, were "lent" "valuable war materiel (GB didn't have the funds to buy them) desperately needed to keep these countries' armies fighting.

So, could both US and NATO pilots, recently separated from their respective air , volunteer to become pilots in the Ukrainian Air Force? As you can see, by these historical examples, it was done in past wars.

These pilots could fly the fighters and ground attack planes that they were very familiar with. Of course these planes would be "lent" or "leased" to the Ukrainian Air Force with their painted NATO insignias erased and changed to that of the Ukrainians. Would Russia complain? Of course, but not likely enough to go to war since these were volunteers were technically with and under direct control of Ukraine officers flying their "own" planes: US made or Russian. Very similar to this were those poorly disguised "little green men" that were sent by Russia to "save" the Russian speaking Crimea in 2014.

The Russians should be reminded not to forget all the materiel aid we sent to them almost eighty years ago that saved them to keep on fighting on against ...another enemy.

They could fly out of bordering neutral NATO countries such as: Poland, Hungary, Romania, or possibly even Turkey, Sweden etc. Besides, NATO has, depending on the type of aircraft, anywhere between four to ten times the aircraft of Russia.

A much better match up than that of Russia's army against Ukraine's.

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