

Brain Buckets, Hanoi Style

Photos via the National Museum of the US Air Force



The air equipment of the North Vietnamese Air Force evolved steadily throughout the Vietnam War. Headgear was no exception. In this photograph from the early 1970s, five North Vietnamese MiG-21 pilots show off their new Soviet-made, high-altitude helmets, which came into vogue among fighter pilots in the final two years of the war. The small photo shows the plain-vanilla helmet worn during most of the war years by communist MiG-21 pilots.

