The God of War by Chris Stewart

Its meant to be the triumphant debut of the Ares, a U.S. super-jet named after the Greek God of war. With its ultra powerful laser and ability to easily outmaneouver anything else in the sky, the Ares opens a new era in warfare. But when it is stolen before of a crowd of international dignitaries, the President and his defence staff must use outdated technology to try to stop their creation from sparking a war between civilizations. Its up to Colonel Jesse James to save the world from impending doom. But, the obstacles will be numerous. He faces suspicion from the Presidents chief advisor, a romantic interest with unknown allegiances, and a terror plot that seems too obvious to be true. In his fourth novel, Stewart is in top form—fusing a high octane plot with hair raising flight scenes drawn from his career as a fighter pilot.

My Personal Review:
Chris Stewart knows of what he writes and he does it very well. A former B-1 pilot, he has written four previous novels in which his beloved B-1 plays a prominent part from time to time. In this one, he has moved into the realm of the fighter plane and what a plane he has developed. The Ares is the F-22 Raptor on steroids.

Named for the Greek god of war, the United States has decided to unveil the jet at the Paris Air Show with the President of the US on hand. The purpose of such a public performance is to put our enemies, especially the Chinese, on notice that the US is still a super power to be reckoned with and that with this new aircraft any thoughts they might have of moving in on Taiwan should be put on permanent hold, if not abandoned.

As a plan, it sounds like a winner. In the execution however, things become SNAFU times ten. The Ares is highjacked during the show. By whom and for what purpose I would rather let you find out by reading the novel.
Needless to say, this plane on the loose with its offensive capabilities to do damage, including the delivery of a nuclear device, has the rest of the world scrambling to recover or destroy the aircraft. Col. "Jesse" James, the chief pilot in the Ares program is given the task of leading the effort.

David Hagberg, a noted author of this type of book himself, states on the jacket cover that "Stewart is to advanced military aircraft as Clancy is to submarines."

I couldn't have said it better myself.

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