

Obit - Col. John Boyd, Nellis AFB

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WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) _ Col. John R. Boyd, an Air Force fighter pilot whose belief that quicker is better than faster became the basis of a theory that revolutionized military strategy, died of cancer Sunday. He was 70.

Boyd flew only a few combat missions in Korea. But after wondering why the comparatively slow U.S. F-86's almost totally dominated the superior MiG-15 fighter, he figured out the F-86's advantages: better visibility and a faster roll rate.

Boyd theorized that the key to victory was not a plane that could climb faster or higher, but one that could begin climbing or change course quicker.

From 1954 to 1960, Boyd, who helped establish the Fighter Weapons School at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, had a standing offer to pilots: take a position on his tail, and after 40 seconds of twists and turns he would have the challenger in his sights or pay \$40.

He never lost the bet.

He was assigned to the Pentagon in 1964. Boyd's design ideas helped give the F-15 a big, high-visibility canopy. But his major triumph was the F-16, which is far more agile and costs half as much.

During his years at the Pentagon, Boyd became known as the ``ghetto colonel'' because he lived in a basement apartment.

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