

FCD48-007

VF-154 BLACK KNIGHTS FINAL COMBAT CRUISE 2003

FIGHTERTOWN



DECALS



WWW.FIGHTERTOWNDECALS.COM

101 BUND 161276

CARRIER BASED
45 TOTAL BOMBS DROPPED

BEFORE AND DURING COMBAT OPERATIONS ALL VF-154 JETS DID NOT HAVE CANOPY OR USAR (USAR NAMES, ALL NAMES AND USAR NUMBERS WERE ADDED AFTER MISSIONS) MARKS WERE ADDED AFTER MISSIONS. THESE DETAILS WERE PRESENT FOR VF-154 FLYING IN MAY 2003. BY NOTE, ONLY 80 HAD NAMES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CANOPY.

THE MODELER HAS THE CHOICE TO MODEL VF-154 JETS EITHER WAY.

104 BUND 158620

SHORE BASED AT AL UDIED
18 TOTAL BOMBS DROPPED

LOST OVER SOUTHERN
IRAQ ON 1 APR 03 DUE
TO AN ENGINE AND
FUEL TRANSFER MALFUNCTION.

103 BUND 161293

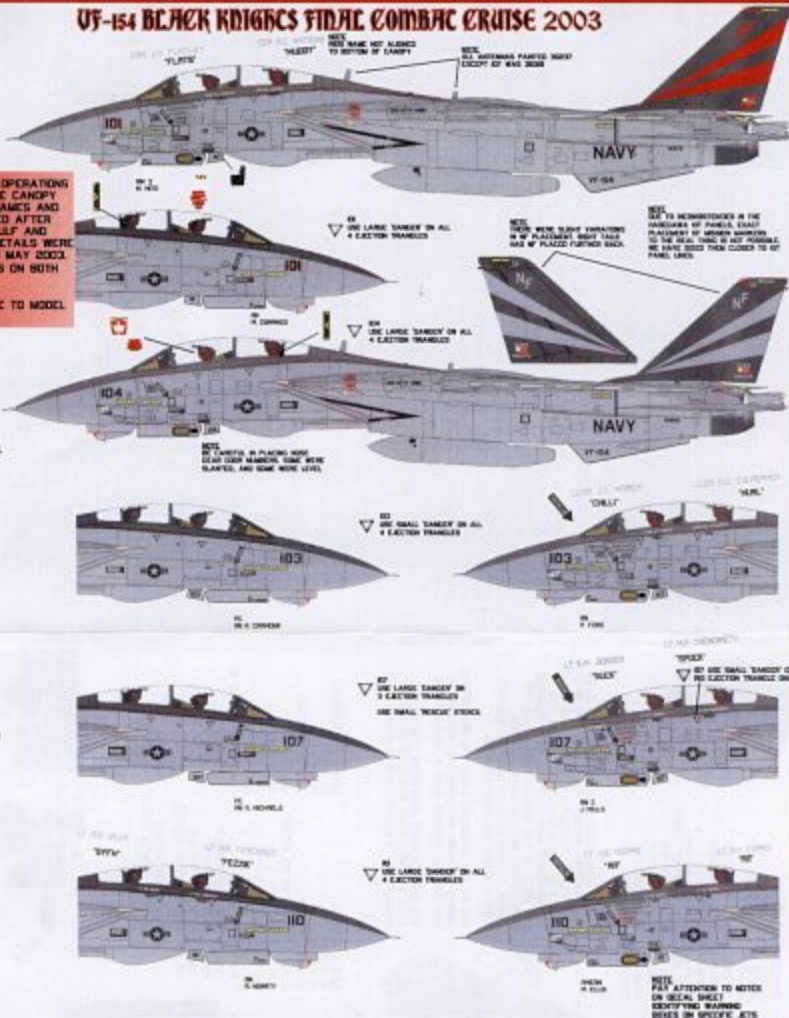
CARRIER BASED
VF-154 HIGH BOMBER
51 TOTAL BOMBS DROPPED

107 BUND 161296

SHORE BASED AT AL UDIED
32 TOTAL BOMBS DROPPED
ONLY VF-154 A/C TO FIRE GUN

110 BUND 161298

SHORE BASED AT AL UDIED
HIGH SHORE BASED BOMBER
35 TOTAL BOMBS DROPPED



Shortly before hostilities commenced VF-154 sent 5 jets and 5 crews to Al Udied, Qatar to be a forward deployed close air support (CAS) element and conduct missions with and in support of (but not limited to) CTF-30, the special operations Task Force operating inside Iraq.

SEI classified, these missions were instrumental in supporting forces on the ground. What information is available is well documented in Tony Holmes, "F-14 Units of Operation Iraq Freedom".

These missions were largely CAS and were a 'high ops tempo'. Between 21 March and 14 April, shore based crews flew over 300 combat hours, dropped 98 GBU-12s, and continued to develop and employ FAC(A) tactics that became the benchmark for the F-14 late in its career.

The only F-14 loss during OIF was on 1 April. Part way through a mission, and still armed with some of its GBU-12s, 104 lost its port engine. Further complicated with a fuel transfer failure, 104 Bundo

158620 crashed in Iraq after running out of fuel. Both pilot and RIO ejected successfully and were rescued shortly after.



F9 36217

F9 37300

F9 36210

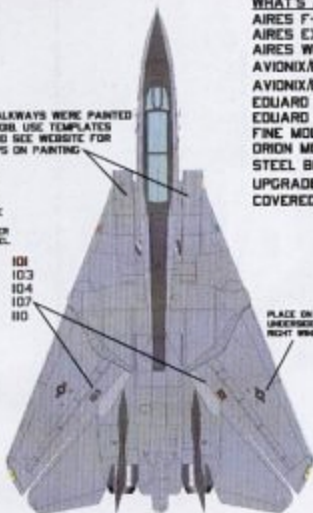
F9 36210

WALKWAYS WERE PAINTED
3808B. USE TEMPLATES
AND SEE WEBSITE FOR
TIPS ON PAINTING

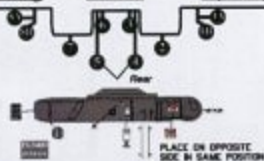
"NOTE"
NOT MENTIONED ON
INSTRUCTIONS ARE
804 HALL STICKS
AND F-14A ENGINE
VENT DECALS. THESE
DETAILS HAVE BEEN
PROVIDED TO FURTHER
ENHANCE YOUR MODEL.

101
103
104
107
110

PLACE ON
UNDERSIDE OF
RIGHT WING



Right Wing Center Left Wing



HELMET MARKINGS ARE SIZED
TO HGU-65P FROM DRIFTPER
REIMS AND HASEGAWA F-14B/E/F

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DECALS SIZED FOR HASEGAWA KIT

WHAT'S AVAILABLE

AIRES F-14A COCKPIT
AIRES EXHAUSTS
AIRES WHEEL WELLS
AVIONIX/BLACK BOX COCKPIT
AVIONIX/BLACK BOX BOMB/CAT
EDUARD F-14A PE
EDUARD F-14 CANOPY MASKS
FINE MOLDS PE AND PITOT TUBES
ORION MODELS LANTIRN POD
STEEL BEACH LANTIRN POD,
UPGRADES, INTAKE COVERS,
COVERED EXHAUSTS



CAG-5 WAS CONSIDERED A DEDICATED CLOSE AIR SUPPORT AIRWING DURING OIF AND MUCH OF VF-154'S MISSIONS CENTERED AROUND CAS. EARLY IN THE CONFLICT THE GBU-24 AND OTHER HEAVY LGB WEAPONS WERE CARRIED AS WELL AS THE SMALLER GBU-12. AS THE CAS MISSION BECAME MORE CENTRAL, THE STANDARD LOADOUT WAS 2-4 GBU-12'S WITH 4 BEING THE MOST COMMON.

AIR TO AIR LOADOUTS EARLY ON INCLUDED A SINGLE PHOENIX, SPARROW AND SIDEWINDER BUT QUICKLY BECAME JUST A SINGLE AIM-9.

ALL SHORE-BASED JETS WERE CONFIGURED WITH 4 BOMB RACKS AND FLEW ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY 4 GBU-12'S AND A SINGLE AIM-9.

EARLY STRIKE

1A AIM-9
1B AIM-54
2/7 FUEL TANKS
3 AND/OR 5 GBU-24 OR GBU-10
6/4 EMPTY
8A AIM-9 OR EMPTY
8B LANTIRN

* GBU-16 WAS MIXED IN

- * SINGLE SPARROW IN REAR TUNNEL OR IF POSSIBLE
- * SQUADRON BOMBS TOTALS DO NOT LIST DROPPING GBU-24

CLOSE AIR SUPPORT

1A AIM-9
1B EMPTY
2/7 FUEL TANKS
3/6 GBU-12
4/5 GBU-12
8A EMPTY
8B LANTIRN

*GBU16 WAS MIXED IN

SQUADRON TOTALS 358 LGBS
CARRIER BASED TOTALS 246 GBU-12
10 GBU-16
4 GBU-10



Launch Bar decal:

Place decal on top of kit Launch Bar as shown. Apply white solution to sides, wrap one side down first, let it set then wrap the other side next and have them meet at the bottom.

Front/Top



SPECIAL THANKS TO MIKE PISTER, LCDR RICHARD SILVA AND OTHER MEMBERS OF VF-154, TONY HOLMES, TAKAFUMI HIROE, ANDY MULLEN. **BKR, BABY!!!**