

# HMM-264 (REIN) BLACK KNIGHTS

USMC AV-8B NA, AV-8B+, CH-46E, & CH-53E on USS Bataan

26th MEU ~ USS Bataan (LHD-5) ~ 2006-2007



This 1/48 scale decal sheet covers multiple aircraft types of the composite squadron from the 26th MEU, the reinforced HMM-264 Black Knights, aboard USS *Bataan* (LHD-5) during their training and certification exercises in late 2006 and into their January to July 2007 deployment:

**AV-8B Night Attack Harrier** (1 option) - Color scheme: FS36118/FS36231/FS36320

**AV-8B Plus Harrier** (1 option) - Color scheme: FS36118/FS36231/FS36320

**CH-46E Sea Knight** (3 options) - Color scheme: FS35237/FS36375

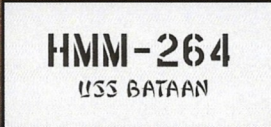
**CH-53E Super Stallion** (2 options) - Color scheme: FS35237/FS36375



Only the specific unique markings are provided as decals for each scheme; therefore, the kit decals will need to be used as appropriate for the common airframe data/stencils, national insignias, etc.

Rather than providing the usual profile illustrations for the decal placement, several of the actual reference photographs for each scheme are included instead. These photographs should provide sufficient guidance for the positions and locations of all markings to supplement the common markings illustrated in the respective kit instructions.

By early 2007, small **USS BATAAN** markings were also added below the **HMM-264** markings on at least the CH-46 and CH-53 aircraft, as the two right fuselage examples show here. Unfortunately it was not confirmed if these **USS BATAAN** markings were also added to the AV-8B aircraft, nor was it confirmed their exact position for the specific CH-46E and CH-53E schemes provided as they appeared to vary for each specific aircraft. For example, CH-46 EH-02 was significantly off-centered as shown at left.

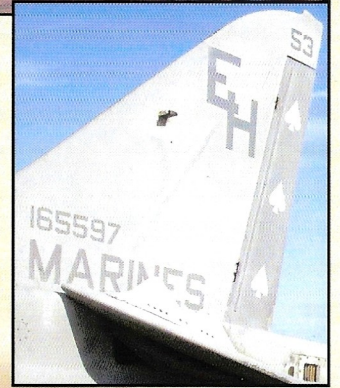


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EH-53 had the small **NAVAIR** marking on the vertical stabilizer's duct (visible at right). Both EH-53 and EH-54 had an **LHD 5** marking on the right aileron.

Note plane captain names on each side's nose gear door.



From VMA-231 Ace of Spades, the Harriers retained their original VMA-231 rudder markings (somewhat faded) and incorporated ace of spade shaped "eyes" on the new Black Knight insignias on the nose.

At left, note the **MARINES** on the wing of EH-54 is barely visible compared to the different style on EH-53 in the foreground and CG-05 in the background, still in VMA-231 markings.

Note the patchy appearance of EH-54 overall compared to EH-53, and evidence of the touched up/repainted areas behind all of the new HMM-264 associated markings on EH-54. The forward tips of all the pylons on EH-54 had fresh FS36118 paint applied.



Note the freshly painted areas on both sides of EH-03's tail, and similarly freshly painted EHs and knight insignias. Also note the E in the EH had a full length center bar. At the time of photographing, the crewchief's rank was missing (perhaps a recent rank promotion not yet applied?) Also no hoist was fitted at this time. EH-03 had the open stencil type HMM-264 markings.



EH-03 had a larger 03 on the tail than the more typical smaller size seen on other squadron aircraft. On the left side, seemingly due to its larger size and closer location to the BuNo, the 03 had a very large chamfer on the upper left corner of the 0 in order to possibly prevent overlapping the 4 in the BuNo (visible at right). This cropped version is provided as a decal as well as an alternative "ideal" 03.



Note the subtle tail marking differences in the squadron aircraft in the two lineups below: knight insignias faced either direction, E's had short or long center bars, various sizes and forms of modex numbers (for example, compare 00 and 04), and in general, the relative positions of the various markings.



EH-04 and EH-07 markings were similar in appearance, each having the wider BuNo spacing, more vertically aligned knight insignia, and further aft EH markings on their tails compared to EH-03. They both also had the block letter style HMM-264 markings. Both were also fitted with hoists. However, EH-04's knight insignia on the left side faced aft. On EH-07, note the circular marking in the heavy exhaust stain caused by the movement of the cover's "remove before flight" tag.





Note the enlisted aircrew names located forward of the crew chief's position. Also note the overall dirty and worn appearance of the lower door half with the Betty Boop "Lady Luck" artwork.



Visible at right, the original (removed) HMM-461 and 02 identifications on the left fuselage of EH-20 are still faintly evident behind the newer HMM-264 and 20 markings, respectively.



In the foreground above is the tail of EH-20, similar to EH-23; however, in the background is the tail of EH-21 showing a different style of EH markings. At right, note the various non-slip surfaces, especially on the fuel tanks (all four are different).



Both EH-20 and EH-23 carried the new **BLACK KNIGHTS** marking on the nose below the windscreen. Although carrying no door artwork like EH-20, EH-23 had the **9-11-01 NEVER FORGET** marking on the nose gear door. Note EH-23 also had the large right fuselage antenna.

