

1/48 Scale

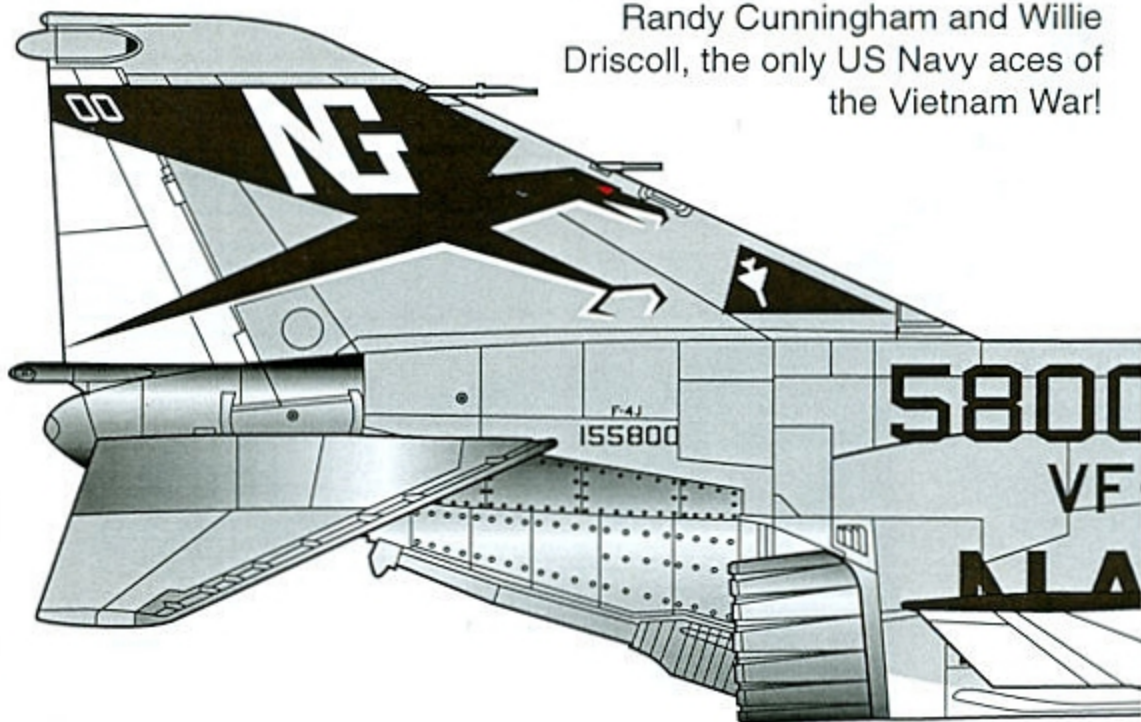
Yellowhammer
Models

#YHD48-15 F-4J

For the Hasegawa F-4J kit

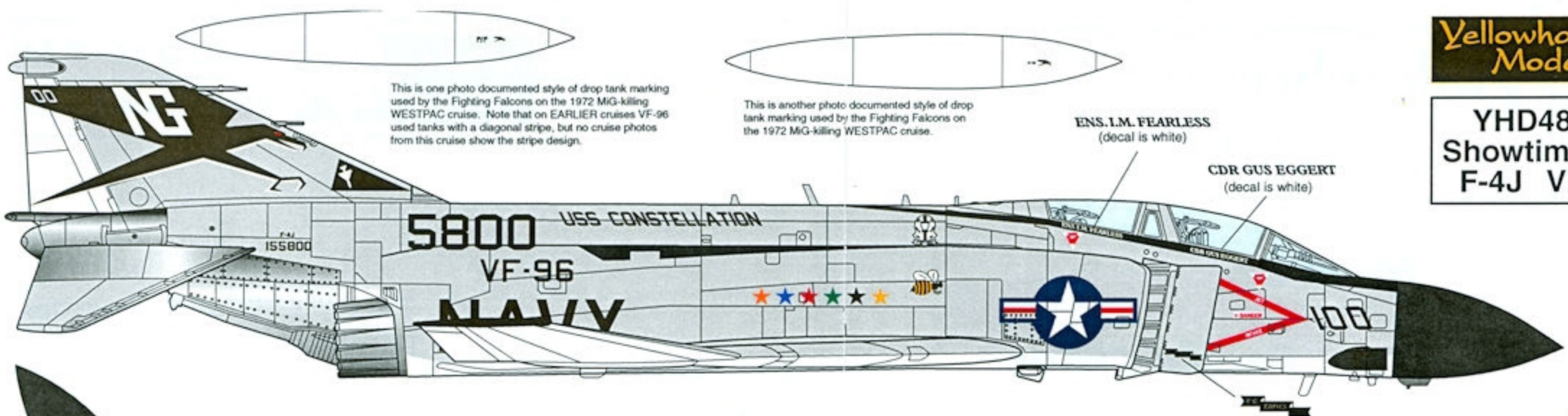
VF-96 Showtime 100

The **ONLY ACCURATE** markings available for the famous mount of Randy Cunningham and Willie Driscoll, the only US Navy aces of the Vietnam War!



Only Navy "Ace" jet in Vietnam!





earlier in its career with these earlier markings.

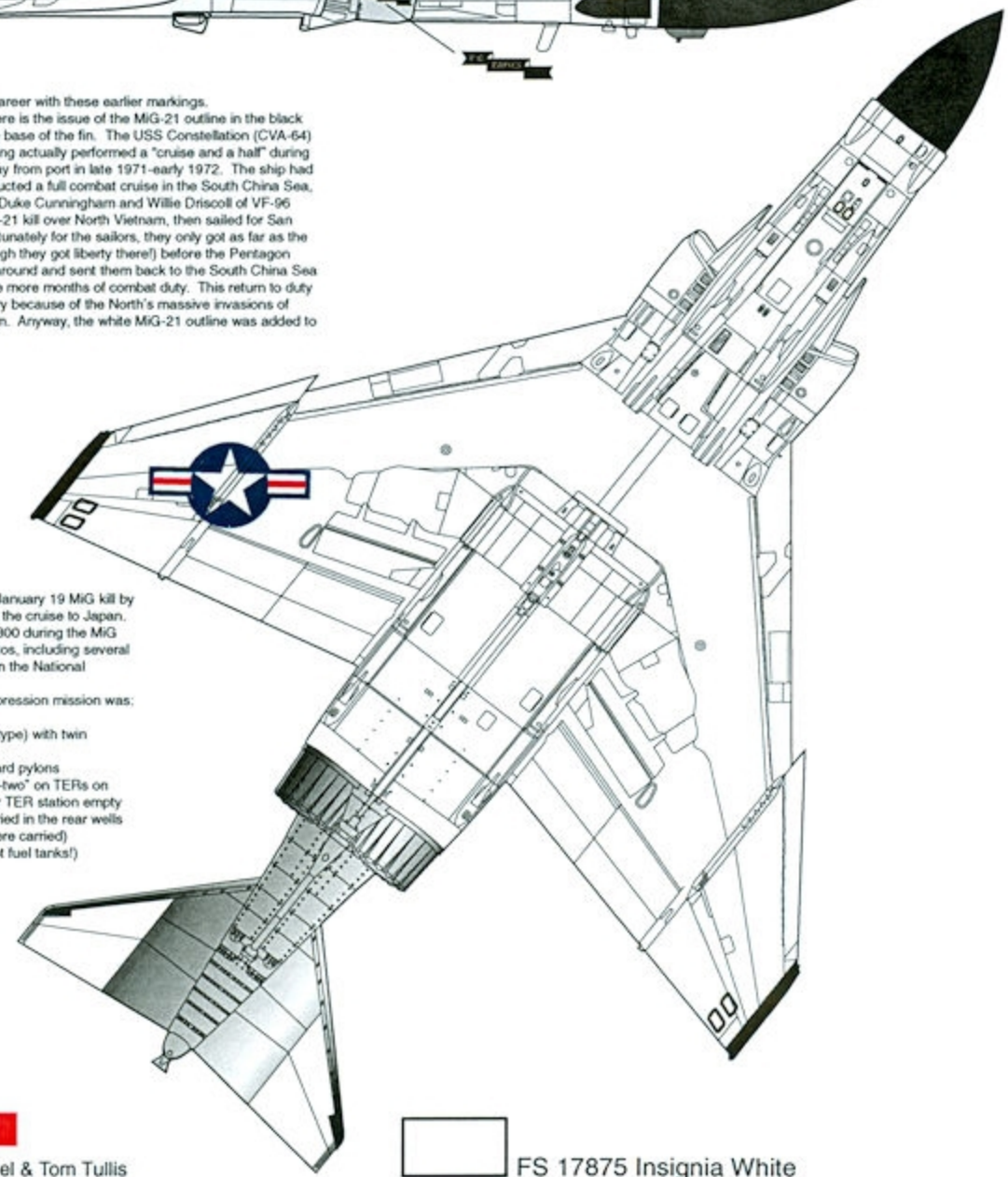
Finally, there is the issue of the MiG-21 outline in the black triangle at the base of the fin. The USS Constellation (CVA-64) and her air wing actually performed a "cruise and a half" during their time away from port in late 1971-early 1972. The ship had actually conducted a full combat cruise in the South China Sea, during which Duke Cunningham and Willie Driscoll of VF-96 scored a MiG-21 kill over North Vietnam, then sailed for San Diego. Unfortunately for the sailors, they only got as far as the Japan (although they got liberty there!) before the Pentagon turned them around and sent them back to the South China Sea for more three more months of combat duty. This return to duty was necessary because of the North's massive invasions of South Vietnam. Anyway, the white MiG-21 outline was added to

"Showtime 100" is undoubtedly one of the most famous US Navy Phantoms ever. It was in this jet borrowed from the squadron commander that LT Randy "Duke" Cunningham and RIO LTJG Willie Driscoll of VF-96 scored a triple kill and became the first and only US Navy aces of the Vietnam War on May 10, 1972. The jet was hit by a SAM and did not return to the carrier, although Cunningham and Driscoll ejected safely and were rescued.

There has been some confusion about the exact markings of this jet. This confusion resulted from several sources: first, since this jet (5800) did not return to the carrier, another jet (5590) was quickly repainted as "Showtime 100" with slightly different markings. Second, VF-96 changed their markings somewhat during the time they flew F-4Js, and 5800 was photographed

ALL squadron aircraft sometime after the January 19 MiG kill by Cunningham and Driscoll, probably during the cruise to Japan. That the MiG-21 silhouette was worn by 5800 during the MiG kills is confirmed by a series of VF-96 photos, including several of 5800, taken on May 8, 1972, that exist in the National Archives.

- The ordnance load during this flak suppression mission was:
- Centerline 600 gallon fuel tank
 - LAU-17 Inboard pylons ("pointy" type) with twin Sidewinder rails with spacers
 - 4 x AIM-9G Sidewinders on inboard pylons
 - 4 x Mk. 20 Rockeyes carried "flat-two" on TERs on the inboard pylons; bottom center TER station empty
 - 2 x AIM-7E-2 Sparrows were carried in the rear wells only; (some sources state four were carried)
 - Empty outboard bomb pylons (not fuel tanks!)



FS 16440 Light Gull Gray

Special thanks to...
Paul Boyer, Jim Fotramel & Tom Tullis

FS 17875 Insignia White