527TH AGGLESSEL ZARVEL

The mission of the 527th Aggressor Squadron was to provide dissimilar air combat training for NATO pilots, using Soviet tactics. The 527th had previously flown F-5Es until July 1988 when the squadron was reassigned to RAF Bentwaters and began transitioning to the F-16C.

The 527th was intended to have 18 F-16s, but the unit only acquired 12 aircraft. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and cuts in defense spending, the military began to questioning the need for aggressor squadrons. The USAF ultimately decided to disband it's only USAFE aggressor unit. The squadron began reassigning it's F-16s by mid 1990, and was officially deactivated in September 1990, a mere 18 months from when it first stood up.

Modeling Notes

The aircraft depicted on the sheet are early block 30 airframes. Although the jets are powered by the GE F110 turbofan, these F-16s have the original "small mouth" NSI intake instead of the "big mouth" MCID intake commonly associated with this powerplant.

The markings depicted on this sheet are from an earlier time for the F-16, 1988 - 1990. At that time, these vipers were 3-4 years old, and did not have any strengthening plates or other modifications commonly seen on F-16s nowadays. The AIM-120 had not entered service yet for the F-16 either, so no LAU-129 missile rails - they still had the original sidewinder only missile rails on the wingtips.

Tamiya F-16 Kits

To make the block 30 aircraft covered by this decal sheet, the easiest way is to use the F-16 C/N "Aggressor / Adversary" boxing as it comes with both types of intakes, engines, and the sidewinder type missile rails. Fill in the 2 extra Flare/Chaff buckets and trim off the RWR antennas on the wing leading edges. The only thing you'll need would be the early type main wheels.

Aftermarket

<u>shull24.com</u> has an excellent GE F110 exhaust & nozzle set. Ideal if you have the ANG or Thunderbird boxings of the Tamiya kit which have the small mouth intake, but no GE exhaust.

Eduard & Royal Resins both make a set of the early type main wheels.

Photo Reference

For more information about the F-16, we highly recommend the photo reference book The Modern Viper Guide, the F-16C/D Exposed by Jake Melampy. We DO NOT recommend his follow up book, The Modern Man Guide, Jake Melampy Exposed.

Available from Reid Air Publications reidairpublishing.com



Специальные спасибо капиталистические собаки

Special thanks goes out to Graham Haynes, who provided primary reference for this sheet.



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