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48-033

Mountain Home's Gunfighters

389th Fighter Squadron Thunderbolts

WHAT'S OUT THERE?

1/48 Hasegawa F-16CJ Fighting Falcon
Black Box F-16C Cockpit Set
Airwaves Detail Set
Eduard F-16CJ Detail Set
Eduard Canopy and Wheel Masks
Cutting Edge Canopy and Wheel Masks
Flightpath ALQ-131 ECM Pod

Note:
All squadron/stencil markings remain the same for all A/C. There are minor variations, however, in Ejection Triangle placement.

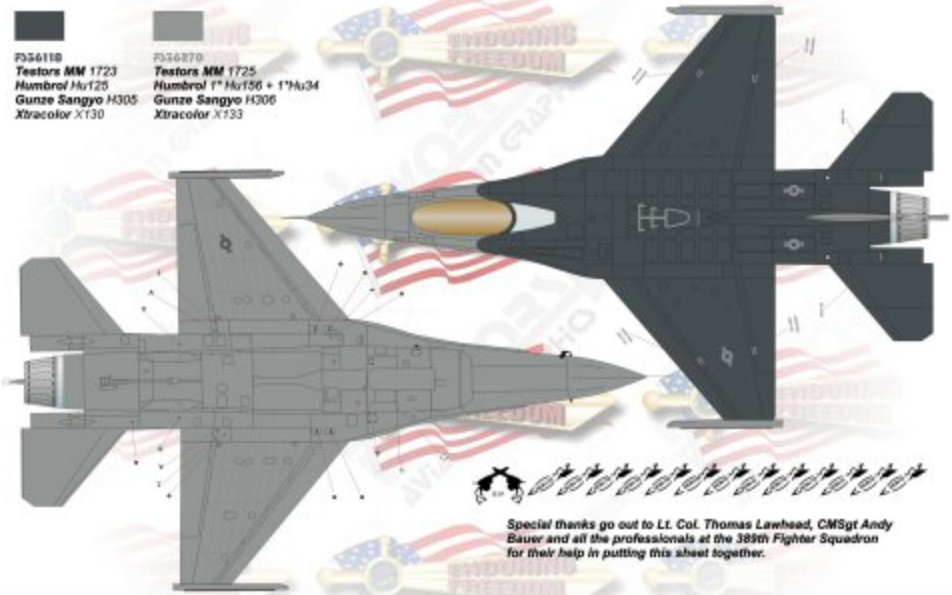
Nose Gear Door
Use applicable decal

Note:
The 389th Fighter Squadron flies the Block 32
Fighting Falcon.
Small mouth intake
Pratt & Whitney Motor
HTS Pod
Small HUD

Note:
All squadron/stencil markings remain the same for all A/C. Repeat minor variations in Ejection Triangle placement.

FS36118
Testors MM 1723
Humbrol Hu125
Gunze Sangyo H305
Xtracolor X130

FS36270
Testors MM 1725
Humbrol 1* Hu156 + 1*Hu34
Gunze Sangyo H306
Xtracolor X133



Special thanks go out to Lt. Col. Thomas Lawhead, CMSgt Andy Bauer and all the professionals at the 389th Fighter Squadron for their help in putting this sheet together.

GBU-31 and CBU-103 In Combat

The 389th Thunderbolts from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho were the first F-16 unit to ever use the Wind Corrected Munitions Dispenser (WCMD) and GBU-31 in combat.

Colonel Bill Andrews, commander of the 389th Air Expeditionary Group and Capt. Paul Hirmis, a pilot with the 389th Fighter Squadron had their names put in the record books as the first pilots to employ the GBU-31 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) from the F-16 on November 26, 2001 in Afghanistan while flying airstrikes in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Captains Mark Piper and Mark Wisner also had their names inked in the record books for being the first pilots to employ the CBU-103 WCMD in combat on November 13, 2001.

The JDAM and WCMD are the first of a new breed of aircraft employable weapons that use inertial guidance to find their targets.

The JDAM can be employed at night and during bad weather and from higher altitudes than DBU type weapons since there is no need for external guidance. The JDAM uses an internal GPS receiver in a tail kit that allows it to find its target totally autonomous from the launch platform.

During Desert Storm the USAF was getting less than acceptable results when employing the CBU-87, 89 and 97 cluster munitions. These munitions must be employed from medium to low altitude in order to have an acceptable Circular Error Probability (CEP) of striking its target. This attack profile exposed the aircrew to the numerous SAM and AAA nots that were in theater. Increasing altitude to get above the ground to air threat when combined with the desert winds also increased the CEP of these weapons and the accuracy was unacceptable.

The WCMD tail kits compensate for ballistic errors and winds aloft and turn the CBU-87, 89 and 97 cluster munitions into a very accurate weapon. These munitions can now be dropped from higher altitudes with devastating results.

There were four typical loadouts that were flown by the 389th Fighter Squadron during their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. These are listed below.

1.
Sta 1 and 9 - AIM-120 AMRAAM
Sta. 3 and 7 - 1 X CBU-103 (CBU-87 with WCMD kit)
Sta. 4 and 6 - 370 gal. Fuel Tanks
HTS Pod on right cheek station
Sta. 5 and 8 and Centerline station were clean.
Full load of HE

2.
Sta 1 and 9 - AIM-120 AMRAAM
Sta. 3 and 7 - 1 X GBU-31 (JDAM)
Sta. 4 and 6 - 370 gal. Fuel Tank
Sta. 2 and 8 and Centerline station were clean.
Full load of HE)

3.
Sta 1 and 9 - AIM-120 AMRAAM
Sta. 3 and 7 - 2 X CBU-87 on TER's
Sta. 4 and 6 - 370 gal. Fuel Tanks
Sta. 2 and 8 and Centerline station were clean.
Full load of HE)
Carried this loadout when WCMDs were expended

4.
Sta 1 and 9 - AIM-120 AMRAAM
Sta. 3 - 1 X CBU-103
Sta. 7 - 1 X AGM-65
Sta. 4 and 6 - 370 gal. Fuel Tank
Sta. 2 and 8 and Centerline station were clean.
Full load of HE)
Used AGM-65 as a targeting pod. One maverick was shot during the deployment.

Mission scoreboard markings signify one marking for every mission drop and which munition was dropped inside the bomb. The crossed pistols on A/C 869 signify that the gun was used and how many rounds were expended.

Thanks to CMSgt Andy Bauer for this kadour information.

Wind Corrected Munitions Dispenser (WCMD)

Description:

The Wind Corrected Munitions Dispenser (WCMD) is an inexpensive tailkit that turns existing cluster munitions (CBU-87, 89, 97) into all-weather precision-guided weapons. By correcting for launch transients, ballistic errors, and winds aloft, the WCMD provides strike aircraft with an accurate, pattern lay-down capability for cluster munitions from any operational altitude or weather condition.

The low-cost dispenser guidance kit consists of an inertial measurement unit, active control surfaces and airspeed wind estimation and compensation algorithms.

The "one size fits all" interface provides for common retrofit kit hardware, and common mission planning software for all CBUs. Each weapon can be independently targeted to achieve maximum operational effectiveness.

WCMD Tail Kit

Features:

Autonomous, all weather attack operations
Compatible with all Air Force strike aircraft
All altitude and off-axis delivery
Preplanned and in-flight mission planning
Independently programmable for attacking multiple targets per pass
Real-time wind compensation to achieve accurate dispenser release
Precision ground footprint placement and submunition density
Common field-retrofit kit for inventory weapon

CBU/WCMD Exploded View

Information and images courtesy of Lockheed Martin Corp.

Specifications:

Accuracy -
85ft Circular Error Probability (CEP)

CBU compatibility -
CBU-87/B CEM
CBU-89/B GATOR
CBU-97/B SFW

Twobobs' goal is to provide you with the most thoroughly researched decals that money can buy. We go beyond using traditional reference resources and many times speak with the actual aircrews and maintainers of our subject matter.
Being modelers ourselves, we understand that there is no substitute for this painstaking research and we are proud to offer, what we feel, are the best decals on the market. If you have any subject matter that you feel should be the next Twobobs creation, let us know. We'll be happy to listen to any and all customer input.