

PRODUCTS

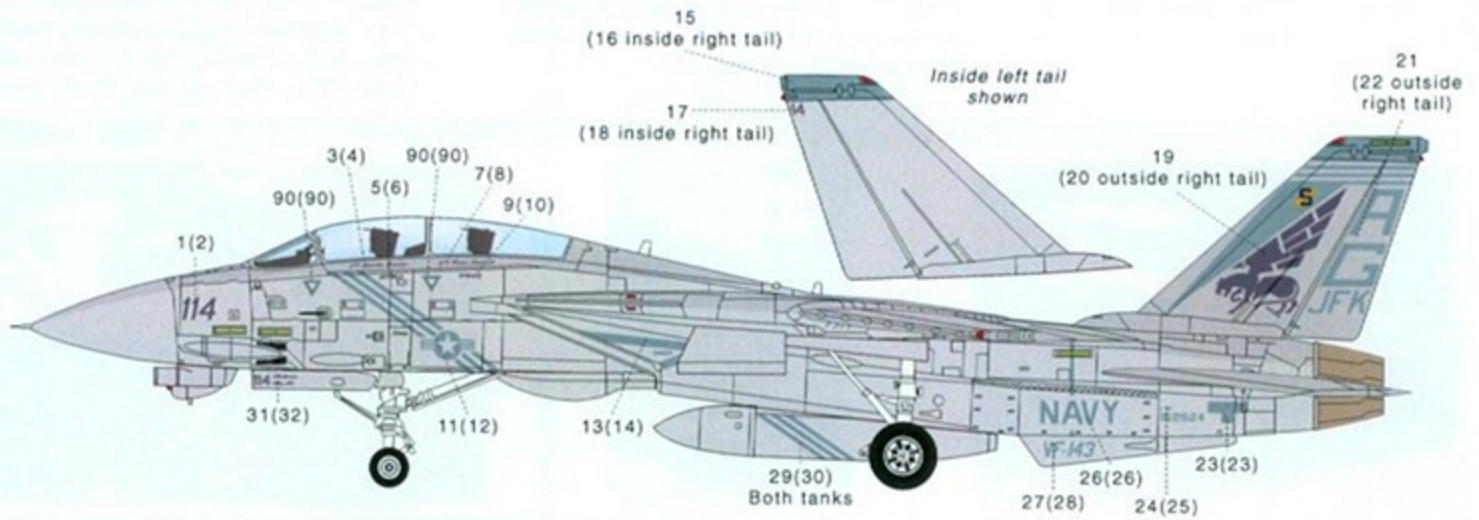
AeroMaster™

**Kennedy's Tomcats****2002/03**

Pt. II



Suggested Kit: Hasegawa F-14B Tomcat.



Aircraft 1 -F-14B BuNo 162924 'Dog 114' of VF-143 'Pukin' Dogs', CAG-7, USS John F. Kennedy. Standard F-14 Tactical Paint Scheme.

Aircraft 2 -F-14B BuNo 162927 'Ripper 205' of VF-11 'Red Rippers', CAG-7, USS John F. Kennedy. Standard F-14 Tactical Paint Scheme. Note Light Gray radome.

Aircraft 3 -F-14B BuNo 161433 'Red Ripper 200' of VF-11 'Red Rippers', CAG-7, USS John F. Kennedy. Standard F-14 Tactical Paint Scheme. Note Dark Blue tails, ventral strakes and antiglare panel. Yes, they are Dk. Blue, not Black.

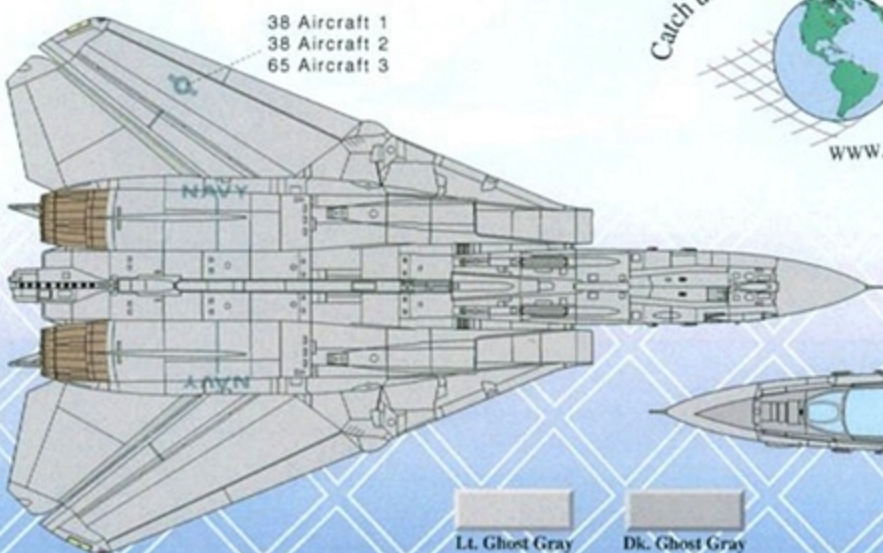


Catch us on the net!

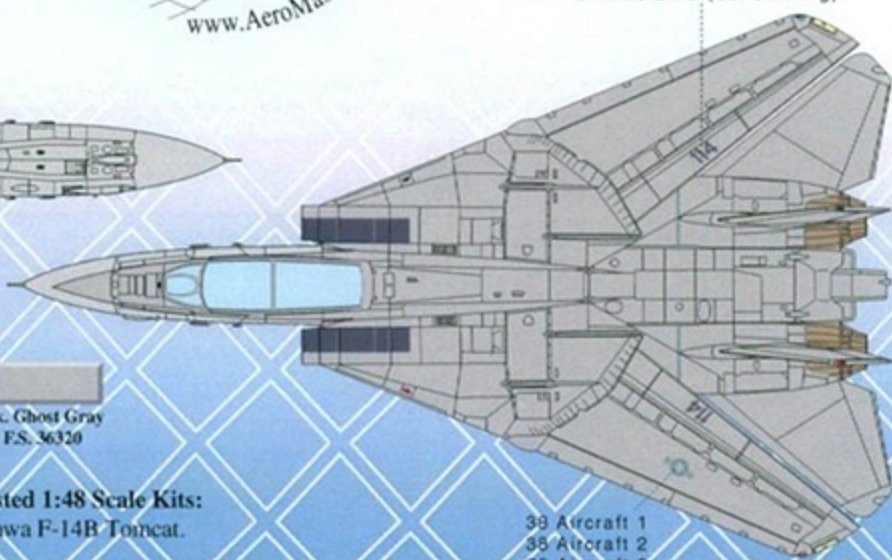


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38 Aircraft 1
38 Aircraft 2
65 Aircraft 3



2 Aircraft 1 (1 left wing)
34 Aircraft 2 (33 left wing)
57 Aircraft 3 (56 left wing)



Lt. Ghost Gray
FS. 36375

Dk. Ghost Gray
FS. 36320

References:

Dozens of photos supplied by Col Mark Hasara. Our thanks to him.

thanks !!

Suggested 1:48 Scale Kits:
Hasegawa F-14B Tomcat.

Due to space limitations we can not provide the Low visibility stencils. Use kit supplied stencils or from AMD 148-024.

38 Aircraft 1
38 Aircraft 2
65 Aircraft 3

If you have suggestions for future subject matter, AeroMaster would like to hear from you. Our goal is to provide high quality, well researched decals of unusual and interesting subjects. We value our customers' input, so if you have specific suggestions or photographs of unusual subject matter which you would be willing to share, please contact us.

The USS JOHN F. KENNEDY ("Big John") replaced the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT on the line in the airwar over Afghanistan. Big John's deck is an unusual home for a carrier airwing. It is one of the few carrier's deployed with an airwing containing two F-14B Tomcat squadrons; VF-11 "Red Rippers" and VF-143 "Pukin Dogs". VF-143 has gone back to it's original name which was changed during the previous political correctness era. It was decreed the name be changed to "The Dogs" during that time period. Both of these squadrons have rich histories. Big John Tomcats are equipped with LANTIRN (Low Altitude Navigation Targeting Infrared at Night) and TARPs (Tactical Air Reconnaissance Pod System) pods. All of these systems have been used extensively over Afghanistan. The LANTIRN pods are hung on a majority of the Tomcats in both squadron due to the types of missions they are flying.

F-14 Tomcats carried either the LANTIRN pod or the TARPs pod, not both. The control systems for the LANTIRN/TARPs pods are located in the NFOs left side panel. They take up the same panel space or hole. The LANTIRN hand controller looks similar to modern cockpit flight control stick grips. Many believe it is the same as the F-15E WSOs hand controllers, which it is not. A TARPs jet can carry LGBs in the front Phoenix pallets, but these bombs must be guided, or "Buddy Lased", by another LANTIRN equipped F-14.

Big John's Tomcats carried a variety of weapons loads. F-14s flew with a self escort load early in the war, carrying air-to-air missiles while the air threat was perceived as being medium to high. AIM-54 Phoenix or AIM 7M Sparrows were carried on the bottom of the left wing glove pylon. Two AIM-9M Sidewinders on the wing glove pylon shoulders were standard for most loads. AIM-7Ms were also carried in the aft fuselage well on some missions. The right wing glove pylon carried the LANTIRN pod and AIM-9M Sidewinder. All Sidewinders were mounted on the new BOL Chaff launch rails found in some of the newer F-14 kits. As the air threat was reduced, the air-to-air mix of missiles was also reduced. As the war progressed, single AIM-9Ms were carried.

Bomb loads varied from phases of the war and types of missions being flown. Early in the war, F-14s carried 2 x GBU-10s in the front pallets side by side.

A single AIM-7M would be carried in the fuselage aft missile well. 4 x GBU-10s were also carried on some missions. When carrying GBU-24s, they were carried front-to-back on opposite side pallets due to the length of the seekers and larger width of the folding wings. Many missions had F-14s carrying 4 x GBU-12 on the fuselage pallets.

The GBU-31 Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) were also carried on F-14s flying missions over Afghanistan. Many F-14s carried them in pairs on the front pallets and four have been carried earlier in the war. The above munitions give the F-14 a truly precision strike capability.

External fuel tanks were standard on all F-14s due to the long distances traveled to the target areas. The F-14s were often refueled during their missions by Brit VC-10s or Tristar tankers. Most US Navy carrier-borne fighters are refueled by USAF KC-135 or KC-10 aircraft. Over 700 million pounds of fuel has been offloaded by USAF tankers to coalition receivers in the airwar over Afghanistan.