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F/A-18C/D Thunderbolts and Vikings

Marine Hornets of Operation Iraqi Freedom

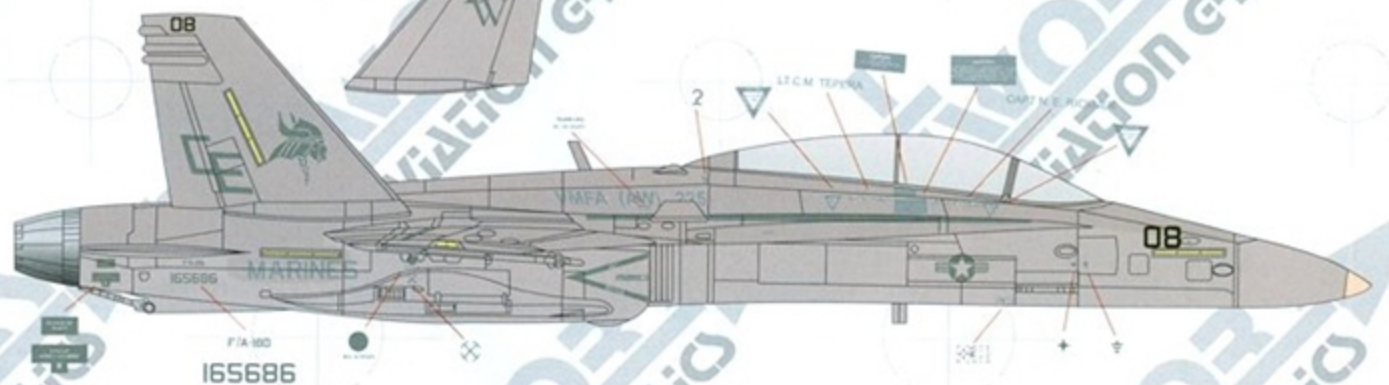
Two Accurate, Two Colorful Twobobs!

WHAT'S OUT THERE?
1/48th Hasegawa F/A-18C/D
1/48th Monogram F/A-18C
Airwaves Resin Cockpit
Black Box Resin Cockpit
Eduard Hornet Detail Set

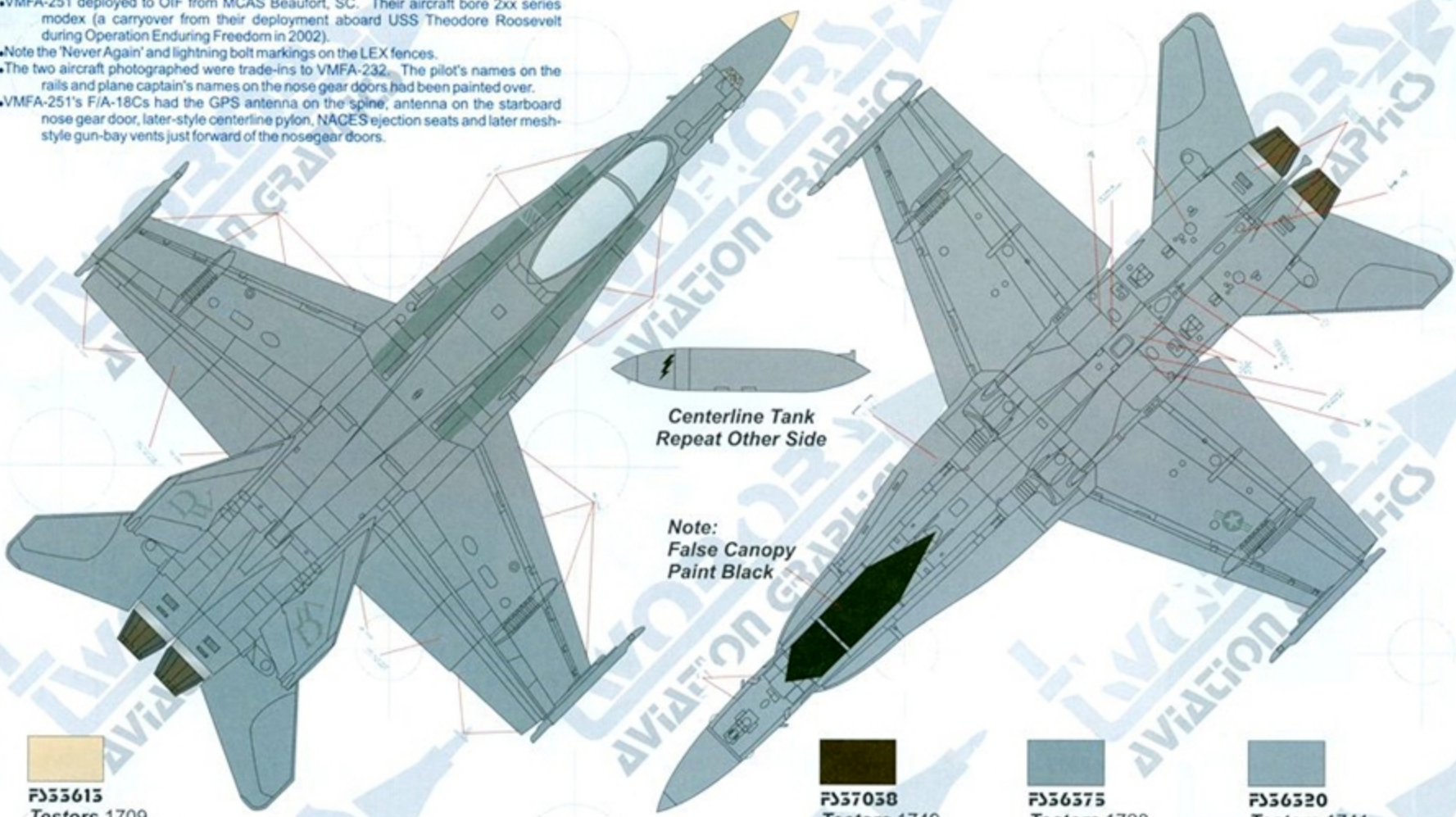
F/A-18C VMFA-251
June 2003



F/A-18D VMFA-225
June 2003



- VMFA-251 Thunderbolts**
- VMFA-251 deployed to OIF from MCAS Beaufort, SC. Their aircraft bore 2xx series modex (a carryover from their deployment aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2002).
 - Note the 'Never Again' and lightning bolt markings on the LEX fences.
 - The two aircraft photographed were trade-ins to VMFA-232. The pilot's names on the rails and plane captain's names on the nose gear doors had been painted over.
 - VMFA-251's F/A-18Cs had the GPS antenna on the spine, antenna on the starboard nose gear door, later-style centerline pylon, NACES ejection seats and later mesh-style gun-bay vents just forward of the nosegear doors.



Centerline Tank
Repeat Other Side

Note:
False Canopy
Paint Black

F333615
Testors 1709
Humbrol HU148
Gunze Sangyo H318
Xtracolor X107

F357038
Testors 1749
Humbrol Hu33
Gunze Sangyo H12
Xtracolor X404

F356575
Testors 1728
Humbrol HU127
Gunze Sangyo H308
Xtracolor X136

F356520
Testors 1741
Humbrol HU128
Gunze Sangyo H307
Xtracolor X135

Thanks to John Bibay for all the great pics and construction notes on these A/C.

Thanks also go out to Capt. Neal E. "Rudy" Rickner who made it possible for John to get these pictures.



- VMFA-225 Vikings**
- The 08 jet is the only jet that had any kind of mission markings. The port side of the jet was painted in Kuwait with the titles "1" MarDiv" and the unit insignia of the First Marine Division. Operation Iraqi Freedom commenced before the starboard could be painted. The five markings on the port canopy rail indicate 5 defeated surface-to-air missiles.
 - Except for one jet, VMFA(AW)-225's F/A-18Ds are the last and newest F/A-18Ds in the Marine Corps. Their F/A-18Ds had the GPS antenna on the spine, antenna on the starboard nose gear door relocated to the nose gear retract strut door, later-style centerline pylon, NACES ejection seats the later mesh-style gun-bay vents just forward of the nosegear doors, IFF antennas on the nose and 4 chaff buckets aft of the jet intakes.

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.