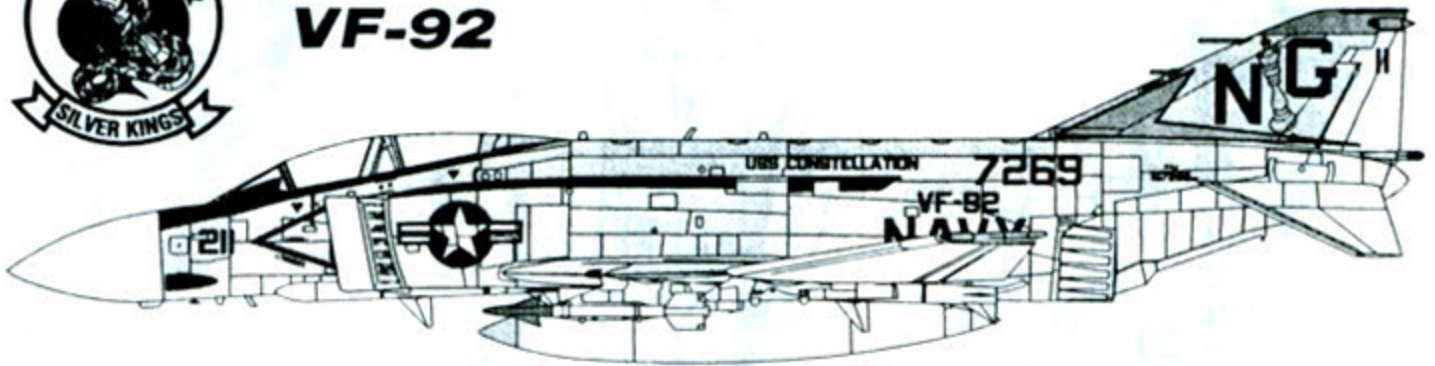


US NAVY PHANTOM MiG KILLERS



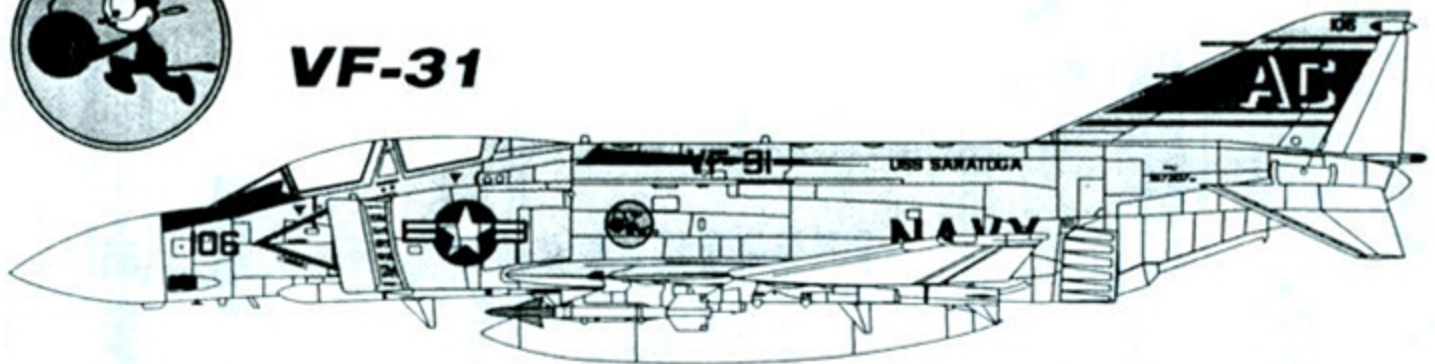
VF-92



Silverkite 211 LT Curt "Dozo" Dosé and LCDR Jim "Routeslip" McDevitt MiG-21 10 May 1972



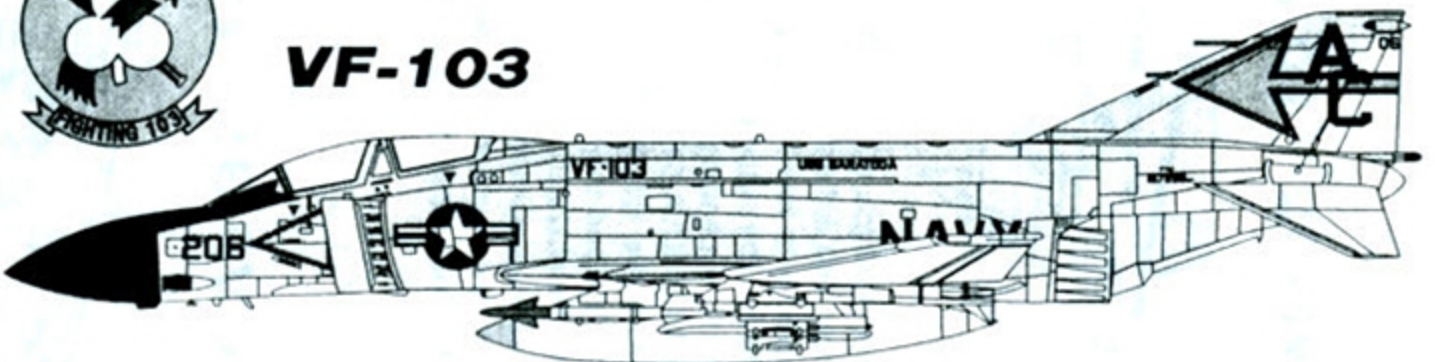
VF-31



Bandwagon 106 LCDR Sam Flynn and LT(JG) Bill Johns MiG-21 21 June 1972



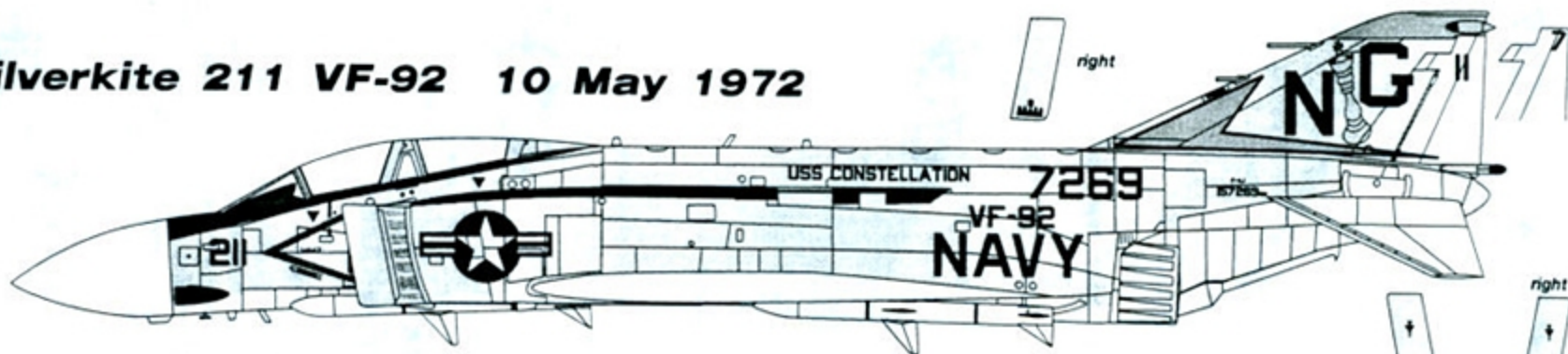
VF-103



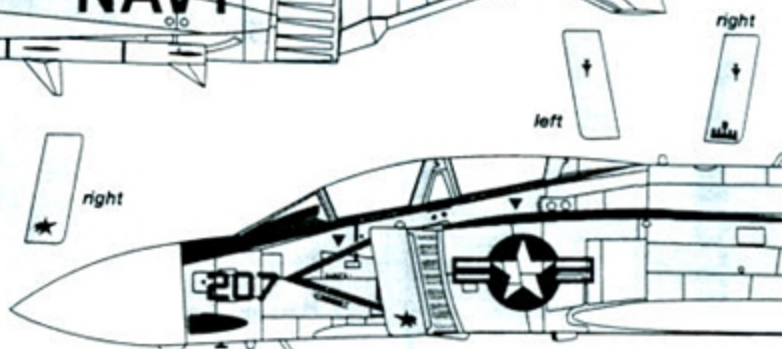
Clubleaf 206 LCDR Gene Tucker and LT Bruce Edens MiG-21 10 August 1972

This decal sheet was developed after considerable research and direct correspondence with some of the aircrew involved and presents the markings of three US Navy Phantoms as actually flown on MiG-killing missions during the Linebacker operations of 1972. Since none of these were the personal aircraft of the MiG-kill aircrews, additional markings are also provided on this sheet depicting the aircrews' personal aircraft which displayed their victory markings. After returning to the United States, personal MiG-kill markings were applied to their newly assigned squadron aircraft. This has often resulted in confusion as to the identity of the actual MiG-killing aircraft.

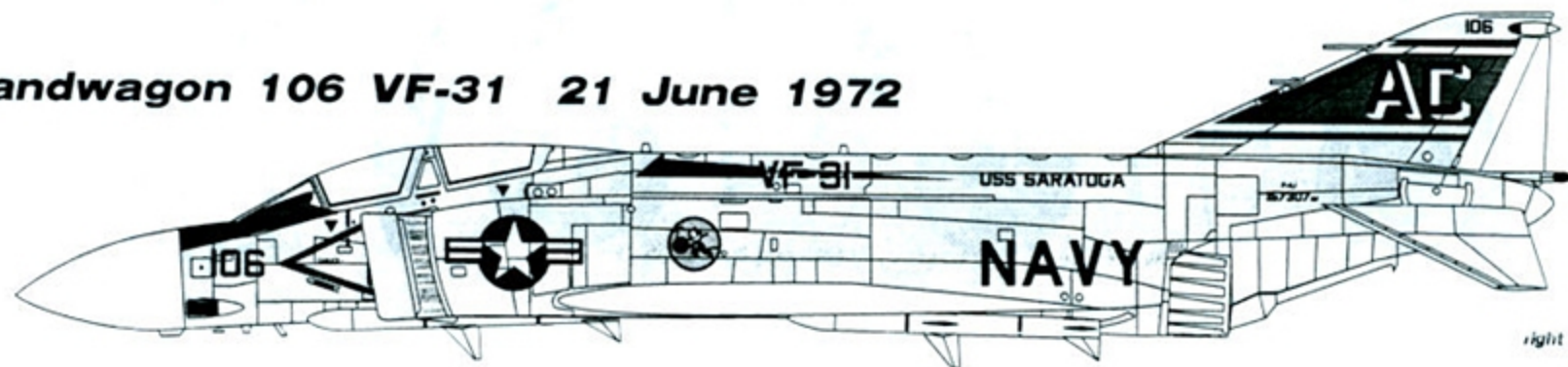
Silverkite 211 VF-92 10 May 1972



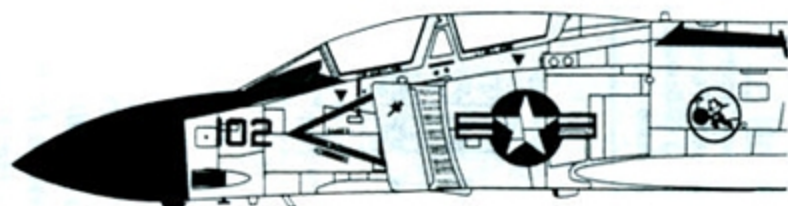
F-4J BuNo 157269 was flown by LT Curt Dosé (pilot) and LCDR Jim McDevitt (RIO) during their MiG-killing Target CAP mission over Kep Airfield, near Hanoi, North Viet Nam on 10 May 1972. *Silverkite 211* was configured with four AIM-7E-2 Sparrow and four AIM-9D Sidewinder missiles plus a centerline tank. The outboard wing pylons were empty. Dosé downed a MiG-21 that had just taken off, expending three Sidewinders at low level and high speed. Returning to USS *Constellation* (CVA-64), Dosé and McDevitt painted a MiG kill marking on both inlet ramps of F-4J BuNo 155560, *Silverkite 207*. VF-92 *Silver King* Phantoms carried FS13538 Yellow fin caps and their Yellow wing tips had a thin Black border, (provided as four stripes on the decal sheet). Air conditioning inlets and canopy rails were painted Black. Aircrew names were painted on both side canopy rails and plane captain names were placed inside a Black crown located on the lower inlet ramps. *Silverkite 207* did not initially carry a crown and when one was finally applied to the right ramp, a new MiG kill was marked on both sides. The crown was also on the right ramp only of *Silverkite 211*. The small a/c numbers are for the nosewheel door. Some, but not all, VF-92 fuel tanks had Yellow tips. Note: The shadow shading on VF-92 numbers is below and to the rear.



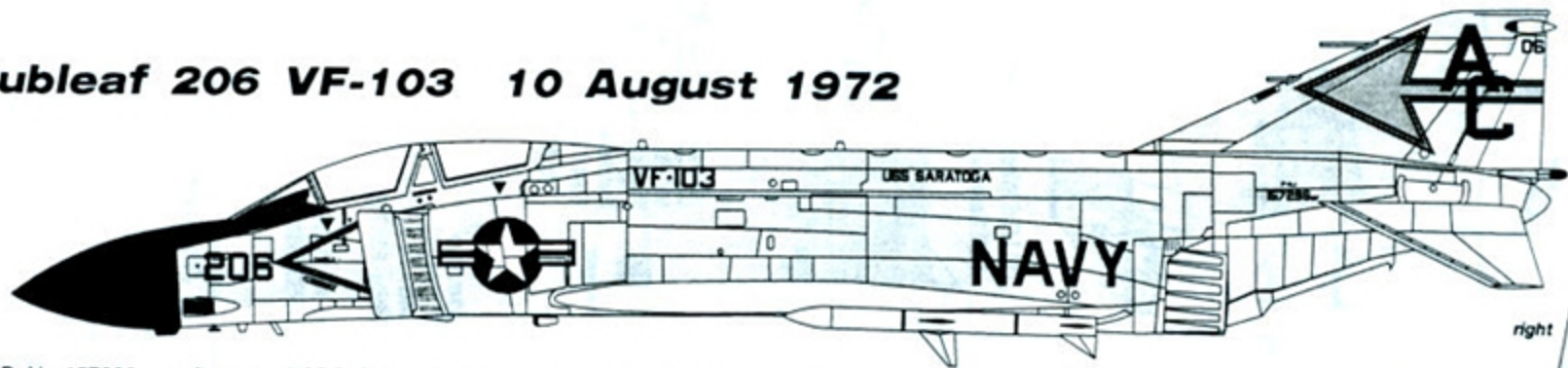
Bandwagon 106 VF-31 21 June 1972



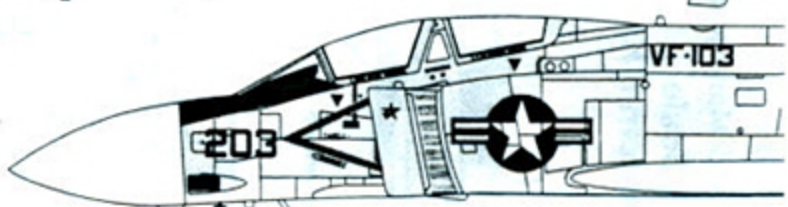
F-4J BuNo 157307 was flown by CDR Sam Flynn (pilot) and LT(JG) Bill John (RIO) of VF-31 *Tomcatters* from USS *Saratoga* (CVA-60) for their 21 June 1972 MiG-killing MIGCAP between Hanoi and Haiphong. On this mission, *Bandwagon 106* was configured with four AIM-7E-2 Sparrow and four AIM-9D Sidewinder missiles plus a centerline tank. Dodging four SA-2 missiles, Flynn's flight was vectored towards three MiG-21s heading for *Saratoga's* main strike group. The MiGs dove on the flight and Flynn downed one with his third Sidewinder. After returning to their carrier, a MiG kill was added to the left and right inlet ramps of BuNo 157280, *Bandwagon 102*, Flynn and John's Phantom. VF-31 Phantoms had either Black and White nose radomes. Aircrew names were painted in Red along the canopy rails on both sides. The names of the squadron plane captains were placed inside Black rectangles on both side air conditioning inlets. The Yellow circle under Felix the Cat was almost entirely worn away on *Bandwagon 102*, so omit the Yellow disc decal. The small two-digit number is for the nosewheel door. Note: The shadow shading on VF-31 numbers and letters is below and to the rear.



Clubleaf 206 VF-103 10 August 1972



F-4J BuNo 157299 was flown by LCDR Gene Tucker (pilot) and LT Bruce Edens (RIO) of VF-103 *Sluggers* on their MiG-killing mission over North Viet Nam on 10 August 1972. *Clubleaf 206* was assigned to sit five-minute night alert aboard *Saratoga*, configured with a centerline tank, two AIM-7E-2 Sparrows in the aft fuselage wells, two AIM-9D Sidewinder missiles on the wing stations plus empty TERs on the outboard wing pylons. After refueling in flight, *Clubleaf 206* was vectored towards a bogey near Vinh. After acquiring his target, Tucker punched off his tank and TERs. When in range and locked on, he fired his Sparrows, producing a large fireball as one or both missiles hit. A MiG kill marking was applied to the left and right inlet ramps of Tucker and Edens' F-4J, *Clubleaf 203*, BuNo 157305. Note that the White AIM-7 in the marking always points forward. VF-103 Phantoms had Black or White nose radomes; photos of *Clubleaf 203* taken shortly after the cruise show it with both a Black and a White radome. We've done it as White, but the choice is the modeler's. Aircrew names were painted on the canopy rails on both sides and the plane captains' names were placed inside Black rectangles on both side air conditioning inlets. Note the small two-digit nosewheel door number. Some VF-103 fuel tanks had Yellow tips.



For the
Hasegawa and Monogram
1/48 Scale
F-4J Phantom II Kits

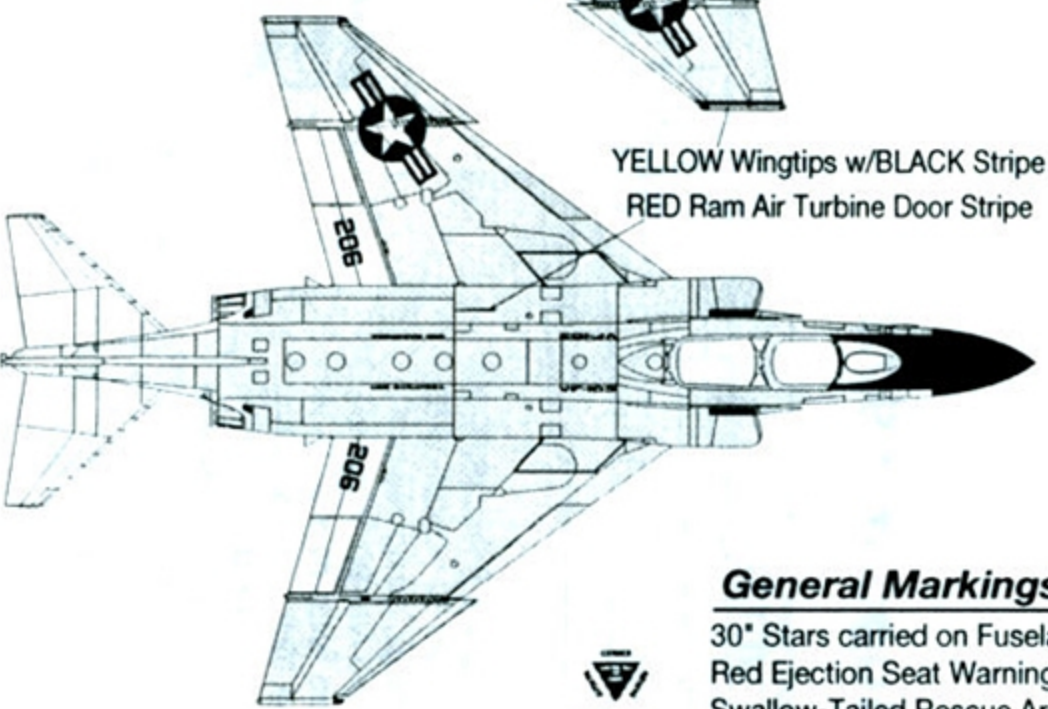
Acknowledgements
Curtis Dosé, Sam Flynn, Jim Wooley,
Jan Jacobs, Hill Goodspeed, Robert
Brown, Dennis Clutter, Gregg Galloway,
Jack Morris, JEM Aviation Slides



NOTE: VF-31 upper surfaces similar to VF-103.

Nose Gear Doors

VF-92		
VF-31		
VF-103		



What F-4 markings would you like to see? Write to me:
Ben Backes
321 S. Keith
Wichita KS 67209

General Markings Notes

- 30" Stars carried on Fuselage, 40" on Wings
- Red Ejection Seat Warning Triangles
- Swallow-Tailed Rescue Arrow
- Fuel Tanks and TERs were White but sometimes carried Squadron Color tips



US Navy Phantom Paint Scheme

- Upper Surfaces: Matt Gull Gray FS36440
- Lower Surfaces, Wheel Wells: Gloss White FS17925
- Metal Areas
- Dive Brake Interiors, Edges: Gloss Red FS11136
- Antiglare Panel, Walkways: Flat Black FS37038

F-4J Construction Notes

1. Remove all formation lighting
2. Remove triangular plates from horizontal tails

References

Correspondence with Curt Dosé and Sam Flynn, June/July 1996
 USN Phantoms in Combat, Lou Drendel, 1988
 One Day in a Long War, Jeff Ethell & Alfred Price, 1989
 MiG Killers over Kep, Combat Mission/Warplane Vol. 1/12, Jan 1990
 Colors & Markings of U.S. Navy Phantoms Parts 1 & 2, Bert Kinzey and Ray Leader, 1990
 Navy Phantoms in Vietnam, R.F. Dorr, Wings of Fame No.1, 1996
 VF-31 Tomcatters, Peter Mersky, Wings of Fame No.2, 1996

