

# INTRUDER SANDBOX REDUX

## USN/USMC A-6E Intruders in Libya & Desert Storm

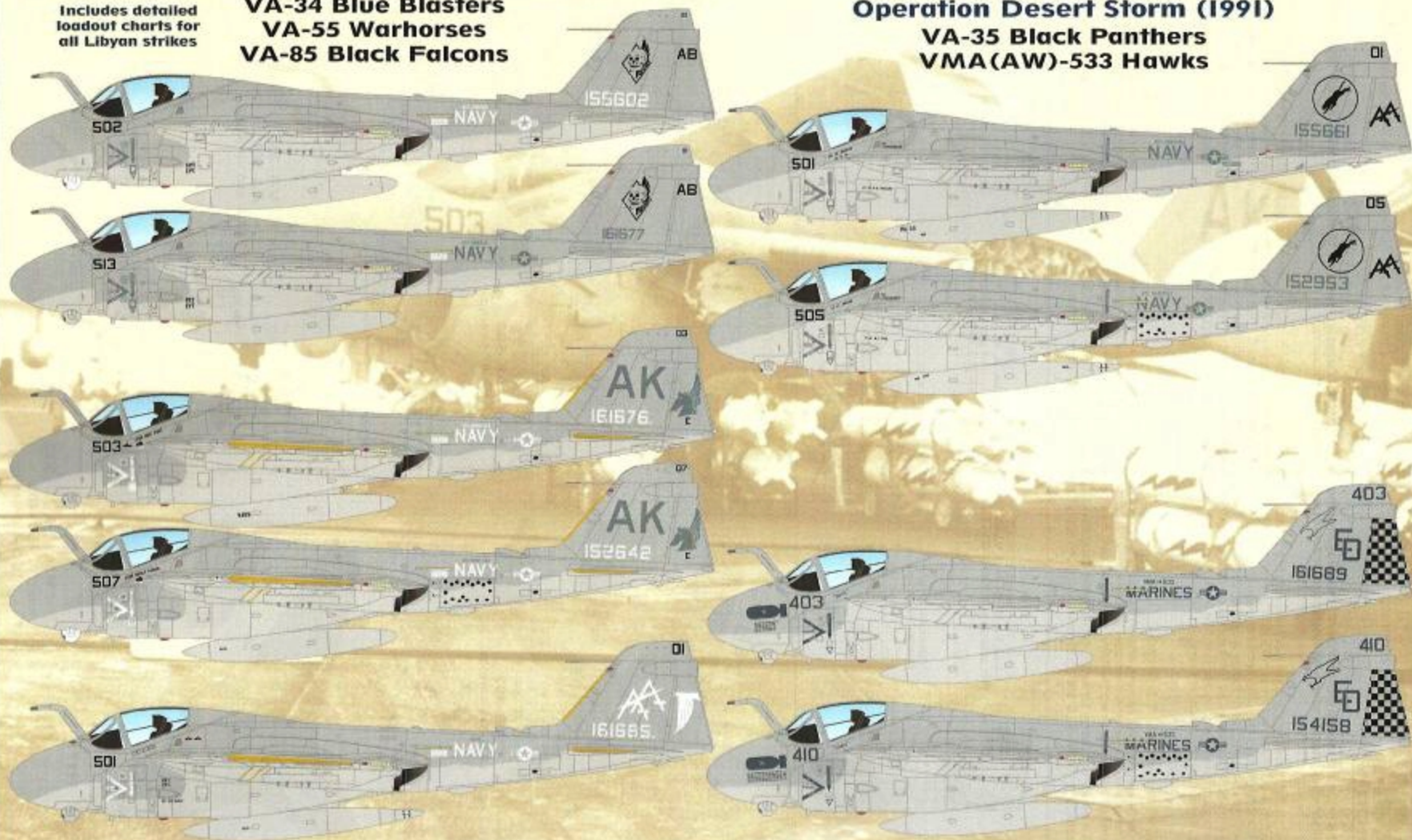
### Operations Prairie Fire & El Dorado Canyon (1986)

Includes detailed  
loadout charts for  
all Libyan strikes

**VA-34 Blue Blasters**  
**VA-55 Warhorses**  
**VA-85 Black Falcons**

### Operation Desert Storm (1991)

**VA-35 Black Panthers**  
**VMA(AW)-533 Hawks**



### MARKING & CAMOUFLAGE NOTES

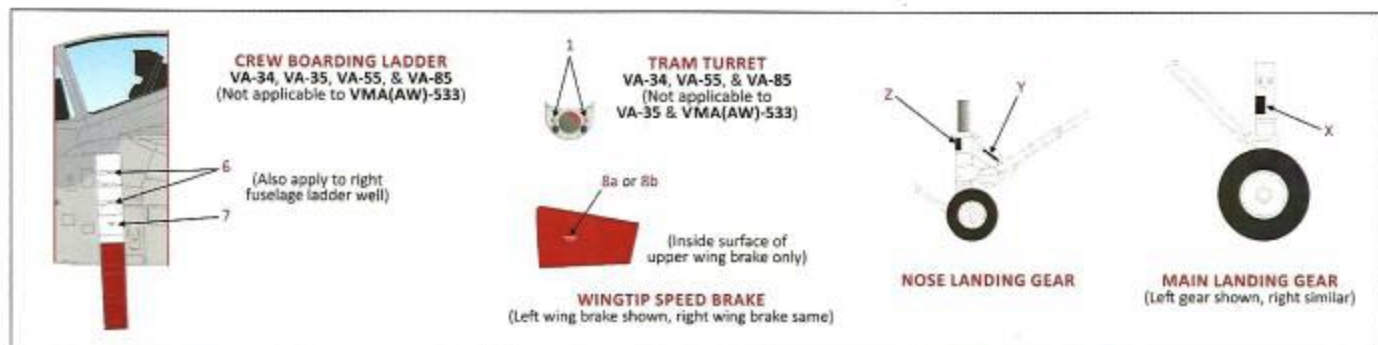
It is recommended to test an unneeded decal against the painted grey color used for the model to ensure the decals do not "disappear" on the painted model. For all schemes refer to individual illustrations for details regarding each specific aircraft.

All aircraft have the standard Navy low visibility Tactical Paint Scheme (TPS) camouflage consisting of FS36320 over FS36375. Upper surfaces are shown as FS36320 but may also have had areas of FS36375. Even though the scheme illustrations all show a hard demarcation line between the greys, in reality this was soft edged and in majority of cases the difference between the colors could not be easily detected. Due to continued service (wear, stains, etc.) and effects of weathering (sun, salt environment, etc.) and changing lighting conditions, the greys varied considerably even between aircraft within the same squadron and time period. The variations were also exacerbated by local corrosion control performed by the squadrons that touched up areas as required with fresh paint and this could also be performed using a different grey. In addition, the fresh paint would also have a different color appearance from the surrounding weathered paint. As a result, the aircraft took on a very patchy appearance of various shade of colors.

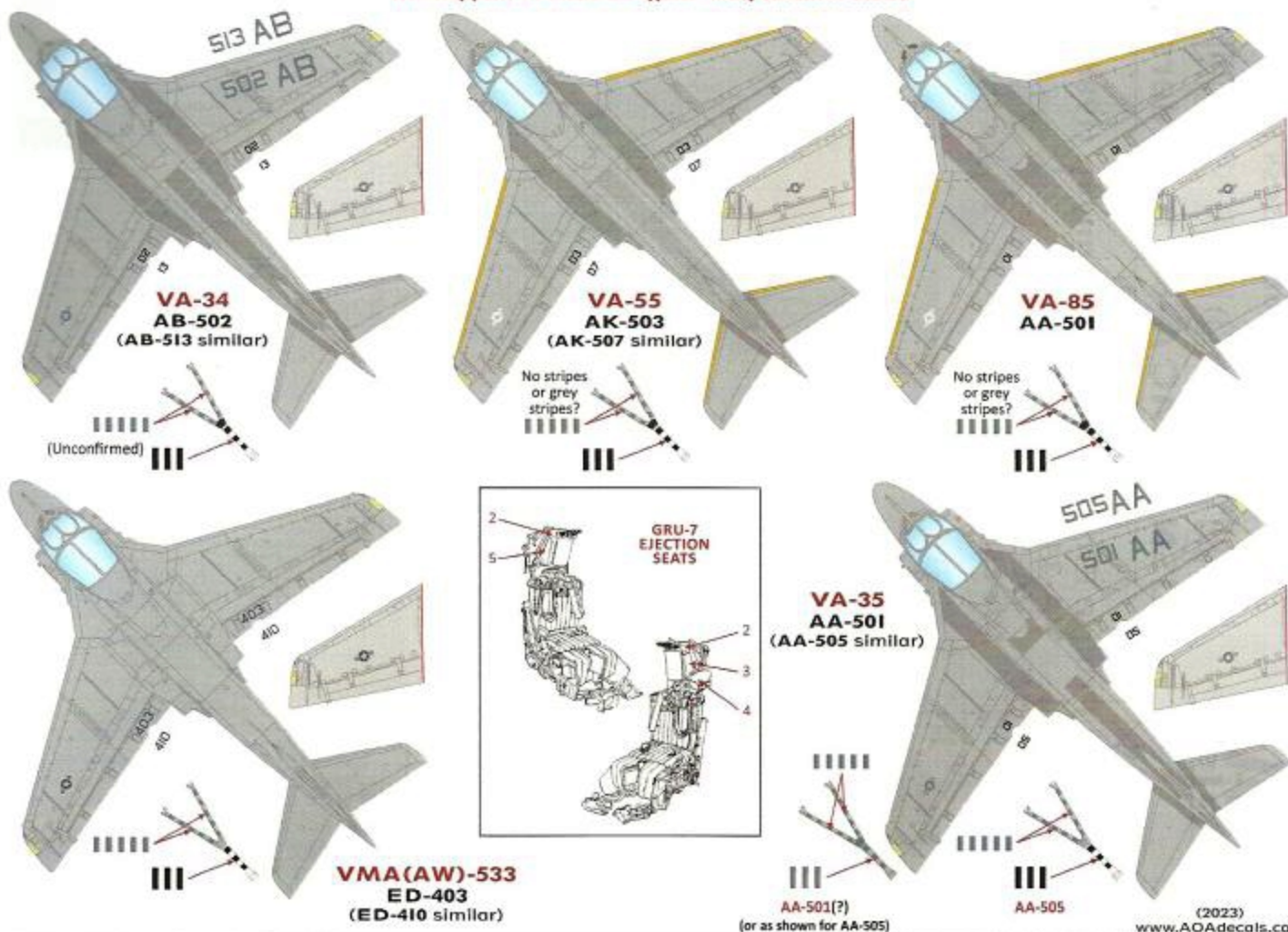
#### A note on airframe data/stencils...

For the Libyan strike options, engine intake/exhaust and crew rescue markings were applied in various styles and colors between aircraft even in the same squadron. The extensive smaller A-6 Intruder airframe data/stencils most likely was present but those apparent are only visible primarily in extreme close-up photographs. All aircraft were extensively "blotchy" with significant weathering/fading and corrosion control (paint) touch ups that also concealed most of the smaller data/stencils.

For the Desert Storm schemes, no airframe data/stencil was applied to the VMA(AW)-533 aircraft, and similarly data stenciling also does not appear to have been applied to the VA-35 aircraft (very few exceptions apply for AA-501, as noted in description).



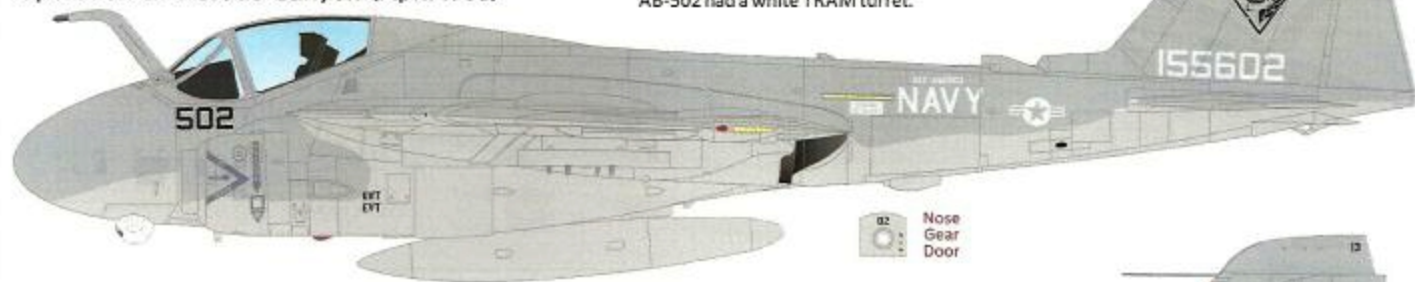
#### Walkway patterns shown are typical - many variations existed



**VA-34 BLUE BLASTERS**

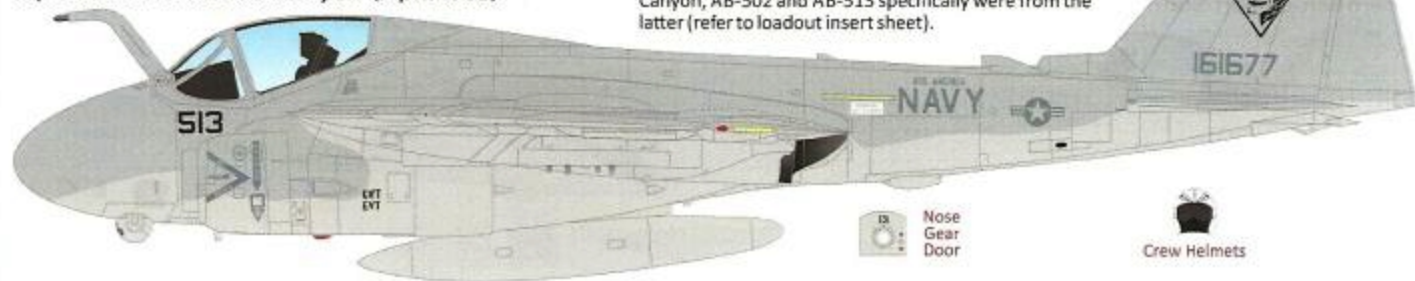
**AB-502 (155602) - USS America**  
Operation El Dorado Canyon (April 1986)

The Blue Blasters tail insignia and AB airwing codes appeared black but may have been dark grey. AB-502 had a white TRAM turret.



**AB-513 (161677) - USS America**  
Operation El Dorado Canyon (April 1986)

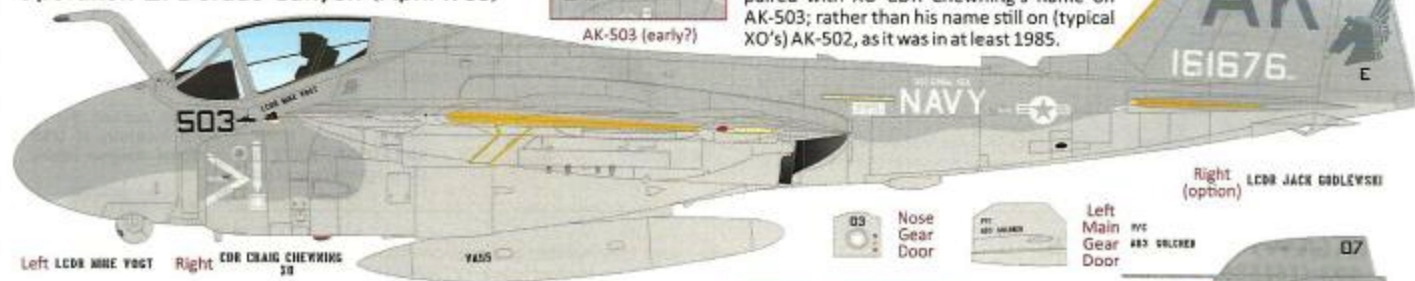
Although VA-34 aircraft directly participated in both Operation Prairie Fire and Operation El Dorado Canyon, AB-502 and AB-513 specifically were from the latter (refer to loadout insert sheet).



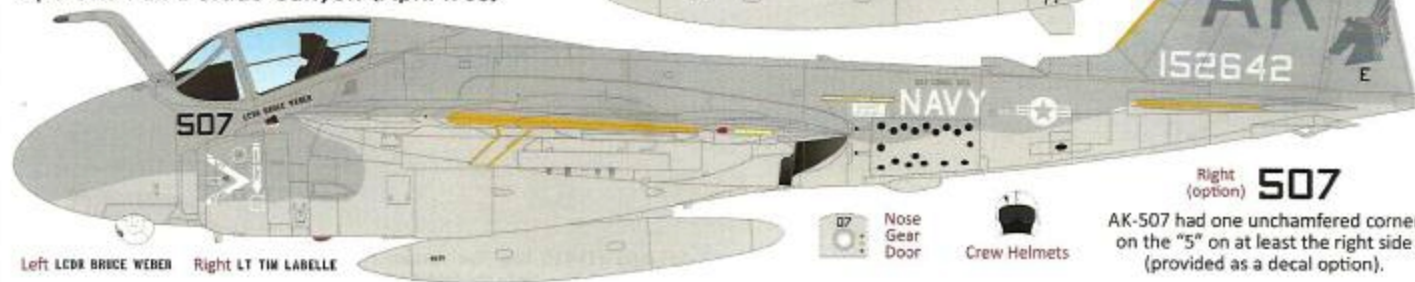
**VA-55 WARHORSES**

**AK-503 (161676) - USS Coral Sea**  
Operation Prairie Fire (March 1986) &  
Operation El Dorado Canyon (April 1986)

An optional style corvette/boat marking, possibly before April strikes? B/N names changed during 1985-86 cruise: although LCDR Godlewski's name was on AK-503 (late 1985 to...?), the full mission markings were paired with XO CDR Chewning's name on AK-503; rather than his name still on (typical XO's) AK-502, as it was in at least 1985.



**AK-507 (152642) - USS Coral Sea**  
Operation El Dorado Canyon (April 1986)



All kill/mission markings were mirrored on right sides (aircraft continued to carry the markings well in 1986). Both AK-503 and AK-507 had flak curtain rods installed inside the canopy. Anti-erosion tape was applied to all leading edges (appeared as an ochre color). Note the small grey A-6E marking immediately ahead of the fuselage national insignia. Also note that the DANGER - JET INTAKE and RESCUE markings differed on both aircraft. AK-507 had a white TRAM turret and had no P/C name on the gear door. AK-503 directly participated in both Operations Prairie Fire and El Dorado Canyon missions, while AK-507 only Operation El Dorado Canyon (refer to loadout insert sheet).

Although profiles show a centerline fuel tank, both AK-503 and AK-507 carried a D704 buddy pod during the Libyan missions (refer to loadout insert sheet). The ordnance department created several custom stencils to spray paint various Libya/Khadafy related phrases on the bombs. Four of these are provided as decals for the VA-55 Mk.82 High Drag (HD) (snake-eye) bombs: LIBYA BOUND, KHADAFY BUSTERS, KHADAFY KISS MY GRITS, and I'D FLY TEN THOUSAND MILES TO SMOKE A CAMEL [they are located around the national insignias on the decal sheet]. Additionally, crewmen then added their own personal handwritten graffiti to the bombs by the time the bombs made their way to the flight deck and were loaded on the aircraft. These handwritten markings obviously varied considerably in content and appearance.

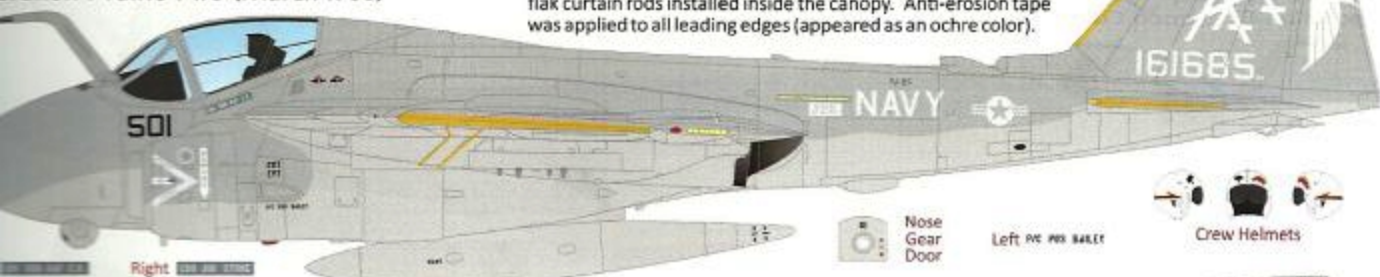


The profile illustrations attempt to depict the applicable markings, antennas, and airframe configurations for each specific aircraft. Also refer to the other instruction pages for overhead views and the insert sheet for configuration details.

### AV-8B BLACK FALCONS

#### AV-8B-501 (161685) - USS Saratoga

Operation Prairie Fire (March 1986)



AK-501 directly participated in Operation Prairie Fire and was credited with the sinking of a Libyan Nanuchka class corvette with an AGM-84 Harpoon (refer to loadout insert sheet). Note flak curtain rods installed inside the canopy. Anti-erosion tape was applied to all leading edges (appeared as an ochre color).

### AV-8B BLACK PANTHERS

#### AV-8B-501 (155661) - USS Saratoga

Operation Desert Storm (1991)

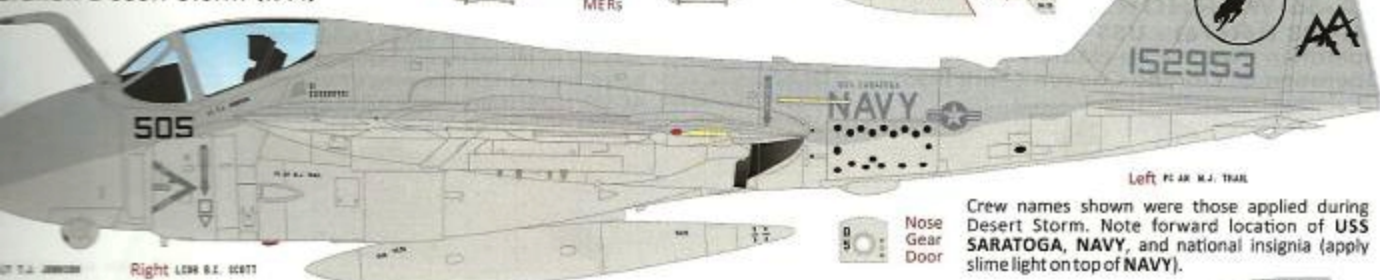


Mission markings were initially applied approximately two weeks into the air campaign and were then updated regularly. Crew names were changed by the time VA-35 returned home to the US. Aircraft were night vision upgraded and had a green light.

Note the small BuNo 155661 near the national insignia and also the tailhook warning arrow further aft. Also note the red stabilator angle indicator markings.

### AV-8B-505 (152953) - USS Saratoga

Operation Desert Storm (1991)



### AV-8B(AW)-533 HAWKS

#### AV-8B(AW)-403 (161689) - Shaikh Isa Air Base, Bahrain

Operation Desert Storm (1991)

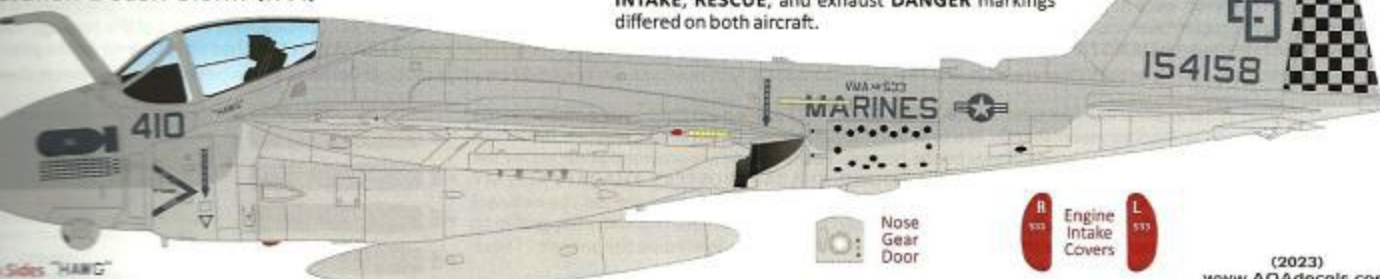


The large bomb tally number and mission markings on the radomes were applied following Desert Storm - do not use if representing aircraft during combat operations. Note they were applied at an angle.

### AV-8B(AW)-533 HAWKS

#### AV-8B(AW)-410 (154158) - Shaikh Isa Air Base, Bahrain

Operation Desert Storm (1991)



Both ED-403 and ED-410 had flak curtain rods installed inside the canopy. Note the DANGER - JET INTAKE, RESCUE, and exhaust DANGER markings differed on both aircraft.

**Special thanks to Jim Rotramel for the detailed aircraft and loadout information.  
Check out his new book - Operation Eldorado Canyon: The 1986 US Bombing Raid on Libya**

### Operation Prairie Fire – Gulf of Sidra (24 March 1986)

	RIGHT OUTBOARD	RIGHT INBOARD	CENTERLINE	LEFT INBOARD	LEFT OUTBOARD
<b>VA-34</b>					
<b>AB-505</b> (161679)	n/a (Pylon Only)	<u>MER</u> Mk.20 x 2 (2x Lower)	Aero 1D (300 Gallon Fuel Tank)	AGM-84C	n/a (Pylon Only)
<b>AB-507</b> (161667)					
<b>VA-55</b>					
<b>AK-503</b> (161676)	AIM-9M x1 (on LAU-7 Rail)	Mk.20	D704 ARS (Refueling Pod)	Mk.20	AIM-9M x1 (on LAU-7 Rail)
<b>VA-85</b>					
<b>AA-501</b> (161685)	Aero 1D (300 Gallon Fuel Tank)	AGM-84D	Aero 1D (300 Gallon Fuel Tank)	<u>MER</u> Mk.20 x 2 (1x Front Lower & 1x Rear Outboard)	Aero 1D (300 Gallon Fuel Tank)

### Operation El Dorado Canyon – Benghazi, Libya (15 April 1986)

<b>VA-34</b>	<u>MER</u>	<u>MER</u>		<u>MER</u>	<u>MER</u>
<b>AB-500</b> (161231)	Mk.83 HD (MAU-91) x 2 (1x Front Outboard & 1x Rear Lower)	Mk.83 HD (MAU-91) x 2 (1x Front Outboard & 1x Rear Lower)	Aero 1D (300 Gallon Fuel Tank)	Mk.83 HD (MAU-91) x 2 (1x Front Outboard & 1x Rear Lower)	Mk.83 HD (MAU-91) x 2 (1x Front Outboard & 1x Rear Lower)
<b>AB-511</b> (152599)					
<b>AB-502</b> (155602)					
<b>AB-503</b> (155651)	<u>MER</u>	<u>MER</u>	Aero 1D (300 Gallon Fuel Tank)	<u>MER</u>	<u>MER</u>
<b>AB-512</b> (155718)	Mk.82 HD x 4 (2x Outboard & 2x Lower)	Mk.82 HD x 4 (2x Outboard & 2x Lower)		Mk.82 HD x 4 (2x Outboard & 2x Lower)	Mk.82 HD x 4 (2x Outboard & 2x Lower)
<b>AB-513</b> (161677)					

### Operation El Dorado Canyon – Benina Airfield, Libya (15 April 1986)

<b>VA-55</b>					
<b>AK-500</b> (161675)					
<b>AK-502</b> (161681)					
<b>AK-503</b> (161676)	<u>MER</u> CBU-59 x 4 (2x Outboard & 2x Lower)	<u>MER</u> CBU-59 x 3 (2x Lower & 1x Rear Outboard)	D704 ARS (Refueling Pod)	<u>MER</u> CBU-59 x 3 (2x Lower & 1x Rear Outboard)	<u>MER</u> CBU-59 x 4 (2x Outboard & 2x Lower)
<b>AK-512</b> (161084)					
<b>AK-513</b> (161106)					
<b>AK-5xx</b> (BuNo?)					
<b>AK-507</b> (152642)	<u>MER</u> Mk.82 HD x 4 (2x Outboard & 2x Lower)	<u>MER</u> Mk.82 HD x 4 (2x Outboard & 2x Lower)	D704 ARS (Refueling Pod)	<u>MER</u> Mk.82 HD x 4 (2x Outboard & 2x Lower)	<u>MER</u> Mk.82 HD x 4 (2x Outboard & 2x Lower)
<b>AK-511</b> (149955)	<u>MER</u> Mk.82 HD x 4 (2x Outboard & 2x Lower)	<u>MER</u> Mk.82 HD x 4 (2x Outboard & 2x Lower)	Aero 1D (300 Gallon Fuel Tank)	<u>MER</u> Mk.82 HD x 4 (2x Outboard & 2x Lower)	<u>MER</u> Mk.82 HD x 4 (2x Outboard & 2x Lower)

\*pre-launch  
mission abort