

BRAVO MIG KILLERS

F-4B PHANTOMS OF THE VIETNAM WAR PART ONE REDUX



OPTIONS FOR 14
1/48 F-4B PHANTOMS



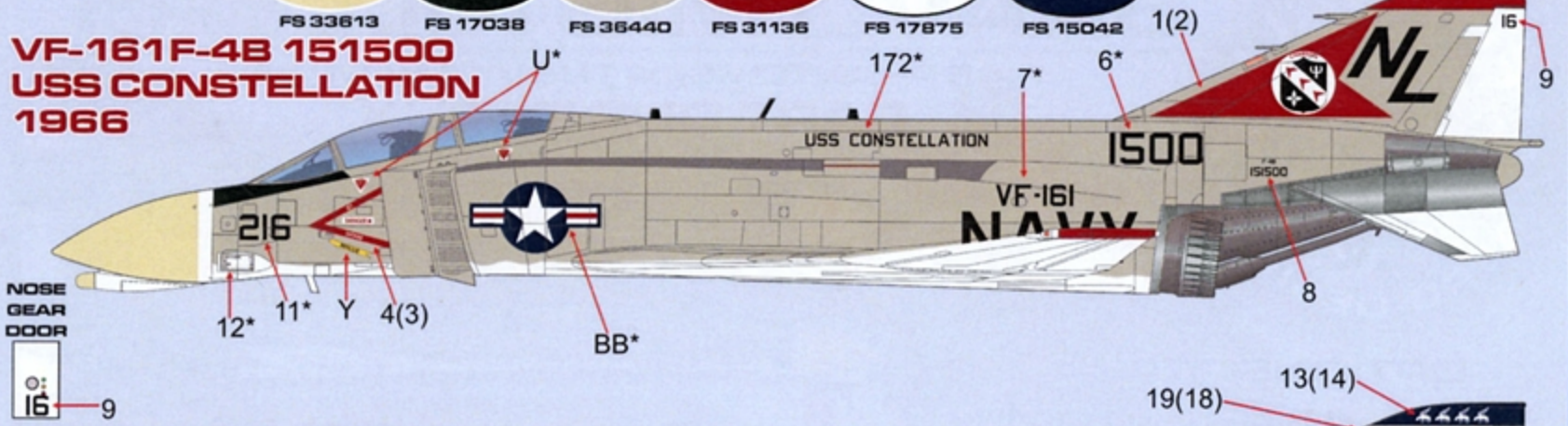
DECALS
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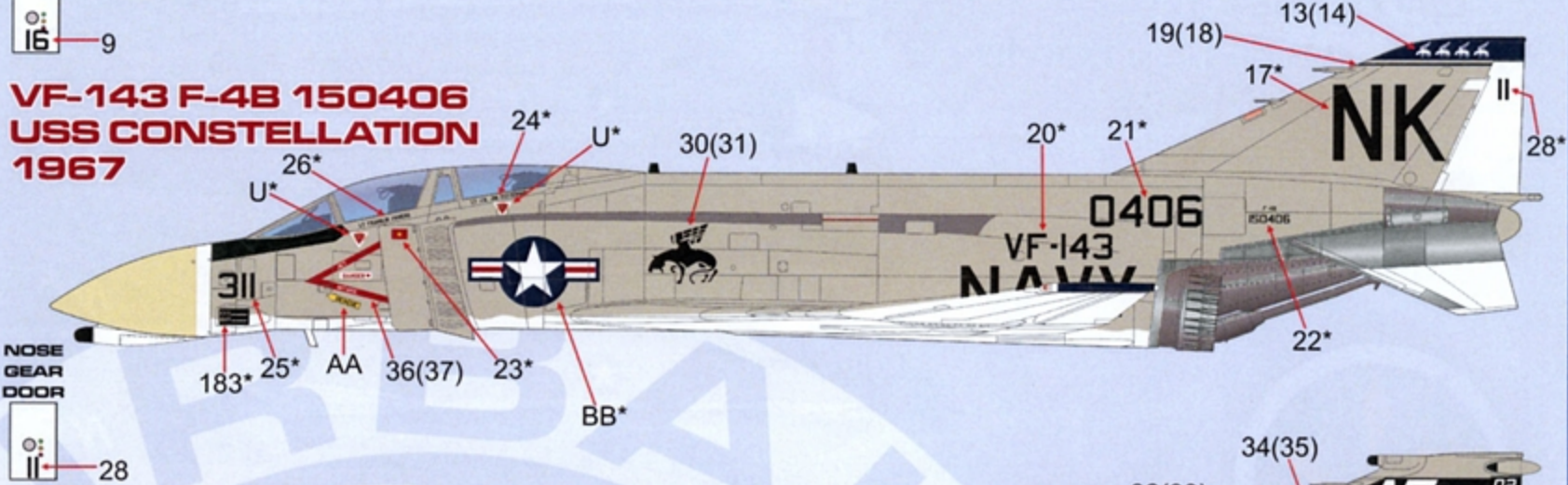
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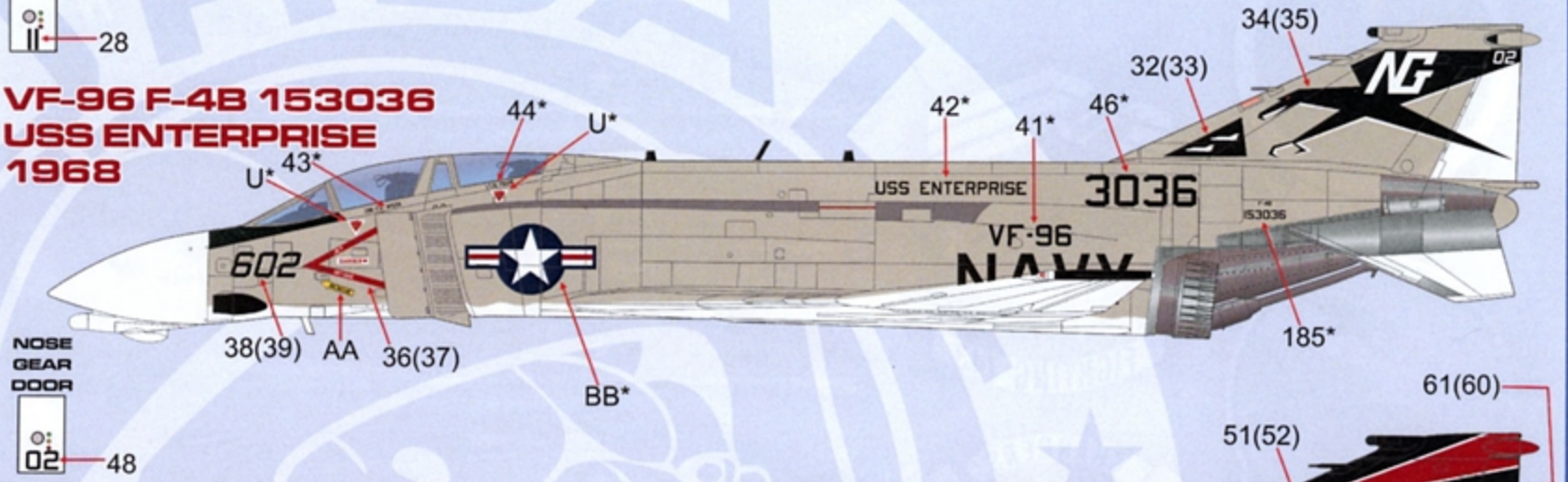
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USS CONSTELLATION
1966**



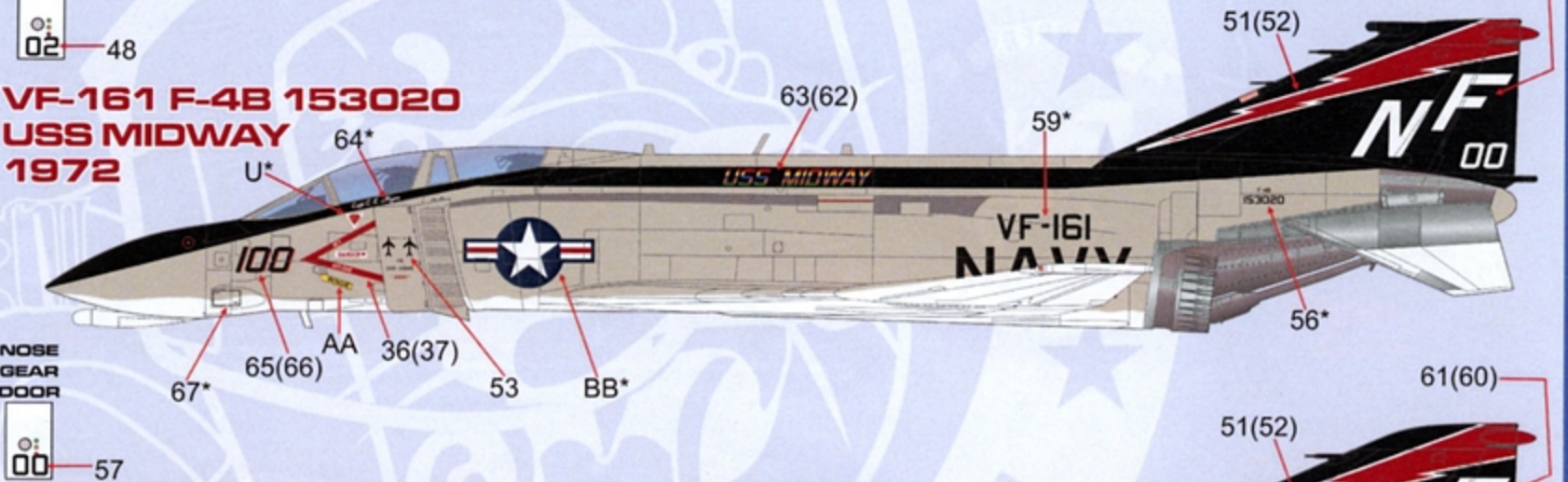
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USS CONSTELLATION
1967**



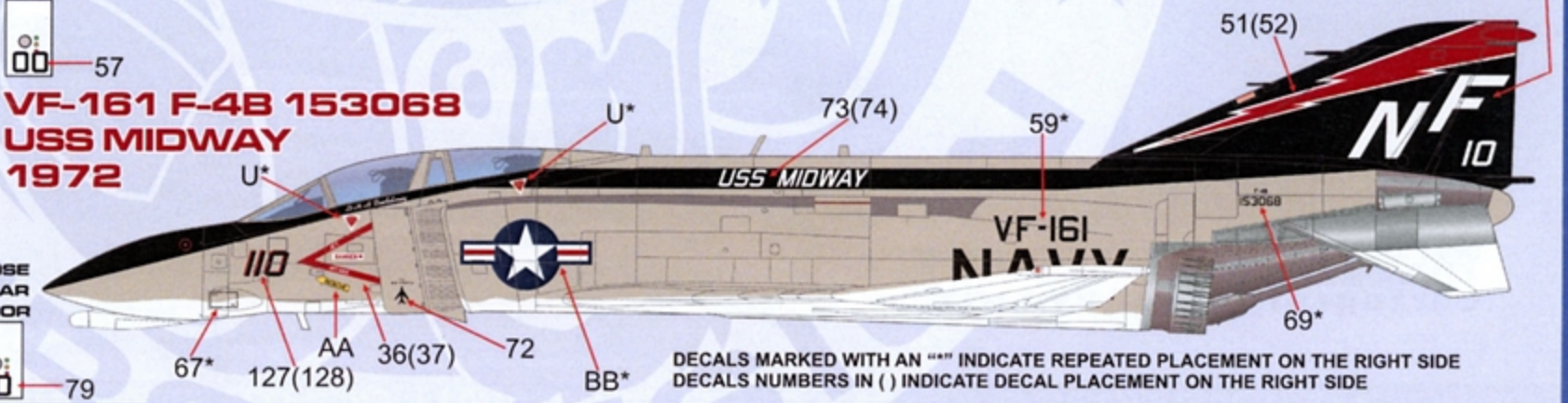
**VF-96 F-4B 153036
USS ENTERPRISE
1968**



**VF-161 F-4B 153020
USS MIDWAY
1972**



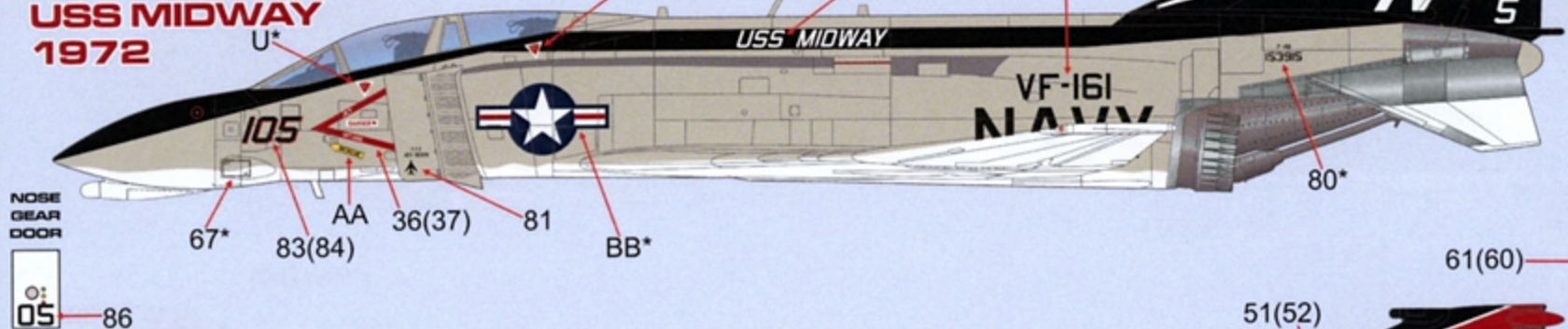
**VF-161 F-4B 153068
USS MIDWAY
1972**



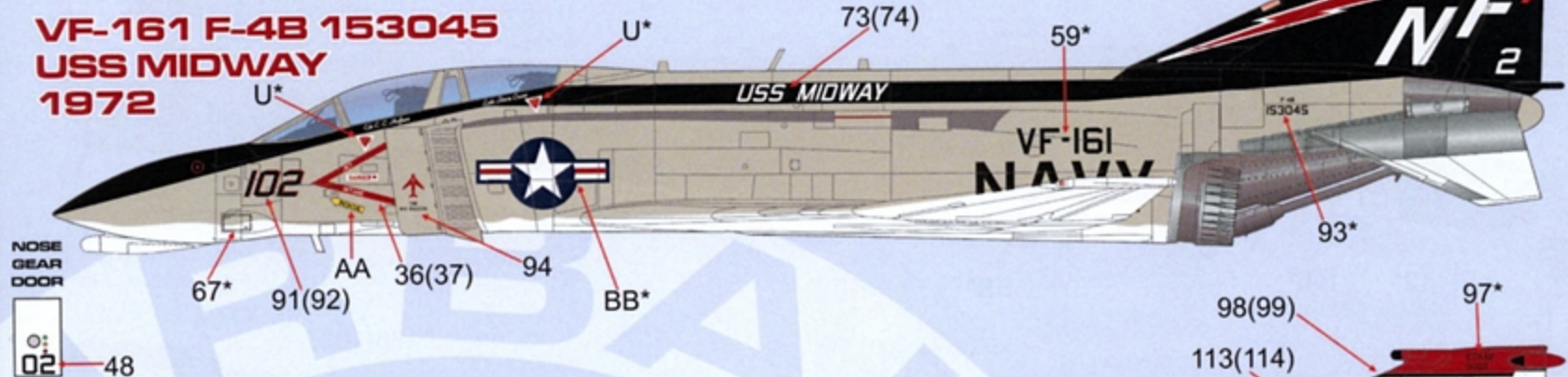
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DECAL NUMBERS IN () INDICATE DECAL PLACEMENT ON THE RIGHT SIDE



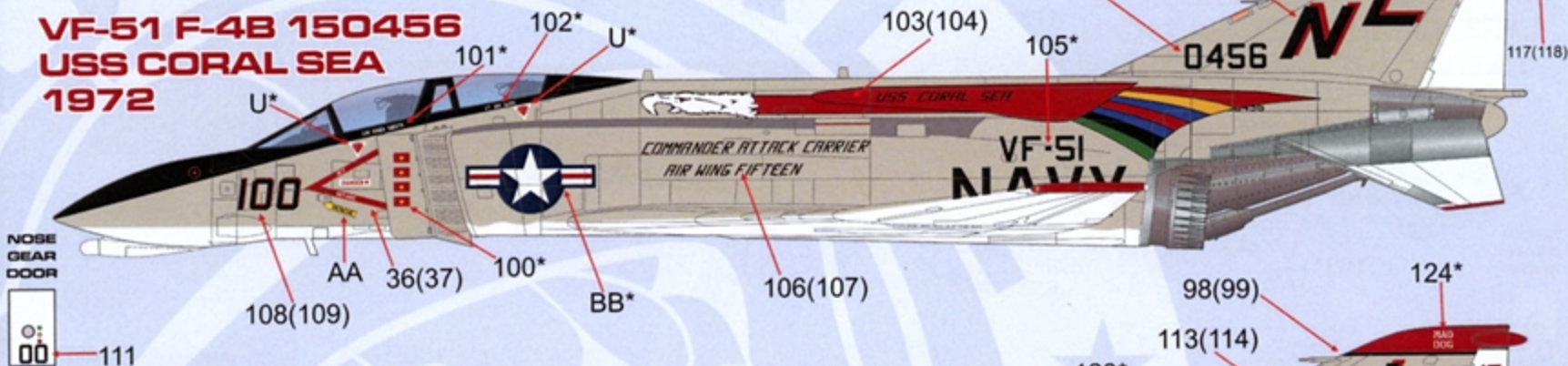
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USS MIDWAY
1972**



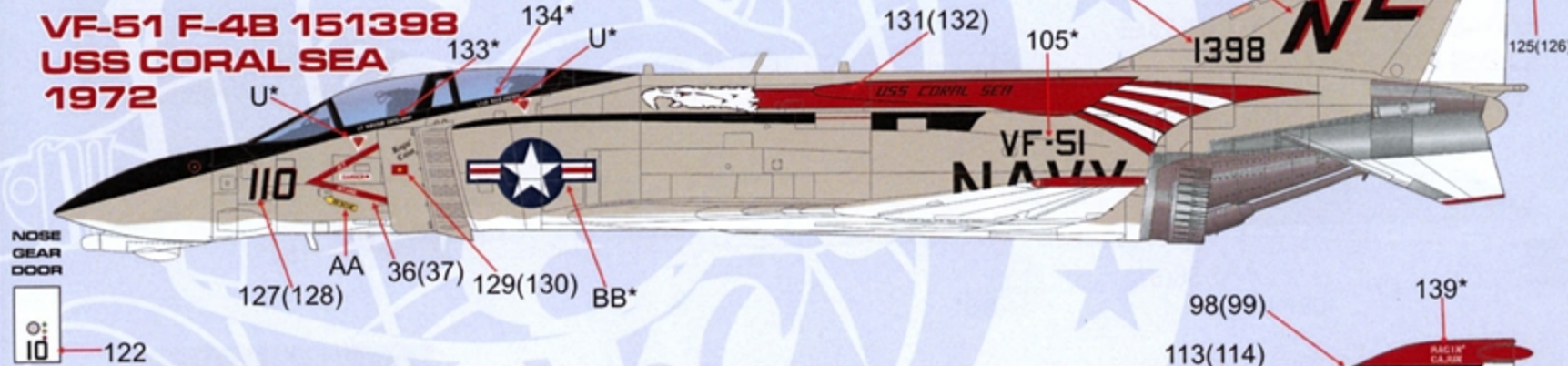
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USS MIDWAY
1972**



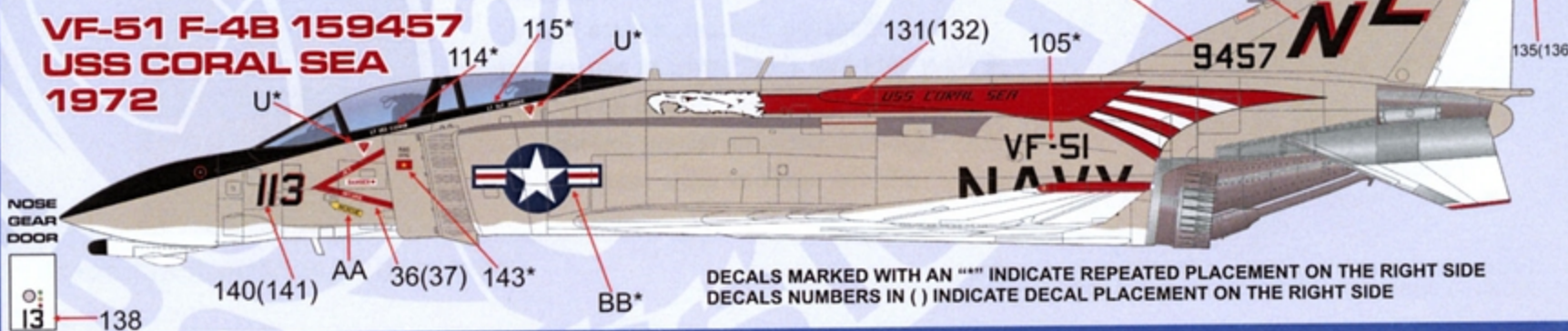
**VF-51 F-4B 150456
USS CORAL SEA
1972**



**VF-51 F-4B 151398
USS CORAL SEA
1972**



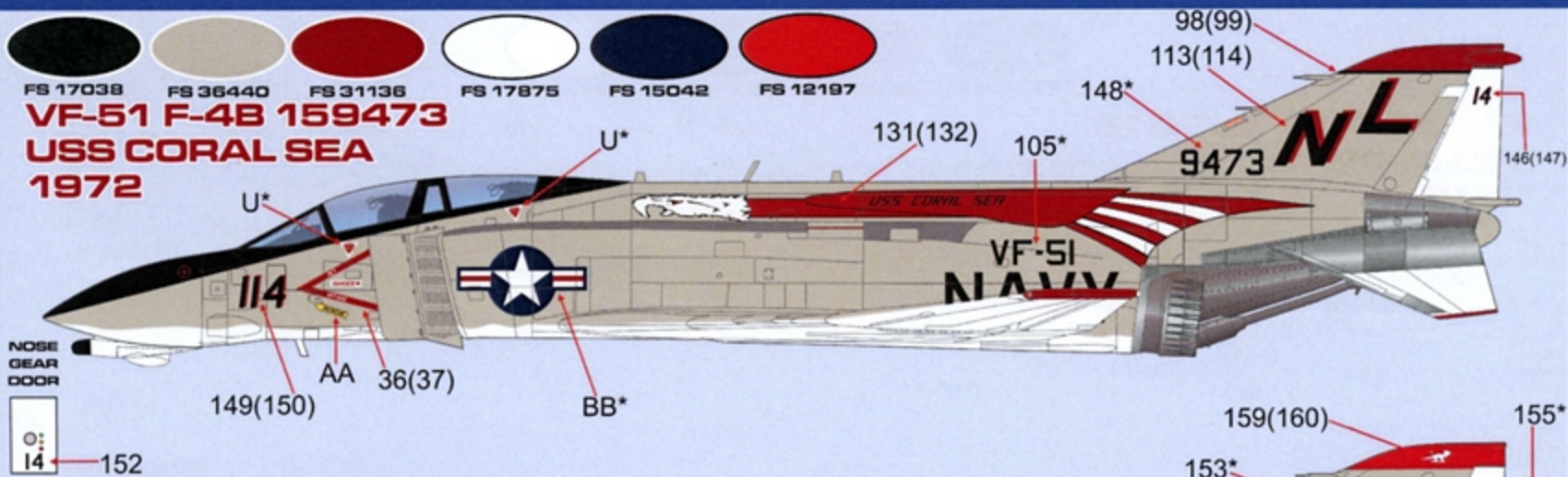
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USS CORAL SEA
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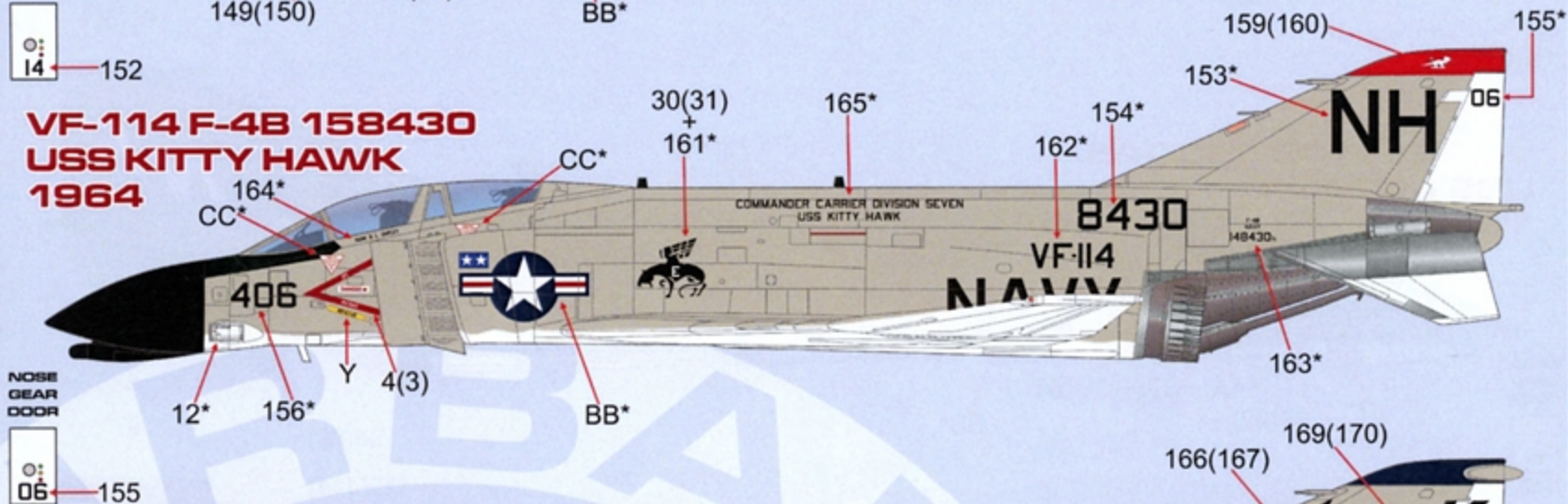
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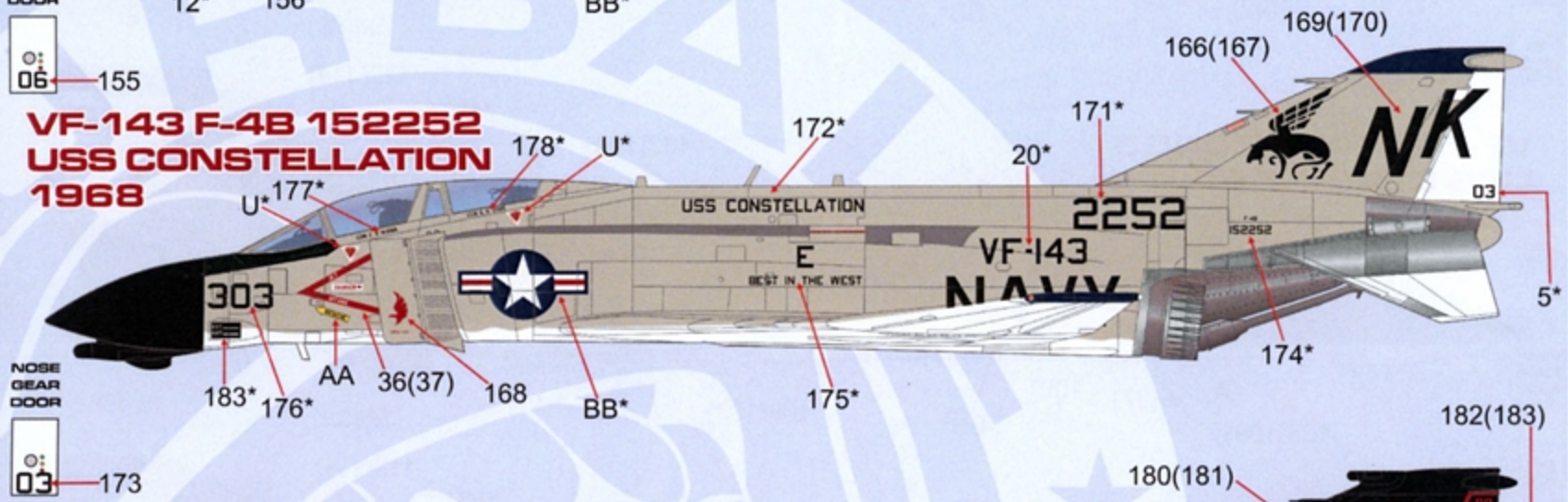
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USS CORAL SEA
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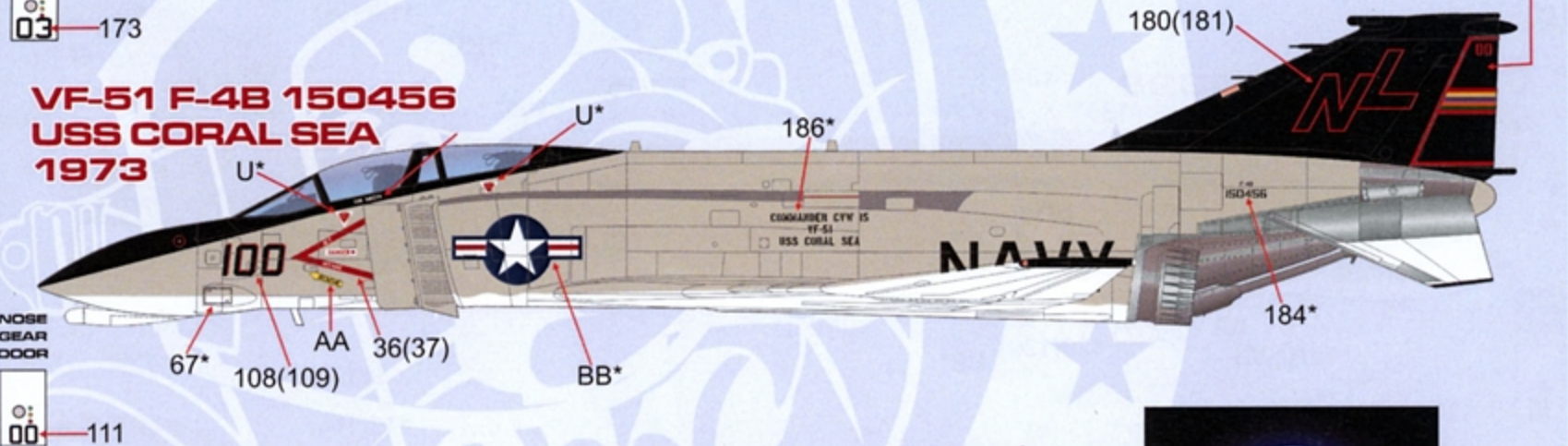
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USS KITTY HAWK
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**VF-143 F-4B 152252
USS CONSTELLATION
1968**



**VF-51 F-4B 150456
USS CORAL SEA
1973**

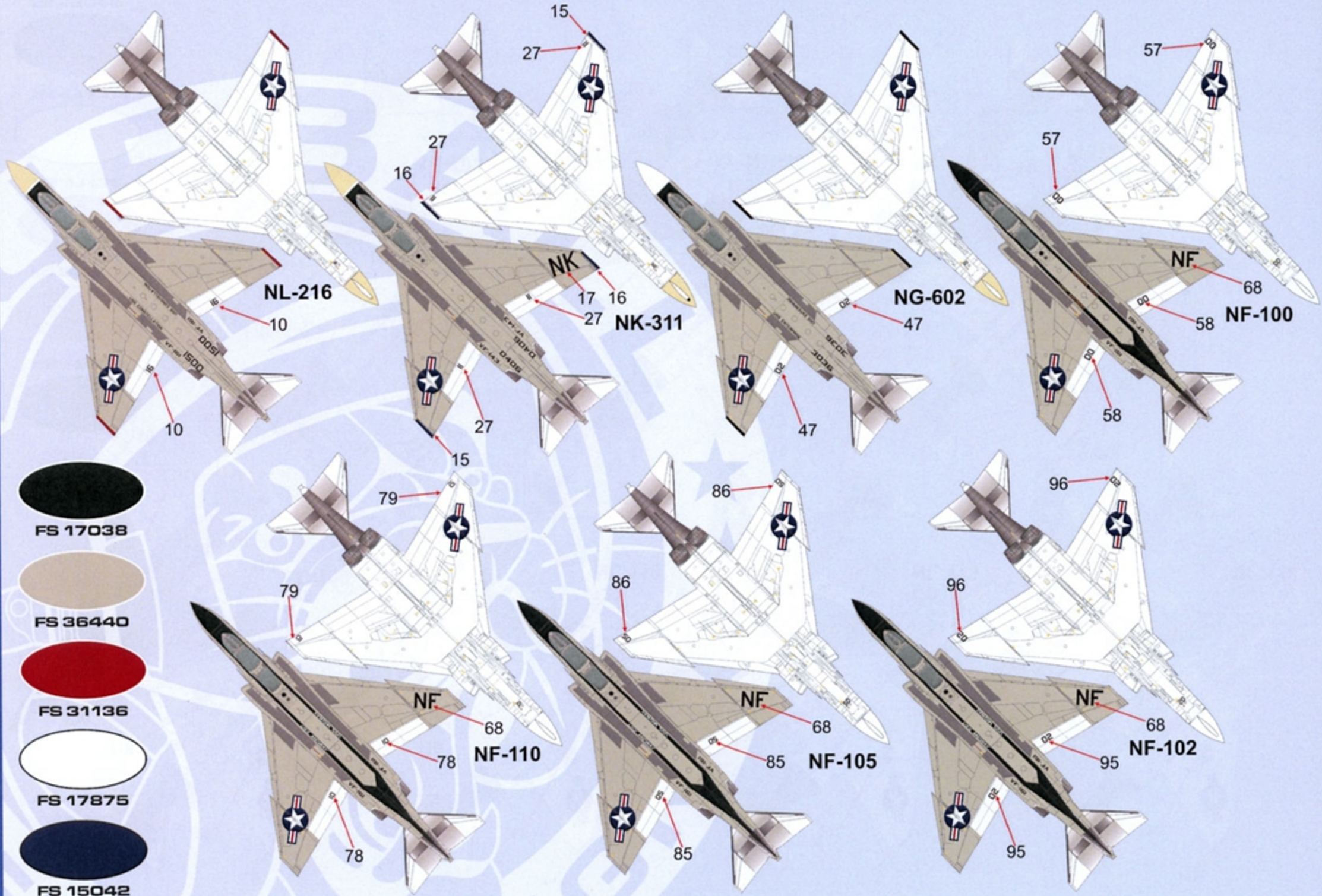


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FS 17038



FS 36440



FS 31136



FS 17875



FS 15042

NL-216

NK-311

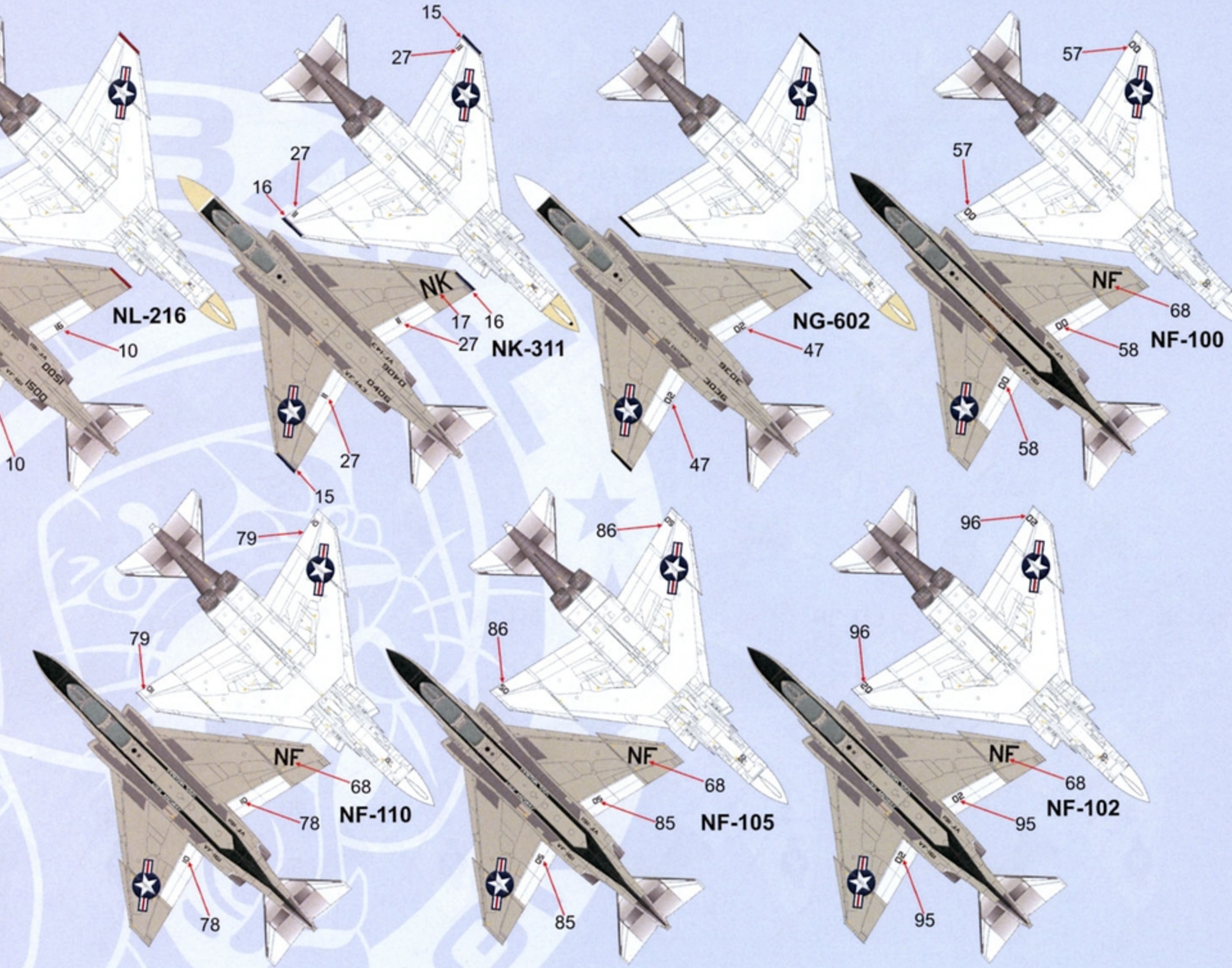
NG-602

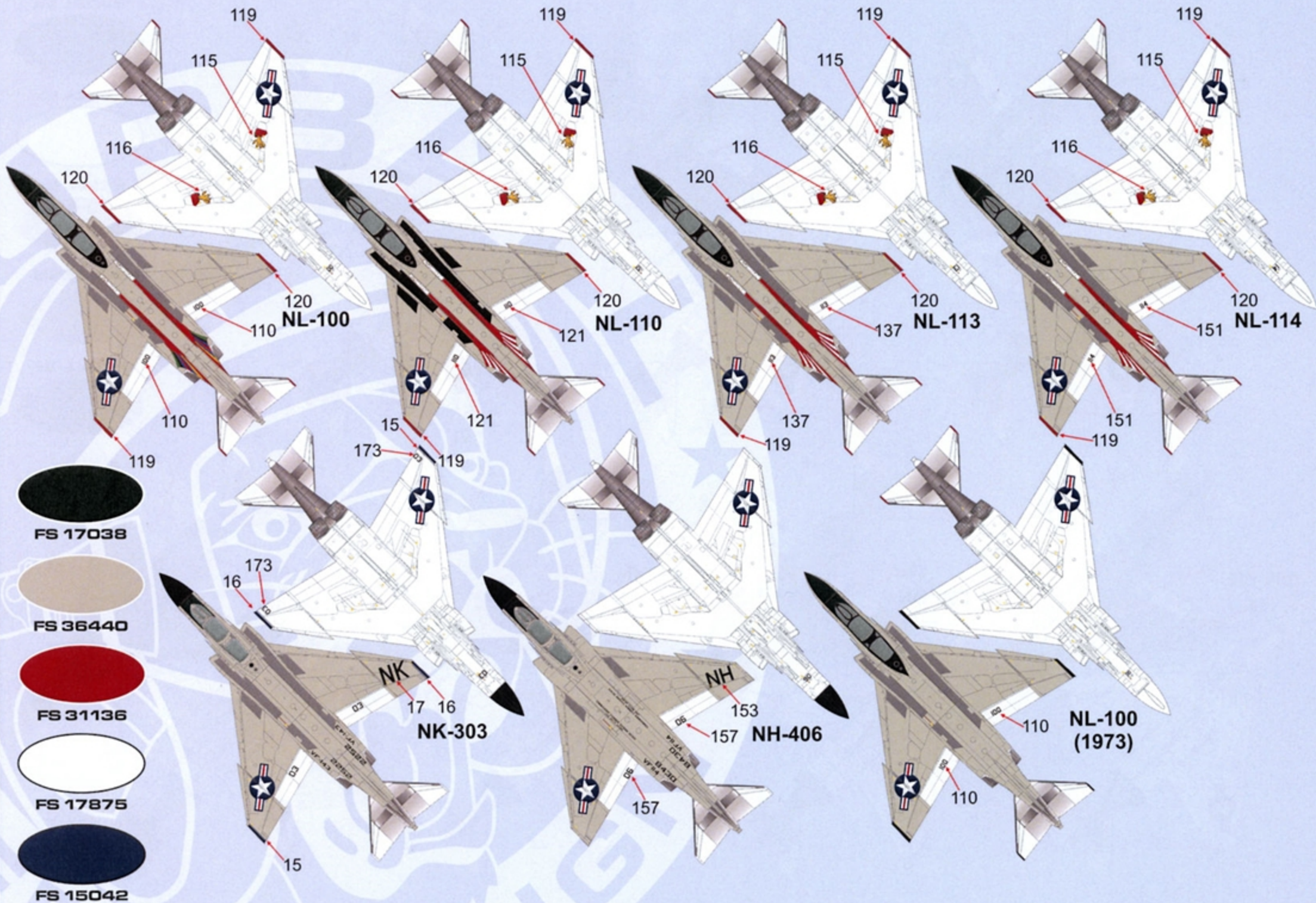
NF-100

NF-110

NF-105

NF-102





THE MIG KILLERS

VF-161 F-4B 151500, NL-215, USS Constellation, MiG-17 Kill 7/13/66. Lt. William "Squeaky" McGuigan and Lt JG Robert Fowler scored VF-161's first kill of the war while flying an Air Combat Patrol mission in support of an Alpha Strike launched to destroy the Co Trai bridge. After the attack, elements of the "Rock Rivers" flight spotted two VA-155 A-4s being chased by MiG-17s. As more MiGs joined the fight, McGuigan maneuvered onto the tail of one of the MiGs and the enemy pilot dove his jet towards the ground to escape. This provided an easy target, and the MiG was promptly dispatched with an AIM-9D.

VF-143 F-4B 150406, NK-311, USS Constellation, MiG-21 Kill 9/16/67. Lt. Robert Hickey Jr. and Lt. Jeremy Morris were part of a VF-143 MiGCAP section that was tasked with hunting MiGs in the area between Hanoi and Thanh Hoa. After initially being vectored towards suspected MiG contacts that turned out to be other VF-143 jets, the section was finally directed to intercept actual MiGs. Mechanical malfunctions prevented the section lead jet piloted by CDR. Grosshuesch and Lt. Souder to be able to shoot at the enemy MiGs. Hickey and Morris fired an AIM-9D which failed to track. Eventually, they were able lock up the MiG-21 for an AIM-7 shot, which upon firing guided perfectly and destroyed the MiG.

VF-96 F-B 153036, NG-602, USS Enterprise, MiG-21 Kill, 1968. USAF exchange pilot John Heffernan and Lt JG Frank Schumacher were part of a VF-96 2 ship Combat Air Patrol on the morning of 5/9/68. Tasked with patrolling an area east of Hon Matt, the flight was vectored to engage suspected MiG-21s. a beyond visual range engagement ensued with multiple AIM-7Es being launched at as many as 3 MiG-21s. At least one fireball and smoke plume was observed, and radar evidence after the engagement showed that only 2 of the 3 targets remained. Although one of Heffernan's missiles most likely downed the MiG, the kill would be listed as unconfirmed. It is suspected that the Navy may not have wanted to draw any attention to the possibility that the MiGs may have in fact been Chinese aircraft.

VF-161 F-4B 153020, "NF-100", USS Midway, 2X MiG-17 Kills, 5/29/72. Lt Cdr Ronald "Mugs" McKeown and Lt. Jack Ensch were assigned to fly as part of a 2 ship MiGCAP in support of an Alpha Strike launched against Haiphong. As the flight approached their designated patrol area the radar control ship USS Biddle vectored them to MiG contacts in the vicinity of Kep Airfield. 2 MiG-19s were spotted at a range of 7-10 miles but were too low for McKeown and Ensch's radar to distinguish the enemy jets from the ground clutter. At a high rate of closure the MiG-19s streaked directly between the Rock River flight. As they turned to pursue the MiGs, a flight of MiG-17s came on the scene. Apparently, the MiG-19s were being used as bait. After a series of tumultuous maneuvers, the F-4s gained the advantage on the MiGs only to promptly lose it. After 2 Sidewinder miss-fires, McKeown finally got one of the MiGs to overshoot and then subsequently dispatched the enemy with an AIM-9D. Next, McKeown would destroy another MiG-17 that was on the tail of his wingman with his last remaining Sidewinder.

VF-161 F-4B 153068, "NF-110" / F-4B 153915, "NF-105", USS Midway, MiG-19 Kill, 5/18/72.

Lt. Henry "Bart" Bartholomay and Lt. Oran Brown were assigned to fly a MiGCAP mission along with nugget pilot Lt. Patrick Arwood and Lt. James "Taco" Bell, who were flying "NF-105". Providing fighter cover for an Alpha Strike against Haiphong, they were to set their patrol station 5 miles south of Kep Airfield. At about 8 miles out, they spotted 2 MiG-19s flying in trail 1,000 feet apart, possibly trying to land at Kep. As section lead, Lt. Bartholomay maneuvered into a position behind the MiGs while Lt. Arwood went high to provide cover. The MiGs spotted the F-4s and a turning fight ensued. Lt. Arwood fired an AIM-9D which failed to track. Lt. Arwood got behind the lead MiG and fired his second Sidewinder which destroyed the enemy jet. The second MiG tried to leave the fight and accelerate away using afterburner, but this provided an ideal target for Bartholomay, he fired an AIM-9D at the MiG which successfully destroyed the enemy.

VF-161 F-4B 153045, "NF-102", USS Midway, MiG-17 Kill, 1/12/73. Lt. Victor Kovaleski and Lt. JG James Wise had the distinction of earning the last USN MiG kill of the war. While flying a BARCAP fleet defense mission, they would intercept a MiG-17 over the Gulf of Tonkin. the first Sidewinder shot detonated behind the MiG only damaging it. A second Sidewinder was required to down the enemy jet.

VF-51 F-B 150456, NL-100, USS Coral Sea, MiG-17 Kill 5/6/72. The Coral Sea launched an Alpha Strike on 5-6-1972 against Bai Thuong Airfield. LCDR Jerry "Devil" Houston and Lt. Kevin Moore were part of a four ship VF-51/VF-111 fighter package to support the bombing raid. MiGs were launched from the airfield to intercept the raiders. As one of the MiGs closed in on one of the attacking A-6s, Houston was able to get in the six O'clock position of the MiG. The A-6 broke hard left, and the MiG-17 could not follow since its turning capability was poor at high speed. Houston fired a sidewinder which guided perfectly, exploding in the MiG's tailpipe. None of the USN attackers were lost in the raid.

VF-51 F-B 151398, NL-110, USS Coral Sea, MiG-17 Kill 5/10/72. Lt. Kenneth "Ragin Cajun" Cannon and Lt. Roy "Bud" Morris scored their MiG-17 kill while flying as part of a two ship MiGCAP mission approximately 20miles south of Hanoi. The VF-51 flight acquired a MiG-17 and after several maneuvers, the MiG turned tail and attempted to disengage. Cannon used the Phantom's superior speed to line up for a near perfect rear quarter shot.

VF-51 F-B 149457, NL-113, MiG-17 Kill / VF-51 F-4B 149473, NL-114, USS Coral Sea, MiG-17 Kill 6/11/72 As part of a two ship MiGCAP flight, CDR Foster "Tooter" Teague (VF-51's CO) and Lt. Ralph Howell flew "Screaming Eagle" 114 while Lt. Winston "Mad Dog" Copeland and Don Bouchoux were flying "Screaming Eagle" 113. After being vectored towards suspected MiG contacts, 4 MiG-17s were spotted at an altitude of 800 feet. the MiGs scattered as the F-4s started to close in. Copeland was able to get an early sidewinder shot on the second MiG of the formation. While Cannon was engaged, Teague was able to get behind the third MiG of the formation. His first AIM-9 shot missed, but his second one went directly up the MiG's tailpipe; destroying it instantly. The two remaining MiGs escaped into a cloud layer. As the flight made their way back to the Coral Sea, Copeland's Phantom took hits from small arms fire. This caused his left engine to intermittently catch fire. After all of the strike aircraft had recovered, Copeland made a successful carrier landing with only one engine. Copeland would go on to have a long and distinguished career as a TOP GUN instructor, CAG of CVW-1, as well as Captain of the USS America. Copeland would eventually gain the rank of Rear Admiral and command a Carrier Battle Group. CDR Teague would go on to become CAG of CVW-11 as well as captain of the USS Kitty Hawk.