

1/48 SCALE

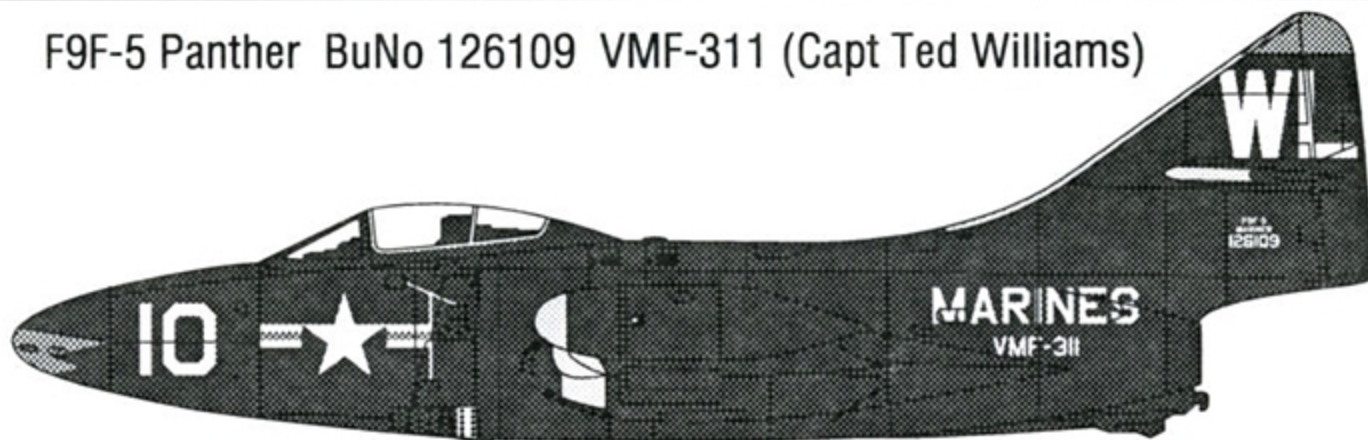
For Monogram kit # 5456

*Yellowhammer
Models*

#Y48-09 Panthers

Grumman F9F-5 Panther

F9F-5 Panther BuNo 126109 VMF-311 (Capt Ted Williams)



Star Boston Red Sox outfielder Ted Williams, the last baseball player to hit over .400 in a season (.406 in 1941), was a fighter pilot in both World War II and Korea. The "Splendid Splinter" flew Corsairs in 1945 and was recalled to active duty in 1952 to fly Panther jets with VMF-311 in Korea.

During a mission in F9F-5 Bureau Number 126109 over North Korea on 16 February 1953, Williams was hit by ground fire. The flak started a fire on board, disabling Williams' airspeed and fuel gauges, radio, and hydraulics. Unable to hear his wingman calling to him to bail out, Williams managed to fly his damaged jet to Suwon air base. He was lucky to survive the burning, 5300 foot belly landing without injury and returned to Fenway for the end of the 1953 season. He retired from the Bosox after the 1960 season and was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1965.

Blue Angels F9F-5 Panthers 1953 Season



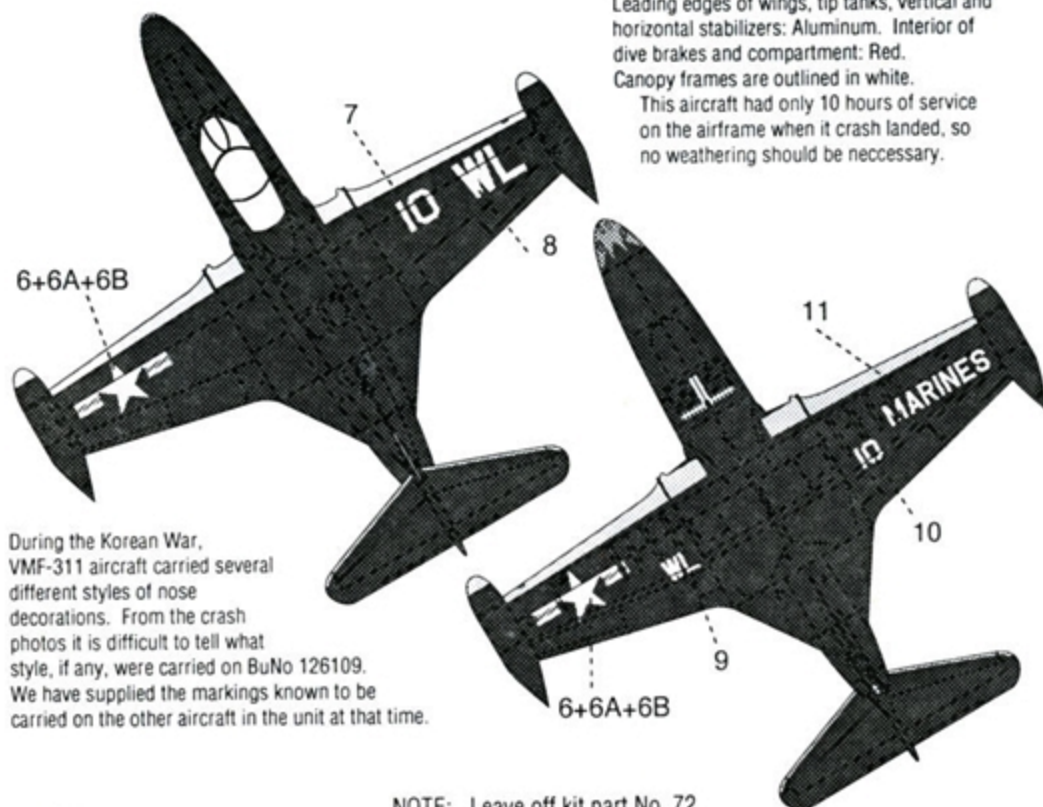
After flying the F9F-2 Panther from late 1949, the U.S. Navy Blue Angels precision flying team stood down in August of 1950 to become part of Navy Fighting Squadron VF-191 for Korean War service. After their combat tour aboard USS Princeton, the Blues re-formed as a unit and picked up their new F9F-5 Panthers at the Grumman plant in November, 1951. In 1953, the team was led by LCDR Ray Hawkins. The Blues performed before a crowd of 35,000 at NAS North Island, San Diego, California on 21 February 1953, just a few short days after Ted Williams' narrow brush with death half a world away in Korea. On this date, LCDR Hawkins was flying #1 (BuNo. 126070). LT Pat Murphy flew BuNo. 125258 as #2 while LTJG R.E. Aslund flew #3 in BuNo. 125305. Flying the #4 slot in BuNo. 125294 was LT Bud Rich, and LT Harding MacKnight flew BuNo. 126071 as the #5 Blue Angel.

The Blue Angels Panthers were early production models which did not have the flow fences outboard of the wing root engine air intakes. The main other visible changes were the coverings over the gun ports in the lower nose and the omission of all weapons pylons under the wings.

F9F-5 Panther BuNo 126109 **VMF-311 (Capt Ted Williams)**

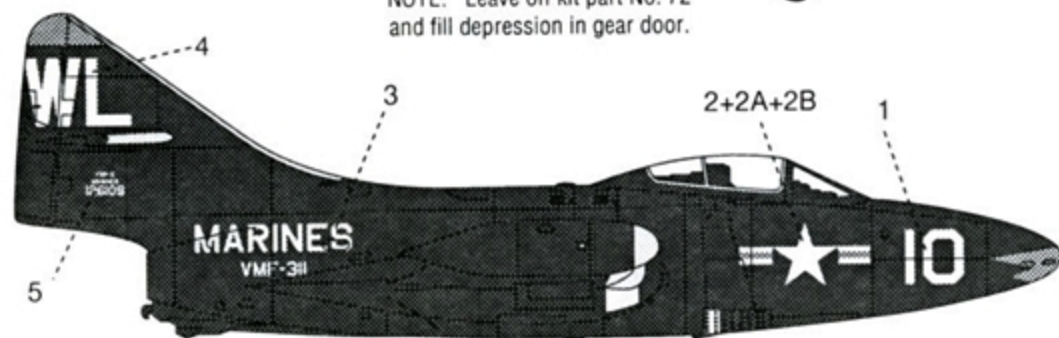
Painting Information:

Overall color, landing gear, wheels, gearbays and gear doors: FS 15042 Gloss Sea Blue.
 Leading edges of wings, tip tanks, vertical and horizontal stabilizers: Aluminum. Interior of dive brakes and compartment: Red.
 Canopy frames are outlined in white.
 This aircraft had only 10 hours of service on the airframe when it crash landed, so no weathering should be necessary.

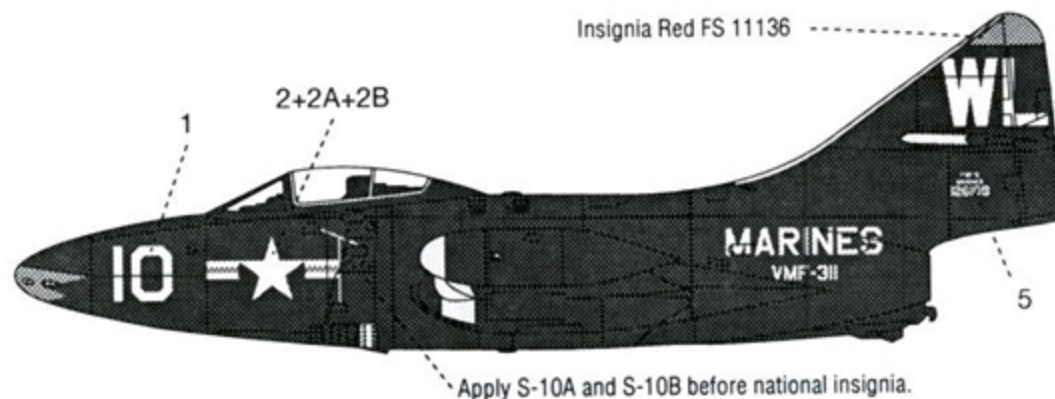


During the Korean War, VMF-311 aircraft carried several different styles of nose decorations. From the crash photos it is difficult to tell what style, if any, were carried on BuNo 126109. We have supplied the markings known to be carried on the other aircraft in the unit at that time.

NOTE: Leave off kit part No. 72 and fill depression in gear door.



Insignia Red FS 11136

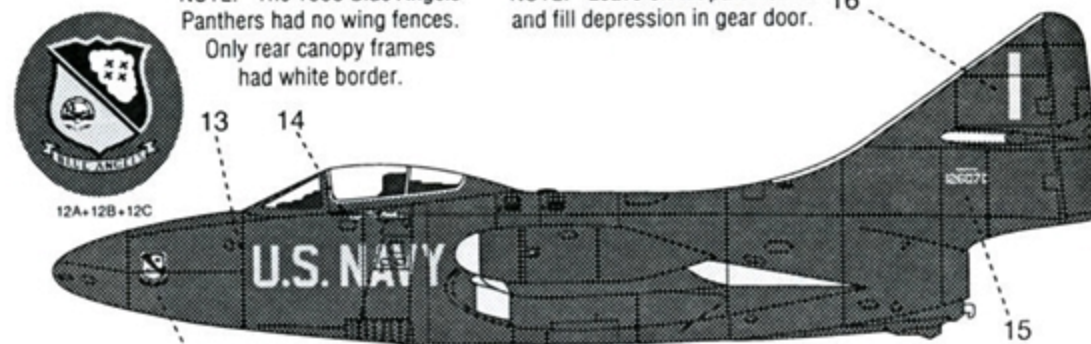


Apply S-10A and S-10B before national insignia.

F9F-5 Panther BuNo 126070 Blue Angels 1 (LCDR Ray Hawkins)

NOTE: The 1953 Blue Angels Panthers had no wing fences. Only rear canopy frames had white border.

NOTE: Leave off kit part No. 72 and fill depression in gear door.

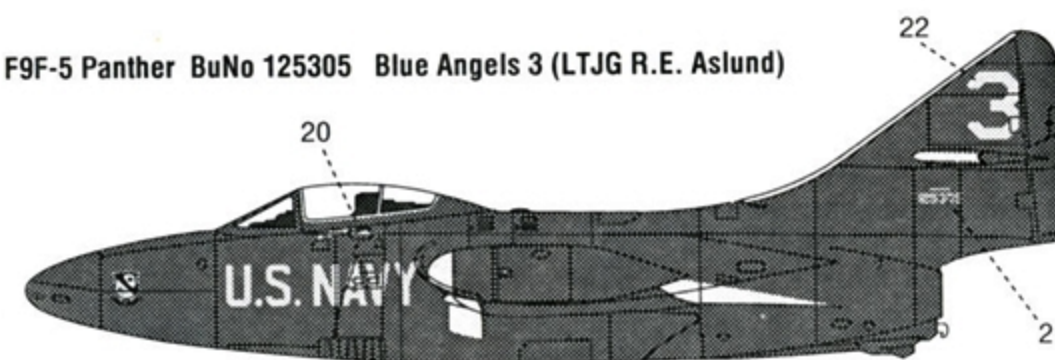


12A+12B+12C NOTE: Apply Decal 12A before Decal 12B, then Decal 12C.

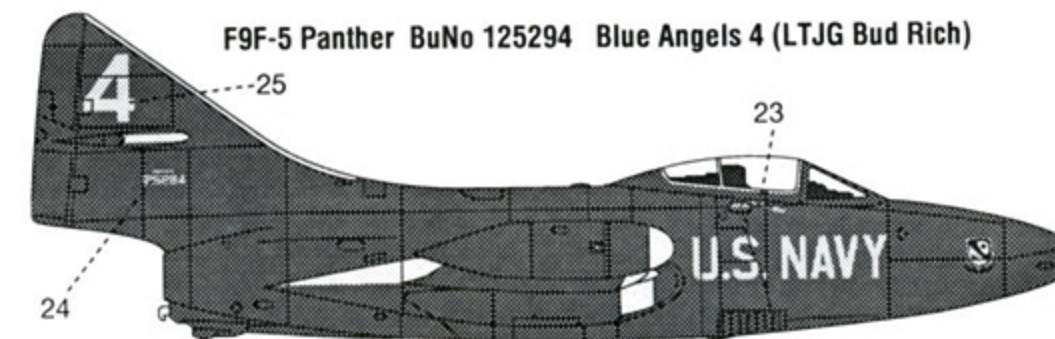


F9F-5 Panther BuNo 125258 **Blue Angels 2 (LT Pat Murphy)**

F9F-5 Panther BuNo 125305 Blue Angels 3 (LTJG R.E. Aslund)

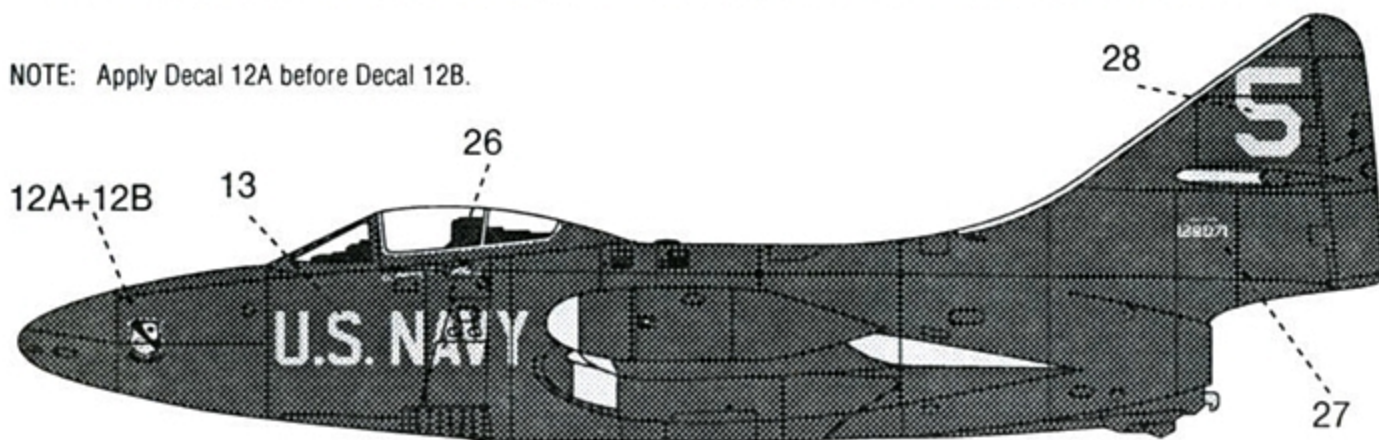


F9F-5 Panther BuNo 125294 Blue Angels 4 (LTJG Bud Rich)

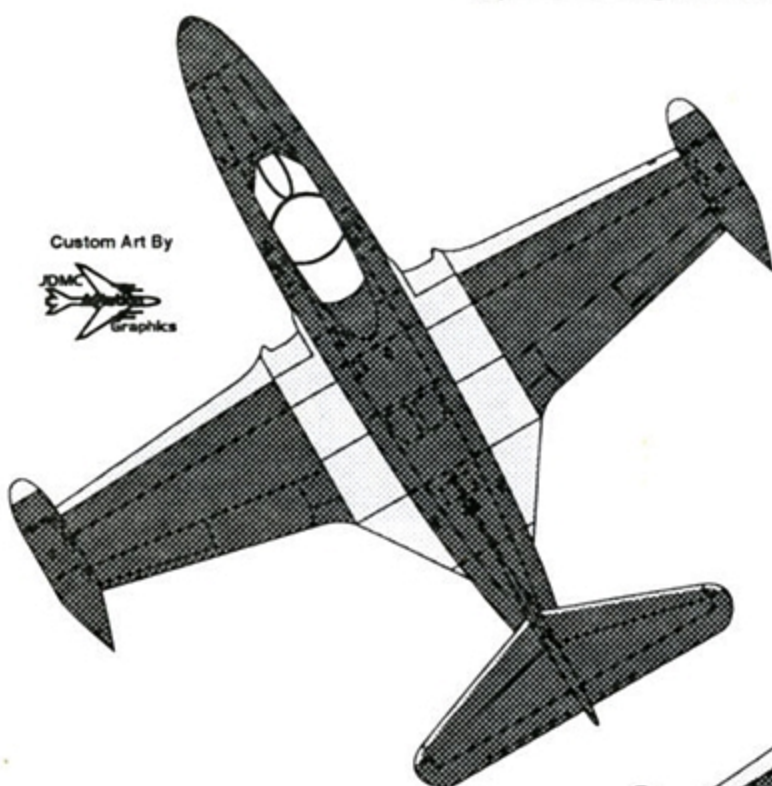


F9F-5 Panther BuNo 126071 Blue Angels 5 (LT Harding MacKnight)

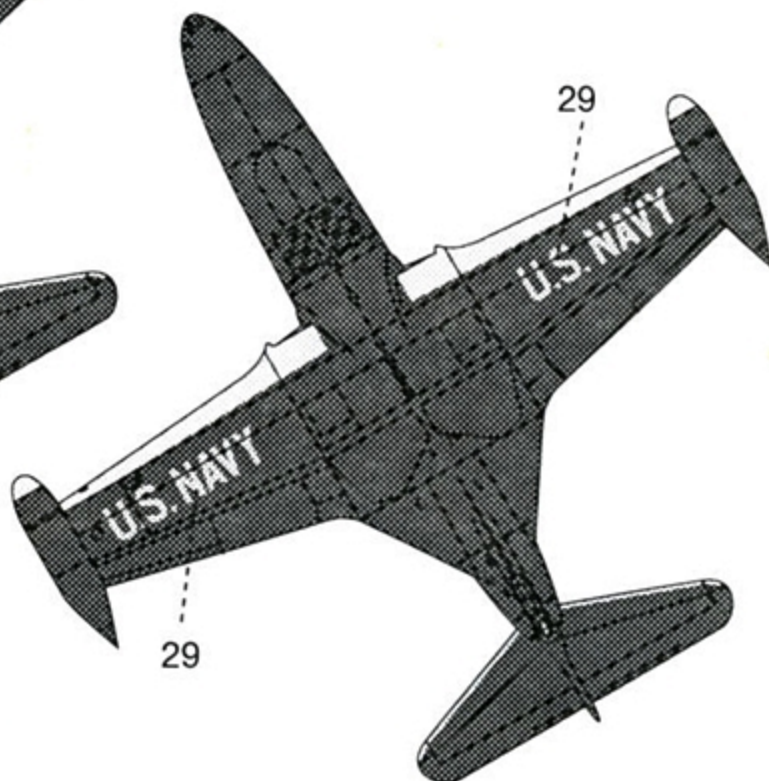
NOTE: Apply Decal 12A before Decal 12B.



NOTE: Blue Angels' Blue as used on their 1953 Panther jets was NOT FS15050. It was made by mixing three parts Insignia Blue FS15044, with one part Insignia White FS17875.



Leading edges of all flying surfaces and tip tanks, inlets and upper wing fillet are Natural Aluminum. Canopy frames are outlined in White, possibly Aluminum.



References:

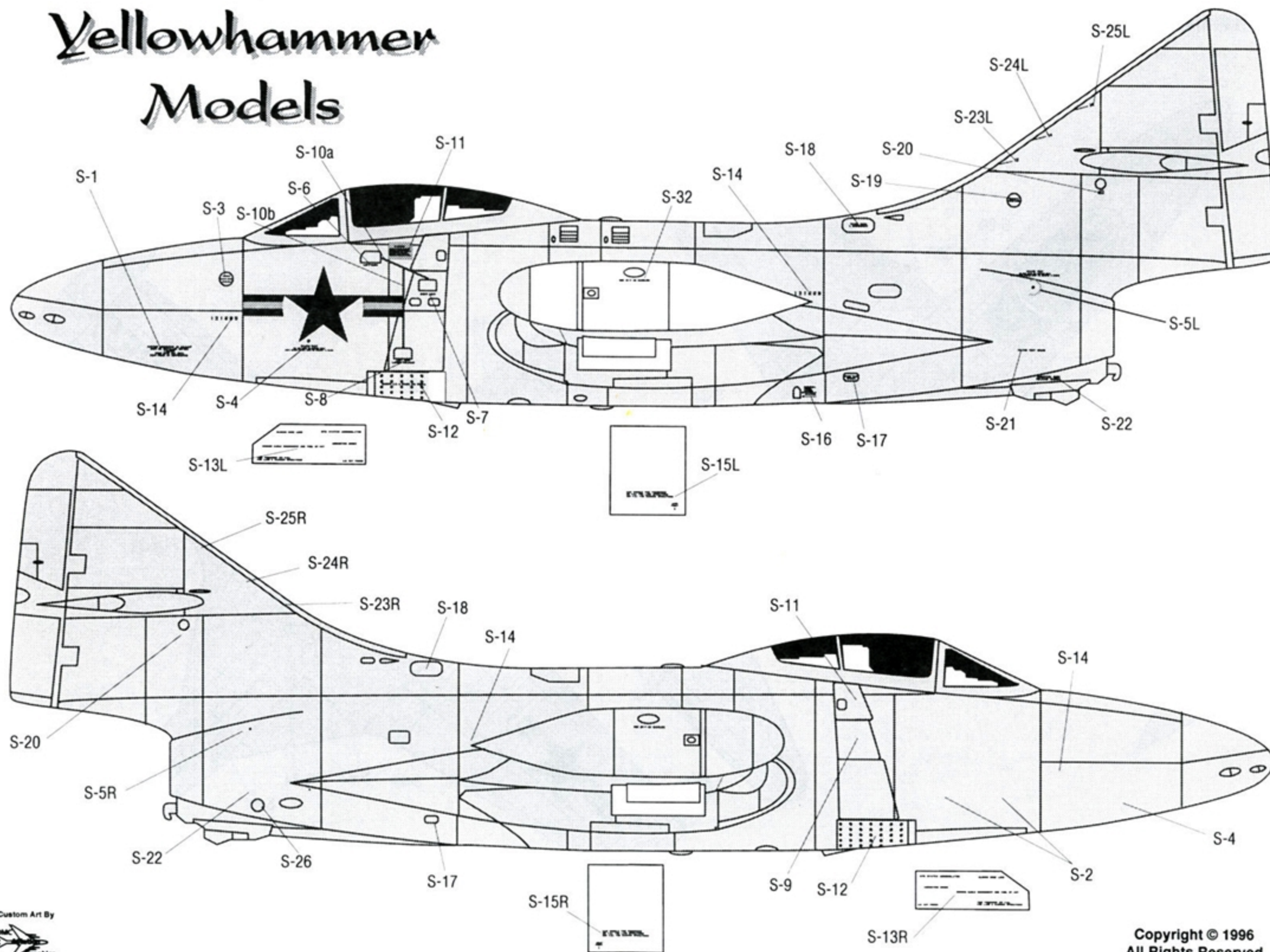
Air War Over Korea, L. Davis
Pictorial History of the Blue Angels, J. McGuire
Koku-Fan Famous Airplanes of the World #10
F9F Panther/Cougar, In Action #51, J. Sullivan
F9F Panther, In Detail & Scale #15, B. Kinzey
Scale Aircraft Modelling Vol 7 #5, Nov 1985
Replica in Scale Vol 3 #4, Dec 1976
Grumman Drawing No. 135838-2E
North Islander, 20 February 1953
BuAir Aircraft History Card for BuNo. 126109
Logbook of CAPT "Mac" MacKnight USN (Ret)

Acknowledgements:

Special thanks to the following individuals who helped make this decal sheet possible: Robbie Candler, Hill Goodspeed, CAPT Ray Hawkins USN (Ret.), Col Jack Morris USAF (Ret.), and the Tailhook Association.

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Yellowhammer Models



**F9F-5 Panther Plan View Stencils
(Grumman Drawing No.135838-2E.)**

1/48 SCALE

Extra Stencil Markings Page

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