

Now

130

members in

26

countries!

ASIAN AIR ARMS NEWSLETTER—April/May 2018

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ASIAN AIR
ARMS



JF-17 Thunder in Pakistani Squadron Service

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We start, this month, by featuring some of the brilliant photography of new member Hamza Tariq,, from Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Go to the [Pakistani Reference pages of our website](#) for a portfolio of his work on the Pakistani Air Force, Navy and Army.



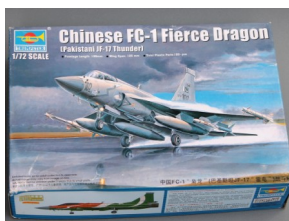
www.asianairarms.com

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Reviews and builds of FC-1 and JF-17



[1/48 Trumpeter review](#)

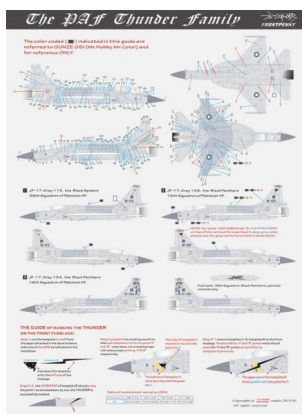


[1/72 Trumpeter review](#)

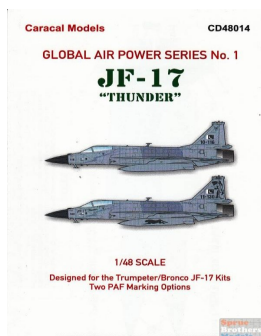


[1/48 Bronco build](#)

Decals for FC-1 and JF-17



Frontpenny Decals

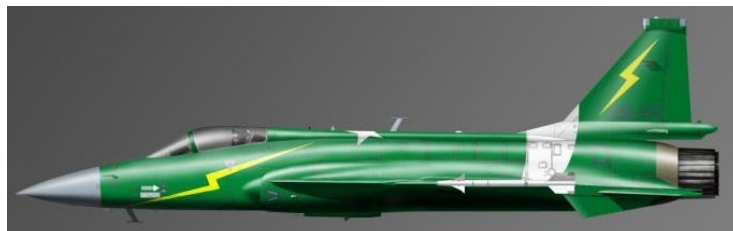


JF-17 Thunder in Pakistani Squadron Service

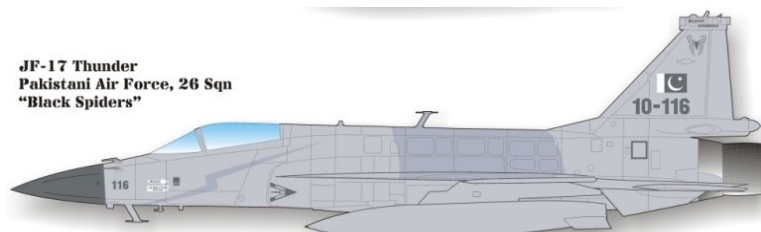
Photos by Hamza Tariq—[See more here](#)



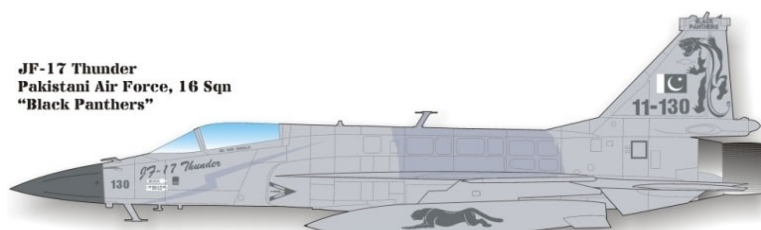
Finishes for Pakistani JF-17



JF-17 Thunder
Pakistani Air Force, 26 Sqn
"Black Spiders"

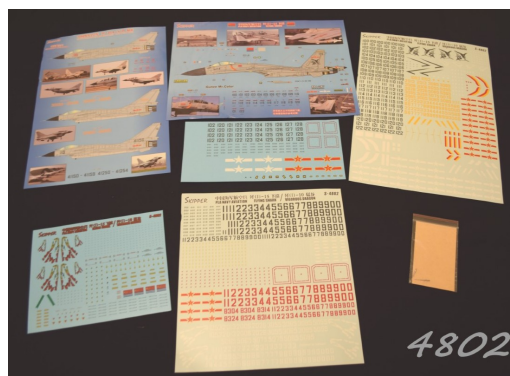


JF-17 Thunder
Pakistani Air Force, 16 Sqn
"Black Panthers"



David's Decal Review

Skipper Decals No. 4802. PLANAF J-15 Flying Shark and PLAAF/PLANAF J-10 Vigorous Dragon.



Although slightly smaller than 48001 this second package again provides a wealth of decals for these two aircraft. There are two A4 instruction sheets, one for each aircraft type. That for the J-15 includes a port side profile and upper surface views to show decal placement as well as a number of small photographs of the aircraft operating on or around the deck of the sole Chinese Aircraft Carrier "Liaoning".

The second sheet covers the J-10 with examples from both the AF and the NAA illustrated. My personal favourite on this sheet is the example from the 44th Fighter Division which is decorated with a stylised eagle's head on the tail and the flanks of the cockpit. Apparently these were allowed after a highly successful ACM exercise against the J-11 "Flankers" of the elite 1st Fighter Division back in 2012. Interestingly, the top scoring pilots at that exercise were presented with gold coloured helmets as a reward for their efforts. Now you never see that after a "Red Flag" exercise!

Decals for this package come on a single A4 sheet, plus two smaller sheets with enough national insignia, badges, codes and stencils to be able to produce at least two "Flying Sharks" and several more J-10s if you make use national insignia decals provided with the kit. There is also a small package included which contains two of the metal nose pitots.

Obtainable from Hobbyeasy in Hong Kong (www.hobbyeasy.com)

David Thomas—Deputy Leader Asian Air Arms



J-15 KITS



1/72 Trumpeter



1/48 Kinetic

J-10 KITS



1/48 Bronco J-10/J-10A



1/48 Bronco J-10S



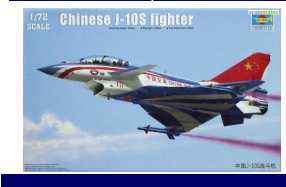
1/48 Trumpeter J-10B



1/48 Trumpeter J-10AY



1/72 Trumpeter J-10B



1/72 Trumpeter J-10S



AROUND THE SHOWS—SWORD & LANCE, DARLINGTON APRIL 2018

14th April saw the SIG valiantly represented by a splendid showing from our Man in the North, David Thomas, at the Sword and Lance Model Show at Darlington. David's display attracted a lot of attention plus some promises for display models for the Nationals at Telford in November. If any of you are operating in the North East area, David would love you to join him at the Northern Model Show on the 3rd June in Newcastle. Contact him via asianairarms1@outlook.com.

2018 MODEL SHOWS WE'LL BE ATTENDING

14th April
Poole Vikings
Poole

14th April
Sword and Lance
Darlington

20th May
E. Midlands Model Show
Hinckley

2nd June
IPMS Salisbury
Salisbury

3rd June
Northern Model Show
Newcastle

8th July
IPMS North Somerset
Weston-Super-Mare

5th August
IPMS Avon
Thornbury

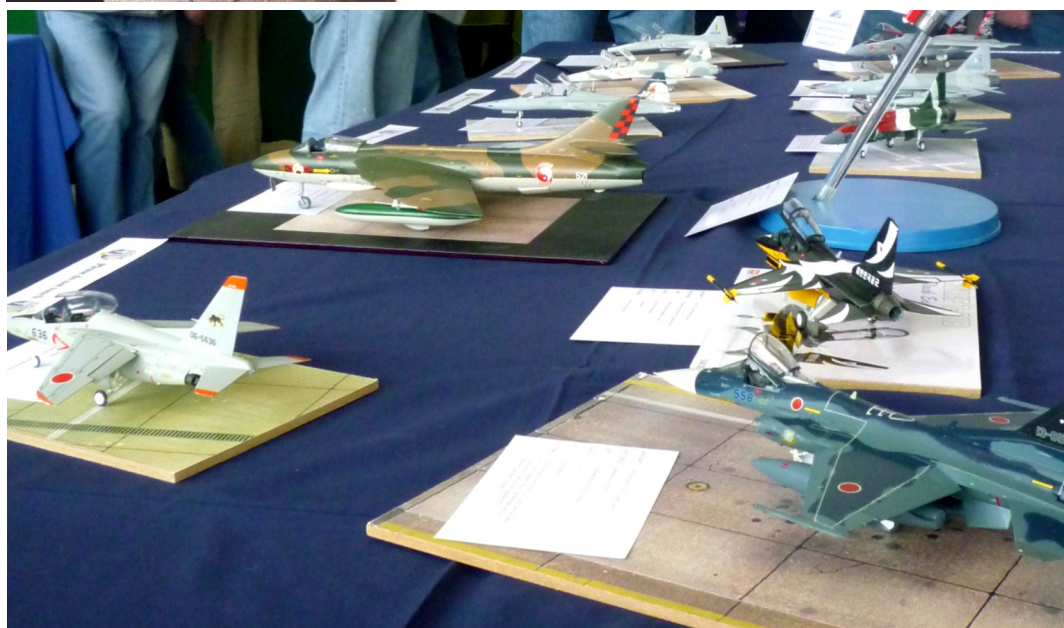
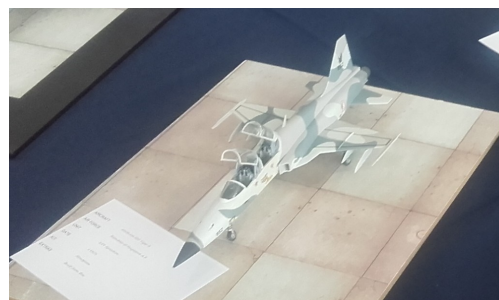
15th September
IPMS Farnborough
Camberley
(To be confirmed)

23rd September? (TBC)
IPMS Brampton
St. Ives

13th October
Royal Tank Museum
Bovington

10-11th November
THE BIG ONE!
Scale Model World
Telford

London Model Show
To be confirmed



ASIAN AIR FORCES UPDATE

Mil-8 retires from the Indian Air Force—By Phil Camp



On 17th December 2017 the Mil-8 was retired from IAF service at a ceremony held at Air Force Station Yelahanka near Bangalore. The event was hosted by I12 Helicopter Unit, the Mil-8 conversion unit and last to operate the type. The Mil-8 had been in service since 1972 and been operated by 11 operational units. The Mil-8 had participated in several IAF Operations including 'Operation Pawan', when they were used by the Indian Peace Keeping Force against Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka. 130 aircraft were delivered, including some that came with a radar nose which were used over the Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal and during India's Antarctic exploration mission. Six aircraft were delivered for the VIP role as Mil-8PS and had VIP interior and square windows. Colour schemes carried for the bulk of the transport fleet was green patches over a base of light bluish-grey. In 1999 most of the aircraft in the IAF fleet went grey. Some of the radar nose equipped aircraft adopted a very nice International Orange colour and the VIP aircraft were light bluish grey with white and blue topsides.



Belorussian Mi-24s passed to Afghanistan (via Air Forces Monthly)

As part of its four-year military transition plan backed by the US to modernise its air force Afghanistan will receive 4 Belorussian Mi-24 helicopters from India. A trilateral agreement between Belarus, Afghanistan and India was signed earlier this month. The Mi-24 is a Cold War-era helicopter and is used for counter-terrorism operations by the Afghan National Army. India already supplied four Mi-24s to the Afghan Air Force during in the year 2015-2016, marking a significant shift from its earlier reluctance to provide lethal military equipment. However, some of these helicopters had been grounded because of the lack of spares and India is working on plans to help repair and refurbish these Mi-24s and other Russian-origin helicopters and transport aircraft of the Afghan Air Force

Singapore Takes Delivery of Latest Seahawks (via Air Forces Monthly)

The Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) took delivery of two S-70B Seahawks in late January. The aircraft serial numbers 252 and 253, are from an order placed in early 2013. The new Seahawks join six others (tail numbers 260-263, 265-266) owned by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) but operated by the RSAF's 123 Squadron at Sembawang Air Base.



Mil Mi-8/17 Kits



1/144 Eastern Express



1/72 HobbyBass



1/48 Annetra



1/35 Trumpeter

Mil Mi-24 Kits



1/72 Zvezda

Sikorsky S-70 Kits



1/72 Hasegawa



1/48 Italeri



CLANGER ALERT!

Last Newsletter, I gave wrong address for J-HangarSpace! It should be www.j-hangarspace.jp—sorry Paul!

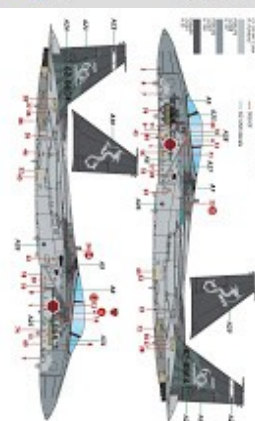


PLANAF Shenyang J-15D (via Air Forces Monthly)

DXM DECALS

1/144, 1/72 or 1/48 scales

J.A.S.D.F.
F-15J
303rd TFS 60th Anniversary
1/48 DECAL



The first clear images of the new Shenyang J-15D electronic attack aircraft for the People's Liberation Army Naval Air Force (PLANAF) have appeared online. The heavily reworked Chinese development of the *Flanker* family is also understood to carry the designation J-17. Meanwhile, some enthusiasts have dubbed it the 'Chinese-Growler', on account of a suppression of enemy air defences (SEAD) role presumed analogous to that of the US Navy's EA-18G Growler.

Indeed, the 'Chinese-Growler' name is not too far-fetched, since the aircraft apparently follows a similar development path to the EA-18G, which was evolved from the two-seat F/A-18F. The J-15D is based on the dual-seat J-15S trainer, which first flew on November 3, 2012, and also incorporates technologies from the People's Liberation Army Air Force's J-16D – itself an electronic warfare variant of the twin-seat Shenyang J-16 strike fighter.

Characteristic features of the J-15D include two huge electronic warfare pods on the wingtips that likely contain either electronic support measures (ESM) or electronic intelligence (ELINT) equipment.

Based on the latest reports, development of the J-15S has meanwhile been abandoned and the project merged with the J-15D to create a true multi-role J-17 carrier variant.

ROCAF F-CK-1 Target Tugs (via Air Forces Monthly)



The aerial target towing tasks of the Republic of China Air Force (ROCAF) were assumed by the F-CK-1 Indigenous Defense Fighter (IDF) from April, **Peter Ho** reports. State-owned aerospace company Aerospace Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) has modified two F-CK-1s – serial numbers 1451 and 1452 – to carry the RM-30B reeling machine launcher and the TDK-39 tow target. Initial testing of the system was carried out by AIDC on IDF prototype serial 10003 at the end of 2015 and modifications to serial 1451 began in 2016. The company is contracted by the ROCAF to provide target towing services and has previously used the F-5E Tiger II for such missions.

Singapore F-15SGs in commemorative scheme (via Air Forces Monthly)

RSAF has painted two F-15SGs to commemorate its Golden Jubilee in 2018.

The fuselage, wings and tails sport a unique blue, derived from the state colour. The topside and outer tails feature the RSAF 50 Years logo—the numerical 50 over the Singapore city skyline. Also detailed on the inner tails are the three types of RSAF roundels that have been used over the past 50 years.





CHINA BYTES

By David Thomas

SOUTH CHINA SEA FUN AND GAMES



For the first time, the PLAAF has deployed a number of its new Su-35s to the disputed region of the South China Sea. This marks the first indication as to the purpose of these advanced fighters as their purchase caused some confusion among PLA observers, given China's indigenous development of the original Su-27 in the J11, J15 and J16 series of aircraft.

In a statement from the PLAAF quoted in a recent edition of "Combat Aircraft" magazine, it was said that Su-35 jets were in the area to conduct training and that *"participating in such training (is) expected to enhance the Air Force's combat capability under long-distance or high sea conditions."*

Interestingly the PLAN carrier "Liaoning" equipped with J15 "Black Shark" fighters, recently completed its first training cruise in the same area.

China is clearly sending out signals to all interested parties that it regards the waters of the South China Sea as its "backyard" and has the military "clout" available to back up that belief.

PLAAF SERIALS EXPLAINED



The recent deployment of Su-35s, and the publication of photos of the aircraft involved, allowed observers to confirm the unit to which the aircraft were assigned from the information contained in their serial numbers. In this case to the 6th Air Brigade of the 6th Air Regiment based close to the HQ of the Navy's Southern Fleet at Zhangjiang. It might therefore be of interest to look at how Chinese serials are composed.

Normally serials have been made up of 5 digits (a scheme introduced originally in the 1970s, modified in 2005 and then again in 2012), and provide coded information, indicating the parent brigade and regiment, as well as the individual aircraft number. As with changes in most military organisations the world over, not all of the aircraft of the PLA have been included in the new coding system as yet. Those that have not, retain the 2005 amended system.

In the current system (2012 and on) the first, second and fourth digits minus 611 provide the brigade number, and the third and fifth digits indicate the individual number of that aircraft in the brigade.

Let us look at an Su-35 with a serial number of 61177. The first, second and fourth digits give us "617": now by subtracting 611 we learn that the Brigade is the "6th". The third and fifth digits are "17" which is the individual aircraft number. This number fits in the range of Su-35s purchased, reported to have been 24 aircraft.

It must be repeated that not all of the aircraft of the PLA have been included in the new coding system as yet. In the 2005 amended system, the first and fourth digits (minus "11") supply the identification of the division (providing the fourth digit is greater than "2"), whilst the second and third digits give us the regiment/squadron number, and fifth digit leads us to the individual aircraft number.

Thus a J-11BS coded "40636" tells us that it belongs to the 32nd Fighter Division (43-11) and is assigned to the Sixth Regiment (06), where it is the 6th aircraft.

PLAAF codes are normally bright yellow but significant numbers of aircraft (e.g. strike and bombers) can carry white or red codes.

PLANAF SERIALS EXPLAINED

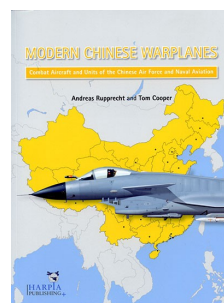


These follow a similar but simpler system to that of the PLAAF. Most PLANAF aircraft codes comprise 5 digits (but Independent Regiments have 4 digits). The first digit is always 8 or 9; the second and third digits indicate the Regiment/Squadron; the fourth digit the Division; and the fifth digit shows the individual aircraft number.

Also PLANAF codes are usually bright red or, mainly on support aircraft or helicopters, can be mid grey.

It must be borne in mind that due to several systems being in use at the same time, it can be very hard to be specific on this matter. For more information, we recommend *"Modern Chinese Warplanes"* by Andreas Rupprecht and Tom Cooper, published by Harpia.

I know it's complicated and I shall now be going to lie down in a darkened room!



SRI LANKAN AIR FORCE SQUADRON MARKINGS (Current formats)

Courtesy of "Scramble" <http://www.scramble.nl/orbats>

I just couldn't figure out the colour combinations that SLAF affix to fuselage roundels. But, fortunately, Stefan Goosens of [4Aviation Tours](#) pointed me to the pages of Scramble NL—and there it all was! Thanks to Stefan and to Scramble NL.

Click the roundels for photos!

6 Helicopter Sqdn
Mil Mi-17



2 Heavy Transport Sqdn
An-32; C-130; Cessna 421



5 Jet Sqdn
F-7BS; F-7GS; FT-7



10 Jet Sqdn
Kfir (T)C2: C7



4 VIP Helicopter Sqdn
Bell 212: 412



8 Light Transport Sqdn
Beech 200: Y-12



7 Helicopter Sqdn
Bell 206; 212



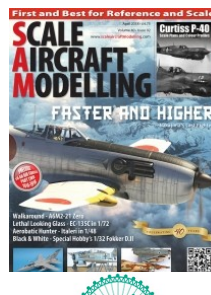
9 Attack Helicopter Sqdn
Mi-171Sh; Mi-24V; Mi-35P



1 Flying Training Wing
K-8; PT-6; Cessna 150

**ASIAN AIR ARMS AND GUIDELINE PUBLICATIONS**

Guideline Publications, the premier publisher for military aviation literature, is offering **a 10% discount on all its books** for our members who order through Asian Air Arms.



If you'd like to take advantage of this offer contact me directly.

**And don't forget the London Plastic Modelling Show
on Sunday 2nd December, 2018.**

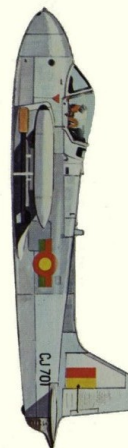


ASIAN AIR ARMS

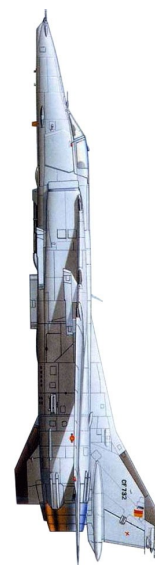


SLAF Old Hands

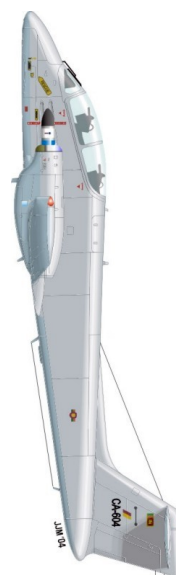
Hunting Jet Provost T-5



MIG-27M



FMA IA-58 Pucara





An Extract from "MIGs OVER NORTH VIETNAM" by Roger Boniface

VPAF Combat A/C



MiG-21PFM, 'Red 5020', was attached to the 927th Fighter Regiment. On 5 July 1972, Nguyen Tien Sam (six kills) shot down two F-4 Phantoms in this aircraft. Others who flew this MiG were Le Thanh Dao (six kills), Nguyen Van Nghia (five kills) and Nguyen Doc Soat (six kills). Note the narrow chord fin.

MiG-21MF, 'Red 5033', was flown by Tran Viet of the 921st Fighter Regiment. He downed three Phantoms with this aircraft, one of them on 28 December 1972. No stars on upper and lower wings.

Above and below: MiG-21PFMs 'Red 5041' and 'Red 5066' from the 921st Fighter Regiment in 1967. These aircraft had their entire fuselages and wing upper surfaces painted in green zebra stripes with canopy and wing under-sides in silver. No stars on wing upper and lower surfaces.

9th October 1972: The VPAF also decided to do some bombing of its own. On October 9th two Il-28s—Russian-made bombers—were taken out of storage (only two days after they were stored!) to bomb the American base at Ban Luong in Laos. The idea was similar to the attack on the US fleet in April 1972, by using a single surprise raid on a so-called "safe target" that would make the Americans use up valuable resources on preventing similar attacks. Two pilots from the original batch sent to China for bomber training were recalled from their units for this mission. The first bomber would be piloted by Bui Trong Hoan, with Nguyen Dinh Nhan as gunner and Nguyen Van Ta as navigator. The second bomber was crewed by Nguyen Van Tru as pilot, Thanh Xuan Hanh as gunner and Ngo Van Trung as navigator. The bombers were each fitted with eight cluster bombs containing 1,500 smaller bombs, which would explode like lethal grapeshot when released. Four MiG-21s from the 921st FR would act as escorts, two for each bomber.

The crews had to fly purely by instruments, as there was a risk of being picked up by American radar if they had contact with ground control. The American base was on

a hill about 3,900 feet high, so crews had to practice the attack approach to avoid flying into the target, instead of bombing it!

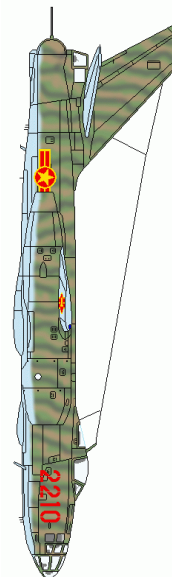
The weather on 9th October was near perfect as the bombers approached the target undetected. When they reached Moc Chau (100 miles west of Hanoi and five miles from the Laotian border), they vectored towards Ban Loung (60 miles inside Laos) for their attack run. The pressure and excitement within the small bomber force was intense as it slowly edged its way towards the target. All crews were aware that F-5A fighters of the VNAF (South Vietnamese Air Force) were stationed along the route. They could be intercepted at any moment and their only insurance was the sight of the green and silver MiGs flying nearby like guardian angels.

Eventually, the target could be seen below and the bombers approached it without any reaction from the forces on the ground, so the surprise was complete! They released their bomb load causing utter chaos and confusion below. The pilots could see pillars of black smoke coming from the base, indicating major destruction. The bombers did not need any invitation to return to Noi Bai as they expected the fighters based nearby to react like angry hornets.

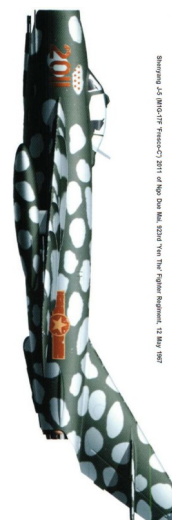
The escorting MiGs were now low on fuel and even at this stage total success was not guaranteed. The F-5s stationed at Xam Nua were scrambled but before they could get close enough to make contact with the bombers, they turned away at the North Vietnamese border. There were also four MiG-21s from the 921st FR, which were loitering at the border to cover the bombers' retreat, should the F-5s chase them over into North Vietnam. It transpired that the anticipated combat between a MiG-21 and an F-5 did not happen.

Upon the crews' return they were given a hero's welcome and the pilots were made "Heroes of Vietnam", one of the highest awards that Vietnamese military personnel could receive. The attack did not change the overall situation but it did have the sobering effect of driving home to the Americans that there was no such thing as a safe target. As this incident happened in Laos, where American involvement was never made public at the time, the bombing officially "did not happen".

Ilushin Il-28



MiG-17F



Shenyang F-6



HUNDREDS OF BUILDS ON THE WEBSITE OF NEW MEMBER MEINDERT de VREEZE

Meindert has put together a fascinating website with over 500 builds, all in great detail. Have a look here:

<https://designer.home.xs4all.nl/models/models.htm>

LIKE PHANTOMS? LIKE JAPANESE PHANTOMS?

Probably the best video you'll ever see—do NOT miss this.
Click on the picture below.



VALLEJO AND FEDERAL STANDARD COLOUR MATCHES

Colour References Guide for Historical and Contemporary Aircraft and AFVs.

Vallejo have produced this superb colour reference chart matching historical and contemporary paint finishes with the Vallejo range and, wherever possible with the Federal Standard range. [Click on the logo.](#)



Acrylicos Vallejo
Colores acrílicos / Acrylic colors

EVEN MORE COLOUR SCHEMES ON "ASIAN AIR ARMS" WEBSITE



I'm aiming to progressively provide a greater range of colour schemes for each country, so as to give you a wider choice of modelling subjects. They will be accessed via the "References" page of each country. The first one I'm working on is South Korea—have a look at it here:

<https://www.asianairarms.com/sth-korea-schemes>

PHOTO GALLERIES FROM GUIDED TOURS OF CONTEMPORARY ASIAN AIR ARMS

Thanks to the generosity of those kind people at 4Aviation Tours, we're now able to make available hundreds of tremendous photos taken during these guided tours.

You'll find them on the "References" pages of many countries—look for "Photo tour of"



[Click here](#) for a fascinating CGI video of today's Chinese aircraft manufacturers.

New Members

We've gained another 10 members since the last Newsletter—now at 130 in 25 countries!

Welcome to: Malcolm Lowe, Matthew John, Roger Boniface and Andy Hardwick from the UK;

Louis Franco, Bob Delaney and Gary Curtin from the USA; Hamza Tariq from Pakistan;

Richard Tong Soo from Australia; Meindert de Vreeze and Peter van den Berg from the Netherlands.

www.asianairarms.com

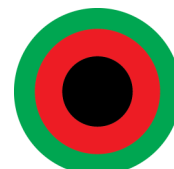
asianairarmsl@outlook.com

ASIAN AIR ARMS



Asian Aircraft Markings A History

I. Afghanistan



1937–1967



1967–1979



1979–1983



1983–1994



Circa 1996



Circa 2000



Northern Alliance c. 2010



Circa 2010—to date

Ref: Military Aircraft Insignia of the World—Cochrane/Elliott



Asian Air Arms

encourages you to join

IPMS

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Over 80 clubs in UK (including 2 on-line clubs) plus 55 overseas branches in over 50 countries (from Malta to Venezuela, Russia to Brazil, Australia to China).

Contact these branches for foreign advice!

Like to concentrate your modelling on particular topics?

IPMS has over 70 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) covering every possible subject, such as:

"Battleship", "Formula 1 & Motorsport", "Harrier", "Landing Craft", "Sci-Fi & Fantasy",

"Splash—Flying Boats and Amphibians", "Leopard Main Battle Tank", "Aerobatic Display Teams" etc., etc!

There is a SIG just for you!

And it's free to members!

Like to keep informed about what's going on in the modelling world?

IPMS Magazine is published six times a year with all articles written by IPMS members and is posted directly to your home.

And it's free to members!

Want technical advice on your modelling themes?

There is a Technical Advisory Service for all topics including aircraft, figures, shipping and military vehicles.

And it's free to members!

Hunting for that elusive decal sheet?

IPMS Decal Bank has thousands to choose from—just ask and they'll start searching for you!

And it's free to members!

Lost an instruction sheet and don't know how to proceed?

The Instruction Sheet Library will put you back on the right path.

And it's free to members!

Wish you could attend the biggest modelling show in the world?

IPMS Scale Modelworld event in November covers three huge halls, welcoming thousands of visitors from all over the world to see the very latest releases and enjoy club displays from UK, Europe and beyond.

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And what will all this set you back?

About one pint of beer a night for 8 nights a year!

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- * **Free** access to IPMS Decal Bank and the Instruction Sheet Library!
- * **Free** IPMS Magazine posted to you six times a year!

And all this for just 6 pence per day!

Asian Air Arms strongly recommends that you join IPMS.

Join here today! <http://ipmsuk.org/membership/membership-prices/>