

Tigers delivered in the original first batch (J-3001 – J-3066 and J-3201 – J-3206) did not have the extended Leading Edge Wing Extensions (LERX) or the aerodynamically more streamlined shark shaped radar nose cones. However the second batch (J-3067 – J-3098 & J-3207 – 3212) delivered from 1982 onwards, were built from new with the LERX and the improved nose cone. The prominent VHF antenna was installed behind the cockpit. These modifications were also retrospectively introduced to the earlier Tiger fleet.

As has become an established tradition, the last aircraft off the production line received special nose art and J-3066 became Peace Alps I and featured a flying dove while J-3098 had Peace Alps II titles above a flying witch (both aircraft are featured on the 'Peace Alps Part Two' decal sheet). There is hardly any F-5 in Swiss service that did not receive a squadron badge at some time during its service life. Since the aircraft are not assigned to any specific squadron, some aircraft have more than one squadron badge applied or may have had a mix of various badges at different times. Tiger airplanes also participated in training missions and competitions abroad. Sardinia (SAKA) or Waddington (NORKA) in the United Kingdom created new badges. It is imperative to check photo references to get a picture of the exact look of a particular aircraft at any given time.

The paint scheme applied was similar to the USAF F-15's of the time. The original colors are F9453 Medium Grey and F9452 Light Grey, produced by the company Walter Mäder AG in Switzerland. The closest equivalent is a mix of FS 35237 Grey Blue and FS 36622 Grey in parts 33/67 and 50/50 respectively. With the introduction of the F/A-18 Hornet in 1998, things became easier and the colors were harmonized with FS 36320 Dark Ghost Grey and FS 36375 Light Ghost Grey. This is a matter of evolution, some aircraft were completely repainted, some merely received only a partial replacement while others simply received a touch up, thus leaving a 4 color mottled effect. While similar, the new Ghost Grays are a shade darker than the original colors; a very pleasing challenge to the modeler.

In 2002, the US Navy purchased 32 surplus F-5Es from the Swiss Air Force to strengthen their 'Aggressor Squadrons'. Later, a similar deal for an additional 12 F-5E was finalized. Renamed as "F-5N" and reinstated with their original round black nose cones, these Tigers now serve with VFC-13, VMFT-401 and also VFC-111 'Sundowners' in Florida, a suitable retirement home for ageing airplanes!

From 2004 until 2008, Austria leased 12 F-5Es for 4 years from Switzerland to gap the bridge between the end of the service life of the Saab J35 Draken and the introduction of the new Eurofighters.

During almost 30 years of Swiss service, 9 Tiger aircraft were lost in accidents. Today, 42 F-5E & F are still operational. When parliament originally decided on the purchase of the Northrop F-5, its subsequent 30 in-service life could never have been foreseen, it was more of an economical stop gap filler after the proposed Corsair purchase had been negated and more Hunters purchased. With the 2010 decision to delay the purchase of a Tiger replacement fighter for a few more years, the F-5 continues to be the mainstay of militia Air Force squadrons and the Patrouille Suisse team have had their tenure extended for at least a few more years.



Robert Schneider
Müllheim, June 2011



Peace Alps - Part One

Matterhorn Circle

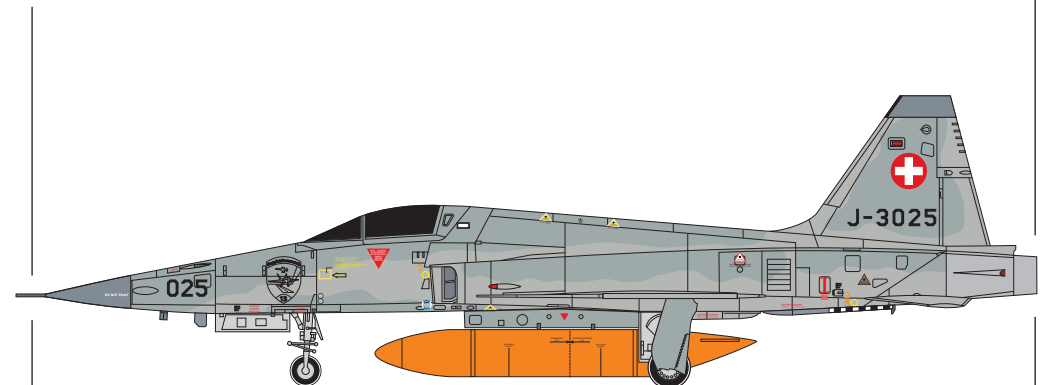
F-5E/F Tiger II

**1/48 scale
alps printed**





In 1976, the Swiss Government placed an order for 72 Northrop F-5E/F Tiger II in the 'Peace Alps I' program. The order consisted of 66 single seat F-5E and 6 two seat F-5F as a replacement of the ageing DH-112 Venom fleet. The new aircraft were to be manufactured at the Northrop plant in Hawthorne, California and the final assembly performed by the Eidg. Flugzeugwerk Emmen (F + W).

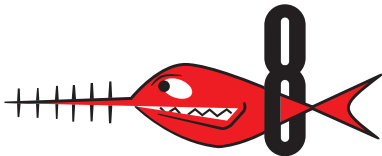
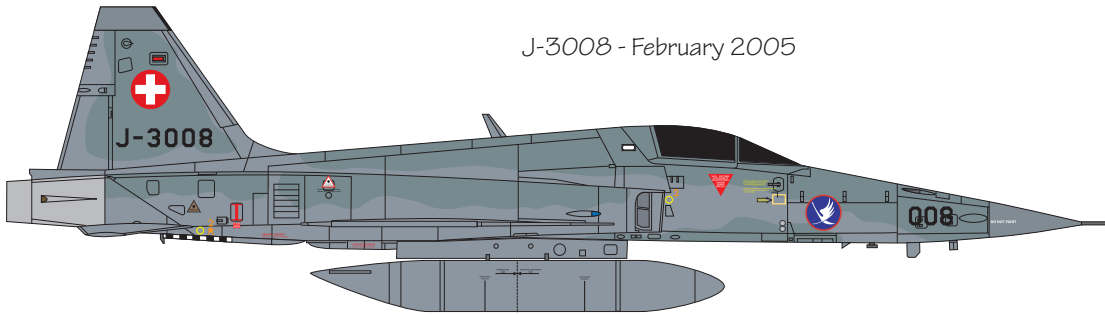


MC48009 - © Matterhorn Circle June 2011 - Peace Alps Part one

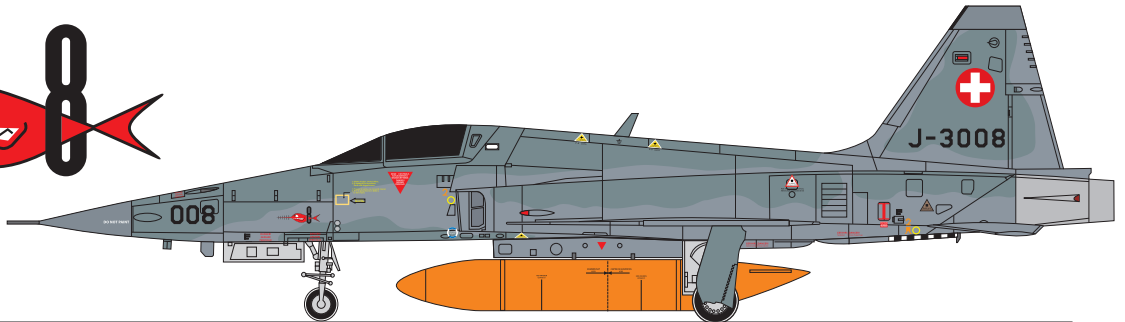


Staffel 19

J-3008 - February 2005



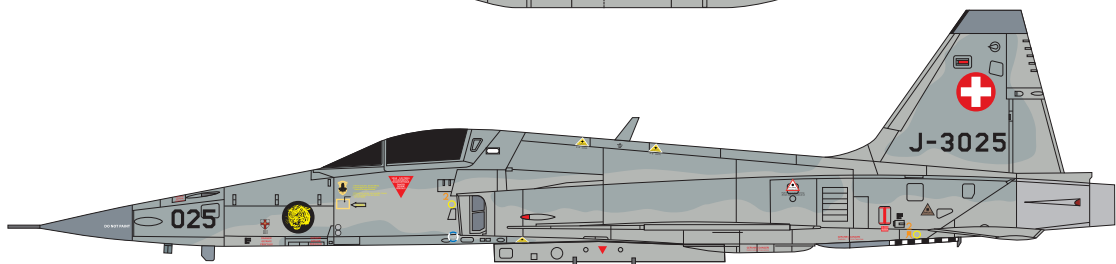
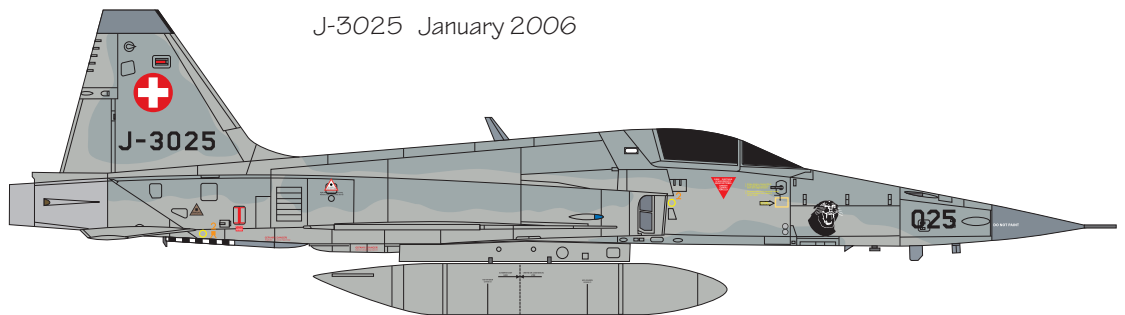
Staffel 8



J-3025 January 2006



Staffel 18



Still wearing the original paint scheme with a heavy overspray of the slightly darker colors - FS 36375 & FS 36720 in a patchwork manner. The appearance is very patchy affair.



NORKA 94
NORKA 95
NORKA 97



Badges of the NORKA Campaigns at RAF Waddington

Special thanks for support, fotos and references go to:

Bruno Schneider, Olivier Borgeaud, Peter Lewis & Geri Friedlos



Staffel 11

12 Swiss Air Force F-5E were leased to Austria

The aircraft numbers are:

J-3004, J-3005, J-3014, J-3030, J-3033, J-3036, J-3038, J-3041, J-3052, J-3056, J-3057, J-3065

J-3030 January 2006

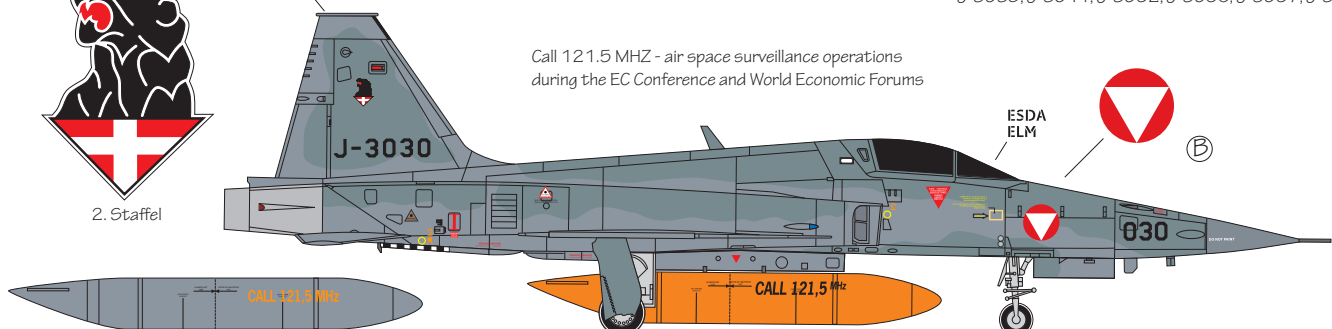
Call 121.5 MHz - air space surveillance operations during the EC Conference and World Economic Forums



2. Staffel

IFR Antenna

ESDA
ELM





J-3037 March 2005

Staffel 13



Flugplatzabteilung 3
Fliegerkompanie 8

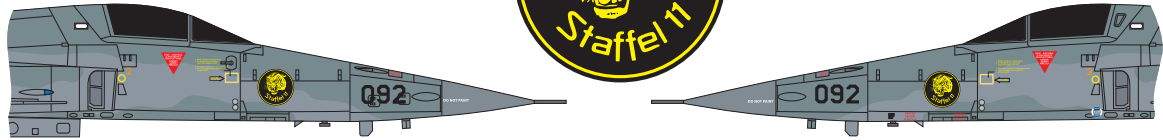
J-3079 October 2009



Last pilot school class
on F-5 Tiger

NORKA 94
NORKA 95
NORKA 97

J-3092 October 2006



J-3093 March 1994



J-3093 September 2009



JUSQU'AUBOUT
CP. AV. 6

J-3022 September 1989



right

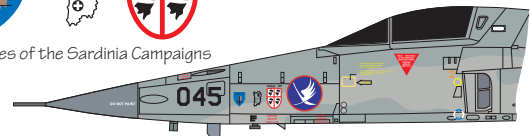


left



Badges of the Sardinia Campaigns

J-3045 July 1987



J-3207 July 1987



Staffel 1



J-3055 May 1999



J-3008

