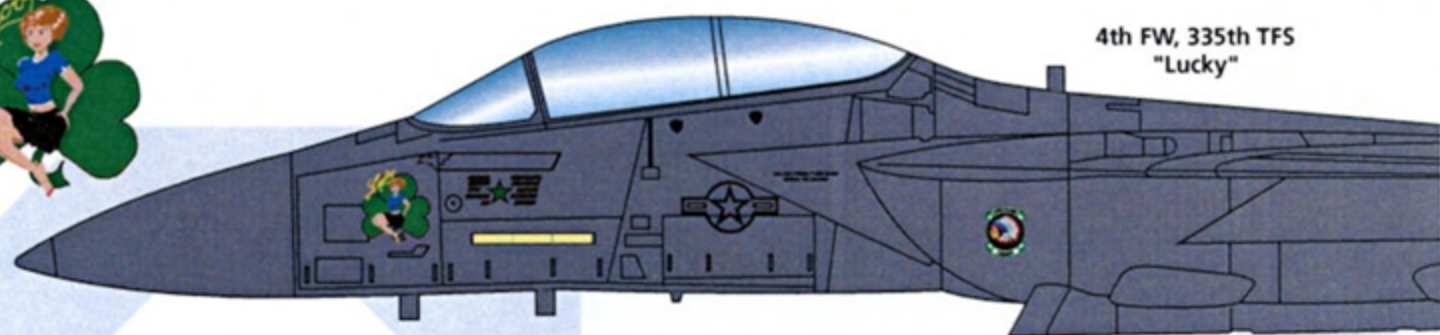


LIMITED EDITION!

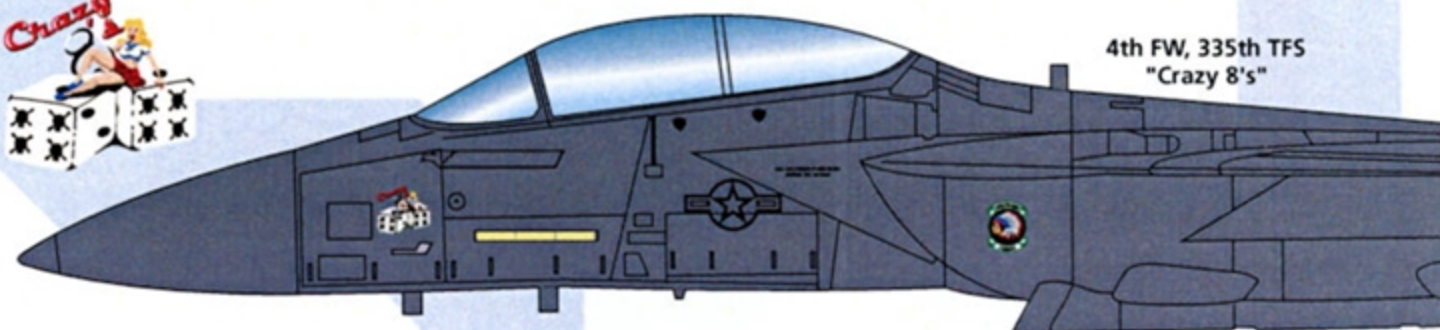
CED32045

4th But First #3

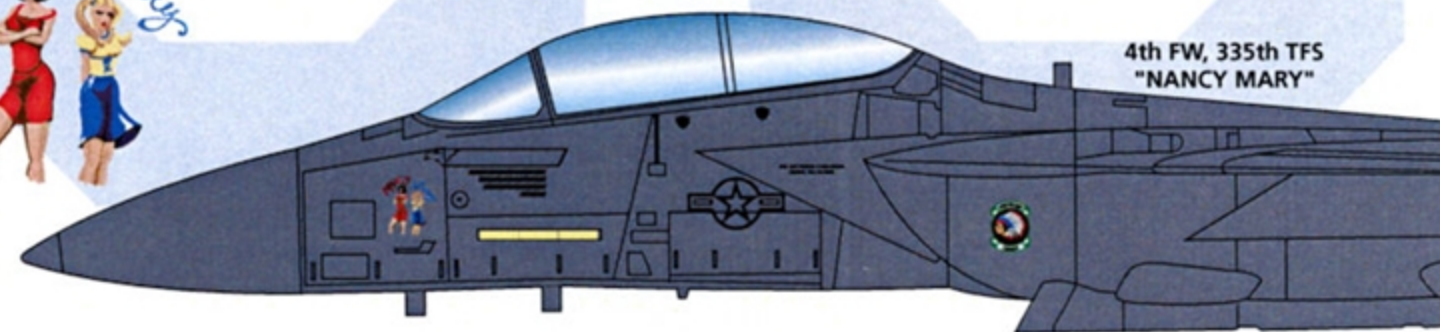
F-15Es in Operation Iraqi Freedom



4th FW, 335th TFS
"Lucky"



4th FW, 335th TFS
"Crazy 8's"



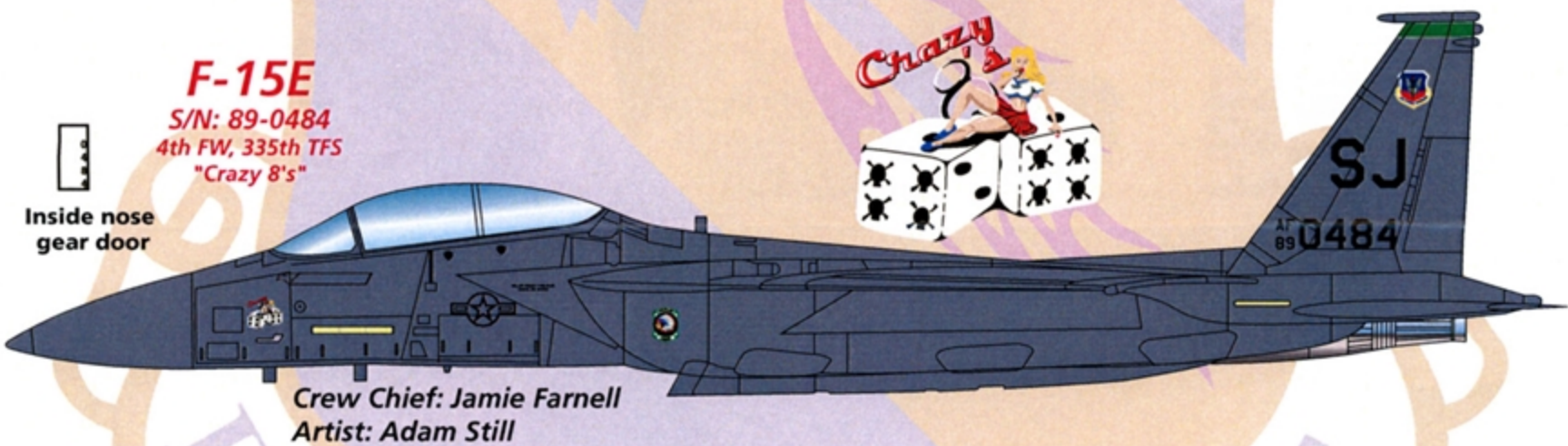
4th FW, 335th TFS
"NANCY MARY"

Recommended kit:
1/32 Tamiya F-15E

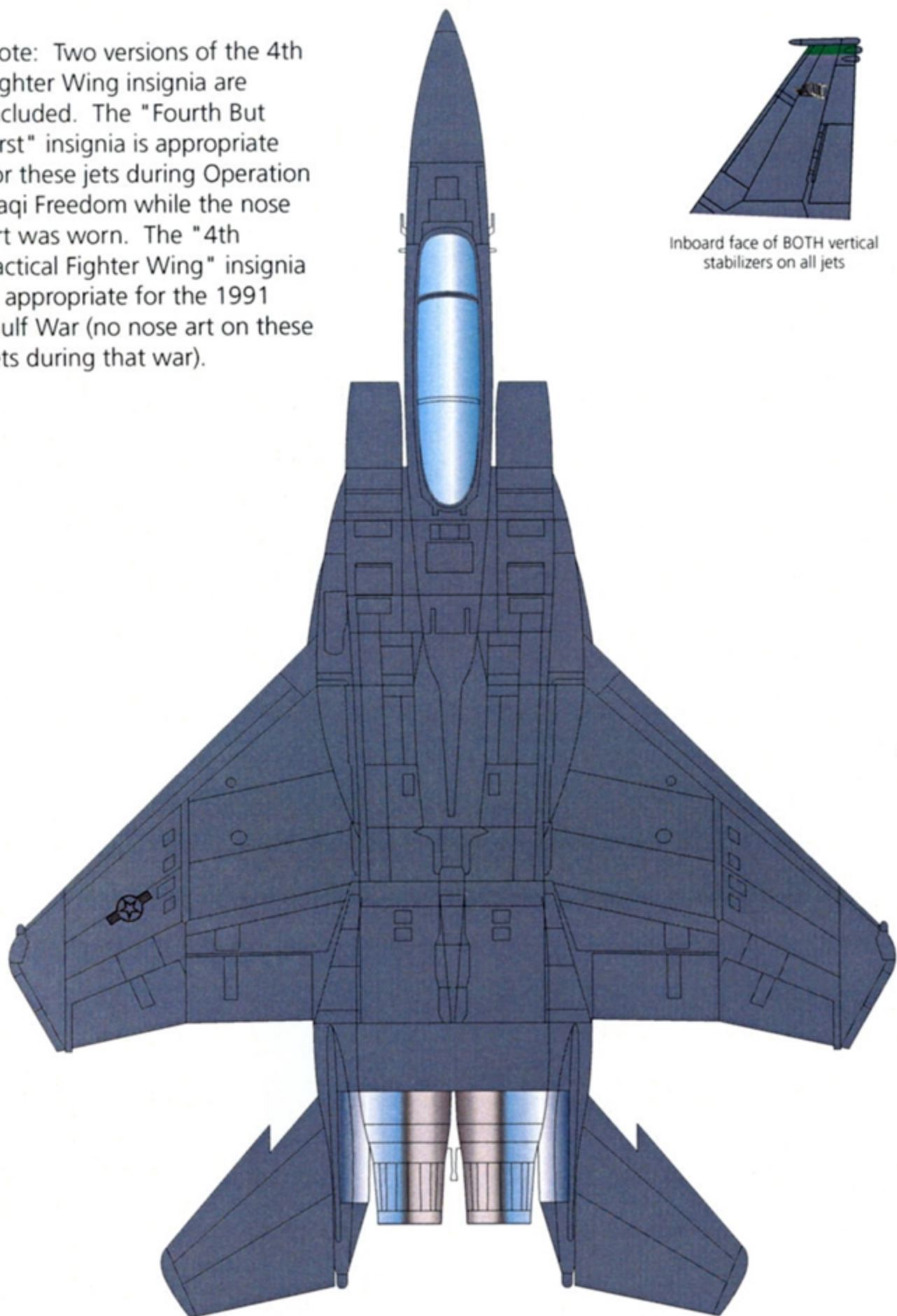
**Cutting
Edge**

MODELWORKS www.meteorprod.com

®
P.O. Box 3956
Merrifield, VA 22116
USA



Note: Two versions of the 4th Fighter Wing insignia are included. The "Fourth But First" insignia is appropriate for these jets during Operation Iraqi Freedom while the nose art was worn. The "4th Tactical Fighter Wing" insignia is appropriate for the 1991 Gulf War (no nose art on these jets during that war).



Inboard face of BOTH vertical stabilizers on all jets

...available from

Meteor

Productions
Inc.

P.O. Box 3956, Merrifield, VA 22116 USA
☎ 703/971-0500 FAX 703/971-8111

www.meteorprod.com

Write, call, or visit our home page to order our 120+ page catalog of decals, kits, conversions, tools, books, magazines, etc., and we'll send it to you right away!

© Cutting Edge Modelworks, 2003

4th But First #3: F-15Es in Operation Iraqi Freedom



89-0487

- The name "Lucky" was given to the jet by the Crew Chief because the lucky air-to-air kill that it earned for shooting down a helicopter (by dropping a BOMB on it!) just after it had taken off during the *first* Gulf War. In fact, the Air Force almost failed to grant an air-to-air kill for this incident! "The woman in front of the clover is a caricature of the crew chief's wife, and while most lucky clovers have four leaves this one is a lucky three-leaf clover. The missing fourth leaf is a tribute to the fallen jet and aircrew that lost in Operation Iraqi Freedom. May God be watching them and may he hold them close to his heart."

89-0484

- Julius Caesar once said, "The die is cast" before the Roman's campaign against the barbarians of England and France (amazing how well the Brits, at least, have matured!). The same quote has been used for OIF, and thus the dice represent this aircraft's involvement in the Operation Iraqi Freedom war. The two fours on the dice are the first and last numbers of the tail, and added together with the middle eight create the two crazy eights.

90-0230

- The name "Nancy-Mary" was derived from the phonetics for "NM," or "Needs Maintenance." It is was joke by the crew chief because of the downtime it spent unflyable for the first eight days of the war. Even though its nature was to break, the hard work of the maintainers allowed it to stay flyable long enough to make a significant contribution to the war effort—as depicted by all the bombs (mission markings) painted on its nose.

Applying the Decals

You probably already know all this stuff, so feel free to use your regular process; however, if you're new to aftermarket decals, here goes:

- Generally, use the Microscale Finishing System. We don't recommend extremely strong decal solvents such as Solvaset.
- Your model must have a smooth, glossy surface, as decals won't adhere well to matte surfaces. Use gloss paints or your favorite clear gloss overspray over matte or semigloss paint.
- Cut each subject out without trimming off the slight excess film (this helps the decal film disappear when dry).
- Put the decal in warm water that has a drop or two of liquid dishwashing soap or photo-flo for 10 seconds.
- When the decal will slide off the backing paper without forcing it, apply it to the proper position on your model. Slide the backing paper out from underneath.
- Gently blot off excess water and smooth out bubbles under the decal surface. If you wish, carefully brush on a mild decal softener such as Micro-Sol.
- When all decals are completely dry, gently wash off all excess decal adhesive.
- Finally, overcoat your model with a good quality gloss coat, followed by your choice of matte or eggshell clear topcoat.

FS 595 Color Cross Reference

FS 36118 Xtracolor X5/X130, Humbrol 123 & 125, Gunze Sangyo H333/H032/H075/H305, Modelmaster 1723, Pro Modeler 88-0037, Floquil 303157

Bibliography

Original photos by the men of the 4th Fighter Wing.