

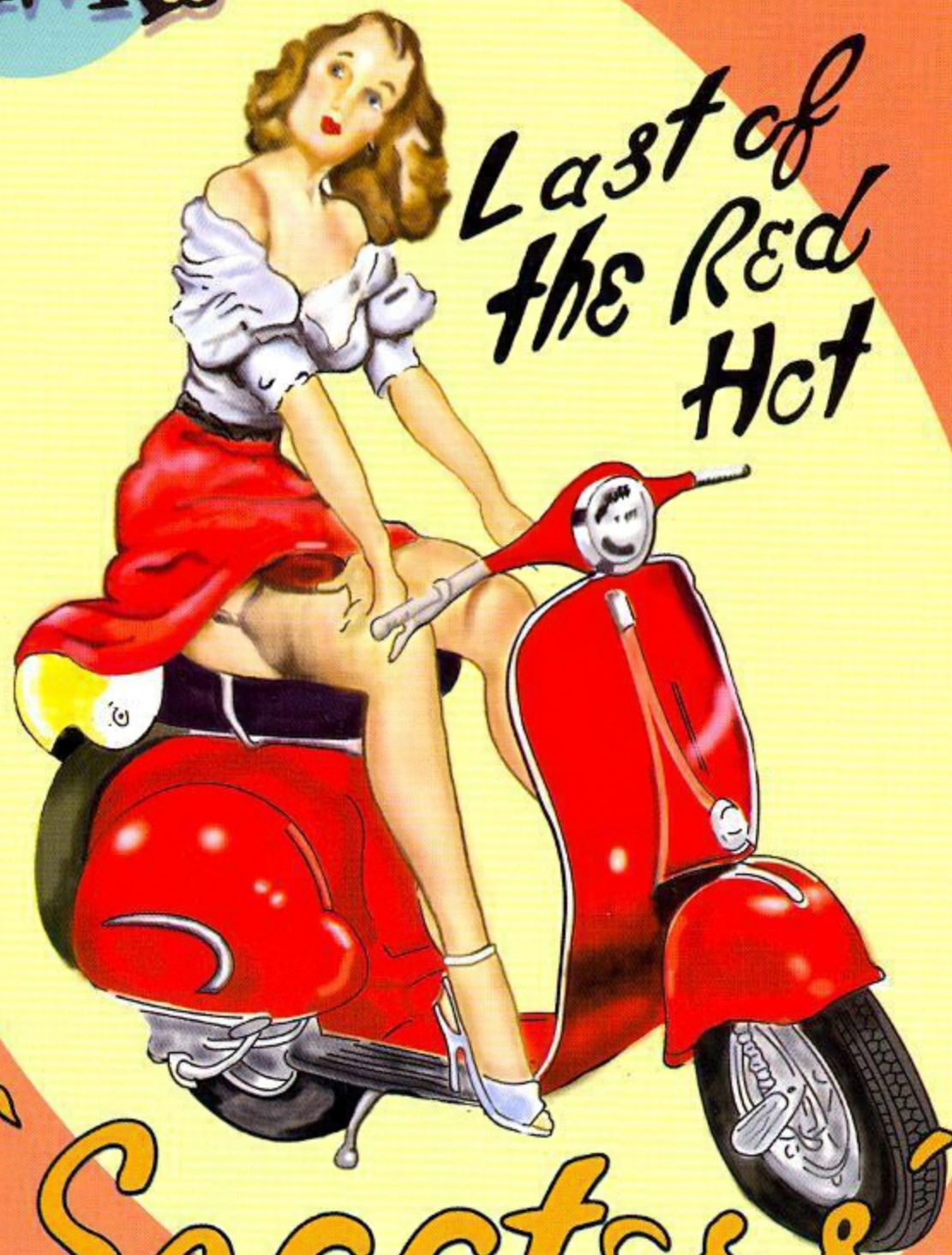
Zotz Decals presents:



ZYZ 32 054

A-4M  
Skyhawks

Last of  
the Red  
Hot



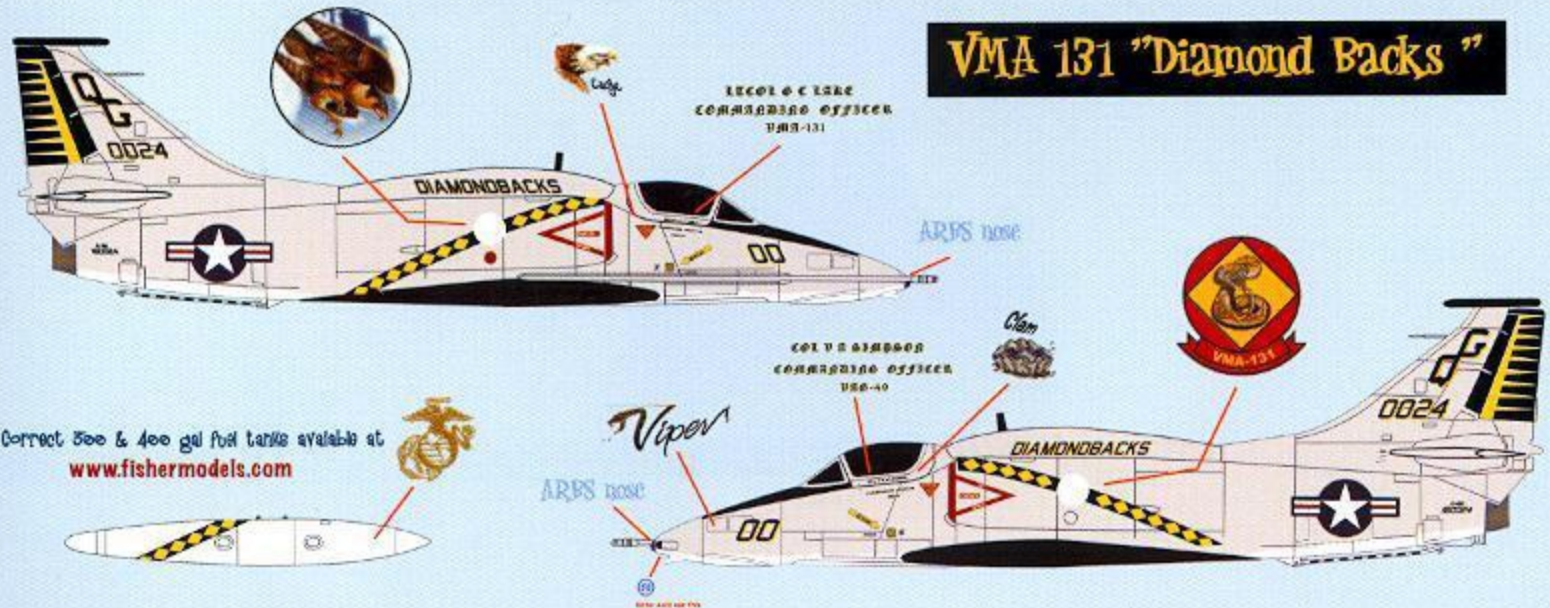
Scooters

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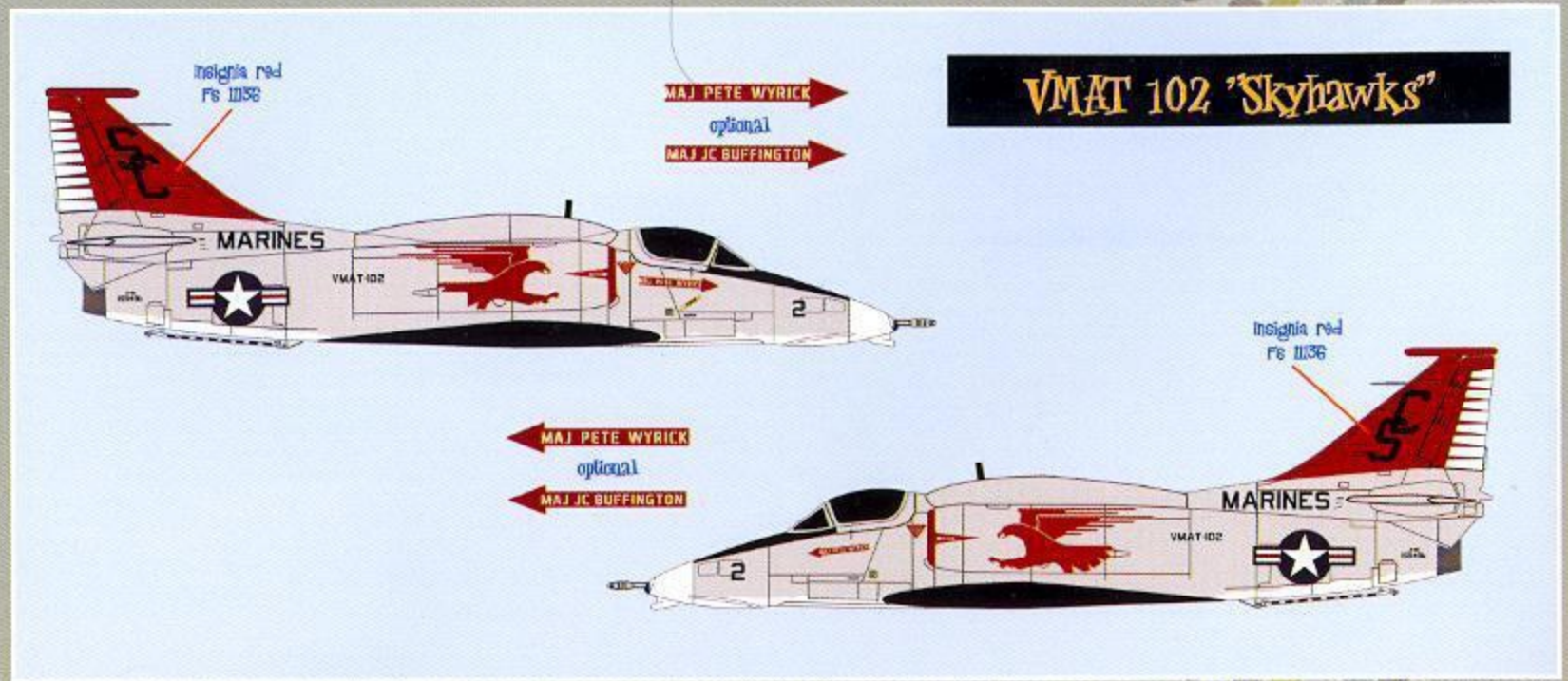
Zotz Decals presents :

# A-4M Skyhawks

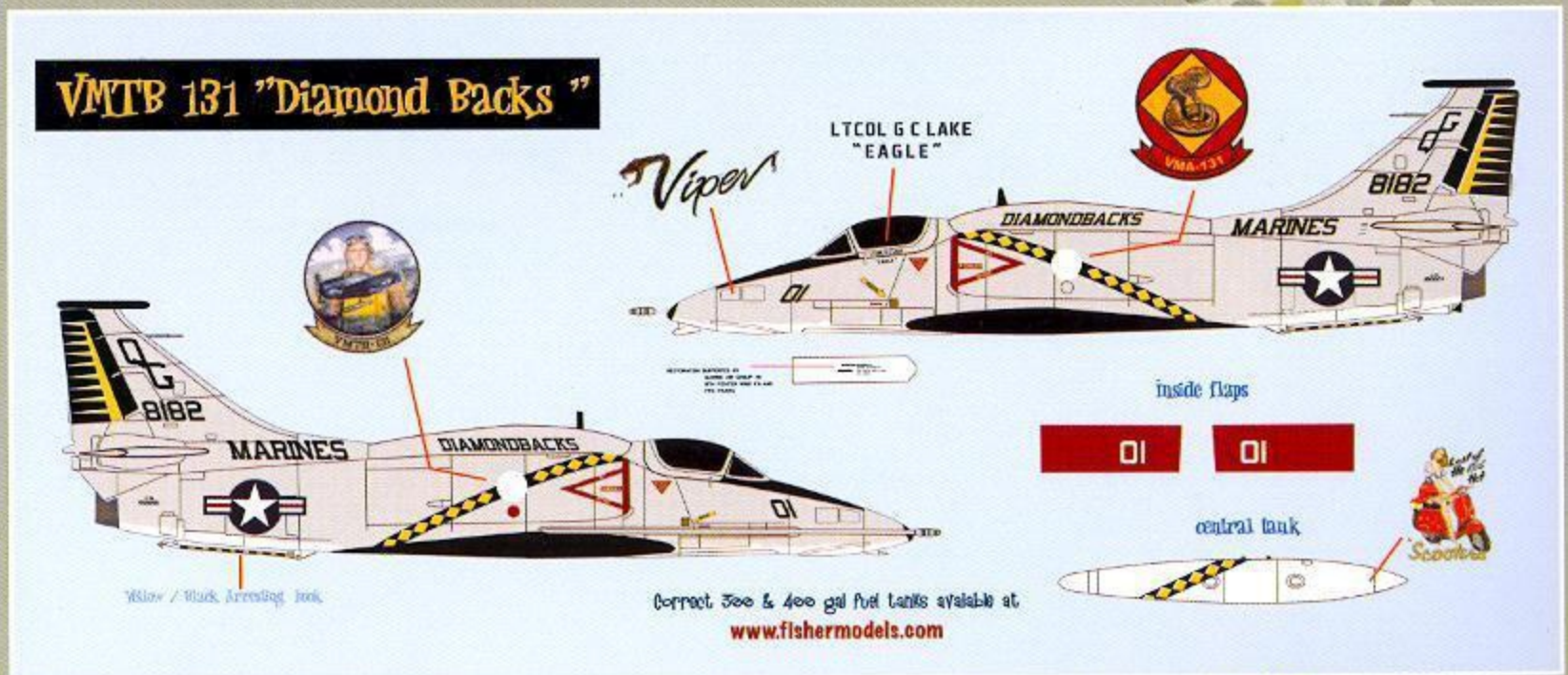
In spite of the fact the first A-4M Mikes were delivered to the Marines at the very beginning of the seventies, they were never deployed in an operation theatre and most of them were only used in CONUS. Accordingly, planes external load was generally limited to two fuel tanks. For exercise purposes, they used rockets, multiple types of live and training bombs, napalm canisters and rarely captive missiles such as the Shrike and the Sidewinder. Pictures of seventies Mikes show them without noticeable weathering. Note this very clean state stayed the standard even after the eighties switch to the low-visibility grey scheme. Last but not least, late seventies pictures generally show that high-visibility Mikes had not yet received the ARBS nose upgrade.



AuAe n°160024 was manufactured in April of 1976 and as such became the last of the breed. It was one of the most photographed Skyhawks when the plane sported the blue delivery scheme with the "skyhawk II" name and flags of all the countries using the A-4. This VMA-131 Diamonbacks ARBS-equipped scooter also had the privilege to be the last A-4M Skyhawk used by the Marines. To celebrate the retirement of this beloved plane, this Skyhawk received in 1994 a specific scheme with fuselage paintings intended to commemorate the

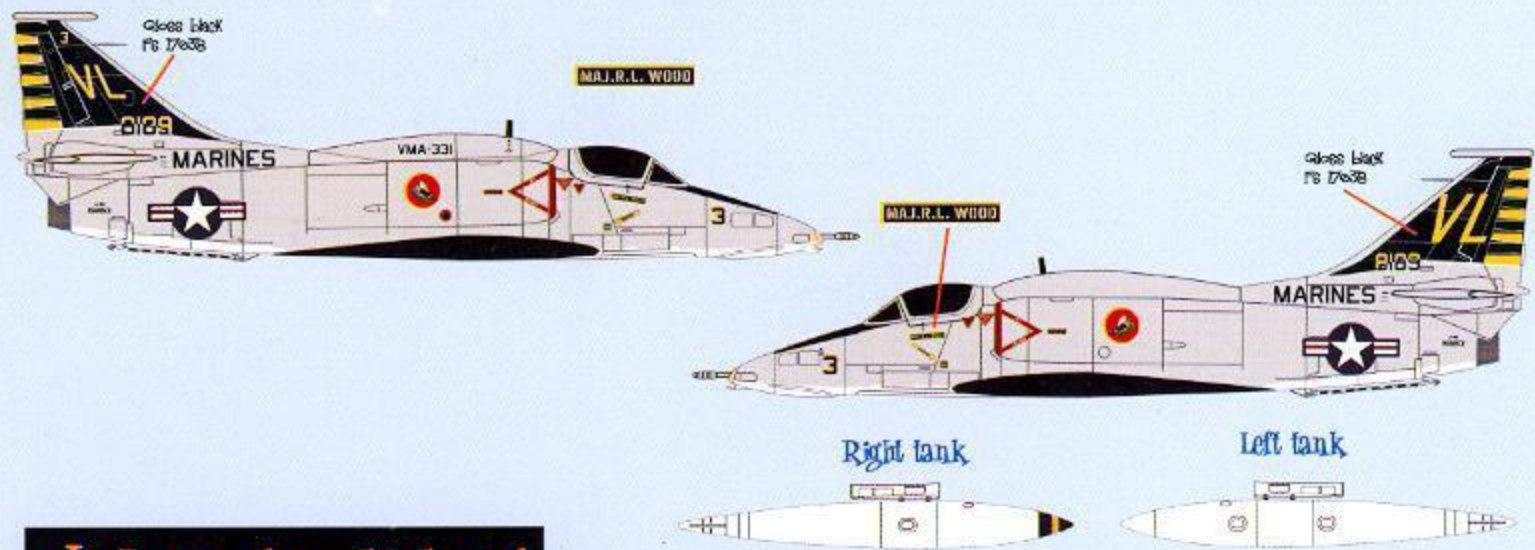


VMAT-102 was the A-4M Marines training squadron based in MCAS Yuma, Arizona. Their famous red hawk was visible on the A-4 types successively used by the USMC. The sheet includes decals for BuAe n°159491, a mid-production A-4M piloted by Major Pete Wyrick at the end of the seventies. Pictures of VMAT-102 Mikes generally show very clean airframes. However, some planes had slight weathering marks and black dirt near the gun muzzles was commonly seen. Moreover, the red paint used for the unit markings used to discolor irregularly. Again, the nose of the kit shall be modified to an earlier configuration.



BuAe n°158182 was built in 1970, delivered to the Marines in October 1971 and saw service with different squadrons (VMA-331, VMAT-102, VMA-214, MAG-42, VMA-131 & MAG-49). The airframe was stricken from service in June of 1994. VMA-131 flew the "Last of the Red Hot Scooters" into history in August of 1994. This airframe was saved to commemorate the important role played by the Skyhawk in Marines service. She was restored from different airframes by the Delaware Valley Historical Aircraft Association in 1996.

The plane got a specific tribute scheme painted by a local aviation artist and received the last VMA-131 Skyhawk

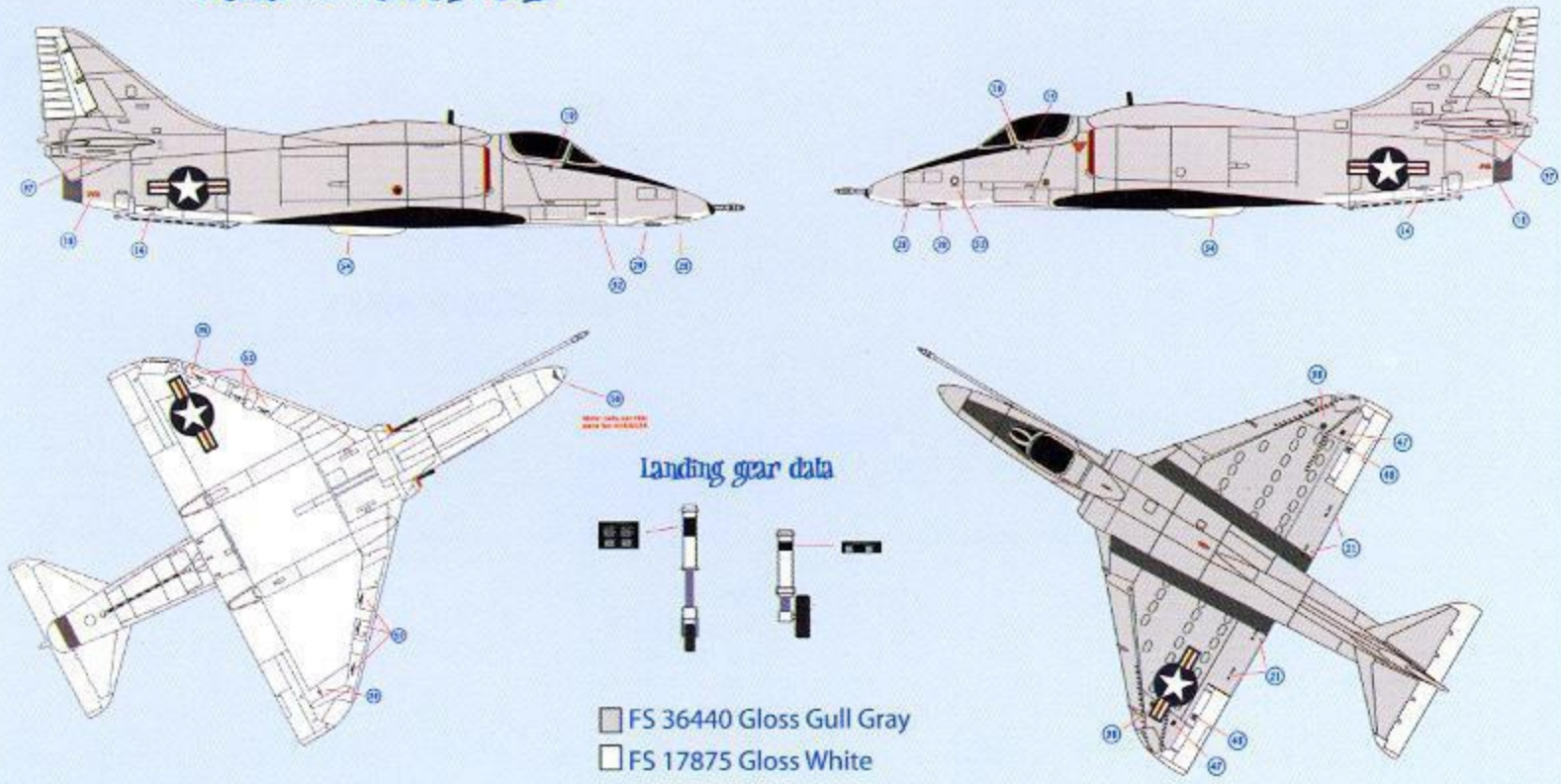


**VMA 331 "Bumblebees"**

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The VMA-331 "Bumblebees" received the A-4M from 1972. The chosen scheme depicts A-4M BuAe n°158189 when she was piloted by Major Wood. This mid-production A-4M had a late high-visibility scheme. Note that planes of this squadron had not yet been retrofitted with the ARBS system when they wear such colorful liveries. Accordingly, the nose of the Trumpeter kit shall be modified to the earlier nose configuration. Last but not least, pictures of VMA-331 Mikes show planes in pristine condition with nearly no sign of weathering. 158189 was finally transferred to VMAT-102 and lost on the June 18, 1982 when Capt. Dinwiddie ejected shortly before the plane crashed in Arizona.

**Data Placement**



Zotz Decals would like to thank specially to Thierry Laurent for the research done with this set..  
 Please, vist our website  
[www.zotz-decals.com](http://www.zotz-decals.com)  
 zotz17@yahoo.com

