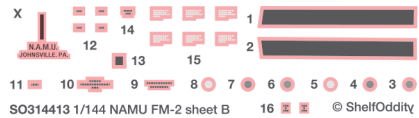
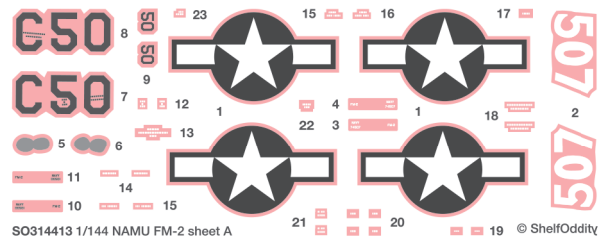


SO314413

1/144 NAMU, NACA and training FM-2s

Shelf
Oddity



This decal set is recommended for Sweet kits but it may also be used with other FM-2 models. Decals are made using silk print technology (BOA Bodecek Agency) and have very small amount of transparent base around the graphics.

Beside of the decals this set contains a small photo-etched fret with additional parts found on the depicted airframes.

Otherwise excellent Sweet kit can be further enhanced with Shelf Oddity PE set SO214410.

SO314413

1/144 NAMU, NACA and training FM-2s

Shelf Oddity

The US Navy FM-2 Wildcat with side no. 1 (Bu.No. unknown) depicted here belonged to Naval Air Modification Unit based at Johnsville, PA ca. 1945-46.

She wore full Orange Yellow livery marking her as a second line one. She was used as a training machine and also served role of a target tug.

Propeller spinner was natural metal. The wheel well interiors were Interior Green. The wheel hubs were covered.

While looking at the available photographs the lack of the gun-sight is clearly visible and the wing gun ports are faired over. Also the rear arrestor hook seems to be replaced with a wire loop used for towing purposes.

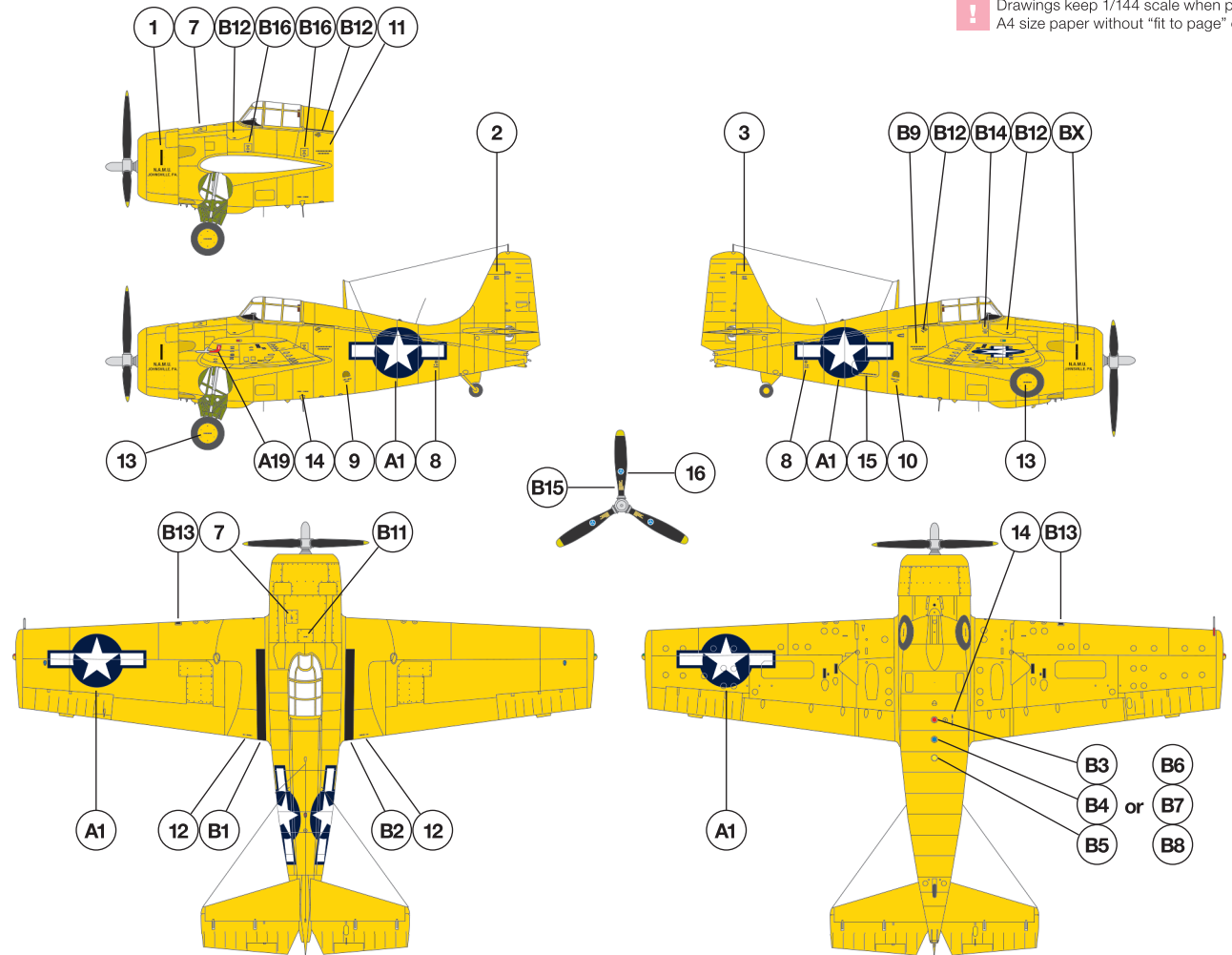
Also note various wire antennae.

The fuselage identification lights are supplied in two versions – B3, B4, B5 with the usual white background and the semi-translucent B6, B7, B8 without it for use over self-catered reflective aluminium foil lamp imitations.

Red casing of the pitot receiver seems to be a common feature for FM-2. The pitot probe itself retains the natural metal finish.

Note: instead one of decals no. 1 (the one with the damaged Johnsville word) please use its replacement marked X on the sheet B.

! Drawings keep 1/144 scale when printed on A4 size paper without "fit to page" option.



Colour guide:



Natural aluminium



Orange Yellow



Interior Green



Red

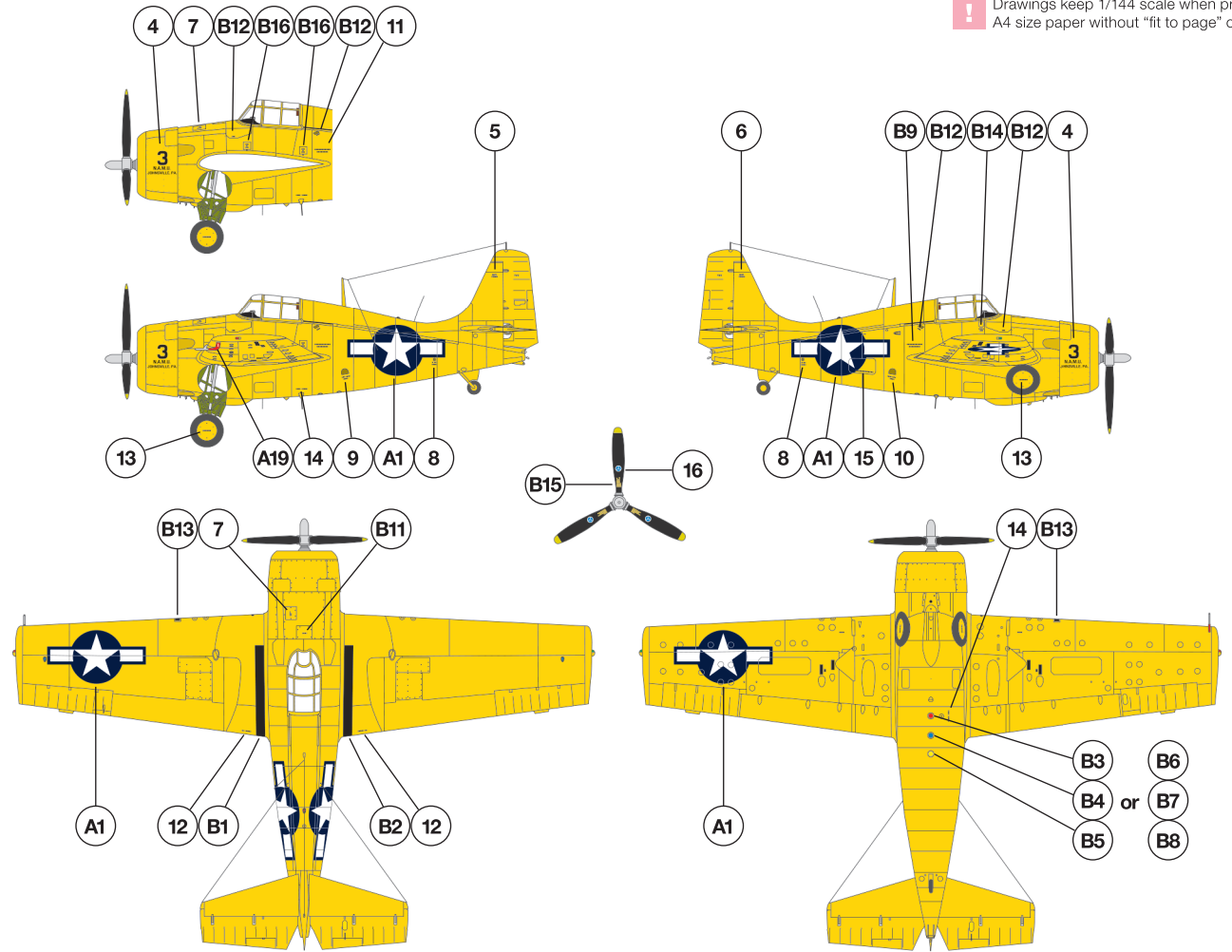


Black

The sibling of the aircraft shown on the previous page wears side no.3 (Bu.No. is also unknown despite a very clear side photo available).

The rest of the details matches exactly the no.1 shown on the previous page.

! Drawings keep 1/144 scale when printed on A4 size paper without "fit to page" option.



Colour guide:



The next FM-2 side no. 507 (Bu.No. 74507) is a bit darker than previous one – changing colour from overall yellow to US Navy standard Glossy Sea Blue. Yawn.

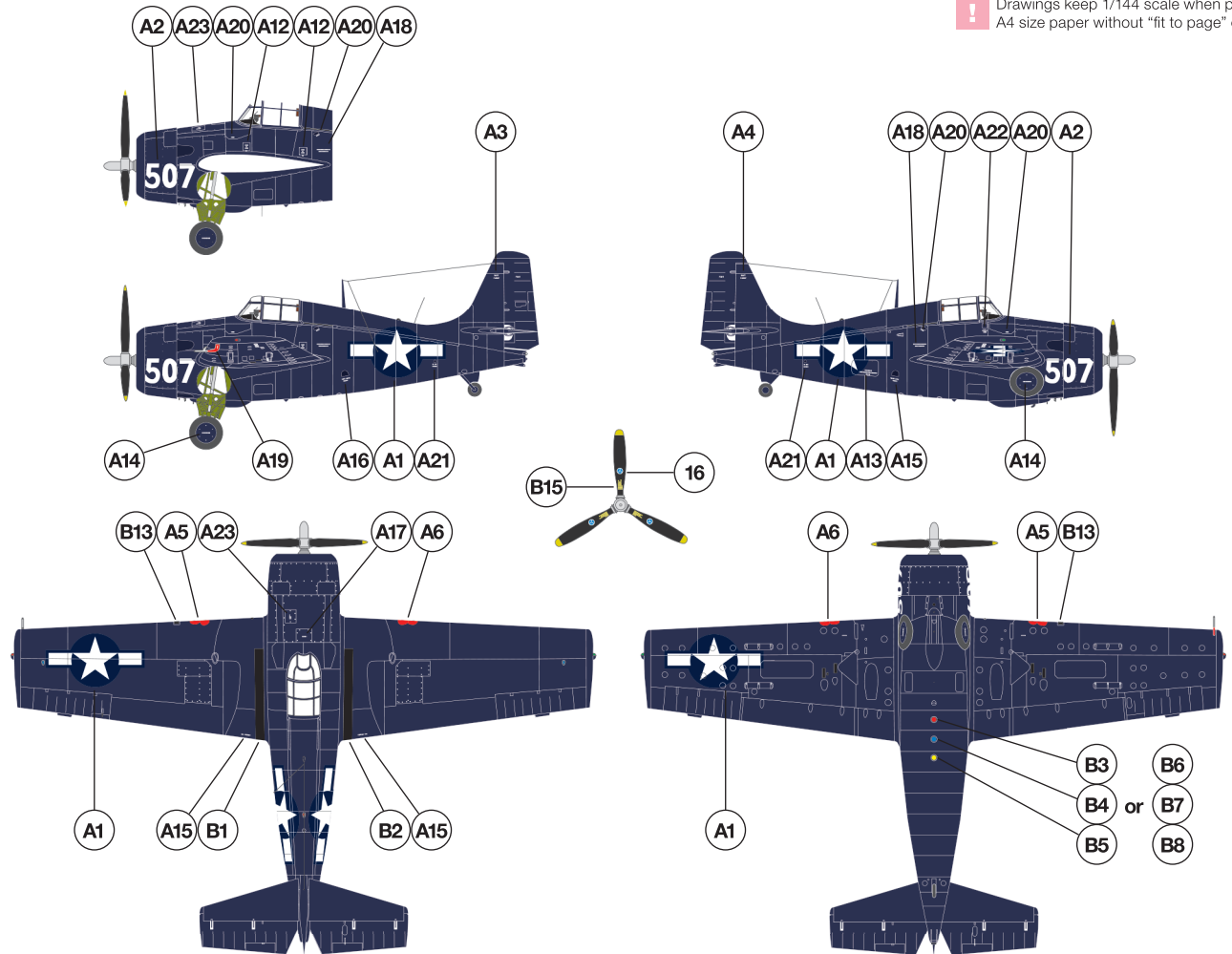
What is more interesting, she was used by NACA Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory, based at Langley Field, VA early in 1945 (Jan to Apr). Unfortunately there is no NACA badge on the vertical fin – the sole magic of NACA acronym must be sufficient in this case.

Notable feature are the zero length rocket stubs under both wings – parts are supplied on included small PE fret, for the assembly instructions go to page no. 6.

This airframe retained the gun-sight and the wing gun ports were taped over – decals no. A5 & A6.

Propeller spinner was natural metal. The wheel well interiors were Interior Green. The wheel hubs were covered.

! Drawings keep 1/144 scale when printed on A4 size paper without "fit to page" option.



Colour guide:



SO314413

1/144 NAMU, NACA and training FM-2s

Shelf Oddity

OK, we are a bit in a “what-if” category now. A natural metal finish training FM-2. The inspiration was taken from the colour profiles available in the literature but the very same literature yields no photo of the original machine.

The all-knowing Internet unfortunately seems to give the same result so we went even more *whiffy* and the NMF C50 (Bu.No. unknown) is shown with the uncovered wheel hubs here – respective parts are also supplied on included small PE fret, for the assembly instructions go to page no. 6.

The anti-glare panel and the windscreen are black. We may believe that the gun-sight was retained and together with the wing gun ports sometimes used during training.

Why NMF and not overall silver? – one may ask. When looking at the available photos of late war second line/training US Navy aircraft the general picture of silver painted airframe begins to form. However there are several photos of natural metal finish SBD and SNJs from that period available. We chose this a bit more interesting approach – the natural metal finish with all canvas-covered areas painted silver.

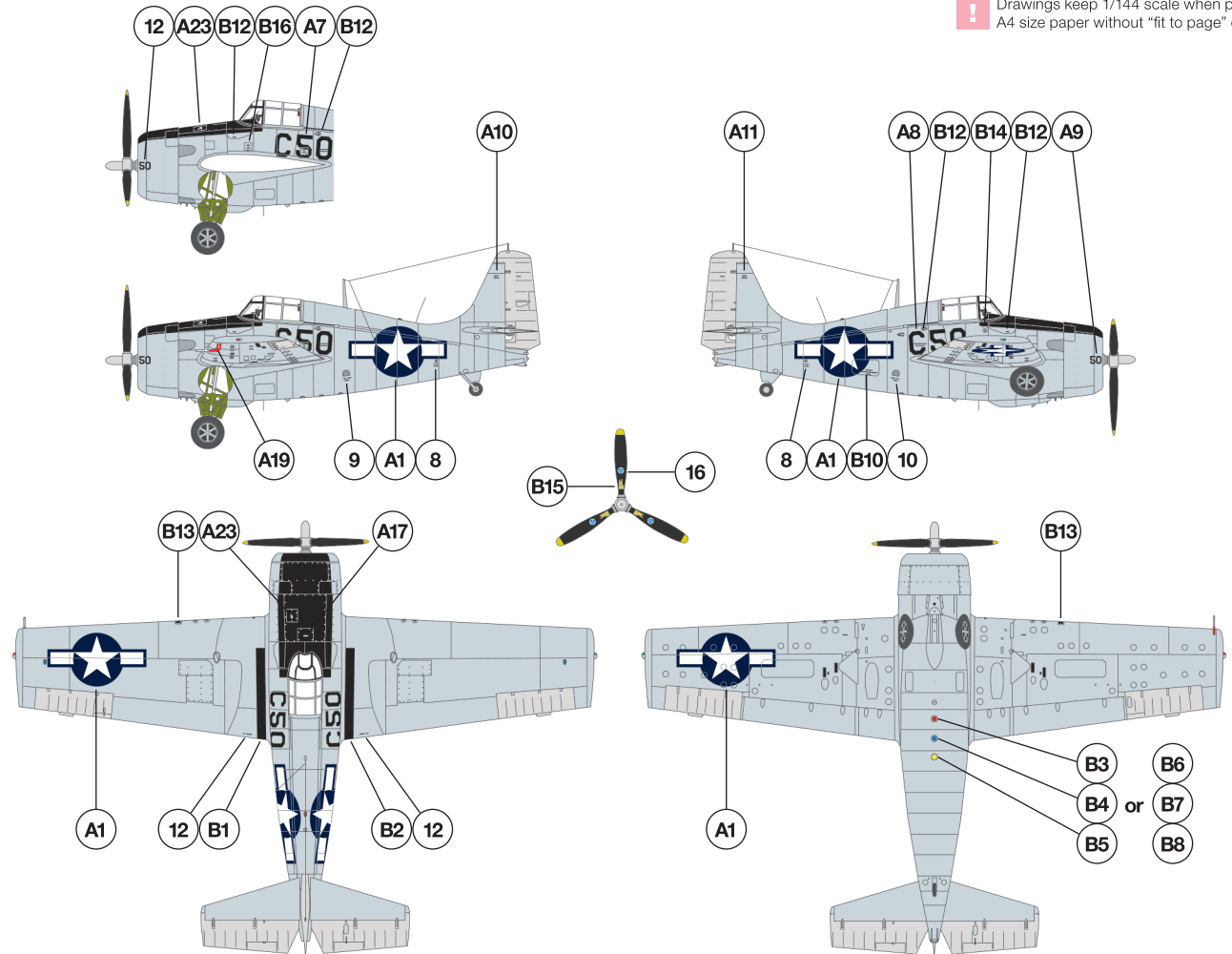
There is usually full stencilling applied (something desirable if you take into consideration that those airplanes were used for training purposes).

Propeller spinner was natural metal. The wheel well interiors remained in typical Interior Green.

Sources:

F4F Wildcat in Detail and Scale Vol.30 – Kalmbach Publ.
F4F Wildcat In Action no. 191 – Squadron Signal

! Drawings keep 1/144 scale when printed on A4 size paper without “fit to page” option.



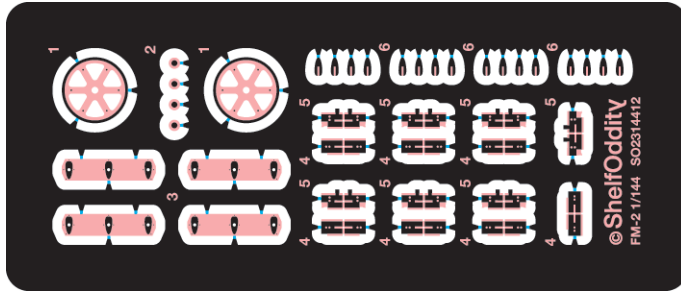
Colour guide:



SO314413

1/144 NAMU, NACA and training FM-2s

Shelf
Oddity



As a bonus to the decals we have included a small photo etched fret with zero length launch rocket stubs (plus their bases) and the spoked wheel hubs quite often visible on different FM-2s.

The under wing rocket stubs are grouped in four sets. The base is always part no. 3, the front stub is made of folded part no. 4 and the rear – with also folded part no. 5. The small protruding piece on the part no. 5 should be pointed to the rear of the wing. After folding parts no. 4 and 5 the fold itself should be glued to the base (no. 3). Tiny parts no. 6 are the caps of the front stubs. Due to their tiny size these are supplied in bigger quantity (remember, the Carpet Monster is watching!)

The spoked wheel stubs (parts no. 1) are supplied with a wheel axle caps (no. 2). One of the possible assembly ways is to hollow the kit's wheels and finely scratch the rest of the wheel cover to allow PE part to fit.

Do not forget to place a small distance part (e.g. 0.5 mm thick slice of PS rod) in the centre of the PE wheel hub backside and to remove a small amount of plastic from the wheel brakes front area (kits part no. 5) – this is to retain the proper looks of the semi-hollow wheel hub.

