

Now
97
members in
17
countries!

ASIAN AIR ARMS NEWSLETTER February 2018

ASIAN AIR
ARMS



Asian Air Arms SIG is a Special Interest Group of IPMS (UK)

February 2018

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Asian Air Arms Is Linking Up With Small Air Forces Clearing House



Small Air Forces Observer
The Journal of the Small Air Force Clearinghouse



We're delighted to announce that Asian Air Arms and Small Air Forces Clearing House (SAFCH) have agreed to co-operate to bring even more information to all of our members.

Over 40 years ago, Jim Sanders, recognising the paucity of information on lesser air forces, set up SAFCH to aid research into the operations of small air arms all over the world. He quickly gathered so much information that he decided to make it available to enthusiasts via a magazine—and so Small Air Forces Observer (SAFO) was born.

SAFO is published quarterly and is always full of most fascinating and useful information to the modeller of the smaller air arms—namely, people like US!

Take a look at a sample copy:

Vol. 31 no. 3 (Issue 123) January 2008

Contents Include:

- Mystery of D-47A 37-285
- Turkish Curtiss Hawk II
- Paraguayan DH Dove
- Israeli F-15 (Part 4)
- Yugoslav Potez XV
- Spanish Me 110
- Chinese PT-17

[Read this sample issue here!](#)

The SAFO magazine is available in hard copy or electronically—both are great value—and from as little as \$12.00 per year! Furthermore, many back copies over the last 40 years can also be accessed—see:

<http://www.safch.org/back-issues-SAFO.html>

Fancy subscribing to SAFO? Go to <http://www.safch.org/subscribe-SAFO.html>

Do have a look at Jim's unique organisation—it provides a fascinating insight to small air force operations.

To kick-off our co-operation, Jim has kindly persuaded SAFCH member Peter B. Mersky to let us re-print an extract from his Osprey Air Combat book "Vought F-8 Crusaders" - read it overleaf.





Crusaders in the Philippines Air Force by Peter B. Mersky

KIT AND DECAL NEWS

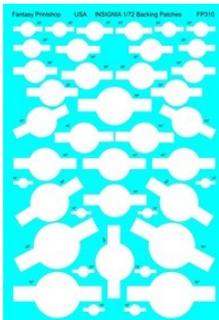
1/72 Blue Diamond Decals
Sheet 72-02 Philippines
Vought F-8 Crusader,
N.A. T-6, N.A. F-86, N.A. P-51



This is one of an extensive range of new decal sheets initially focusing on the Philippines Air Force, Naval and Army aviation. After application of the white undercoats, the images show up very crisply. The sheet has a most interesting selection—the F-8 catches the eye, being rarely seen at shows in this intriguing finish: whilst the F-86 of the Blue Diamonds aerobatic team looks simply stunning.

From: www.asianairarms.com/decals-blue-diamonds

1/72, 1/48 & 1/32 Decals
Fantasy Printshop



Very handy white backing decals to strengthen colour intensity.
From www.fantasyprintshop.co.uk



The Philippine Air Force (PAF) bought 35 F-8Hs in late 1977 to replace their Northrop F-5s. Twenty-five of the old Hotels were to be completely refurbished by Vought, and the remaining ten would serve as replacement aircraft. The Crusaders had been in storage at the huge Davis-Monthan outdoor storage park near Tucson, New Mexico. The purchase price was \$11.7 million, with an additional contract for \$23 million to cover the refurbishing by Vought and training of PAF pilots and maintenance personnel. The two-seat TF-8A was used to indoctrinate the PAF pilots, but was lost on July 28, 1978, when the Vought pilot and his Filipino student ejected and the "Two-sader" crashed in a farmer's field. Although the Philippine government had really wanted F-15s and F-16s, the "sale" price of the F-8Hs was too good to pass up. The Hotels went to the PAF's 7th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 5th Fighter Wing at Basa Air Base, Pampanga, in northern Luzon. The 7th TFS had been established in October 1957, flying F-86F Sabre jets. Vought sent a training and administrative team, which remained in the Philippines for a year in an effort to get the Filipinos to become self-sustaining, particularly in the maintenance area. Initial attempts to change engines were tough going, but eventually the Filipinos became fairly proficient in maintaining and flying their new fighters. They participated in the U.S. Air Force's "Cope Thunder" exercises, earning high praise from American officials. In March 1984, Vought sent a contingent to help the PAF refurbish their remaining 19 F-8s. The Crusaders had begun to show drastic deterioration in the humid Philippine environment. For the next year, the Americans helped the Filipinos patch up their F-8s. The metallite had actually begun to disintegrate and the Vought team glued together several layers of local plywood, covered them with aluminium, and fitted the pieces to the area on specific airframes. Finally, only 12 F-8s remained, with the other seven being cannibalized for parts.



By 1987, however, the availability rate had plummeted, and of the 12 Crusaders still in service, only eight were fully mission capable at any one time. During the expulsion of Philippine President Marcos in 1986, the Crusaders were flown to the U.S. Air Force base at Clark near Manila to protect them from saboteurs. The fighters were intended for air defense and ground attack duties, but they also stood



Crusaders in the Philippines Air Force (Continued)

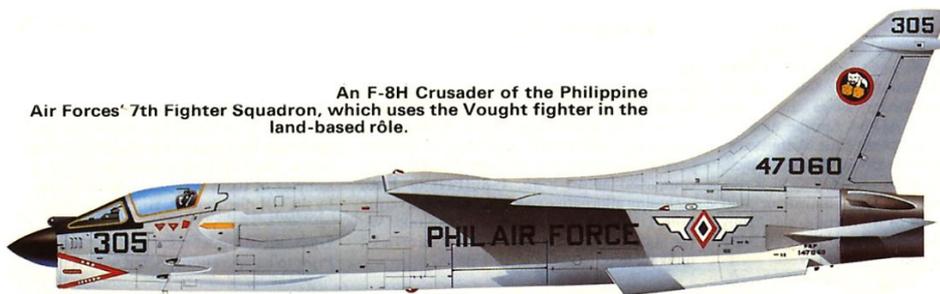
alerts alongside the PAF's F-5s. PAF F-8s intercepted many Soviet bombers that overflew the north-western area of the Philippines.



In a surprise move, the PAF phased out their remaining Crusaders on January 23, 1988. The reason was the lack of qualified replacement pilots. Thirty-one PAF pilots had flown the F-8 in nine years, while 38 had gone through ground training. Only Major Pascualito R. Ramos, who ended up the high-time PAF F-8H pilot with 2,037 hours, was qualified for maintenance check flights at the time of the phaseout. First Lieutenant Marcelino L. Ben, Jr., became the last PAF F-8 driver. In nine years, the PAF had suffered only five major mishaps, losing two pilots, the others ejecting safely. Not a bad safety record. The remaining PAF Crusaders ended up in storage to be covered by huge amounts of ash from the eruption in 1991 of Mt. Pinatubo.

Adapted from my 1989 Osprey Air Combat book Vought F-8 Crusader. Peter B. Mersky

An F-8H Crusader of the Philippine Air Forces' 7th Fighter Squadron, which uses the Vought fighter in the land-based rôle.



KIT AND DECAL NEWS

**1/72 CASA 212-200
AVIDOCAR
Special Hobby**



This very welcome new kit, is a beautiful example of the tool-maker's art. Crisply engraved, it offers decal options for Spain, Colombia and Chile. As far as Asia is concerned it has served/is serving with Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. Parts layout suggest that a Series 400 will be following. This would be great as the Vietnamese Marine Police operate this most striking example.



HANNANTS BARGAINS

1/72 Airfix Fouga Magister
Was £10.99 now £7.33

1/48 FM RF-84F Thunderflash
Was £39.99 now £26.99

1/72 Hasegawa Kawasaki T-4
(Blue Impulse 2013 —two in box)
Was £34.99 Now £17.49

1/72 Hasegawa F-15J
Was £36.99 Now £24.66

1/48 Academy T-59 Hawk
ROKAF
Was £34.99 Now £23.33

1/48 Trumpeter Chengdu J-7A
Was £25.99 Now £17.33

NEW MEMBERS

We've gained 12 new members since my last Newsletter. So, a big welcome to :

Rob Hymer, Peter Nixon, Mike Lumb, Alan Veck, Paul Birkbeck and Mark Slade from the UK;

Steve Darke (Ozel) from Thailand (sort of!);

William Workman from North Carolina, USA;

Richard Napper from Hong Kong;

Bo Long from Shenyang, China;

Alberto Arzola from Caracas, Venezuela;

Eko Winarno from West Java, Indonesia.

We're now up to 97 members—are we about to hit the century?



AROUND THE SHOWS

2018 MODEL SHOWS WE'LL BE ATTENDING

4th March
East of England Show
Peterborough

17-18th March
Southern Expo
Hornchurch

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

South West Model Show at the Royal Tank Museum—10th February 2018

10th of February saw us at the Royal Tank Museum in Dorset, for our first show of the year.



Figure 1: Bob Nicholls and Jim Gossling deep in conversation.

Undoubtedly the main topic of interest to the public was Mick Burton's mighty 1/72 AWAC Tupolev KJ-1 as experimented with by the PLAAF. Converted from the Academy kit, it generated lots of "What the heck's that?" questions.



Figure 2: 1/72 Tupolev KJ-1 AEW by Mick Burton

Jim Gossling displayed his latest creations (all hand-painted – no airbrushes for Jim!) His 1/48 Tamiya Philippino P-51D wore the latest decals from Paul Fernandez of Blue Diamond Decals.



Figure 3: 1/48 P-51D Philippino AF by Jim Gossling



SHOW UPDATE (Continued)

South West Model Show at the Royal Tank Museum—10th February 2018 (Cont)

I'd just completed my first 1/48 model for 18 months – a Chengdu F-7BG of the Bangladesh Air Force – converted from the Trumpeter Chengdu J-7. It seems really odd to be working with such large pieces again!



Figure 4: 1/48 Trumpeter F-7BG by Brian Griffin

The Tank Museum show was held over both the Saturday and the Sunday, but Asian Air Arms and several other exhibitors were only able to attend on the Saturday. In spite of this we were lucky enough to sign up six new members, including one from Shenyang and another from Hong Kong. (Details in the New Members section.) Although the location of the Tank Museum is rather off the beaten track, it's always well worth a visit, providing great facilities, excellent catering, and a most professional and welcoming organisation.

AIR FORCES UPDATE

Indonesia has signed to buy 11 x Su-35s, to be delivered between Aug 2018 and May 2020.

Japan is considering ordering another 25 F-35As. Military planners are also looking into the purchase of the vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) F-35B, which would be capable of taking off from small islands skirting the East China Sea or from ships such as the Izumo-class helicopter carriers. Anonymous Japanese naval sources have told the Japanese daily, Asahi Shimbun, that Tokyo's Izumo-class helicopter destroyers have already been designed to operate short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL) fighters. One person quoted said that during the design phase of the ship, consideration was given to have the F-35B operate from the vessels someday, while another added that a ski-jump was to be added when the ship is required to operate the F-35B.

India has issued a Letter of Request for 6 extra AH-64E Apaches for the Indian Army.

China's Su-35s are now fully operational.

Thailand has now received its first two KAI TF-50THs.

NEW VIDEOS ON ASIAN AIR ARMS WEBSITE

Click on this great video of South Korean KAI FA-50s, including detailed close-ups, prior to take-off.



Click on this video detailing genesis and operations of Pakistan's CAC/PAC JF-17 Thunder.



MORE ASIAN DECALS



www.dreammodel.com.cn
Via Hannants



www.modelmaker.com.pl/



Siam Scale

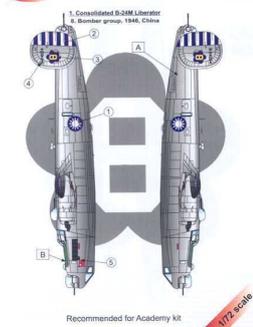


DXM Decals



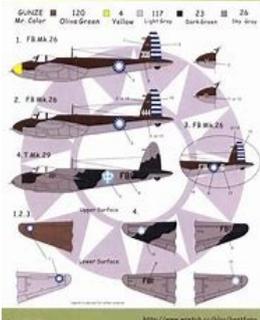
& MORE ASIAN DECALS

1:48 B-24M over China

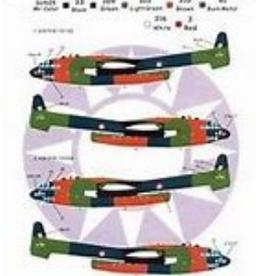


www.lfmodels.com

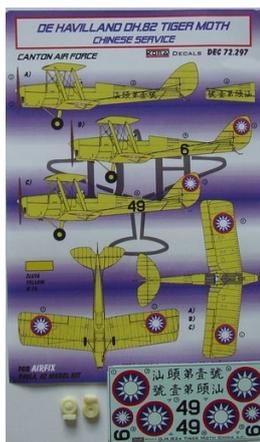
Bestfong DeHavilland Mosquito



Bestfong Fairchild C-119



www.bestfong.com/decal



KORA Models

NEW SPECIALIST FOR MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE

AIDY ABDULLAH

Malaysia and Singapore Air Arms Specialist



Aidy has been modelling since the mid 1990s. His principal interest is in the military aviation of South East Asia, specifically the air arms of Malaya, Malaysia and Singapore. Whilst he has been steadily building models of aircraft used in Operation Firedog, his main focus is on the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

He regularly builds models on commission and in 2003 he co-founded VFA Productions making a range of Malaysian Air Force decals, and is now one of the modellers behind the Decal-la range of decals.

You can find this on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Decal-la-845010755532344/> or take a look at Hannant's website <https://www.hannants.co.uk/manufacture/decal-la>.

Aidy is delighted to be able to offer his expertise to fellow members—to contact him go to: <https://www.asianairarms.com/aidy-abd> and complete the form at the bottom of the page.

NORTHROP F-5 OPERATIONS IN ROYAL MALAYSIAN AND REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AIR FORCES

I've found two excellent articles on F-5s in Malaysia and Singapore, and have now put them on the Asian Air Arms website. They're well worth a read. If you can't wait, both articles can also be found by clicking on the photos below.





WHAT THE HECK?



Photo (apparently) by Mark Munzel, Airfighters.com.
Is this real or just an amusing Photoshop?

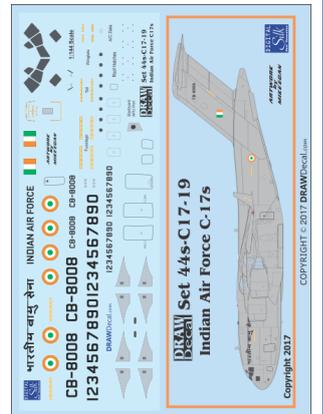
Your opinions please!

If real, who'll be the first to model it?
Send me your photos and they'll be published.

& MORE ASIAN DECALS



www.aztecmodels.com



www.drawdecal.com/category/military-aviation/

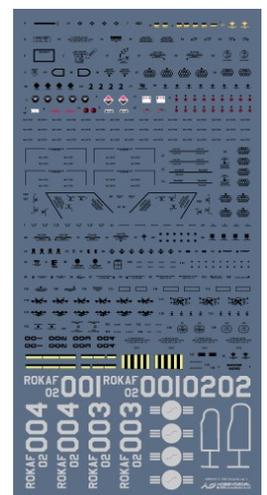
EKO'S INDONESIA BLOG

New member Eko Winarno, based in West Java, Indonesia is the author of a most enlightening blog on Indonesian military aviation. His blog is all in Indonesian but it has a tremendous selection of photos, diagrams and videos of contemporary Indonesian aircraft, going back since 2010. For example, if you scroll onto the 2010 entries you'll find a great series of photos and videos on Super Tucano operations, plus a 5 view camo diagram. Included in the 2014 entries is a series of photos of the Nakajima Ki-27 Nate in Indonesian service. The 2017 has a video covering KAI FA-50 airfield operations, whilst the 2018 pages have a pile of videos on Indonesian aerobatic teams. Burrowing around this blog you'll find all sorts of fascinating photos. Highly recommended. Click the map to find Eko's "Scale Model" blog.



Oh! And another thing.....

Do look out for the next edition of the IPMS (UK) Magazine. It will feature two articles of relevance to all of us. The first being an account of the growth and activities of our SIG, and the second being a build of a 1/72 Royal Malaysian Air Force MiG-29 by one of our members, Matt Hale. They'll both make interesting reading.



1/48 Sth Korean F-15
www.hobbydecal.com



Asian Air Arms SIG
 encourages you to join
IPMS
THE INTERNATIONAL
PLASTIC MODELLERS' SOCIETY
 But, why?



IPMS covers not only the UK but also the whole world!
 Over 80 clubs in UK (including 2 on-line clubs) plus 55 overseas branches in over 50 countries
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 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.
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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.
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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.
And it's free to members!

And what will all this set you back?
 About one pint of beer a night for 8 nights a year!
 Or to put it another way, less than filling your car's tank just once a year!
 Adult membership in the UK from just £22! Equivalent to 42 pence per week or 6 pence per day!!
 For this you get:

- * **Free** fellowship with the whole international modelling fraternity wherever you travel!
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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/>