

General Dynamics / Lockheed F-16 Royal Netherlands Air Force (KLu)

KONINKLIJKE LUCHTMACHT: 313 squadron "J-008" Tiger, "J-196" Tiger Meet 2013, no. 323 Squadron "J-868" Cornfield Vlieland

In desired custom sized scale...

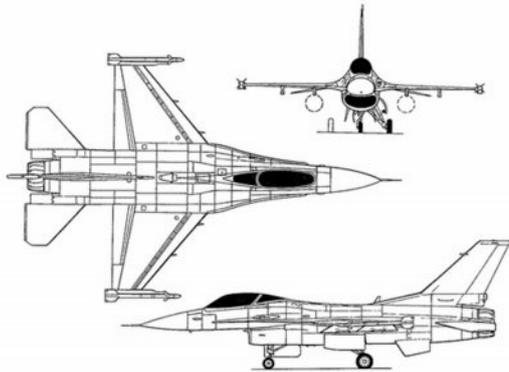


F-16 Fighting Falcon



HISTORY

The American Light Fighter competition in the 1970s led to the General Dynamics F-16 program and the first YF-16 flew 30 years ago in January 1974. Since then the F-16 has appeared in many sub-variants and the Block number is the main indicator of the variant of the aircraft are covered by the same model suffix letter -A/B/C/D/E. Many different variants followed even well into the current Century.



ROYAL NETHERLANDS AIR FORCE (KLu) F-16A (AM)

May 1975 the Dutch Government ordered the first 84 F-16A and F-16B for the Royal Netherlands Air Force "Koninklijke Luchtmacht" (KLu). This was done in a large European NATO program and also involved license production. The first deliveries were in mid 1979 and were of early BLOCK 1, quickly followed by modifications to newer BLOCKs. Eventually extra jets were ordered growing to 177 F-16A multi-role and 36 F-16B trainers. In the mid 1990s the first Mid Life Update program to upgrade system and weapon capabilities was started and various MLU upgrades followed until 2012. Type was designated F-16AM (and F-16BM).

MODEL KITS F-16 A (AM)

All RNLAf F-16 jets had the P&W F100 with standard intake.

In 1/32 scale recommended F-16 A (AM) single seat kits:
F-16A by Revell and Hasegawa (old kits).
F-16AM by AFV club based on Academy kit.

In 1/48 scale Kinetic #48100, Hasegawa, Revell/Italeri.

In 1/72 scale Revell later had a good F-16AM MLU kit (releases after 2000 like 03980 with KLu decals/ 04612/ 04691/ 03905). Other 1/72 F-16AM kits are from Hasegawa.

In 1/144 scale Academy and DML/ Dragon/ Italeri.

DECAL APPLICATION

The decal sheet has ONE continuous print film, so each decal needs to be cut out with fine scissors. No other prior decal preparation is needed.

Note that a decal that contains a white section is often split in two sections. To apply the full decal marking, first set the white decal section at correct position and on top of that the coloured section. On the decals sheet you will often see an "arrow" to indicate this way of application (on white surfaces, the white section is optional).

Each cut out decal can be applied as usual after soaking it a short while in water. tweezers! They will fold double! Decals are EXTREMELY THIN, so slide off from the wet backing sheet on a horizontally held GLOSSY model surface.

After all decals have been applied, finish the model with your preferred final gloss, matt or semi-matt varnish coats. This will also protect all the decals.

NOTES:

Only the specific RNLAf "special scheme" of the particular F-16AM and squadron decals are provided on the decals sheet.

There were some variations in the RESCUE markings on the cockpit sides and on the decals sheet the typical RNLAf ones are provided.

Walkway lines may also vary in colour but most were light ghost grey. Some stripes are provided.

The smaller stencils and service markings are to be obtained from the kit or spares box.

REFERENCES

Many books about RNLAf F-16 have been published (often in Dutch language).

On internet it is very easy to find photos by searching. A great source about RNLAf (KLu) F-16 on internet are the Dutch IPMS Nederland Nedmil webpages:

<https://ipms.nl/artikelen/nedmil-luchtvaart/vliegtuigen-g/vliegtuigen-g-qendyn-f16>

Also on my website information and models can be found:
<https://aircraftinplastic.com/models/models.htm>





Scheme [A] F-16 AM coded J-008 of KLu no. 313 squadron. Serial 32356 / 6D-164 and entered KLu service in February 1991 and from mid 1995 got first MLU upgrade.

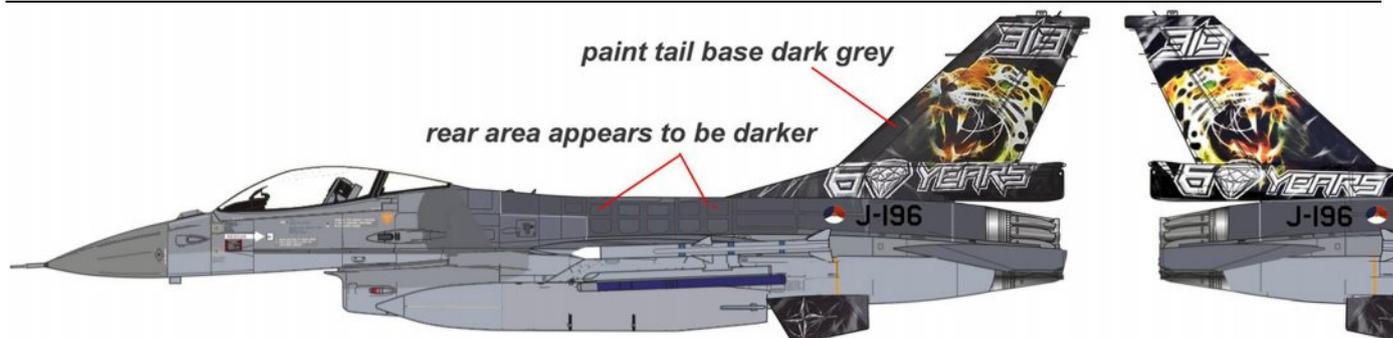
In 2008 the no. 313 squadron celebrated its 55th year anniversary. Special Tiger tail markings were applied. It appeared also at the RIAT Air Tattoo at Fairford in 2009 but not at the Tiger meet of 2009 at Belgian Kleine Brogel.

This KLu F-16 AM was one of the last operational KLu jets flown until September 2024.

The J-008 code is relocated to the rear fuselage. The ventral fins have tiger stripes, trim decals to fit.

Paint the tail in the standard grey first and the parachute fairing very dark grey/ black before applying the large tiger decals, trim to fit. Paint edges if needed.

Otherwise standard paint scheme port and starboard, see below.



Scheme [B] F-16 AM coded J-196 of KLu no. 313 squadron. Serial 83-1196 / 6D-103 and entered KLu service in October 1985 and mid 1995 upgraded to MLU standard.

Tiger scheme as carried for the NATO Tiger meet held in 2013 at Ørland airbase in Norway.

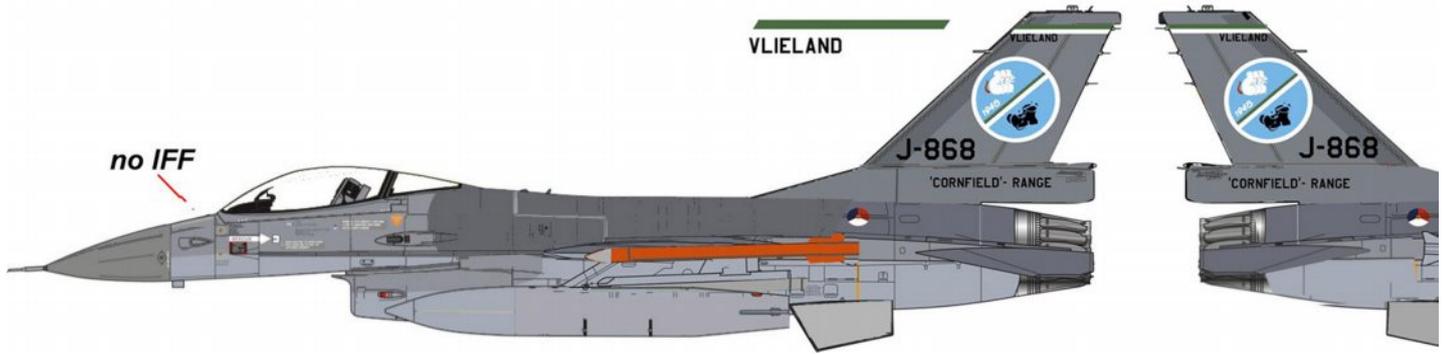
As the squadron would celebrate its 60th anniversary coming October 2013, special markings were also already set at the tail base.

It seems that the upper fuselage areas enclosed by the walk way lines and including the wing areas in front of the main flaps are darker than the standard FS36118.

Paint the vertical tail edges very dark grey and parachute housing grey/black before setting the large Tiger decals, trim to fit. Paint edges if needed.

Note the ventral fin NATO markings, trim to fit.

The J-196 code is relocated to the rear fuselage.



Scheme [C] F-16 AM coded J-868 of KLu no. 323 squadron. Serial 81-0868 / 6D-085 and entered KLu service in October 1984.

At the Dutch Frisian island Vlieland is a firing shooting range that was established May 1948. Aircraft could practice firings on ground targets. Called also "Cornfield" range.

In 1998 the range celebrated the 50th anniversary and on the occasion this F-16 got special badges and markings on the tails.

At the time, this F-16A was not yet upgraded to MLU standard; so no "IFF bird slice" antennas are visible in front of the cockpit.

Besides the large badges, also CORNFIELD RANGE titles.

At the tail top also a green-white horizontal tail stripe is set, trim to fit.

Often, an orange sidewinder shaped ranging pod was carried on both wing tips.

Otherwise standard paint scheme port and starboard, see below.

KLu F-16's have the rather standard camouflage pattern with grey colours: on upper surfaces FS36270 grey and FS36118 dark grey at rear. Lower surfaces are FS36375.

KLu style RESCUE markings on the cockpit sides are provided on the decals sheet.

