

Craig Hewitt Chapter Group Build for the 2007 IPMS Nationals Orange County, California

12/12/06

By close of yesterday's Christmas party, Chapter members have been signed for 23 models on the Nationals group build. During the party, several ideas were discussed among the revelers. One idea was to build a representative F-16 for each of the nine active training squadrons at Luke (eight regular and one reserve), arrayed in a semicircle around Frank Luke's Spad at the center front of the display. That would bring the total number of models to 33! It will probably require one whole table, and a base that would be very difficult to transport to Anaheim. If we limit the F-16s to one, we are down to 25 models.

Either way, we need to save space somehow. Chris Nadeau is building the display base, and would like as many of us as possible to build rod-mounted models. By using the vertical space, we can place models at varying heights, much closer together. The display should have Luke's Spad on its wheels at front-center, and rows or semicircles of models arranged around it on progressively higher mountings toward the rear. We need to determine right away the size (I'm guessing 3/16" acrylic rod), and before you seal up that fuselage, you need to make the appropriate mounting modifications.

The models can be posed wheels up or down, though I'd recommend if the wheels are down, the flaps should be down too. If flaps on a particularly kit cannot be easily posed, wheels up might be the better choice.



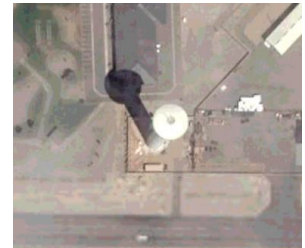
Another suggestion was to create a tall eye-catcher that would draw people's attention from across the contest room. Probably the best subject would be the enormous water tower at Luke AFB. If anyone is interested in doing a scratch-built project with Plastruct and such, please contact me. The only picture I could find online is tiny, but Steve Collins will take some pictures for us.

A 1/48 scale tower would be rather large, but 1/72 scale should still be a show stopper.

The following pages contain the latest data on the group build.

Please keep in touch. My home phone number is (480) 961-3033. E-mail is bbriggs@getnet.net. I will be changing e-mail addresses soon: watch this space.

UPDATE 12/12/06. The tower above isn't the one. That is the old north water tower. The new (2000) tower is over 200 ft tall and modern design. The only picture I have so far is from a satellite. It bears the lettering "Beware the Thunderbolt"



UPDATE 12/15/06. Found another picture.

UPDATE 12/17/06. There was considerable e-mail discussion since yesterday concerning the scale in which we should build. The majority wanted to stay with 1/48, so I made an executive decision to do so.

Chris Nadeau is building the base, and figures it to be 4x8 feet. He'll make it in sections so it can be broken down for transport, and will haul it to Orange County.

Here is an excerpt from one of my e-mails:

...We can still do the helos and the tower in 1/72 scale (about 38" high instead of 58" in 1/48) forced perspective.

I just got off the phone with Chris Nadeau. He figures if we do all 33 planes it will fill a 4'x8' base. No problem, says he. It can be built to come apart in sections, and since he was planning to drive his SUV to the Nats anyway, he has volunteered to haul the base. We'll need to decide how the individual models will be transported. Chris's attitude is that we'll make it work and we should just do it. 1/48 scale is just fine in terms of the base. We should contact the OC people and let them know we have a large group build entry coming so they can be prepared. We don't have to tell them what it is, just the size.

Chris envisions having the Spad and the eight F-16s fanned around it as the centerpiece, then arranging the other aircraft chronologically behind or around them. Originally it was thought to put all the prop planes and helos on the ground and all the jets on poles in flight. However, jets outnumber props 25 to 8. The ratio of COMMITTED builds is 16 jets to 7 props. Since



the arrangement is timeline oriented, some props and some jets will need to be on poles, and Chris suggests a static prop on a "flying" plane would look fine. I agree.

At the January 2 Chapter meeting, Chris is bringing a full-size cardboard mockup of the layout, with cardboard cutouts of the approximate aircraft sizes. We plan to decide at the meeting which planes will be on poles and which will be on the ground. If you plan to button up your fuselage before that time, I highly recommend you make some accommodation for a pole, as there is almost a 50-50 chance your model will be mounted on one. Find the approximate center of gravity on the model and glue a block of wood or pour a resin block inside the fuselage, or affix a horizontal bulkhead inside, so that the rod will pass through a hole at the bottom of the fuselage and through the bulkhead to prevent wobbling.

"Please delay your decision on whether to pose your model with the gear up or down until the meeting in 16 days. Also, please do not attach centerline fuel tanks or stores until then, or pose the canopy open. The exceptions are Ted Dansby's F-84 Thundebirds livery, which is already finished, the Spad and the F-16s. Chris will provide the 1/4" acrylic rod, cut to length, for all the models that need them. That way they'll all be the same. He won't get the rod from his source until February. At this writing, we have a commitment on one F-16 of the 8 we are planning. If we don't get enough more commitments, we can stay with a single F-16, or try for a commitment on a second one (so we will have a Block 20 'A model and a Block 25 'C model. We will decide that at the January meeting, too.

Bruce Briggs

LUKE AFB F-16 SQUADRONS



56TH FIGHTER WING CURRENT ESTABLISHMENT



The **21st Fighter Squadron**, 'The Gamblers', operate the Block 20 F-16A/B for the Taiwanese Air Force, under a three year pilot training programme called 'Peace Fenghuang'. This is the only squadron at Luke to operate the original F-16 variant, which are unusual in being 93 fiscal year serial new build Block 20 aircraft. Prior to reforming at Luke in 1997, the 21st Tactical Fighter Training Squadron operated F-4Es at George AFB, California until 1993.



The **61st Fighter Squadron**, known as the 'Top Dogs' fly a mix of F-16C Block 25B and F-16D Block 25E aircraft, to train pilots for Air Combat Command postings. The unit was previously assigned to the 56th Tactical Training Wing at MacDill AFB, Florida, which was responsible for replacement training on the F-16, until the wing transferred to Luke in 1994. Prior to that, as part of the 56th Tactical Fighter Wing, the 'Top Dogs' flew F-4Es and then F-4Ds, converting to F-16A/Bs in 1980.



The **62nd Fighter Squadron** are called 'Spike', and wear their name in blue on a white fin band. Aircraft operated are a mix of F-16Cs and F-16Ds from Blocks 42C and 42D. The squadron formerly flew both D and then E model F-4s at MacDill as part of the 56th TFW until October 1980. Conversion to the F-16A/B began around the same time, as did the re-designation of the unit as the 56th Tactical Training Wing. Relocation to Luke took place in 1994.



The **63rd Fighter Squadron** flies F-16Cs and F-16Ds drawn from production Blocks 42E, 42G and 42J, and are known as the 'Panthers'. The first of the three former 'MC' tail coded MacDill based squadrons with the 56th TFW/TTW to be transferred to Luke, the 'Panthers' also operated D and E model Phantoms before F-16 conversion commenced in October 1981.



The **308th Fighter Squadron**, the 'Emerald Knights', fly Block 42 F-16C/Ds, wearing the dark green and white checkerboard fin band. Formerly assigned to the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing at Homestead AFB, Florida, the squadron operated F-4Es between 1972 and 1982, then F-4Ds until conversion to F-16A/Bs in 1986. Wing tailcode was 'ZF' until December 1986, when changed to 'HS'. Homestead was closed as a front line operational base following extensive damage inflicted by Hurricane Andrew in August 1992. The 308th FS, along with sister squadron the 309th, joined the numerically consecutive 310th FS with the 56th Fighter Wing at Luke in 1994 with the 'LF' tail code.



The **309th Fighter Squadron** wear their 'Wild Ducks' name in white on a blue fin band. The squadron flies F-16C and F-16D machines drawn from production Blocks 25 and 42. Prior to that aircraft operated were F-16A/Bs, preceded by E and D model F-4s whilst assigned to the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing at Homestead AFB, Florida. The 31st Fighter Wing is now resident at Aviano Air Base, Italy, as part of the 16th Air Force, USAFE, with the 555th and 510th Fighter Squadrons assigned.



56TH FIGHTER WING (*continued*)



The **310th Fighter Squadron** are known as the 'Top Hats' and fly Block 42 F-16C and D models. The squadron was previously assigned to the Luke based 58th Tactical Training Wing, along with the now disbanded 311th, 312th and 314th Fighter Squadrons. The 310th and 311th operated F-4Ds with 'LA' tailcodes until conversion to the F-16A/B between 1982 and 1984. Conversion to F-16C/D models commenced in 1989, and the Wing was re-designated as the 56th Fighter Wing in 1994



The **425th Fighter Squadron**, the 'Black Widows' wear a red/black fin band and are unique in USAF assigned combat aircraft as they also wear the Lions head insignia of the Singapore Air Force in place of the USAF 'star and bar'. Singapore received its first eight F-16A/B models in 1998, those being Block 15 aircraft with the strengthened airframes of the Block 30 variant. These 'Peace Carvin' aircraft remained at Luke initially for pilot work up training, and were joined by nine leased F-16As formerly operated by the USAF 'Thunderbirds'. In July 1994 the Singapore government announced 'Peace Carvin II', which saw the purchase of eighteen Block 52 F-16C/Ds (eight F-16Cs and 10 F-16Ds). Nine of these machines now form the 425th FS at Luke AFB for training.



944TH FIGHTER WING CURRENT ESTABLISHMENT



The **302nd Fighter Squadron** is the only unit assigned to the 944th Fighter Wing Air Force Reserve Command, and as a tenant unit at Luke wears the 'LR' (Luke Reserve) tailcode as opposed to the 'LF' of the resident 56th Fighter Wing. Initially designated as the 944th Fighter Group as a single unit administration, the first Block 32 F-16C/D models were received in 1987 and have been operated ever since in the air to ground role. Prior to that, the 302nd was designated as a Special Operations Squadron (SOS) and had flown CH-3E helicopters with 'LH' tail codes since 1974.



Source: www.sharpsooter-maj.com/index.html

**Craig Hewitt Chapter Group Build
for the
2007 IPMS Nationals Orange County, California
1/48 Scale**

"The Aircraft of Luke, and Luke's Aircraft"

Prototype								Model		
Item	Mfr	Model	Name	Unit	Livery	Finish	Notes	Kit Mfr	Kit Nr.	Modeler
1	Spad	XIII		27th Aero Sqdn. 1st Pursuit Group	USAAC	Camouflage		DML		Kevin Wenker
2	North American	AT-6	Texan		USAAF	Natural Metal				Mike Ronnau
3	Lockheed	P-38F	Lightning		USAAF	Olive Drab over Neutral Gray				Vince Welsh
4	Curtiss	P-40	Warhawk		USAAF	Olive Drab over Neutral Gray		Monogram	5209	Ed Kucharski
5	North American	P-51D	Mustang		USAAF	NMF				Larry Grapentine
6	Republic	F-84E	Thunderjet	Thunderbirds	USAF	Natural Metal	Done	Tamiya		Ted Dansby
7	Republic	F-84E/G	Thunderjet		USAF	Natural Metal				Charles Swanson
8	Republic	F-84F	Thunderstreak		USAF	Natural Metal		Revell Monogram		Jim Pearsall
9	North American	F-86F	Sabre		USAF	Natural Metal				Keenan Chittester
10	North American	F-100C/D	Super Sabre	58th TFTW	USAF	Gray or NMF				Jim Fry
11	North American	F-100F	Super Sabre	58th TFTW	USAF	SEA camouflage	2-seater			Wendell Rogers
12	Chance Vought	A-7	Corsair II	58th TFTW	USAF			Hasegawa		Craig Pierce
13	Lockheed	F-104G	Starfighter	69th TFTS	USAF	Natural Metal		Hasegawa		Bruce Briggs
14	Lockheed	TF-104G	Starfighter	69th TFTS	USAF	Natural Metal	2-seater	Hasegawa		Bruce Briggs
15	McDonnell Douglas	F-4C/D	Phantom II	426th TFS	USAF	SEA camouflage		Hasegawa		Don Stewart
16	McDonnell Douglas	F-15A/B	Eagle	555 TFS	USAF	Two-tone Gray				Charles Swanson
17	McDonnell Douglas	F-15E	Strike Eagle	461st TFS 550th TFS	USAF	Dark Gray	2-seater			Rick Marshall
18	Northrop	F-5	Freedom Fighter/Tiger		USAF					Chuck Ludwig
19	General Dynamics	F-16 A/B (block 20)	Fighting Falcon	56th FW 21st FS ^{Note 2}	USAF	Training Squadron	Training Taiwanese pilots; Tail band: White & Red			

Prototype								Model		
Item	Mfr	Model	Name	Unit	Livery	Finish	Notes	Kit Mfr	Kit Nr.	Modeler
20	General Dynamics	F-16 C/D (block 25, 1 block 32)	Fighting Falcon	56th FW 61st FS ^{Note 2}	USAF	Training Squadron	Tail band: Yellow & Black			Mike Pabis
21	General Dynamics	F-16 C/D (block 25/42)	Fighting Falcon	56th FW 62nd FS ^{Note 2}	USAF	Training Squadron	Tail band: White & Blue			
22	General Dynamics	F-16 C/D (block 25/42)	Fighting Falcon	56th FW 63rd FS ^{Note 2}	USAF	Training Squadron	Tail band: Red & Black			
23	General Dynamics	F-16 C/D (block 25/42)	Fighting Falcon	56th FW 308th FS ^{Note 2}	USAF	Training Squadron	Tail band: Green & White (checkerboard)			
24	General Dynamics	F-16 C/D (block 25/42)	Fighting Falcon	56th FW 309th FS ^{Note 2}	USAF	Training Squadron	Tail band: Blue & White			
25	General Dynamics	F-16 C/D (block 25/42)	Fighting Falcon	56th FW 310th FS ^{Note 2}	USAF	Training Squadron	Tail band: Dark Green & Yellow			
26	General Dynamics	F-16 C/D (block 52)	Fighting Falcon	56th FW 425th FS ^{Note 2}	USAF	Training Squadron	Tail band: Red & Black			
27	General Dynamics	F-16 C/D (block 25/32)	Fighting Falcon	944th FW 302nd FS ^{Note 3}	USAF	Reserve Training Squadron	Tail band: Yellow			
28	Sikorsky	HH-3	Jolly Green Giant	302nd Special Operations Sqdn	USAF		Deactivated Helicopters 1987			Jeff Snyder
29	Sikorsky	HH-34	Choctaw	302nd Special Operations Sqdn	USAF	Scratchbuilt Decals	Deactivated Helicopters 1987	DML		Dick Christ
30	Kaman	HH-43	Husky		USAF		Crash Rescue	Mach 2 ^{Note 1}		
31	Cessna	O-2	Skymaster		USAF		TDY? Used as training FAC			Wendell Rogers
32	Lockheed	T-33	Shooting Star							
33	Industrial Light & Magic		Snow Speeder		Rebellion Forces		Luke Skywalker	ERTL		Jim DiGiacomo
34	Unknown	N/A	Luke AFB Water Tower ^{Note 1}							
35	N/A	N/A	Display Base							Chris Nadeau

Notes

- 1) 1/72 Scale
- 2) See www.f-16.net/units_airforce169.html
- 3) See www.f-16.net/units_airforce168.html