Although the SW U.S. Air Force Skyraider is an A-1J, because the A-1Hs and A-1Js which were transferred to the U.S. Air Force were given identical treatments, their external markings are identical to those of the Navy Skyraider.

* Sr.no. 139608

1st SOS "BLOOD, SWEAT, & TEARS" & "Stump Jumper" Set

TC608

These markings are from the time period when the aircraft undersides were painted black.

The single-seater A-1s were essentially identical to the later-model Navy Skyraiders, was equipped in all Air Force models. The A-1s that were flown in Vietnam were primarily deployed in the 1st, 6th, 22nd, and 602nd SOS (Special Operations Squadron) units. Each wing was designated with its own code letters, such as TC, ET, TS, TT, etc. The Skyraider's missions made best use of its long cruising time, large capacity for armament, stability at low speeds, and flight mobility, but due to the missions' high amount of risk, there was a correspondingly high amount of casualties. The A-1 would continue to carry out missions in the Vietnam War until November of 1972.

During the Vietnam War, the U.S. Air Force began using A-1s to perform air strikes in June of 1964. The first models that were used were the A-1Hs. In addition to air strike missions, the A-1s also carried out SAR (search and rescue) missions for pilots who had been shot down, under the call sign "Sandy." The single-seater Air Force A-1s were essentially identical to the single-seater Navy Skyraiders, except for the absence of the ARS (Aircraft Recovery System) which was standard on the Navy Skyraider. The ARS provided a means of recovering downed aircraft and their crews. The Skyraider's missions made best use of its long cruising time, large capacity for armament, stability at low speeds, and flight mobility, but due to the missions' high amount of risk, there was a correspondingly high amount of casualties. The A-1 would continue to carry out missions in the Vietnam War until November of 1972.

For basic paint job instructions, please refer to the "U.S. Air Force A-1J Skyraider" assembly manual. Please use this marking set while referring to both the assembly manual and the Navy decals included with the Zoukei-mura 1/32 "U.S. Air Force A-1J Skyraider" kit.