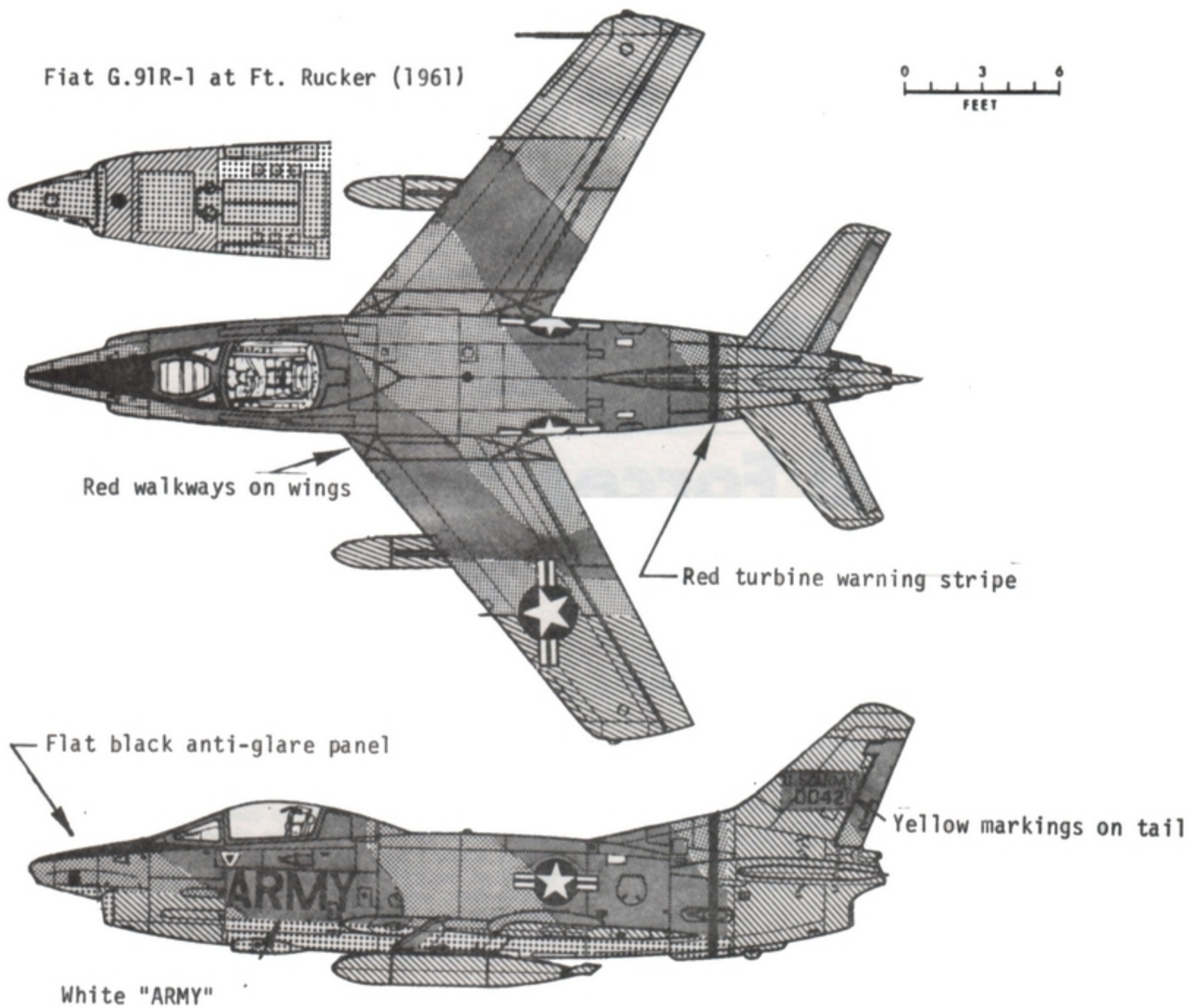


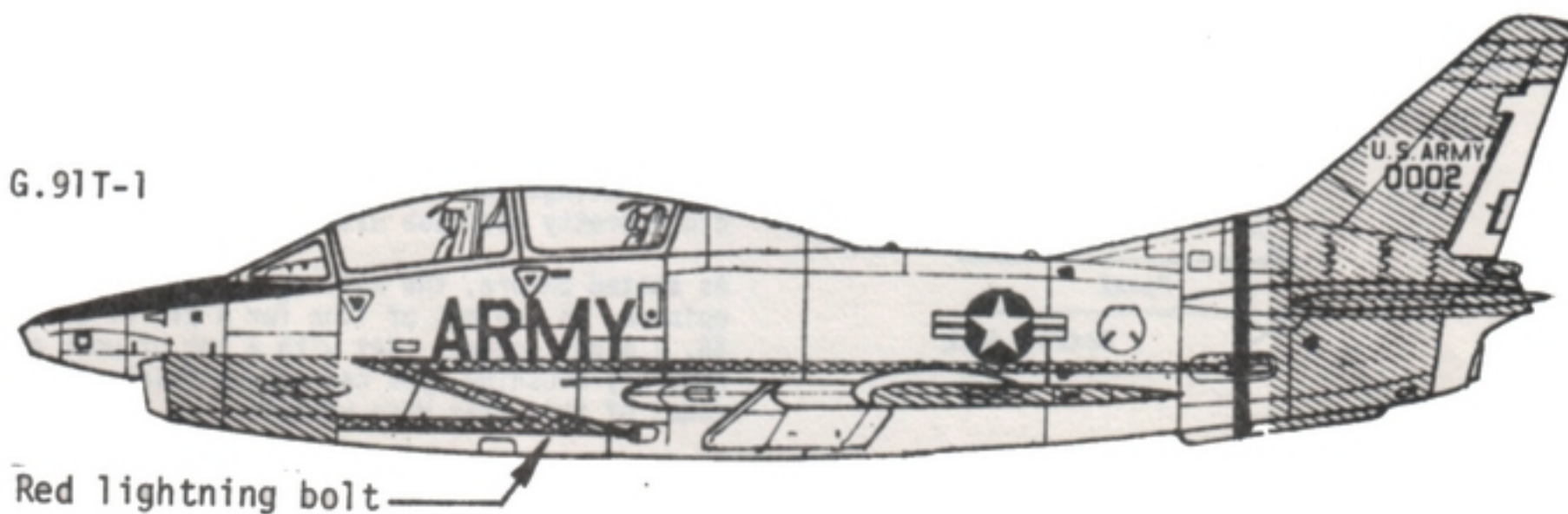
G.91 ARMY FIATS

By: Bill Drescher

Fiat G.91R-1 at Ft. Rucker (1961)



Fiat G.91T-1



Writing about Army Fiat G.91's is difficult because little is definitely known about them. One thing that is known is that in early 1961 4 Fiats were transported to the U.S. in C-124 Globemasters for evaluation by the armed forces. According to Profile 119, The Fiat G.91, 2 were sent to Kirkland AFB, New Mexico for Air Force use. However, an Army Aviation Museum historian told me that 3 were evaluated by the Army at Ft. Rucker and at the Eglin AFB, Florida climatic test cells. The Fiat's were in competition with the Northrup N-156 (F-5) "Freedom Fighter" and 2 Douglas-A4D Skyhawks modified with twin main wheel landing gear. The aircraft were being considered for a special Army Tactical Support Unit that was never formed. I have photographs of 2 single seaters taken at Ft. Rucker in Army markings, a G91R-1, S/N 0042 and a G91.R-3, S/N 0065. The information for the 2 seat

trainer came from the Warner-Robbins Chapter IPMS publication "Flying Tiger".

Confusion exists as to the color schemes used on these aircraft. According to the historian at Ft. Rucker, the 2 single seaters were painted, in the standard NATO camouflage of dark grey and dark green on top, with gull grey on the undersides with international orange nose, wing tips and rear. The February issue of "Scale Models" has a color profile of S/N 0065 showing it with medium blue undersides and I have a color slide of S/N 0042 that seems to show it with the blue undersides. In addition, the black and white photos show S/N 0042 as having a much darker underside color than S/N 0065. I've shown the color on S/N 0042 as gull grey, but if I see a model painted medium blue I'm not going to be critical.

Thanks to Jim Craig of the Army Aviation Museum at Ft. Rucker



Gull Grey
FS26440



Dark Green
FS24079



Dark Grey
FS26173



International Orange
FS 12197