

F-10B ARMY SKYKNIGHTS

By: Greg Kuklinski

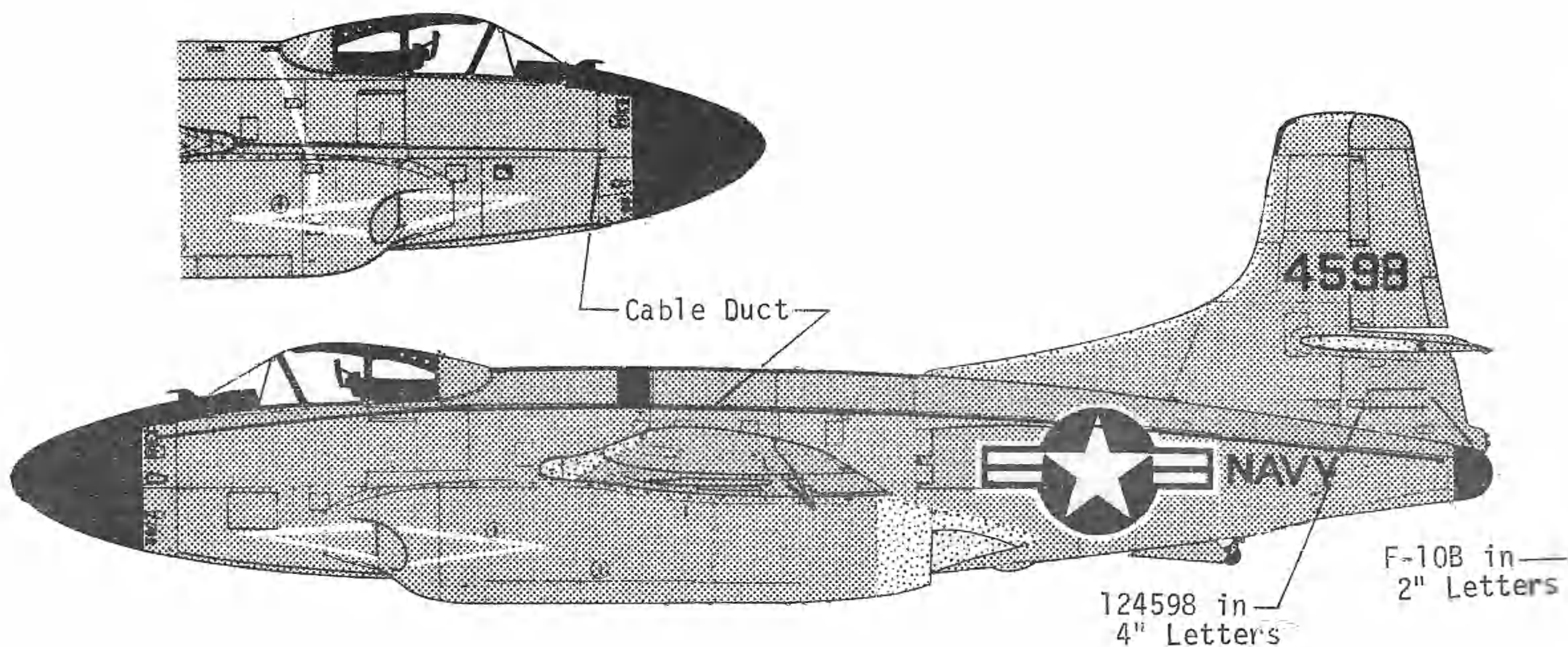
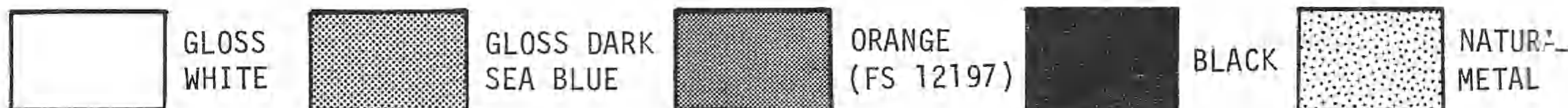
Called the RAF (Raytheon Air Force), three F-10B Skyknights are operated by Raytheon for the U.S. Army under an Engineering Service Contract in support of the Patriot SAM missile system test program. Each aircraft carries a crew of two, pilot and ECM operator. The ECM operator also acts as a second pair of eyes for the pilot as his visibility to the right is restricted due to the width of the fuselage. The aircraft fly against the Patriots ground based radar trying to jam and confuse it using ECM and chaff.

Three aircraft are currently in use, Bu. No. 124598, 124630 and 125807. 4598 has been in use by Raytheon since 1953. It was transferred to the Army's control in 1968. Currently all three aircraft are owned by the Army, the Navy having no claim to them. The program is managed thru the Department of the Army Research Command (DARCOM).

Of the three aircraft, 4630 and 5807 are overall gloss white with high visibility orange (FS-12197)

wing tips, vertical stabilizer and nose band. Markings are black with national insignia in the standard four positions. Both aircraft were obtained from the Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake. 4598 appears to be in its original Navy dark gloss sea blue of Korean War vintage, although it is extremely weathered and faded and is much lighter than dark sea blue. It would seem that this aircraft would have been repainted sometime in its 27 year service with Raytheon, so its possible that an attempt to keep its original color scheme was made but not entirely successful. Outside storage and bright sunlight at Holloman could also fade the paint. National insignia is in the standard four positions with white surround. All markings are white. The leading edges of the horizontal and vertical stabilizers and the wing is natural metal.

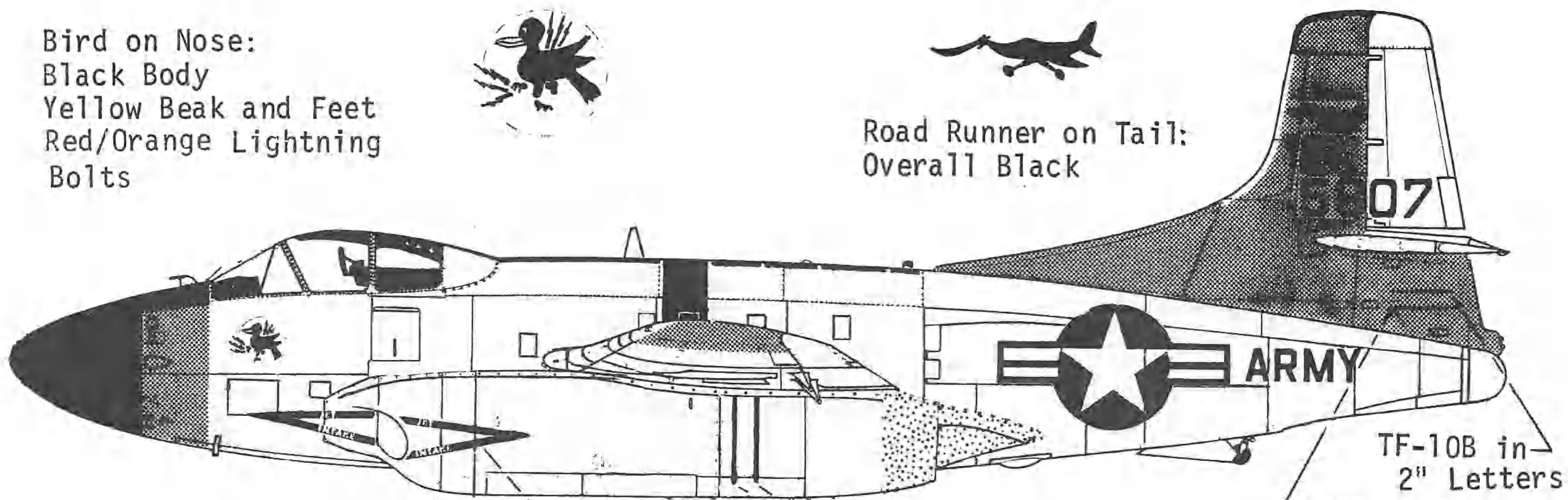
I would like to thank George Walsh, flight test program manager, at Raytheon for his help in preparing this article. Thanks George.



Bird on Nose:
Black Body
Yellow Beak and Feet
Red/Orange Lightning
Bolts



Road Runner on Tail:
Overall Black



TF-10B in
2" Letters

125807 in
4" Letters

RED

RED TURBINE
WARNING STRIPE
2" Wide

BLACK WALK WAYS

