FINDING THOSE FOREIGN INSIGNIA LAYOUTS

by George White

Gary Morton, our good friend from Tennessee, has found a great source of obscure, and not-so-obscure aircraft insignias for our use in making decals. Although the site says it's for UK and Commonwealth nations, it is far more than that.

http://www.ask.com/wiki/Military_aircraft_insignia
#United_Kingdom_and_Commonwealth_nations

If you have a Mac, it's simple to create insignia. Just click on the insignia you like, then notice just below the image there is some text which says "This image rendered as PNG in other sizes: 200px,500px,1000px, 2000px." Double click on one of those numbers — the higher the number the larger the image will be, but don't worry about that now. The image will show on the screen enlarged. Drag that image to the desktop.   Then open a blank Open Office Draw, Libra Office Draw, or a Pages file. Drag the image from the desktop to the blank file and resize it to whatever size suits you.

If you use a Windows machine, Paul Grabski tells me that all you have to do is click on the insignia and the option to COPY the image shows together with the insignia. Just click on COPY. Open a blank Office Draw, OpenOffice Draw or LibreOffice Draw file and paste the insignia into the blank file and resize it.

Print the insignia on whatever medium that grabs you — decal paper being normally the one of choice, but I've often used decals printed on 20# bond, then gently sanded the back of the paper to reduce the thickness.

A couple of things to keep in mind — you'll want to trim the decal very closely to eliminate the white edge, so be sure and use some really sharp trimming scissors.   Also, if you're using decal paper and are going to put the decal on a scale bird, VERY lightly spray the decal with Krylon Flat spray. Careful — if you put too much on, it'll still be glossy!