

Vought RF-8G

The Vought RF-8G was a photographic reconnaissance version of the F-8 fighter. They were rebuilt from RF-8A aeroplanes with improved performance and were the last version of the F-8 to fly with the US Navy.

The RF-8 was created by redesigning the forward fuselage of the standard F-8 to replace the armament with cameras. RF-8As, began entering service in 1957 and 144 were constructed. Beginning in 1965, 73 RF-8As were remanufactured into improved RF-8Gs, allowing the US Navy to keep in service some of its aircraft carriers during the Vietnam War that were too small for the larger and heavier McDonnell F-4s. The RF-8G was finally retired from service in March 1987.

This model represents a RF-8G of VFP-306 of the Naval Air Reserve at Washington DC, c.1980

Data: carrier-based reconnaissance aeroplane. *Engine* one Pratt & Whitney J57-P-4A turbojet engine of 72.1kN thrust on afterburner. *Wing span* 10.87m. *Length* 16.53m. *Loaded weight* 15,4640kg. *Maximum speed* 1824km/h. *Range* 2294km. *Equipment*, up to six reconnaissance cameras.

Hasegawa 1/72 kit with *Ventura* conversion parts and *Tasman*, *Xtradecal* and *Microscale* decals completed by Leigh Edmonds in May 2011.



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