

The Building and Detailing of Verlinden Productions Airborn Iraq

I found the kit during Squadron's Open House earlier this year for only \$3 and that gave the incentive to make an entry for the coming up Eagle Quest.



A massive 8"/200mm tall, solid resin kit that came with two heads and two ways to set up the M4/AR15. The weapon itself ended up being 12 pieces that I assembled with pins and CA glue.



Being that I work in a VA Hospital I had many vets to interview about the equipment the soldier is wearing and what is missing. Again the old saying of Research brought on a lot of details missing from the kit, well, that is to say, that were not included in the kit.

The main bulk of the body was only five pieces with minimal clean up and a little Milliput for a couple of seams. For large pieces like these I drill small holes on both sides and fill with a medium thickness CA that turn into CA pins. I found at a local home improvement store a Gorilla Super Glue in a .71oz bottle, in a medium viscosity, that works great.



Now for detailing. The first thing I start painting on figures is the head. There were two choices of heads, one had the goggles filled in and the other was open. I wanted the challenge of painting the eyes. Using a piece of packaging from another kit I traced over the filled goggles on a piece of peel and stick label and transferred to the plastic. Filed, heated and molded until it dropped into place and painted with Future floor polish and fastened with Testors Clear Plastic Cement. The microphone for the radio head set is a piece of wire, dipped in CA a few times, painted black and fastened to the side of his head.



Was told by a vet that the weapon had a night illuminating/laser site on top of the hand grip and through research found that there is a pressure switch for the laser site. Using a piece of hair thin wire, a shaped piece of card stock I fabricated a switch and attached it to the side of the hand grip. During research I found one set up this way. Also in pictures found on the unit there is a warning decal for Laser Light so from my spare decals book found one from a F-16 and attached them to the sides.

The two point shoulder strap is made from surgical tape attached to a loop of wire close to the front site. At the butt is an attachment point already molded in. At the front made a sliding buckle from aluminum duct tape.



The Camo pattern is called Desert Camouflage Uniform (DCU) and through research found the Federal Stock (FS) color numbers of Pale Green, Earth Brown and Sand. There is no set pattern, all the pictures I found showed them different.



Over the left shoulder I took a piece of insulated wire, heated over a candle and flattened it a little. Dipped into CA and formed it into a mouth piece for the Camel water pack he has on. Some hoses came up under the arm and others up over the shoulder where I used a piece of aluminum duct tape for a Velcro strap, holding it in place on the shoulder strap.



I was told that he would receive an Article 15 for not wearing gloves, fire prevention. Well it was too late, I had already added detailing to his finger nails where you can see the cuticles and light nail edges and I thought the more details would improve it. Besides I don't sculpt that well.

I have another Verlinden kit, in a smaller scale of 120mm, where he is wearing gloves.

Well that's how I did mine and the same techniques can be used in other applications. A lot of the details were noticed, a few days after I finished it. I entered the figure in the Eagle Quest Contest and it got a Silver Medal.

While I was nearby judging other figures I overheard another judge talking to his self about the detail

being added. You see, it was his uniform, weapon and gear that he wore as an "Airborn In Iraq" during Desert Storm.