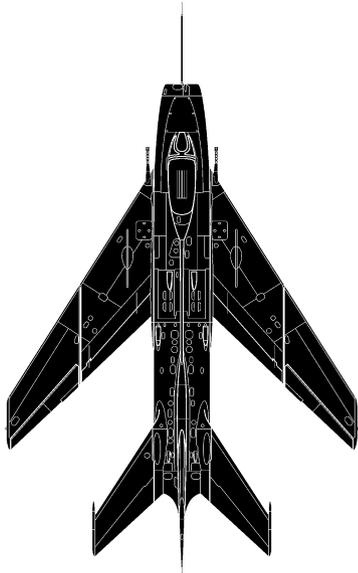


MiG-19 Farmer



The MiG-19—NATO code name “Farmer”—was the first supersonic fighter developed by the Soviet Union and the first operational supersonic jet aircraft in the world. The Mikoyan-Gurevich design was a twin-engine follow-on to the MiG-17 and thus was a second generation fighter comparable to the US F-100. It performed well, though, when pitted against USAF F-4s and F-105s in the Vietnam air war.

The MiG-19, an all-metal aircraft, featured mid-mounted wings with 55-degree sweep and wing fences. Its two turbojet engines used afterburners. It was not a particularly handsome aircraft, and its components—especially the engines—were difficult to maintain. Still, designers paid great

attention to pilot comfort and safety. The cockpit was pressurized and air-conditioned. It contained an advanced ejection seat. Moreover, its tricycle-style landing gear allowed a pilot to take off and land from short, minimally prepared airfields.

The early MiG-19 had no mounts for air-to-air missiles, but in the Vietnam air war, it had an advantage: It had a cannon (F-4s did not). North Vietnamese air force pilots often got close enough to let off deadly cannon bursts. Indeed, the NVAF claimed seven MiG-19 victories, all against F-4s. The MiG-19 also saw extensive action against USAF aircraft during the Linebacker I and Linebacker II operations in 1972.

—Walter J. Boyne

This aircraft: Soviet Air Force MiG-19S *Bort 24 red* as it appeared in March 1964 when assigned to SAF 33rd Fighter Aviation Regiment, Wittstock AB, East Germany.



The MiG-19 sported deadly rockets and cannons.

In Brief

Designed, built by Mikoyan-Gurevich ★ first flight Jan. 5, 1954
★ crew of one ★ number built up to 10,000 (USSR, China, Poland, Czechoslovakia) ★ **Specific to MiG-19S:** two Tumansky RD-9 turbojet engines ★ armament three 30 mm NR-30 cannons ★ load up to 550 lb of bombs, plus rockets ★ max speed 903 mph ★ cruise speed 520 mph ★ max range 860 mi ★ weight (loaded) 16,600 lb ★ span 30 ft 2 in ★ length 40 ft 3 in ★ height 12 ft.

Famous Fliers

Notables: Pham Hung Son, Nguyen Manh Tung (North Vietnam).
Test Pilots: K. K. Kokkinaki, S. A. Mikoyan, V. A. Nefyedov, G. A. Sedov, Wang Youhuai.

Interesting Facts

Shot down US RB-47H in international airspace on July 1, 1960
★ broke sound barrier on second flight ★ saw service in air arms of Soviet Union, China, North Vietnam, Egypt, Cuba, Pakistan, North Korea ★ used in odd combination of high-altitude interception and ground attack ★ produced in China as J-6 fighter ★ went into action against a U-2 spyplane in fall 1957 ★ suffered from high-G pitch-up when air brakes were deployed at high speeds ★ used by Pakistani Air Force in 1971 Indo-Pakistani War ★ developed by China into Q-5 attack aircraft.