

instruction sheet

MiG-19 Supersonic Fighter

Introduction by Libor Režňák

The design of the MiG-19 supersonic fighter hails from the early fifties. A typical characteristic of supersonic capabilities became the swept wing, already used by the German school of thought going back to the Me 262 in the Second World War. It is interesting to note that the benefits of the swept wing weren't actually taken advantage of until 1950 with the introduction of the MiG-15 and F-86 Sabre, which reached speeds of 950km/h. Exceeding the speed of sound was a limitation of engine technology. The Soviets lost time in perfecting the turbojet with a radial compressor, which was, in the MiG-19, ultimately solved by using two axial flow units. Both the MiG-19 and the F-100 Super Sabre broke the sound barrier in 1954.

In any case, the F-100 went into immediate service with the USAF, and the new MiG went into production in the Soviet Union. The urgency injected into the rapid development of new power-plants caused a high level of unreliability. The initial RD-9 engines had a lifespan of a mere twenty-five flight hours, and despite a succession of improvements leading to the RD-9B, this would remain the main drawback of the type.

Series production of the three main versions of the MiG-19, the S, P and PM, spanned between 1955 and 1960 with a total of 1,884 aircraft being built. The MiG-19S was also produced by the Central Bohemian Industrial Works (Vodochody), which turned out 104 examples. The supersonic MiG-19 not only flew with the Warsaw Pact member states - Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia, but aircraft produced in China found their way into the air forces of a list of other nations, too. These included Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, North Korea, North Vietnam, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania and Zambia. It took part in several border clashes, and undertook combat operations in all-out wars in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. In all cases, the MiG-19 developed a reputation for its turn and climb rates, and especially its punch. The three 30mm cannons were lethal, to put it mildly.

The MiG-19 in Czechoslovakia

Supersonic MiGs appeared in Czechoslovakia in 1957. The delivery of thirteen MiG-19S aircraft was followed by twenty-four MiG-19Ps. The Central Bohemian Industrial Works received another thirteen MiG-19S knock-down kits in preparation for domestic production of the type. Inconsistencies in the documentation for the aircraft delayed production by a year. Assembly of the Soviet MiGs was also delayed, and deliveries did not occur until between January and March 1958. Licensed engine production was entrusted to the Jan Sverma facility, later called Motorlet, located in Prague - Jinonice. The locally produced engines were designated M-07. This firm assembled some fifty units from parts supplied by the Soviet Union.

The first Czechoslovak pilots underwent conversion training from July 1957 in the Soviet Union at Savasleyka Air Base. The first group consisted of two Vodochody and a quartet of military pilots. The two factory pilots, Vlastimil David and Julius Zvara finished their conversion training four months before their air force counterparts, on August 30th, 1957, with a supersonic flight. The first to break the sound barrier was Julius Zvara. On his return to Czechoslovakia, he undertook acceptance flights of all delivered S and P model aircraft, the last of which was accepted by the Air Force in December 1958. Local production of the MiG-19 at the Central Bohemian Industrial Works didn't begin until 1959. The first small production block consisted of six aircraft, which carried serial numbers from 950101 to 950106. The next block consisted of twenty planes, serialled 050201 to 050220, and was manufactured in 1960. The next twenty aircraft produced as the third block (150301 to 150320) were built between 1960 and 1961. The latter year also saw the production of the fourth production block of MiG-19S aircraft. This time, the block spanned thirty airframes (150401 to 150430). Also in that same year, the fifth block of aircraft were produced (serial numbers 150501 to 150515 for a total of fifteen aircraft). The acceptance flights of all aircraft were conducted by factory test pilots V. David, Kremen, Morava, Smidt and



The Czechoslovak Air Force progressively accumulated from 1958 116 MiG-19S aircraft. The first home produced plane (950101) was used only for structural tests. In all, twenty-six aircraft crashed, and seven Czechoslovak pilots were lost flying the type. No pilots were lost on a second production batch aircraft. Twelve pilots were saved through ejection, and one pilot even bailed out of his aircraft in the traditional sense of the word. The average lifespan of the MiG-19S was 502 flight hours.

Czechoslovak pilots looked on the MiG-19 as a rocket. An afterburner takeoff required a mere 515m of real estate, and its maximum speed was 1,452km/h, and was easy to smoothly achieve. The climb rate of 180m/s was not bettered until the introduction in service of the MiG-29.

MiG-19P

The MiG-19P was an interceptor version of the MiG-19S that differed in armament, of which the installation of the RP-5 radar was a part, coupled with a pair of NR-30 cannons. The installation of the radar extended the fuselage by some 36cm, and this version could carry rocket pods, bombs and external fuel tanks of the earlier version. The Czechoslovak Air Force took delivery of twenty-four of this version from the Soviet Union. Eight of these aircraft were lost while in service



between 1958 and 1966. Crashes claimed three pilots, one was saved by ejecting, and four aircraft burned on the ground. The MiG-19P interceptors served in the Czechoslovak Air Force with the 1st slp (Fighter Regiment) in Ceske Budejovice, the 5th slp in Pilsen, the 8th slp in Mosnov and the 11th slp in Zatec.

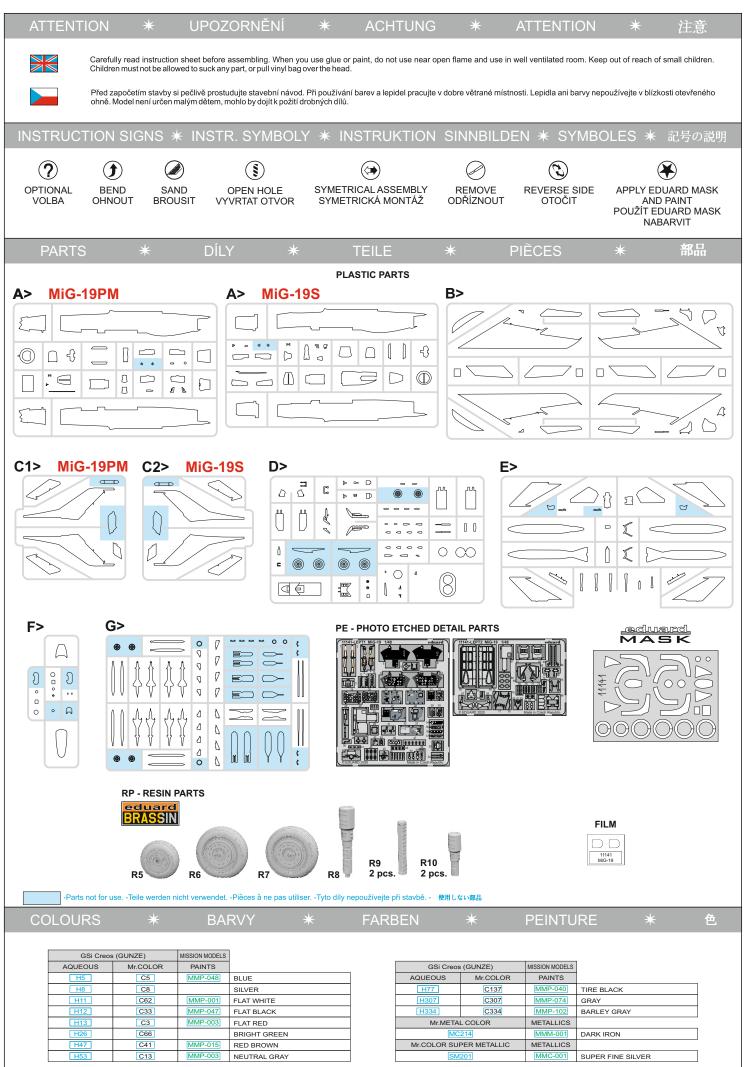
MiG-19PM

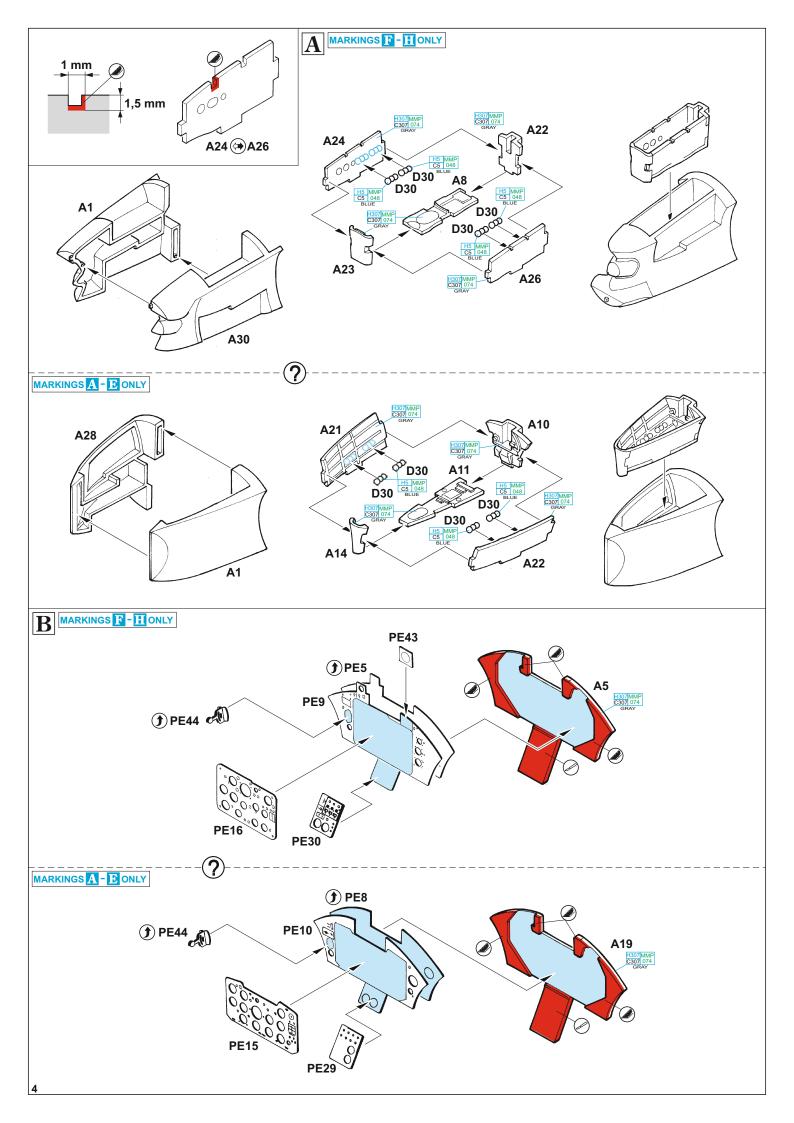
The Czechoslovak Air Force operated a total of 43 MiG-19PMs. These were flown from 1959 by four elite air units, the 1st, 4th, 5th and 11th slp. The PM version introduced a whole new level of quality to the air defense assets. GCI would direct the aircraft towards a target, and the pilot would then conduct terminal phases of the intercept, as well as the firing off of RS-2U air-air missiles, himself. The construction of the airframe was compatible with that of the MiG-19P, but equipment, hydraulics and the fuel system were brought up to date. Typical of this version were four underwing hardpoints for four of the aforementioned missiles, or two auxiliary fuel tanks. The aircraft gained 346kg in weight, which had an effect on performance. The ceiling was 16,600m and maximum speed fell to 1,230km/h. Over the type's service career in the Czechoslovak Air Force, fourteen aircraft were lost, four pilots died, and five ejected successfully. Half of the losses were attributed to technical issues. Average airframe life came to 703 flight hours, with the highest being recorded by 651113 at 758 hours. The MiG-19PM was withdrawn from service in the Czechoslovak Air Force in 1972.

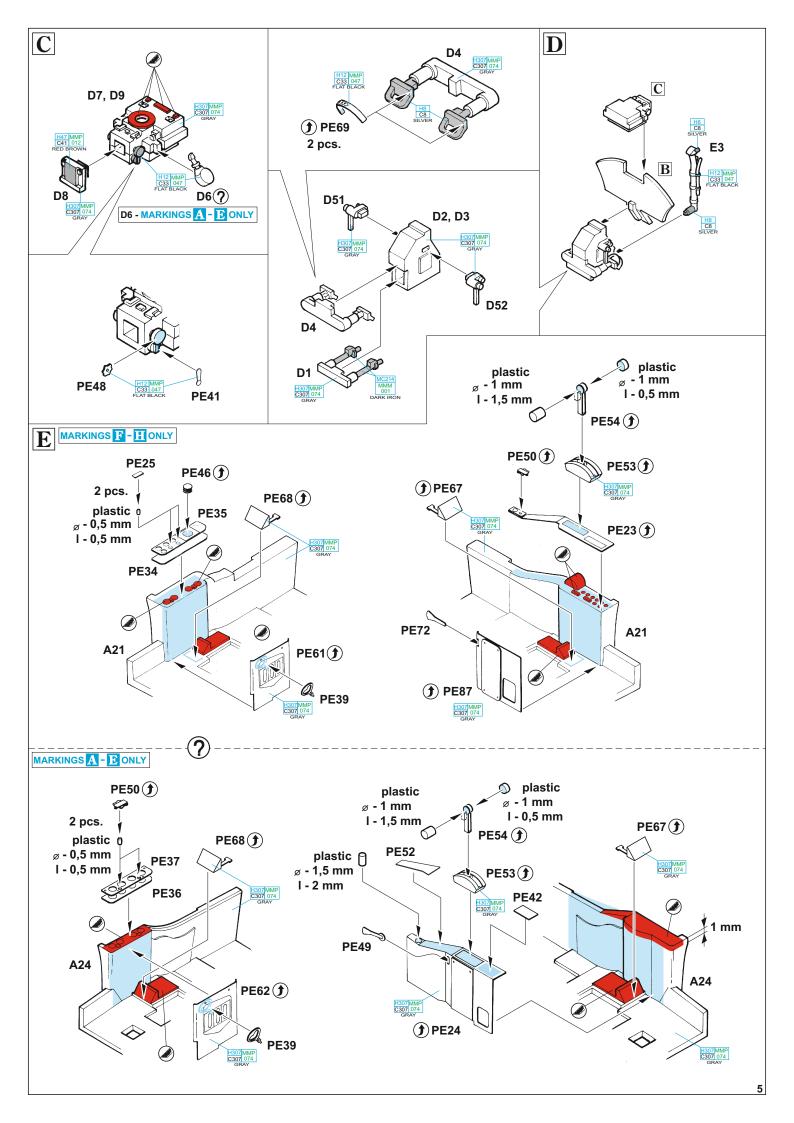
Conclusion

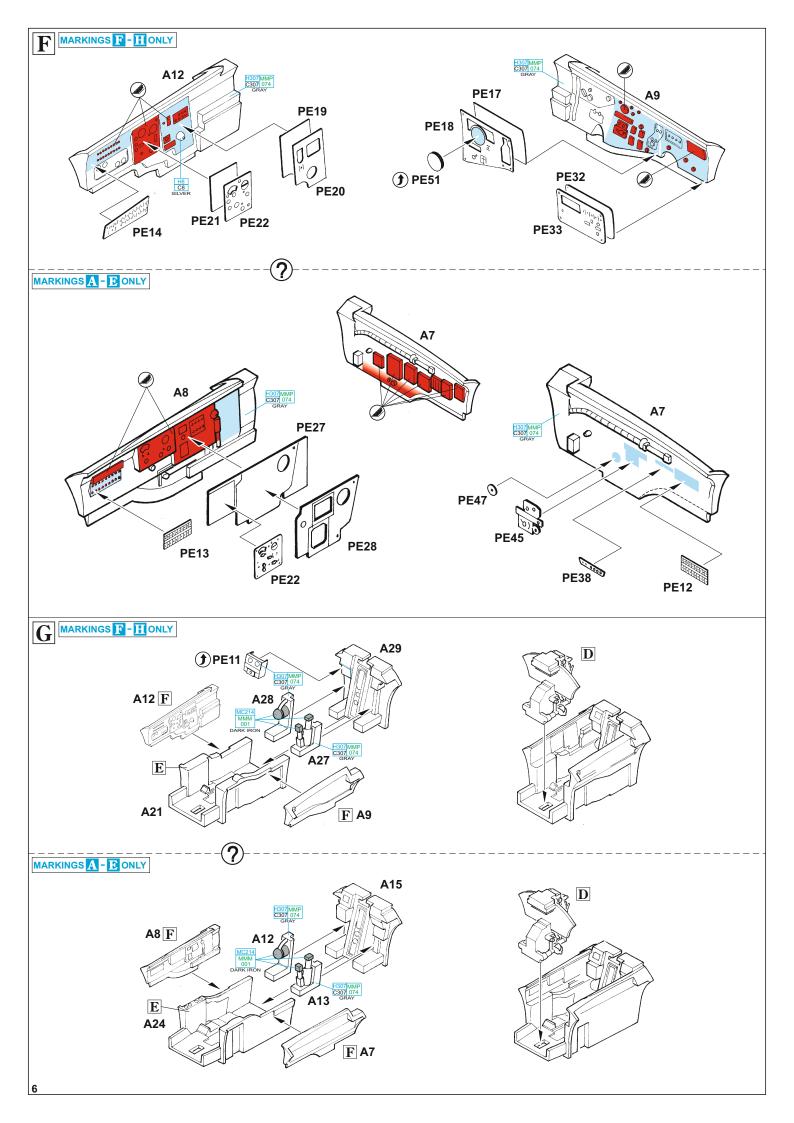
The supersonic MiG-19 was a world class aircraft at the end of the fifties. In terms of armament, turn rate and climb rate, it had no serious competition. However, in terms of technology standards, the aircraft aged towards obsolescence quickly. The aircraft's on board systems suffered from a definite unreliability problem.

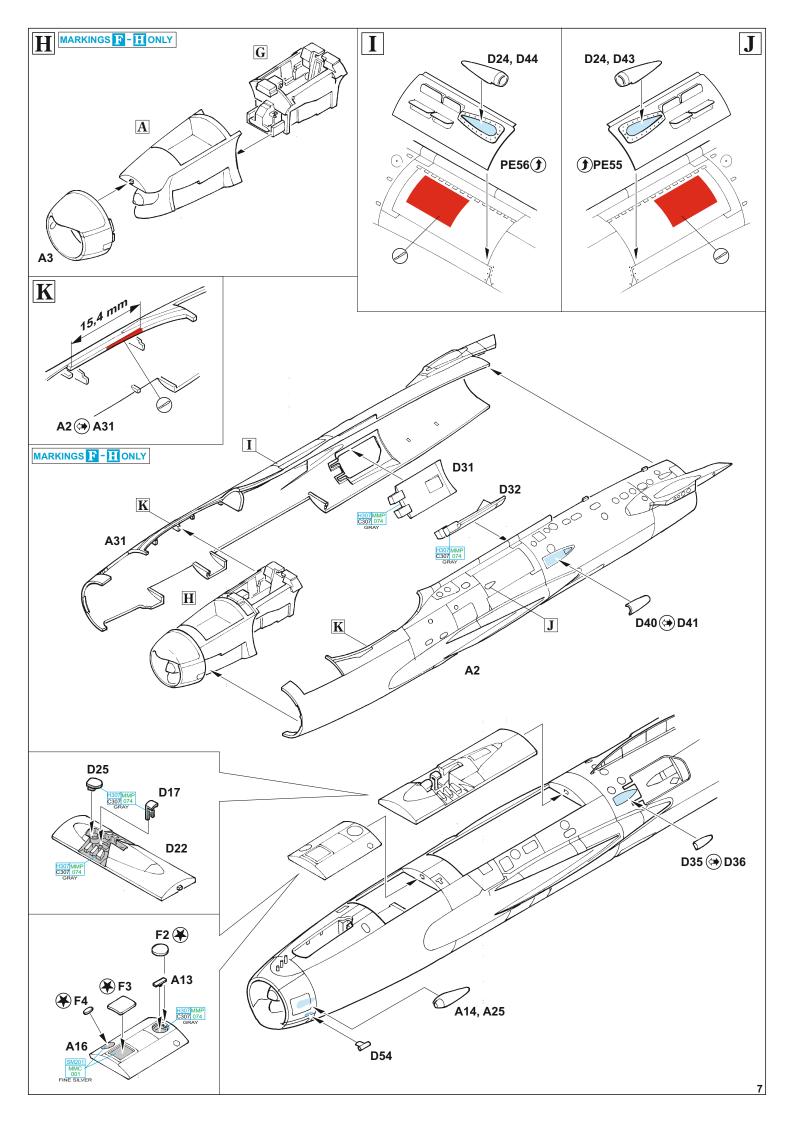
The Czechoslovak Air Force operated a total of 183 MiG-19s. In service, 48 aircraft were lost, which comes to 26.2%. The year 1962 was the worst year for losses, with twelve. The highest number of MiG-19s serving with the Czechoslovak Air Force was between 1961 and 1967. During its service, the expected lifespan of the airframe was at times more than doubled, which is a testament, despite the negatives, to the type's quality of construction and, no less importantly, its maintenance while in service.

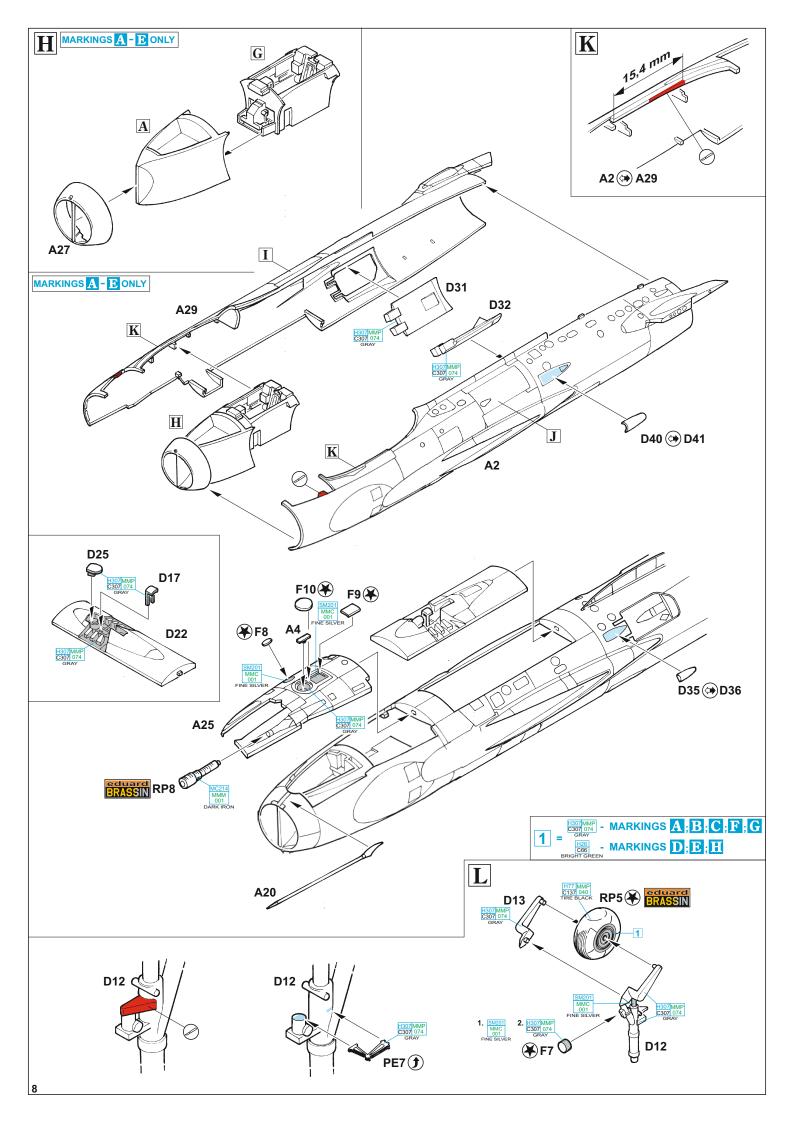


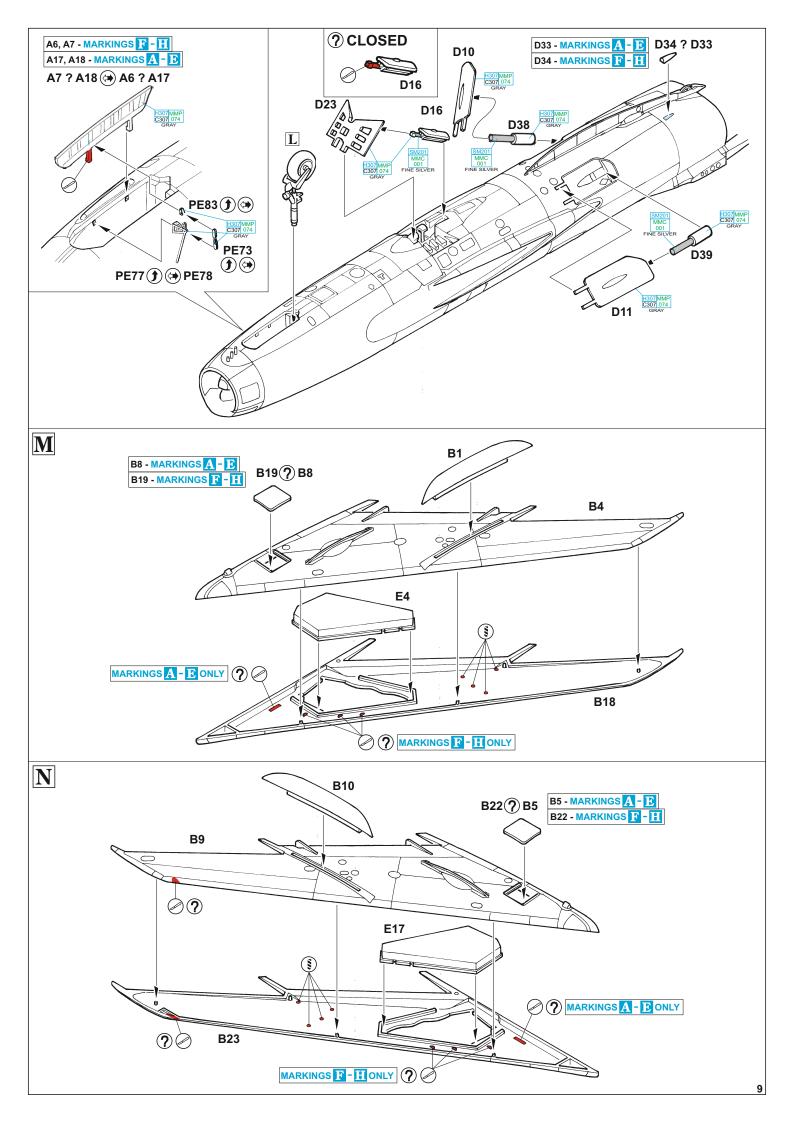


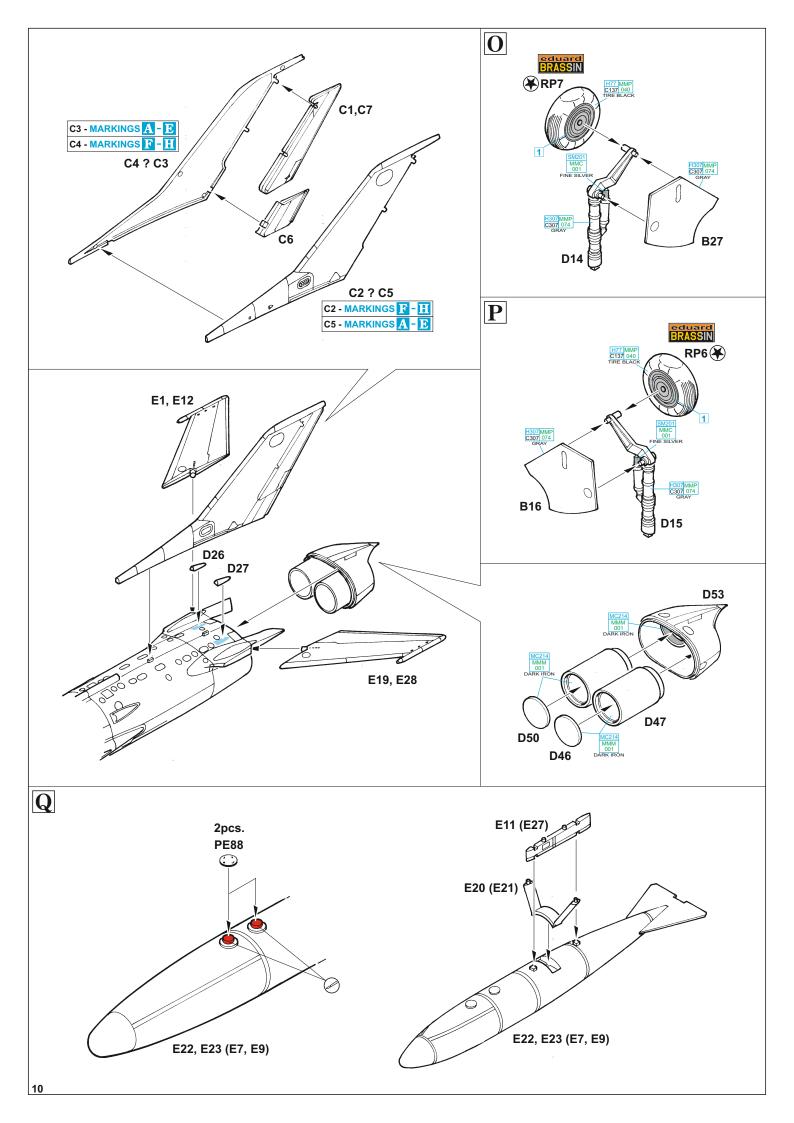


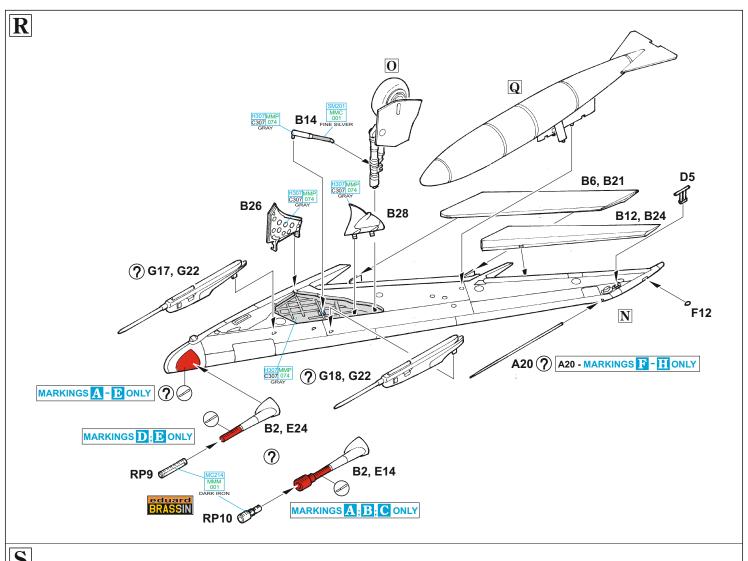


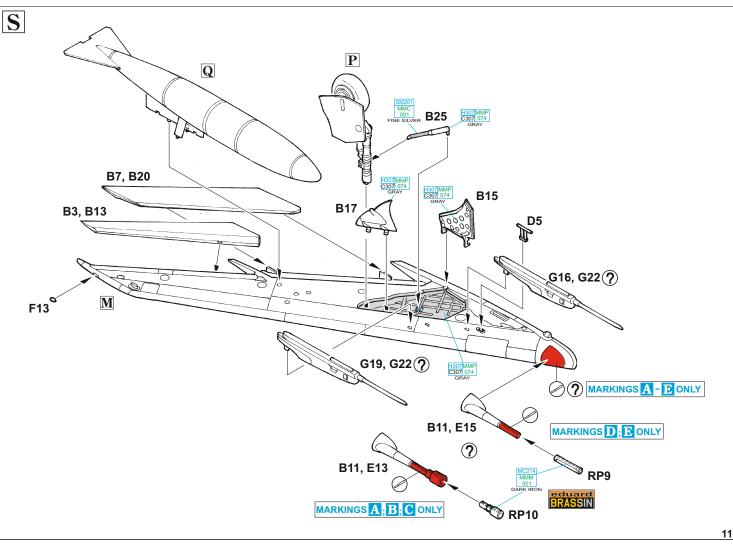


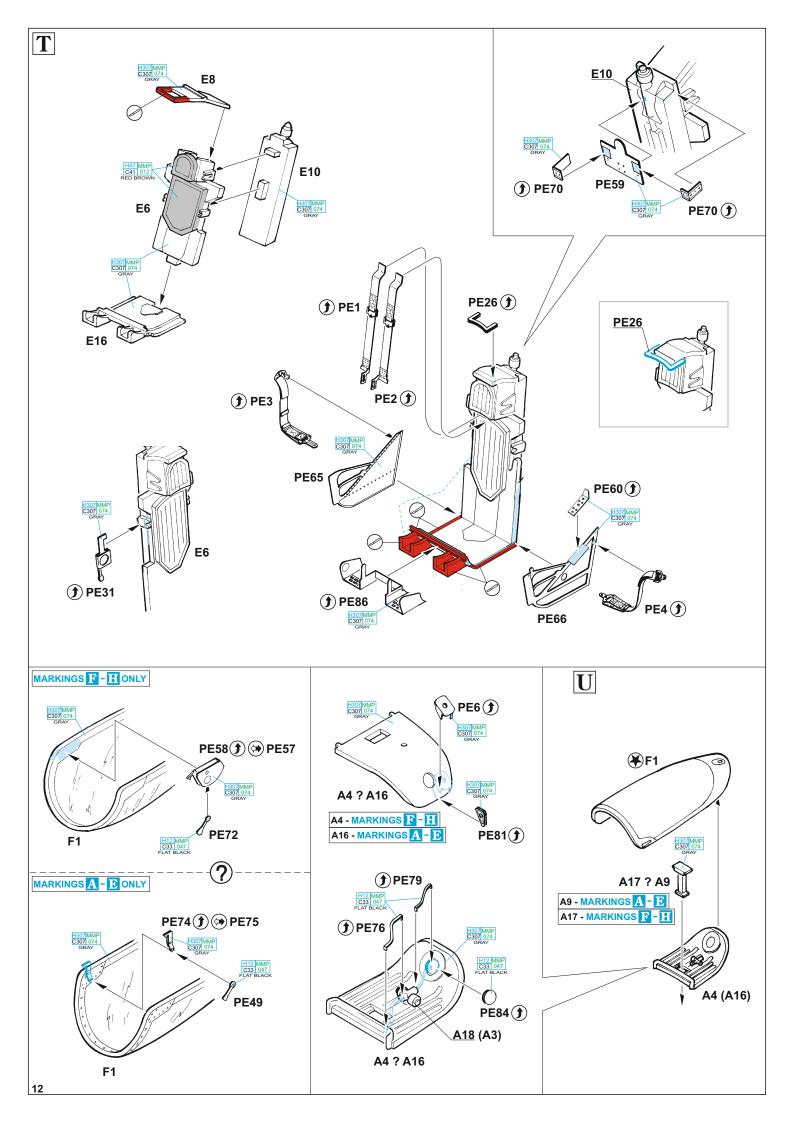


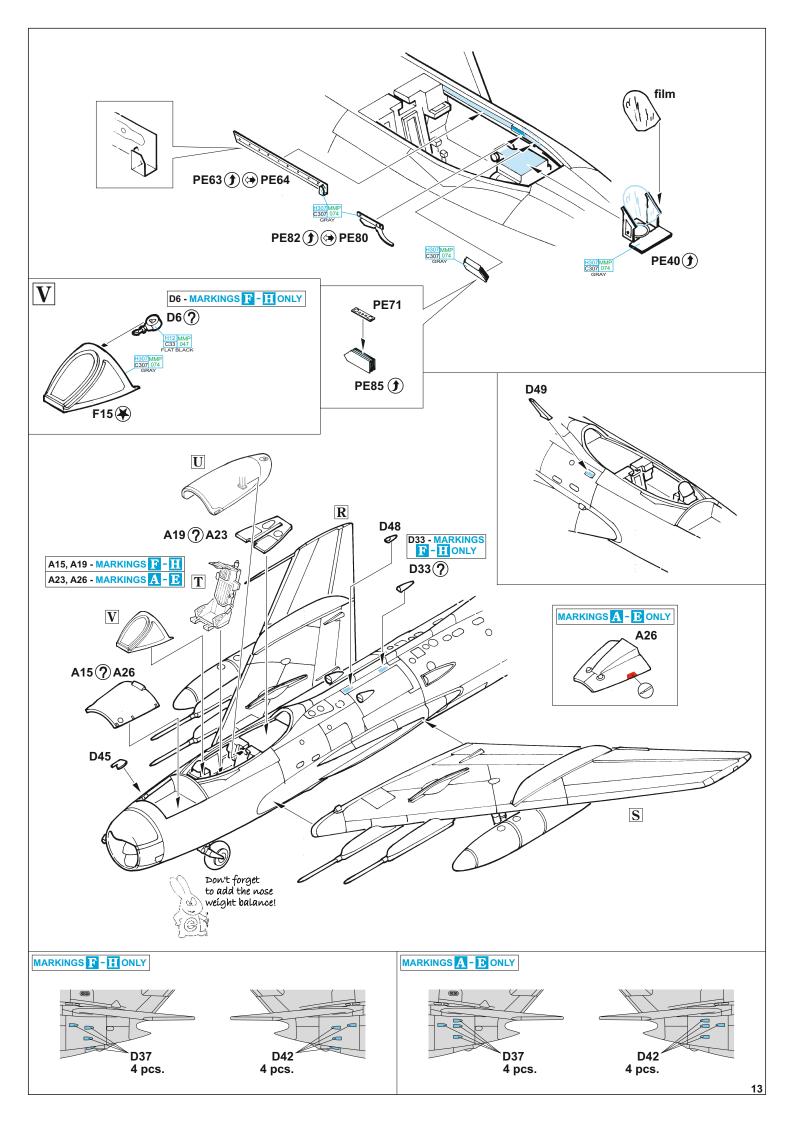


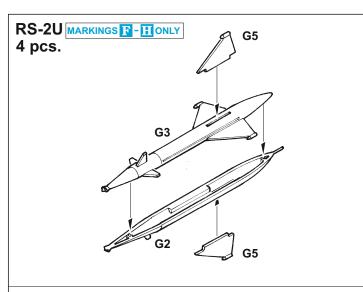


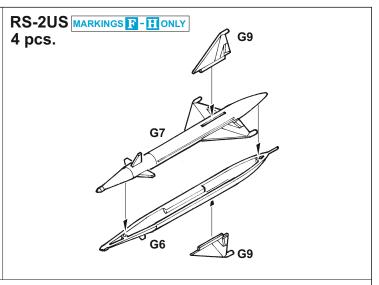


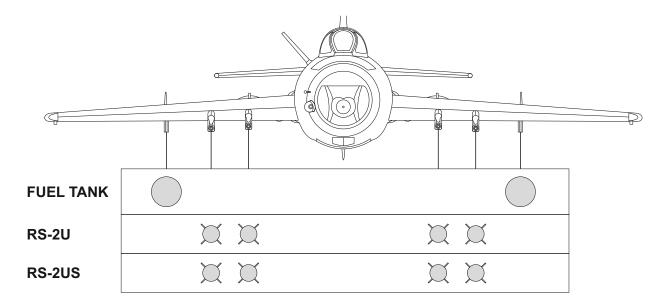


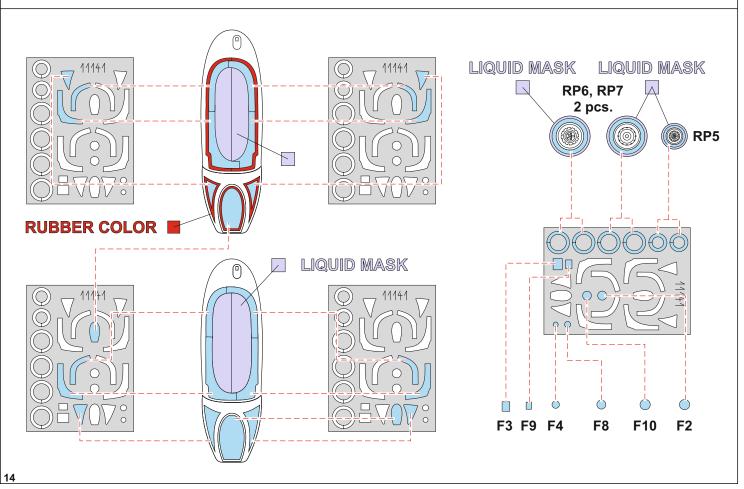






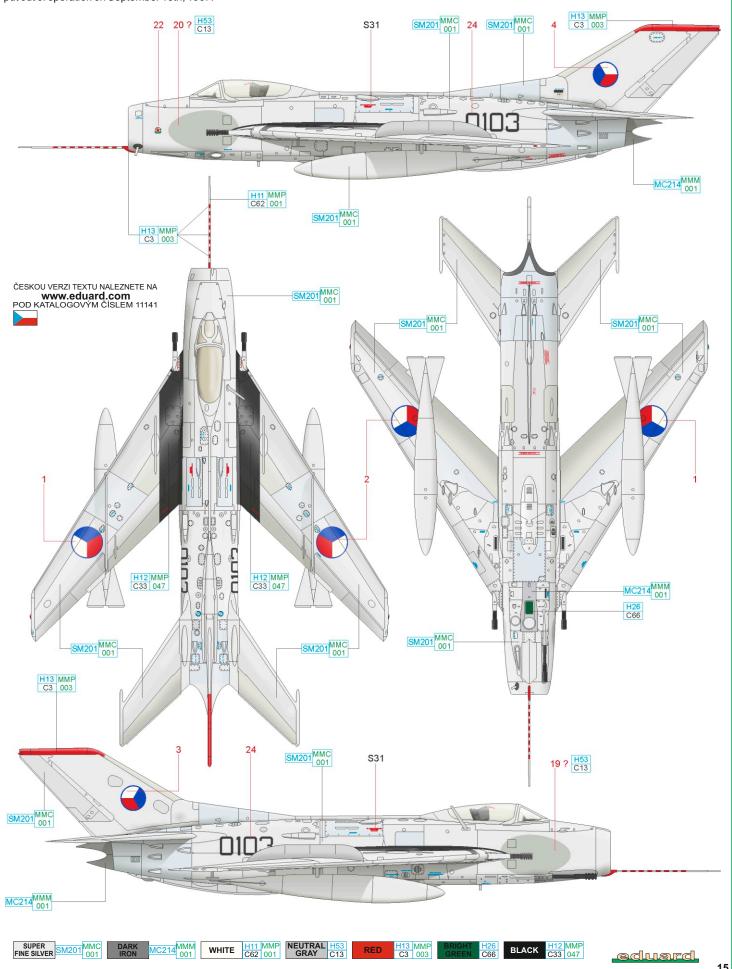






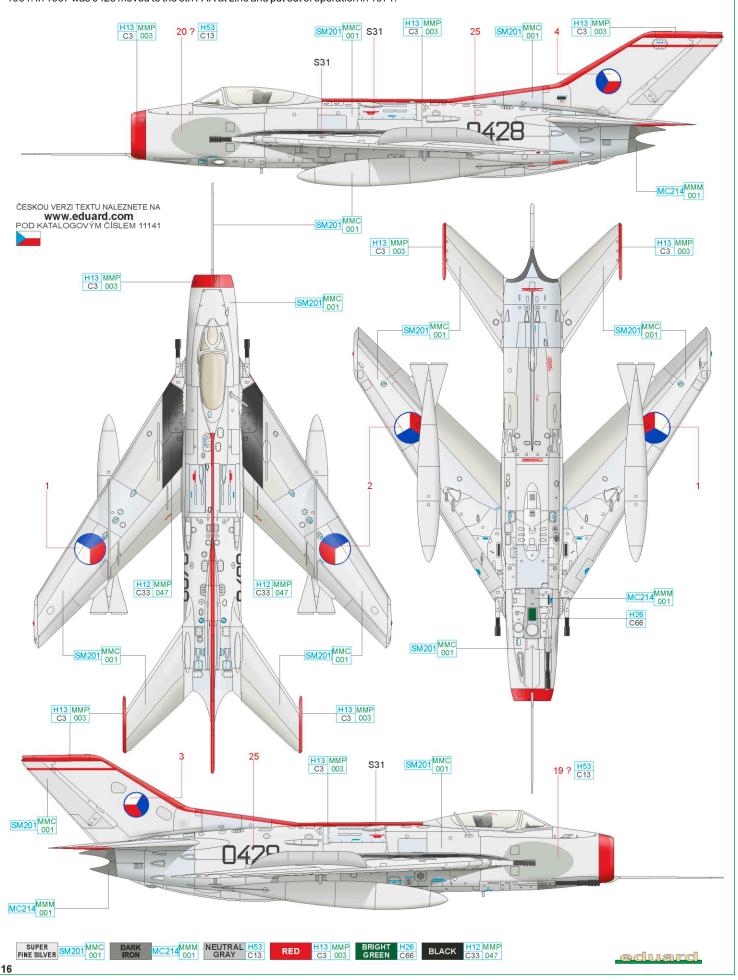
MiG-19S, c/n 950103, 1st Squadron, 9th Fighter Air Regiment, Czechoslovak Air Force, Bechyně AB, Czechoslovakia, June 1961

The 0103 was the third aircraft (and second flying) of the first batch (6 aircraft) of Czechoslovakia-build Farmer Cs produced by the Aero factory in late 1959. It was handed over to the 9th Fighter Air Regiment on March 29th, 1960. The 1st Sqn. was the only of the 9th FAR equipped by MiG-19s and was also "home" of the four-plane aerobatic group (The Box) led by Maj. Ján Patrík. The Box started displays in 1964 and was familiarly called Patríkovci. The 0103 aircraft was put out of operation on September 13th, 1967.



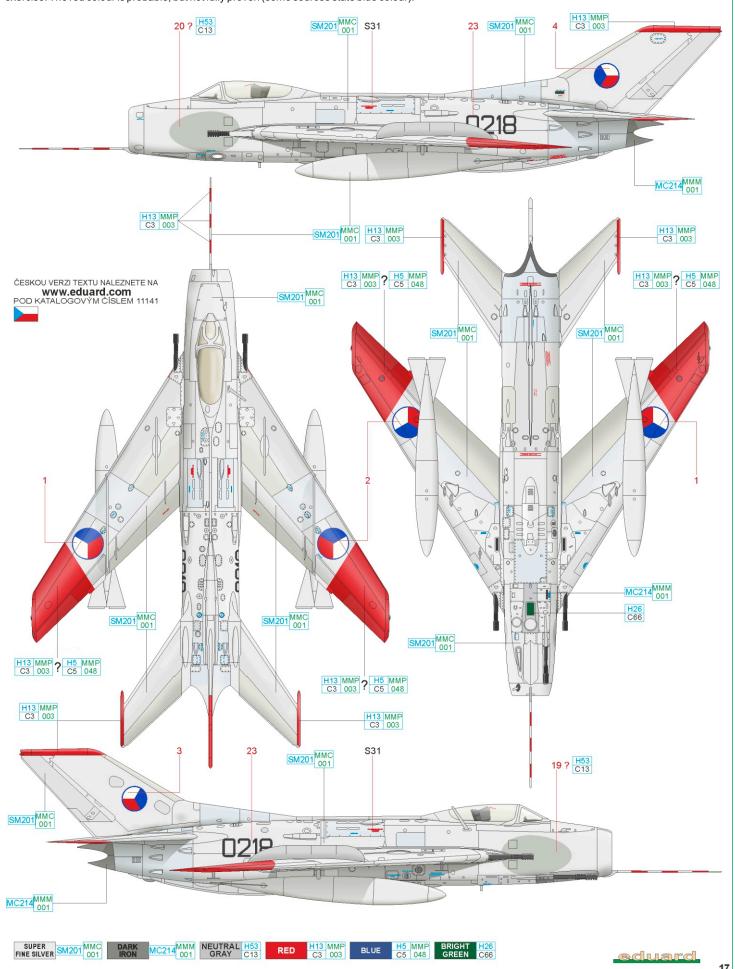
B MiG-19S, c/n 150428, 10th Squadron (Staff), 10th Air Force, Czechoslovak Air Force, Hradec Králové, Czechoslovakia, 1961

Czechoslovakia-built aircraft (28th aircraft of 4th series) served from August 1961 with the No 10 Sqn. (Staff) at Hradec Králové airbase, serving for training of the pilots of the 10th Air Force headquarters. It was also used by the Patríkovci aerobatic group occasionally. The maintenance was conducted by the 9th FAR based at Bechyně AB. The 0428 flown by Maj. Ladislav Zemánek performed solo display during Air Show at Sliač air base (SK - Slovakia) on August 29th, 1964. In 1967 was 0428 moved to the 5th FAR at Line and put out of operation in 1971.



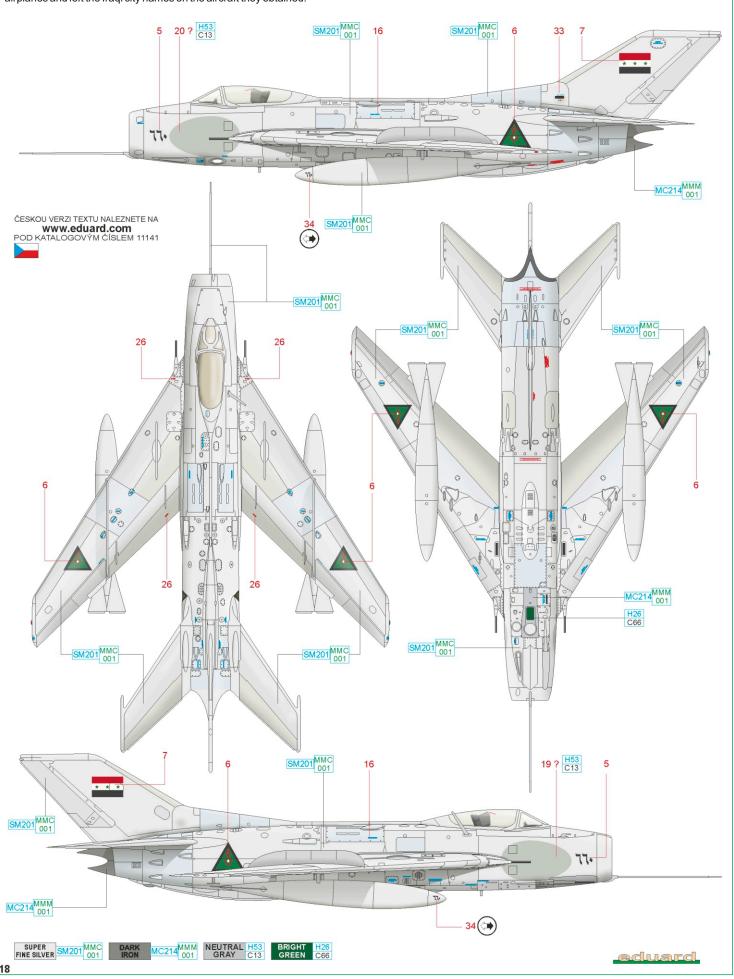
MiG-19S, c/n 050218, 1st Fighter Air Regiment, Czechoslovak Air Force, Planá near České Budějovice, Czechoslovakia,

Czechoslovakia-built (18th produced aircraft of 2nd series) aircraft manufactured in 1960, serving from March 25th, 1961 with 1st Fighter Air Regiment of Czechoslovak Air Force at the České Budějovice (Planá airbase). The aircraft was in service until 1967, when it was put out of operation and handed over to the VLU (Aerospace Research Center) in Prague, where it served as didactic tool. The red wingtips were temporary marking used during local military exercise. The red colour is probable, but not fully proven (some sources state blue colour).



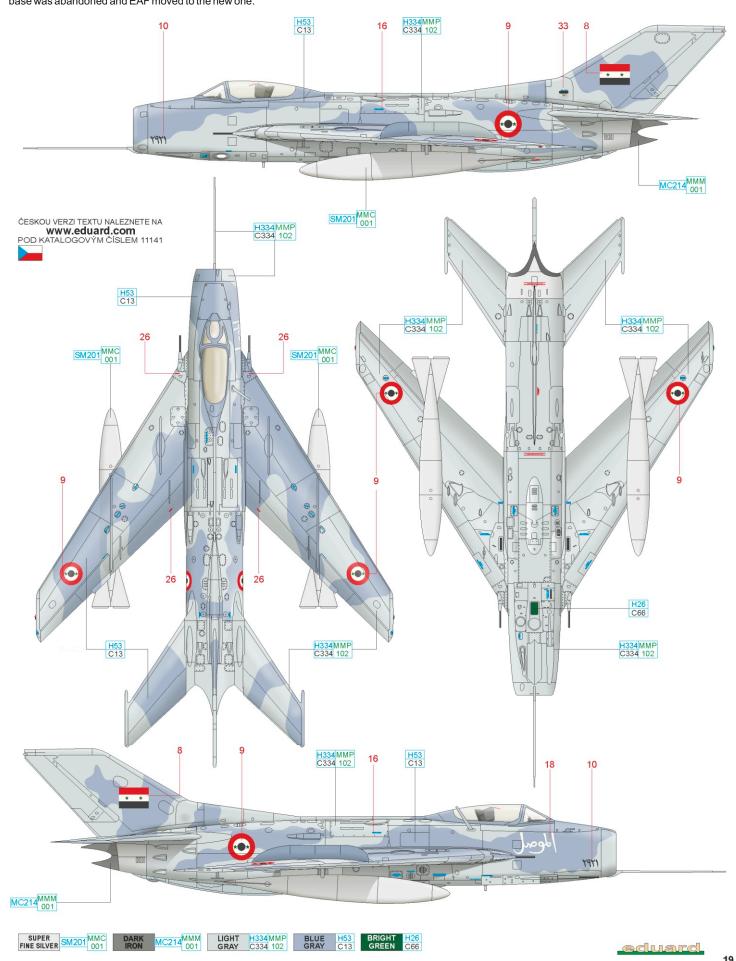
MiG-19S, Tactical No. 660, Iraqi Air Force, No. 11 Squadron, Al-Rashid air base, Republic of Iraq, 1963

The No. 11 Sqn. was the first IrAF unit to fly the MiG-19s starting in 1962 (receiving 12 aircraft). It is known that some of the aircraft had names of different Iraqi cities written in Arabic script under the cockpit. This aircraft had the name Basra and is one of the ones handed over to Egypt in 1964. The reason for the move was that only handful of MiG-19s remained in good condition after the 1963 Iraqi coup d'état. Egyptians adopted the habit of city names painted at the airplanes and left the Iraqi city names on the aircraft they obtained.



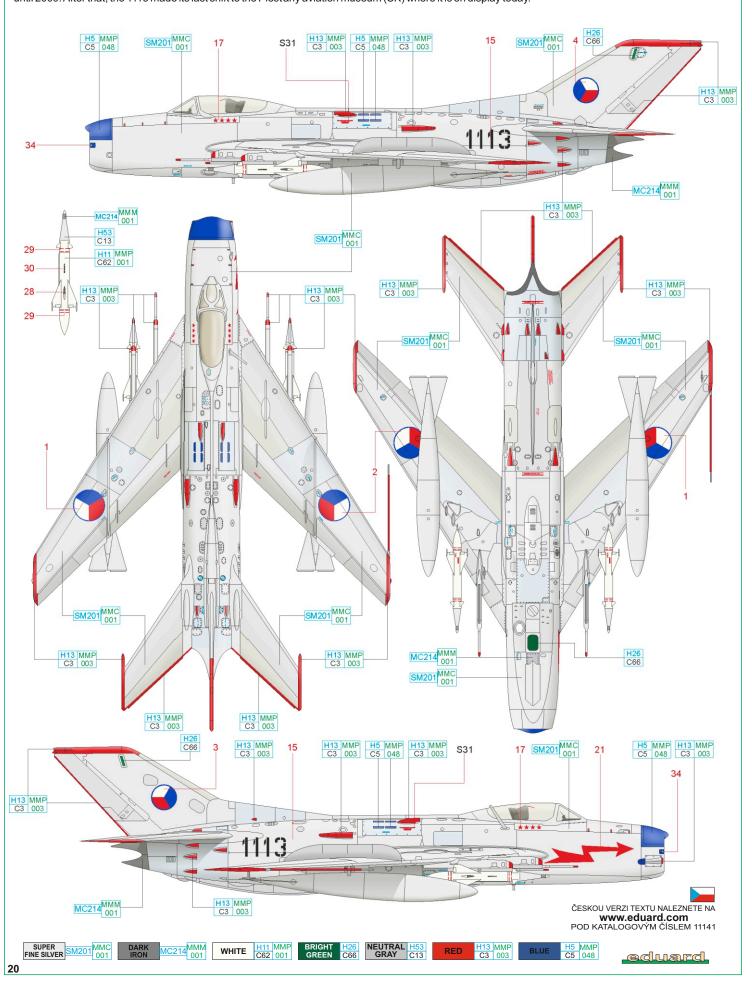
MiG-19S, Tactical No. 2921, United Arab Republic (Egyptian) Air Force, No. 29 Squadron, Fayid, Egypt, summer 1965

This aircraft has the name Mossoul written in Arabic transcription under the cockpit and is probably one of the MiG-19s obtained from IrAF during 1964. The Egyptians left the Iraqi City names, but also used their own cities names on the other aircraft (Cairo and others...). The UARAF only ever had two squadrons of MiG-19s (Nos. 20 and 21 Sqn.), later combined into one single unit due to severe losses of aircraft during training. The resulting No. 29 Sqn. was commanded by Alaa Barakat. The squadron was based at the old Fayid airbase, which is located close to the Great Bitter Lake of the Suez Canal. In 1980s the base was abandoned and EAF moved to the new one.



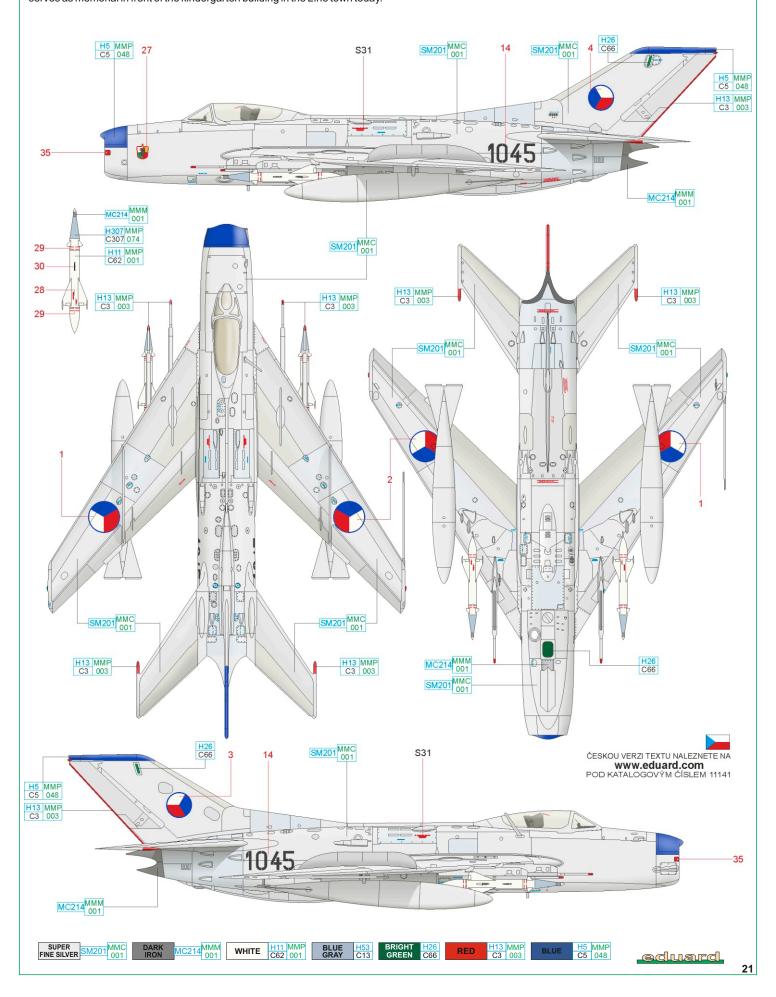
MiG-19PM, c/n 651113, 4th Fighter Air Regiment, Czechoslovak Air Force, Pardubice, Czechoslovakia, 1967

The last Soviet build MiG-19PM served with 1st FAR based at the Planá airbase. Later (probably 1966) was handed over to the 4th FAR located at Pardubice airbase, where it suffered an unidentified technical problem on January 26th, 1967. After the aircraft was put out of operation, it was shortly on display in Karlovy Vary before moved to the Prešov Air Force School (SK). Later it was handed over to the aviation museum in Košice (SK) where it was on display until 2009. After that, the 1113 made its last shift to the Piešťany aviation museum (SK) where it is on display today.



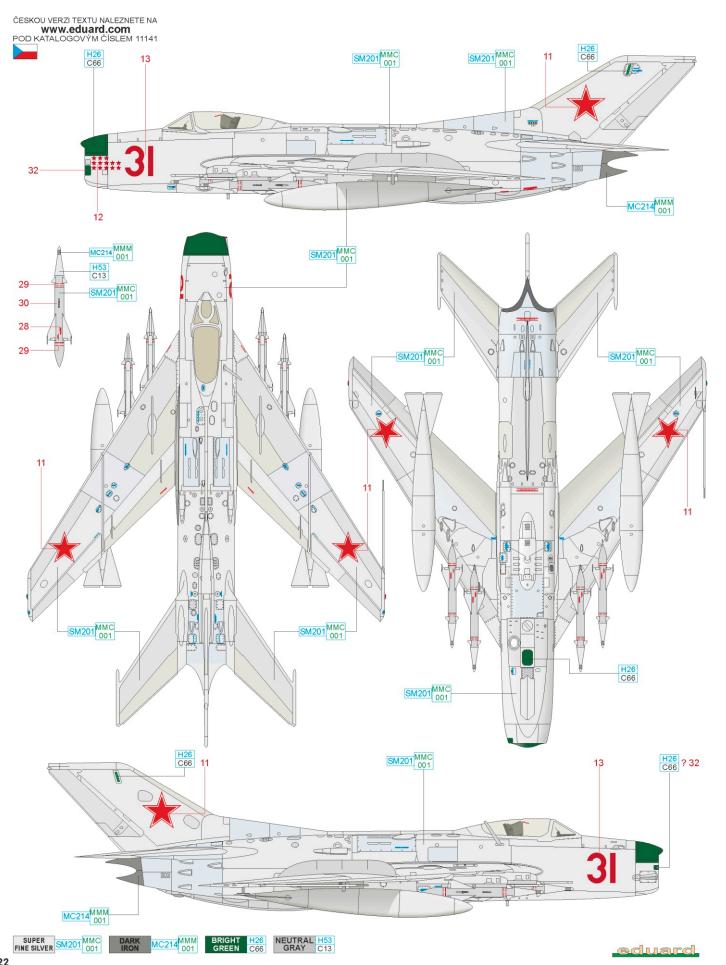
MiG-19PM, c/n 651045, 5th Fighter Air Regiment, Czechoslovak Air Force, Líně, Czechoslovakia, 1970

The aircraft was part of the 25 aircraft delivered from USSR on February 15th, 1961. The airplane was in service with the 5th FAR at the Líně airbase (near Pilsen) and stayed there until June 2nd, 1972. The same day it was heading to the Malacky (SK) airbase together with three other remaining MiG-19PMs. The pilot hit the ground radio station antenna during the low pass, damaging the wing. The aircraft was put out of operation as a result after 753 flight hours and serves as memorial in front of the kindergarten building in the Líně town today.



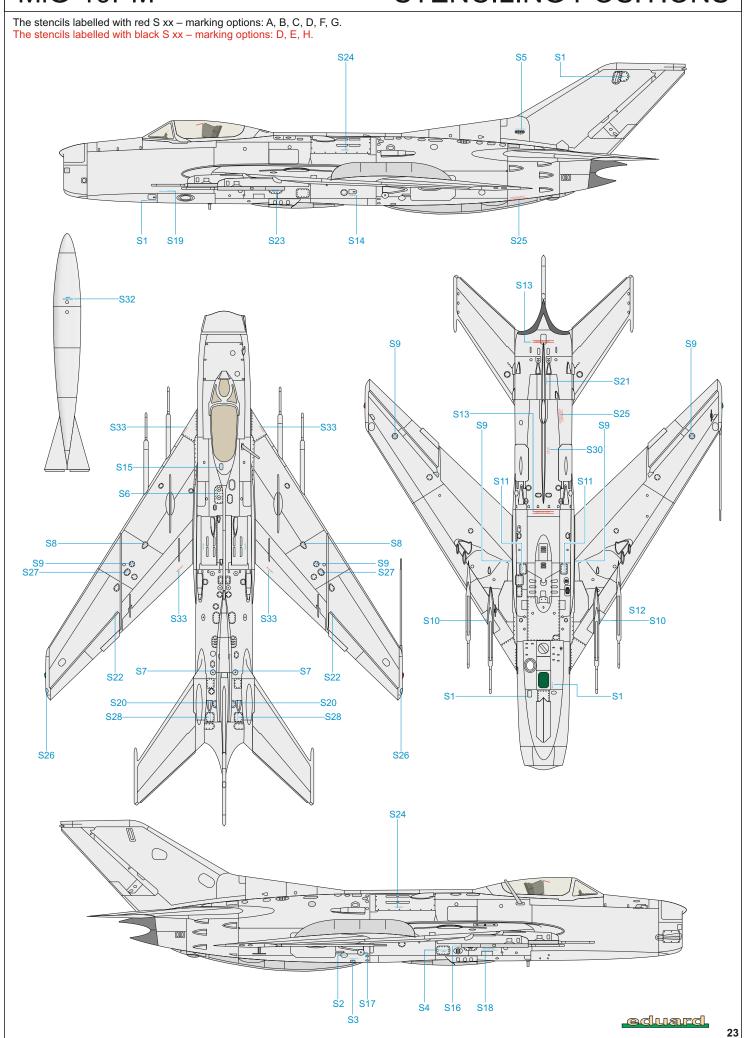
MiG-19PM, "Red 31", unknown unit, Soviet Union Air Force, Soviet Union, 1960s

Although the MiG-19 was quite short lived aircraft in its country of origin regarding the front line units (as it was shortly replaced by more advanced MiG-21s), it remained in service with VVS (Voyenno-Vozdushnye Sily – Military Air Forces) of Soviet Union until 1977. Many of the Farmers were used for combat and live weapons trainings. It might be the case of the "Red 31", as it wore 13 "kill" signs on the nose (photo of fully armed "Red 31" exists). These "kills" may denote the destroyed target drones, or they were simply painted as a kind of some propaganda.



MiG-19PM

STENCILING POSITIONS



MiG-19S

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