

Russian jets join fight against Iraqi rebels

With deliveries of new U.S. jets and helicopters slow to arrive, Iraq's government is bolstering its air force with Russian attack aircraft to help stem the jihadist-led Sunni offensive

SUKHOI SU-25 (NATO codename "Frogfoot")

Ground-attack aircraft, similar to U.S. **A-10 "Warthog"**.
Used by Russia in Afghanistan and Chechnya conflicts

Cost
\$11m

Crew: 1

Protection

Heavily armoured cockpit and airframe, explosion-proof fuel tanks to withstand enemy fire

Armament

One 30mm cannon, up to 4,000kg of bombs, rockets or missiles on 10 underwing pylons

Dimensions

Engines
Twin turbojets

Height
4.80m

Wingspan
14.36m

Length
15.53m

Entered service **July 1981**

Maximum takeoff weight **17,600kg**

Maximum speed **Mach 0.8 (975km/h)**

Typical combat radius **375km**

Maximum range **2,500km**

Service ceiling **7,000m**

Rate of climb **58m / sec**

REBUILDING IRAQ'S AIR FORCE



Russia: Sending 12 second-hand **Su-25** jets to Iraq. Also fulfilling contract to supply 40 **Mi-28 / Mi-35** attack helicopters, along with air defence systems. **Mig-29** fighters among other possible purchases



Czech Republic: In talks to sell seven **Mi-35** armed helicopters to Iraq.

Also planning to supply 12 **L-159** attack aircraft



Mi-35



United States: Providing Iraq with 36 **F-16** fighters, 24 **Apache** helicopter gunships and 24 **AT-6** light attack aircraft. Only one F-16 delivered so far



Iran: Reportedly making preparations to return some Iraqi warplanes that fled to Iranian airbases to escape destruction in 1991 Gulf War. Aircraft include 24 French **Mirage F1** fighters and 80 Russian jets