

MiG-15 celebrates 70 years of flight

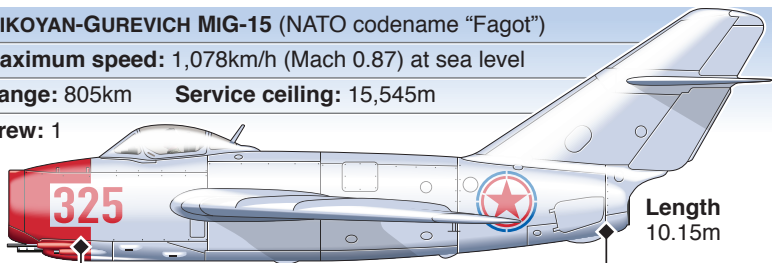
The MiG-15, the Soviet jet that stunned the West during the Korean War, remains in service 70 years after it first took to the skies

MIKOYAN-GUREVICH MiG-15 (NATO codename "Fagot")

Maximum speed: 1,078km/h (Mach 0.87) at sea level

Range: 805km **Service ceiling:** 15,545m

Crew: 1



Armament: 1 x 37mm and 2 x 23mm cannons, plus rockets or bombs

Engine: VK-1 turbojet, 26.7kN thrust (copy of British Rolls-Royce Nene)

■ **Dec 30, 1947:** First flight

■ **1949:** Enters service – first Soviet fighter with ejection seat, pressurised cockpit and swept wing

■ **1950:** Makes Korean War debut, quickly proving superior to Western jets and giving communist forces aerial advantage until hurried delivery of U.S. **F-86 Sabre**

■ **1950s:** Chinese MiG-15s engage Republic of China and U.S. aircraft in combat over Taiwan Strait

■ **1960s:** Basic MiG design proves capable again during Vietnam War, in form of more advanced **MiG-17**

■ **1970s-present:** Two-seat **UTI** trainer version continues to serve air forces of many countries into 1990s. North Korea remains sole operator

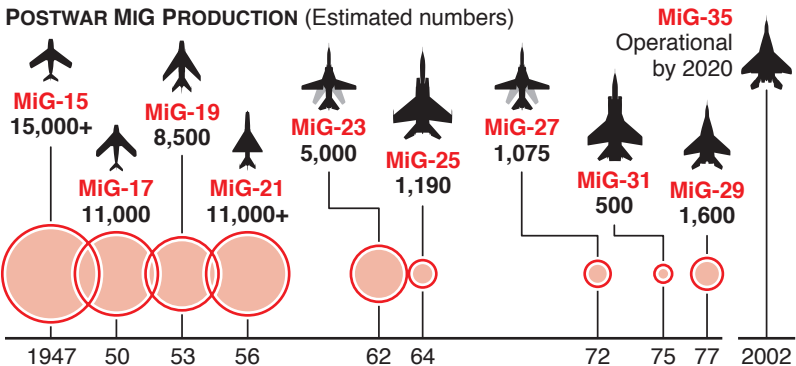


■ **1953:** West obtains intact MiG-15 with defection of North Korean pilot, **No Kum-Sok**. At end of war, U.S. Air Force claims 10 to 1 kill ratio for MiG-Sabre battles*

■ **1956:** MiG-15s flown by Egyptian Air Force during Suez Crisis



POSTWAR MIG PRODUCTION (Estimated numbers)



*More recent research suggests overall kill ratio closer to 1.8 to 1, and 1.3 to 1 against Russian-flown MiG-15s