

# LINDEN HILL DECALS



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## “Millennium MiGs”

Upgraded and Late Service MiG-21s



**1/72 Scale: LHD 72004**

Limited edition decal sheet

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### Camouflage Notes:

- MiG-21SM "17" VVS/USSR.** The 18<sup>th</sup> 'Vitebsk' Guards Regiment was founded in 1938 at Khabarovsk in the Russian Far East. During the Great Patriotic War, the famed 'Normandie Nieman' Free French squadron flew as the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron of the 18<sup>th</sup> under the command of HSU Maurice Lefevre. The squadron received its MiG-21SMs in 1982, which were replaced by the MiG-27D and K in 1989. "17" was decorated as shown in 1984 to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the 303<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Division. The 'Normandie Nieman' heritage of the 18<sup>th</sup> is clear from the white arrow decoration. This SM variant was visually almost identical to the export MF version. Our correspondents in the former USSR believe that most later VVS MiG-21s were camouflaged with standard colours also used on the MiG-23 (see our sheet LHD 72002). This would mean that the colour scheme represented here was *FS 30045 Dark Brown, FS 34258 Light Olive, FS 34102 Dark Green, FS 30219 Tan and FS 25526 Light Blue (underside). All dielectric panels were painted green (FS 14110).* These shades do seem a close match to the colour photographs we have seen.
- MiG-21 bis SAU "Blue 15 - Soviet Lithuania" VVS/ USSR.** The 115<sup>th</sup> Guards Regiment used its MiG-21s in anger over Afghanistan as 'dumb' bombers in the early years of the Soviet intervention there (up to 1985). Flying from Kokaidy (now in Uzbekistan), situated only 25km from the border, the 115<sup>th</sup> normally covered the northern districts of Afghanistan. Because of the hot and high conditions, the standard payload comprised either 2 FAB-250Kg bombs or S-5 unguided rockets, fired from UB-16-57 and UB-32-57 multi-purpose pods. Despite the MiG-21's relative lack of sophistication when used as a bomber, the bis variant was highly thought by both pilots and ground crew. It was considered a reliable and relatively vice-free aircraft (in contrast to the much-maligned MiG-21SMT). "Blue 15" was overall silver. Note the bis SAU modifications of RSBN antenna under the nose and on top of the tail.
- MiG-21UM "Blue 10" NII-VVS, Russian Federation.** This 'sparka' is used as a chase and trials aircraft at the VVS test center at Akhtubinsk. The original camouflage was as per "17" (option no. 1 above). However by 1995 this had weathered considerably with all upper surface colours taking on a much lighter hue. *Note the different positioning of the wing stars (A2).* In common with other NII aircraft the stars face outwards and perpendicular to the wing leading edge, not straight forward.
- MiG-21UM "White 34" Bulgarian Air Force (BVVS).** The most colourful BVVS MiG-21s were based at Baltchik on the Black Sea coast. This base has now closed and thus the Baltchik emblem (B3 and 4) has now disappeared from BVVS MiG-21s. The Baltchik based MiG-21s appear to be second-hand VVS aircraft, delivered by the USSR as part of a military aid package in 1990. Correspondingly the aircraft sport a variant of the standard VVS scheme listed above. This UM however does not appear to feature the FS 30045 dark brown element of the camouflage.
- MiG-21bis "White 90" Bulgarian Air Force (BVVS).** Another Baltchik bird, this time a single-seat bis variant. Clearly sporting the standard VVS five-colour scheme, as outlined above, but heavily weathered.
- MiG-21bis SAU "White 345" Bulgarian Air Force (BVVS).** The bis SAU aircraft at Graf Ignatievo AB are the most capable of Bulgaria's MiG-21, having undergone a recent local mini-upgrade to enable some to participate in NATO's "Partnership for Peace" exercises. The camouflage scheme is a local variant of the old VVS scheme. Our estimate is Light Olive FS 34373, Dark Brown FS 30140, and Dark Green FS 34097 with the usual FS 25526 light blue underside.
- MiG-21UM "Red 27" Georgian Air Force.** One of two UMs originally manufactured in Tbilisi at State Aircraft Factory 31 (from a total of over 1,100) and retained by the Georgian Air Force. "Red 27" is currently undergoing an upgrade and will be based at Tbilisi-Marneuli AB to be used as an interceptor by the Air Force. Photographed in 2000 sporting once again the standard VVS camouflage as stated above but heavily weathered. The tan in particular has taken on a pinkish hue.
- Chengdu J-7III "Red 30163" PLAAF, PR China.** Little is known about the J-7III apart from the fact that it is an unlicensed Chinese copy of the MiG-21M, which first flew in 1984. The standard MiG-21 KM-1M ejector seat is replaced in the J-7III by the Type IV seat to be found in the F-7P (the Type IV itself being a derivative of the earlier Russian SK-1 design for the MiG-21F). Note also the shorter parabreak housing at the base of the tail fin. Camouflage scheme estimated as Sand FS 33711, Dark Green FS 34095 and Light Blue FS 34566 (undersurfaces).
- MiG-21 Lancer B, Romanian Air Force (FAR).** One of the first MiG-21s to be upgraded by the Romanian Aerostar Company. The Lancer features a number of external differences to the standard Mig-21UM and many more internal upgrades. These include prominent external cooling ducts on both port and starboard sides of the nose, a cooling grill on the starboard side to the rear of the duct, additional RWR antenna on the tailfin, prominent offset IFF blade antenna on the fuselage underside (underneath the cockpit) and chaff/flare dispensers under the rear fuselage. The Magazine 'World Air Power Journal' volume 41 (Summer 2000) is an indispensable reference for photographs when building a Lancer. For more detailed images of the Lancer airframe, please see the Linden Hill Imports Web site (<http://www.lindenhillimports.com/lancer.htm>). Colour scheme estimated as Tan FS 20400, Olive Green FS 24090, Dark Green FS 24062, Dark Brown 10075 and Light Blue FS 25466. The leading edge of the tail fin is matt black, as is the black anti-glare strip in front of the cockpit. Please note that ALL Lancers carry the serial numbers above as well as beneath the wings, contrary to the illustration in "World Air Power Journal". Please note that the main cockpit colour of all Lancers is light grey, not the MiG-21 standard blue/green.
- MiG-21MF "Red 901" Romanian Air Force (FAR).** Pre-upgrade M or MF variant in service with the FAR (some photos show 901's canopy with blanking plate instead of an external mirror, a hallmark of the M variant). All over light grey colour scheme (approx. FS 26495).
- MiG-21 Lancer A "Black 810" Romanian Air Force (FAR).** M variant upgraded by Aerostar at Bacau. The Lancer A is the ground-attack version, thus the tactical camouflage scheme. Colour scheme as with option 9, the MiG-21 Lancer B.
- MiG-21 Lancer C "Black 6607" Romanian Air Force (FAR).** Upgraded MF variant. The Lancer C is the air defence variant of the Lancer family. We had the chance to examine a Lancer C closely at the RIAT at RAF Cottesmore in July 2001 and match colour schemes. The camouflage scheme is comprised of a three-tone grey upper surface (FS 26373, 25630 and 26173) and a bright light blue underside (FS 25466). The camouflage scheme was sprayed without masking beforehand and edges are quite feathered. Matt black anti-glare strip forward of the cockpit windscreen, as with the Lancer A, but no black tail fin leading edge.

**Bonus option, LHD 72004 only:**

- MiG-21UM "Red 6906" Romanian Air Force (FAR).** Photographed at Bacau prior to probable Lancer upgrade in 1997. All over light grey colour scheme (approx. FS 26495).

### Recommended kits:

1/72 scale: Fujimi MiG-21bis/MF, Bilek MiG-21UM (Bilek kits available directly from Linden Hill Imports)

1/48 scale: Academy MiG-21bis/MF. Use our NeOmega MiG-21UM resin conversion set (NECV 48003) for the MiG-21UM and Lancer B. A photo-etch Romanian Lancer B conversion set (including revised 'glass cockpit' detail) will also be available from Linden Hill soon.

**Additional MiG-21 products available from Linden Hill (<http://www.lindenhillimports.com>):**

NeOmega MiG-2MF/bis resin cockpit detail set in 1/48 scale

NeOmega MiG-21UM resin conversion set in 1/48 scale

Equipage MiG-21 detailed resin wheel hubs and rubber tyres in both 1/72 and 1/48 scales

Extratech MiG-21UM photo-etch cockpit detail set in 1/72 scale.

*References: "Avioane Reactive in Culorile Fortelor Aeriene ale Romaniei" (various authors, Editura Modelism, Bucharest, 1997), various Mir Aviatu issues including especially 2.96, Aviatziya y Vremya issue 1/1995, "MiG-21bis" (Przemislaw Skulski, ACE Publications), World Air Power Journal Vols. 36, 41, and 43, "Hot Skies over Afghanistan" (V. Markovsky, Tekhnika Molodezhi Publishing, Moscow 2000) Air Power International (16), Linden Hill archive photos and the unofficial Bulgarian Air Force Web site (<http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/Barracks/8515/>).*

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*Special thanks to: Capt. Chirita Laurentiu, Lancer pilot of the Fortele Aeriene Romane.*

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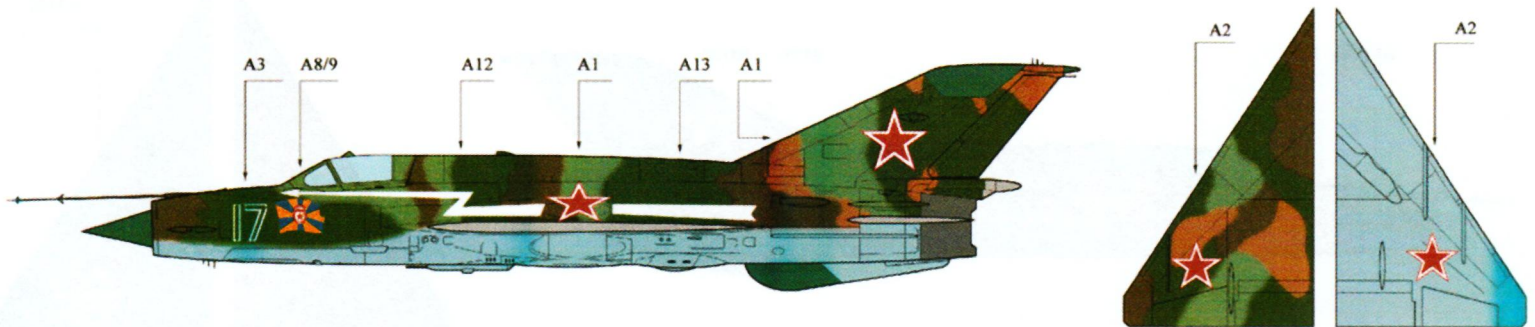
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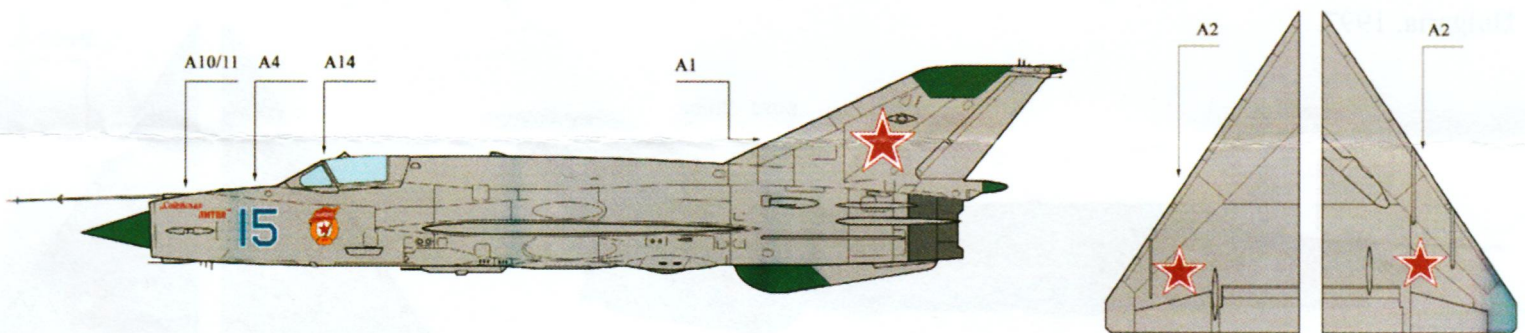


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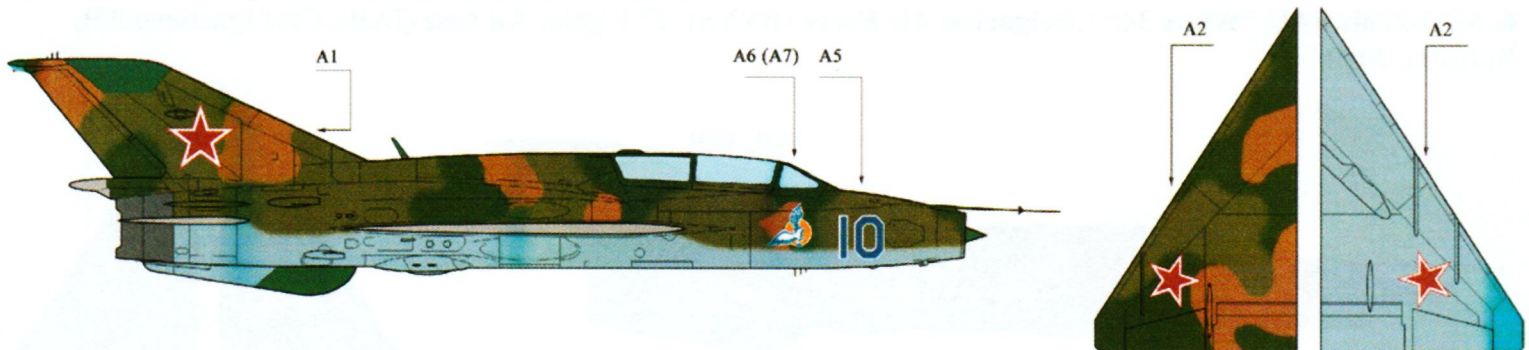
**1. MiG-21SM "17" VVS USSR.** 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 18<sup>th</sup> 'Vitebsk' Guards Fighter-Bomber Regiment, 303<sup>rd</sup> Composite IAD, 1<sup>st</sup> Air Army, Galyenki AB. Far Eastern Military District, USSR. 303 IAD 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary special scheme, 1984.



**2. MiG-21bis SAU "Blue 15 - Soviet Lithuania" VVS USSR.** 115<sup>th</sup> Guards Fighter Regiment, Kokaidy AB, Turkestan Military District, USSR, October 1985. Deployed over Afghanistan as a bomber by 40<sup>th</sup> Air Army.



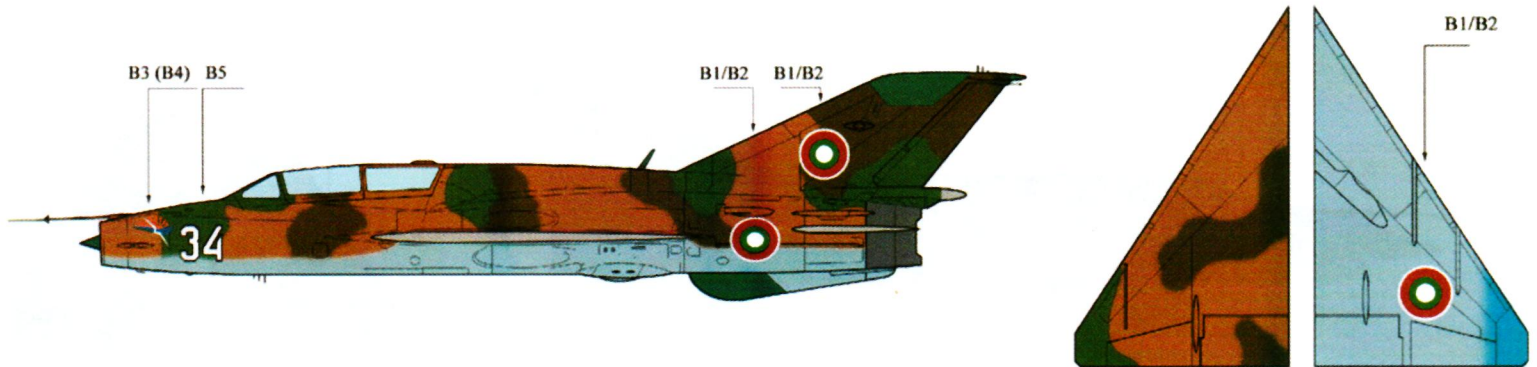
**3. MiG-21UM "Blue 10", NII-VVS.** Scientific and Research Institute of the VVS, Akhtubinsk AB, Volga/Southeastern Military District, Russian Federation, 1995.



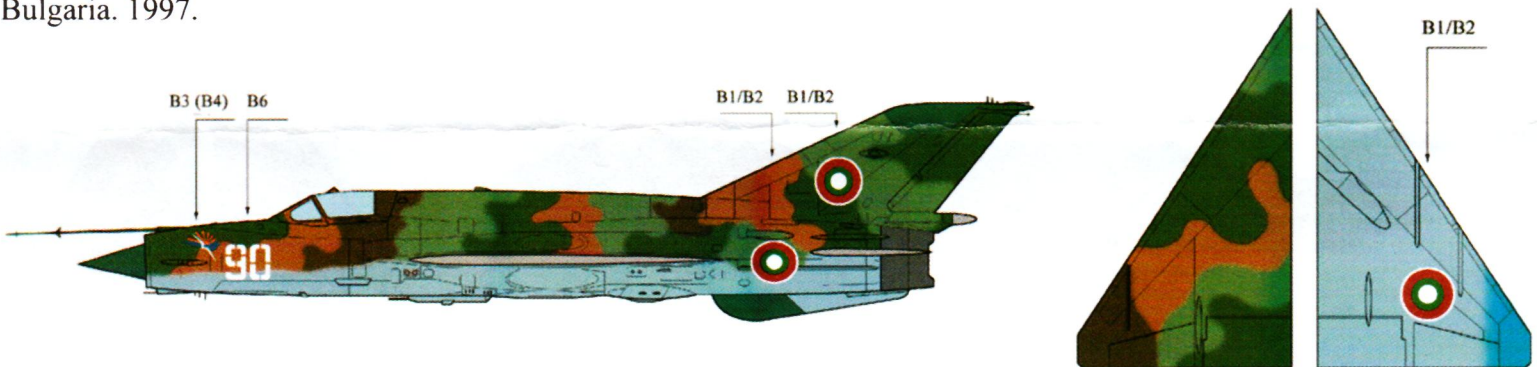


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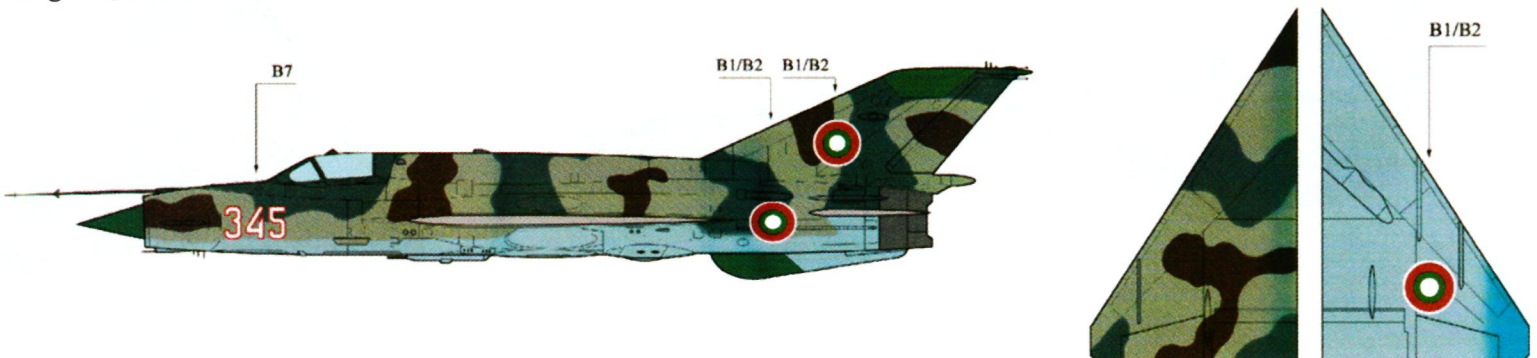
**4. MiG-21UM "White 34" Bulgarian Air Force (BVVS). 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 6<sup>th</sup> Fighter Air Base (IAB), Baltchik AB, Bulgaria. 1997.**



**5. MiG-21bis "White 90" Bulgarian Air Force (BVVS). 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 6<sup>th</sup> Fighter Air Base (IAB), Baltchik AB, Bulgaria. 1997.**



**6. MiG-21bis SAU "White 345", Bulgarian Air Force (BVVS). 3<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Air base (IAB), Graf Ignatievo AB, Bulgaria, 2000.**

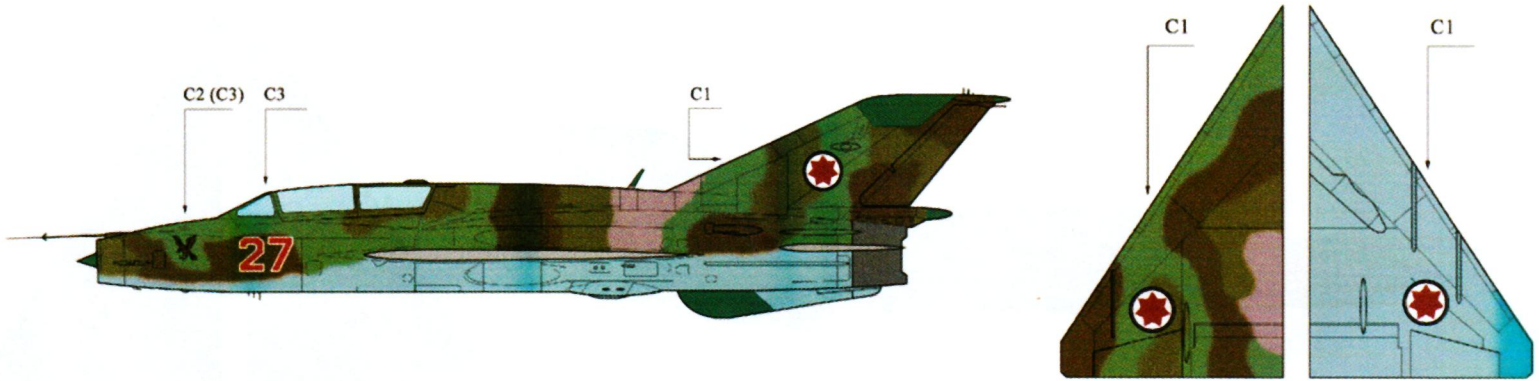




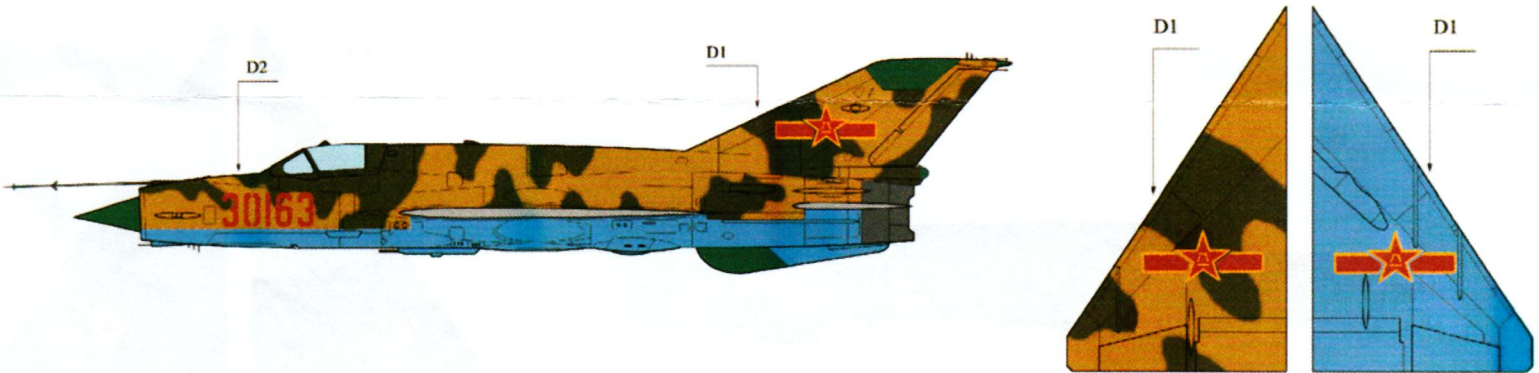


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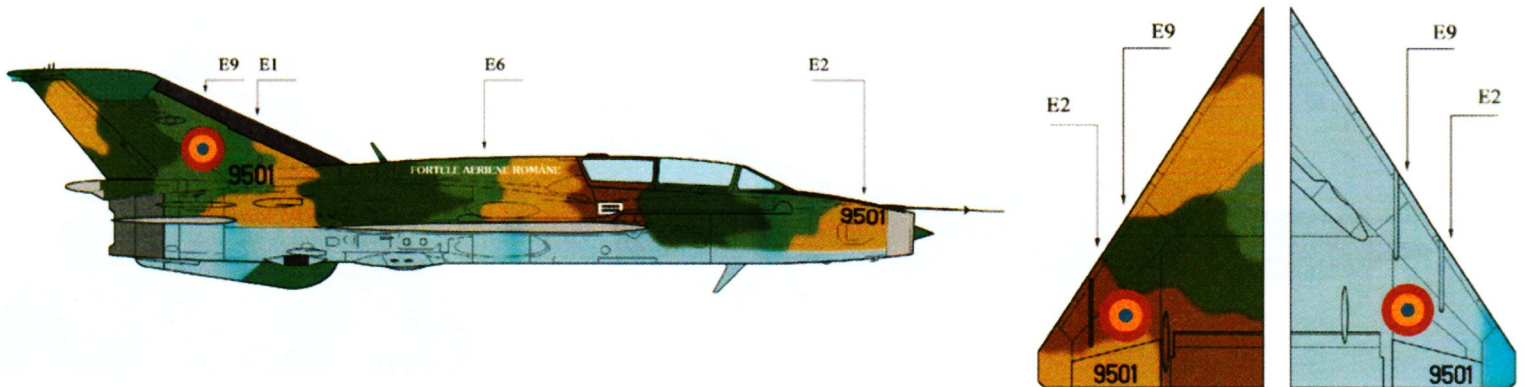
**7. MiG-21UM "Red 27" Georgian Air Force.** Air Defence Detachment, Tbilisi International Airport, Republic of Georgia, 2001



**8. Chengdu J-7III "Red 30163" PLAAF, P.R. China.** Unknown Regiment, Manchuria, 1999.



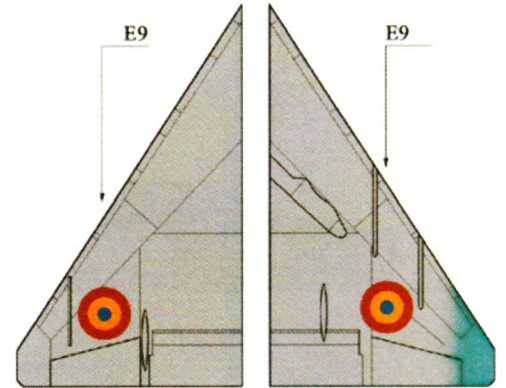
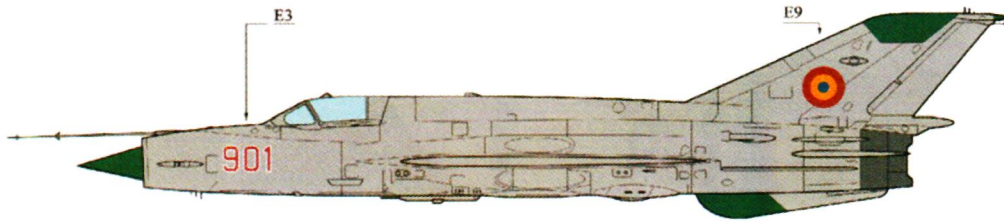
**9. MiG-21 Lancer B "Black 9501", Romanian Air Force (FAR),** 86<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Group, Borcea-Fetesti AB, Romania, 2000



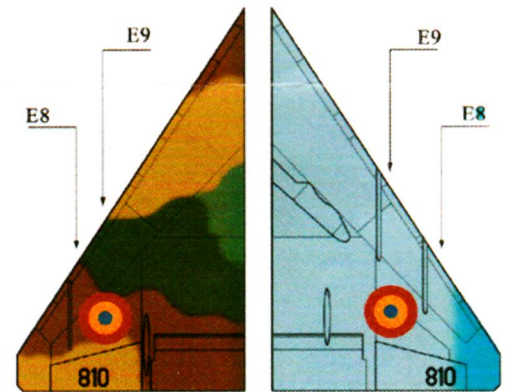
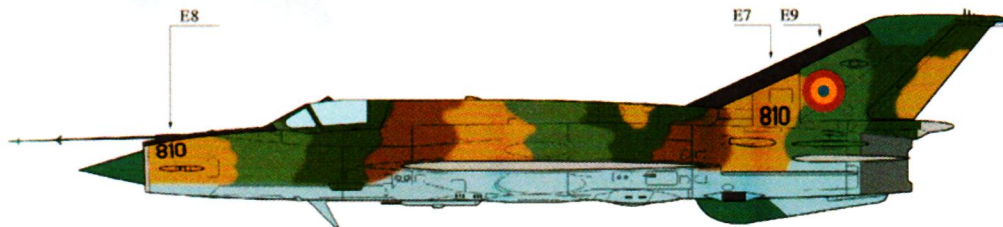


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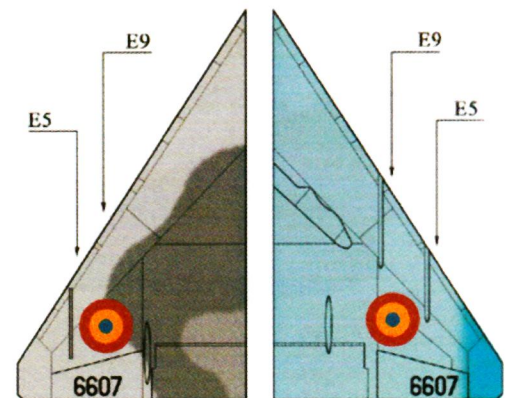
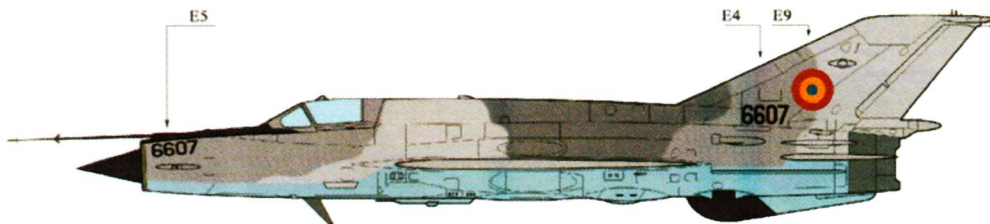
10. MiG-21MF "Red 901" Romanian Air Force (FAR), 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 47<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Air Base, Craiova - Balta Verde AB, Romania, 1995.



11. MiG-21 Lancer A "Black 810", 95<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Group, Bacau AB, Romania, 2001.



12. MiG-21 Lancer C "Black 6607", Romanian Air Force (FAR), 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 86<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Group, Borcea-Fetesti AB, Romania, 2000







# Millennium MiGs

# Upgraded and Late Service MiG-21s

LHD72004

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A1 A1 A2 A2

15 A4 15 10 A5 10 A6 A7 A8 A9

A10 A11 A12 A13 A14

„Советская ЛИТВА“

B1 B1 B1 B3 B4 B5

B2 B2 B2 B6 B7

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C1 C1 C1 C2 C3

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