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Flight Craft 8: Mikoyan MiG-31: Defender Of The Homeland



Synopsis

The MiG-31 started life as an advanced derivative of the famous MiG-25P interceptor, becoming the first Soviet fourth-generation combat aircraft. First flown in 1975, it differed from its progenitor primarily in having a crew of two (pilot and weapons systems operator), a highly capable passive phased-array radar – a world first – and new R-33 long-range missiles as its primary armament. The maximum speed was an impressive Mach 2.82, the cruising speed being Mach 2.35. The type entered service in 1981; more than 500 copies were built between 1981 and 1994. The powerful radar and other avionics allowed the MiG-31 to operate as a 'mini-AWACS' scanning the airspace and guiding other interceptors to their targets; a flight of three such aircraft in line abreast formation could cover a strip 800 km (500 miles) wide. To this day the MiG-31 remains one of the key air defence assets of the Russian Air Force. The book describes the MiG-31's developmental history, including upgrade programmes, and features a full and comprehensive survey of the various MiG-31 model-making kits currently available on the market.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anyone interested in the Russian Air Force and its equipment should own this book, written by

Yefim Gordon and Dmitriy Komissarov. Gordon is widely recognized as one of the leading experts on the Soviet/Russian air forces, with a long list of books on this topic to his credit. The book offers numerous color photos of the MiG-31, several pages of color paintings of the aircraft in various markings, and a review of the available model kits of the Mig-31. Well done!

A reasonably good book on a very good aircraft. I look forward to more books or information on Russia's best. Let's see a good book on the Mig-25 which is still shrouded in semi- secrecy. Good to see quality books on Russian aircraft after so many decades of being in the 'closet'!!

This is an excellent book on an aircraft there is little information. Highly recommended!

A good detailed analysis of the MiG-31. Yefim Gordon seldom disappoints.

Excellent review of the MiG-31.

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