

A Case for MiG-25

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2019

سرشناسه	جهانفر، رضا، ۱۳۵۷ - Jahanfar, Reza
عنوان قراردادی	بروندهای برای میگ-۲۵، انگلیسی
عنوان و نام پدیدآور	author Reza Jahanfar A Case for MiG-25 / translated by Mohamad Javad Torkian.
مشخصات نشر	تهران: ارتش ج.ا.، دانشگاه فرماندهی و ستاد آجا، انتشارات دافوس، ۱۳۹۷ = ۱۳۹۹ م.
مشخصات ظاهری	۱۰۰ ص: جدول
شابک	۹۷۸-۶۰۰-۸۱۶۳-۶۷-۱
وضعیت فهرست نویسی	فیا
یادداشت	انگلیسی
موضوع	میگ - ۲۵ (جنگنده جت) (MiG-25 (Jet fighter plane)
موضوع	میگ (هواپیماهای شکاری) (MiG (Fighter planes)
شناخت افزوده	ایران، ارتش، دانشگاه فرماندهی و ستاد، انتشارات دافوس
سازمان فایده	Staff College, Dafoos Publisher & Iran, Army, Command
رده ی کنگره	UG ۱۲۲۲ ۱۳۹۷ ۹۲۰۴۹۲ ج ۱ ش /
رده بندی دیویی	۷۱۶۴/۶۲۳
شماره کتاب سی ملی	۵۵۱۳۱۵۹

عنوان: A Case for MiG-25

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ناشر: انتشارات دافوس

شمارگان: ۱۰۰۰

تعداد صفحه: ۱۰۰ ص

تاریخ نشر: چاپ اول: زمستان ۱۳۹۷

لیتوگرافی، چاپ و صحافی: مدیریت چاپ، انتشارات و فصلنامه دانشگاه فرماندهی و ستاد آجا

قیمت: ۱۲۰۰۰۰ ریال

نشانی: تهران، میدان پاستور، خیابان دانشگاه جنگ، دانشگاه فرماندهی و ستاد آجا، انتشارات دافوس

تلفن: ۶۶۴۷۰۴۸۶ - ۶۶۴۱۴۱۹۱ - ۲۱

مسئولیت صحت مطالب بر عهده مؤلفین می باشد.

کلیه حقوق برای دافوس آجا محفوظ است. (نقل مطالب با ذکر مأخذ بلامانع است).



A Case for MiG-25

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Edit Supervisor: Hamid Hemmat
Editor: Saman Azad
Cover Designer: Alireza Ghane
Page layout: Ali Gholami
Publisher: Dafoos Aja
First Impression: 2019
Number published: 1000
ISBN: 978-600-8113-67-1
Price: 120000 P.



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Daneshgah Jang St., Pasteur St., Tehran, I R Iran.
Dafoos Phone No: 021-66410480, 021-66414191

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	6
CHAPTER ONE	11
HISTORY OF DESIGN, PRODUCTION, AND OPERATION	12
CHAPTER TWO	27
MIG-25 SERVING IN IRAQI ARMY	28
CHAPTER THREE	83
IRAQ'S PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE USING MIG-25	84
CHAPTER 4.....	87
COLLECTED INFORMATION FROM PILOTS OF SHOT-DOWN MIG-25s	88
ANNEXES.....	97

Introduction

Military experts worldwide believe that dominating the sky paves the way for success on the ground, a belief that corresponds with the changes occurred in battling techniques during recent years. Examining the evolution of warfare based on the strategies of ground battle, sea battle, air-ground battle, air battle, and space battle caused the world powers to make their attempts to maintain dominance over the sky by using new equipment so as to control all the possible conflict scenes. Designing and developing a variety of advanced aircrafts reflects this fact. As a matter of fact, the outcome of the war, either victory or failure, would be determined in the sky.

In the strategies of air-ground, air and space battles, aircrafts (i.e. airplanes, helicopters, missiles, etc.) are the main tools of success. Sometimes, building these aircrafts requires spending a lot of money which only a few countries can afford. Defense against these aircrafts has never been a simple task to do. Past wars contain informative tips. In all the wars, target countries have been trying to defend against aircrafts

whether based on the innovations of their own forces or by using imported weapons.

And, of course, Iraq's war against Iran has its own specific story.

By careful consideration of the Iraq-imposed war against Iran, one will notice the special feature of the air battles and the topic of Air Defense (in Iran). In this war, despite the fact that Iraq's Air Force benefitted from consultation of aviation advisors from Russia, France, Egypt - to name a few - and the full support of most Arab countries, and even received the newest aviation technologies from western countries, it had to renovate itself due to heavy casualties and damages.

Among the various aircrafts used in the wars occurred in last few decades, especially in the Iraq-imposed war against Iran, MiG-25 has some unique conditions and characteristics which make it somehow special and necessary to address.

The entry of this airplane into battlefields challenged the target countries; especially in the early years when its strengths and weaknesses were not yet revealed. The high speed and ceiling of this aircraft

were surprising and even frightening; such that, when NATO's military dependent in aviation affairs first saw a MiG-25 closely, he was completely amazed.

However, the plane was used by parties in different wars over the years and significantly affected their results even at strategic levels.

On the other hand, given the fact that humankind has spent a large part of its history fighting in battles, some specialists believe that history is nothing but the history of wars and battles. Even if we look at the subject from this theoretical perspective, we'll understand the importance of analyzing MiG-25 and its presence in the Iraq imposed war against Iran; since this analysis characterizes a period of our country's history that remains in the minds of many people.

This book addresses the different aspects of MiG-25 presence in the aviation, from the design and building stage to utilization by different countries, especially by Iraqi Air Force against Iran, and the set of air defense actions taken by Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard. Also included in the book is how the

Command and Control Network Of Iran's Air Defense reacted in response to MiG-25 attacks on Iran airspace.

As a war researcher, I hope that I have been able to write up a small part of the huge work done by all the country's Air Defense pioneers — from the unknown, mettlesome staff of the Air Defense to the courageous pilots of the Air Force and other sub-sectors of Air Defense Command and Control Network¹. To conclude, I would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of our proud pioneers, particularly the commander of Laffos² (Second Brigadier General Hassan Mahdavi) as well as Second Brigadier General Mohsen Moradian who helped and guided me in writing and publishing this book. Most sincerely,

Reza Jahann-Far

¹ This body is responsible for solidarity of air defense components against enemy's aircraft

² Persian word that stands for 'AJA (Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran) University of Command and Staff'