

Dagger A [Nesher S, Mod Mirage 5] - 1987

Argentina

Type: Attack

Min Speed: 350 kt

Max Speed: 920 kt

Commissioned: 1987

Length: 14.8 m

Wingspan: 8.2 m

Height: 4.0 m

Crew: 1

Empty Weight: 5915 kg

Max Weight: 13700 kg

Max Payload: 4000 kg

Propulsion: 1x Atar 9C



Sensors / EW: - EL/M-2001 RO - Radar, Radar, Range-Only (RO), Max range: 14.8 km

Weapons / Loadouts:

- Mk13 1000lb GPB - (RAF, Low Drag) Bomb. Surface Max: 1.9 km. Land Max: 1.9 km.
- 1300 liter Drop Tank - Drop Tank.
- BR-250 LDGP [250kg HE] - (Spain) Bomb. Surface Max: 1.9 km. Land Max: 1.9 km.
- Shafrir 2 - (1970) Guided Weapon. Air Max: 5.6 km.
- 500 liter Drop Tank - Drop Tank.
- 625 liter Drop Tank - Drop Tank.
- BRP-250 LDGP [250kg HE, Retarded] - (Spain) Bomb. Surface Max: 1.9 km. Land Max: 1.9 km.

The Israel Aircraft Industries Nesher ("Vulture" - often mistranslated as "Eagle") is the Israeli version of the Dassault Mirage 5 multi-role fighter aircraft. Most were later sold to the Argentine Air Force as Daggers, and later upgraded as Fingers.

The Nesher was identical to the Mirage 5, except for the use of some Israeli avionics, a Martin-Baker zero-zero ejection seat, and provisions for a wider range of AAMs (Air-to-Air Missiles), including the Israeli Shafrir heat-seeking missile. Fifty-one Nesher fighters (Nesher S) and ten Nesher two-seat trainers (Nesher T) were built in all.

The Nesher had simpler avionics than the Mirage IIIC, although it was found by Israeli pilots to be slightly less maneuverable. However, it had longer range and bigger payload. The reduced maneuverability did not prevent the Nesher from giving a good account of itself in air combat during the Yom Kippur war.

Survivors of Israeli aircraft were refurbished and exported to the Argentine Air Force in two batches, 26 in 1978 and 13 in 1980, under the name Dagger, comprising 35 Dagger A single-seat fighters and 4 Dagger B two-seat trainers.

During the 1982 Falklands War, they were deployed to the southern naval airbase of Río Grande, Tierra del Fuego, and an airfield in Puerto San Julián and despite the distance to their targets and lack of aerial refueling capability, managed

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to make 153 sorties against both ground and naval targets on the 45 days of operations. In the last role, they damaged HMS Antrim, Brilliant, Broadsword, Ardent, Arrow and Plymouth. Eleven Daggers were lost in combat (nine by AIM-9L Sidewinders fired from Sea Harriers and two by surface to air missiles).

In the 1979 contract with IAI, the Argentine Air Force stipulated that the Daggers would be equipped with new avionics and HUD systems to take them to the Kfir C.2 (and beyond in some subsystems) standard. The program, named Finger, was underway in 1982 when the Falklands War broke out. With the war over, as some of these systems were made by the British Marconi Electronic Systems, they needed to be replaced after an arms embargo was imposed by the UK. The replacement of such systems took the planes to the final Finger IIIB standard mainly by replacing the British equipment with French-built Thomson-CSF.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IAI_Nesher