



Mirages in Venezuela

In 1971 the government of Venezuela decided to buy the Dassault Mirage for their Air Force, the Fuerza Aerea Venezolana.

This first order was for 16 Mirages, and was a mix, consisting of three sub types.

Deliveries started from November 1972 with a batch of six Mirage5V followed in February 1973 by three two-seat 5DV and finally in May 1973, seven IIIV of the interceptor version arrived.

Initially the aircraft were delivered to 12 Wing where 34 Escuadron was equipped with Mirages 5V's. However on 26 July 1973, Grupo Aereo de Caza no.11 was formed at Libertador Air Base, Maracay, Palo Negro with 34 Squadron with the Mirage 5V. Soon thereafter a second unit, Escuadron 33 was formed and equipped with the Mirage III interceptor version.

Since the type entered service attrition has been very high. An extra Mirage IIIEV (# 7712) was ordered and delivered in 1977. A very sad day in history of the FAV, was the loss of three Mirage (# 9325-7712 and 3039) on August 5, 1986. Very little is known about these accidents!!

Due to these high losses, six single seat and two trainers reduced the fleet to only eight aircraft in service by 1989!!

A major refurbishment programme was announced. This programme include the fitting of canards and the new SNECMA ATAR 9K-50 engine. Also CyranoIVM3 radar, RWR, AN/ALE40 chaff/flare, a Thomson HUD and an in flight refuelling-probe were installed to bring the aircraft to Mirage 50 standard. The first four aircraft (1297-2473-5706 and 7512) were send to France in 1989. By that time only 3 Mirage IIIEV (0624-4058 and 6732) were in operational service. Sadly aircraft #0624 was lost in an accident on 19 October 1990.

Venezuela ordered next to this more aircraft in the form of six new 50EV and three 5M from an undelivered order from Zaire. (# M-409, 410 and 412) and one new 50DV (#5706).

The first refurbished Mirage 5V (# 2473) by Dassault was re-delivered on 22 November 1990 with deliveries of the remainder scheduled over a period till the end of 1993.

The first "new" Mirage 50EV to be received by the FAV was 0160, handed over on 30 October 1990. During the work-up phase it was unfortunate that Mirage 50EV # 2056, another "new" aircraft was lost in an accident on April 5, 1993. In the fifteen years of service life thereafter, only three Mirages were lost in accidents.

Escuadron 33 was tasked with the interceptor role and its sister unit Escuadron 34, operated in the air-to-ground role. Escuadron 34 also had on charge three Dassault Falcon 20DC jets, which it utilises in the communication and ECM role.

In 2003, thirty years of operational service life with the Mirage was celebrated. Aircraft # 4212, a Mirage 50DV two-seater was adorned with a flamboyant tail, picturing the colours of the flag of Venezuela and the "Devils" head of Grupo 11. Six years later, in October 2009 this aircraft sill wears this beautiful tail.

For political reasons, Venezuela turned its interest to Russia for new fighters, In December 2006 the first two of 24 "brand new" Su30 MK2 Flankers arrived at Barcelona to form the new Grupo 13. Finally in 2009 when the last Flankers were delivered, the operational life of the Mirages came in sight, when in December of that year, 36 years of flying with this French fighter was ended. Six aircraft were donated to the Air Force of Ecuador, in October and December 2009 consisting of three Mirage50EV and three dual Mirage50DV. (1297-2353-3373-4212-5706-7512).

Total Deliveries:

Mirage IIIEV	7	<u>0624</u> -2843-3039- <u>4058-6732</u> -8940-9325
Mirage 5V	6	0240-1225- <u>1297-2473</u> -7162-9510
Mirage IIIDV	3	5471-7381- <u>7512</u>
Mirage IIIEV	1	7712 (attrition replacement)
Mirage 50EV	9	0155-0160-2056-2191-2212-2353-3033-3373-5145
Mirage 50DV	<u>2</u>	4212-5706
Grand Total	28	

Note: underlined numbers have been upgraded to Mirage 50EV/DV

Individual aircraft history:



0155 This aircraft was a “new” delivered Mirage 50EV. It was last noted in December 2004.

This Mirage was seen preserved in November 2009 at El Libertador..

0160 Delivered on 30 October 1990 as Mirage 50EV, it was involved in an accident in 1994 and withdrawn from use. Exact date and circumstances of the crash are not known.

0240 Delivered as an early Mirage 5V and rebuild as 50EV, this aircraft crashed on December 2, 1986.

0624 Delivered as Mirage IIIEV, this Mirage crashed on 19 October 1990 in the province of Anzoategui, pilot ejected and was ok.



1225 Delivered as Mirage 5V, it had an accident in 1975. By that time it had #1506 as tactical number, but for some reason this was changed in 1225. The aircraft was repaired. However it was preserved on a pole at El Libertador Air Base, where it is still present by August 2009.



1297 Delivered as 5V, it was upgraded to Mirage 50EV. The aircraft was operational noted at its home base El Libertador on March 27, 2008. Donated to Ecuador on October 25, 2009.



2056 Delivered as a brand new Mirage 50EV in the early 90's, it sadly crashed on April 6, 1993 near Turagua about 10 miles from EL Libertador, due to a bird strike. The pilot **Maj. Martin "FENIX" Lon Blanco** ejected and was ok.

2191 New delivered as a Mirage 50EV in the early 90's, it was last noted active in August 2002. Not seen since, fate unknown.

2212 Was a new delivered Mirage 50EV. The aircraft was seen at its home base in January 2009.



2353 Was a new delivered Mirage 50EV. The aircraft was last seen at its home base on March 27, 2008. Finally this aircraft was donated to Ecuador on 13 December 2009.



2473 Former Mirage 5V, upgraded to 50EV and re-delivered on 22 November 1990. It was last seen operational in August 2002. Fate unknown.



Mirage 50DV 4212, Natal-Brazil, November 2004.



Mirage 50DV 4212, El Libertador- Venezuela, 27 March 2008.



Mirage 50DV,4212, Anapolis- Brazil, 15 August 2006.

- 2843** This aircraft was delivered as a Mirage IIIEV, it was lost in an accident somewhere in 1976.
- 3033** Was a new delivered Mirage 50EV. The aircraft was damaged in 2006 and seen stored at Libertador Air Base in December 2006.
- 3039** Delivered as a Mirage IIIEV, it was sadly lost in an accident on August 5, 1986. It came down near Aragua, the pilot ejected and was ok. This aircraft was one of three Mirages that crashed on this day, under strange circumstances.



- 3373** This was a “new” delivered Mirage 50EV in the early 90’s. It was last seen active in August 2008. This aircraft was a participant in the big bi-annual Latin- American exercise Cruzex II and III in 2004 and 2006. Finally this aircraft was donated to Ecuador 13 December 2009.



- 4058** Was an early Mirage IIIEV delivery, it was upgraded as a Mirage 50EV. It was last seen active in March 2007.
- 4212** New delivered as a Mirage 50DV, this aircraft was adorned with a flamboyant tail, picturing the colours of the flag of Venezuela and the “Devils” head of Grupo 11. Five years later, in March 2008 this aircraft still wears this beautiful tail. This aircraft was also a participant in the big bi-annual Latin- American exercise Cruzex II and III in 2004 and 2006.. The aircraft was donated to Ecuador October 25, 2009.



- 5145** This was a “new” delivered Mirage 50EV in the early 90’s. Sadly it was involved in a crash on June 21, 2007. The aircraft was written off.
- 5471** Delivered as a two-seat Mirage 5DV, it crashed near Aragua on May 14th, 1990. Both crew ejected and were ok. The aircraft was a total loss.



- 5706** Delivered as a two-seat Mirage 5DV, it was last noted in August 2002. Fate unknown. Finally this aircraft was donated to Ecuador on 13 December 2009.
- 6732** Was an early Mirage IIIEV delivery, with c/n 200. Seen operational active in December 1997, it sadly crashed on September 17, 2004. Due to a flame-out on approach to El Libertador Air Base, it came down 300 metres ahead of the runway. The pilot **Cap. Jesus Maria Bevilaqua Paulosky** ejected safely, with minor injuries. The aircraft burnt out and was a total loss.
- 7162** Delivered as a Mirage 5V in the 70’s, it was involved in a crash. Nothing is known of this accident. All info is welcome.
- 7381** Delivered as a two-seat Mirage 5DV, it crashed somewhere in 1973?. More info of this crash is welcome.



- 7512** Delivered as a two-seat Mirage 5DV, it was upgraded as a Mirage 50DV. The aircraft was a participant of the bi-annual exercise Cruzex II in 2004, which was held at Natal in Brazil. It was last seen in December 2007. Donated to Ecuador October 25, 2009..
- 7712** Delivered in the 70’s, as a Mirage 5V, rumours say it was a Mirage IIIEV, this aircraft was one of three Mirages that crashed on August 5, 1986, under strange circumstances. It came down near Yaracuy, the pilot ejected and was ok.
- 8940** Delivered as a Mirage IIIEV in the 70’s, the aircraft was involved in accident, the wreck of this a/c was seen at El Libertador in 1991.
- 9325** Delivered as a Mirage IIIEV, it was sadly lost in an accident on August 5, 1986. It came down near Carabobo, the pilot ejected and was ok. This aircraft was one of three Mirages that crashed on this day, under strange circumstances.
- 9510** Delivered as a Mirage 5V in the 70’s, it was involved in a crash near Carabobo on July 30, 1982. It came down in the lake of Valencia, The pilot ejected and was ok.