

Advanced MiG-29 Fighter Crashes in Southern Russia, Killing Pilot – Reports

August 19, 2021



The MiG-29 fighter jet. **Sergei Savostyanov / TASS**

An advanced Mikoyan MiG-29 fighter jet has crashed in southern Russia, killing its pilot, in the second military aircraft accident this week, media [reported](#) late Wednesday, citing the Defense Ministry.

The upgraded MiG-29SMT was not carrying an arms load when it crashed in a deserted area of the Astrakhan region that borders the Caspian Sea, the Defense Ministry's Southern Military District was quoted as saying.

Related article: [3 Dead After Russian Military Transport Plane Prototype Crashes Near Moscow](#)

“The plane crashed due to equipment failure,” Interfax quoted an unnamed source as saying.

“The pilot was killed,” they added.

According to the Southern Military District, the MiG-29SMT was carrying out a training flight at the Ashuluk firing range. The Ren-TV broadcaster [reported](#) that the single-seat fighter crashed immediately after takeoff.

An Aerospace Forces commission was sent to the scene of the incident.

The MiG-29SMT is an upgraded MiG-29M variant, developed in 2005, with a redesigned airframe and an electronic flight control system.

Once Cold War icons, MiG aircraft have been [plagued](#) by reputational setbacks amid embarrassing incidents and failure to secure key export contracts after the fall of the Soviet Union.

The MiG-29SMT crashed 36 hours after a prototype of the Ilyushin Il-112V military transport plane [crashed](#) during a test flight at an airfield outside Moscow, killing all three crew on board.

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