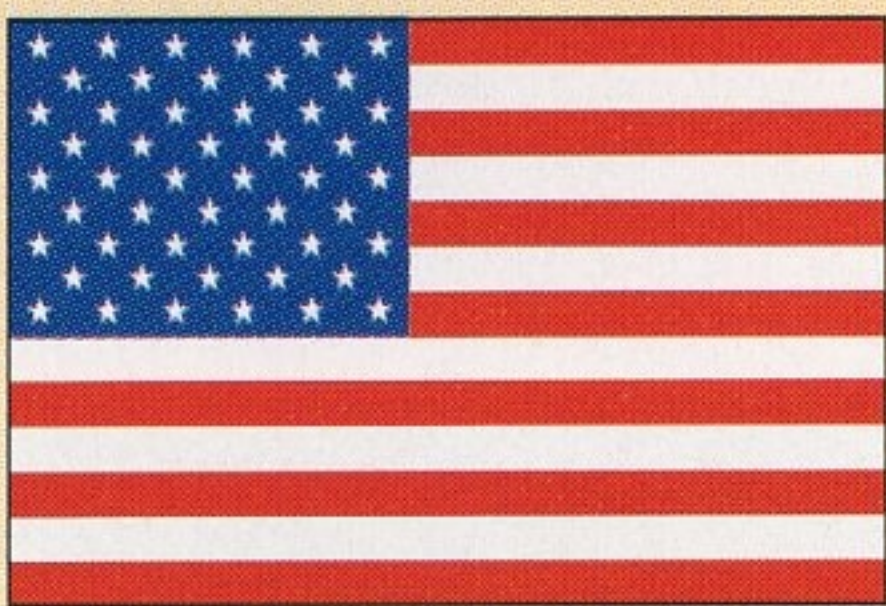


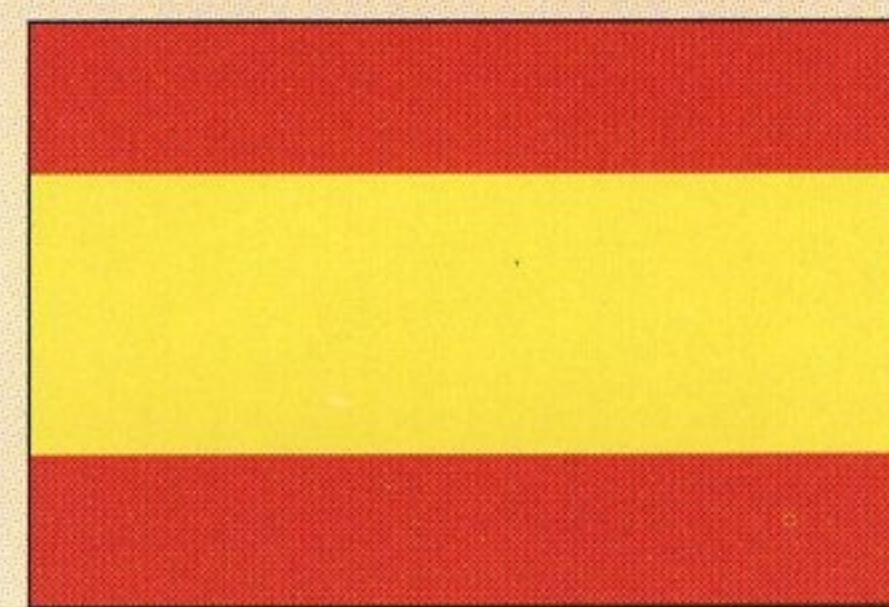
United Kingdom



Italy



U.S. Navy/Marines



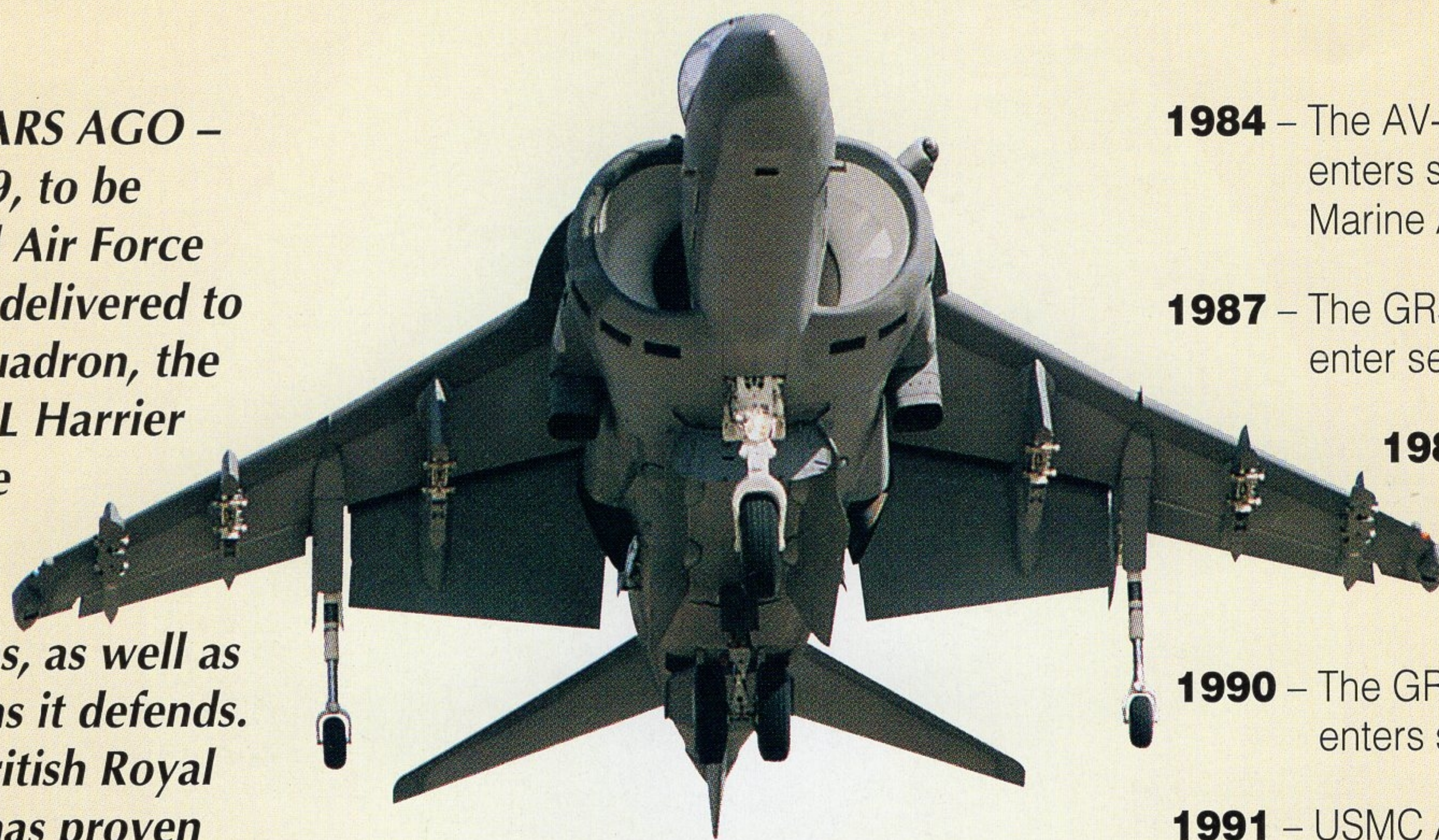
Spain



India

Harriers See 25 Years of Operational Service

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO – on April 18, 1969, to be exact – the Royal Air Force GRI Harrier was delivered to Number One Squadron, the first operational V/STOL Harrier unit in the world. Since that time, the Harrier fleet has grown in capabilities and versions, as well as in the number of nations it defends. In addition to the British Royal Air Force, the Harrier has proven itself to be a capable combat aircraft to the United States Marine Corps and the navies of Great Britain, Spain, India and, most recently, Italy. The following milestones in the 25-year history of this unique aircraft highlight the Harrier's development in parallel with the ebb and flow of historic events.



- 1969** – RAF One (Fighter) Squadron receives the first operational GRI Harrier I. Two RAF Harriers spectacularly complete the London-to-New York Trans-Atlantic air race, taking off from a coal yard in London's St. Pancras Station and landing in downtown New York.
- 1970** – McDonnell Douglas teams with Hawker Siddeley (later a part of British Aerospace, Inc) to support and produce the Harrier.

- 1971** – V/STOL comes to the U.S. Marine Corps: Marine Attack Squadron 513 receives its first AV-8As.
- 1976** – The AV-8S Matador joins the Spanish navy's Eighth Squadron.
- 1978** – McDonnell Douglas introduces the YAV-8B advanced Harrier design, incorporating the largest use to date of composite materials in an airframe.
- 1979** – The FRS-1 Sea Harrier enters service with the Royal Navy.
- 1982** – The FRS-1 Sea Harrier enters service with the Indian navy.
- 1982** – Royal Navy Sea Harriers and RAF GR3 Harriers distinguish themselves in four months of intense combat in the Falklands War, protecting the fleet and prosecuting a ground attack role. The Sea Harriers shot down more than thirty Argentine aircraft while sustaining no air-to-air losses.

1984 – The AV-8B Day Attack Harrier II enters service with the USMC, Marine Attack Squadron 331.

1987 – The GR5 Day Attack Harrier IIs enter service with the RAF.

1989 – The AV-8B Night Attack Harrier IIs give the Marines the ability to "see in the night."

1990 – The GR7 Night Attack Harrier II enters service with the RAF.

1991 – USMC AV-8B Harrier IIs, named one of three most significant weapons systems of Operation Desert Storm by the U.S. Secretary of Defense, fly more than 3,400 combat sorties.

1993 – The Harrier II Plus brings radar and enhanced support to the USMC.

1994 – Harrier II Pluses are delivered to the Italian navy; TMK10 enters service with the Royal Air Force.

