

# Kfir History & Puzzle of American Approval



**French First Builds Mirage-III**

**Unauthorized Replication**

Bomber Name	Airframe by	Engine by	US Approval
Mirage-x	Dassault	SNECMA Atar-9x	Not Required



**Israel's Kfir Program**

**Engine Retrofitted to Circumvent US Approval**

Original customer: South Africa [1989]

Nesher	IDI Mirage-5	IDI Atar-9C	Not Required
Kfir	IDI Mirage-5	<b>GE of US</b>	<b>Required</b>
Kfir C.2	IDI	<b>GE of US</b>	<b>Required</b>

Nesher = Eagle , Kfir = Lion cub

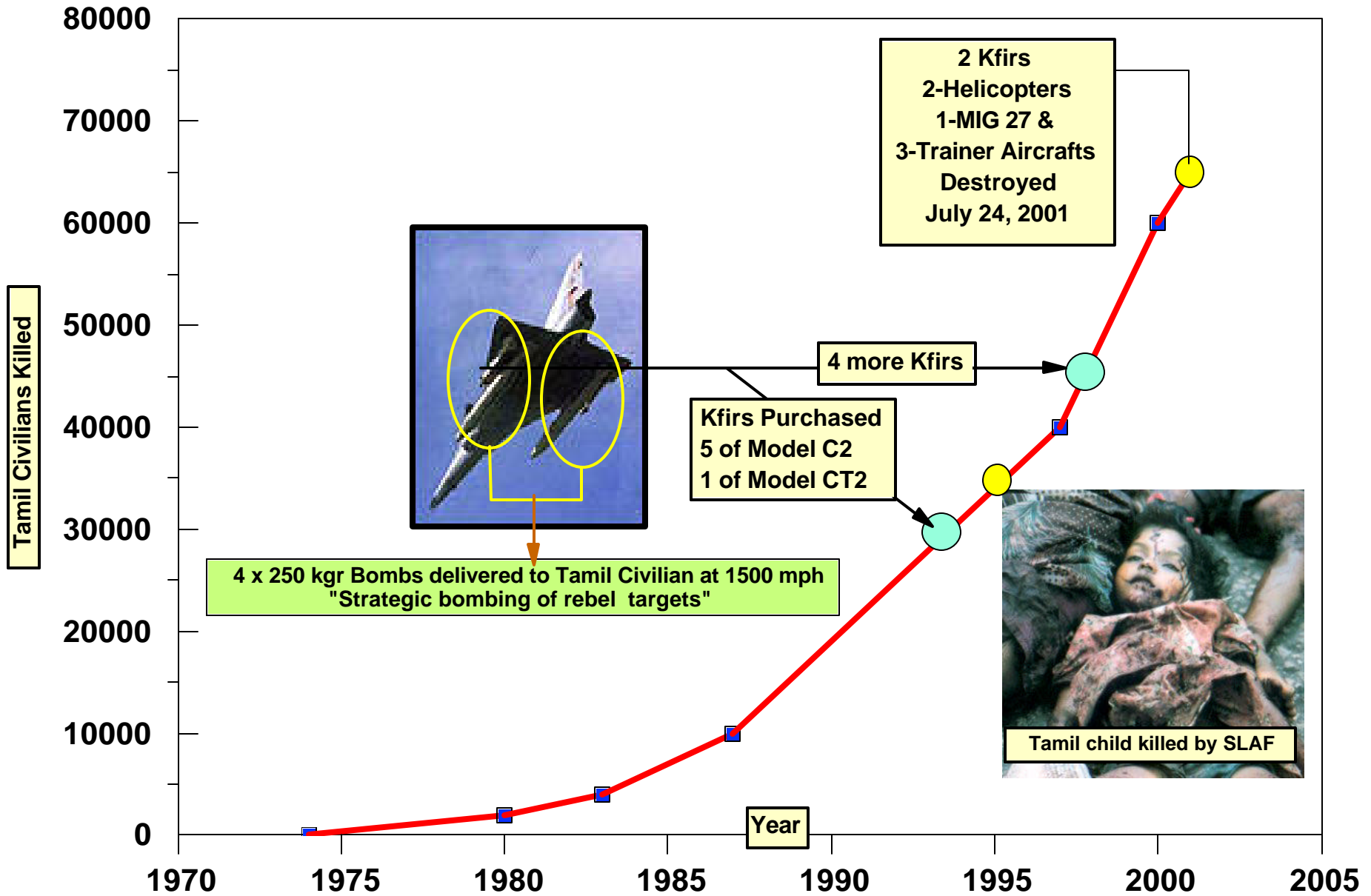


**Retrofitted Kfirs sold to Sri Lanka ?**

Kfir C.2 re-engined	IDI	<b>Atar-9K</b>	<b>Not Required</b>
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Sources: <http://military.topcities.com/israel/kfir.htm> (also search for Kfir in [www.Google.com](http://www.Google.com))  
<http://www.fas.org/asmp> (US Arm Sales Monitoring Project shows no approval of Kfir sales by US)

# Systematic Bombing of Tamil Homeland by SLA & SLAF



Sources: Erimalai Aug. 1996/+others; BBC - July 2001

# Aerial Bombings of Tamil Homeland Never Condemned by Aid Donors to Sri Lanka



**Results of Aerial Bombings**

Tamil School girl killed by SLAF



Group of Children killed by SLAF



Elderly women killed by SLAF



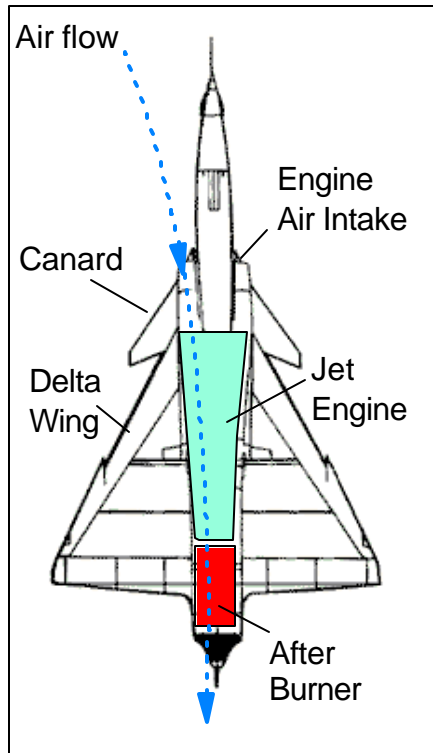
Tail Section of Kfirs Destroyed at Colombo BIA Airport on July 24, 2001



**Answer**

# Clearing the Kfir Confusion

## Basic Anatomy of a Kfir



Kfir C.2 and CT.2 are similar bombers. T means Trainer having two-seats.

## French First Builds Mirage-III

- Private French company *Dassault* builds airframe for Mirage
- Government-owned *SNECMA* builds Atar-9x jet engines
- Mirage-III has low power Atar-9B jet engine
- Israel buys and uses Mirage-III to fight 6-day war (1967)
- French cancels selling new Mirage-5J to Israel due to **foreign policy change** after the 6-day war ends.

## Israel's Kfir Program

- Israeli agents secure Atar-9C jet engine & airframe production drawings of Mirage-5J after French embargo
- Exact copy Mirage-5J design by Israel is now called Neshar (1969)
- 40 Neshars deployed in Yom Kippur war (1973)
- Low power Neshars (17) are shot down in Falkland war by British
- Neshar's jet engine upgraded to GE-J79 (+10% air mass intake)
- Mirage-5J-based Neshar with GE-J79 is now called **Kfir project**
- Only 27 basic Kfirs (misnamed as C.1) were produced
- Canard wings and new avionics added to Kfirs & named Kfir C.2 (1976)
- 1989 Israel considers **re-engining** old C.2 of a fleet of ~80 with Atar-9K-50 turbojet to **circumvent American control of sales on exporting GE-J79 engines (General Electric)**. Target customer of this design: S. Africa

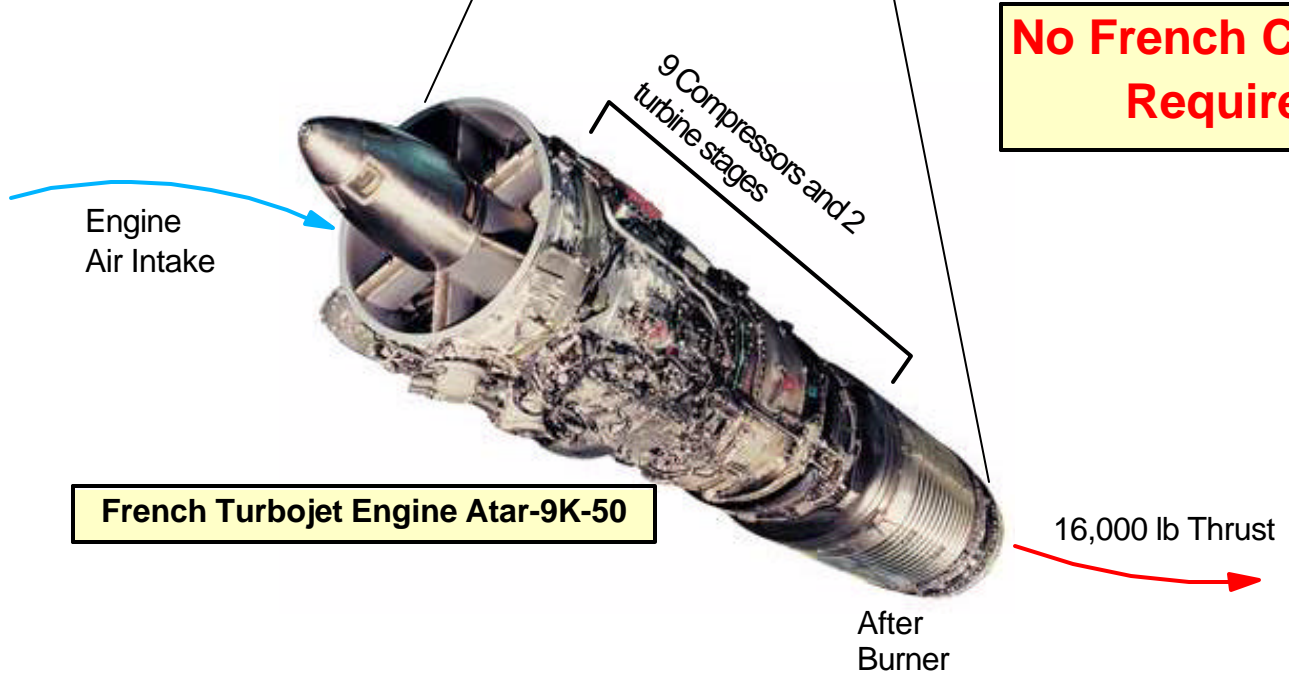
## Modified Kfirs Sold to Sri Lanka in 1995 & 2000 Sri Lanka ?

- Re-engined Kfir C.2 **not requiring American clearance** are sold to Sri Lanka? (manufacturer of Atar-9K-50 engine is French-*SNECMA*)
- Sales of Kfir C.2 to Sri Lanka is not listed in US sales manifest to Sri Lanka (see Federation of American Scientist website). Is it because it has no GE engine or is the American public is not being well informed?

SNECMA - Société Nationale d'Etudes et de Construction de Moteurs d'Aviation

# Atar-9K-50 Engine by French Used in Israeli Made Sri Lankan Kfir 2.C

SNECMA - Société Nationale d'Etudes et de Construction de Moteurs d'Aviation



**French Turbojet Engine Atar-9K-50**

**No French Clearance Required ?**