



Written by [D. Michael DeRidder](#) on November 9, 2023

## Dutch F-16s for Ukraine Arrive in Romania

The Netherlands [delivered the first five F-16 fighter jets](#) to Fetesti Air Base in Romania, where Ukrainian pilots will train with other pilots from NATO countries. The training is expected to take five to nine months, according to [Pentagon spokesperson Brigadier General Pat Ryder](#). The aircraft provided for the training will remain the property of the Royal Netherlands Air Force.

Entering service with the U.S. Air Force in 1978 during the Cold War, the F-16 is the primary fighter aircraft for many NATO countries. With the Netherlands [replacing their aging F-16 fleet with F-35 jets](#), they have committed to providing their surplus F-16s to Ukraine. The Ukrainian military's request for AMRAAMs (advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles) to use with the F-16s provided by NATO countries [was approved by the Pentagon](#) despite the risk of the highly sensitive technology in those weapons systems being captured by Russian forces in Ukraine.



Martijn Geerlings/Wikimedia Commons  
Dutch Air Force F-16



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