The Russian air force MiG-31s based at Kamchatka provide an air defence capability. The Russian navy is now working up to an initial operating capability, with the first navy pilots now regularly flying the Su-27K navalised Flankers from the Admiral Kuznetsov. All four of its fleets (the Baltic Fleet, Northern Fleet, the Black Sea Fleet and Pacific Fleet) are supported by the land-based aviation commands. The total number of fixed-wing aircraft in service is more than 1,500, together with about 300 helicopters. The disputed bases in Ukraine and Russia over the Black Sea Fleet resulted in a temporary agreement freezing the status quo until 1995. Negotiations have begun on future sharing of combat ships and around 300 aircraft. Naval aviation has 75 Ilyushin Il-38 and Il-16 Badgers on maritime reconnaissance and ASW duties, with another 75 or so Badgers in the tanker role. About 20 Tu-22R Blinders are used for short-range, high-speed reconnaissance, while modified An-12s and Il-18s are used as electronic-intelligence gatherers. The naval aviation strike force is spearheaded by the Tu-22M Backfire, with 160 aircraft operational, backed up by 240 Tu-16 Badgers. Land-based are Be-12 Mail amphibians and about 50 Il-38 M and 24 An-12s are operated by the Beary VLF communications platform also is in service. Fighter-bomber and attack squadrons are equipped with Su-17 Fitters and Su-25 Frogfoots. Some units of tactical aircraft, including the MiG-29 Fulcrum, were transferred to the naval aviation from the air force in 1989 in order to avoid the limitations of the CFE treaty before it was signed. The navy is reported to have ordered about ten new Be-42 Mail amphibians for its fleet. Design bureaux, with a first flight expected in 1995. A conventional jet trainer goes on at Yakovlev and Mikoyan. The Russian navy is now working up to an initial operating capability, with the first navy pilots now regularly flying the Su-27K navalised Flankers from the Admiral Kuznetsov. All four of its fleets (the Baltic Fleet, Northern Fleet, the Black Sea Fleet and Pacific Fleet) are supported by the land-based aviation commands. The total number of fixed-wing aircraft in service is more than 1,500, together with about 300 helicopters. The disputed bases in Ukraine and Russia over the Black Sea Fleet resulted in a temporary agreement freezing the status quo until 1995. Negotiations have begun on future sharing of combat ships and around 300 aircraft. Naval aviation has 75 Ilyushin Il-38 and Il-16 Badgers on maritime reconnaissance and ASW duties, with another 75 or so Badgers in the tanker role. About 20 Tu-22R Blinders are used for short-range, high-speed reconnaissance, while modified An-12s and Il-18s are used as electronic-intelligence gatherers. The naval aviation strike force is spearheaded by the Tu-22M Backfire, with 160 aircraft operational, backed up by 240 Tu-16 Badgers. Land-based are Be-12 Mail amphibians and about 50 Il-38 M and 24 An-12s are operated by the Beary VLF communications platform also is in service. Fighter-bomber and attack squadrons are equipped with Su-17 Fitters and Su-25 Frogfoots. Some units of tactical aircraft, including the MiG-29 Fulcrum, were transferred to the naval aviation from the air force in 1989 in order to avoid the limitations of the CFE treaty before it was signed. The navy is reported to have ordered about ten new Be-42 Mail amphibians for its fleet. Design bureaux, with a first flight expected in 1995. A conventional jet trainer goes on at Yakovlev and Mikoyan.