

SUNSET FLIGHT

Sixteen GR MK9 and Two Seat T-MK12 Harrier jets fly a final formation over the United Kingdom on Dec. 15 to mark the retirement of the country's fleet of 70 Harrier jets from military service following budget cuts. The Harrier is a short-takeoff and vertical landing, or STOVL, aircraft. For the U.K. jets, McDonnell Douglas, now part of Boeing, built the forward fuselage and wing, and BAE Systems of the U.K. built the center and aft fuselage and performed final assembly. McDonnell Douglas also assembled AV-8B Harriers in St. Louis for the U.S. Marine Corps. Boeing continues to provide engineering, maintenance training, and material and logistics support to the AV-8 Harrier fleets of the Marines, Italy and Spain. PHOTO: UK MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

