

The Worlds Largest Helicopter

Mil Mi-26



Mi-26T at Zhukovski, 1997

The [Mil Mi-26](#) ([NATO reporting name Halo](#)) is a [Russian/Soviet](#) heavy [transport helicopter](#) in service in civilian and military roles. It is the heaviest and most powerful helicopter in production.

History

The Mi-26 was designed for military and civil use and intended to be able to lift more than any previous helicopter. The first Mi-26 flew on [December 14, 1977](#) and the first entered service in the Soviet military in [1983](#).

The Mi-26 was the first helicopter to operate with an eight-blade [rotor](#). While it is only slightly heavier than the [Mil Mi-6](#), it can lift more: 20 tonnes (44,000 lbs).

Chechen crash and controversy

On [August 19, 2002](#), [Chechen](#) rebels hit an Mi-26 with a [surface to air missile](#), causing it to crash in a [minefield](#). A total of 127 Russians were killed in the crash. An investigation determined that the helicopter was grossly overloaded—the helicopter was only meant to carry about 80 troops, while this one was carrying around 150. A [1997](#) order prohibited the overloading of such flights, but in this case it was apparently not heeded.

In response to this crash, Russian president [Vladimir Putin](#) ordered an inquiry into the military's negligence. The commander in charge of the helicopter, [Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Kudyakov](#), was convicted of negligence and violating flight regulations. The Chechen who shot down the helicopter sentenced to life in prison in [April 2004 \[1\]](#).

Variants

- **V-29** - Prototype.
- **Mi-26A Halo-A** - Military cargo/freight transport version.
- **Mi-26M** – Designed for better performance.
- **Mi-26MS** - Aeromedical evacuation version.
- **Mi-26NEF-M** - Anti-submarine warfare version.
- **Mi-26P** - 63 passenger civil transport version.
- **Mi-26PK** - Flying crane helicopter.
- **Mi-26T** - Civil cargo/freight transport version.
 - **Mi-26TC** - Cargo transport version.
 - **Mi-26TM** - Flying crane helicopter.
 - **Mi-26TP** - Firefighting version.
 - **Mi-26TS** - Export version of the Mi-26T.
 - **Mi-26TZ** - Fuel tanker version.

Specifications

General Characteristics

- **Role:** Heavy-cargo transport
- **Crew:** Five—2 pilots, 1 navigator, 1 flight engineer, 1 loadmaster
- **Passengers:** Can carry up to 80 troops
- **Length:** 40.025 m / 131 ft 3.75 in
- **Width:** 8.2 m
- **Height:** 8.145 m / 26 ft 8.75 in
- **Empty weight:** 28,200 kg / 62,170 lb
- **Maximum takeoff weight:** 56,000 kg / 123,459 lb
- **Powerplant:** two 8380-kW (11,240-shp) Lotarev D-136 turboshafts

Performance

- **Maximum speed:** 295km/h (160kt)
- **Service ceiling:** 15,100ft.
- **Rate of climb:**

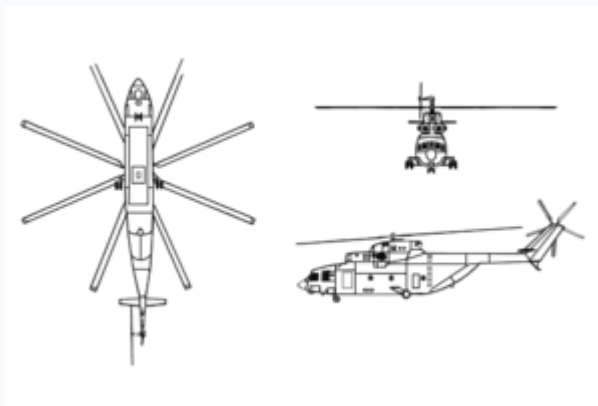
Operators

[Greece](#), [India](#), [Laos](#), [Mexico](#), [Peru](#), [Russia](#), [South Korea](#)



MI-26T

Specifications (Mi-26)



General characteristics

- **Crew:** Five – 2 pilots, 1 navigator, 1 flight engineer, 1 loadmaster
- **Capacity:** Up to 130 troops
- **Length:** 40.025 m (131 ft 4 in)
- **Rotor diameter:** 32.00 m (104 ft 11.8 in)

- **Fuselage width:** 8.2 m (26 ft 11 in)

- **Height:** 8.145 m (26 ft 9 in)
- **Empty weight:** 28,200 kg (62,170 lb)
- **Max takeoff weight:** 56,000 kg (123,500 lb)
- **Powerplant:** 2x [Lotarev D-136 turboshafts](#), 8,380 kW (11,240 shp) each

Performance

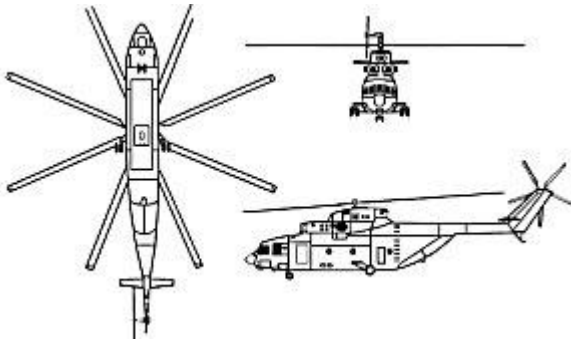
- **Maximum speed:** 295 km/h (160 kt)
- **Range:** 1952 km (1151 miles)
- **Service ceiling:** 4,600 m (15,100 ft)

Mil Mi-26 Halo



The Mi-26 first flew on December 14 1977, was the replacement of the [Mi-6 Hook](#) and still is the **biggest operational Helicopter of the World**. Can carry up to 90 troops, a similar capacity of a [Lockheed C-130 Hercules](#) and it was the **first to operate successfully with an 8 blades main rotor** .





Rotor diameter: 32 m
Disc Area: 804 m²
Length: 40 m
Height: 8.15 m
Weight: 28200 kg - Max: 56000

Engine: 2 loatarev D-136 of
11400 hp each
Speed: Max: 295 km/h
Range: 800 km
Service Ceiling: 4600 m

Contribution : [Aeronaves de la Fuerza Aérea Peruana](#) by Sergio de la Puente

User Contributed Notes

[Database Main Index](#)

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Some time ago such military Mil-26 was shaken down in Chechnya in Russia. There were more than 130 soldiers on board (!)

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More specifications:

Crew/passengers 5/82

* Dimensions (length/height/width, m):

Fuselage 35,91/8,145/3,6

Cabin 12,1/3,2/3,1

Rotor's diameter 32

The number of blades 8-main rotors +5 anti-torque rotors

* Weights and loaded (kg):

Maximum take-off weight 56 000
Normal take-off weight 49 500
Base weight without load 28 150
The weight of maximum load 20 000
Total fuel capacity in main tanks, in liters 12 000

* Aircraft performance characteristics:

Maximum speed 295 km\h
Course speed 250 km\h
Static ceiling 1,800 m
Dynamic ceiling 4,600 m
Operational range 590 km
Ferry range 1,920 km
