Hawker Siddeley Harrier
Designing the Harrier: In 1957 Hawker Siddeley began work on a vertical take-off aeroplane, designated the P.1127. Two prototypes were built and the first flight was made in 1960. An improved version of the P.1127 was named the Kestrel and first flew in 1964. The Kestrel was evaluated by the Royal Air Force during 1965. As a result of these trials, the RAF ordered an upgraded Kestrel. It was originally designated the P.1127(1) but in 1967 was given the name Harrier. The Hawker Siddeley Harrier GR.1/GR.3 and the AV-8A Harrier are the first generation of the Harrier series, the first operational close-support and reconnaissance fighter aircraft with Vertical/Short Takeoff and Landing (V/STOL) capabilities. The Harrier was the only truly successful V/STOL design of the many that arose from the 1960s. In the 1970s, the Harrier was developed into the radar-equipped BAE Sea Harrier for the Royal Navy.