

Leatherneck Simulations: MiG-21bis

StarForce patch, MARCH 2017

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Important notice

30. March 2017.

Dear users,

some of you might know that we had difficulties with MiG-21bis StarForce protection being very restrictive.

We made significant effort to tackle this issue working with StarForce people to come to optimal and more flexible protection setup.

We decided to release new protection pattern with following DCS 1.5.6 patch, scheduled for this week.

We created this instruction to safely guide you through the patching process, preventing activation loss.

It is important to make these steps BEFORE the next DCS patch is released/downloaded to your PC.

STEP 1: Make a backup

Make a backup of your current working MiG-21 binary folder located in:

"Program Files\Eagle Dynamics\DCS World\Mods\aircraft\MiG-21BIS\bin"

Locate "bin" folder and make a copy in a safe location outside the DCS folders structure.

STEP 2: Automatic online deactivation

Preserve your current activation before patching. This requires you to perform deactivation.

Automatic deactivation is possible if the client PC is online.

NOTE: if your PC is not online for any reason, you can perform "offline deactivation" – this procedure is explained later in case you need it.

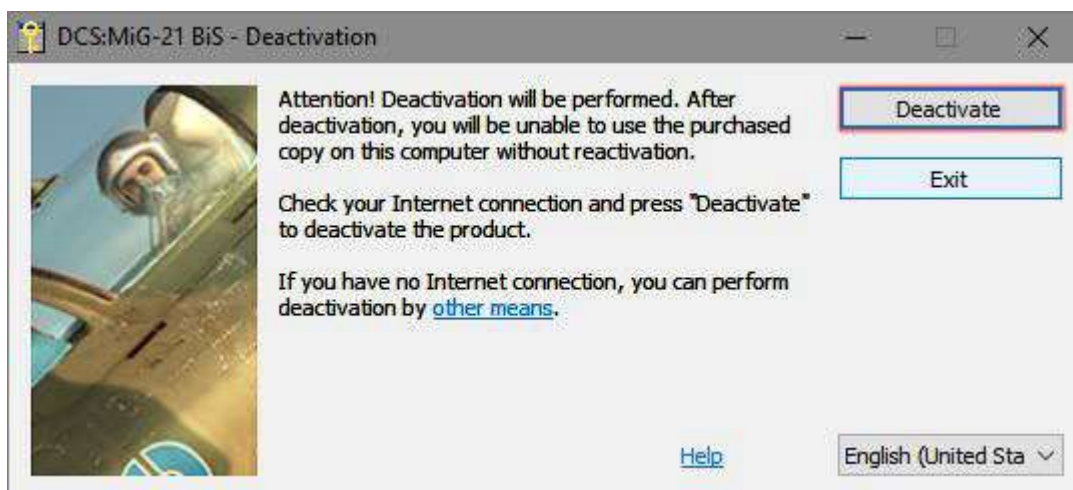
a) Run the **pcnsl.exe** file, which is located in the program folder (example: "C:\Program Files\Eagle Dynamics\DCS World\Mods\aircraft\MiG-21BIS\bin\pcnsl.exe"). Select the "Activate or deactivate product" command in the displayed window.



b) Click on the "deactivate" link, marked with red arrow.



c) Warning dialog will inform you that you are about to deactivate the product. Proceed by clicking "Deactivate" button.



If deactivation was successful on the server side, you will be informed about number of remaining activations.

If your deactivation is successful, proceed to STEP 3, otherwise attempt offline deactivation which is explained next.

Offline deactivation (skip in case of successful automatic deactivation)

Offline deactivation is possible if the client PC is offline.

However, **to save the activation for another use, user must go to the StarForce site at some point, and register the deactivation.**

Here is the explanation of the process:

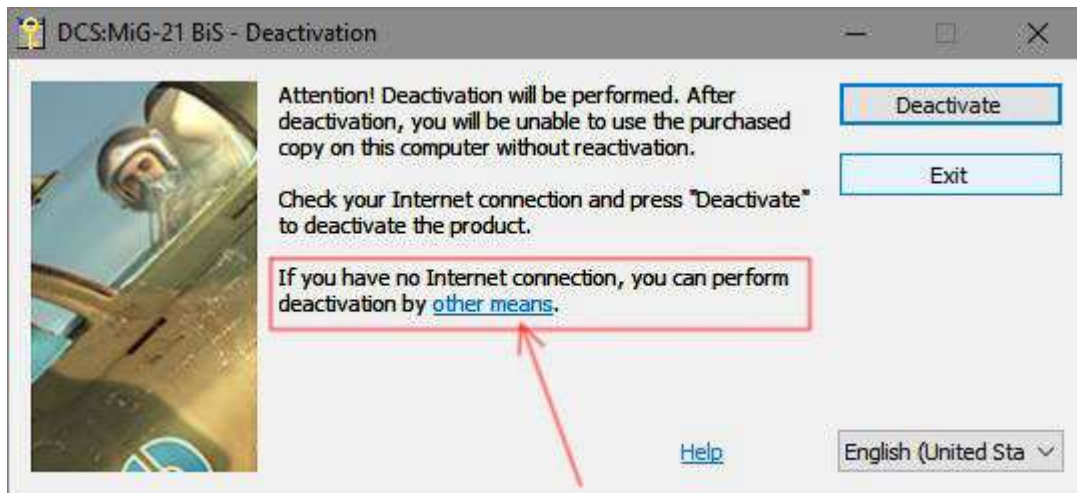
a) Run the **pcnsl.exe** file, which is in the program folder (example: "**C:\Program Files\Eagle Dynamics\DCS World\Mods\aircraft\MiG-21BIS\bin\pcnsl.exe**"). Select the "**Activate or deactivate product**" command in the displayed window.



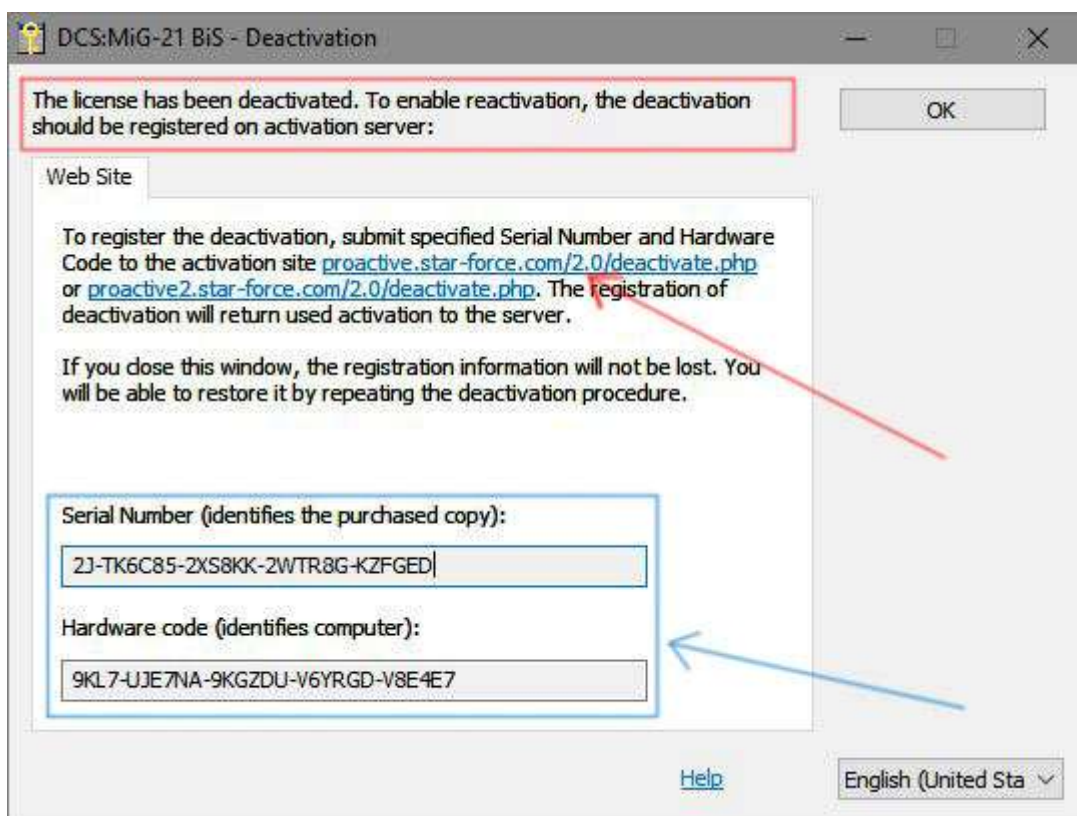
b) Click on the "**deactivate**" link, marked with red arrow.



c) Warning dialog will inform you that you are about to deactivate the product. Click on “**other means**” link.



d) Information dialog will appear, instructing you to go to the StarForce site and register your deactivation, so that you can use activation again at some later point. **We strongly advise saving the “Serial number” and “Hardware code” numbers, especially if you are unable to register the deactivation immediately.** You can do this simply, by saving the print screen or using copy-paste procedure and saving the text file with mentioned codes.



e) Once you decide to register deactivation, go to <http://proactive.star-force.com/2.0/deactivate.php>, enter your codes there, and click on “Deactivate” button.

The screenshot shows the 'ProActive' product deactivation interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with 'End users' and 'Publishers' sections. The 'End users' section includes links for 'Product activation', 'Product deactivation', and 'Information'. The 'Publishers' section includes a 'Log in' link. The main content area is titled 'Product deactivation' and contains instructions: 'Obtain a Deactivation Code to be able to activate the product using the same Serial Number without loss of one activation of this Serial Number. The Deactivation Code is designed to be used by another person or computer. To obtain the code, use a Serial Number for the product and a Hardware Code generated during the product deactivation. If you have any questions, please contact technical support.' Below the instructions, there are two input fields: 'Serial Number' with the value '2J-TK6C85-2XS8KK-2WTR8G-KZFGED' and 'Hardware Code' with the value '9KL7-UJE7NA-9KGZDU-V6YRGD-V8E4E7'. A red box highlights the 'Deactivate' button, and a red arrow points to it from the bottom left. Another red arrow points to the 'Hardware Code' input field from the bottom right.

f) You will get report with remaining number of activations.

The screenshot shows the 'ProActive' product deactivation interface after a successful deactivation. The main content area displays the message 'Deactivation completed successfully.' followed by 'Deactivations left: 4'. Below this, there is a note: 'If you have questions regarding product activation/deactivation, refer to the "Information" section or contact product technical support.' The sidebar and header remain the same as in the previous screenshot.

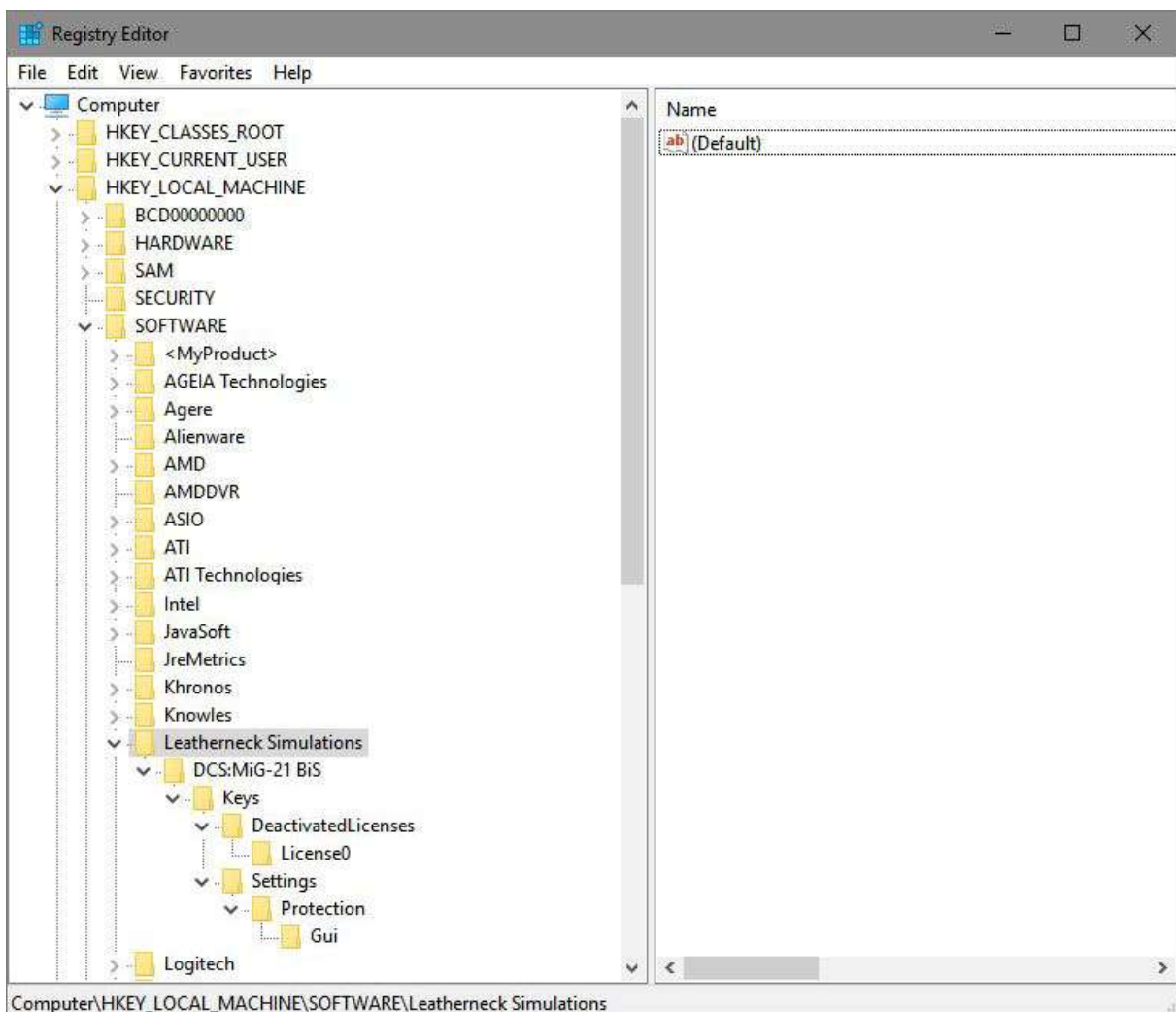
If your deactivation is successful, proceed to STEP 3, otherwise perform “Leatherneck Simulations” registry entries deletion explained next.

Deleting product registry entries (skip in case of successful deactivation)

If you are unable to deactivate product using procedures described previously, you can attempt product registry entries deletion to enable clean registry environment for new activations.

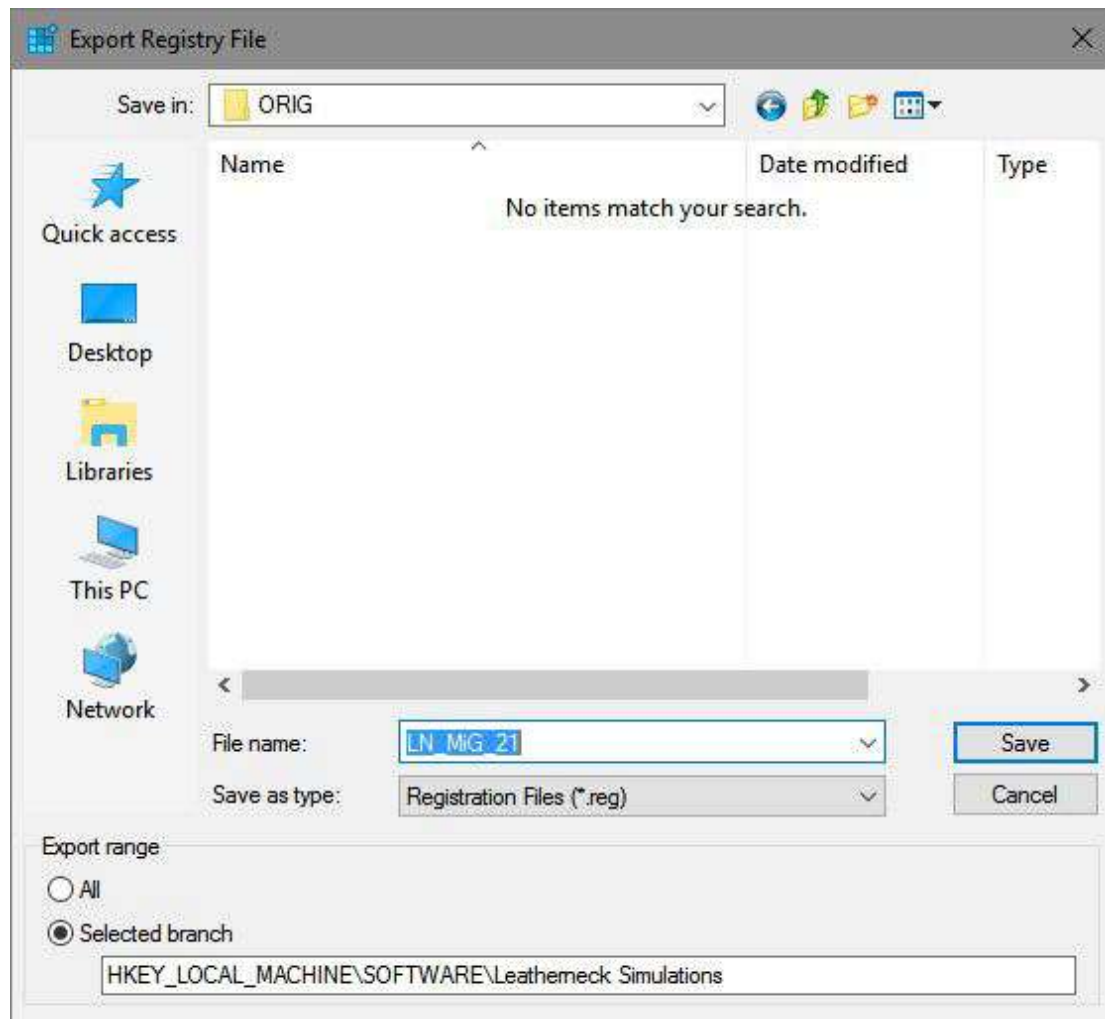
WARNING: registry editing can render your Windows inoperative – you are doing this on your own responsibility.

a) Click **Windows “Start”** menu, type **“regedit”** and hit **ENTER**. Registry Editor application will open. Double click **“HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE”**, double click **“SOFTWARE”**, click **“Leatherneck Simulations”**.

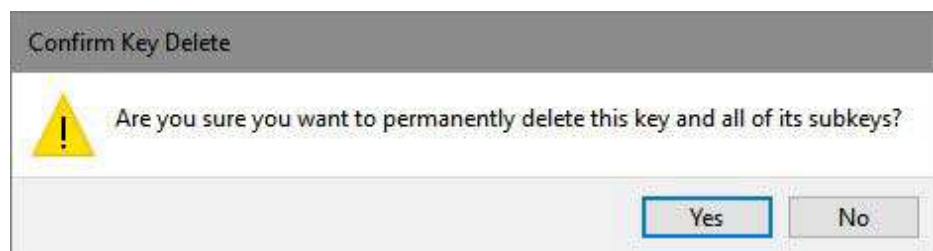


b) Right click on **“Leatherneck Simulations”** and click on **“Export”**. The dialog box will open, asking you where you want to save selected registry entries. Pick any location you find suitable, enter some

descriptive file name, **make sure “Selected branch” radio-button is active and click “Save”**. You will get the notice that the registry export is successfully completed



c). Once again right-click on “Leatherneck Simulations” and select “Delete”. A warning will appear, notifying that selected registry entries will be permanently deleted. Click “Yes”.



d) Make sure “Leatherneck Simulations” entry is missing from the “Registry editor” list, and restart your PC.

Proceed to STEP 3.

STEP 3: Wait for the patch

Once you either deactivated or deleted the registry entries, wait for the DCS patch to be released before activating MiG-21bis.

You can still use DCS even if it is not patched, but don’t activate MiG-21bis before the patching.

Note to STEAM users: STEAM version of DCS might be patched with certain delay (several days maybe). Please wait until you are certain DCS was patched.

STEP 4: Activating after patching

Once you are certain DCS was patched, you can activate MiG-21bis as usual (start DCS, follow the activation procedure).

Troubleshooting

If you patched MiG-21bis refuses to activate for any reason, to avoid further complications please exit the DCS and perform deletion of registry entries for “Leatherneck Simulations” (explained on page 8).

Note that we provided 2 additional activations per each key.

If you need any further help, please contact us at support@leatherneck-sim.com