

# Stealth aircraft over the years

**1947:** Northrop's YB-49 over Muroc Army Airfield, Calif. Stealth aircraft technology is often traced to the flying wing's smooth surfaces, rounded edges, and lack of tail and fuselage.



Photo: AFGSC History Office

**1977:** Have Blue was Lockheed's stealth demonstrator, which was 60 percent the size of the F-117, covered with facets, and set at unusual angles to scatter radar beams.



Photo: USAF via DARPA

**1982:** Northrop's Tacit Blue stealth test bed was called a "butter dish with wings" for its odd shape. The "box," with low-observable material wrapped around it, flew more than 130 times.

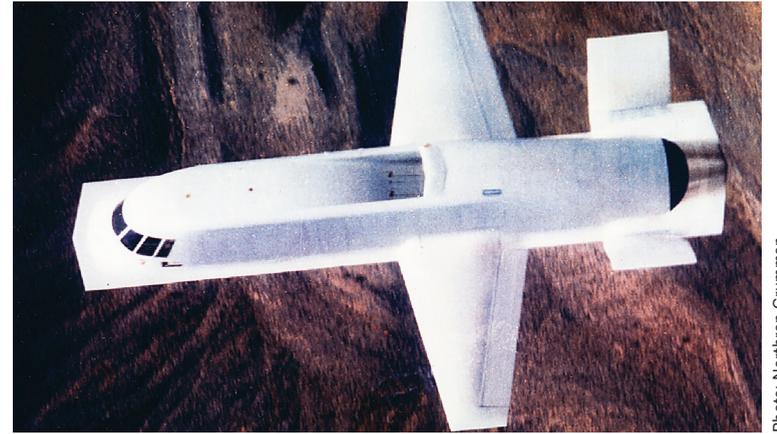


Photo: Northrop Grumman

**1991:** F-117 Nighthawks on the ramp at Langley AFB, Va., preparing to deploy to Saudi Arabia in Operation Desert Shield.



Photo: USAF via National Archives

**1997:** F-22s over Syria. The Raptor, USAF's first fifth-generation fighter, can fly at Mach 2.



Photo: SSgt. Colton Elliott/ANG

**2019:** F-35s fly exercises over the North Sea. USAF, the US Navy, and the US Marine Corps all fly a variant. Allied countries such as Japan and the UK are also buying the stealthy fighter.



Photo: SrA. Benjamin Cooper