

Flashback

Stiletto—Sleek, Stylish, and Slow

Photo by Douglas Aircraft Co. Text by Andrea K. Dudney



In this 1953 photo taken at Edwards AFB, Calif., admirers ogle the one and only X-3, an experimental aircraft built by Douglas Aircraft. The futuristic, needle-nosed craft—dubbed “Stiletto”—was created to test aircraft at sustained supersonic flight, but it was underpowered and could not exceed Mach 1. USAF turned it over to the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, which retired it in 1956. ■