



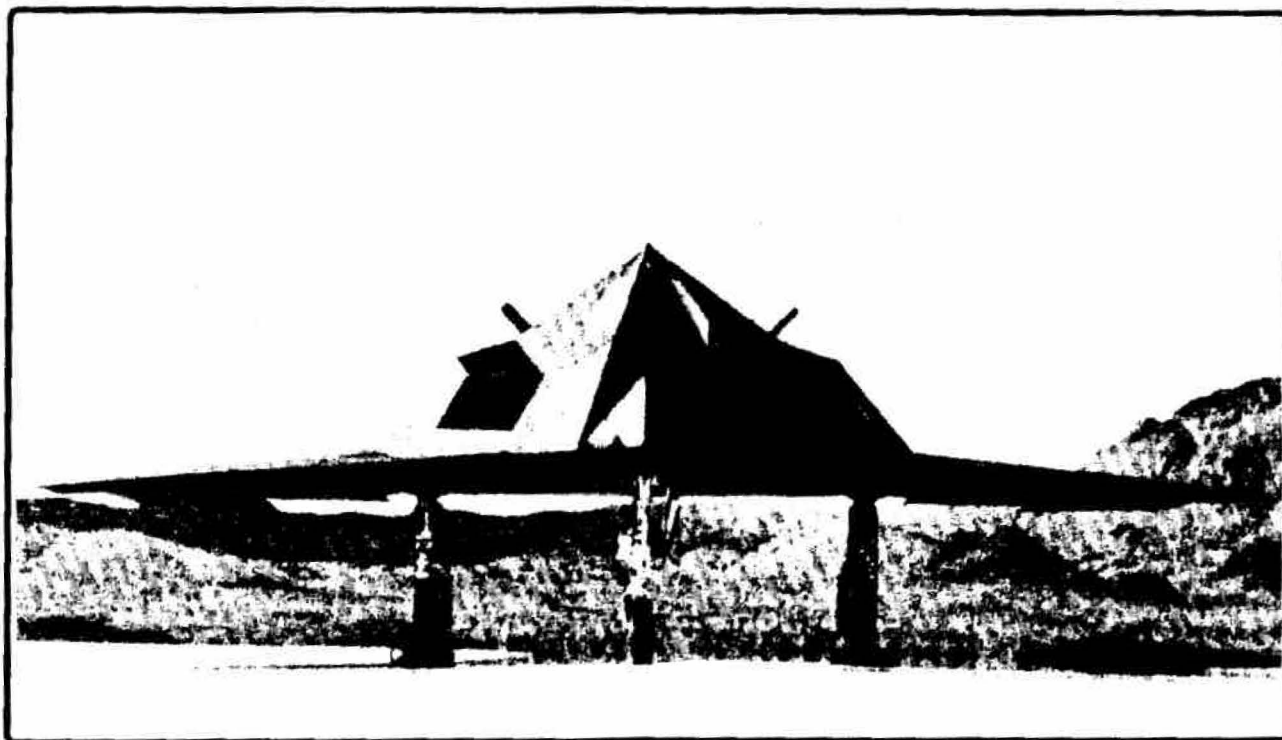
# FACT SHEET

93-11

## Secretary of the Air Force

Office of Public Affairs  
Washington D.C. 20330-1690

## *F-117A Stealth Fighter*



### Mission

The F-117A Stealth fighter is the world's first operational aircraft designed to exploit low-observable stealth technology.

### Features

The unique design of the single-seat F-117A provides exceptional combat capabilities. About the size of an F-15 Eagle, the twin-engine aircraft is powered by two General Electric F404 turbofan engines and has quadruple redundant fly-by-wire flight controls. Air refuelable, it supports worldwide commitments and adds to the deterrent strength of the U.S. military forces.

The F-117A can employ a variety of weapons and is equipped with sophisticated navigation and attack systems integrated into a state-of-the-art digital avionics suite that increases mission effectiveness and reduces pilot workload. Detailed planning for missions into highly defended target areas is accomplished by an automated mission planning system developed, specifically, to take advantage of the unique capabilities of the F-117A.

### Background

The first F-117A was delivered in 1982, and the last delivery was in the fall of 1990. The F-117A production decision was made in 1978 with a contract awarded to Lockheed Advanced Development Projects, the "Skunk

Works," in Burbank, Calif. The first flight was in 1981, only 31 months after the full-scale development decision. Air Combat Command's only F-117A unit, the 4450th Tactical Group, (now the 49th Fighter Wing, Holloman AFB, N.M.), achieved operational capability in October 1983.

Streamlined management by Aeronautical Systems Division, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, combined breakthrough stealth technology with concurrent development and production to rapidly field the aircraft. The F-117A program has demonstrated that a stealth aircraft can be designed for reliability and maintainability. The aircraft maintenance statistics are comparable to other tactical fighters of similar complexity. Logistically supported by Sacramento Air Logistics Center, McClellan Air Force Base, Calif., the F-117A is kept at the forefront of technology through a planned weapon system improvement program located at USAF Plant 42 at Palmdale, Calif.

## General Characteristics

**Primary Function:** Fighter/attack.  
**Contractor:** Lockheed Aeronautical Systems Co.  
**Power Plant:** Two General Electric F404 engines.  
**Length:** 65 feet, 11 inches (20.3 meters).  
**Height:** 12 feet, 5 inches (3.8 meters).  
**Weight:** 52,500 pounds (23,625 kilograms).  
**Wingspan:** 43 feet, 4 inches (13.3 meters).  
**Speed:** High subsonic.  
**Range:** Unlimited with air refueling.  
**Armament:** Internal weapons carriage.  
**Unit Cost:** \$45 million.  
**Crew:** One.  
**Date Deployed:** 1982.  
**Inventory:** Active force, 56; ANG, 0; Reserve, 0.

### POINT OF CONTACT:

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### **AIR FORCE INTERNAL INFORMATION**

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