

F-117 Nighthawk Fast Facts

World's First Operational Stealth Aircraft

Aircraft Produced

59 Production Aircraft

5 Developmental Prototypes

Near-Perfect Combat Record

ONLY **1/59**

F-117A's Produced was Lost in Combat

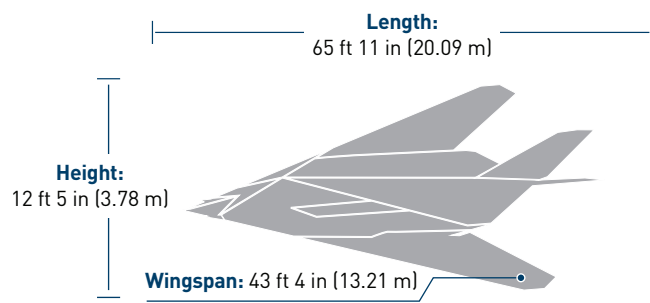
Longest Non-Stop Single-Seat Fighter Flight Record

Flew from Holloman AFB in New Mexico to Kuwait with Aerial Refueling

Operational Missions

- OPERATION JUST CAUSE**
1989 - 1990
- OPERATION DESERT SHIELD**
1990 - 1991
- OPERATION DESERT STORM**
1990 - 1991
- OPERATION ALLIED FORCE**
1999
- OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH**
1992 - 2003
- OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM**
2003 - 2011

Specs



Wing Area: 780 sq ft (72 m²) **Max Takeoff Weight:** 52,500 lb (23,814 kg)
Empty Weight: 29,500 lb (13,381 kg) **Range:** Unlimited with Aerial Refueling
Speed: High Subsonic **Power Plant:** 2 × General Electric F404 Engines

Owned the Skies In Operation Desert Storm

- Zero Losses and No Battle Damage
- Flew 1,271 Sorties and Achieved 80% Mission Success Rate
- Changed the Question From "How Many Aircraft are Needed to Take Out a Target?" to "How Many Targets can be Taken Out With a Single Aircraft?"
- Invaluable in Bringing the Campaign to a Successful End in just 43 Days
- Represented Only 2% of all Combat Sorties, but Covered 40% of the Strategic Targets
- Only Aircraft Allowed to Strike Targets Inside Baghdad's City Limits

Milestones

- The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) awards Lockheed Martin Skunk Works® the contract for Have Blue, the stealth demonstrator that would lead to the F-117A Nighthawk. (April 1976)
- Have Blue takes its first flight over the Nevada skies. (December 1977)
- DARPA awards Lockheed Martin Skunk Works the contract for the F-117 Nighthawk. (November 1978)
- The F-117 takes its first flight piloted by Hal Farley, project pilot. (June 1981)
- The first F-117A unit, the 4450th Tactical Group (renamed the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing in October 1989), achieves initial operational capability. (October 1983)
- The F-117 is used in combat for the first time in Operation Just Cause when F-117s from the 37th TFW attack military targets in Panama. (December 1989)
- The program is awarded the Collier Trophy for "The Greatest Achievement in Aeronautics and Astronautics in America." (1989)
- The F-117 Nighthawk makes its first formal public appearance at Nellis AFB in Nevada which is attended by thousands. (April 1990)
- The USAF officially retires the F-117 Nighthawk with a special flyover ceremony at Holloman AFB. (April 2008)