**F-117 Nighthawk**

*Using its advanced radar-deflecting technology, this bomber is able to fly through enemy skies undetected.*

The F-117 Nighthawk is truly a stealth bomber. Its clever design makes it virtually undetectable by enemy radar. The unusual shape of the plane is made from many different angles that do not reflect monitoring radar. Its weapons are stored inside, which means they also go undetected. The F-117’s exhaust is cooled and filtered through small holes in the aircraft. That means the hot exhaust is not picked up by heat-seeking radar. And, there is a dark, radar-absorbing material (RAM) that coats the entire aircraft. Even the name is meant to cause confusion. The “F” in F-117 stands for “fighter,” but the plane is really a light bomber.

---

**Fact**

The Nighthawk can fly into areas without being detected, so it does not have to fly at supersonic speeds to escape danger. Flown by a single pilot, the top speed of an F-117 Nighthawk is 700 miles (1,126 km) per hour.

The Nighthawk is 66 feet (20 m) long and has a wingspan of 43 feet (13 m). The F-117 was built as a top-secret bomber for the U.S. Air Force and was first flown in 1982. The bombs carried aboard the aircraft can accurately guide themselves to their targets. In fact, during the Gulf War in 1991, an F-117 managed to destroy a Scud missile facility by sending a laser-guided bomb into its air duct.