

Panama – test ground for stealth fighter

December 20

Two Lockheed F-117A Stealth fighters from 4450th Tactical Group at Tonopah, Nevada, attacked the Rio Hato base of the 6th and 7th Panamanian Infantry

Main armament

Two AGM 65 Maverick missiles or two AGM 88 HARM anti radiation missiles

Low-contrast light grey markings

Engines

Enclosed engines on top of wing reduce detection of air intakes

Lockheed F-117A Stealth fighter

Known as the 'Wobbly Goblin', the F-117A is a single seater twin-engined strike aircraft. It is thought to be sub-sonic. The F-117A has been in operation for five years

Skeletal sub-frame made from aluminium alloy

Body panels

Sloping facets reduce 90 degree angles which act as a mirror to radar

Stealth coating

Jet black ferrite-polymer tiles can be peeled off and replaced for specialised missions

Electronics

Nose probes supply data to GEC Astronics fly-by-wire flight control system

