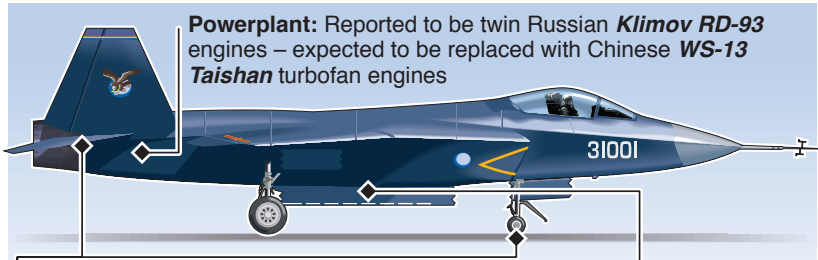


# China's new stealth fighter takes off

The second stealth plane unveiled by China in less than two years – the J-31 – has made its maiden flight as part of a programme to transform China into the top regional military power



**Powerplant:** Reported to be twin Russian *Klimov RD-93* engines – expected to be replaced with Chinese *WS-13 Taishan* turbofan engines

Two large tail wings and enhanced double-wheel nose landing gear suggest J-31 may be deployed from aircraft carrier

**Armament:** Two internal weapons bays can each carry two medium range missiles

**FIFTH-GENERATION STEALTH FIGHTERS:** Chinese J-31 appears intended for fighter-interceptor role similar to U.S. F-35, while heavier J-20 would have strike ground capabilities similar to American F-22

**Lockheed Martin**  
**F-22 Raptor**  
U.S.



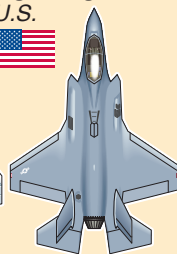
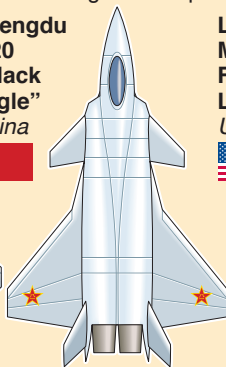
**Chengdu**  
**J-20**  
“Black Eagle”  
China



**Lockheed Martin**  
**F-35**  
**Lightning II**  
U.S.



**Chengdu**  
**J-31**  
“Falcon Eagle”  
China



Length: 18.9m

23m

15.7m

Top speed: 2,390km/h

2,120km/h\*

1,930km/h

First flight: 1997

2011

2006

Operational: 2005

2017-2019

2016

Cost: \$150 million

\$75-80 million\*

\$154m

**Similarities of J-31 and F-35 points to possible Chinese “cyber-theft” of F-35 technology**