

Secret U.S. stealth bomber project underway

The Pentagon has awarded Northrop Grumman the \$80 billion contract to design and build a top-secret, next-generation strategic bomber for the U.S. Air Force, beating a team led by Boeing

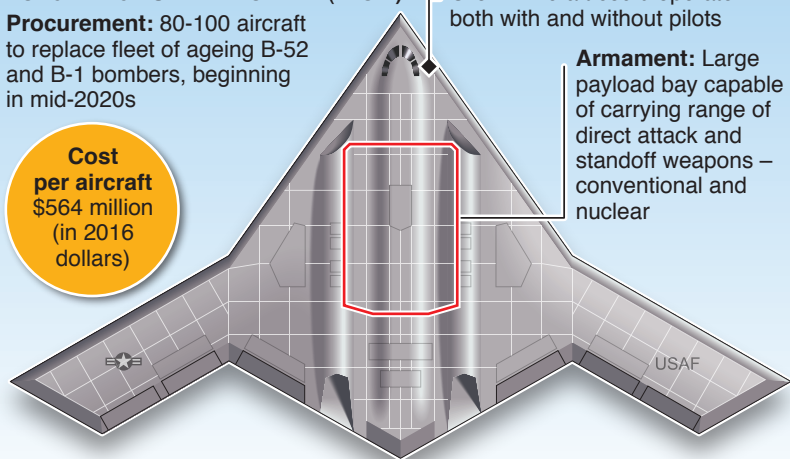
LONG RANGE STRIKE BOMBER (LRS-B)

Procurement: 80-100 aircraft to replace fleet of ageing B-52 and B-1 bombers, beginning in mid-2020s

Cost per aircraft
\$564 million
(in 2016 dollars)

Crew: Aircraft could operate both with and without pilots

Armament: Large payload bay capable of carrying range of direct attack and standoff weapons – conventional and nuclear

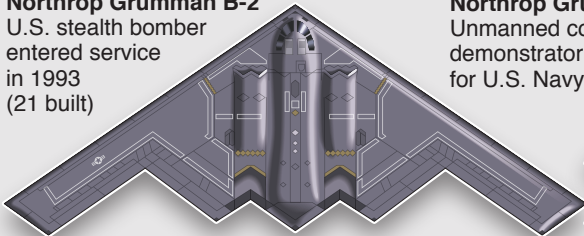


Specifications: Classified
Speed: Likely to be subsonic
Unrefuelled range: Possibly 9,000km

Stealth: Array of “low observable” technologies to prevent aircraft being tracked by hostile radar

Northrop Grumman B-2

U.S. stealth bomber entered service in 1993 (21 built)



Wingspan 52m

Northrop Grumman X-47B

Unmanned combat air vehicle demonstrator built for U.S. Navy



19m

LRS-B: Smaller, less costly version of B-2, perhaps midway in size between B-2 and X-47B

Payload would be less than B-2, but LRS-B could carry large number of new lightweight smart weapons

