

# “Top Gun: Maverick” shows secret plane

The *Darkstar* hypersonic jet in *Tom Cruise’s* latest blockbuster movie offers a peek at what might be the **SR-72** – the super-secret experimental spy plane under development by **Lockheed Martin**

**DARKSTAR:** Full-sized physical mock-up and airborne CGI plane – designed with help from Lockheed Martin engineers – bears striking resemblance to artists’ renderings of SR-72



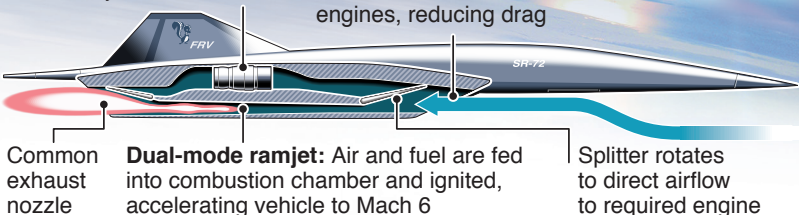
Tom Cruise piloting Darkstar

Darkstar

**SR-72:** Hypersonic jet, successor to legendary **SR-71 Blackbird**, will employ combined cycle propulsion system which merges turbojet and ramjet engines

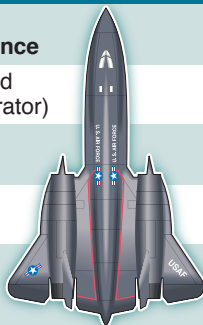
**Turbojet:** Provides thrust up to and beyond Mach 3, when ramjet takes over

Common inlet feeds air to both engines, reducing drag



## Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird

Role	<b>Strategic reconnaissance</b>
Crew	<b>Two</b> (pilot and systems operator)
Propulsion	<b>Turbojet (x2)</b>
Maximum speed	<b>Mach 3.3</b> (4,075km/h)
History	First flight <b>1964</b> Retired <b>1999</b>



## Lockheed Martin SR-72

Role	<b>Strike and reconnaissance</b>
Crew	<b>Optionally manned</b>
Propulsion	<b>Combined cycle (x2)</b>
Maximum speed	<b>Mach 6</b> (7,400km/h)
History	Test flight <b>2023</b> Operational <b>2030</b> (projected)

