

First rollout of B-21 stealth bomber

The U.S. Air Force's B-21 Raider stealth bomber is described by its manufacturer as "the most advanced military aircraft ever built"

NORTHROP GRUMMAN B-21 RAIDER

■ Procurement

Minimum of 100 aircraft.
Will replace U.S. fleet of B-1 and B-2 bombers

■ Range:

Classified

■ **Crew:** Aircraft can accommodate manned or unmanned operations

■ Speed

Likely to be subsonic

Artist's impression of aircraft

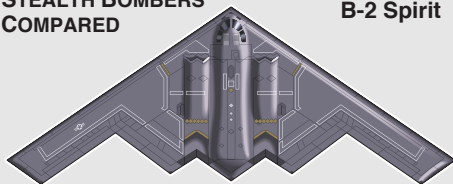
■ **Stealth features:** "Low observable" design and surface coatings to reduce likelihood of interception

■ Weapons

Large internal bay for long-range standoff missiles and B61 gravity bombs – conventional and nuclear

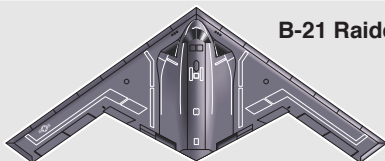
STEALTH BOMBERS COMPARED

B-2 Spirit



Wingspan: 52m

B-21 Raider



Wingspan: 42m (estimated)

Entered service: 1997

Engines: Four General Electric F118-100 turbofans

Unit cost: \$1.157 billion (1998 constant dollars)

Payload: 18,144kg

Operational: Mid-2020s

Engines: Likely two or four Pratt & Whitney F135 turbofans

Unit procurement cost
\$639 million (2019 dollars)

Payload: 13,607kg (expected)