Stealth aircraft over the years

1947: Northrop’s YB-49 over Muroc Army Airfield, Calif. Stealth aircraft technology is often traced to the flying wing’s smooth surfaces, rounded edges, and lack of tail and fuselage.

1977: Have Blue was Lockheed’s stealth demonstrator, which was 60 percent the size of the F-117, covered with facets, and set at unusual angles to scatter radar beams.

1982: Northrop’s Tacit Blue stealth test bed was called a "butter dish with wings" for its odd shape. The "box," with low-observable material wrapped around it, flew more than 130 times.


1997: F-22s over Syria. The Raptor, USAF’s first fifth-generation fighter, can fly at Mach 2.

2019: F-35s fly exercises over the North Sea. USAF, the US Navy, and the US Marine Corps all fly a variant. Allied countries such as Japan and the UK are also buying the stealthy fighter.