Comparing Stealth Bombers

The new B-21 Raider bears a family resemblance to the B-2 Spirit, but the two bombers will differ substantially in size, and likely their number of engines and payload. Critically, the B-21 will also be far more advanced in terms of low-observable technology—at least two generations beyond its elder stablemate. Northrop Grumman is the prime contractor for both bombers.

**B-2**
- 172 ft. span
- First Flight: July 1989
- Delivered: 21
- Planned buy: 132
- Accommodation: Two pilots, on ACES II zero/zero ejection seats
- Engines: 4 (per plane)
- General Electric F118-GE-100 turbofans, each 17,300 lb thrust
- Payload: 60,000 lbs
- Cost per plane:
  - Original quote assuming a 132-bomber buy
  - Final, full cost, including development and production
  - $2.1 billion

**B-21**
- Less than 150 ft.
- First Flight: December 2021 (est.)
- Delivered: 0
- Planned buy: 100+
- Accommodation: Two pilots
- Engines: *2-4* (per plane)
- Pratt & Whitney
- Payload: >30,000 lbs
- Cost per plane:
  - Quoted cost
  - Not-to-exceed cost
  - $553 million
  - $651.7 million

**B-21 preferred bases**
- Operations
- Depot
- Support

**Next-Generation Bomber (NGB)**
- Canceled in 2009
- NGB was canceled out of concerns about cost and mission versatility. This artist’s concept is based on a Lockheed Martin proposal from the period.

**Cost per plane**
- Original quote assuming a 132-bomber buy
- Final, full cost, including development and production
- $440 million
- $2.1 billion

*All data cited for the B-21 is presumptive, based on public comments and/or published reports.*