

Pentagon admits to using Stealth jet fighter

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Air Force has been flying a "Stealth" radar-evading jet fighter for seven years, and now has about 50 of the planes at an isolated base in Nevada, the Pentagon acknowledged Thursday.

Partially lifting a veil of secrecy that has enveloped the plane from its birth, the Pentagon and Air Force released a photograph of the unusual aircraft but declined to discuss its capabilities. The limited disclosures were made now because the Air Force needs to start flying the craft in daylight, a spokesman said.

The Pentagon said the plane had been declared operational and ready for war-time missions in October 1983, but that it first flew in June 1981.

The Stealth fighter is officially known as the F-117A. Dan Howard, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, said.

"It has been operational since October 1983 and is assigned to the 4450th Tactical Group at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The aircraft is based at the Tonopah Test Range Airfield in Nevada."

The photograph released by the Pentagon depicts a relatively small, swept-wing plane with a flat underbelly. It

somewhat resembles a sting ray — black or dark blue with no exterior markings.

The cockpit is located far forward in a nose that comes to a sharp point, with what appears to be gun barrels or air-speed probes sticking out.

The plane features a "V" tail atop a fuselage that ends in a rectangle, apparently completely encompassing the two engines that power the plane. The air intakes for the engines appear to be fitted

tightly into the sides of the fuselage, just below the cockpit.

The swept-back wings would suggest the plane is capable of flying at supersonic speeds, but the Air Force declined to discuss the matter. Military sources have said the plane is designed for sneak ground attacks and not air-to-air dog-fighting.

The Air Force has ordered 59 of the planes and 52 of them have been delivered, Howard said. Three of the planes

have crashed and two pilots have been killed, the Air Force added.

To protect its secrecy, the plane has been flown only at night. But the Air Force needs to start flying the plane during daylight if it is to integrate the squadron's war plans with other units, Howard said.

Howard and Air Force officials declined to discuss how much the program cost. Nor would they offer information on the plane's dimensions or general ca-

abilities, the materials from which it was constructed, or the major subcontractors involved.

The plane is built by the Lockheed Corp. at a tightly guarded plant in Burbank, Calif., the Air Force said.

According to military sources, the planes are kept at a high state of readiness for use as "aerial shock troops," capable of slipping behind enemy lines

without being detected on radar, avoiding confusion with unexpected runs.

The sources said the decision the plane was prompted in the scheduled Nov. 22 unveiling of the Stealth bomber. The bomber is built with more recent and advanced technology than the fighter, with little reason to continue to use the fighter, the sources explained.

Official calls early Hitler years 'glorious'

BONN, West Germany (AP) — The president of parliament called the early years of the Hitler era a "glorious" time for many Germans, triggering a walkout during the government's solemn ceremony Thursday marking the Kristallnacht.

The remarks by Philipp Jenninger led to demands for his resignation by members of the opposition Greens and Social Democrats, who were among about 50 who marched out of the hall during the nationally televised speech to parliament.

Jenninger's address threatened to overshadow West Germany's carefully planned ceremonies

marking the 50th anniversary of the Kristallnacht, the night the Nazis began their first organized push against the Jews.

Among the guests at the government's ceremony Thursday was West German Jewish Community leader Heinz Galinski.

Social Democrat chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel later wrote to Jenninger and said the parliament president had shown a disturbing lack of judgment in his speech. Vogel said he and other Social Democrats were filled with shame and sorrow over what Jenninger had done.

The 56-year-old conservative talked at length about the positive feelings of many ordinary Germans early on in the Hitler dictatorship, but without giving counterbalancing comments.

"Didn't Hitler bring to reality what (Kaiser) Wilhelm II had only promised, that is to lead the Germans to glorious times?" Jenninger said. "Wasn't he chosen by Providence, a Fuehrer such as is given to a people only once in a thousand years?"

"For the fate of the Germans and European

Jews, Hitler's successes were perhaps more fateful than his crimes and misdeeds," he said. "The years from 1933 to 1938, even distant retrospective and in the knowledge followed, still are a fascinating time throughout history there was hardly a post-Hitler's triumphal procession during a years."

Jenninger then cited such events as the Saarland, Austria and part of Czechoslovakia into the Third Reich, as well as the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

Physicists hope super collider will help explain matter origin

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Physicists hope the superconducting super collider will help them explain the very origin of matter itself and perhaps lead them to their holy grail: a single theory that unites all the forces of nature, from gravity spanning galaxies to the mysterious bonds that hold the proton together.

The first task of the collider, if it is built, may be a search for the Higgs particle, named after Peter Higgs of the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, the scientist who first postulated its existence.

Scientists say this subnuclear particle should emerge from proton-proton collisions 20 times more powerful than anything possible today. Finding it would be a giant step forward in understanding nature.

The super collider, a 53-mile around machine, will be the first atom smasher able to concentrate in a small volume of space the energy density that must have existed in the theoretical big bang theory origin of the universe. The Energy Department on Thursday selected a site near Dallas for the giant machine, even though Congress has not yet decided to build it.

The current picture of nature, called the standard model, is tantalizingly incorrect — but nobody is sure just where it goes wrong. At very high energies, the theory predicts certain particle interactions will occur with greater than 100 percent probability — which is an impossibility.

Modifications to fix up the standard model almost always requires extremely energetic collisions for their experimental tests.

A recent example of theory-testing on which the collider will build is the discovery of the so-called W and Z particles at the CERN particle accelerator in Ge-

neva, Switzerland, in 1983, predicted by the "electroweak" theory. This shows the fundamental identity of the familiar forces of electricity and magnetism and the weak forces responsible for some forms of nuclear radioactivity, including the reactions responsible for the sun's energy.

It is the W and Z particles that carry the unified "electroweak" force, just as it is the familiar photon or particle of

light that carries the electromagnetic force.

Though the masses of the W and Z particles could be estimated in advance as roughly 90 times that of the proton, there is no way to calculate the mass of the Higgs particle. But scientists say there should be an upper limit of about 1,000 times the mass of the proton.

All mass is equivalent to energy, shown in the famous "E=MC squared" relationship first developed by Albert

Einstein. That is, the energy of any particle is equal to its mass times the speed of light squared.

It's convenient to speak of mass in terms of "electron volts," the energy acquired by an electron falling through a voltage. Electrons in the filament of a flashlight bulb are accelerated through three electron volts.

The mass of a proton at rest is a little less than a billion electron volts.

The total collision energy must be around 40 trillion electron volts to create a particle of 1 trillion electron volts. The world's most powerful accelerator, at Fermi Lab in Chicago, can produce two trillion electron volts, whereas the super collider is designed to generate 40 trillion electron volts.

Other possible tasks for the super collider:

- Electrons, muons, taus and neutrinos all appear to be simple geometric points instead of collections of smaller particles. The super collider may be able to see if this is true.

- If there is a Higgs particle, is it made of smaller particles? Some theories give it structure and postulate the existence of forces inside it analogous to those inside the proton.

- Another theory called "supersymmetry" predicts several Higgs particles and accounts for all forces, including gravity, while giving a partner particle to every known particle. This theory says particles are made of "superstrings" of fantastically small dimensions instead of geometrical points.

- In the standard model, a proton should decay spontaneously, once in a rare while. All attempts to spot such decay have failed.

FFA changes title to exclude farmers

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Future Farmers of America has voted to take "farmers" out of its name because the word was hurting recruiting.

Delegates at the 61st annual convention of the Future Farmers of America voted with little debate Wednesday to rename the group the National FFA Organization.

FFA officers and U.S. Education Department advisers to the organization had recommended the name change to help stop a 23 percent decline in membership since the mid-1970s.

The FFA has some 416,000 active members nationwide.

FFA is open to students interested in agriculture or related fields, such as agricultural economy, farm equipment technology and agribusiness.

Local chapters will be permitted to use the old name if they prefer.

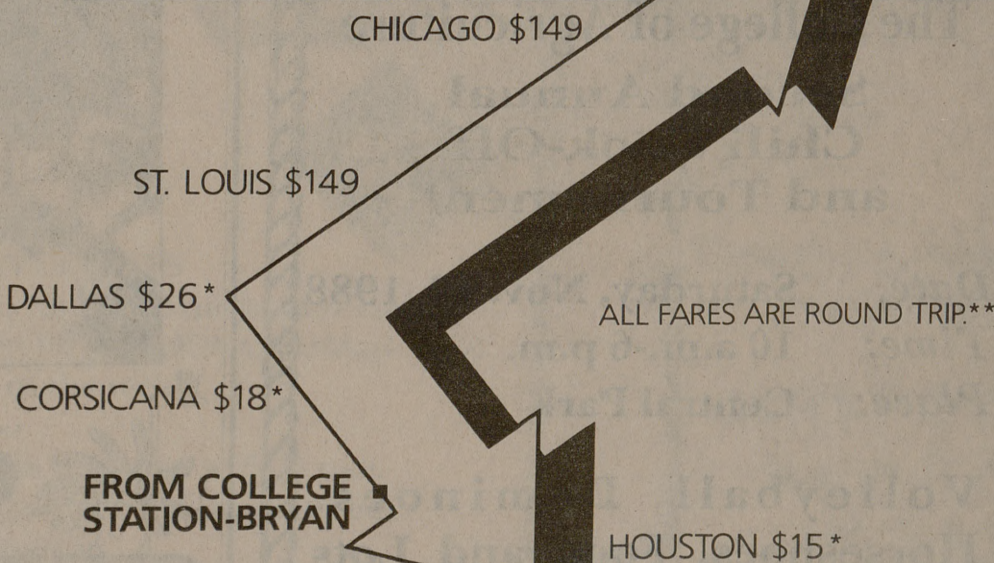
The organization's 113-member legislative body also voted to strip the words "vocational agriculture" from the FFA symbol, constitution and by-laws and replace them with the words "agricultural education."

Backers said the new terminology is more comprehensive and reflects changes in agriculture.

The delegates also voted to offer FFA membership, now confined to high school and college students, to seventh and eighth graders.

New breed of Eagle found in Texas.

Announcing Amtrak's Texas Eagle service between Chicago and Houston.



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