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(Y) F-12A / Char

## YF-12A

The performance of the YF-12A exceeds that of any operational aircraft in the world today. It represents a vast improvement in interceptor development and design and was made possible by major advances in aircraft technology. It has been tested in sustained flight at more than 2,000 miles per hour, at altitudes above 70,000 feet. The experimental fire control and air-to-air missile systems were originally developed for the F-108 and were continued as a separate development activity after the F-108 program was canceled. The combination of high, sustained speed and long-range capabilities would permit this weapon system to engage and destroy enemy bombers before they could reach the launch point for an air-to-surface missile. Current U. S. Air Force interceptors rely on accurate control from ground radar operators who direct them to the proper position to intercept hostile aircraft. The YF-12A's on-board equipment would enable it to operate relatively independently of ground control. With improved speed, range and missile advantages fewer YF-12A's can do a more effective air defense job than can present interceptors.

### ADDITIONAL DATA:

CONTRACTOR:	Lockheed Aircraft Corp.
POWER PLANT/MANUFACTURER:	Two Pratt & Whitney J58s with afterburner
ARMAMENT:	ASG-18 pulse doppler fire control system and AIM-47A air-to-air missile (Hughes Aircraft Co.)