PIONEERS OF STEALTH ®

NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Fellow Pioneers,



Now that summer is behind us, the Pioneers of Stealth® Leadership team is shifting focus from the POS Memorial Videos to the 2027 Reunion and celebration of the US Air Force's 80th Birthday.

Congratulations and thanks go out to Peter Knauth, Bob Gilmore, Judy Ivie and her team of videographers for the outstanding video tributes of the National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF) POS Memorial. That's right, there are two videos, one approximately eight minutes long and a shorter version roughly three minutes. These can both be viewed on our Youtube POS Channel and just recently on the NMUSAF website. The Youtube videos have received over 400 visits to date.

At Jack Twigg's passing earlier this year, we lost a valued friend and notable pioneer of stealth. Jack was a charter member of the POS since inception and an original member of the POS Senior Advisory Group (SAG). The current Treasurer of the POS, Peter Knauth, has been chosen by the SAG to fill Jack Twigg's vacancy. Peter will assume his new role as SAG member and continue as POS Treasurer while the leadership reassesses consolidating some organizational roles and responsibilities. Congratulations Pete!

Planning for the POS 2027 Reunion has been kicked off. We have an outstanding team focused on making this event truly memorable. See the article in this newsletter for an idea of what to expect at our next reunion.

If you have not read it, I highly recommend the recent **Air & Space Forces Magazine** article "The F-117: Now Washington Can See Stealth in the Light of History", September 20, 2026, by Richard P. Hallion. Richard (Dick) is the Senior Adviser for Air and Space Issues, Directorate for Security, Counterintelligence and Special Programs Oversight, the Pentagon,

Continued on Page 2.

What's Inside . . . . .

Page	Article
2	Holiday Suggestion for POS
3	POS 2027 Reunion Planning
5	F-117 Nighthawk Joins the National Air and Space Museum Collection
8	Blast From the Past

Letter From the President– Continued from Page 1.

Washington DC. This article was coincident with the news of the F-117 aircraft, nicknamed "Overachiever," arrival at the Smithsonian Air and Space Collection. By the way, the POS was fortunate to have Dick as the Keynote Speaker at one of our previous POS Reunion dinners at the NMUSAF, Dayton, Ohio.

On a final note, as the weather begins to turn cooler (even in Florida), a reminder that the end of year holidays will be here soon. Hope all your days are safe and enjoy your time spent with family and friends.

Cheers,

John Summerlot

President, Pioneers of Stealth®



Holiday Suggestion for the POS

During your holiday family and friends get-togethers, don't forget our newly produced video tribute to the POS Memorial at the Air Force Museum in Dayton. You can access the long (8 min) and short (3 min) versions of the video via YouTube, by typing "STEALTH FROM HAVE BLUE TO B2" in the search box at the top of the YouTube page. The videos can be shown as you gather to easily explain the four program's accomplishments and your role in their success.

Pioneers of Stealth® 2027 Reunion Planning

Save the Date! September 12-15, 2027

The POS 2027 Reunion planning process is underway and at a point that we can share the progress made. First, as a reminder, this reunion site of Dayton Ohio was chosen to be consistent with potential celebrations associated with the US Air Force's 80th Birthday events. It will also be the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the first Low Observables Program Team in the Pentagon that shared space with the RDPJ Special Projects group.

Skip and Janet Hickey will be our host and hostess for this event. They have assembled a Reunion Committee of Judy Ivie, Ralph Salvucci, Jack Wilson, and Kathleen Wilson, and a team of volunteers, both locally and virtually, to help in the planning and execution. The reunion is planned to have activities from Sunday, September 12, through Tuesday, September 14, with departure on Wednesday September 15, so save those dates.



Hotel Ardent Dayton Downtown, Tapestry Collection by Hilton



Events At The Gallery, Dayton

The Hotel Ardent Dayton Downtown, a Tapestry Collection By Hilton, has been selected for our stay. The hotel, considered a Boutique hotel, opened in June of last year. A POS Hospitality Suite will be located on the main floor for socializing on Monday and Tuesday.

A "Welcome Party" is planned for Sunday evening at the **Events At The Gallery** which is located adjacent to the hotel. Members will be able to socialize imbibing in adult beverages as hors d'oeuvres are graciously served while immersed in the art gallery atmosphere.

As usual the final activity of the reunion will be the Banquet Dinner on Tuesday

Continued on Page 4.

POS 2027 Reunion Planning - Continued from Page 3.

evening. The reunion team has pulled off a coup with their selection of **Jay's Seafood** which is located in the Oregon Historic District of downtown Dayton. Jay's ambiance, cuisine, and service have been one of the best restaurant ratings in Dayton. Given that Jay's is usually closed on Tuesdays, the team was able to reserve the whole restaurant for our event. Do not worry, the menu will include traditional food and dietary choices in addition to the seafood specialties.

The biennial POS Business Meeting will convene on the morning of September 14 at the **Events At The Gallery**. Consistent with the recent past reunions, the planning will include bus transportation between various venues. Although not all activities have been finalized, the reunion team is working hard to make sure you will enjoy your stay in the Dayton area.

Again, save the dates:

September 12-15, 2027

for the *Pioneers of Stealth 2027 Reunion* in Dayton, Ohio…Hope to see you there.



Jay's Seafood, Dayton

Pioneers of Stealth® 2027 Reunion Preliminary Schedule
Dayton Ohio
September 12-15, 2027

Sunday, September 12	**Check-in Ardent Hotel, Dayton, Ohio**
	POS Social at Events At the Gallery
Monday, September 13	**TBD - Events have not been finalized**
Tuesday, September 14	**POS Business Meeting**
	POS Reunion Dinner at Jay's Seafood
Wednesday, September 15	**Check-out of the Ardent Hotel**

F-117 Nighthawk Joins the National Air and Space Museum Collection

Press Release: Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, dated Monday, September 14, 2026



National Archives and Records Administration; © U.S. Air Force

The Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum is welcoming a Lockheed F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighter, the world's first true operational stealth combat aircraft, into the national collection. This remarkable aircraft will be transferred to the museum by the U.S. Air Force. It was prepared for its public display by the team at Lockheed Martin's Skunk Works, and the U.S. Air Force Reserve's 512th Airlift Wing will transport the F-117 from the Skunk Works' facility to Dulles International Airport in Virginia aboard a C-5 Galaxy cargo plane. The Nighthawk will be displayed at the museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia, in late October. This donation was announced today at the Air & Space Forces Association's Air, Space & Cyber Conference in National Harbor, Maryland. The F-117's stealth gave it unique capabilities to penetrate undetected into enemy territory and launch attacks taking out key strategic targets or disabling anti-aircraft capabilities, clearing the way for other aircraft to more safely carry out their missions. Its pioneering design demonstrated the operational value of low-observable technology and helped shape generations of military aircraft that followed.

The F-117A joining the museum's collection is nicknamed "The Overachiever," and it was the only F-117

Continued on Page 6.

F117 Nighthawk Joins the National Air and Space Museum Collection– Continued from Page 5.

flown in all four major conflicts in which Nighthawks flew combat operations: Operation Just Cause (Panama, 1989), Operation Desert Storm (Iraq, 1991), Operation Allied Force (Yugoslavia, 1999) and Operation Enduring Freedom (Iraq, 2003).

"The revolutionary F-117 gave military commanders options they never had before," said Chris Browne, the John and Adrienne Mars Director of the National Air and Space Museum. "The Nighthawk could be the tip of the spear, taking out enemy defenses before they knew what hit them or it could destroy selective strategic targets, helping achieve objectives with unmatched precision. Adding this breakthrough aircraft to the national collection will ensure generations to come know its amazing story."

The aircraft will be partially disassembled for the move and will be reassembled after arrival in the Udvar-Hazy Center's Mary Baker Engen Restoration Hangar, which can be viewed from a glass overlook. It is expected to go on public display on the center's floor in late October.

The National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center is located in Chantilly, Virginia, near Washington Dulles International Airport and is open every day except Dec. 25 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission is free, timed-entry passes are not required for regular indoor visitation, and parking is $15. The National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., is located on Jefferson Drive between Fourth and Seventh streets S.W. and is open every day except Dec. 25 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission is free, but timed-entry passes are required to visit.

- The Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum is adding a Lockheed F-117A Nighthawk to the national collection.
- The aircraft, nicknamed "The Overachiever," is the only F-117 known to have flown combat missions in all four major conflicts involving the Nighthawk.
- The F-117 was the world's first operational true stealth combat aircraft and helped revolutionize modern aerospace and military technology.
- The aircraft will be displayed at the museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center following reassembly in the Mary Baker Engen Restoration Hangar

End of Press Release.



More on "The Overachiever"

The F-117A Nighthawk, tail number 85-0818, was nicknamed "The Overachiever" given it was the only aircraft out of the fleet that had flown combat missions in all four major conflicts involving F-117's. The aircraft delivery and first flight was in 1986.

Recently the *Mitchell Institute of Aerospace Studies Episode 313*, "F-117: Facts Behind The Legend" was released which is an excellent Podcast discussing the importance of Stealth and the F-117 in past and future warfare. The Host of the Podcast is Heather Penney, Dir. of Studies and Research, Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies. Guests include Lt. Gen. David A. Deptula USAF (Ret.) Institute Dean, Col. Anthony "Lazer" Lazarski USAF (Ret.), former F-117 Pilot, Dr. Richard P. Hallion USAF (Ret.), former Air Force Historian, and Dr. Mike Hankins, Curator National Air and Space Museum. You may listen to the Podcast at the following link: https://www.mitchellaerospacepower.org/podcast/f-117-facts-behind-the-legend/.



F-117A Nighthawk is loaded aboard a C-5M Super Galaxy at Palmdale, California.
Image Credit: Screenshot from U.S. Air Force video by Senior Airman Amanda Jett

Blast From the Past



10.06.2026
Graphics by Staff Sgt. Matthew Domingos
509th Bomb Wing

The Longest Combat Sortie in History

October 7th marked the 25th anniversary of the B-2's record breaking combat sortie duration of 44 hours. The B-2 was tasked to conduct long-range precision strikes against Taliban and Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan.

PIONEERS OF STEALTH® LEADERSHIP

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Pioneers of Stealth® Charter

Purpose. The purpose of the Pioneers of Stealth organization is to perpetuate the spirit and achievements of a relatively small number of government and industry people in the early days of low observables technology and development. These "pioneers" believe the bonds created through their sharing of these successful achievements will always be an important part of their life experiences. They are proud of their accomplishments and enjoy being together to visit and revisit with those who all made valuable contributions to these challenging and revolutionary programs. Maintaining this social relationship is extremely important and a primary objective of this organization. The Pioneers of Stealth also believe that their value to the current defense acquisition establishment is best accomplished by using their strong record of achievements to be advocates and mentors for industry-government teamwork, streamlined management procedures, and minimal oversight and reporting requirements – all factors that significantly contributed to the historic successes of the low observables programs.

Next Issue.....

Letter From the President
Update on 2027 Reunion
Blast From the Past

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