

B-2 Spirit Stealth Bomber

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B-2 Spirit Stealth Bomber Latest News

In a major military escalation, the United States recently deployed its B-2 Spirit stealth bombers on Saturday to carry out precision airstrikes on Iran's nuclear infrastructure.

About B-2 Spirit Stealth Bomber

- It is a **United States long-range stealth bomber**.
- It first flew in 1989 and was **delivered to the U.S. Air Force** starting **in 1993**. There are currently **19 in service**.
- It is **built and maintained by Northrop Grumman Corporation**.
- The U.S. B-2 costs about **\$2.1 billion each**, making it the **world's most expensive military aircraft** ever built.

B-2 Spirit Stealth Bomber Features

- It is known for its **low observability, all-altitude capability**, and ability to penetrate the most sophisticated air defenses.
- Due to its low-observability engineering, the fighter is **difficult to detect by conventional radar**.
- Its **flying-wing design, radar-absorbent materials**, and **reduced infrared signature** result in a radar cross-section of about 0.001 square meters—comparable to that of a small bird.
- The bomber is flown by a **crew of two, the pilot and the mission commander**.
- **Power** is provided by **four turbofan engines**.
- It has a top speed of 628 miles (1,010 km) per hour.
- The advanced jet also has several other features, including its capability to **travel up to 6,000 nautical miles (11,112 km) without refueling** and massive arsenal capacity and ability to perform operations freely even at high altitudes.
- With **aerial refueling**, the B-2 can **reach virtually any target worldwide**.
- Its payload capacity of more than 40,000 pounds (18,144 kg) allows the aircraft to **carry a diverse array of conventional and nuclear weapons**.
- The bomber's **internal weapons bays** are specifically **designed to maintain stealth characteristics** while **accommodating large ordnance loads**, which could include **two GBU-57A/B MOP (Massive Ordnance Penetrator)**, a 30,000-pound precision-guided “bunker buster” bomb.
 - **MOP** represents the **largest conventional bomb in the U.S. arsenal**, specifically **engineered to defeat hardened underground bunkers**.
 - **B-2 bombers** are the **only plane capable of carrying the MOP**.

Source: **IE**

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