

RQ-170 Sentinel

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RQ-170 Sentinel Latest News

A rare U.S. Air Force RQ-170 “Sentinel” stealth surveillance drone was recently spotted returning to Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in eastern Puerto Rico, following U.S. military strikes conducted overnight against targets in Venezuela.

About RQ-170 Sentinel

- It is an **American high-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)**.
- It was designed and **manufactured by Skunk Works, a division of Lockheed Martin** (an American defense and aerospace manufacturer), **for the United States Air Force (USAF)**.
- It is designed to execute **intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance (ISTAR) and electronic warfare missions** over a target area.
- The aircraft **entered service in the mid-2000s** and has previously been associated with U.S. operations in the Middle East and Asia.

RQ-170 Sentinel Features

- It has a wingspan of 20 m and a length of 4.5 m.
- It features a **flying-wing design optimized for reduced radar visibility** and **long-endurance flights**.
- It features a blended fuselage, pointed nose, and tricycle-type landing gear.
- An **electro-optic camera** was incorporated beneath the front fuselage section to **seize real-time imagery or videos of the battlefield** it is surveying.
- It can capture real-time imagery of the battlefield and **transfer the data to the ground control station (GCS) through a line of sight (LOS) communication data link**.
- It is fitted with an active electronically scanned array radar, synthetic aperture radar, and signal intelligence in its belly fairings.
- About 90% of the aircraft is made up of composite materials to decrease its overall weight.

Source: DB

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