B-2 Stealth Bike

Honoring a revolution in airpower, and the airmen who fly, support and sustain it

In July 2009, Northrop Grumman and the U.S. Air Force celebrated the 20th anniversary of the first flight of the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber, which occurred on July 17, 1989. Northrop Grumman is the Air Force's B-2 prime contractor. As a visual centerpiece for its year-long celebration of this milestone, Northrop Grumman commissioned Orange County Choppers, Newburgh, N.Y. to design and build a B-2 bomber-themed motorcycle.

The B-2 Stealth Bike, which is named “The Spirit of Innovation,” was built and paid for exclusively by Northrop Grumman as an innovative marketing project. No costs associated with its design, development or national tour were borne in any way by the U.S. Air Force or US taxpayers.

The design, development and production of the motorcycle were featured on the 2009 season premiere of the cable TV series "American Chopper," which airs on TLC.
Northrop Grumman featured the B-2 Stealth Bike at B-2 20th anniversary events throughout 2009 including trade shows, air shows and college recruiting events. One of the highlighted events was a commemorative B-2 first flight ceremony in July in Palmdale, Calif., site of the original B-2 production and first flight, and home today to Northrop Grumman’s B-2 program office.

Northrop Grumman named the B-2 Stealth Bike "The Spirit of Innovation" to celebrate Northrop Grumman's leadership in innovative air systems and the innovative spirit of partnership with the Air Force that enabled the successful development of the B-2. Its "tail number" is 0789 to commemorate the date of first flight.

The B-2 Stealth Bike's design mimics many of the visual details of the B-2 stealth bomber:

- Its gas tank and extended front cowling are shaped to resemble the B-2's unique cockpit and fuselage; major components are painted to match the B-2’s color.

- The bike’s gas cap is flush mounted with the gas tank surface to enhance the bike's "stealthiness."

- Each side of each wheel contains five machined aluminum B-2 models positioned in the shape of the Air Force star; each model is engraved with the tail number of one of the 20 B-2s in the current fleet.

- The "aft deck" of the bike is made from a scrap piece of the titanium from the B-2 Spirit of Oklahoma.

- A top view of the bike reveals that its handlebars, seat and aft deck are set parallel to the "leading edge" of its gas tank, mimicking the B-2's unique "planform aligned" design.

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