

Nothing Black at Nellis Air Show

From: MarkFarmer@aol.com
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Subject: Nothing Black at Nellis Air Show

Dear Comrades,

OK... here goes, but first things first. The USAF at all levels denies the rumor that anything Black will be unveiled at the Nellis airshow.

Second, there has never been and will never be an "Aurora" or TR-3A. The Aurora budget line item request for "a hypersonic air-breathing follow-on to the SR-71" was nothing more than a cloak over Lockheed's non-winning stealth bomber design. One to three fast-movers were built during the past decade -- but they were way too expensive and missed their performance goals. The TR-3A designation makes no sense since the TR or tactical reconnaissance moniker is no longer used (the U-2 was briefly designated TR-1 then back to U-2R/S). The stumpy bat-wing craft that Douglas and myself have spotted is out there, but who knows what it is, who built it and what it does (strike/recon and Northrop-Grumman is a good guess).

So if the USAF does unveil something it would most likely be something out of the museum at Groom -- Tacit Blue is a good example of such a craft (concept/technology demonstrator). If there is another ship to be shown, I would suspect it would be in the stealth aircraft flyby (no static display) -- and I would expect to see some new stealthy attack craft probably in the shape of a long black wedge with no vertical surfaces (like the ones I saw in the Pahranaagat Valley a couple years ago).

My word to all you out there is to get hip with CURRENT aircraft design and technology... not meaning to be rude, but when you talk of Auroras and TR-3As it just sounds stupid.

By the way -- check out next weeks Aviation Week and Space Technology. One of my recent aerial shots of A51 is featured (a not-so-dry Groom Lake) plus I got a cover shot of an Alaska Airline 737-400 landing in the most dangerous airport in North America... Juneau.

Hombre X

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