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## Re: Nothing Black at Nellis Air Show

From: [MarkFarmer@aol.com](mailto:MarkFarmer@aol.com)  
Date: Sun, 16 Mar 1997 23:09:14 -0500 (EST)  
Subject: Re: Nothing Black at Nellis Air Show

Dan and others,

The USAF non-statement of no surprises at the Nellis airshow is to be taken with a grain of salt of course.

As for the Aurora/stealth bomber money/Ben Rich gospel question: Several unsubstantiated reports from reputable sources indicate that Lockheed built a sub-scale version of their stealth bomber design that later became the basis for the cancelled replacement to the cancelled fast-mover SR-71 replacement (the so-called Aurora -- probable code-name "HONEYDRIPPER") and that aircraft was called the "Q" (it was a UAV).

While Northrop did draw-up the THAP -- that doesn't mean that provides the proof that they built the Manta. What is more telling is the stealth aircraft industrial/manufacturing base Northrop had to build from scratch in order to produce the B-2.

Also, the full blown Tier 3 was never built and at one time was the "Q". In addition the code name SENIOR CITIZEN was not the fast-mover but is most likely a double-delta stealth V/STOL special forces transport (I spotted a large dark shape corresponding to such a design three years ago near TTR).

Your constructive criticism is noted and I agree that the Skunk Works mailing list has higher-quality aircraft/weapon posting than this group... despite that being said, most people reading and posting to this group would do well to evaluate their Aurora/TR-3A belief systems.

-X

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