

SR-71 BLACKBIRD WITH D-21 DRONE

1/72 scale

Aerial reconnaissance has become one of the most important sources of strategic information for military planners. Where orbiting satellites are suitable for certain information, a piloted aircraft is much more versatile as a data gatherer. History's most famous "spy plane" is Lockheed's U-2, a subsonic, high altitude photo platform. Although capable of flying as high as 85,000 feet, the U-2's top speed of some 500 mph made it vulnerable to interception by zoom-climbing fighters or surface-to-air missiles.

On April 26, 1962, the supersonic successor to the U-2 made its first flight in total secrecy. Known as the Lockheed A-12, the new plane resembled nothing that had ever flown before. It was larger than most bombers and faster than any airplane yet built, with the exception of the famous X-15 rocket research craft. Early in the development of the big plane, clandestine flights were made over Communist countries to determine its suitability for its intended role.

Developed along with the A-12, and used as a proving vehicle for the radical aeronautic principles being investigated, was a unique dart-like missile equipped with a ramjet engine and an internal reconnaissance bay. Called D-21, the drone, or unmanned missile, was initially launched from a B-52 bomber. Later, tests were made in which the drone was carried piggy-back on the A-12, and launched at high altitude.

The first A-12's were modified and classed as fighters, designated YF-12A, but their role was mainly research, while the true reconnaissance version, the SR-71, was put into production, making its first flight on December 22, 1964. The existence of the new spy plane was a well-kept secret during its development, but such a radical machine could not be kept under wraps for long, and in September of

1964, the YF-12A was unveiled to the press. Ten years later, in September of 1974, an SR-71A set a transatlantic speed record, flying from New York to London in less than two hours.

With its advanced surveillance gear, the SR-71 can scan thousands of miles of the earth's surface every hour. It normally flies at altitudes above 80,000 feet at three-times the speed of sound, far beyond the reach of contemporary interceptors or SAM missiles. With such performance as shown by the SR-71, the D-21 drones were no longer needed for reconnaissance and the remaining examples were retired to Davis-Monthan AFB for storage.

AIRCRAFT CHARACTERISTICS

SR-71 Wingspan:	55 feet 7 inches
Length:	107 feet 5 inches
Height:	18 feet 6 inches
Powerplant:	Two Pratt & Whitney J58 engines with 32,000 lbs of thrust each.
Performance:	Maximum speed-2,200 mph @ 86,000 feet.
Range:	(At Mach 3) 2,982 miles. The SR-71 is equipped with aerial refueling gear.
D-21 Wingspan:	19 feet
Length:	43 feet
Powerplant:	Marquardt RJ43-MA-11 Ramjet engine
Performance:	Maximum speed Mach 4+
Range:	2,500 miles



Cement Parts
Coller
Kleben
Pegar
Incollare
Colar
Kleven



DO NOT cement
Ne pas coller
Nicht kleben
No pegar
Non incollare
Não colar
Niet kleven



Cut away
Couper
Scherden
Cortar
Tagliare
Cortar
Snijden

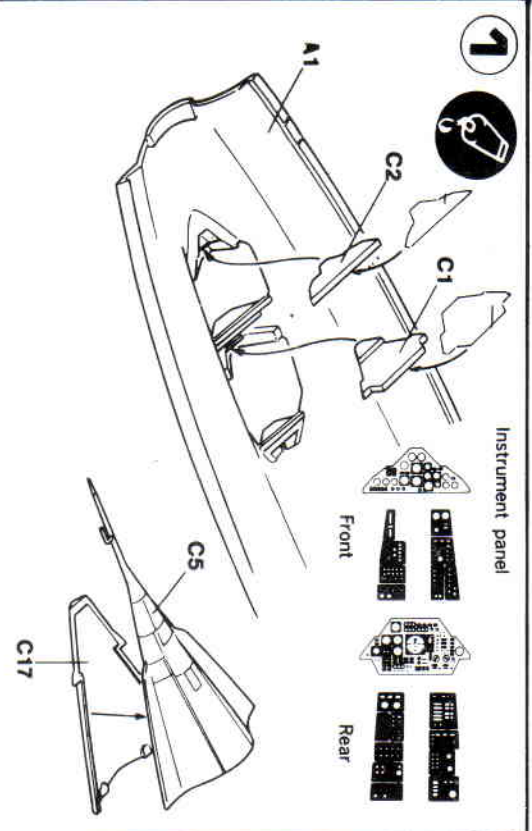


Optional parts
Choix
Auswahlmöglichkeit
Elección
Sclta
Opcao
Keuze



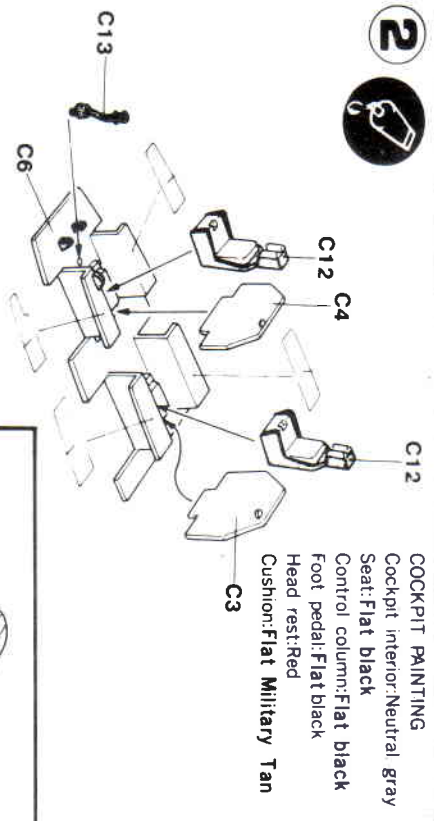
Repeat operation
Répéter l'opération
Vorgang wiederholen
Repitir la operacion
Ripetere
Repitir a operacão
Herhalen

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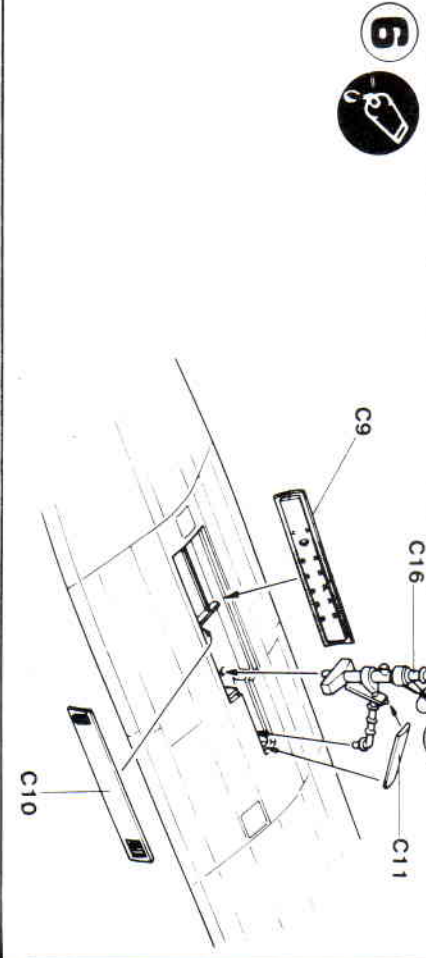
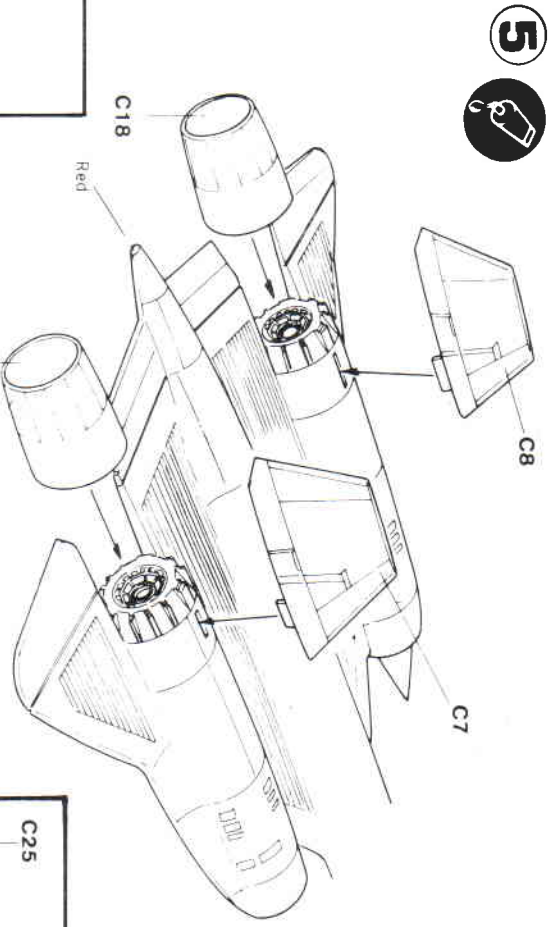
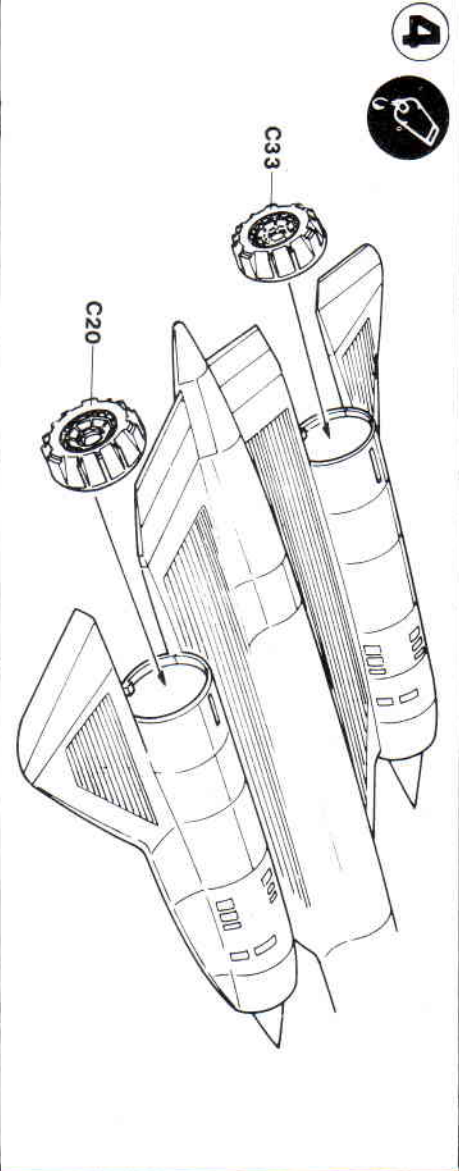
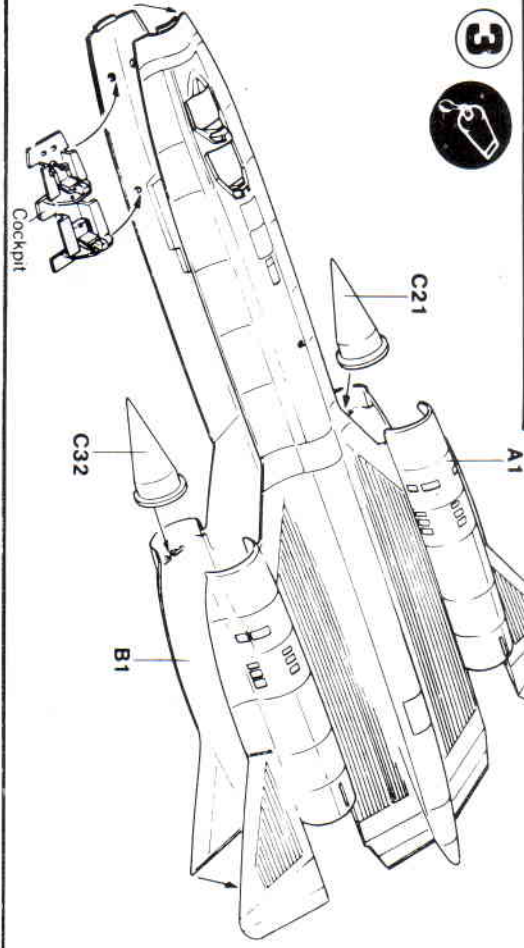


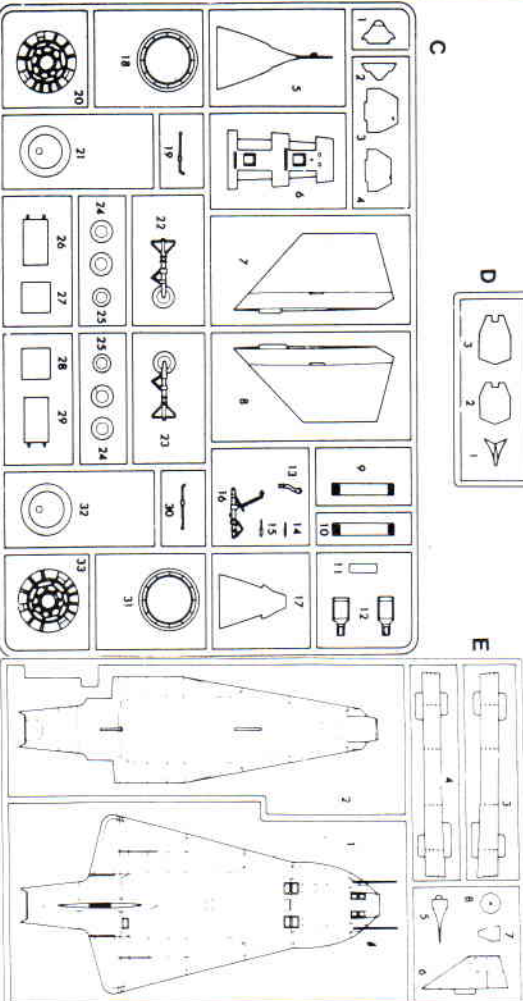
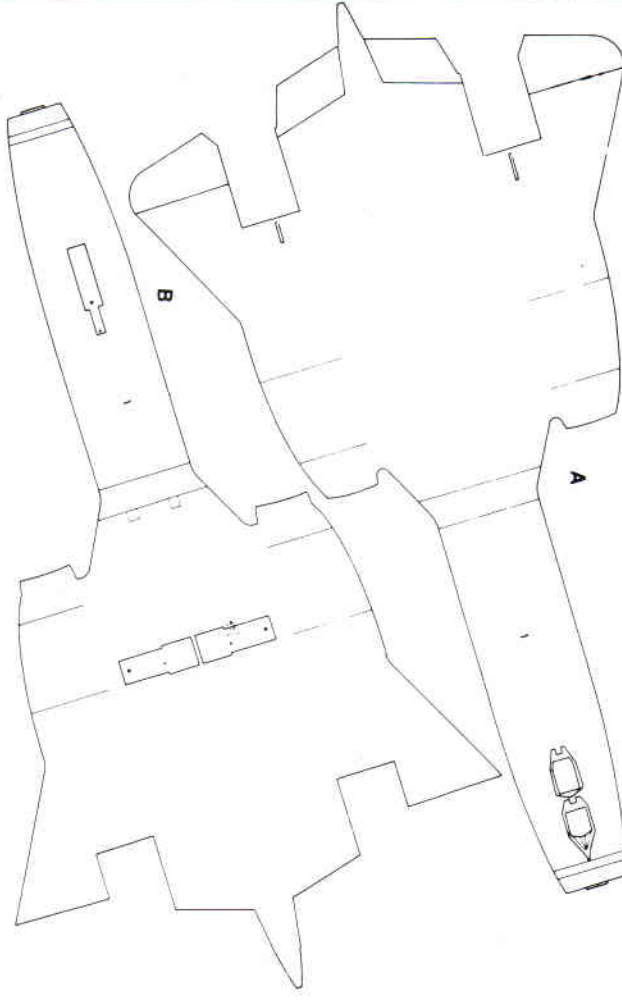
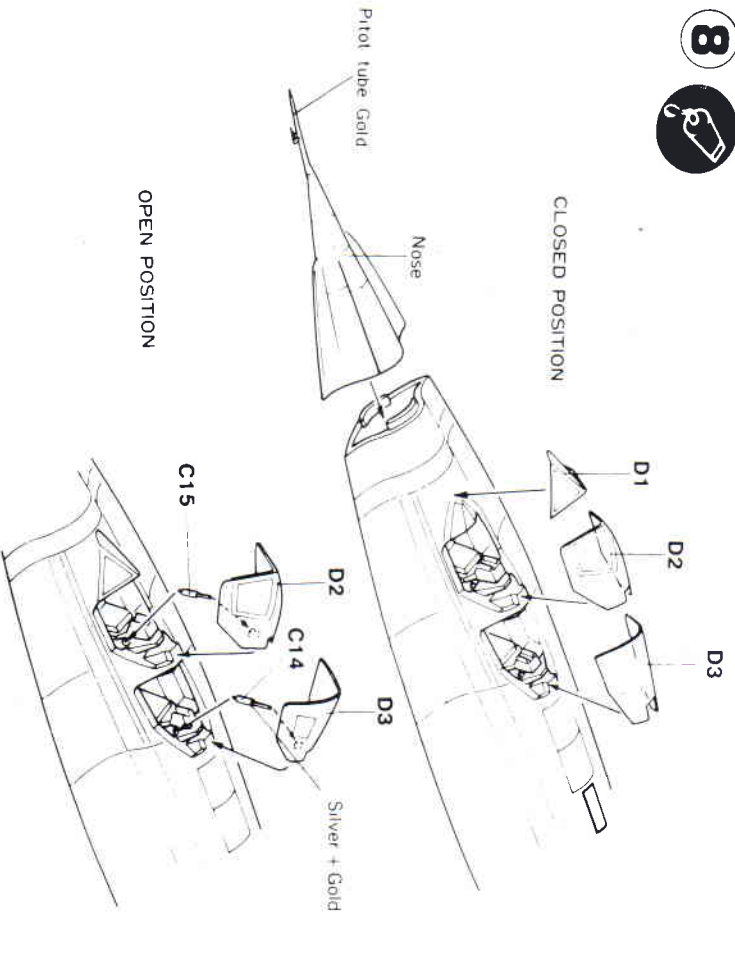
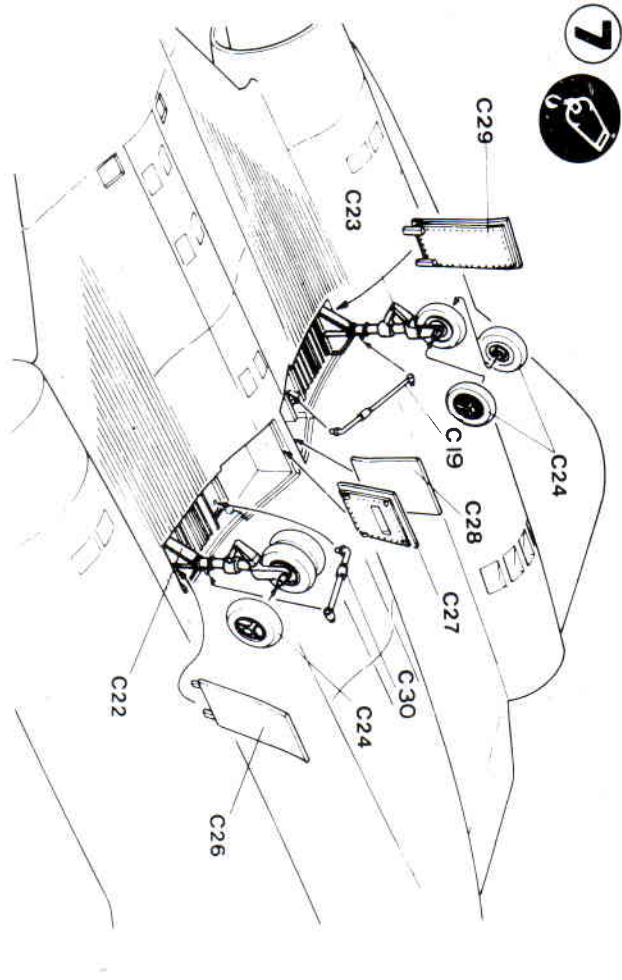
Instrument panel

Front
Rear



COCKPIT PAINTING
 Cockpit interior: Neutral gray
 Seat: Flat black
 Control column: Flat black
 Foot pedal: Flat black
 Head rest: Red
 Cushion: Flat Military Tan





PARTS IDENTIFICATION

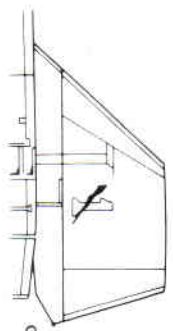
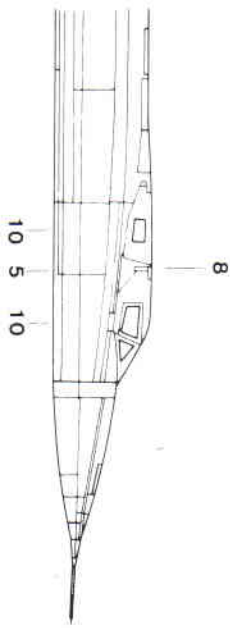
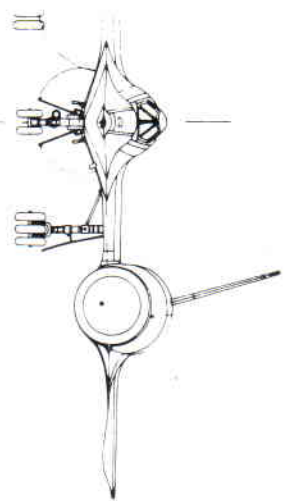
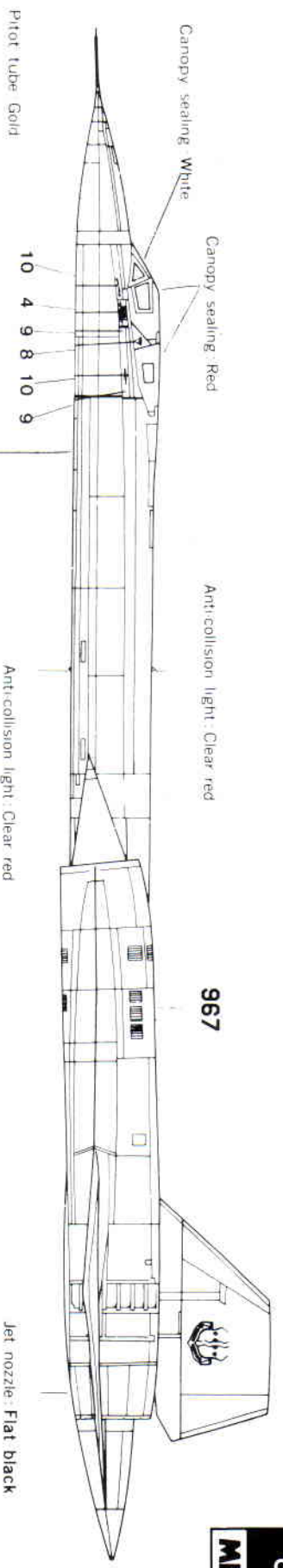
- A-PART**
- 1. Fuselage top
- B-PART**
- 1. Fuselage bottom
- C-PARTS**
- 1. Instrument panel (R)
- 2. Instrument panel (F)
- 3. Rear bulkhead
- 4. Front bulkhead
- 5. Radome top
- 6. Cockpit floor

- 7. Vertical Stabilizer (R)
- 8. Vertical Stabilizer (L)
- 9. Nose door (L)
- 10. Nose door (R)
- 11. Nose strut cover
- 12. Crew seats (2)
- 13. Control column
- 14. Canopy actuator (R)
- 15. Canopy actuator (F)
- 16. Nose gear strut

- 17. Exhaust nozzle (L)
- 18. Exhaust nozzle (R)
- 19. Main gear strut (L)
- 20. Main gear strut (R)
- 21. Intake cone (R)
- 22. Main gear (R)
- 23. Main gear (L)
- 24. Main wheels (4)
- 25. Nose wheels (2)
- 26. Main gear door (R)
- 27. Main wheel door (R)

- 28. Main wheel door (L)
- 29. Main gear door (L)
- 30. Main gear door (R)
- 31. Exhaust nozzle (R)
- 32. Intake cone (L)
- 32. Flame holder (L)
- D-PARTS**
- 1. Windshield
- 2. Canopy (F)
- 3. Canopy (R)

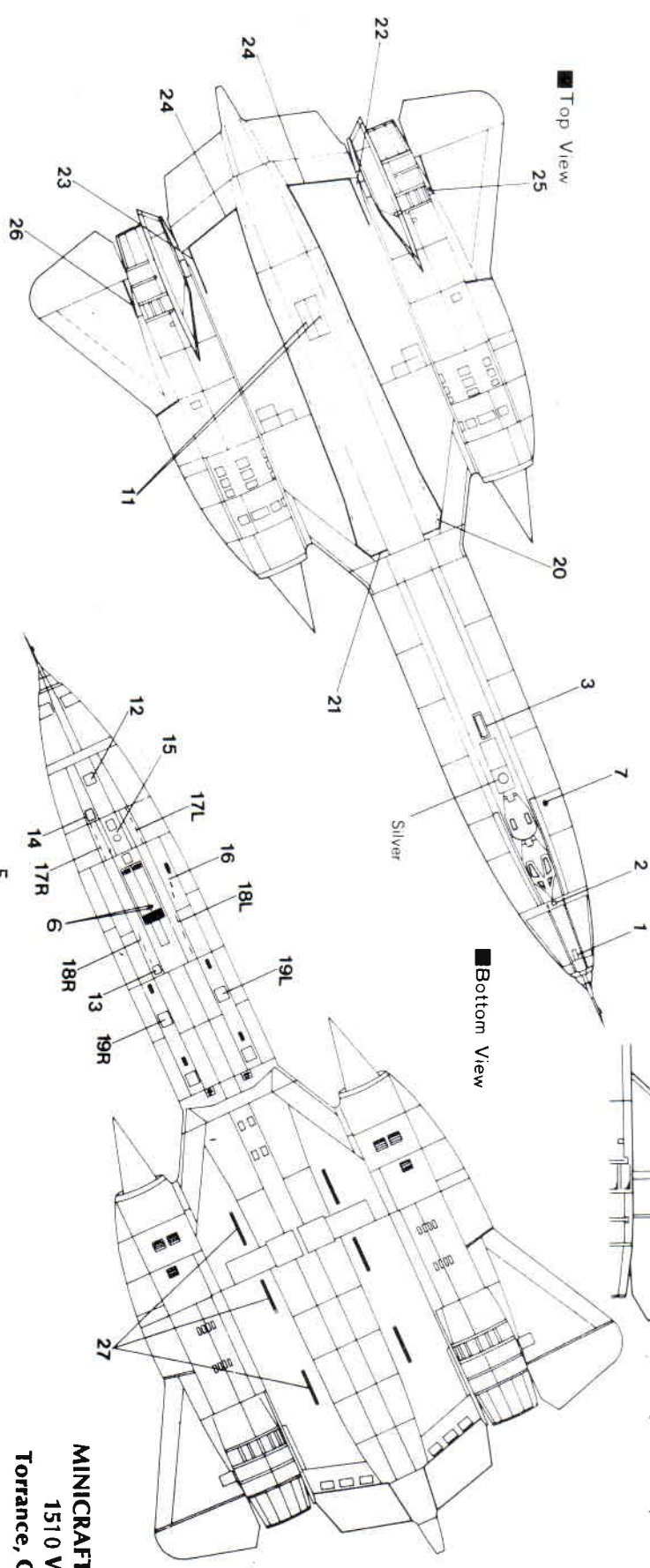
- E PARTS**
- 1. Fuselage top
- 2. Fuselage bottom
- 3. Pylon (L)
- 4. Pylon (R)
- 5. Mach cone
- 6. Vertical tail
- 7. Mach cone
- 8. Exhaust nozzle



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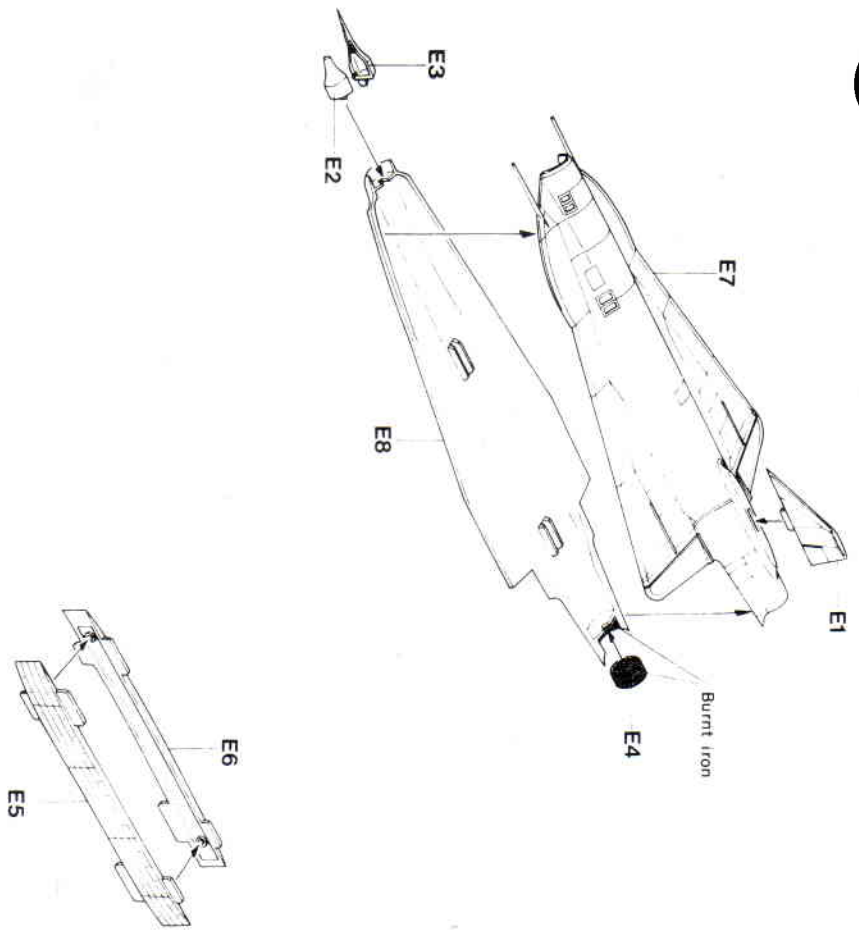
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Det. 1st of 1st SRW/9th SRW
(Kadena AFB, Okinawa)

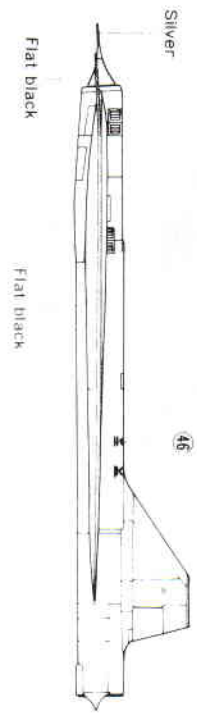


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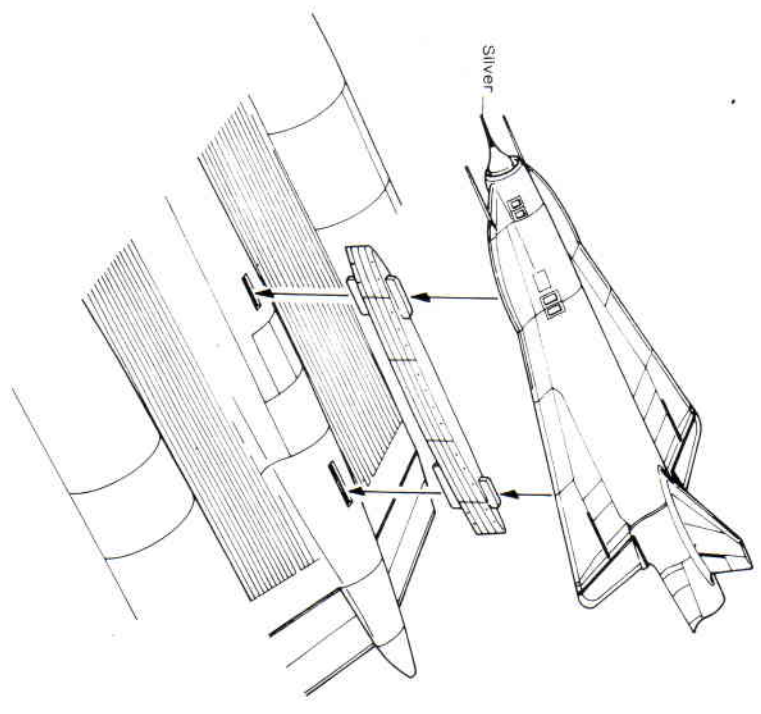


《SIDE VIEW of GTD-218》



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《BOTTOM VIEW of GTD-218》

