

NASA Dryden Flight Research Center
History Office

Lockheed SR-71B (61-7956 / NASA 831) Flight Log

Compiled by Peter W. Merlin
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NASA crews flew four Lockheed SR-71 airplanes between July 1991 and October 1999. They were used for research and to support the U.S. Air Force reactivation of the SR-71 for reconnaissance missions. The Air Force had retired the Blackbirds in 1990, but Congress reinstated funding for additional flights. Steve Ishmael and Rod Dyckman flew two functional check flights in Lockheed SR-71B (61-7956 / NASA 831) at Palmdale in early July 1991 before delivering the aircraft to Dryden on 25 July. The SR-71B trainer served as a research platform and for crew training and proficiency until October 1997. It was then placed in storage at DFRC pending delivery to the Kalamazoo Aviation Museum in Michigan. This aircraft made 1,454 flights during its service life, including 93 NASA flights. It accrued a total of 3,967.5 flight hours.

Flt. 01 / 01 JUL 91 : Functional check flight (FCF) at Palmdale. Stephen D. Ishmael/W. Rod Dyckman. Max. Mach=3.10, Max. Altitude=71,400 ft.

Flt. 02 / 10 JUL 91 : FCF at Palmdale. Dyckman/Ishmael. Max. Mach=3.23, Max. Altitude=80,800 ft.

Flt. 03 / 25 JUL 91 : FCF, Ferry to NASA DFRC. Dyckman/Ishmael. Max. Mach=3.09, Max. Altitude=74,500 ft.

Flt. 04 / 14 AUG 91 : First all-NASA crew. Rogers E. Smith/Ishmael. Max. Mach=3.06, Max. Altitude=75,500 ft.

Flt. 05 / 26 AUG 91 : First inflight refueling. Smith/Ishmael. Max. Mach=3.22, Max. Altitude=79,800 ft.

Flt. 06 / 23 SEP 91 : Last training flight for Smith. Smith/Ishmael. Max. Mach=3.19, Max. Altitude=78,700 ft.

Flt. 07 / 03 OCT 91 : RSO checkout. Ishmael/Marta Bohn-Meyer. Max. Mach=3.23, Max. Altitude=81,450 ft.

Flt. 08 / 09 OCT 91 : RSO checkout. Smith/Robert Meyer Jr. Max. Mach=3.23, Max. Altitude=81,450 ft.

Flt. 09 / 29 OCT 91 : Operational experience mission. Ishmael/Bohn-Meyer. Max. Mach=3.20, Max. Altitude=79,500 ft.

Flt. 10 / 01 NOV 91 : Operational experience mission. Smith/Meyer. Max. Mach=3.25, Max. Altitude=81,500 ft.

Flt. 11 / 07 NOV 91 : Operational experience mission. Ishmael/Bohn-Meyer. Max. Mach=3.21, Max. Altitude=81,500 ft.

Flt. 12 / 14 NOV 91 : Operational experience mission. Ishmael/Meyer.
Max. Mach=3.21, Max. Altitude=81,800 ft.

Flt. 13 / 28 JAN 92 : FCF, Operational experience mission. Ishmael/Meyer.
Max. Mach=3.26, Max. Altitude=77,400 ft.

Flt. 14 / 26 FEB 92 : Operational experience mission. Smith/Bohn-Meyer.
Max. Mach=3.26, Max. Altitude=81,100 ft.

Flt. 15 / 28 JAN 92 : Level accelerations. Ishmael/Meyer. Max. Mach=3.12,
Max. Altitude=78,000 ft.

Flt. 16 / 22 APR 92 : Operational experience mission. Smith/Ishmael.
Max. Mach=3.22, Max. Altitude=81,800 ft.

Flt. 17 / 20 MAY 92 : Crew proficiency. Smith/Ishmael. Max. Mach=3.21,
Max. Altitude=83,500 ft.

Flt. 18 / 04 JUN 92 : Operational experience and pilot checkout. Thomas C. McMurtry/Ishmael.
Max. Mach=3.23, Max. Altitude=83,000 ft.

Flt. 19 / 26 JUN 92 : Orientation flight for director of National AeroSpace plane (NASP) Joint
Program Office. Dr. Robert Barthelemy/Ishmael. Max. Mach=3.23,
Max. Altitude=82,160 ft.

Flt. 20 / 24 OCT 92 : FCF, Dryden Family Day fly-by. Ishmael/Bohn-Meyer. Max. Mach=3.20,
Max. Altitude=78,600 ft.

Flt. 21 / 28 JAN 92 : Crew proficiency with tanker. Smith/Meyer.
Max. Mach=3.26, Max. Altitude=80,500 ft.

Flt. 22 / 08 DEC 92 : Refueled from KC-10 tanker, Navy Radar Surveillance Technology radar
(RSTER) test over Atlantic Ocean. Aircraft flew almost 6,000 NM in less than 5 hours.
Ishmael/Bohn-Meyer. Max. Mach=3.09, Max. Altitude=76,500 ft.

Flt. 23 / 20 JAN 93 : Inlet test, crew proficiency. Smith/Meyer.
Max. Mach=3.22, Max. Altitude=80,000 ft.

Flt. 24 / 14 APR 93 : FCF, crew proficiency. Smith/Bohn-Meyer.
Max. Mach=3.23, Max. Altitude=81,500 ft.

Flt. 25 / 09 NOV 93 : FCF, crew proficiency. Ishmael/Bohn-Meyer.
Max. Mach=3.07, Max. Altitude=75,850 ft.

Flt. 26 / 18 FEB 94 : FCF, crew proficiency. Ishmael/Meyer.
Max. Mach=3.20, Max. Altitude=81,200 ft.

Flt. 27 / 25 FEB 94 : FCF, orientation ft. for NASA Associate Deputy Administrator. Gen. John
R. Dailey/Ishmael. Max. Mach=3.17, Max. Altitude=82,100 ft.

Flt. 28 / 04 MAR 94 : FCF. Smith/Bohn-Meyer. Max. Mach=3.23,
Max. Altitude=80,800 ft.

Flt. 29 / 24 AUG 94 : FCF. Smith/Meyer. Max. Mach=3.23, Max. Altitude=79,300 ft.

Flt. 30 / 06 OCT 94 : Crew proficiency. Ishmael/Meyer. Max. Mach=3.22, Max. Altitude=83,600 ft.

Flt. 31 / 18 OCT 94 : Pilot checkout, highest NASA SR-71 flight. Edward T. Schneider/Ishmael. Max. Mach=3.22, Max. Altitude=84,700 ft.

Flt. 32 / 17 NOV 94 : Pilot checkout. C. Gordon Fullerton/Ishmael. Max. Mach=3.23, Max. Altitude=82,300 ft.

Flt. 33 / 08 DEC 94 : Crew proficiency. Ishmael/Smith. Max. Mach=3.23, Max. Altitude=82,500 ft.

Flt. 34 / 20 JAN 95 : Crew proficiency. Schneider/Ishmael. Max. Mach=3.05, Max. Altitude=75,400 ft.

Flt. 35 / 22 FEB 95 : Crew proficiency. Schneider/Smith. Max. Mach=3.11, Max. Altitude=77,000 ft.

Flt. 36 / 18 MAY 95 : Crew proficiency. Schneider/Meyer. Max. Mach=3.22, Max. Altitude=80,800 ft.

Flt. 37 / 31 MAY 95 : Crew proficiency. Schneider/Bohn-Meyer. Max. Mach=3.22, Max. Altitude=81,290 ft.

Flt. 38 / 27 JUN 95 : Air Force training flight. Lt. Col Gary "Gil" Luloff/Smith. Max. Mach=3.23, Max. Altitude=78,245 ft.

Flt. 39 / 15 JUL 95 : Air Force training flight. Luloff/Smith. Max. Mach=3.03, Max. Altitude=75,100 ft.

Flt. 40 / 20 JUL 95 : Instructor Pilot (IP) flight for Schneider. Smith/Schneider. Max. Mach=3.04, Max. Altitude=76,200 ft.

Flt. 41 / 28 JUL 95 : Air Force training flight. Lt. Col Thomas McCleary/Smith. Max. Mach=3.15, Max. Altitude=76,650 ft.

Flt. 42 / 02 AUG 95 : Air Force training flight. McCleary/Smith. Max. Mach=3.05, Max. Altitude=77,450 ft.

Flt. 43 / 11 AUG 95 : Air Force training flight. McCleary/Schneider. Max. Mach=3.15, Max. Altitude=78,000 ft.

Flt. 44 / 17 AUG 95 : Crew proficiency. Schneider/Bohn-Meyer. Max. Mach=3.20, Max. Altitude=80,500 ft.

Flt. 45 / 24 AUG 95 : Air Force night training flight. Luloff/Smith. Max. Mach=3.04, Max. Altitude=75,850 ft.

Flt. 46 / 29 AUG 95 : Air Force crew requalification. McCleary/Lt. Col. Blair Bozek. Max. Mach=3.15, Max. Altitude=76,500 ft.

Flt. 47 / 31 AUG 95 : Crew proficiency. Smith/Meyer. Max. Mach=3.24, Max. Altitude=79,800 ft.

Flt. 48 / 27 SEP 95 : FCF, crew proficiency. Smith/Schneider. Max. Mach=3.21,

Max. Altitude=80,300 ft.

Flt. 49 / 30 OCT 95 : Crew proficiency, Air Force SR-71 Reactivation. McCleary/Schneider.
Max. Mach=3.05, Max. Altitude=74,500 ft.

Flt. 50 / 09 NOV 95 : Crew proficiency, Air Force SR-71 Reactivation. Luloff/Smith. Max.
Mach=3.18, Max. Altitude=80,000 ft.

Flt. 51 / 16 NOV 95 : Air Force night training flight. McCleary/Schneider.
Max. Mach=3.02, Max. Altitude=77,050 ft.

Flt. 52 / 22 NOV 95 : Air Force training flight. Lt. Col. Donald Watkins/Schneider.
Max. Mach=3.22, Max. Altitude=78,950 ft.

Flt. 53 / 11 DEC 95 : Air Force training flight. Watkins/Schneider.
Max. Mach=3.21, Max. Altitude=80,250 ft.

Flt. 54 / 14 DEC 95 : Orientation flight for commander of the Air Force Flight Test Center.
Schneider/B. Gen Richard Engel. Max. Mach=3.27, Max. Altitude=80,400 ft.

Flt. 55 / 11 JAN 96 : Air Force training flight. Watkins/Smith.
Max. Mach=3.23, Max. Altitude=77,400 ft.

Flt. 56 / 18 JAN 96 : Air Force requalification flight. McCleary/Schneider.
Max. Mach=3.02, Max. Altitude=77,700 ft.

Flt. 57 / 01 FEB 96 : Crew proficiency. Schneider/Meyer. Max. Mach=3.21,
Max. Altitude=80,150 ft.

Flt. 58 / 06 FEB 96 : Air Force crew proficiency flight . Luloff/Smith.
Max. Mach=3.17, Max. Altitude=75,300 ft.

Flt. 59 / 16 FEB 96 : Crew proficiency. Schneider/Bohn-Meyer.
Max. Mach=1.50, Max. Altitude=48,000 ft.

Flt. 60 / 20 MAR 96 : FCF, no-chute landing. Schneider/Bohn-Meyer.
Max. Mach=3.09, Max. Altitude=79,000 ft.

Flt. 61 / 29 MAR 96 : Crew proficiency, no-chute landing. Smith/Meyer.
Max. Mach=3.22, Max. Altitude=80,000 ft.

Flt. 62 / 04 APR 96 : Crew proficiency, heavy-weight takeoff, no-chute landing. Schneider/Bohn-
Meyer. Max. Mach=3.04, Max. Altitude=76,400 ft.

Flt. 63 / 10 APR 96 : Crew proficiency, heavy-weight takeoff, no-chute landing. Smith/Meyer.
Max. Mach=3.22, Max. Altitude=80,100 ft.

Flt. 64 / 25 APR 96 : Crew proficiency, tanker training. Schneider/Meyer.
Max. Mach=3.26, Max. Altitude=82,200 ft.

Flt. 65 / 16 MAY 96 : Crew proficiency, tanker training. Smith/Bohn-Meyer. Max. Mach=3.01,
Max. Altitude=74,000 ft.

Flt. 66 / 05 JUN 96 : Crew proficiency. Schneider/Meyer. Max. Mach=3.04,
Max. Altitude=78,600 ft.

Flt. 67 / 22 AUG 96 : Crew proficiency, heavy-weight takeoff. Schneider/Bohn-Meyer. Max. Mach=3.23, Max. Altitude=80,800 ft.

Flt. 68 / 07 SEP 96 : Pilot checkout and proficiency. Dana Purifoy/Schneider. Max. Mach=3.24, Max. Altitude=84,300 ft.

Flt. 69 / 08 OCT 96 : Air Force training flight. Luloff/Smith. Max. Mach=3.17, Max. Altitude=80,000 ft.

Flt. 70 / 23 OCT 96 : Air Force training flight. Luloff/Schneider. Max. Mach=3.20, Max. Altitude=78,800 ft.

Flt. 71 / 01 NOV 96 : Air Force training flight. McCleary/Smith. Max. Mach=3.15, Max. Altitude=78,050 ft.

Flt. 72 / 06 NOV 96 : Air Force training flight. McCleary/Schneider. Max. Mach=3.16, Max. Altitude=79,600 ft.

Flt. 73 / 20 NOV 96 : Air Force night training flight. Luloff/Schneider. Max. Mach=3.04, Max. Altitude=77,900 ft.

Flt. 74 / 03 DEC 96 : Air Force night training flight. McCleary/Smith. Max. Mach=3.02, Max. Altitude=76,500 ft.

Flt. 75 / 13 DEC 96 : Crew proficiency. Schneider/Meyer. Max. Mach=3.20, Max. Altitude=81,000 ft.

Flt. 76 / 28 JAN 97 : Crew proficiency. Schneider/Meyer. Max. Mach=3.20, Max. Altitude=80,000 ft.

Flt. 77 / 20 FEB 97 : Crew proficiency. Smith/Bohn-Meyer. Max. Mach=3.07, Max. Altitude=77,600 ft.

Flt. 78 / 04 MAR 97 : Pilot checkout. Schneider/Mark Stucky. Max. Mach=3.27, Max. Altitude=81,400 ft.

Flt. 79 / 17 APR 97 : Crew proficiency, orientation flight for retired Chief of NASA Ames Research Center Flight Operations. Martin A. Knutson/Schneider. Max. Mach=3.27, Max. Altitude=80,850 ft.

Flt. 80 / 02 MAY 97 : Air Force training flight, IP check for Luloff. McCleary/Luloff. Max. Mach=3.04, Max. Altitude=75,800 ft.

Flt. 81 / 08 MAY 97 : Air Force training flight, IP check for Luloff. Smith/Luloff. Max. Mach=3.03, Max. Altitude=74,900 ft.

Flt. 82 / 24 JUN 97 : Air Force training flight. Maj. Bert Garrison/Luloff. Max. Mach=3.04, Max. Altitude=74,000 ft.

Flt. 83 / 02 JUL 97 : Air Force training flight. Garrison/Luloff. Max. Mach=3.15, Max. Altitude=75,700 ft.

Flt. 84 / 15 JUL 97 : Air Force training flight. Garrison/Luloff. Max. Mach=3.06, Max. Altitude=75,900 ft.

Flt. 85 / 23 JUL 97 : Air Force training flight. Garrison/Luloff. Max. Mach=3.04, Max. Altitude=73,500 ft.

Flt. 86 / 29 JUL 97 : Air Force training flight. Garrison/Luloff. Max. Mach=3.18, Max. Altitude=78,000 ft.

Flt. 87 / 02 AUG 97 : Oshkosh Air Show fly-by, emergency landing at Milwaukee, Wisconsin due to fuel leak. Smith/Meyer. Max. Mach=3.05, Max. Altitude=74,600 ft.

Flt. 88 / 11 AUG 97 : Ferry flight from Milwaukee to DFRC, trouble with left engine resulted in damage to exhaust ejector over Omaha, Nebraska. Smith/Meyer.
Max. Mach=2.55, Max. Altitude=63,000 ft.

Flt. 89 / 18 SEP 97 : FCF due to replacement of left engine. Smith/Bohn-Meyer. Max. Mach=3.22, Max. Altitude=80,150 ft.

Flt. 90 / 24 SEP 97 : Air Force night IP check for Luloff. McCleary/Luloff.
Max. Mach=3.03, Max. Altitude=75,000 ft.

Flt. 91 / 14 OCT 97 : Air Force 50th Anniversary Aerial Review at Edwards AFB.
Schneider/Meyer. Max. Mach=3.22, Max. Altitude=76,600 ft.

Flt. 92 / 18 OCT 97 : Edwards AFB Air Show fly-by. Schneider/Bohn-Meyer.
Max. Mach=3.03, Max. Altitude=75,050 ft.

Flt. 93 / 19 OCT 97 : Edwards AFB Air Show fly-by. Schneider/Meyer.
Max. Mach=0.70, Max. Altitude=25,000 ft.

Sources:

SR-71 program chronology by Mike Relja
DFRC Flight Operations Office Daily Logs
Monthly Aerospace Projects Update memoranda
Weekly Aerospace Projects Highlights