



# FACT SHEET

## U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet

### GENERAL DYNAMICS F-111F AARDVARK

The F-111 was a long-range, all-weather strike aircraft capable of navigating at low level to destroy targets deep in enemy territory. The versatile F-111 Aardvark entered the U.S. Air Force inventory in 1967, and the fighter version was retired in 1996 (the electronic warfare [EF-111A](#) served until 1998). The aircraft was originally conceived in 1960 to combine the USAF requirement for a fighter-bomber with Navy's need for an air-superiority fighter, though the Navy eventually cancelled its program.



DAYTON, Ohio -- General Dynamics F-111F at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo)

Primarily a bomber, the F-111 featured a sweep wing varying between 16 degrees and 72.5 degrees, with side-by-side seating for a pilot and weapons systems officer. The F-111's wings are straight for take-offs, landings or slow speed flight; by sweeping its wings rearward, it could exceed twice the speed of sound (Mach 2). The F-111F was equipped with an all-weather [AN/AVQ-26 Pave Tack](#) infra-red targeting designator/reader carried in a pod-mounted turret under the fuselage. It could track and designate ground targets for targets for laser, infra-red and electro-optical bombs. The F-111F was one of the most effective Allied aircraft in [Operation Desert Storm](#) (1991), flying more than 2,400 sorties against Iraqi strategic sites, vehicle formations and hardened bunkers.

In all, 566 F-111s of all series were built; 106 of them were production F-111Fs. The F-111F on display arrived at the museum in May 1996.

#### TECHNICAL NOTES:

**Armament:** One 20mm M61A1 Vulcan cannon (later replaced by AN/AVQ-26 Pave Tack infra-red targeting pod), plus a mix of up to 24 conventional or nuclear weapons

**Engines:** Two Pratt & Whitney TF30-P-111s of 25,100 lbs. thrust each with afterburner

**Maximum speed:** 1,452 mph

**Range:** 2,971 miles

**Span:** 32 ft. swept, 63 ft. extended

**Length:** 73 ft. 6 in.

**Height:** 17 ft.

**Weight:** 100,000+ lbs. maximum

Click here to learn more about the [General Dynamics F-111F](#).

Click here to return to the [Cold War Gallery](#).

