

5th Generation Aerial Target (5GAT) Study Overview

Presented at NDIA, 3 October 2012

By: Steve Fendley

5-D Systems



Agenda

- ▶ 5GAT Need
- ▶ 5GAT Purpose
- ▶ 5GAT Concept Evolution
- ▶ 5GAT Study Details
- ▶ 5GAT Study Status
- ▶ 5GAT Future



5GAT Need

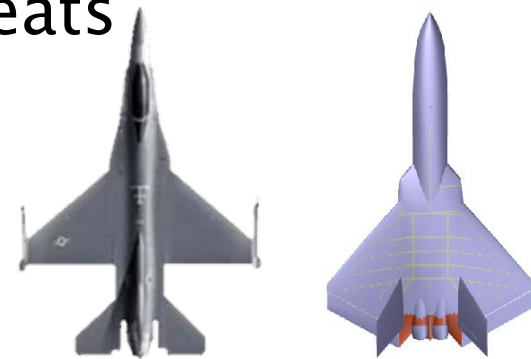
- ▶ QF-16 is a 4th Generation Threat Representation
- ▶ Future weapons programs will need to verify performance against advanced threats; programs include F-35, upgrades to F-22, PATRIOT, AMRAAM, Aegis, STANDARD Missile, and Sidewinder





5GAT Purpose / Mission

- ▶ 5GAT is intended to augment QF-16
- ▶ 5GAT represents an affordable solution to complement the QF-16 with 5th Generation characteristics
 - ▶ Reduced signature platform
 - ▶ Internal carriage for advanced augmentation devices to meet requirement to represent current / future 5th Gen threats
- ▶ Government Owned Design





5GAT Concept Evolution

- ▶ **Government Baseline**
 - Developed Conceptual Design
 - Developed OML – Supported by wind tunnel testing
 - Identified likely suitable engines
 - Determined Resulting Performance
 - Developed Initial System Requirements & Specs
- ▶ **Approached Industry for Study**
 - 5GAT Study (design / cost)



5GAT Basics

- ▶ Physical Size – comparable to F-16
- ▶ “Characteristics” – equivalent to 5th gen threats
- ▶ 12,000 lb class GTOW
- ▶ Twin Jet Engines
- ▶ Full Scale Mission
- ▶ Operation – Effectively a full scale subscale
 - Fully unmanned; not optionally piloted like previous full-scale drones
 - Operational differences from subscale
 - Runway takeoff
 - Runway landing
 - Redundancy rather than parachute as “failsafe”



Design and Cost Study Program Objectives

- ▶ Increase confidence in:
 - Unit Cost
 - Program Cost
 - Operational and Support Cost

- ▶ Study Strategy
 - Mature the government conceptual design to a “possible” Preliminary Design state
 - Encourage use of value added existing GFE
 - Encourage proven low cost techniques from other aircraft classes
 - Price the resulting design
 - Provide traceability to contractor historical cost data

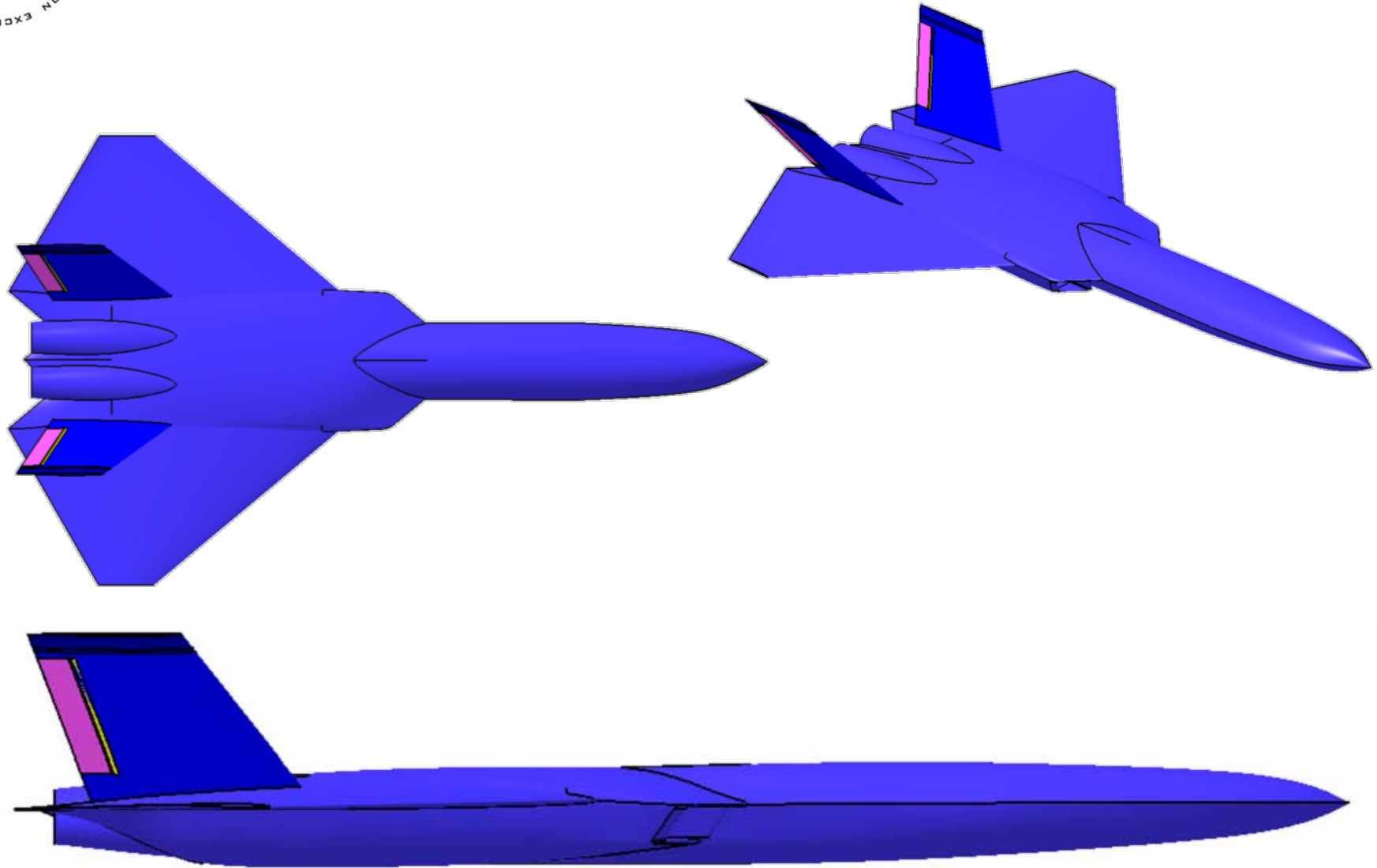


5-D and CEi Teamed to Pursue the 5GAT Study

- ▶ 5-D
 - Full scale target experience dating back to 1980s
 - Sub scale target experience
- ▶ CEi
 - Target development and manufacturing experience
 - Wide range of subscales from subsonic to supersonic for USAF, US Navy, and foreign customers



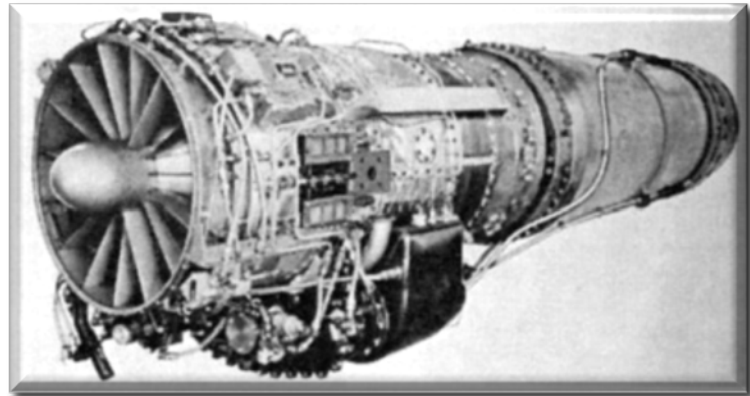
5GAT Govt Airframe





GE J85-5 Engine

- ▶ Used on T-38 jet trainer
- ▶ Turbojet with afterburner



Standard Day Sea Level Static Performance

Engine Speed	RPM	Thrust	Specific Fuel Consumption
Military	16,542	2,680 lbs (min)	1.03 lb/hr/lb of thrust (max)
Maximum Afterburner	16,542	3,849 lbs (min)	2.20 lb/hr/lb of thrust (max)



5GAT Keys to Success

- ▶ Three considerations determine the keys to success for 5GAT – Cost, Cost, Cost
 - Must be more cost effective than converting 5th gen manned fighter
 - Must be more cost effective than modifying existing 4th gen fighter and incorporating 5th gen characteristics
 - Must be more cost effective than conventional military high performance aircraft development and production approach



5GAT Low Cost Considerations

- ▶ Consideration – how are general aviation aircraft companies able to develop and produce lower cost aircraft?
- ▶ Consider VLJ aircraft in production
 - Acknowledge performance differences
 - Acknowledge some military requirements differences
 - Are there VLJ elements that can be applied?
- ▶ Consider other aircraft classes including high performance kit aircraft
 - Are there elements that can be applied?



Production Cost “Sanity Check”

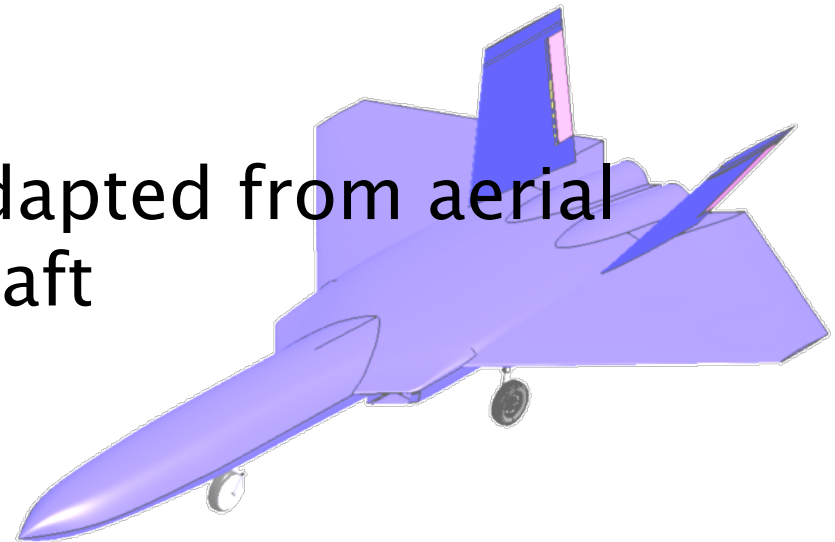
- ▶ Cost of commercial business jets scales well with empty weight
- ▶ Consider Eclipse 500
 - Current price: \$2.75M
 - Empty weight = 3,550 lb
- ▶ 5GAT weight is 2.03x Eclipse 500
 - Empty weight = 7,221 lb → \$5.5M





5GAT Low-Cost Approach

- ▶ All-composite airframe with low cost manufacturing approach
 - Large parts of airframe made as single components (skins and substructure)
 - Sparse internal structure for finite airframe lifetime
- ▶ GFE surplus jet engines
- ▶ Avionics and software adapted from aerial targets, not tactical aircraft





5GAT Study Status

- ▶ Study cost data submitted
- ▶ Study preliminary design basis established
 - Not the only way to configure/build, but the basis for the cost submitted in the study
- ▶ Represents substantial departure from
 - Conventional military manned aircraft development
 - Legacy Full-Scale target development
- ▶ Approach is “morph” of subscale and full-scale development
 - Cost basis partially dependent on “similar to” analysis of target system efforts, subsystems, components, and integration



Future 5GAT Actual Program

- ▶ Varying level of confidence among community / Government with respect to cost
- ▶ Risk reduction opportunities being researched – intent would be to improve confidence across community / Government
- ▶ Future program TBD