02A DELTA DAGGE

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The first operational delta-winged airplane was Convair's F-102A Delta Dagger. The delta, or triangular-shaped wing offers many advantages to the supersonic airplane. Among them is good supersonic performance combined with good low-speed handling qualities.

The F-102A is armed with two versions of the Hughes Falcon missile. Three each of the radar-guided GAR-1's and heat seeking GAR-2's are carried in the fuselage weapons bay. When originally built, the hollow weapons bay doors of the F-102A carried an additional twenty-four 2.75 inch rockets. These were later removed, leaving only the Falcon missiles.

The fuselage of the F-102A is area-ruled giving it a distinctive coke-bottle shape to guide the supersonic air past the airplane with the lowest possible days. The use of the delta wing eliminates the conventional horizontal stabilizer. All elevator and wing controls are attached to the

possible drag. The use of the delta wing eliminates the conventional horizontal stabilizer. All elevator and wing controls are attached to the training edge of the triangular wing.

By 1972, most F-102A's had been phased out of the U.S. Air Force, but the Delta Dagger is still active with the Greek and Turkish Air Forces. Some of the delta-winged fighters were converted to aerial targets and designated QF-102A.

CHARACTERISTICS

Dimensions: Wingspan – 38 feet, 1 inch. Length – 68 feet, 4 inches.

Powerplant: One Pratt & Whitney J57-P-23 turbojet engine with 17,200 lbs. thrust with an afterburner.

Performance: Maximum speed – 825 mph (Mach 1.25) at 36,000 feet. Range – 1,100 miles.

Armament: Six Hughes Falcon missiles in fuselage bay.





