General Dynamics F-16 Fighting Falcon



http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/aircraft/images/f-16c-19990601-f-0073c-007.jpg

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AOE 4124



- Purpose/Mission
- Aerodynamic Configuration
- Lift
- Drag
- Planform Issues and Analysis
- Airfoil Issues and Analysis
- Trim
- Trim Drag
- Performance
- Pros/Cons
- F-16 Experimental Variants



- RFP (issued Jan. 16, 1971)
- Provide an aircraft with maximum usable maneuverability and effectiveness in both the air-to-air and air-to-ground combat arenas but within the constraints of minimizing the cost and complexity
 - Superior maneuver performance and handling qualities at subsonic and transonic speeds (0.6<M<1.6)
 - Superior acceleration
 - The carriage of a variety of the latest air-to-ground weapons and their accurate delivery
 - A subsonic-cruise lift-to-drag ratio sufficient to provide effective mission radii with a variety of payloads
 - High T/W ratio
 - TOGW < 20,000lbs</p>
 - Operate at altitudes between 30 and 40 thousand feet



- Leading Edge Extensions
 - Provide controlled vortex lift
 - Produces lift on the inboard portion of the wing and straightens the flow over the outboard portion of the wing
 - Strake geometry and its interface with the forebody and wing were developed over many hours of wind tunnel testing of more than 50 configurations
 - Net increase in lift at high angles of attack is over 25 percent
 - Reduces buffet intensity
 - Improves directional stability
 - Increases trimmed lift-to-drag ratio
- Tail
 - Chose single tail over twin
 - Less buffeting from strake vortices at high alpha
- Engine Intake
 - Located below the nose a
 - Avoids gun gas ingestion and landing FOD



- Automatic Variable Camber
 - Provides an aerodynamically efficient wing surface throughout the flight envelope
 - LE flap is automatically positioned to minimize drag and buffet at all flight conditions
 - Optimizes the wing camber for turning maneuvers, cruise, and acceleration
 - At M > 1, LE and TE flaps are fixed at -2 degrees
 - Reduces profile drag at low angles of attack
 - Improves acceleration characteristics
 - Improves directional stability at high lift coefficients
 - Increases sustained and instantaneous lift up to 12 percent
 - Reduces buffet intensity by almost 60 percent



- Relaxed Static Stability
 - Increases lift-to-drag ratios at subsonic and supersonic speeds
 - Reduces down-load on the horizontal tail required to trim at high lift coefficients and at supersonic speeds
 - Increases total lift available at sustained-turn conditions (2% at subsonic cruise, 4-8% at M = 0.9, and 8-15% at M = 1.2)
- Blended Wing/Body
 - Provides additional volume for fuel storage, increasing range
 - Reduces wetted surface area, reducing drag
 - Increases structure rigidity
- Supersonic Area Ruling
 - Decreases wave-drag
 - Particular attention was given to the bubble canopy in the final area ruling of the fuselage/strake/nacelle combination





Nguyen, Luat T. et.al. Simulator Study of Stall/Post-Stall Characteristics of a Fighter Airplane With Relaxed Longitudinal Static Stability. NASA Technical Paper 1538. Dec. 1979.



Drag

Webb, T.S., Kent, D.R., Webb, J.B. Correlation of F-16 aerodynamics and performance predictions with early flight test results. Agard Conference Proceedings. n 242. Oct 11-13, 1977.

Planform Issues and Analysis

- Span e
 - $e \approx 0.9084 \text{ at } C_{L} = 0.4$
- Vortex Lattice Method Results

	Tornado (M=0.8)	VLMpc (M=0.8)	Wind Tunnel (M=0.9)
CL alpha (per deg)	0.0489	0.08104	0.09
Cm alpha (per deg)	-0.0284	-0.0448	-0.01125

Airfoil Issues and Analysis

- Airfoil
 - NACA 64A204
 - Variable Camber

Takeoff during ground roll 20° Takeoff after liftoff 15° • 20° Reflexed for high speed cruise -2° -2° Maximum manoeuvre configuration 25° 0° Approach configuration. 15° 20° Landing at wheel spin up 20° -2°<

Spick, Mike, ed. <u>The Great Book of Modern Warplanes</u>. Salamander Books Ltd: London, UK, 2002.

Trim

Nguyen, Luat T. et.al. Simulator Study of Stall/Post-Stall Characteristics of a Fighter Airplane With Relaxed Longitudinal Static Stability. NASA Technical Paper 1538. Dec. 1979.

Trim Drag

Droste, Carl S., Walker, James E. The General Dynamics Case Study on the F-16 Fly-By-Wire Flight Control System. AIAA Professional Study Series.

Performance

- Empty Weight 16,285 lb
- Combat Takeoff 26,536 lb
- Maximum Takeoff Weight 37,500 lb
- Wing Loading 88 lb/ft²
- Maximum Thrust 23,830 lb (27, 000 lb for later models)
- Thrust/Weight Ratio 0.94-1.08
- Maximum Velocity Mach 2.0(+)
- Ceiling 50,000 ft
- Climb Rate 50,000 ft/min
- Maximum Range 2,425 miles
- Max G-rating 9g with 100% fuel (7.33g with 80% fuel)
- AOA Limiter (basic, roll rate, and yaw rate)
- ARI Schedule (-AOA, -Mach)
- Rudder Authority Limiting

Performance

Webb, T.S., Kent, D.R., Webb, J.B. Correlation of F-16 aerodynamics and performance predictions with early flight test results. Agard Conference Proceedings. n 242. Oct 11-13, 1977.

Performance

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Pros/Cons

Pros

- Relatively long range
- Lower TOGW from various config. Option allows an increased turning rate (10%) and acceleration (30%)
- Small size = low radar returns
- Bubble canopy has large range of vision
- Designed to carry more missiles than specified
- Lower cost from using common components
- Upgradeable
- Increased life in airframe

- Cons
- Deep stall possible at 60 deg AOA
- Fixed engine inlet geometry reduces TOGW, but limits M<2
- OEI is a problem with only one engine
- Possible problem with control system (fly-by-wire) when struck by lightning

F-16 Experimental Variants

F-16XL

http://www.brockmoore.com/images/military/F-16XL.jpg

•Optimized for supercruise

F-16 Experimental Variants

AFTI/F-16

http://www.combatsim.com/archive/images/img_arc-13/aft002.jpg

•Experimentation with decoupled flight

- Droste, Carl S., Walker, James E. The General Dynamics Case Study on the F-16 Fly-By-Wire Flight Control System. AIAA Professional Study Series.
- Nguyen, Luat T. et.al. Simulator Study of Stall/Post-Stall Characteristics of a Fighter Airplane With Relaxed Longitudinal Static Stability. NASA Technical Paper 1538. Dec. 1979.
- Siuru, Bill, Holder, Bill. <u>F-16 Fighting Falcon</u>. 3rd ed. Tab/Aero Books: Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania, 1991.
- Spick, Mike, ed. <u>The Great Book of Modern Warplanes</u>. Salamander Books Ltd: London, UK, 2002.
- Webb, T.S., Kent, D.R., Webb, J.B. Correlation of F-16 aerodynamics and performance predictions with early flight test results. Agard Conference Proceedings. n 242. Oct 11-13, 1977.

F16 falcon.com. 19 April 2004. http://www.f16falcon.com>

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