

Lockheed M-21 Blackbird

by Andrew McLaughlin

M-21

The M-21 was basically an A-12 that was designed to carry and launch the expendable 10 ton D-21 (?mini-Blackbird?) unmanned reconnaissance drone, and two A-12s were built to M-21 standard to carry the drone. The main difference between the A-12 and M-21 models were that the M-21 had the sensor package in the ?Q?-bay behind the pilot?s cockpit removed to make way for a second seat for the Launch Control Officer (LCO).



An M-21/D-21 combination in flight. the D-21 has an aerodynamic cone covering its ramjet exhaust, suggesting this was a captured test flight only.

COFFEE