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Subject: Department of Defense cancels the Commanche

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Wed, 25 Feb 2004 05:04:27 GMT

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Quote:If I recall correctly, the original plan was to build 700+ F-22s to be put into service sometime in 2002. Well after a couple of cutback we're at somewhere around 400 planes for service entry in 2005. But the F-22 won't be cancelled, we need it to maintain air superiority. The F-15s of today's battle are still very capable, and our pilots are the best trained in the world. However, Russian fighters of today can perform maneuvers that far exceed what the F-15 can do. That's one reason we need the F-22.

There was an interesting program, I think during the 80's, that proposed a massive update to the F-15 design- it would have incorporated forward canards for additional maneuverability, as well as a thrust nozzle type very similar to the one on the F-22(able to be angled up and down). That variant, of which several prototypes were produced, had a much shorter takeoff run, higher fuel efficiency, and was a massive improvement over the current C and E variants. The program was, of course, scrapped due to its projected cost, but it would have brought the F-15 up to par with the F-22's performance(all except for stealth) without the need for a whole new airframe(and at least a decade or two earlier).

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