

6th Gen. Aircraft

Predictions and Expectations

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F-35s will soon start entering service in large numbers around the world with an initial plan of 3000 aircrafts to be built and with slated service life till 2070, we can say it will outlast the life spans of the many readers of this article. F-35 is a 5th gen aircraft. However there is no universal definition of what a 5th gen aircraft is or what it should be? A bit of search offered me a few definitions and the most I liked is as follows

“A 5th gen aircraft should have three main characteristics, (1) stealth, (2) super-cruise and (3) super manoeuvrability”

or we can say that 3ss. However research for its successor i.e. 6th gen aircrafts have already been initiated silently though the details are not available at this stage. However we can make some educated guess and thats the core idea of this thread; to share and think about future of aerospace technologies especially related to the next gen. It can be sticky thread so that members can add more info as it becomes available. To start discussion, I put my list of expected features/techs in the next gen aircrafts is

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) piloted
2. Flight by Light (FBL)
3. Radiation shields
4. Hyper-cruise
5. Super-stealthy
6. Satellite linking
7. Flexible structures
8. Extreme super manoeuvrability

Artificial intelligence has made great strides in 21 century thanks to the huge amount of research and modern high performance computational capabilities in compact format that can easily be fit modern aircrafts.

Now the thread is open for discussionThe best tip to keep the discussion focussed and enjoyable for all is start by studying the current advanced aircrafts and their systems, if you dont have the prior knowledge.