

Musk's Space Plane

or something



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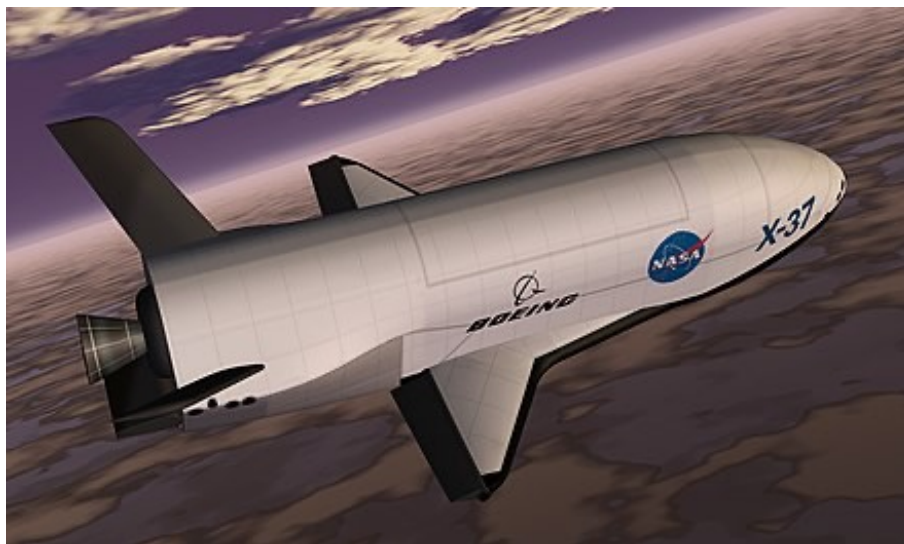
OK, paper number two today. I saw this [in a press release from the US Space Force](#). I guess you can see why I paused on that photo. Something looks very wrong there even at a glance. It doesn't look like a space plane. It looks like a papermache mock-up of a space plane. [Well, it gets worse.](#)



Note the USAF on the side. So this isn't just some private venture of Musk. You are paying for this atrocity with your taxdollars.



And how do you like that one? Look how tiny it is! How many problems can you spot there? Well, to start with, this is a small **unmanned craft**, so why are these bozos wearing pretend space suits? The thing didn't just return from a dangerous rendezvous with a poisoned asteroid in deep space, so this isn't one of those *Andromeda Strain* deals. Next, notice their boots. You have to laugh. Discount rubbers from Target taped to fake spacesuits left over from *Interstellar*. Is that Matthew McConaughey and Anne Hathaway? Guess they were running low of money during the strike and had to take this job. And last but certainly not least, notice that in this light we can see that the white covering isn't reflecting. It looks like canvas just taped over some rusted-out fuselage they found in the dump. The next best thing to the gold-painted scotch tape they used on the Moon Lander. You have to wonder how much they are billing us for this piece of garbage?



That's the original artist's rendering from 1999, which looks slightly more believable. It had to be to convince Congress to sign off on the initial 500 million for this mirage. Some of them might have wondered about canvas being the best covering for a space plane.

This is supposed to be a reusable space plane like the Space Shuttle, but scaled way back. Yeah, obviously. No heat tiles needed here, forty years later, just some black reflective foil. And that canvas above will be fine. Everyone knows only the nose and lower part of a space plane heat up. The upper half doesn't hit the atmosphere, because. . . well, you know. The plane pulls up and hits the atmosphere belly first, like John Belushi going off the diving board.

One of the missions of this thing is to take plant seeds into orbit, to see how they fare in space. That's where I want my taxes going, how about you? Because there is so much fertile soil waiting to be planted on the Moon, on Venus, on Mars, etc. Oh wait, no there isn't. So tell me why we're taking seeds into space?

Here's more laughs:

The X-37B was originally scheduled for launch in the payload bay of the Space Shuttle, but following the [Space Shuttle Columbia disaster](#), it was transferred to a [Delta II 7920](#). The X-37B was subsequently transferred to a shrouded configuration on the [Atlas V](#) rocket, following concerns over the unshrouded spacecraft's aerodynamic properties during launch.

Shrouded means it was taken up in a covered shell, to protect it at launch. So it didn't have enough aerodynamic properties to survive launch, but we are supposed to believe it could survive atmospheric reentry?

To avoid using an Atlas V to launch the X-37B, we are told it was later taken up under a White Knight:



Do you see the problem there? The White Knight couldn't take it into space, like the Atlas V. So none of these missions made the X-37 a space plane. It didn't go into space, since it didn't go above the Karman Line. It didn't reach escape velocity and had no reentry, since it never left. So the X-37 isn't a space plane. It is barely a plane, being more like a glider, even according to the mainstream stories. Like a peregrine falcon, these other planes just take it up high and it dives back down and supposedly lands. But I don't even believe that. That thing doesn't look airworthy. They may take it up and release it, but it would just crash down into the ocean. Maybe that's why they make it out of canvas. It is disposable. They have a whole hangar full of them and they just trot a new one out when the old one goes into the sea. Do we have any film of this thing landing? No, because it is a "secret project".

Convenient. Secret from the Chinese, or secret from the US taxpayer? You know the answer to that. Yet another government boondoggle, creating a fake program and billing us billions for it.