

AIR & SPACE

Smithsonian



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The pilot of this UH-1Y Venom will face the demons of density altitude in the Afghanistan mountains (p. 26).

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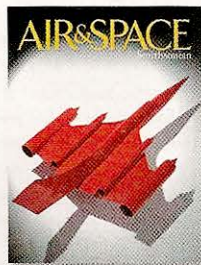
A pilot on the BD-5J aerobatic team remembers the 1975 airshow crowds, Jim Bede, and the thrill of flying the world's smallest jet.

BY DEBBIE GARY



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ON THE COVER: Before there was an SR-71 Blackbird, there was an idea interpreted in a scale model. Chad Slattery photographed a gallery of never-before-revealed objects from the Skunk Works. Story, page 38.



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