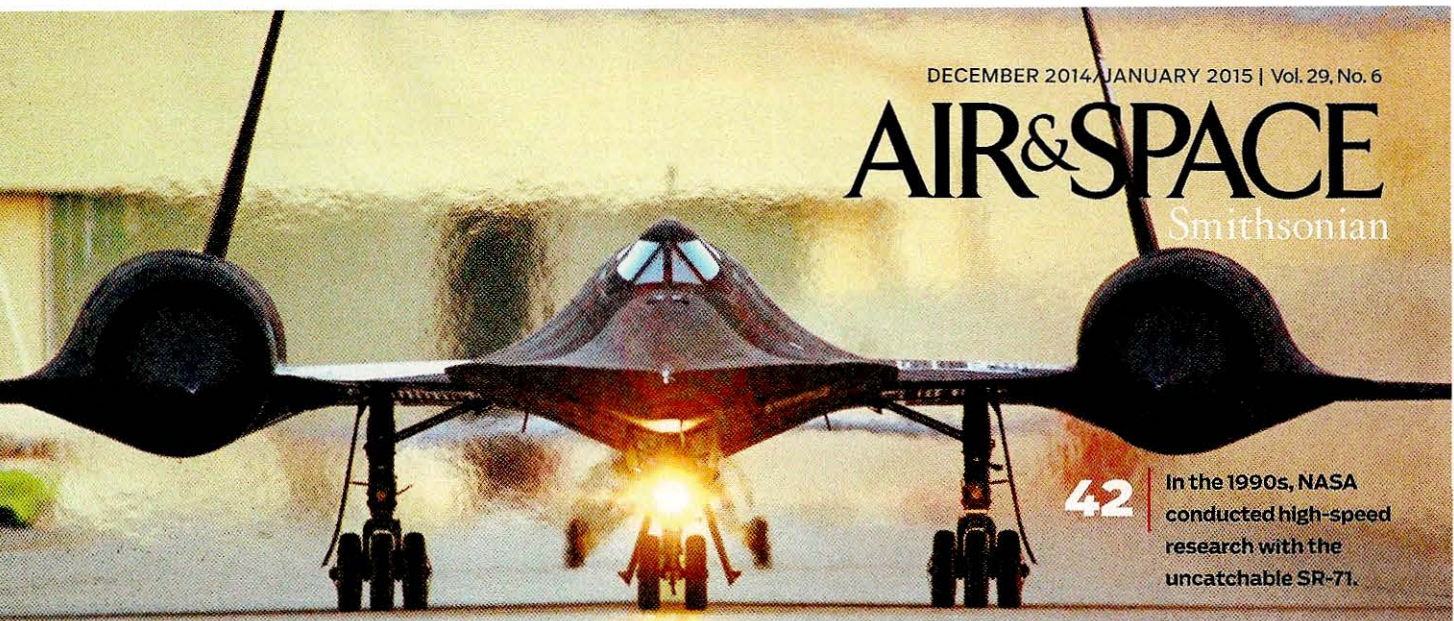


# AIR & SPACE

Smithsonian



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In the 1990s, NASA conducted high-speed research with the uncatchable SR-71.

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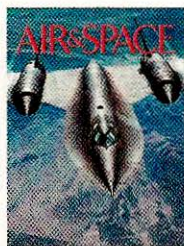
The SR-71 flew best at its Mach 3.2 design speed.

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We know it's real, but we've never seen it. The place to find dark matter is not in the sky; it's inside the Earth.

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**ON THE COVER:** It could travel half a mile in one second. To this day, no jet aircraft has flown faster or higher than the Blackbird. From the KC-135Q/T tanker that just pushed fuel to this SR-71, U.S. Air Force Sergeant Michael Haggerty filled his lens with spyplane.



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