



The North American X-15 is still the fastest, highest-flying aerodynamically supported machine man has yet produced, even though it has not flown for more than a quarter of a century. First dropped from its B-52 mother ship on June 8, 1959, the sinister-looking blue-black bullet pushed the boundaries of aviation to the edge of space and beyond.

Although overshadowed by the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs, the X-15 contributed its share to the exploration of space, and even more to the understanding of practical hypersonic flight. The knowledge gleaned by North American's manned bullet was to be a vital factor in the success of the

SPACE SHUTTLE!



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