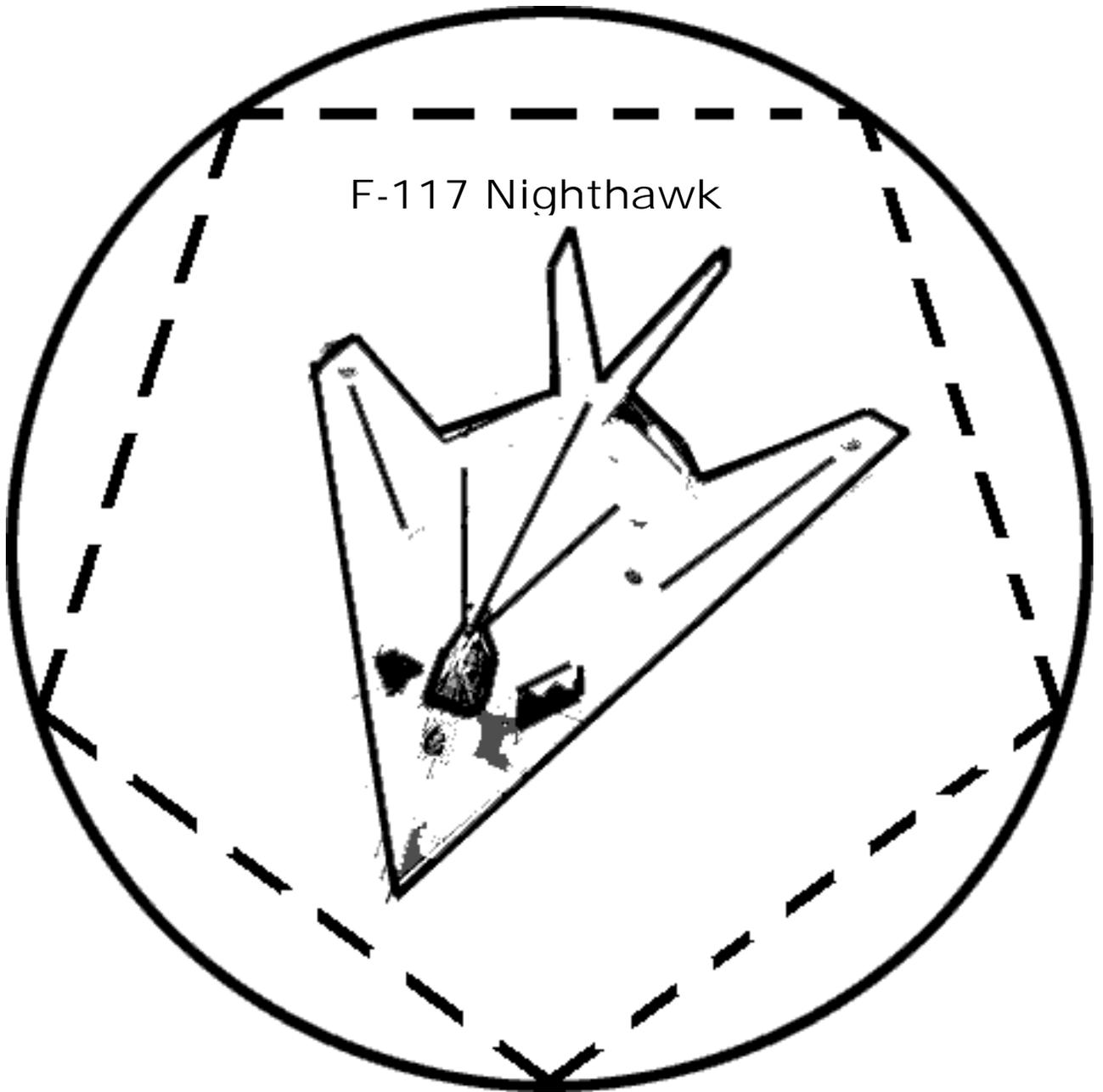
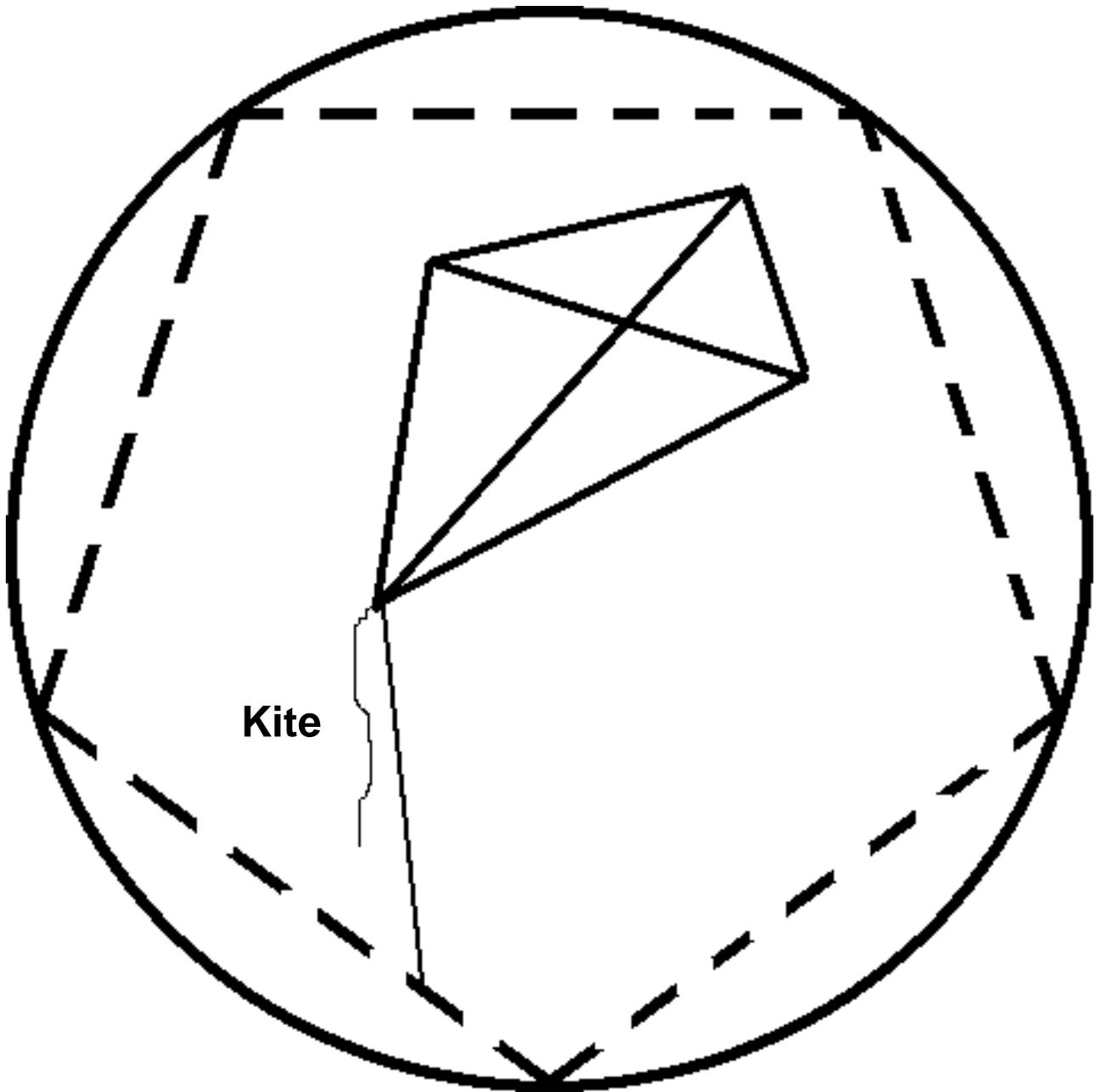


**On April 12, 1981, the first Space Shuttle launched. It was the Shuttle Columbia. It lifted off from Kennedy Space Center, Florida. This first mission was called STS-1.**

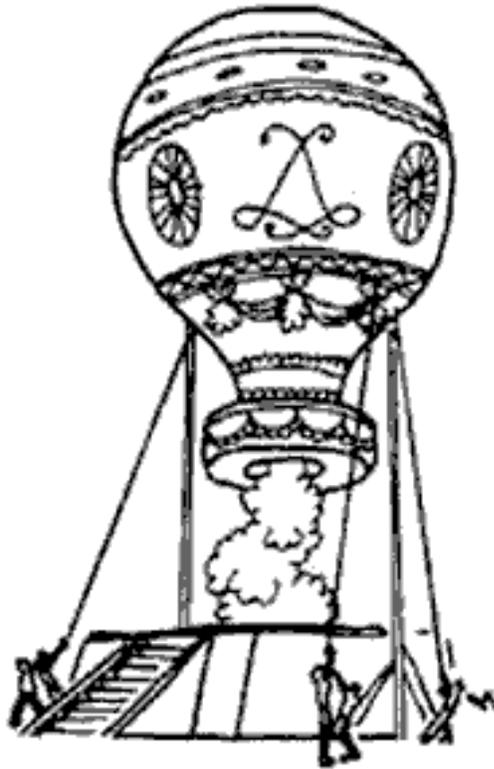


The F-117 is a "stealth" attack aircraft. It is hard to find it on radar. The F-117's first flight was in 1981.



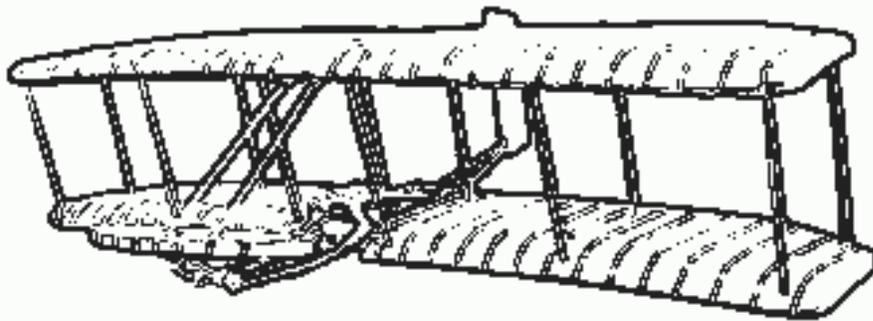
Many believe the kite was invented in China over 3,000 years ago. It is said that it started from a farmer who tied a string to his hat to hold it on. A strong breeze came along. It blew his hat off. But the string kept the hat connected to him.

## Montgolfier Balloon 1783

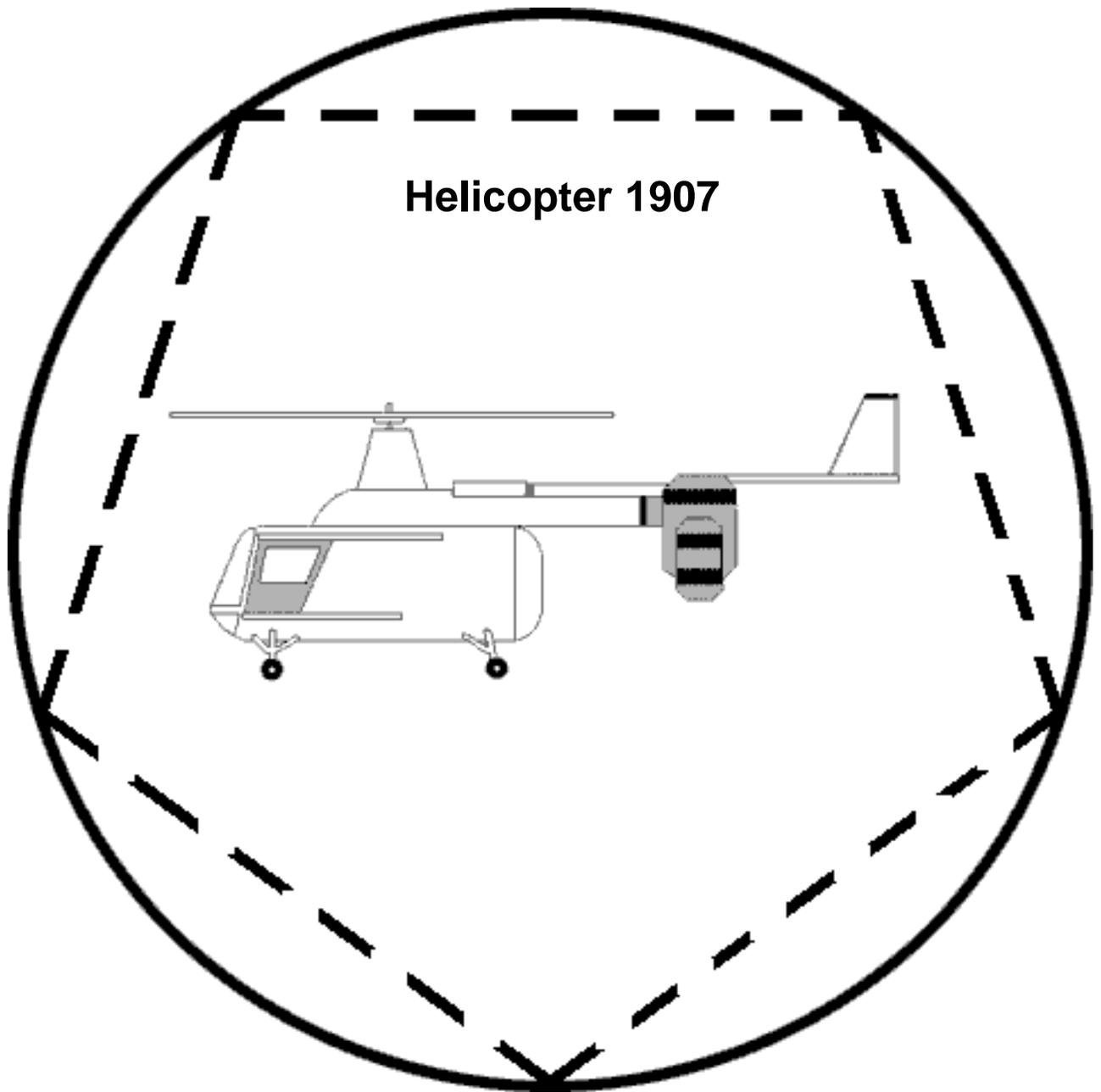


On June 5, 1783, the Montgolfier brothers flew the first successful hot air balloon for 10 minutes. The balloon was made of paper. It went as high as 9 meters (.0056 miles). Who flew on this balloon? The first passengers on this paper balloon were a duck and a sheep.

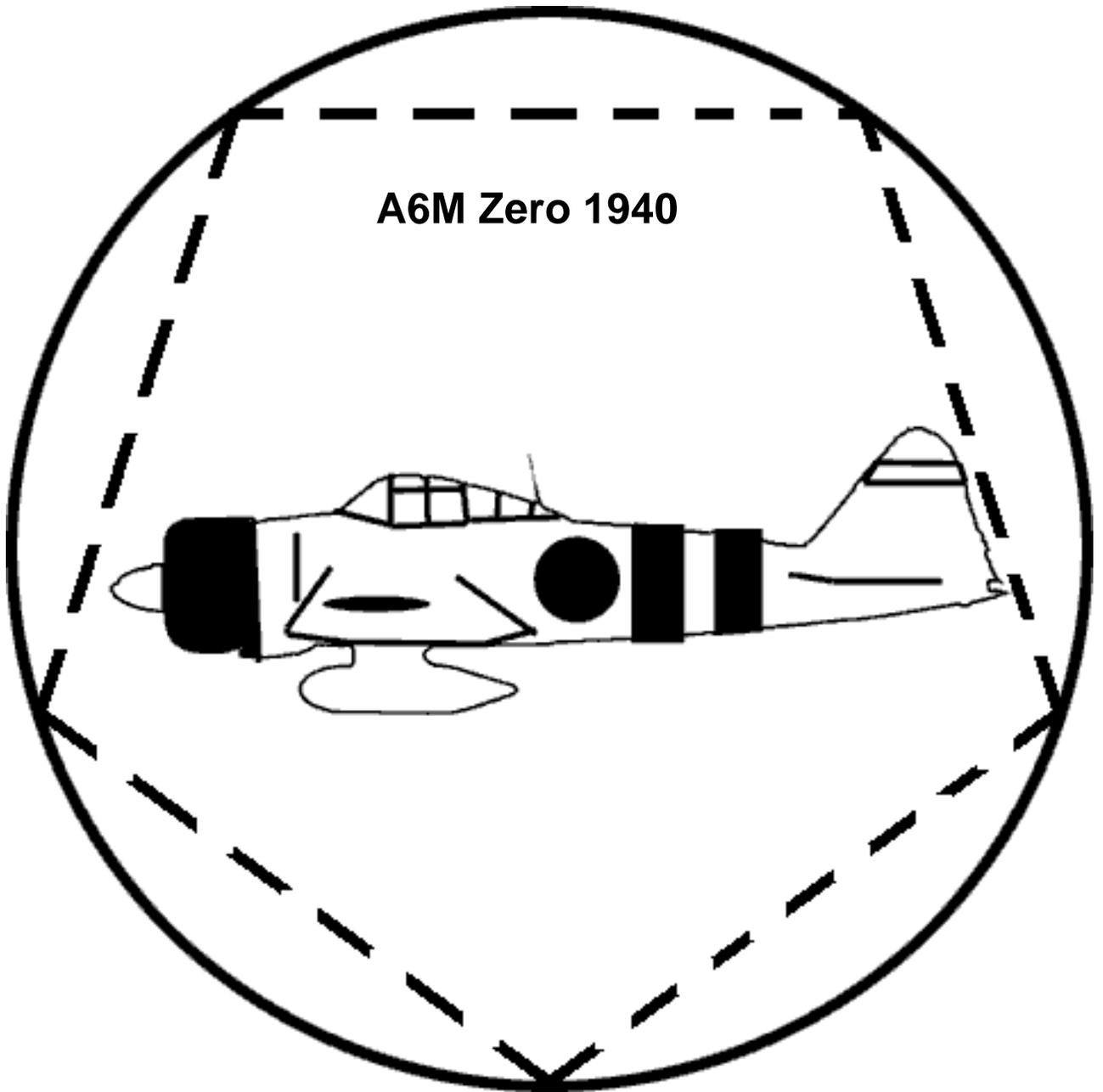
## Wright Brothers Plane 1903



The Wright Brothers flipped a coin to choose who would fly first. Orville Wright got to fly the first heavier-than-air craft. The flight lasted 12 seconds. It went for 120 feet. The brothers flew three more times that day. Each time the flights got better.



**On Nov 13, 1907, in France, Paul Cornu was the first to take off vertically and make a free flight. Men made the machine steady with sticks on the ground. It was hard to control. Cornu only kept the helicopter in the air for 20 seconds. Then, it broke up on landing!**

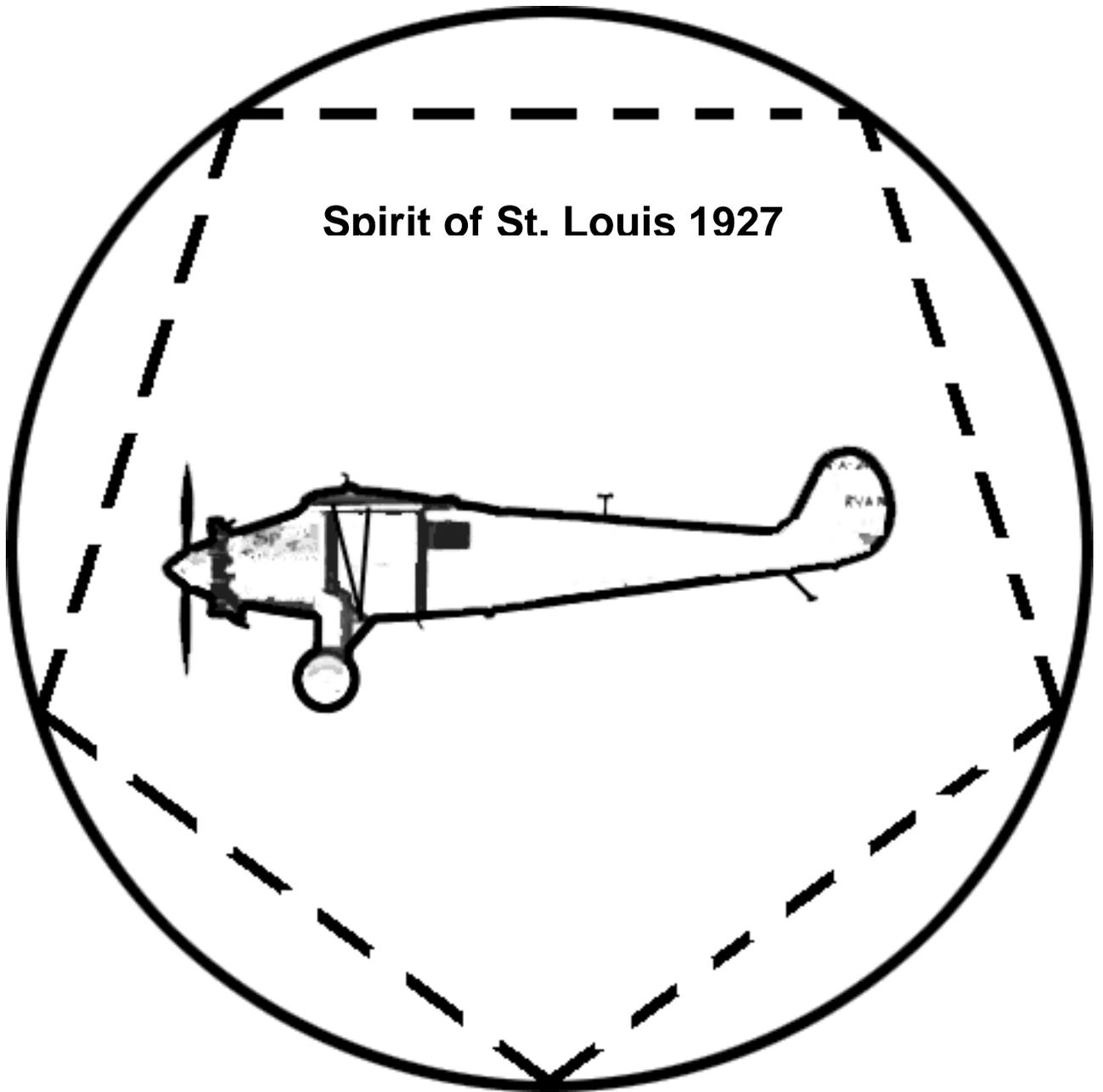


**This Japanese plane is also called the Zero Fighter. It flew better than many of the planes of its time.**

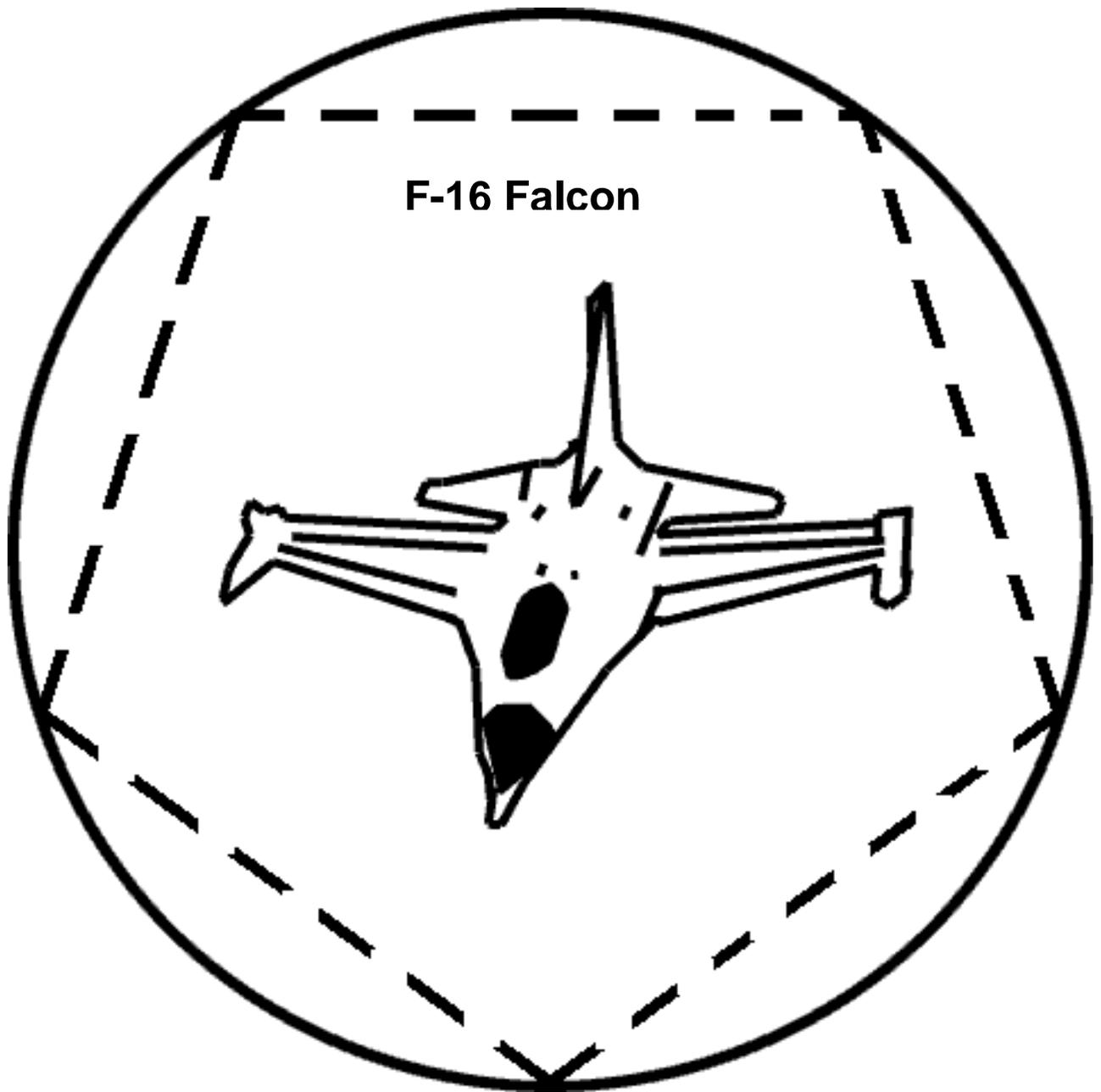
## **P-51 Mustang 1944**



**The P-51 Mustang is the best-known U.S. fighter of World War II. The Mustang was built to work well. It was not built to last a long time. However, it still flies today.**



**On May 21, 1927, Charles Lindbergh flew across the Atlantic Ocean alone. He flew from New York to Paris. The flight took 33-½ hours. He did not stop along the way. The Spirit of St. Louis flight showed people that airplanes are a safe way to travel.**

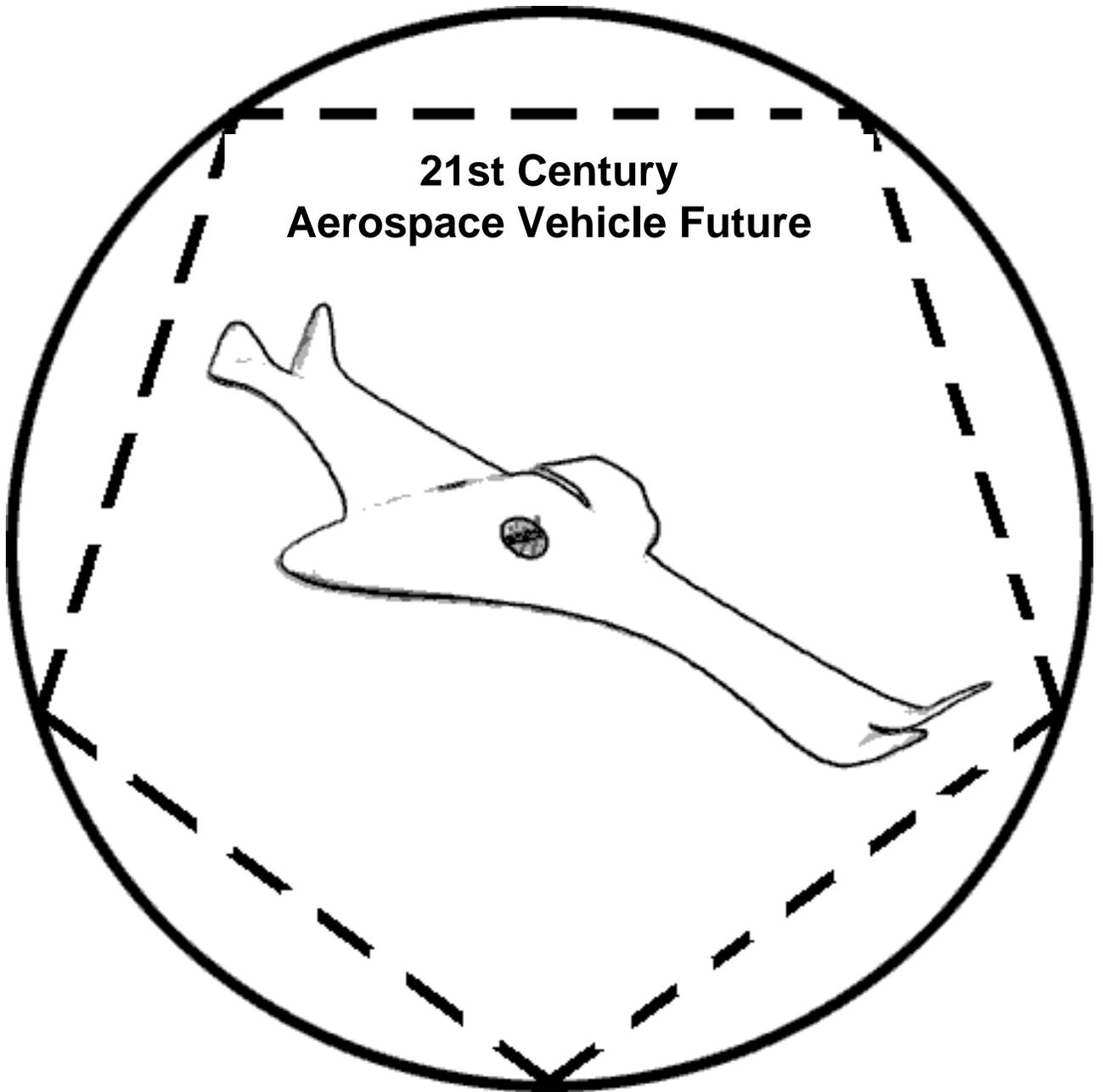


The F-16A Fighting Falcon first flew in December 1976. It was built for one person to fly. The U.S. Air Force is using more than 2,000 of them. There are also 2,000 being used by other countries. There are more of these planes than any other plane.

**Me 262 Messerschmitt 1944**



**The Germans got their first Me 262 in April of 1944. It was the world's first working combat jet fighter.**



**Aircraft of the future will be built differently. They will use less fuel. They will be easier to fly. NASA is studying how to make these things happen. Maybe one day, you and your family will fly your own plane.**