



Released: Sept. 10, 2001

B-1 exceeds command MICAP rate goal

By Capt. Dave Honchul
7th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

DYESS AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (ACCNS) -- The Dyess maintenance community has done it again. For the second time this year, the 7th Bomb Wing's monthly mission capable rate or MICAP exceeded the published Air Combat Command standard of 67 percent for B-1 aircraft. The fiscal year '01 interim goal set by the ACC commander for the B-1 community is 63 percent.

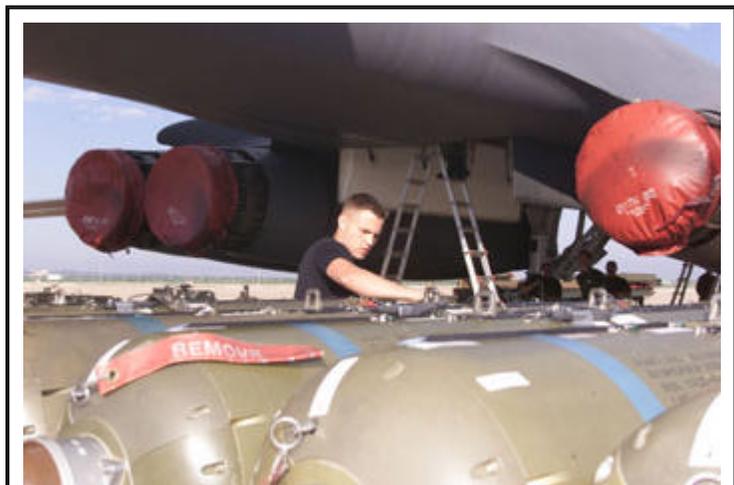
However, the end of month rate is only part of the story. In succeeding to surpass the standard in August with the wing's highest MICAP rate of the year at 71 percent, the maintenance community did what it has never done before - keeping the cumulative rate at or above the standard for the entire month.

The MICAP rate measures the percentage of aircraft that are available and ready to perform the mission. Dyess began August with a MICAP rate of 72 percent. During the remaining 30 days of August, the wing's daily rate dipped below the published standard only seven times. The cumulative monthly total dipped to 67 percent on Aug. 3 before beginning a slow steady climb to 75 percent, the cumulative high for the month which occurred on Aug. 19.

"Despite the continuing constraints on B-1 weapons system parts, the 7th BW has set new standards of excellence for operations, logistics and maintenance," said Lt. Col. Richard Kosanke, 7th Operations Group deputy group commander for maintenance. "This wing-wide dedication and commitment to excellence has made this a huge success story."

The achievement has been noted by command officials as well.

"All the folks in the B-1 community have worked very hard under difficult circumstances and have achieved remarkable results," said Richard Stocchetti in June in reference to Dyess surpassing the published MICAP rate earlier this year. Stocchetti, chief of assessments division at ACC headquarters,



Airman 1st Class Jonathan McCluskey, a 28th Bomb Squadron weapons loader, prepares bombs for loading on a B-1 at Dyess AFB, Texas. McCluskey and thousands of other Dyess people helped the base surpass the command mission capable rate again in August. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jessica Avitia)

Click on image for higher-resolution copy.

added it “was a great accomplishment.”

Kosanke said that Gen. John Jumper, before giving up the reins as ACC’s commander, sent a message to the 7th BW expressing his praise and appreciation to the men and women at Dyess for a job well done.

The command officials could not confirm whether this is the first time any B-1 unit has completed the feat. The command receives reports on the monthly rates, but not how the wings have fared throughout that month. They said this was the 19th time since October 1994 that Dyess finished above the published standard.

“I’m extremely proud of the logistics group contribution toward this achievement,” said Col. James Clyburn, 7th Logistics Group commander. “Whether it was negotiating and executing a contract to upgrade our maintenance facilities, ordering and moving critically needed parts and supplies, providing high quality training for our maintainers keeping our B-1Bs in top shape through a superb phase inspection program, or manufacturing and repairing parts in our backshops - each very squadron played a huge role in this success. They all should be very proud of their contributions to exceeding the mission capable rate standard.”

“The wing’s success is a direct result of the total synergistic effort by all 7th Bomb Wing groups and squadrons working together as Team Dyess,” Kosanke said. “The challenge to all our aircraft maintainers has been to work smarter, not harder. Within the 7th Operations Group, we have pursued innovative and back to basics flying and maintenance efforts. As a result, we will meet 100 percent of our flying hour goal for 2001 while continuing to increase the monthly number of mission capable aircraft at Dyess.”

Whether the wing keeps up the torrid pace is yet to be seen; however, it has a good jump on September. As of Tuesday, the cumulative MICAP rate for the month was 80 percent.

[SUBSCRIBE TO ACC NEWS SERVICE](#)

Air Combat Command Public Affairs, United States Air Force, [ACC/PAI](#)