

## **B-1 DELIVERS FIRST JDAM CAPABLE BOMBER**

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WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio, Nov. 3, 1998—Aeronautical Systems Center's B-1 System Program Office here recently witnessed delivery of the first B-1 Lancer to be fully upgraded with joint direct attack munition or JDAM, launch capability.

On Oct. 29, B-1 Aircraft #85-0091 arrived at Air Combat Command's 28<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., as the first of seven aircraft selected to undergo the upgrade. The seventh plane in this first increment is scheduled for delivery in mid-February. The Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker AFB, Okla., will modify the entire B-1 fleet by March 2001.

The inclusion of JDAM to the B-1's arsenal gives the bomber near precision strike capability for the first time. JDAM is a weapon guided by the global positioning system. It is capable of hitting its target with great accuracy but is much less expensive than many of the "smart" bombs used by the Air Force today, because the JDAM is a modification to existing Mk84 and Blu109 2000-pound "dumb" bombs. A tail kit is added to the bomb giving it the capability to navigate and steer itself to its target coordinates.

Maj. Jim Fryer, Chief of the B-1 JDAM Integration Office at Ellsworth AFB, lauded the improvements. "JDAM gives the war fighting commander a much improved capability," said Fryer. "Nobody carries as many JDAMs as the B-1. I can't say enough about how much this improves the capability (of the B-1)."

He went on to point out that when used in a standard two-plane formation, the B-1 is capable of dropping 48, 2000-pound JDAMs within feet of the intended target.

"No one else can wreak that kind of havoc," he said.

Incorporation of JDAM into the B-1 is part of the larger conventional mission upgrade program. This program, managed by the B-1 System Program Office at Wright-Patterson, is working to change the bomber from the nuclear role, for which it was designed, and make it capable of carrying out a new post cold-war mission.

The conventional mission up-grade program will also eventually add longer-range standoff weapons and improve the defensive capability of the B-1.

Lt Col Ernie Speck, Program Manager for the B-1 JDAM upgrade program here, said "It's always exciting for the program office team to see a new significant capability reach the war fighters."