

## **Boeing Proves B-52 'Smart Bay' Capability in Lab**

---

### **Boeing Proves B-52 'Smart Bay' Capability in Lab**

The Boeing Company [NYSE: BA] has proven in a weapons integration laboratory for the first time that small-diameter bombs (SDB) can successfully be placed on a strategic rotary launcher in the bomb bay of a B-52 bomber.

Scot Oathout, Boeing program director for the B-52, said the lab development -- called a fit check of the weapons -- is a significant step in helping to increase the conventional payload of the B-52 by up to 100 percent with the potential for more with further upgrades.

"The engineering effort supports development of future 'Smart Bay' weapons for the B-52," Oathout said. "The bomb bay is under-utilized space today, and we want to use that asset. We believe that adding smart conventional weapons bay carriage provides the warfighter with a much more versatile aircraft that can support our nation's defense for years to come."

Oathout said that the Boeing engineering team performed a test that proved the B-52 can carry 32 SDBs on the Common Strategic Rotary Launcher in the bomb bay of the B-52.

Boeing engineers, Oathout said, have used company research and development time and funds to design a method to carry the SDBs in the bomb bay. The common strategic rotary launcher in the B-52 can now only hold Cold War-era nuclear weapons and converted conventional air-launched cruise missiles.

"This is an aircraft that will be supporting our warfighters for the next 40 years," he said. "The B-52 is already doing close air support. With the ability to add conventional smart bombs in the bay, just imagine the weapons and the increase of weapons to support national security missions."

The Boeing B-52 program, which is based in at Boeing's Wichita, Kans., facility, is a part of Support Systems, a business unit of Boeing Integrated Defense Systems.

A unit of The Boeing Company, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems is one of the world's largest space and defense businesses. Headquartered in St. Louis, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems is a \$30.8 billion business. It provides network-centric system solutions to its global military, government, and commercial customers. It is a leading provider of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems; the world's largest military aircraft manufacturer; the world's largest satellite manufacturer; a foremost developer of advanced concepts and technologies; a leading provider of space-based communications; the primary systems integrator for U.S. missile defense; NASA's largest contractor; and a global leader in sustainment solutions and launch services.

###

For further information:

Forrest Gossett

office: (316) 210-7153

[forrest.s.gossett@boeing.com](mailto:forrest.s.gossett@boeing.com)

---