

Boeing Defense, Space & Security
P.O. Box 516
St. Louis, MO 63166
www.boeing.com

Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM)



Description and Purpose:

The Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) is a low-cost guidance kit produced by Boeing that converts existing unguided free-fall bombs into accurately guided “smart” weapons. The JDAM kit consists of a tail section that contains a Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System and body strakes for additional stability and lift.

Additional growth to the JDAM low-cost family of weapons includes Laser JDAM, the incorporation of a laser sensor that improves JDAM’s current near-precision accuracy to precision accuracy and facilitates prosecution of targets of opportunity (including moving targets); JDAM Extended Range (JDAM ER), the incorporation of a low-cost wing set to extend JDAM’s standoff range to greater than 40 miles, and the incorporation of Laser JDAM guidance.

Customer(s):

Both the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy employ JDAM. Its first operational use was during Operation Allied Force in the Balkans in 1999. JDAM has been used extensively in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The first international sale was made to Israel in 2000. Since then, 18 additional international customers have purchased JDAM.

General Characteristics:

Currently, MK-84 2,000-pound and BLU-109 2,000-pound (900-kg) bombs (GBU-31); MK-83 bombs (GBU-32); and MK-82 500-pound (225-kg) bombs (GBU-38) are in production to make the cost-effective JDAM. When employed, these weapons have proven highly accurate and can be delivered in any flyable weather. JDAM can be launched from more than 15 miles from the target with updates from GPS satellites to help guide the weapon to the target.

The JDAM production team includes Honeywell Inc. (inertial measurement unit); Rockwell Collins (global positioning system receiver); HR Textron (tail actuator subsystem); Lockheed Martin Tactical Defense Systems (mission computer); Lockely (tail fairing); Enser and Eagle-Picher (battery); and Stremel (strakes and cable cover).

Background:

The full-scale production decision (milestone III) for JDAM was made by the U.S. Department of Defense in March 2001. On average, more than 700 JDAMs are delivered every month. In November 2004, Boeing delivered the 100,000th JDAM, and in September 2008 the 200,000th JDAM was delivered. In 2011, Boeing received multiple contracts totaling \$182 million for Lot 15 JDAM production of 7,500 tail kits. Since JDAM production started in 1998, Boeing has built more than 223,000 tail kits.

#

Contact:

Garrett Kasper
Boeing Military Aircraft Communications
Office: 314-232-0199
Mobile: 314-616-5169
garrett.d.kasper@boeing.com

June 2011