



Air Combat Command

FACT SHEET: B-1 Sniper Pod

Air Combat Command Office of Public Affairs

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The Sniper advanced targeting pod (ATP) is a long-range precision targeting system that supports the precision strike mission by providing positive target identification, autonomous tracking, coordinate generation, and precise weapons guidance from extended standoff ranges supporting air to ground operations.

Installation of Sniper ATP on deploying B-1 Lancer aircraft is projected to complete by July 2008. Only eight B-1s are projected to receive Sniper ATP.

Aircraft Mission

Carrying the largest payload of both guided and unguided weapons in the Air Force inventory, the multi-mission B-1 is the backbone of America's long-range bomber force. It can rapidly deliver massive quantities of precision and non-precision weapons against any adversary, anywhere in the world, at any time.

Program Background

AFCENT issued an Urgent Need Request in July, 2006 to install the Advanced Targeting Pod (ATP) on the B-1 to enable positive identification (PID) of targets, coordinate self-generation, Remotely Operated Video Enhancement Receiver (ROVER) Video Down Link (VDL), laser guided weapons employment, and to expand B-1's Non-Traditional Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (NTISR) capability to support ongoing contingency operations in the AOR and is AFCENT's #1 UNR



The first successful Sniper ATP test was completed at Edwards AFB, Calif., in February 2007.

The B-1 ATP program was funded via \$25M in the Fiscal Year 2005 Congressional add for forward-looking infrared and data link capability.

Production/installation of external hard point Pod mounting kits to comply with START II Treaty requirements started Fall 2007 and were conducted by the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG) at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ

Sniper ATP Features

Sniper ATP gives the B-1 the ability to positively identify targets without additional aids such as other aircraft or ground personnel. The positive target identification capability of the targeting pod enhances the B-1's non-traditional intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (NTISR) capability and weapon impact assessments during weapon employment.

In addition, the targeting pod allows the operator to see behind the aircraft for a 360-degree sensor view, except for regions blocked by aircraft engines.

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The B-1 provides a good platform for using the Sniper pod because of its unique capabilities (i.e. carries the largest and most diverse weapon payload of any U.S. aircraft and can also loiter for extended lengths of time providing a persistent presence to the battlefield).

Significant findings during testing has shown improved target identification and provided post-strike bomb damage assessment. This capability is important for combat operations to provide near real-time feedback strike assessment for theater commanders.

ATP Pods are a single, lightweight pod with much lower aerodynamic drag than the legacy systems it replaces providing greater fuel efficiency. It provides aircraft with 3-5 times greater range of detection of threats and has been successfully integrated on a variety of aircraft to include the F-15E, the F-16 Block 30/40/50, and the A-10. The dual-mode laser offers an eye safe mode for urban combat and training operations, along with a laser-guided bomb designation laser for guiding in these precision munitions.

The Sniper ATP is currently being used in Operation Iraqi Freedom on F-15Es and F-16s.

General Characteristics of Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod

Primary Function: Positive identification, automatic tracking and laser designation

Prime Contractor: Lockheed Martin

Length: 94 inches (239 centimeters)

Diameter: 11.9 inches (30 centimeters)

Weight: 440 pounds (199 kilograms)

Aircraft: F-15E, F-16 Block 30/40/50, A-10, B-1



Links for Additional Information

B-1B Fact Sheet:

<http://www.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=81>

Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod:

<http://www.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=7589>

Test squadron demonstrates Sniper pod capability

<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123042750>

B-1 performs as never envisioned after 20 years

<http://www.acc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123094826>

B-1 Sniper pod aims to hit summer target

<http://www.edwards.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123101089>

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