

# JASSM Test Proves Deadly Accurate

**W**ashington D.C.—An Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon successfully launched a Joint-Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) yesterday.

During a flight test, held at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., an F-16 from the 46<sup>th</sup> Test Wing launched the JASSM while cruising at about 500 mph at an altitude of 15,000 feet. The weapon separated cleanly from the aircraft, deployed its wings and tail section, and ignited its engine at the proper altitude to begin a 50-mile dash toward the target array on the desert floor.

The missile flew exactly as planned through three way points for a total of 9 minutes (about 50 miles). The JASSM missile impacted within a lethal distance of the relocatable radar target and the warhead exploded. All systems, including the engine, guidance, and fuze arming performed flawlessly. "This successful launch clears the way for a Low Rate Initial Production decision," said Terry Little, JASSM Program Manager. The JASSM is a 2,250-pound cruise missile, which carries a 1,000-pound-class dual-purpose warhead. The warhead is capable of destroying soft and distributed surface targets or deeply buried, hardened structures. It can fly in adverse weather, day or night, from standoff ranges well beyond enemy air defenses. The range is classified, but officials said it is beyond 200 nautical miles. Its stealth characteristics and on-board anti-jam countermeasure components make it extremely difficult to defend against.



JASSM provides high lethality against hard or soft targets at long standoff ranges and is compatible with a wide range of Air Force and Navy aircraft. Image courtesy Lockheed Martin

The Air Force originally planned to buy 2,400 JASSMs, but there are ongoing efforts to greatly increase that number. Current plans call for the missile to be carried on the F-16, B-1B Lancer, B-2 Spirit, and B-52 Stratofortress.

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**Editor's Note:** This information is in the public domain at <http://www.af.mil/news>.