

JDAMS – More Bang For the Buck

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- Joint Direct Attack Munitions are the shining stars of Air Force acquisition Lightning Bolt programs, according to Darleen A. Druyun, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition and Management

Lightning Bolts took shape in 1995 as the linchpin of the Air Force's drive to acquire systems faster, better, and cheaper. Since then, Druyun said, Lightning Bolt reforms have "touched off an unprecedented blaze of reform."

To date, the Air Force has tallied more than \$30 billion in savings under the Lightning Bolt program. The biggest cost reduction has been almost \$3 billion slashed off the JDAM program over the last four years.

The Department of Defense designed JDAM in 1993 with an estimated price tag of more than \$42,000 per copy. Two years later, the Air Force applied newly approved Lightning Bolt streamlined acquisition reforms, and the results, Druyun said, were dramatic.

The reforms reduced JDAM production time for 80,000 munitions from 15 years to 11 years, slashed special military specifications from 87 to zero, and shrank the statement of work from 137 pages to only two.

Even more savings resulted when the Air Force reduced contract data requirements from 146 to 22, cut back the program office from 80 people to 36, and increased the warranty period from five years to 20.

Taken together, the reforms reduced the JDAM unit price to less than \$15,000 per copy. Multiplied by more than 80,000 units delivered to the Air Force and Navy, the government has saved \$2.9 billion.

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