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B-52 Stand-Off Jammer (SOJ) - Archived 9/2007

Outlook

- According to figures in the Program Budget Decision PBD-720, the B-52 SOJ termination will save the Air Force \$1.18 billion through FY11 in RDT&E funding
- U.S. Air Force could develop jamming technology on a smaller, more efficient platform. Options include working with the U.S. Navy on the EA-18G program, using its own F-15E, or using a UAV
- With the publication of the FY07 budget, the termination of the B-52 SOJ became a sure-thing. This report will be archived next year

Orientation

Description. The B-52 Stand-Off Jammer (SOJ) was being developed by the U.S. Air Force with the intent of installing an electronic warfare (EW) attack capability on B-52 bomber aircraft.

Sponsor

U.S. Air Force
Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL)
Sensors Directorate
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-7801
USA
Web site: <http://www.sn.afrl.mil>

Status. Development was to start in FY06, but the program was terminated.

Application. Airborne electronics warfare jammer.

Price Range. Based upon comparative systems, a price of \$5-\$10 million per pod set (consisting of two pods per set) can be estimated.

Technical Data

Design Features. The B-52 SOJ project was established to design, develop, and test a new electronic attack capability, using the B-52H as a platform. More specifically, high-power, wide-frequency-jamming, high-probability-of-intercept receivers were to be developed for use in target detection and geolocation, and for reactive jamming suppression of enemy integrated air defense systems (IADS) and radars from stand-off distances. Under the program, the B-52

would maintain its multimission offensive and self-defense capabilities.

The aircraft would have featured two outboard wing pods carrying a suite of EW jamming equipment reportedly equal in capability to six EW EA-6B Prowler aircraft. The B-52 thus equipped was to be designated the B-52 SOJ or B-52J and would retain its full bombing mission capability.

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USAF B-52H Bomber Aircraft

Source: USAF - Staff Sgt. Steve Thurow

Program Review

Background. The B-52 Stand-Off Jammer effort was being undertaken by the U.S. Air Force for the purpose of developing EW capabilities for the B-52 aircraft. While technically a FY06 new start, related work had been transferred from PE#0604270F Electronic Warfare Development, Project 658462 Airborne Electronic Attack, in order to continue development of critical electronic attack capabilities.

B-52 SOJ Changes Raise Questions about EW Commitment

The Air Force's decision in January 2006 to terminate the B-52 Stand-Off Jammer effort, coupled with rumored termination of the J-UCAS, raised questions about the Pentagon's commitment to future electronic warfare systems. The bomber-turned-jammer was to be a core electronic attack (EA) component within a future Airborne Electronic Attack (AEA) System of Systems

(SoS). According to one source, the B-52 SOJ would be used for stand-off EA, while EW-equipped J-UCAS unmanned air vehicles (UAVs) would handle penetration and close-in attacks on enemy air defenses under control of a developing EW Battle Management (EWBM) system. The decision to cut the B-52 SOJ program maintained a gap that opened when the U.S. Air Force retired its EF-111A electronic warfare aircraft in 1996.

According to figures in Program Budget Decision PBD-720, the B-52 SOJ termination will save the Air Force \$1.18 billion through FY11 in RDT&E funding. The PBD suggested that the Air Force will look for another system that does not rely on the B-52 platform to provide electronic warfare.

Significant News

Congress Terminates B-52 SOJ – The FY07 Budget request from the USAF does not include funding for the B-52 SOJ program. As Congress has not added funds to the program, the B-52 SOJ effort has been terminated. The Air Force is exploring the use of a system that does not rely on the B-52. (U.S. DoD, 2/06)

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Funding

	U.S. FUNDING							
	<u>FY05</u> <u>QTY</u>	<u>FY05</u> <u>AMT</u>	<u>FY06</u> <u>QTY</u>	<u>FY06</u> <u>AMT</u>	<u>FY07</u> <u>QTY</u>	<u>FY07</u> <u>AMT</u>	<u>FY08</u> <u>QTY</u>	<u>FY08</u> <u>AMT</u>
<u>RDT&E (USAF)</u>								
PE#0604429F								
Airborne								
Electronic Attack:								
Project 5193								
B-52 Stand-Off								
Jammer	-	-	-	107.14	-	-	-	-

All \$ are in millions.

Source: FY07 RDT&E Budget Item Justification Exhibit R-2a

Timetable

<u>Year</u>	<u>Major Development</u>
FY06	Project terminated

Worldwide Distribution / Inventories

This is a **U.S. Air Force** program.

Forecast Rationale

The End of the B-52 Stand-Off Jammer Program

Program Budget Decision 720 “Air Force Transformation Flight Plan” put considerable uncertainty into the B-52 Stand-Off Jammer program. Many thought that the U.S. Air Force was “gold-watching” – terminating the program so the funding could be put into other efforts. This strategy assumes that somewhere higher up the funding chain money will be put back in from some other source and the service will end up with both projects funded. Many believed that Congress, still smarting from the EF-111A termination in 1996, would back the program.

Many initially derided the idea of a B-52 stand-off jammer. The Air Force, however, stuck to its guns and developed a well-thought-out plan for solving its Airborne Electronic Attack problem, pushing the idea in

spite of the skeptics. The USAF planned to outfit up to 76 B-52H aircraft with the capability to carry the SOJ pods and to procure 36 two-pod SOJ sets, which means that almost half the B-52H fleet capable of bearing the SOJ were to be outfitted for actual operational use.

With the publication of the FY07 budget, the termination of the B-52 SOJ became a sure-thing. Funding is allocated for FY06 to cancel the program and determine the future of stand-off jamming. The Air Force wants to continue studying “high-risk” technologies to make them easier and cheaper to use. It is also possible that a jamming capability will be developed on a smaller and more efficient platform than the B-52 bomber. Options include working with the U.S. Navy on its EA-18G Growler project, mounting a stand-off jammer capability on an F-15E Strike Eagle, or using an unmanned aerial vehicle to achieve the desired capability.

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Ten-Year Outlook

With the publication of the FY07 budget, the termination of the B-52 SOJ became a sure-thing. This report will be archived next year.

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