

Blue Skies for the B-1

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Airmen at Dyess AFB, Tex., keep their B-1s ready for action worldwide.



7th Bomb Wing B-1B Lancer air and ground crews perform preflight checks before a mission at Dyess AFB, Tex.

The B-1 Lancer began as a development program in the 1970s, as a replacement bomber for the B-52. The B-1B first arrived at Dyess AFB, Tex., in 1985 and first faced combat during Operation Desert Fox, the December 1998 US-British missile and bombing campaign against Iraq. It then participated in NATO's Operation Allied Force over Serbia, Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Iraqi Freedom, and Odyssey Dawn over Libya. B-1s have taken part in the continuous bomber presence at Andersen AFB, Guam. The heavily tasked bomber has benefitted from careful maintenance and a long list of recent upgrades. **1** B-1s on the ramp at Dyess in 2010. Informally known as "the Bone," the B-1 is also based at Edwards AFB, Calif., and Eglin AFB, Fla. Another operational wing is at Ellsworth AFB, S.D. **2** Maj. James Dykas (l) and 1st Lt. Eric Luppold run through preflight checks in the cockpit before a 2010 mission from Dyess. **3** SSgt. Teddy Miro maneuvers a jammer holding an AGM-158 JASSM while (l-r) SSgt. Dontaye Taylor, TSgt. Robert Rose, and SSgt. Miguel Garza prepare to load it onto a B-1. **4** Four 2,000-pound Joint Direct Attack Munitions on a trailer ready for uploading.





111 (l-r) SrA. Jason Crane, A1C Jeremiah Jansen, and SSgt. Scott James, crew chiefs at Dyess, work on a B-1's wing carry-through spring panel. The aircraft has variable-geometry wings and employs its forward wing setting for takeoff, landing, air refueling, and some high-altitude weapons scenarios. For combat and high subsonic or supersonic flight, it uses the aft wing sweep configuration. 121 A 9th Bomb Squadron B-1 takes to the sky on a training mission from Dyess. The 7th Bomb Wing hosts the Air Force's only B-1 formal training unit.



111 On a 2011 mission, Capt. Kyle Schlewinsky uses a laptop and a side-stick controller in the aft cockpit of a B-1B to operate the Sniper targeting pod. The Sniper pods, added to B-1s in 2008, have enhanced the bomber's ability to perform close air support—a role the fleet has excelled at in Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. **121** A Bone takes on fuel from a KC-135 during a training mission over New Mexico in July 2012. **131** The wings begin to sweep aft as a B-1 maneuvers on this training mission. **141** A nose-on view illustrates the aircraft's sleek, low radar cross section.





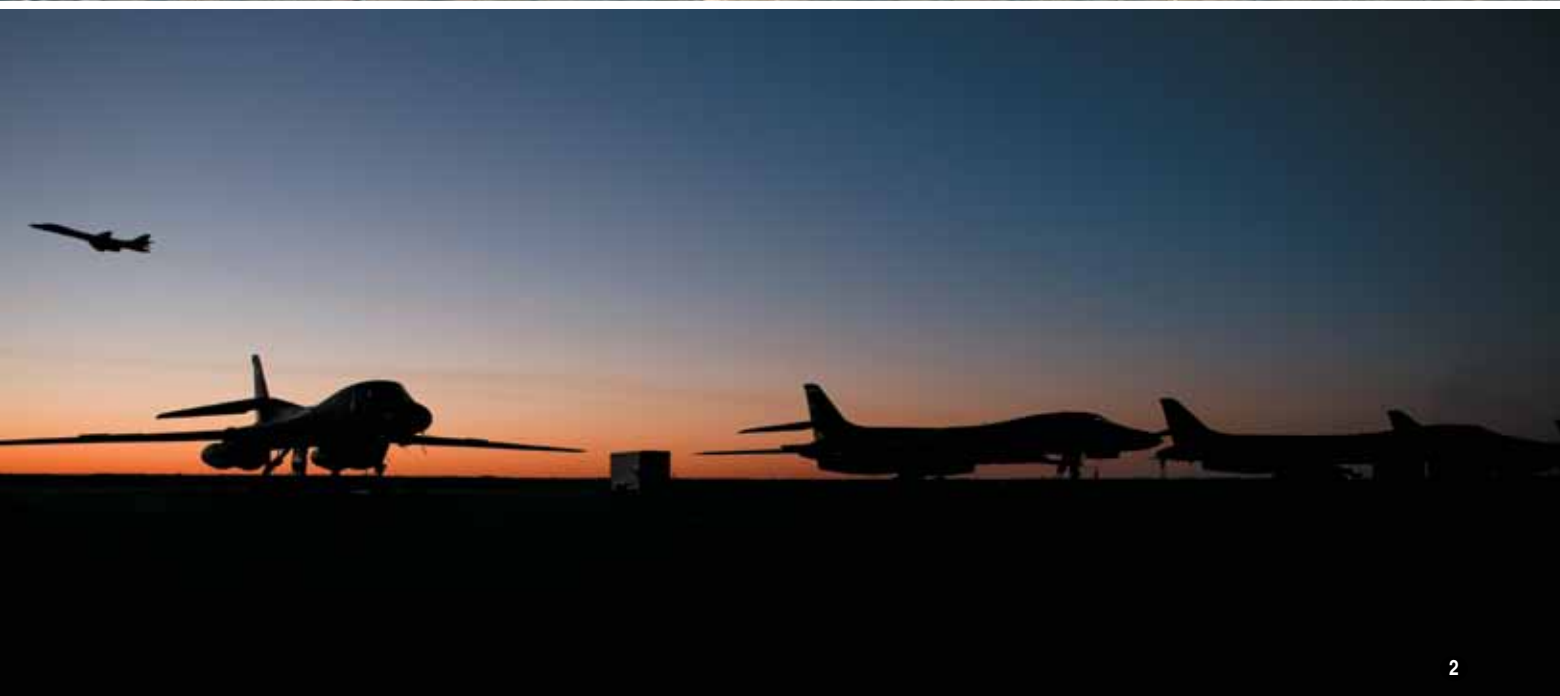
11 A tail on the ramp at Dyess in 2010. *12* Rose goes over technical orders while Garza prepares an AGM-158 Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile for loading. *13* This right chin view shows a Sniper targeting pod on its pylon. The Sniper enables precision strike missions through positive target

identification, autonomous tracking, coordinate generation, and precise guidance from extended standoff ranges. *14* A close-up of the pod.



11 Capt. David Grasso demonstrates the Bone's power and agility, making a near-vertical climb over Texas in 2011. **12** A B-1B cruises over the New Mexico desert. **13** Taylor lifts a JDAM with a jammer as Rose (c) and Garza prepare to load the satellite guided bomb into a weapons bay. **14** The view from the cockpit as another Lancer lines up on the runway for takeoff.





11 A Bone over New Mexico on a training mission last summer. The aircraft boasts electronic jamming equipment, radar warning receiver, and countermeasures to allow penetration of hostile airspace. *12* In the fading Texas light, a Lancer performs a touch-and-go at Dyess. *13* The ramp at Dyess. The base is home to two Active Duty bomb squadrons. The massive bombers can carry the largest payload of guided and unguided munitions of any aircraft in the Air Force. Upgrades under way include

the Integrated Battle Station, to replace obsolete flight instruments and increase situational awareness for the B-1's four-person crew. ■