

U.S. test fires “mother of all bombs”

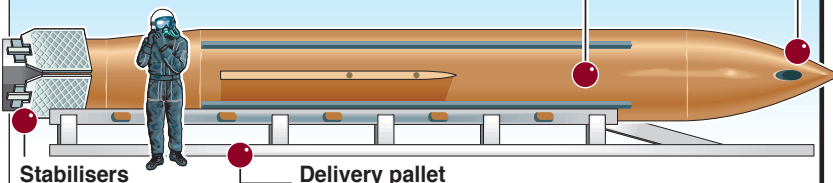
The U.S. has tested the world's largest non-nuclear bomb for possible use in Iraq. The replacement for the “Daisycutter” bomb, used to devastating effect in Afghanistan, the MOAB – Massive Ordnance Air Blast – is primarily designed as a weapon employed for “psychological operations”

Weight:

9,500kg

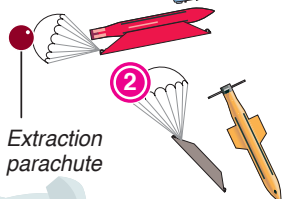
Payload: 8,150kg of high-explosive jellied GSX slurry (ammonium nitrate, aluminium powder and polystyrene soap)

GPS satellite guidance system



1. Delivery: Pallet deployed from rear cargo door of MC-130H or C-17 aircraft. GPS guidance allows bomb to

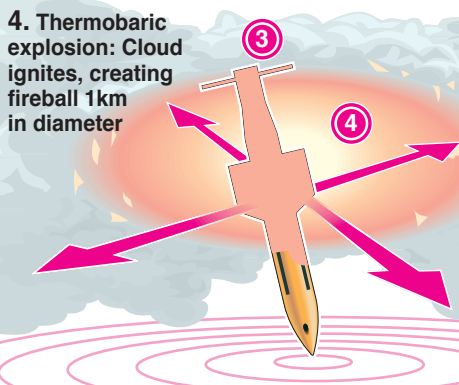
be accurately dropped from higher altitude than its predecessor – out of range of ground fire



2. Delivery pallet and bomb separate. Stabilisers deploy to direct bomb

3. Impact: Detonation spreads cloud of vaporised slurry over wide area

4. Thermobaric explosion: Cloud ignites, creating fireball 1km in diameter



Shockwave: Blast pressure of 73kg/cm^2 – close to that of tactical nuclear weapon

5. Burning of oxygen creates partial vacuum – air sucked in at ground level, smoke driven up into mushroom cloud

