

U.S. drops “mother of all bombs” on IS

The U.S. military has dropped America’s most powerful non-nuclear bomb on so-called Islamic State targets in Afghanistan.

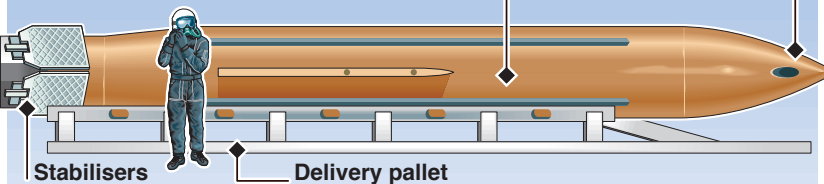
It is the first time this type of weapon has been used in battle

GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb (MOAB)

Weight: 9,800kg,
length: 9.45m

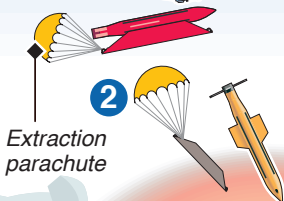
Payload: 8,452kg of high-explosive
Tritonal – mixture of TNT (80%) and
aluminium powder (20%)

KMU-593/B
guidance section



1. Delivery: Pallet deployed from rear cargo door of MC-130H or C-17 aircraft. Bomb is dropped from

high altitude – out of range of ground fire, satellite guidance ensures accuracy



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

Extraction
parachute

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

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



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

