

Boeing B-52 Stratofortress Half a Century of Excellence



Colonel (Ret) Russ Lewey
8 November 2016

60 Years and Still Going Strong

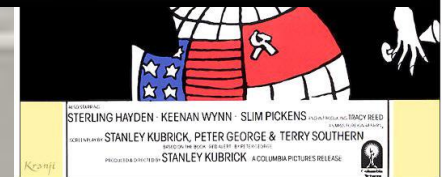
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“The long rifle was the great weapon of its day...today this B-52 is the long rifle of the air age”

Gen Nathan Twining, Mar 1954

B-52, a Movie Star



BUFF – Big Ugly Fat Fellow

- **Designed as a long-range, subsonic high altitude bomber – today's bomber:**
 - **Eight turbo-fan engines**
 - **185 ft wide – 159 ft long – 40 ft tall (at the tail)**
 - **Crew of 5 (Pilots-2; Radar Nav, Nav, and EWO)**
 - **Range – ~9,000 miles**
 - **Max Speed – 650 mph**
 - **Max Ceiling 50,000 ft**
 - **Weapons – A bunch**



Wartime Experience

Apr 18: Coalition strikes destroys Da'esh wea...



COALITION STRIKES DESTROY DAESH WEAPONS STORAGE FACILITY NEAR QAYYARAH, IRAQ, 18 APR 2016, TO DISRUPT TERRORIST OPERATIONS



0:07 / 0:35



YouTube



and Inherent Resolve

B-52 Day-to-Day Operations

- **Alert (Back in the day)**
 - Defense against a surprise attack by the Russians
 - Pulled a week of alert every third week
 - 12 minutes (sometimes less) to get to the runway
 - Cart Starts
 - MITO



B-52 Alert Operations

Wurtsmith AFB, MI
379th Bomb Wing

Cart Start
Elephant Walk
Six Ship Mito



B-52 Day-to-Day Operations

- **Mission Profile and Planning**
 - Takeoff and Climb-out
 - Air Refueling
 - Low Level
 - Landing
- **Emergency Procedures**



B-52 Air Refueling



AIRBOYD.TV



Today and Tomorrow

- Asia-Pacific focus places a renewed emphasis on air and naval forces
 - “CONNECT” (Combat Network Communication Technology) – a multi-billion upgrade to allow enhance retargeting
 - New radar in 2020s
 - Examining new engines



“...a lot of life left in the B-52H and it maintains the capacity to carry out it’s dual nuclear/conventional roles”

**Lt Gen James Kowalksi,
Dep Commander of
Strategic Command**

B-21 – Raider



- **Long-Range Strike Bomber (LRS-B)**
 - Northrop Grumman
- **Initial capability mid-2020s**
- **Costs of \$550M (FY2010\$)**
- **Number to procure is still pending but 100 is a starting point**

In Closing

- **60+ Years and counting**
 - Plans to fly the B-52 until 2045
- **Average Age**
 - B-52H is 54+
 - USAF Aircraft = 26+
- **B-52 mission has modified but still a force**





Questions