

Lockheed unveils gravity bomb for UAV

By: **Zach Rosenberg** Washington DC

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INTERNATIONAL

The US Army has confirmed successful the 28 March demonstration of a previously-undisclosed bomb from an AAI RQ-7 Shadow unmanned air vehicle (UAV) at Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah.

The bomb, a Lockheed Martin-built drop-glide weapon called Shadow Hawk is capable of precision guidance by a laser designator attached to the RQ-7. The bomb weighs 4.9kg (11lb) and has a diameter of 6.9 centimetres (2.75 inches). The munition impacted approximately eight inches from the designator target.

"The development was funded by Lockheed Martin IRAD (internal research and development) dollars," says Lockheed.

The RQ-7, operated by the Army and US Marine Corps (USMC), is by far the most numerous UAV in the US fleet. While the 28 March demonstration was funded by a branch of the US Army, other military branches and corporations have been examining the weaponisation of the aircraft. In December, 2011, RQ-7 manufacturer AAI was awarded a US Marine Corps contract to integrate and evaluate a separate small precision gravity bomb, a weapon which has apparently already been developed and fielded. "Lockheed Martin will continue to work towards additional testing to demonstrate additional capabilities of the system," says the company. "This includes ground testing of the warhead and preparation for additional flight tests."

Neither the Army nor AAI responded to immediate questions.



Lockheed Martin awarded new contract to modernize USN MH-60 fleet

By: **Dave Majumdar** Washington DC

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The US Navy has granted Lockheed Martin a \$1.05 billion contract to "definitize" a previous award to install common cockpits and mission avionics for the service's Sikorsky MH-60R and MH-60S helicopter fleets.

"This contract represents the Navy's commitment to build and field the most technologically advanced maritime helicopter fleet in the world," says Rear Adm Paul Grosklags, vice commander of the US Naval Air Systems Command.



According to Lockheed, the multi-year contract includes 162 cockpits, integrated missions systems and sensors for the MH-60R variant, which is the version tasked with anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions.

But there are also 62 digital cockpits for the MH-60S helicopters, which are used for ship-to-ship cargo resupply, search and rescue, and close-in defence of navy vessels.

Dan Spoor, Lockheed's vice president in charge of the MH-60 avionics programme, says that the multiyear contract saves the USN more than 10% a year in costs. End