

JSOW-C Executive Summary

This report on the Joint Standoff Weapon System (JSOW-C) fulfills the provisions of Title 10, United States Code, Sections 2399 and 2366. It assesses the adequacy of testing and the operational effectiveness, suitability, survivability, and lethality of the JSOW-C when delivered from F/A-18 aircraft.

Testing was adequate to evaluate the system as effective, when successfully delivered, against light-surface materiel targets and deployed combat systems. Against moderately hardened structure targets, JSOW-C requires information about fuze delay settings that is not currently available. We conclude that JSOW-C testing has not confirmed its effectiveness against moderately hardened targets.

JSOW-C has the same airframe as JSOW-A, so modeling predicts no change to in-flight survivability. However, testing has not confirmed the survivability of either variant. Testing confirmed the JSOW-C is not suitable for combat because personnel with experience planning JSOW-C attacks, who would not necessarily be available in combat, are required to facilitate planning. The mission planning system is also unable to complete the computational mission planning process; the average mission planning time is lengthy (57 minutes, compared to 16 minutes for the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile), and training and documentation do not enable less experienced personnel to complete a mission plan. In addition, no predictive lethality capability exists to guide mission-planning selection of weapon impact parameters or warhead fuze delay.

To have a fully effective and suitable system, the Navy should:

- Improve training and documentation for JSOW-C mission planning.
- Improve the Tactical Automated Mission Planning System (TAMPS) so that it completes the planning more reliably, more quickly, and more easily.
- Develop a capability for mission planners to define weapon impact parameters across the entire spectrum of JSOW-C operational targets.
- Determine correct fuze settings against moderately hardened targets, and enable transfer of those to the F/A-18.
- Ensure imagery with accurate coordinates is available for mission planning.

The correction of deficiencies and inadequacies discovered during this operational evaluation require additional operational testing. That testing should confirm effectiveness and suitability for combat by including live JSOW-C weapons, flown through a realistic integrated air defense, against realistic targets. Once the JSOW-C module of the Joint Mission Planning System is available, this same operational testing should be completed.

