Development and Fielding of the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Unitary Warhead

44th Annual NDIA Gun & Missile Systems Conference

April 6 – 9, 2009 Kansas City, MO

Renita Friese – General Dynamics Ordnance & Tactical Systems Tracey Westmoreland – Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control





GMLRS Unitary Team



- Prime Contractor Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control
- General Dynamics Ordnance & Tactical Systems
- Aviation & Missile Research, Development, & Engineering Center
- Program Executive Office Missiles & Space
- Precision Fires Rocket & Missile Systems Project Office







GMLRS Unitary System Description

- Joint Expeditionary
- All Weather, Precision Guided Rocket
- 70km Range
- 196 lb Unitary Warhead
- Tri-Mode Fuze
- Low Collateral Damage
- Target Sets
 ¬ Buildings
 - Dullulligs
 Z Soft Torge

 - Irban Structures
 - ↗ Air Defense Surface Targets









GMLRS in Theatre



- As of 17 February 2009, 1109 Rockets Fired in Theater
- 100% Mission Success
- "70 Kilometer Sniper Rifle"



GMLRS Unitary in Iraq







Past, Present & Future









Warhead

- Evolved from 6-inch to 3-inch Fuze
 Design
- Internal Scored Case to Control Fragmentation to Minimize Collateral Damage
- Warhead Weight 196 lbs
- Approximately 50 lbs of High Explosive
- Won Competition in 2006 for Follow-on Production Contract









Modeling & Simulation



- OTI*HULL GD-OTS Proprietary Hydrocode Software
 - Simulates Weapon Problems from Target Interaction through Functioning
- Also use Hydrocode to Predict Insensitive Munitions (IM) Results
 - Bullet Impact, Fragment Impact, Sympathetic Detonation





Environmental Qualification



- Warhead Passed Environmental Qualification
- Tests:
 - → Vibration
 - Transportation, Tactical, Flight
 - Temperature Shock
 - Rail Impact Shock
 - Handling Drop Shock
 - I Launch Shock





Performance Results -Effectiveness



Five JMEM Arena Tests Conducted

 Fragments Recovered & Weighed
 Recovery Locations were Recorded
 Fragment Velocities Calculated

Warhead is Lethal Against Target Set









Performance Results -Penetration



 Earth & Timber Bunker Target

 ¬ Successfully Penetrated Target During Development Tests



Earth & Timber Bunker Pre-Test Setup



Earth & Timber Bunker Post-Test





Performance Results – Insensitive Munitions



Insensitive Munitions Verification and Investigations	MIL-STD-2105/STANAG Description	Achievable Results Given in STANAG Type Classification
Intermediate Cook-Off	Remote Fire Not in Direct Contact with Warhead: 50°F (10°C) per Hour Heating Rate	Type V (SDD Testing) Type III (Subsequent Testing)
Fast Cook-Off	Flames in Direct Contact with Warhead: Average Flame Temperature ≥ 1600° F (871°C)	Type IV (SDD Testing) Type IV (Subsequent Testing)
Bullet Impact	.50-Caliber Bullet Fired into Payload Section of Explosive	Type V (SDD Testing) Type V (Subsequent Testing)
Fragment Impact	Land-Attack Threats: 16.2 gram Steel Fragment Impacts Munition at 6000 ft/s	Type V (Subsequent Testing)
Sympathetic Detonation	Propagation of Detonation from One Payload Section to Another	Type I (Subsequent Testing)





Intermediate Cook-Off Test



- Test Conducted IAW STANAG 4382 Slow Heating Test for Munitions
- Enclosed in Oven Housing
- Ramp Rate 50°F/hr
- Blast Gauges and Witness Plates Showed no Evidence of Detonation







Fast Cook-Off Test



- Test Conducted IAW STANAG 4240 Liquid Fuel Fire Tests for Munitions
- Approximately 1000 Gallons Kerosene in Fuel Pans
- Internal Warhead Components Expelled from Case







IM Testing – Bullet Impact



- Test Conducted IAW STANAG 4241 Bullet Attack Test for Munitions
- .50 Caliber Type M2 Armor Piercing Projectile
 7 2840 ft/sec
- Aim Point Center of Warhead
- No Exit Bullet Hole
- Blast Gauges and Witness Plates Showed no Evidence of Detonation





GMLRS Warhead Performance



Requirements	Performance
Effectiveness	Warhead Lethal Against Target Set
Penetration	Warhead Penetrates Earth & Timber Bunker Target
Insensitive Munitions (IM)	 Type V – Bullet Impact Type IV – Fast Cook-Off Type III – Intermediate Cook-Off Type I – Sympathetic Detonation Type V – Fragment Impact





Design Challenges



- Insensitive Munitions
 - Passing Fast and Slow Cook-Off Proved to be a Challenge
 - Pressure Built up in Warhead Nose
 - Warhead Case Structural Integrity did not Allow Venting in Nose





Acknowledgements



- COL David Rice, Precision Fires Rocket and Missiles Systems Project Manager
- LTC Mark Pincoski, Precision Guided Rockets/Missiles Product Manager
- Darren McConnell, Deputy Product Manager for GMLRS
- Larry Grater, System Engineer Principal
- Tracey Westmoreland, Mechanical Engineer Staff



