

# 50th Annual NDIA Conference Targets, UAVs & Range Operations Symposium & Exhibition Boeing QF-16 Program – Test Results

QF-16 Full Scale Aerial Target Boeing Global Services and Support Maintenance, Modifications, & Upgrades Mr. Paul Cejas QF-16 Chief Engineer October 4, 2012

## **QF-16 Overview**





## **DEBEING**

## **QF-16 Mission Requirements**





#### QF-16 Design meets Mission Requirements

- 4<sup>th</sup> Gen Threat
- F-16 Maneuverability
- Low RCS
- Countermeasures
- 120nm GRDCS datalink
- Weapon accuracy scoring
- Range Safety Flt Termination
- Optionally Piloted
- Reliable
- Supportable Test Equipment
- Growth Phase II Air Superiority Target (AST)

#### The QF-16 is designed for Mission Success



## **QF-16 Ground/Flight Test Definition Process**



- Disciplined Systems Engineering approach to ensure all requirements are verified
- "Two-way" verification to ensure all test points trace back to requirements
- Consistent basis used for Manned Flight Release



## **System Verification Flow**



# Have progressed from labs to aircraft testing and verified installed functionality of all subsystems



## **QF-16 Test Status**

- System Integration Lab (SIL)
  - All subsystem interfaces integrated and AFCC software verified
- Subsystem Qualification Tests
  - All subsystems completed environmental qualification and EMC except flight termination system and VSS– planned November completion
  - Flight termination system (FTS) being tested to RCC-319-07 tailored for QF-16
- On Aircraft Ground Testing
  - 6 test aircraft 2 Block 30, 2 Block 25 (C-model), & 2 Block 15 (A-model)
  - All Drone Peculiar Equipment (DPE) installations completed within a week
  - Peculiar Support Equipment (PSE) in place and in use
- Flight Testing
  - In progress at Cecil Field, Jacksonville, FL





#### *DEING*

## **QF-16 System Test Plan**

System Verification plan broken up into segments

- All 6 test aircraft to be subjected to hangar system verification test (SVT), ramp SVT, functional check flight (FCF) and GRDCS initial flight
- At least one A-model and one C-model to conduct all tests

Hangar SVT
EMI/EMC
Ramp SVT
VSS Performance Test (Meggitt provided procedure)
FCF/Handling Qualities/TM Survey
GRDCS Initial Up and Away
Up and Away Flight (AFCS Modes, Preprogrammed Maneuvers, Loss of Carrier, Auto Escapes)
Takeoff Abort/Auto Takeoffs and Landings



### *DEBEING*

# **QF-16 Ground Testing - SVT (Hangar)**

- QF-16 System Verification Test (SVT) Initially run in Hangar, then Ramp
  - Started on Schedule 25 Jan 2012 (Hangar SVT)
  - Hangar SVT Philosophy:
    - Verify existing F-16 systems that were affected by the mod were not degraded/damaged in any way
    - Verify newly added systems can be controlled in Manned (Normal and Remote) and NULLO Modes
    - Sequential Build up in complexity culminating in full up flight controls testing
    - Perform Critical (AFCS) Testing first, then checkout Ancillary
      Equipment
    - Peculiar Support Equipment verified in parallel - software FQT & ATP demo completed
    - Maintenance Demo completed
    - 6 aircraft planned for October completion





## **QF-16 Ground Testing - SVT (Ramp)**

- Ramp Testing
  - ✓ Initial GRDCS Comm Checks
  - ✓ EMI/EMC Testing (A model in work)
  - ✓ URAP GPS live-sky testing
  - ✓ GRDCS Comm Checks (Engine ON)
  - ✓ High Power Testing
  - ✓ Taxi Testing
    - Vector Scoring System (VSS) low speed projectile testing
  - ✓ NULLO startup demo
  - ✓ 200D engine install and demo PSE PMT testing
- Tests successfully completed
- Scoring system seeing target beyond 100 ft requirement





# QF-16 Ground Testing – Taxi Tests

- Low speed tests conducted in two phases:
  - Pilot Controlled taxiing of aircraft on ramps/taxiways/runway
    - GRDCS Communications checks in chocks Engine ON
    - Pilot performs low speed taxi on predetermined route Verify Normal F-16 Braking and Steering (35 knots max)
    - Verify GRDCS Tracks Drone location accurately during taxi
  - GRDCS controlled low speed taxi tests
    - Conducted on 12,500' runway
    - Start at Centerline
    - Start at Offset
- Hi/Low Speed Automatic Takeoff Aborts (TOA)
  - Conducted after Low Speed Taxi Tests
  - Verify GRDCS/Aircraft interface acceptable
  - Evaluate remote steering/braking in preparation for auto takeoff/ landings
  - Verify pilot can disengage and control steering/braking during TOA sequence





## **QF-16 Pre-EMD Flight Testing**

- Functional Check Flight (FCF)
- Performance and Flying Qualities
- Initial GRDCS Up and Away
- GRDCS Up and Away (AFCS Modes, Preprogrammed Maneuvers, Auto Escape, LOC)
- Takeoff Abort, Automatic Takeoff and Landing



- Testing requires portable GRDCS trailer and antenna setup at Cecil Field
- Provide close-in navigation capability
- Long distance GRDCS controller commands only
- Portable system has created connectivity challenges for the test team

# **QF-16 Aircraft/GRDCS Instrumentation**

- GRDCS Telemetry Data (Displayed and recorded in GRDCS trailer)
- Onboard Instrumentation System (Recording 1553 from DPE—Ampex Recorder)
- Data Transfer Cartridge (DTC) Standard F-16 GFE recording maintenance data
- HUD Video/ Pilot Audio (8mm tape recorder)
- Data Scribe (FTE) in control station will keep running log of test events during flight
- Pilot Observations







# **QF-16 Flight Test Results**

- ✓ Post-Mod FCF completed
- ✓ Performance/Flying Qualities completed
- ✓ TM Survey Flight completed
- ✓ GRDCS Up and Away Flights Completed
  - Altitude, Mach and Speed Hold modes
  - Verified ADR modes at selected altitudes/airspeeds
    - Airspeed Inc/Dec
    - Pitch Attitude Hold with Roll
    - Auto Escape from S/L flight
    - Pitch, Roll Attitude Commands (Up and Away)
    - Mach Hold Ramp Maneuver
    - Pitch, Roll Step Landing Mode
    - Speed Hold Ramp, Altitude Hold Landing Mode
    - Speed/Mach Hold on Pitch
  - G Disconnect Maneuvers (4-7 gs)
  - AOA/G Limiters
- Visual Augmentation System and Vector Scoring System in-flight verification
- Takeoff Abort, Auto takeoff and auto landing test buildups in progress



#### All systems meeting performance requirements

## **QF-16 EMD Test Plans**



Ground Testing

- Payloads EMC testing
- Repeat Ramp SVT & taxi tests



Flight Testing

- AFCS modes verification
- Canned & sequenced maneuvers verification
- GRDCS navigation & formation flying
- VAS, VSS and Payloads verification
- TOA, auto takeoffs & auto landings manned
- OT testing to include:
  - NULLO missions
  - Live-fire shot and potential FTS



**Enhanced Flight Termination System** 

• Architecture enables incorporation of RCC-319-07 compliant receiver

GPS Navigation & Autonomous System Operation

•Accurate aircraft state estimation available during all flight phases

• Mature navigator used on X-45, Phantom Eye, JDAM, SDB, others

Integration with Navy Common Datalink

Communication interface built in

4.5 Gen Performance Enhancements

- Enhanced maneuvering capabilities
- Enhanced RCS
- Enhanced ground station







QF-16 Video



#### BOEING

# **QF-16 Test Summary**

- The Boeing QF-16 Program is in the last stages of completing the pre-EMD phase of the program
- Six aircraft have been modified and tested extensively, and all systems are performing as planned
- The pre-EMD program has been a success at mitigating program and design risks, and we are ready to move into a successful DT/OT test program during the EMD phase
- QF-16 has a great team and a bright future!



