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## United States Readies Earthquake Weapon for use in War On Terror (Not Satire)

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*This presentation from David Burns of the Medium Caliber Weapons Systems Branch of ARDEC reveals much more about the weapon than previously released. In particular, it is described as being able to dig down to 150 feet. That's impressive on its own, but the 'Concept Of Operations' in Slide 4 is staggering: an array of 20 Deep Diggers would be detonated together to produce a shockwave which will collapse all underground structures to a depth of 300 feet over a 200-yard square area.*

*Compare this to this description of the B61-11, the only bunker-busting nuclear bomb in the arsenal:*

*For a penetration depth of three meters and a yield of 0.3 kilotons, the B61-11 could destroy a target buried under roughly 15 meters [= 50 feet] of hard rock or concrete. For the same penetration depth and the maximum yield of 340 kilotons, the destruction depth would be roughly 70 meters [=210 feet ] for a hardened target.*

*In other words, the Deep Digger array is more effective than a 340-kiloton nuclear weapon optimised to attack underground targets.*

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<b>Killfile</b>	Author  
<p>This is an amazing and horrifying weapon. While it's ability to damage civilian structures is likely no more pronounced than the simple dropping of bombs, the ability to create something approaching a man-made localized earthquake is quite far reaching. This is a technology in its infancy - where it goes from here is the real question.</p>	
#1 - Mon Dec 4, 2006 11:29 PM EST	REPLY 

<b>Mike Rhys</b>
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| *we'd be in paradise.*

Too bad the resat of the world doesn't want to hold hands and sing songs. It is naive to believe that it is not important to have superior weapons systems for deterrence and defense.

This is good technology. I am always in favor of developing better weapons. Jimmy Carter was wrong for cancelling the neutron bomb program and the B-1A bomber program.

#4 - Tue Dec 5, 2006 10:44 AM EST

REPLY 

### Killfile

Author



I agree with both cancellations, not because I'm a pacifist, but because I don't see any long term value in either program. The Neutron Bomb has all the disadvantages (politically) of a nuclear weapon which makes it ineffective as a tactical munition. It seems both silly and far fetched to assume that we'd be involved in a nuclear exchange with anyone wherein much of anything would remain unscathed for long.

The B1A program had a number of serious problems as I understand it and US weapons development was already heading in the direction of stealthy aircraft at this time. While the fast and low strategic bomber certainly had a roll to play, it wasn't a roll that would exist long enough to justify the enormous cost involved in deploying such a short lived strategic bomber fleet.

The F117A, with a maiden flight in 1981 (and a production decision in 1973), was a strong prospect to fill the "spear tip" roll envisioned for the B1A and as a consequence the far less versatile B1A project was seen as having a much more limited roll in a post-stealth air force. The Nighthawk's ability to strike by stealth what the B1A could hit with speed made the aircraft a preferable weapon as the leading edge of a US air assault primarily concerned with knocking out Soviet Anti-Air capability across Europe. Note that the F117A is, like the B1 series, capable of in-air-refueling, giving it strategic range.

Carter's cancellations of these projects can be seen as the beginning of the leaner and more sophisticated fighting force displayed under George HW Bush and later lauded by Rumsfeld.

#4.1 - Tue Dec 5, 2006 11:02 AM EST

REPLY 

### Rimuladas

wow, what a missleading title.

Its just a bunker busters biggger smarter brother. You trying to tell everyone that we now have an earthquake machine. Thats quite a strech to get votes.

#5 - Tue Dec 5, 2006 11:16 AM EST

REPLY 

### Killfile

Author



No, it's not. The Deep Digger array uses - as I understand it - harmonics to set up earth tremors that self-reinforce, spreading well beyond the initial concussive blast. The result is a small man-made earthquake and is limited only by the desire to deploy it from the air. Similar technology planted by excavation would produce a result almost wholly indistinguishable from a natural earthquake

#5.1 - Tue Dec 5, 2006 11:46 AM EST

REPLY 

### Scarlet Termite

So, I am going to assume from this that the United States is ready to go ahead with the inevitable aerial bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities.

Oh boy.

#6 - Tue Dec 5, 2006 12:11 PM EST

REPLY 

#### Killfile

Author 

Perhaps - though that's going to depend enormously on the roll-out time frame and the sort of bombers necessary to do this.

#6.1 - Tue Dec 5, 2006 1:24 PM EST

REPLY 

### Jason4188

"If you wish for peace, prepare for war." old latin quote

#7 - Tue Dec 5, 2006 1:37 PM EST

REPLY 

#### Killfile

Author 

It seems worth pointing out that Rome was a peace exactly twice (if memory serves) since the establishment of its Empire.

#7.1 - Tue Dec 5, 2006 2:15 PM EST

#### Roan

Igitur qui desiderat pacem, praeparet bellum. - *Vegetius, Epitoma rei militaris*

#7.2 - Tue Dec 5, 2006 2:45 PM EST

REPLY 