



tested and recommended for fielding during that year were F-117 Target Area Planning v17 FDE, F-117 Mission Effectiveness FDE, F-117 FMPE v8.0 Life Cycle Upgrade FDE and F-117 TAP v16 FDE.

Also initiated during FY2005 was a series of tests involving the Night Visual Imaging System (NVIS), with operational testing starting in September 2005. Although the Head Up Display (HUD) was already NVG-compatible, many of

the cockpit lights were not, and had various covers with different filters to make them compatible with the Night Vision Goggles. The project focused on optimising and standardising the cockpit lighting to improve the working environment of the pilot. Tests were conducted by day and night to verify that the new lights worked perfectly under all conditions.

Throughout the year, Det 1 also provided test support to other agencies such as the Defense

Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), testing the penetrative abilities of weapons to defeat hardened and deeply buried targets (HDBT). Weapons effects were accurately measured (weapon deceleration and penetration path, blast environment, target response) to quantify the effectiveness of the attack tactic. Additionally, the unit worked on classified projects with the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) at Wright Patterson, Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) at Wright Patterson, and the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC) at Kirtland AFB.

The Dragon Test Team also supported GPS jamming tests of the 586th Flight Test Squadron as part of a test plan called Gypsy Echo. In another test organised by AFRL, the unit participated in testing commercially available ground-based laser systems that could potentially disable the aircraft's weapon systems such as targeting pods or night vision systems.

Further grey trials

As a result of the earlier tests and the fact that lighter grey can sometimes create unwanted reflections, Det 1 wished to experiment with a darker paint scheme than previous. To this end, the test

Lt Col Silong checks that the GBU-31 is attached correctly before flying on a test-drop mission. F-117 bomb are carried on trapezes that lower for loading. The bomb drops straight from the bay.

