



This spread: **Air-to-air and a JDAM drop by the last gray jet operated by the Dragon Test Team, now disbanded after having fielded vital new technology for the last days of the Nighthawk.**



The IRRCA program developed an on-board mission manager (OMM) that facilitates the transfer of real-time information into and out of the cockpit. The OMM also contained a modified version of the common low-observable auto-router (CLOAR) that allows a dynamic, signature-managed re-plan of the F-117's flight path in response to target re-tasking messages and pop-up threats.

In Fiscal Year 04, the unit also undertook F-117A Composite Force Integration TD&E. This looked at ways to integrate the F-117 into coalition forces and utilize some of its specific features along with those of other platforms to better defeat or destroy

a threat. Tests were also conducted to continue improving the mission planning tools and related ground systems.

Initiated as a Concept & Technology Development (CTD) in Fiscal Year 2000, testing continued during Fiscal Years 05 and 06 of the numerous avionics upgrades and modifications to be done on the F-117 as part of the so-called F-117 Combat Capability Sustainment Program (CCSP) — Combined DT/OT/FDE. This was aimed at replacing obsolete avionics systems, the establishment of new vendors and improving reliability and maintainability to keep the F-117 operational. It also provided the aircraft with future capabilities for

new releases of Operational Flight Program (OFP) software and weapons capability.

One particular part that needed to be replaced was the Expanded Data Transfer System (ETDS) as it was approaching non-supportability and the end of its service life. The SDD phase started in FY04. In order to integrate new smart weapons, its existing memory capacity needed to be expanded. Affectionately known as the 'lunch box', this 10lb, 8ft x 4.5ft box-like device is still hand-carried by Nighthawk pilots. It allows data to be transferred from the mission planning environment to the aircraft for operations. The new system