

OPERATIONAL ASPECTS

The laser MAVERICK acquires, locks on, and guides to the designated target without the necessity of visual contact by the aircrew. The launch range is independent of target size; it depends only on sufficient laser energy reaching the MAVERICK seeker. MAVERICK can attack targets from low altitude, outside their lethal air defense envelope. The airborne selectable fuze function feature permits a choice of surface detonation or detonation after penetration. After launch, the MAVERICK guides to the designated target without further action or attention from the pilot.

As the launch aircraft approaches the target area the pilot selects the MAVERICK station. Approximately 3 minutes later, the MAVERICK ready light illuminates. The proper laser designator code is entered into the system and the pilot activates the MAVERICK, causing the seeker to transfer from mechanical to electrical cage. The MAVERICK is placed in the track mode and the autoscan mode to search for the laser coded energy reflected from the target. When the seeker detects the correctly coded energy, it will automatically lock on and track the target. Missile seeker information is displayed on the MAVERICK missile video monitor. The pilot maneuvers the aircraft as necessary to meet launch constraints displayed on the video monitor, then he launches the MAVERICK. The ground or airborne laser designator must continue to illuminate the target until missile impact. After missile launch, the pilot may resume search for other designated targets or perform evasive maneuvers.