Mother, Meet Father

Description

The Soviets, and their parred down left overs, the Russians, have a bad habit of copying â€œstuffâ€• we design, test and produce. Side Note: Weâ€™re not above doing a little ourselves, but that can be a whole series of posts unto itselfâ€¦.

So, we made the â€œMother of All Bombs,â€• the Massive Ordnance Air Burst bomb in 1993. weighing in at 21,000 lbs, it is 6K lbs heavier than the BLU-82 â€œDaisy Cutterâ€• used since the Vietnam War. The weapon relies upon itâ€™s â€œFAEâ€• (fuel air explosive) characteristics to make a point when it detonates.So, the Russians, after a decade and a few years, have managed to make what they call the â€œFather of All Bombs.â€•

> Russiaâ€™s military yesterday announced that it had successfully tested a lethal new air-delivered bomb, which it described as the worldâ€™s most powerful non-nuclear weapon.
>
> In what appears to be the Kremlinâ€™s latest display of military might, officials said Moscow had developed a new thermobaric bomb to add to its already potent nuclear arsenal.
>
> Russiaâ€™s state-run Channel One television said the new ordnance â€“ dubbed the Father of all Bombs â€“ is ***four times more powerful*** than the USâ€™s Mother of all Bombs.
> [â€¦]

According to the article, the FOAB is delivered by the TU-160 â€œBlackjackâ€• strategic bomber (oh, BTW, a knock off of the B-1 Lancer), reported to have a payload 88,220 lbs, which, would square with the â€œfour timesâ€• as big claimâ€¦.The Guardian, where I found this report, canâ€™t manage to stick to reporting, but has to blame this new weapons on President Bushâ€™s plan to locate ABM systems in Europe:

> [â€¦]
> The development of this latest device appears to be another response to the Bush administrationâ€™s plans to site elements of its missile defence system in central Europe. Mr Putin has denounced the plan, arguing that it upsets Europeâ€™s strategic balance, and has vowed to respond.
> [â€¦]

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My comment: What buffons! Weaponry such as this didnâ€™t begin their development on June 7th (or 8th, if you want to to think the leadership slept on the decision to order the development), 2007. Besides, from a tactical standpoint, you wouldnâ€™t need an â€œalmost a nukeâ€• to render ABM sites combat ineffective. No, the Russians made it, because they want to have a â€œbig bangâ€• in their pocket, and can say with a straight face, â€œnope, thatâ€™s sure not a nuke we got here, boys!â€• at the negotiation table.

Anyhow, Weâ€™re gonna have to make a bigger bomber if weâ€™re gonna compete in the â€œwho can make the Grand-Pappyâ€• of all bombs raceâ€¦

Update 09/14/2007: Major John (USAF) of OpFor sez we got a bomb with more bang than the new one the Russians builtâ€¦and oh, yea, it goes deep and then goes â€œBOOM!â€• The Russian FOAB isnâ€™t a penetratorâ€¦yaâ€™ll paying attention Iran?

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