

AeroVironment Demonstrates Switchblade Loitering Missile Integration for Air Launched Effects from JUMP 20 UAS



AeroVironment's Switchblade 300 loitering munition, which can now be integrated with the larger JUMP 20 unmanned aircraft.

AEROVIRONMENT

ARLINGTON, Va., Nov. 3, 2021 – AeroVironment has successfully demonstrated integration of Switchblade 300 loitering missiles and JUMP 20 medium unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for increased mission autonomy and efficacy, the company said Nov. 3.

This Air Launched Effects (ALE) proof-of-concept demonstration took place in August 2021 with the goal of launching an inert Switchblade 300 from the JUMP 20 and successfully recovering

both air vehicles.

The systems were integrated by fixing the inert Switchblade 300 tube-launch system to the existing JUMP 20 platform's vertical lift boom with a custom-made bolt-on mount and firing system. Switchblade 300 was remotely fired using the JUMP 20 ground control solution with in-flight control taken by a separate Switchblade ground element. Both vehicles were successfully recovered, proving the demonstration event to be the first Switchblade 300 integration and air launch from a JUMP 20 Group 3 vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) platform.

"This end-to-end integrated solution enables customers with greater time on station than if they were to deploy a Switchblade on its own, resulting in the ability to conduct persistent real-time surveillance to increase the chance of identifying the correct target and minimizing collateral damage," said Brett Hush, AeroVironment vice president and product line general manager of tactical missile systems.

"It combines the combat-proven Switchblade loitering missile's lethality, reach and precision strike capabilities with low collateral effects and the VTOL, fixed-wing JUMP 20's advanced multi-sensor ISR services and 14-hour endurance."