



FACT SHEET

U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet CONVAIR B-36J PEACEMAKER

Responding to the U.S. Army Air Forces' requirement for a strategic bomber with intercontinental range, Consolidated Vultee (later Convair) designed the B-36 during World War II. The airplane made its maiden flight in August 1946, and in June 1948 the Strategic Air Command received its first operational B-36. Some B-36s served as photographic reconnaissance aircraft, and others were adapted to launch and retrieve specially modified RF-84F/K reconnaissance planes.



Powered by six [Pratt & Whitney R-4360](#) engines, the B-36J cruised at 230 mph, but for additional bursts of speed its four [General Electric J47s](#) increased the maximum speed to 435 mph. It carried 86,000 pounds of nuclear or conventional bombs. When production ended in August 1954, more than 380 B-36s had been built for the U.S. Air Force. In 1958-1959, the USAF replaced the B-36 with the all-jet [B-52](#). Although never used in combat, the B-36 was a major deterrent to enemy aggression. Making the last B-36 flight ever, the aircraft on display flew to the museum from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., on April 30, 1959.

DAYTON, Ohio -- Convair B-36J Peacemaker in the Cold War Gallery at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo)

TECHNICAL NOTES:

Maximum speed: 435 mph

Cruising speed: 230 mph

Range: 10,000 miles

Ceiling: 45,700 ft.

Span: 230 ft.

Length: 162 ft. 1 in.

Height: 46 ft. 9 in.

Weight: 410,000 lbs. loaded

Serial number: 52-2220

Click here to learn more about the [Convair B-36J](#).

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