



Aerial video is nothing new. However, modern technology no longer requires the open cockpit of days gone by.

WEAPONS SYSTEM VIDEO

Why WSV?

Since the beginning of military flight operations, cameras have been used to capture visual information of either ground formations or the effects of weapons delivery. Formerly known as Aerial Delivery Recording, Weapons System Video is an Air Force level program with the primary purpose of providing combat air forces, unified commanders and senior leaders with a visual record of aircraft weapons delivery, targeting and effects.

WSV's capability is not limited to just internal information. The American public needs to know how its tax money is being spent. Nothing illustrates this better than video of bombs destroying buildings with pin-point accuracy. It's virtually impossible to embed a journalist on the front lines of an Air Force mission, but by using WSV, images and video of the Air Force's mission can be quickly edited for classified material and sent directly to news organizations around the world.

How it works

WSV begins with footage shot from the perspective of an aircraft's targeting pod. Using this pod, pilots are able to guide their weapons and make minute corrections to the bomb's flight path in order to strike targets with precision. Once the footage, which is recorded through the aircraft's Heads Up Display, is removed from the aircraft, specialists from intelligence squadrons work side-by-side with multimedia specialists to condense and edit all the raw footage.

Training for Air Superiority

WSV can be used in a variety of mediums. Video clips taken from F-15 Strike Eagle pods during Operation Iraqi Freedom are now integrated into the training program for F-15E Weapon System Officers. Real-world clips provide WSO with a tool for target identification and will benefit these officers in future conflicts and exercises.



Courtesy photo

Computers and digital video are the tools of the trade for Weapons System Video specialists. A Hi8 video player is used to play the video from the aircraft's video tape recorder. From the player, the video is sent to a computer where specialists compile and edit the clips for internal use, external news media or for training scenarios.