Tests are conducted in support of all three legs of the nuclear triad:

1. Bomber aircraft carrying bombs or nuclear variants of cruise missiles.
2. Land-based Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles.
3. Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile.

WHAT KINDS OF FLIGHT TESTS ARE THERE?

Stockpile flight tests use Department of Defense operational hardware, personnel, and procedures to the greatest extent possible within safety constraints. NNSA's flight test units, called Joint Test Assemblies, are non-nuclear assemblies incapable of producing nuclear yield. Two types of Joint Test Assemblies are used: instrumented and high-fidelity.

- Instrumented Joint Test Assemblies are equipped with a telemetry system to collect test data on performance.
- High-Fidelity Joint Test Assemblies validate fact-of-function – or that the systems will work as intended.