

Quail



The Quail was a decoy B-52. Although it was only 13 feet long and had a 5.5-foot wingspan, it electronically simulated a B-52 that was more than 10 times its length, with a 185-foot wingspan. Onboard equipment made this possible. The Quail duplicated the BUFF's flight characteristics and radar signature, and it simulated B-52 maneuvers at the same speeds and altitudes. Produced by McDonnell Aircraft, the Quail air decoy missile—originally the GAM-72 and later called the ADM-20—was launched from a B-52's bomb bay, as shown in the 1958 photo above. A B-52 could carry four, along with its normal bomb load. The Quail began service in 1960 and was used until 1978.

