



COMPANY HISTORY AND PRODUCTS

Alliant Techsystems is the largest supplier of all munitions to the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and works on many DoD contracts, including large and small caliber munitions employing depleted uranium penetrators, rocket motors for most missiles-- most notably the Trident II nuclear missile and the AGM-130 and AMRAAM missiles.

Alliant was spun off from Honeywell in 1991 and suffered a hostile take-over by Hercules Incorporated in 1993. It is a \$1.2 billion a year business which operates in 23 congressional districts throughout the United States and has international sales office in 33 countries, including Israel, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Malaysia, Chile, Pakistan, India, Greece and Turkey.

For fiscal years 1996 through 1999, the most recent years for which full data is available, Alliant Techsystems received a cumulative total of about \$1.5 billion in Pentagon contracts. Total company sales were roughly \$4.1 billion for those four years, which means that the company has depended on Pentagon contracts for about 37% of its sales. Despite reporting record profits in 1998, Alliant laid off 500 workers.



US DOD CONTRACTS

A breakdown year by year is as follows:

YEAR	DOD CONTRACTS (millions US dollars)	DOD RANK	% sales to DOD
1996	\$456.5 million	26th	45%
1997	\$378 million	30th	37%
1998	\$316.6 million	34th	31%
1999	\$421.9 million	27th	42%

Alliant Techsystems makes some of the deadliest and most problematic weapons systems in the United States (and global) arsenals:



TRIDENT II SLBM

Alliant Tech is responsible for the propulsion system for the Trident II (D5) submarine-launched ballistic missile, a multiple warhead, nuclear armed missile. Each missile can carry 8 independently targetable nuclear warheads at speeds in excess of 13,000 miles per hour. The D5 is one of the few major long-range nuclear delivery vehicles still being produced for U.S. forces. There are about 400 D5 missiles in the U.S. arsenal. The D5, whose main contractor is Lockheed Martin, has a range of more than 4,000 miles and costs \$30 million a piece.

As part of the START II agreement, older C4 missiles are being dismantled and replaced by fewer but faster D5 missiles. This represents a huge windfall for Alliant Tech and lead contractor Lockheed Martin, but is completely unnecessary. According to Rep. Bill Luther (D-MN), the D5 is a "cold war weapon specifically designed to destroy

hardened missile silos and other military targets found in the former Soviet Union." The Congressional Budget Office estimates that ending procurement of the D5 missile would save taxpayers \$262 million the first year, and as much as \$2.6 billion over the next seven years.

Alliant proudly states that it "has contributed to every U.S. strategic defense program since the 1950s, and through the D5 system, we are committed to continuing our contribution well into the next century." Alliant's workers don't all share their pride: the company's nuclear production wing, Hercules Inc., has suffered two major whistleblower lawsuits in recent years, paying out a total of almost \$60 million in 1998.



THE UNCONVENTIONAL CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS: DEPLETED URANIUM

Alliant makes depleted uranium shells for use in U.S. tanks, armored personnel carriers, and howitzers. As Damacio Lopez, Executive Director of the International Depleted Uranium Study Team (IDUST), notes in an October 2000 report, "DU is a highly toxic heavy metal with a radioactive half-life of four and one-half billion years. It is very appealing in military weapons because of its heavy weight and pyrophoric qualities which cause it to burn like a cutting torch through steel when a DU penetrator strikes a hard target."

Alliant's DU shells are controversial because of their impact on the environment and human health. Soldiers and civilians in the war zones of Iraq and Kosovo and on testing ranges like the one in Socorro, NM where open air testing of DU was conducted for more than 20 years, have suffered the short and long term health effects of ingesting radioactive dust, such as kidney problems, birth defects, cancers and death.

Weapons analyst William Arkin estimates that 300 tons of depleted uranium was dispersed during the Persian Gulf war, mostly from the 30mm and 120mm DU shells. In Kosovo, DU rounds were used with the A-10 warthog, which ran about 100 missions.

Alliant has produced over 15 million 30 mm PGU-14 shells (used in the A-10's Gattling gun) for the U.S. Air Force and over a million 120mm M829 rounds (described by the Army as the world's most lethal kinetic energy shell) for the U.S. Army. While the DoD denies any link between DU and the Gulf War Syndrome, which has affected more than 100,000 U.S. and Allied service people who "saw action" during the Gulf War, veterans groups and scientists both challenge this claim.



SOURCES:

- ◆ Company website, www.atk.com
- ◆ Minnesota Alliant Action (WMMA) www.circlevision.org/alliantaction.html