

1 LT Paul A Rietz—Bombardier, Crew 905

After the pilot has put the bombardier on a general heading to the target, control of the plane is turned over to the Bombardier. Here is a description of what I would then do:

Before I engage the directional clutch I visually align the bombsight optics by sighting over the cross trail arm. Then looking through the bombsight optics I engage the extended vision knob and place the vertical cross hair on the target. Now I engaged the directional clutch which locks the bomb sight head to the directional stabilizer. Un-caging the gyro I must now "Kill the drift" by means of the drift knobs on the right side of the bomb sight head. This compensates for cross winds. Quickly I raise up from the optics to check the leveling bubbles on the gyroscope, and make necessary displacement corrections.

After I am satisfied the course is established I watch the horizontal cross hair approach the target. As soon as it does I flip the switch on the rate motor, which will now drive the optics and register on the tangent scale. I must now start the synchronization whereby I am compensating for the rate of closure. All the while I am constantly checking the leveling bubbles on the gyroscope. Satisfied with the synchronization of the drift and rate I quickly flip the switch that opens the bomb bay doors. I next lock the trigger in an up position – all the while ever watching the leveling bubbles. There are two indices on the target scale: a fixed index and a traveling index. As soon as the traveling index reaches the fixed index the bombs are electronically released from their shackles.

I call out "bombs away", quickly cage the gyro, disengage the directional clutch, shut off the rate motor, and close the bomb bay doors.

All of the bomb run manipulations must be accomplished in 90 to 120 seconds.

This was written sometime in the late 1990's by Paul A Rietz Bombardier, K-61 The Lonesome Polecat. Mr. Rietz took his final flight in Dec of 2000.

Submitted by: Julie Rietz Mangold

