# MBDA's ASMP-A Land-Attack Cruise Missile (LACM)

It is now an open secret that Indian Air Force (IAF) Rafale F3R fleet will be assigned the role of manned airborne nuclear deterrence under India's SFC (Strategic Forces Command), officially raised on January 2003 under a "three-star commander" by India's National Security Cabinet Committee (NSCC) while formally announcing India's long awaited Nuclear Weapons Command and Control Structure. The IAF multi-role strike fighter squadrons spearheaded by the formidable Rafale F3R are being configured as to they become capable of delivering a punishing "retaliatory nuclear strike" on any rouge nuclear aggressor and also capable of conducting pre-emptive conventional "counterforce" precision strike on enemy nuclear arsenals or their communication, command and control nodes, to disable them from launching a "first strike" on Indian forces or homeland.

The French Dassault Rafale F3 version to appear around 2008-2010 were developed as multi-role strike fighters from outset with priorities considerably shifted towards nuclear strike and conventional attack yet at the same time retaining formidable air superiority attributes leading to its classification by its manufacturer Dassault as "omni-role," being capable of performing strike and air superiority tasks in single sortie.

To execute successful nuclear strike and conventional attack missions the Rafale along with its manoeuvrability and a high degree of cockpit automation is designed to make use of terrain following and masking, particularly at night and in adverse weather conditions to fly a terrain/obstacle-avoidance profile at 5.5-g and down to 100-feet in altitude thanks to the Automatic Flight Control System (AFCS) that can operate in either digital terrain following or a radar terrain following mode. With digital terrain following, the