



## **B-52B PAINT AND SURFACE AREA CALCULATIONS**

**Wings: 8000 sqft**

**Tail: 2008 sqft**

**Tail (V) 902 sqft**

**Fuselage: Nominal Diameter: 13.25 ft, Length: 160 ft,**

**Area:  $\text{PI} \times 6.5 \times 6.5 \times 160 = 21,237 \text{ sqft}$**

**Total: 32,147 sqft**

**ADJUST FOR SHAPE: 32,147 sqft**

**This is 2/3 (+) of an acre**

**250% - 260% larger than the B-29 Superfortress**

*"This is like painting a custom car, only 25 times bigger." - Jerry Hanks, B-52B  
Restoration Project Coordinator*

The reason the primer and paint for this project are so expensive is the paint must last a long time. Because of the size of the aircraft (263% larger than the B-29 Superfortress we successfully restored in the spring of 2015) there is a tremendous amount of logistic work required just to prepare for painting, so we want to be able to do it as infrequently as possible. In the Southwest region of the United States, normal paint or even Milspec paint is only good for 3-5 years. The NAPA premium automotive primer and finish we will use is guaranteed for 15-20 years. In addition, we must choose a paint and a color that is approved by the United States Air Force and other museum entities. NAPA 2001 Nissan Silver and Arctic White premium automotive paint meet these guidelines.

Certainly the paint is expensive, yet the major expenses remaining will pay for

the estimated 2500 man hours (eight workers for 30 days) of skilled labor that will be required to perform the actual prep, bodywork and painting of the fuselage and wings. Unlike smaller Heritage Park displays, the B-52B is so large that a majority of this work cannot be done by volunteers because of the sheer number of man-hours required and the specialized training needed to work high above ground.

Paint specifications are from Museum Curator David Hoover: NAPA, Martin-Senour Prism, Nissan Silver and Arctic White Premium. There are also five other colors for lettering, tail/nose blaze and insignia, but the amounts are small comparatively speaking.