the kind of weapon that you use to very deep or very heavily reinforced caves, but obviously a blast this size will collapse smaller more vulnerable caves."

Many details surrounding the GBU-43 remain shrouded in mystery, including its cost and the total number of units purchased by the Air Force. The service declined to comment on how many of these munitions are left after the strike on Wednesday.

More is known about its development. MOAB was created to put pressure on Saddam Hussein's regime. The bomb was rapidly manufactured by the Air Force Laboratory, going from an idea to its final test — conducted on March 11, 2003 — in roughly a year, according to an Air Force news release. The first munition was delivered on April 1 that year, but was never used in the Iraq War.

Because of the size of the ordnance, which measures 30 feet long, it cannot be carried by bombers.

So what's bigger than the GBU-43? That would be the GBU-57A/B Massive Ordnance Penetrator, or MOP. Like the MOAB, the MOP is guided by GPS, but it is much more massive at 30,000 pounds, and as "bunker buster" is capable of penetrating deep into the ground to take out fortified bunkers or other installations.

The MOP was developed by AFRL and produced by Boeing. The first explosive testing was conducted in 2007, but it has never been used in combat yet.