The F101 engine was originally developed for the Advanced Manned Strategic Aircraft program, which became the B-1A strategic bomber, and powered four development aircraft from 1970 to 1981.

Rated in the 30,000 pound thrust class, the F101 was the first GE-produced turbofan with an augmentor. Although the planned B-1A production program was terminated in 1977, four B-1 aircraft were built and flown through a complete operational flight test program.

Later, the production of 100 B-1Bs led to GE’s contract to develop the F101-102 augmented turbofan, an improved version of the earlier flight test engine. The first engine was delivered in 1983 and B-1B flight testing began in 1984. The U.S. Air Force accepted the first aircraft in 1985 and the last of 469 F101-GE-102 engines was produced in December 1987.

Today there are 65 B-1B aircraft powered by the F101 in service. The B-1B participated in Operation Desert Fox in 1998. It participated in combat campaigns such as Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. It was designed as a strategic nuclear bomber but has been converted to carry a very wide range of conventional weapons.

An engine upgrade program is poised to extend the life of the F101. Following the highly successful F110 Service Life Extension Program (SLEP), it will enhance world-class durability while delivering an estimated 30 percent reduction in shop visits, 1.5 percent lower SFC and $2B in life cycle cost savings.

Quick engine facts
Applications: B-1B
Introduction: 1983
Total produced: 469 engines
Total number of aircraft produced: 100
Thrust range: 30,000 lbs