MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY

News Release

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Missile Defense Agency Successfully Completes Ground Test for Data Collection to Improve Modeling and Simulation

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) announced today the successful execution of Flight Support Ground Test 03b (GTF-03b). The GTF-03b test event was a path-finding System-level Post-Flight Reconstruction (SPFR) of the Flight Test Other (FTX)-03 Flight Test to provide data in support of the validation of Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) models and simulations.

The test was conducted during the week of December 8-12, 2008, from the MDA Combined Test Force Ground Test Center located at the Missile Defense Integration and Operations Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. The test used the MDA Missile Defense System Exerciser (MDSE) to connect and control BMDS Hardware-in the-Loop (HWIL) Laboratories located across the United States to emulate the functionality resident in BMDS systems that participated in FTX-03.

The HWIL Laboratories participating in the event included the Command, Control, Battle Management and Communications, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense, Moorestown, N.J.; Prime Consolidated Integration Laboratory -2 (PCIL-2) Ground-Based Midcourse Defense, Huntsville, Ala.; Space-Based Infrared System, Azusa, Calif.; AN/TPY-2 Radar, Woburn, Mass.; and the Tactical Emulation Communication Systems San Diego, Calif. Ballistic Missile Defense Operational Community participants included the BMDS Operational Test Agency.

Ground tests play a vital role in the development of new technologies for missile defense by providing program officials with detailed information about emerging hardware and software system functionality, while reducing the cost and schedule demands that would be required to provide the same information through an extensive flight test program. The ground tests enable actual flight test data to be reconstructed and injected into geographically distributed HWIL representations of BMDS sensors and weapon systems. They also support development and validation of BMDS simulations for component weapon and sensor performance, communications, interfaces, and interoperability, as well as threat (target) and environment. In this test, GTF-03b provided a demonstration of the ability to conduct a System-level Post-flight Test Reconstruction and collect the required information to provide data comparison of the simulation performance with the performance of the system interactions of FTX-03 components under test.

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