



Archive

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## **PAC-3 Intercept Test a Success**

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization and the U.S. Army successfully conducted a test of the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missile at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., today at 7:38 Mountain Daylight Time. The PAC-3 missile intercepted and destroyed the ballistic missile target. While the PAC-2 missile did not destroy its sub-scale target, the drone did appear to be damaged and the kill-effects are being analyzed. Preliminary test data indicate that all other test objectives were met.

The test involved a simultaneous engagement using a PAC-3 and a PAC-2 missile and two targets. Test objectives included demonstrating system capability to engage and destroy a maneuvering tactical ballistic missile reentry vehicle with a PAC-3 missile and a sub-scale air-breathing target with a PAC-2 missile; and to demonstrate PAC-3 seeker acquisition and tracking of a target with a second object present in the seeker field of view. Targets used in today's test were a tactical ballistic target and an MQM-107 drone.

The PAC-3 missile is a high velocity, hit-to-kill missile and is the next generation Patriot missile being developed to provide increased defense capability against advanced tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and hostile aircraft. The PAC-3 missile uses kinetic energy rather than an explosive warhead to destroy its ballistic missile targets.

The PAC-3 missile has successfully completed seven flight tests prior to today's test. The first two PAC-3 developmental test (DT) missions did not involve targets but were structured to verify critical systems and missile performance prior to conducting target intercept flight tests. A seeker characterization flight (SCF) mission was conducted March 15, 1999, to test a PAC-3 missile with a seeker. Although not a primary objective of the SCF, an intercept of the target was achieved. On September 16, 1999, a second intercept test was successful. DT-5, conducted Feb. 5, 2000, was a successful intercept of a Hera ballistic missile target. The most recent developmental test, DT-7, conducted July 22, 2000, was a successful intercept of an MQM-107 drone representing a cruise missile. Another MQM-107 was intercepted July 28, 2000 during a test not included in the developmental test program. The remaining PAC-3 missions will involve PAC-3 missiles intercepting various classes of targets.

The Patriot program is managed by the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization in Washington, DC, and executed by the Army Program Executive Office for Air and Missile Defense and the Army Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Project Office in Huntsville, Ala. Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, Dallas, Texas, is the prime contractor responsible for the PAC-3 missile segment. Raytheon Systems Company, the Patriot system prime contractor, is the system integrator for the PAC-3 missile segment. The MQM-107 target used in today's test is managed by the Army's Targets Management Office (TMO), located at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. The TMO is an element of the Project Manager for Instrumentation, Targets and Threat Simulators, co-located with the U.S. Army Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command, Orlando, Fla. The ballistic missile target is managed by the Space and Missile Defense Command in Huntsville, Ala.