



Archive

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## **Patriot PAC-3 Missile Defense Intercept Test Successful**

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization and the U.S. Army conducted a test of the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missile at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., today at 6:24 a.m. Mountain Standard Time. Preliminary test data indicate that the PAC-3 and PAC-2 missiles intercepted their assigned tactical ballistic missile (TBM) targets and all other test objectives appear to have been met.

The test involved a simultaneous engagement using two PAC-3 missiles against a Hera ballistic missile target and one PAC-2 missile against a Patriot missile configured as a target. Test objectives included demonstrating a PAC-3 tactical ripple engagement of a tactical ballistic missile (TBM) target in a remote launch configuration; demonstrating system capability to simultaneously engage multiple TBMs with PAC-3 and PAC-2 missiles; and demonstrating PAC-3 hit-to-kill intercept of a helix-maneuvering full-body TBM target.

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 eight 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. 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 most recent developmental test prior to today's test, DT-6, was a successful engagement of a Storm target by a PAC-3 missile with a simultaneous engagement of an MQM-107 by a PAC-2 missile on October 14, 2000. 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, produces the PAC-2 missile and is the system integrator for the PAC-3 missile segment. The Hera target used in today's test is managed by the Space and Missile Defense Command in Huntsville, Ala.