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Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) System Conducts Successful Test

The U.S. Army and the Missile Defense Agency announced today it has completed a successful intercept test flight of the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missile defense system at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The test involved an engagement using two PAC-3 missiles against a short-range ballistic missile target. Preliminary test data indicates the first missile successfully intercepted its target and mission objectives were achieved.

Objectives of this mission included demonstrating the performance of PAC-3 missile software changes and associated ground system software improvements. The test demonstrated the system's capability to detect, track, engage and intercept the target missile, Patriot-as-a-Target (PAAT), a Patriot legacy missile modified to represent a short-range aerodynamic ballistic missile target.

Soldiers of the 1-7th Air Defense Artillery, Fort Bliss, Texas, participated in today's test.

The PAC-3 system successfully completed operational testing and began fielding in 2002. It was first used in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

The PAC-3 Missile is a high-velocity, hit-to-kill interceptor missile, and is the newest addition to the Patriot family of missiles. It provides increased capability against advanced tactical ballistic missiles, and other air-breathing threats, such as aircraft and cruise missiles.

The Patriot PAC-3 program is managed by the U.S. Army Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space and executed by the Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Project Office in Huntsville, Ala.

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