



Archive

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THAAD Flight Test

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization and the U.S. Army said today that a Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile attempted to intercept (hit) a target ballistic missile in a test at White Sands Missile Range, NM.

An intercept was not achieved. Preliminary investigations indicate that although the missile's kill vehicle was on a path to intercept the target, the seeker did not identify the target. Without target identification, the kill vehicle could not make final course corrections required for intercept. Early indications are that the seeker electronics malfunctioned. The kill vehicle flew past the target and then initiated a self destruct. The THAAD kill vehicle and target debris landed on the White Sands Missile Range as was planned in the event of a miss. Analysis of the flight data is continuing to determine the cause of the malfunction. Although the THAAD missile missed the target, the test did yield valuable information. This was the third THAAD flight to attempt an intercept.

The test, the sixth THAAD missile flight, was another in a continuing series to verify the THAAD design and the performance of the prototype system components.