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## **Missile Defense Sensors Gather Experimental Data to Enhance Development**

On September 29, 2004, the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) successfully launched a sub-orbital rocket to obtain extensive data collection as part of the Critical Measurements Program (CMP).

The missile was launched from Wake Island into the U.S. Army Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site. The missile's payload included a mock warhead, a sensor package and a number of missile defense related experiments, all of which were designed to collect radar and optical data addressing critical system level issues.

The data will be used to help design and improve missile defense interceptor and sensor systems. Previous experiments have provided data immediately useful to ballistic missile defense programs, including Terminal High Altitude Area (THAAD), Patriot and the Aegis sea-based missile defense. During yesterday's experiment, extensive optical and radar data were collected on the missile and its payload from multiple sensors through the entire flight of the missile.

These flights are part of an ongoing effort to provide experimental data for the Missile Defense Agency, and additional flights will take place to help improve and enhance all aspects of our missile defense development efforts.

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