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U.S./Israel Complete Successful Arrow Missile Defense Test

The Missile Defense Agency today announced the successful ballistic missile intercept Sunday by the joint U.S./Israel Arrow missile defense system. The test, conducted at night over the Mediterranean Sea, was the first test of a co-produced Arrow intercept missile fired from an improved launcher.

The test scenario used an integrated operational configuration with two Arrow batteries separated from each other and demonstrated a system engagement and intercept of a threat-representative target. The target, called "Black Sparrow," was launched from an F-15 fighter aircraft at which point the Fire Control Radar acquired the target and notified the Battle Management Center. A defense plan was issued and a mission command was sent to the Launch Control Center to fire the interceptor missile.

This test marks the U.S./Israeli Arrow II program's 13th success in 15 attempts. The Arrow program, started in 1988, is managed by the Israeli Missile Defense Organization in close cooperation with the U.S. Missile Defense Agency. The system is fully operational in Israel and is operated by the Israeli Air Force.

This successful test yesterday is a major step in a continuing program of operational improvements to the Arrow system to counter future ballistic missile threats.

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