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## Missile Defense Sensors Gather Data to Assist in System Development

Air Force Lieutenant General Henry "Trey" Obering, Missile Defense Agency Director, announced the successful launch of a sub-orbital rocket to obtain extensive data collection as part of the Critical Measurements and Counter-Measurements Program on August 4, 2005. The missile, powered by a Castor IVB rocket motor, was launched from Kauai Test Facility at the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawaii. The missile's payload included a reentry vehicle, a number of missile defense-related technology experiments, and an on-board sensor package, all of which were designed to collect radar and optical data addressing critical system level issues for missile defense elements.

Test data will be used in the design and improvement of missile defense interceptor and sensor systems. Previous flight test missions provided data immediately useful to ballistic missile defense Elements, including the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), Patriot Advanced Capability 3 (PAC-3), and Aegis sea-based missile defense.

The Critical Measurements and Counter-Measurements Program is an integral part of MDA's test program and provides participants with the ability to reduce technical risk by testing against stressing, complex target scenes in a controlled environment. Additional Critical Measurements and Counter-Measurements flights will be conducted as part of an ongoing effort to provide experimental data for the Missile Defense Agency, to help improve and enhance all aspects of missile defense development efforts.

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