



Archive

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## **PAC-3 Test Conducted**

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and the Army conducted an operational test of the PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) system at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., today at approximately 7 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time.

The test, designated OT/DT-4, was a tactical multiple simultaneous engagement using one PAC-3 missile against a Storm II ballistic missile target and a second PAC-3 against a PATRIOT-as-a-Target (PAAT) tactical ballistic missile target. Objectives of this test included demonstrating the system's capability to properly classify and simultaneously engage and destroy two attacking tactical ballistic missiles.

The test resulted in the intercept of the PAAT target. The first PAC-3 missile failed to launch and the missile system launched the second missile. A final determination of the cause of the first missile's launch failure will be made when the test data is reviewed.

In addition to the target intercepts, test objectives included demonstrating successful operation and interaction of all system elements, including radar, command and control equipment and target identification systems. Soldiers from the 2nd of the 43rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion of Fort Bliss, Texas conducted this firing mission in a tactical scenario.

This was the third of four operational flight tests planned during Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOTE) for the PAC-3 system. IOTE is scheduled to conclude in May 2002.

The most recent PAC-3 system test was conducted March 21, 2002 and included both operational and developmental objectives. It involved a PAC-3 missile fired against a Hera target and a simultaneous engagement of an MQM-107 sub-scale drone by a PAC-2 missile. Both targets were intercepted and destroyed. The PAC-3 engagement was intended as a tactical ripple engagement using two PAC-3 missiles, but the second PAC-3 missile did not launch when the PAC-3 launcher lost power during launch sequence. The cause of the generator power loss is under investigation.

Formed in 1999 when the Army integrated developmental and operational testing and evaluation into a single command, the Army Test and Evaluation Command has been deeply involved in the PAC-3 program. ATEC's Developmental Test Command conducted extensive developmental tests on the PAC-3 system, and now ATEC's Operational Test Command is conducting the user field tests.

ATEC will prepare an independent final system evaluation report in support of the full rate production decision review scheduled for September 2002. The report will be provided to the MDA and Army senior leadership and decision-makers in support of the review.

The PAC-3 missile is a high velocity, hit-to-kill missile and is the next generation Patriot missile developed to provide increased defense capability against advanced tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and hostile aircraft. Unlike earlier Patriot missile designs that use an explosive warhead to destroy its target, the PAC-3 missile literally collides with its target in mid-air at extremely high speed, destroying the target and neutralizing its payload. Other system upgrades include: improved radar performance allowing enhanced target discrimination; and new system software that improves determination of target launch and impact points and that provides an interface with the Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system.

The Storm II target used for the test was developed by MDA's Missile Defense Targets Joint Project Office and is a tactical ballistic missile surrogate typically used for test and evaluation of missile defense interceptor systems. It was flown in a single stage configuration using a modified SR-19 booster and maneuvering tactical target reentry vehicle based on a Pershing II. The Storm II was launched from Fort Wingate, N.M. and traveled on a northwest to southeast flight path to White Sands Missile Range.

The PATRIOT-as-a-Target is a modified PATRIOT missile simulating a short-range, full-body theater ballistic missile. It provides a low-cost surrogate ballistic missile to test system performance against multiple threats. The missile was flown on a northwest to southeast trajectory from a site on the White Sands Missile Range.

The PATRIOT PAC-3 program is managed by the Missile Defense Agency in Washington, DC, and executed by the Army Program Executive Office for Air and Missile Defense and the Army Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Project Office in Huntsville, Ala. Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, Dallas, Texas, is the prime contractor responsible for the PAC-3 missile segment. Raytheon Electronic Systems Company of Bedford, Mass., the Patriot system prime contractor, is the system integrator for the PAC-3 missile segment.