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Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Missile System Completes Successful Intercept Test

The U.S. Army announced that it has conducted a successful intercept test flight of the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missile system at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., today at approximately 7:15 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time. Preliminary test data indicates two targets were intercepted and mission objectives were achieved.

Objectives of this mission included demonstrating the performance of a PAC-3 missile with hardware changes that improve producibility and reduce missile cost. The test also demonstrated the system's capability to detect, track, engage and intercept a short-range tactical ballistic missile target and a low-altitude cruise missile target. The targets for the mission were a Patriot-as-a-Target (PAAT), a Patriot legacy missile modified to represent a short-range ballistic missile (SRBM); and an MQM-107 subscale drone aircraft, representing a cruise missile.

Soldiers of the 1-7, 2-43 and 3-2 Air Defense Artillery, Fort Bliss, Texas, participated in today's test.

The PAC-3 system successfully completed operational testing and began fielding in 2002. It was first used in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

The PAC-3 Missile is a high velocity, hit-to-kill missile and is the newest addition to Patriot family of missiles. It provides increased capability against advanced tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and other air-breathing threats.

The Patriot PAC-3 program is managed by the U.S. Army Program Executive Office for Air, Space and Missile Defense and executed by the 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 Systems Company, the Patriot system prime contractor, is the system integrator for the PAC-3 missile segment.

Video footage of the test will be available for downlink tomorrow at 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time for a period of 10 minutes from satellite IA 6, K-11 transponder, downlink frequency 11929 vertical.

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