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## **Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Maneuvering System Successfully Tested**

Air Force Lieutenant General Henry “Trey” Obering, Missile Defense Agency Director, today announced the successful completion of a second design verification ground test of the SM-3 missile Kinetic Warhead’s (KW) maneuvering system.

In normal flight operations, the KW is the last part of the multi-stage SM-3 and is jettisoned shortly after launch. The KW is assisted in maneuvering towards its intended target by the Solid Divert and Attitude Control System (SDACS). The SDACS thrusts the KW up, down and side-to-side to position it for intercept of an incoming ballistic missile warhead. The current SM-3 SDACS uses a solid propellant, to maneuver the KW, and has scored seven successful intercepts in eight attempted flight tests.

The advanced SDACS design, while incorporating the existing propellant throughout the KW’s flight, adds some additional thrust and maneuvering capabilities. During the recent ground test, simulated KW flight control commands were sent to the SDACS to evaluate the design effectiveness. Preliminary analysis indicates that all test objectives were achieved.

The SM-3 missile, an integral part of the Aegis BMD Combat System, is launched from Aegis BMD capable cruisers and destroyers to defend against short to medium range ballistic missiles that threaten our deployed forces overseas, our friends and allies.

The Missile Defense Agency is a joint service Agency within the Department of Defense, and is responsible for managing the research, development, testing and acquisition of all missile defense program elements within the Department.

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