



Archive

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PAC-3 DT-1 Successful Flight Test

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization and the U.S. Army successfully demonstrated the first Developmental Test Flight (DT-1) of a PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missile at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., on Sep 29, 1997. Preliminary test data indicate the test was successful. Objectives include verification of launch and flight functions; interfaces with the existing PATRIOT System; and missile operation in flight environments prior to targets intercept missions. No intercept of a target was attempted in this test.

The PAC-3 missile is a high velocity, hit-to-kill missile and is the next generation PATRIOT missile being developed to provide increased defense capability against advanced theater ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and hostile aircraft.

The PAC-3 missile flight testing is conducted in two stages: developmental test (DT) missions and operational test (OT) missions. The first two DT missions will consist of PAC-3 missiles with special instrumentation packages in place of the seeker and the missions are structured to verify critical system and missile performance prior to conducting target intercept flight tests. The remaining DT and OT missions will consist of 16 PAC-3 missiles against different classes of targets.

Lockheed Martin Vought Systems, Dallas, Texas, is the prime contractor responsible for missile development and Raytheon Electronic Systems, Bedford, Mass., is the prime contractor responsible for system integration.