



Terminal High Altitude Area Defense

The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) element provides the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) with a globally-transportable, rapidly-deployable capability to intercept and destroy ballistic missiles inside or outside the atmosphere during their final, or terminal, phase of flight.

Overview

- Land-based element capable of shooting down a ballistic missile both inside and just outside the atmosphere
- Highly effective against the asymmetric ballistic missile threats.
- Uses hit-to-kill technology whereby kinetic energy destroys the incoming warhead
- The high-altitude intercept mitigates effects of enemy weapons of mass destruction before they reach the ground



Details

- A THAAD Battery consists of four main components:
 - Launcher:** Truck-mounted, highly-mobile, able to be stored; interceptors can be fired and rapidly reloaded.
 - Interceptors:** Eight per launcher
 - Radar:** Army Navy/Transportable Radar Surveillance (AN/TPY-2) – Largest air-transportable x-band radar in the world searches, tracks, and discriminates objects and provides updated tracking data to the interceptor.
 - Fire Control:** Communications and data-management backbone; links THAAD components together; links THAAD to external Command and Control nodes and to the entire BMDS; plans and executes intercept solutions.
- Rapidly-deployable by being globally-transportable via air, land and sea.

Development

- State-of-the-art engineering ensures high standards and efficient production and maintenance.
- Comprehensive program of ground and flight tests, quality assurance, and design and development activities support mission success.
- Major events in the THAAD Program:
 - Returned to flight test on November 22, 2005 at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico
 - Completed 13 successful tests, including 11 intercepts, and operationally-realistic tests in March 2009, June 2010, October 2011, October 2012 and September 2013
 - Continuing element development to incrementally improve missile defense capability.

Procurement

- First two batteries fielded at Fort Bliss, Texas. Total hardware for Batteries #1 & #2 includes six Launchers, two Fire Control and Communications Components, two AN/TPY-2 Radars, and 48 interceptors. Delivered 50th operational interceptor in 2012.
- Battery #3 - #5 completed delivery in 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively.
- Battery #6 on contract and delivers in 2016.
- Battery #7 on contract in 2014.

Fielding

- Activated six THAAD Batteries in 2008, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2016.
- Received Conditional Materiel Release of two batteries and transition of operations to the Army in February 2012 and Urgent Materiel Release of another two batteries in December 2014.
- New Equipment Training (NET) for Battery #5 began in 2016. NET scheduled to begin for Battery #6 in late 2016.