



FACT SHEET



MDA FACT SHEET

PATRIOT ADVANCED CAPABILITY-3

INTRODUCTION

The PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 is a lower tier TMD system building on the previous PATRIOT air and missile defense infrastructure. In the last few years we have fielded the PAC-2 Guidance Enhanced Missile (GEM) to improve PATRIOT's accuracy against short range ballistic missiles. Configuration 1 and 2 have been completely fielded, and Configuration 3 has begun fielding to the operational force. These have provided increasing increments of capability to the operational user through enhanced radar, communications, and software enhancements. The remaining effort focuses on the new interceptor, directly associated ground equipment, and software. Testing is ongoing, with Initial Operational Test & Evaluation scheduled for FY02.

Within the Department of Defense, MDA has been responsible for managing, directing, and executing the PAC-3 program. The program is scheduled to transition to the Army in FY02.



DESCRIPTION

The PAC-3 missile is a high-velocity hit-to-kill missile and is the latest generation of PATRIOT missile. It was developed to provide an increased capability against advanced tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and hostile aircraft. The PAC-3 missile provides the range, accuracy, and lethality to effectively defend against Theater Ballistic Missiles (TBMs) with conventional high explosive, biological, chemical, and nuclear warheads. Unlike previous PATRIOT missiles, the PAC-3 uses an active radar seeker and closed loop guidance to directly hit the target.

ADVANTAGES

With the PAC-3 missile and ground system, threat missiles can be engaged and destroyed at higher altitudes and greater ranges with better lethality. The system is able to operate despite the use of electronic countermeasures. Due to the active seeker and closed loop guidance, a greater number of interceptors can be controlled at one time than with the earlier PATRIOT missiles. Increased interoperability allows better coordination between fire units and battalions as well as better integration with other air defense assets. Inherent to the program is the incremental fielding of updated equipment to provide incremental increases in capability to the warfighter.

ELEMENTS

The PAC-3 program required development of the new interceptor, updated radar and communications equipment, and updated software. Development tests progressed through subsystem and integration tests, and finally the flight test program. Upon completion and assessment of the development test program, an Initial Operational Test & Evaluation program will be conducted to support a full rate production decision. Through acquisition reform and acquisition streamlining, the flight test program incorporated more simulation based testing and reduced the requirement for costly flight tests.

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