



PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3

One of the most mature elements of the Ballistic Missile Defense System is the PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 System, and is now operational with the U.S. Army.

Overview

- A land-based element built upon the proven PATRIOT air and missile defense infrastructure.
- The PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 System was deployed to the Middle East as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom where it successfully engaged several ballistic missiles.
- The Army is responsible for production and further development of Advanced Capability-3 System and the Medium Extended Air Defense System; the Missile Defense Agency remains responsible for the Ballistic Missile Defense System interoperability and integration efforts.



Medium Extended Air Defense System

The Medium Extended Air Defense System is a cooperative effort between the United States, Germany, and Italy to develop an air and missile defense system that is both mobile and transportable.

Overview

- Initially using the PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 interceptor, it will be capable of countering ballistic missiles and air-breathing threats (i.e. aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, and cruise missiles).
- Provides short-range point defense for vital civilian and military assets, defend deployed troops, and provide continuous missile defense coverage for rapidly maneuvering forces.
- Mounted on wheeled vehicles, the system will include launchers carrying several interceptors along with advanced radars that will provide 360-degree coverage in the battlefield.
- Uses hit-to-kill technology (directly hitting the target to destroy it).
- Linked to the Ballistic Missile Defense System Command, Control, Battle Management, and Communications element.
- Can be rapidly deployed to hot spots around the globe, providing missile defense coverage wherever and whenever it is needed.
- The cooperative effort will help promote interoperability within North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces.