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 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
- Rapidly-deployable by being globally-transportable via air, land and sea
- 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

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:
  - Completed 15 successful intercepts in 15 attempts since program initiation. The two most recent tests were conducted in July 2017
  - Continuing element development to incrementally improve missile defense capability

Fielding
- Seven THAAD Batteries have been procured and delivered to the US Army
- MDA delivered the 200th operational Interceptor to the US Army in August 2018

Foreign Military Sales
- Two THAAD Batteries procured by and delivered to the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- UAE Batteries are fully operational