Lockheed Martin Successfully Tests Entire THAAD Weapon System Today at White Sands Missile Range

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DALLAS, May 11 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) and the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) successfully conducted an integrated Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) flight test at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), NM, today. This is the first developmental flight test to engage the entire THAAD weapon system including the THAAD interceptor, launcher, radar and fire control system.

Specific test objectives included demonstrating all major elements of the THAAD weapon system during engagement of a virtual target: interceptor launch and control; kill vehicle control in response to in-flight uplinks; seeker operation; and radar acquisition, track and in-flight communications with the interceptor. All test objectives were achieved.

"We achieved a major milestone today by successfully testing all of the elements of the THAAD system and proving the system's capability," said Tom McGrath, program manager and vice president for THAAD at Lockheed Martin. "The THAAD flight demonstrations will continue to grow in difficulty and we are eager to press forward. We're confident that the successful completion of these tests will yield a system we will be proud to turn over to our Warfighters."

U.S. Army soldiers from Fort Bliss' 6th Brigade participated in today's test, with two soldiers conducting radar operations, two soldiers assisting contractors at the launcher, and one soldier assisting contractors at the THAAD fire control and communications.

This is the second successful THAAD developmental flight test conducted since flight testing resumed for the program in November 2005. Three more test flights are scheduled to occur at WSMR before THAAD testing moves to Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawaii.

THAAD is designed to defend U.S. troops, allied forces, population centers and critical infrastructure against short- to medium-range ballistic missiles. THAAD comprises a fire control system, interceptors, launchers and radar. The THAAD interceptor uses hit-to-kill technology to destroy targets, and is the only weapon system that engages threat ballistic missiles at both endo- and exo-atmospheric altitudes.

A key element of the nation's Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS), THAAD is a Missile Defense Agency program, with the program office located in Huntsville, AL. The agency is developing a BMDS to defend the United States, its deployed forces, friends and allies against ballistic missiles of all ranges and in all phases of flight.

Lockheed Martin is a world leader in systems integration and the development of air and missile defense systems and technologies, including the first operational hit-to-kill missile. It also has considerable experience in missile design and production, infrared seekers, command and control/battle management, and communications, precision pointing and tracking optics, as well as radar and signal processing. The company makes significant contributions to all major U.S. missile defense systems and participates in several global missile defense partnerships.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin employs about 135,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services.

For additional information, visit our website:
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/EDITORS' ADVISORY: Video of today's flight test will be available on satellite SBS 6, transponder 9, Ku band analog, downlink frequency 11921, from 2:00-2:15 p.m. Mountain Time (4:00-4:15 p.m. Eastern Time). Trouble line: 915-544-8837./
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