

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Interceptor Launching from Meck Island

RIAC Success Story

Largest US Joint Ballistic Missile Defense System Test

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Customer:

United States Army Training and Doctrine Command Capability Manager for Army Air and Missile Defense Command

Challenge:

The Missile Defense Agency required a developmental test (Flight Test Integrated-01 or FTI-01) to reduce risk prior to conducting an operational test of the Ballistic Missile Defense System. Elements of the US Army, Navy, and Air Force would have to be brought together to form a regional, integrated air and missile defense system which could be objectively tested under operationally realistic conditions. Each element would deploy thousands of miles away from their home bases to a remote area in the Pacific Ocean to conduct operations against ballistic and cruise missile threats. Every diverse element had to be trained on a common set of tactics, techniques, and procedures to conduct the integrated operations and test.

Approach:

RIAC was tasked to coordinate the participation of US Army forces from Okinawa, Japan; Fort Hood, Texas; and Fort Bliss, Texas. Alpha Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment from Fort Bliss provided the THAAD system for the test. Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment from Okinawa provided a Patriot system. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment from Fort Hood provided a battalion headquarters. 32nd and 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Commands provided command and control personnel. RIAC provided the doctrinal and organizational test support package and parts of the training test support package for conducting the developmental test.

Value:

All Army systems and units were 100% successful detecting, classifying, engaging, and destroying their assigned targets. The THAAD battery successfully intercepted a medium range ballistic missile target air-launched north of Wake Island in its first attempt at FTI-01 on 25 October 2012 at Reagan Test Site, Kwajalein Atoll. This marks the first step in the process of the Army declaring a full up capability against medium range ballistic missiles. The Patriot battery successfully intercepted a short range ballistic missile launched from the northeast and a low flying cruise missile over water. The USS Fitzgerald also successfully intercepted a cruise missile and tracked and launched an SM-3 Block 1A interceptor against a short range ballistic missile.

RIAC is operated by a team led by Wyle under contract HC1047-05-D-4005.