



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcement of the “Guam Flight Test” in Context

3 June 2024, Hagåtña, GU — The Pacific Center for Island Security Chairman, Dr. Robert Underwood today released the following statement and information following the U.S. Missile Defense Agency’s (MDA) release of a Proposed Final Environment Assessment (EA)/Overseas Environmental Assessment (OEA) and a proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Guam Flight Tests (<https://www.mda.mil/system/GuamFT/ea.html>).

This announcement is the first of a coming tidal wave of paperwork and follow-on activities related to the military’s missile defense plans for Guam. Before we are inundated, it is critical to establish the context of what is coming.

As a community it is time to ask ourselves, what is the value of Guam. What is the value of our people? Who defines our value? How is it that our futures are spun into an anticipated cycle of violence without our consent?

The military is primarily concerned about security from a war-fighting perspective. They are not concerned about the housing and shelter insecurity for those of us who live here.

The plans for this conflict in the region include alternative operating sites to bases in Guam which tells us even the military knows they are vulnerable in Guam. As billions of dollars are flowing for military projects, the community in Guam is not being planned for. Today, the military has not planned for enough housing for their own troops and contractors that they plan to bring to Guam. And while secret U.S. war preparation groups are reportedly assisting [Taiwan in planning for shelters, stockpiles of emergency foodstuffs and medical supplies](#), the U.S. government has not appropriated a single penny for shelters in Guam.

In view of the coming plans for Guam that are not of our making or choosing, it is imperative that an all-Guam approach be launched to protect the essential value of our island and our future.

PCIS will respond separately to the MDA’s separation of the “Guam Test Plan” from the larger EIAMDs EIS, where it is anticipated that significant impacts will be identified.

A brief rundown of the non-environmental elements of the “Guam Test Plan” EA/OEA and follows.



PACIFIC CENTER
for **ISLAND SECURITY**

NOTES on the EA/OEA/FONSI

This is effectively a carve out from the EIAMDS. Allows MDA to proceed on these tests (which are foundational to the EIAMDS) without being subject to the larger EIS process.

There is a proposed finding of no significant impact (FONSI), and therefore this specific part of the planned EIAMDS does not require a *draft* EA/OEA.

This is final. Comments will be received.

Two “flight tests” OR “tracking exercises” per year for 10 years.

Flight tests involve a target missile flight, an interceptor missile flight, or an intercept of a target missile, or a test of sensors independent of missile flight.

Tracking exercises include multivariate/multi-domain sensor analysis of the launch of either an interceptor or target.

Flight tests and tracking exercises involve land-, airborne-, sea-, and space-based sensor integration.

Purpose of Tests

“Conducting missile defense system flight tests from Guam and at sea from a U.S. Navy ship would validate the interoperability of multiple sensors and missile interceptor systems from MDA, U.S. Army, and U.S. Navy (the Services) that will become a “system of systems” (or the backbone) of a missile defense system developed to protect Guam.”

“These flight tests and tracking exercises are needed to facilitate research and increase the DoD’s understanding of the ability of a missile defense system, including the AWS, PATRIOT, THAAD, and IFPC system, and supporting sensors to counter the threat presented by short-, mid-, and long-range ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and hypersonic missiles in a realistic environment. Further, this action is needed to significantly improve realistic Command and Control, Battle Management and Communications in multiple theaters around the world, as well as to increase ballistic missile, cruise missile, and hypersonic missile threat detection and defeat capabilities for Guam.”

Interceptors will be launched from Northwest Field (NWF) at AAFB Guam or Aegis-capable vessels.

Initial flight test

Planned for Q1FY25, will be Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) against a medium-range ballistic missile target.



Ship based interceptors used include the SM-3, the SM-2 Block IV, and the SM-6

Future flight tests and tracking exercises

Targets include Medium Range Ballistic Missile, Short Range Air Launched Target, the Air Launched Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile, and hypersonic missile.

Anti-target effectors are identified as Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD); Standard Missile (SM); Phased Array Tracking Radar to Intercept on Target (PATRIOT) missile interceptor; Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC) system.

“As details for future flight tests and tracking exercises are further developed, additional NEPA documentation may be required.”

We should all be mindful of these tests, because 20 over 10 years is not a lot of tests and the MDA’s testing work is less than exemplary and not transparent.

Note that the MDA’s history with respect to meeting its testing goals (both flight and other exercises) has been the subject of considerable criticism by the GAO (<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-23-106011.pdf>)

The proposed alternative that was selected included flight tests and tracking exercises that were conducted by ship-based systems.

We believe that the U.S. military’s maintenance of as much capability as possible be attendant to offshore military assets is preferable to additional targets in our community.

It is important to note that what is being tested is not a 360° system.

This first test is a planned launch toward and from an area to the northeast of Guam.

This pre-planned, direction determined test range tells us a lot about how different testing of missile defense systems is from realistic threats.

We don’t know what future tests for cruise and hypersonic missiles will look like but if true 360° coverage is what is anticipated, we should expect that there will be missile test ranges all around the island.

It is fair to assume that the progression of tests over 10 years will ultimately get to a 360° test, but this will likely be much later in the testing cycle.

Although a 360° system is what is intended, today that is just an aspirational headline, since it has not been tested.



It's also important to note that the planned testing of the anti-missile systems is being put in place BEFORE we have even seen the draft EIS on the EIAMDS of which these missiles and sensors are a part. This separates the technical missile and sensor systems from the impact that the EIAMDS will have on our community.

Other

There are also two (potentially) related activities of note:

- Boeing's recent May 3, 2024, follow-on award of a multi-year contract for engineering and integration (SE&I)-related efforts
<https://www.defense.gov/News/Contracts/Contract/Article/3765102/#:~:text=The-,Boeing,-Co.%2C%20Huntsville%2C%20Alabama>
- An MDA RFI of March 27, 2024 for Target launch vehicles
<https://sam.gov/opp/37314793b69b4bae9273a22d6bd868a9/view>

Links to a couple of front running pieces are here:

<https://breakingdefense.com/2023/08/missile-defense-agencys-first-flight-test-for-aegis-in-guam-set-for-late-24/>

<https://www.defensenews.com/digital-show-dailies/global-force-symposium/2024/04/01/army-office-in-charge-of-rapid-development-takes-on-guam-air-defense/>

Other Notes

Another EIS is in the works as identified in the EA/OEA

The F-15 Beddown and Infrastructure Upgrades at AAFB EIS analyzes the impacts of proposed training operations and infrastructure upgrades to the airfield operations area and Munitions Storage Area (MSA) at North Ramp and MSA-1 sites. Infrastructure upgrades include updating utilities (e.g., stormwater, generators, fuel storage), paved areas, and facilities. The Draft EIS is anticipated mid-2024, and the Final mid-2025. Because this EIS is in progress, impacts are analyzed generally.