

LOWER TIER PROJECT OFFICE

LTPO manages Air and Missile Defense weapons and related warning systems. These include legacy PATRIOT and PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Missile Systems, and the Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS) programs.

Mission

The mission of LTPO is to develop, test, field, and sustain air defense systems to defend the lower tier of the Theater Air and Missile Defense (TAMD) architecture. LTPO manages all acquisition life cycle activities for PATRIOT and JTAGS programs.

The PATRIOT air defense systems counter manned aircraft, tactical ballistic missiles, and unmanned air-breathing threats, (e.g., cruise missiles, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)) where PATRIOT's operation can be enhanced by links to external networks. PATRIOT systems are deployed with U.S. Forces and Allies worldwide.

JTAGS systems process direct downlink, infrared satellite data to disseminate ballistic missile warning and special event messages to warfighters in support of theater Commanders. JTAGS systems fill a key role in the U.S. Strategic Command's (USSTRATCOM) Tactical Event System (TES). Army Space & Missile Defense Command soldiers operate JTAGS, providing continuous space based missile warning across the globe.



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System Description—Patriot

The PATRIOT system is an extremely effective long-range air defense guided missile system providing protection of ground combat forces and high-value assets. It can conduct multiple simultaneous engagements in all weather conditions, under hostile electronic countermeasures environments. The Fire Unit, the combat element of PATRIOT, consists of a phased array radar, a manned engagement control station, and up to sixteen missile launching stations each with up to sixteen containerized missiles. PATRIOT Fire Units are organized as Battalions which exercise command, control, and communications through the Battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery.

The PAC-3 missile is a high velocity hit-to-kill, surface-to-air missile with the range, accuracy, and lethality required to defeat weapons of mass destruction. The PAC-3 Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) represents the next generation PAC-3 missile, significantly extending that capability in terms of propulsion, lethality, agility, and with guidance and insensitive munitions improvements – The MSE improvements will enhance warfighter effectiveness and flexibility.



System Description—JTAGS

JTAGS is a theater deployed, transportable missile warning system that receives and processes space based infrared satellite data directly from USAF geosynchronous sensors. Once processed, soldiers release ballistic missile warning messages and other infrared events to theater warfighters over multiple communications systems. Ongoing JTAGS upgrades include: adding data from the Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) Sensors; use of commercial antennas, improved communication methods, and relocating operations out of JTAGS shelters to integrate with theater command and control centers. The upgrades will improve operational effectiveness while reducing ownership costs.