

PRECISION FIRES ROCKET AND MISSILE SYSTEMS

PFRMS Project Office manages the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) family of launchers, including the tracked M270A1 and the wheeled M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), as well as the suite of rockets and missiles fired from the launchers. MLRS Family of Munitions (MFOM) includes the basic, extended-range, and guided rockets and the Block I/IA and Unitary Army Tactical Missile Systems.

Mission

Through effective program management and a professional workforce, develop, produce, field, and sustain the Precision Fires family of launchers and munitions to fulfill the long-range artillery requirements of the US Warfighter and allies.



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PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE MISSILES AND SPACE



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System Description

The MLRS Program is a five nation – US, United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Italy – cooperative development program. The PFRMS Project Office continues to work with these nations on the continuous upgrade and sustainment of these MLRS launchers and munitions.

The M270A1 MLRS is a highly maneuverable rocket/missile launcher platform. The M270A1 incorporates the Improved Fire Control System (IFCS) and the Improved Launcher Mechanical System (ILMS) modifications. The M270A1 fires all rockets and missiles in the current and future MFOM. This highly automated self-loading and self-aiming system contains a fire control computer that integrates the vehicle and rocket launching operations, with the capability to fire up to twelve MLRS rockets in less than 60 seconds. The launcher can also carry/fire two Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS).

The M142 HIMARS is an air transportable, rocket/missile system that is capable of firing all rockets and missiles in the current and future MFOM. The HIMARS, implementing the new Universal Fire Control System (UFCS), is deployable by C-130, fully combat loaded, and fully armored on larger aircraft (C-17 and C-5). The HIMARS firing platform, known as the Loader Launcher Module (LLM), is mounted on a five-ton Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) XM1140A1 truck chassis. Current HIMARS production now integrates the LLM with a new Increased Crew Protection (ICP) armored cab on the XM1140A1 chassis, providing greater protection for the crew while in combat. The initial HIMARS launchers have been retrofitted with this armored cab as well. The M142 carries/fires six GMLRS/MLRS rockets or one ATACMS missile.

The MLRS M26 is an unguided ballistic rocket that provides all- weather, indirect fire capability designed to complement cannon weapons in the tactical fires arena. The M26A1 and M26A2 are improved, extended-range variants of the M26. The M30 GMLRS Dual Purpose Improved Conventional Munitions (DPICM) rocket is an extremely accurate area suppression weapon possessing a warhead consisting of 404 DPICM grenades. It is inertially guided with GPS aided updates. The XM31 GMLRS Unitary rocket is a modified version of the current GMLRS DPICM rocket. It contains a single, 196 pound high explosive pre-formed fragmentation warhead with a tri-mode fuze (proximity, point detonate and delay) effective against critical point targets located in restricted terrain to ranges of 70km. It is inertially guided with GPS aided updates.

All MLRS launcher variants have been very successfully employed in recent combat operations.

ATACMS family of munitions is a surface-to-surface guided missile with variants containing APAM and Unitary warheads. ATACMS variants provide the all weather capability to engage targets with GPS accuracy at ranges well beyond the capability of existing cannons and rockets. ATACMS variants Block I and Block IA missiles have APAM warheads. BLK I has a range of 165 kilometers, and BLK IA has a range of 300 kilometers. QRU missiles have a Unitary 500 pound high-explosive warhead with a point-detonating fuze and a range of 270 kilometers. ATACMS 2000 Unitary (T2KU) missiles hardware configuration has much commonality with the QRU missiles, but also has an improved Navigation and Guidance capability, all-in-view GPS receiver, an improved Control Actuator System (CAS) and Electronic Control Unit (EUC), and a more reliable, repeatable fuze. New Operational Flight Software (OFS) also allows a near vertical attack trajectory for urban target engagements.

The PFRMS Project Office rocket and missile inventory provides the Warfighter with 24/7, all-weather, and all-terrain, weapon system with a range of up to 300-km for precision-strike destruction of enemy targets with minimal collateral damage.