

Lockheed Martin's Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System Rocket Successful In White Sands Test

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The U.S. Army and Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control - Dallas successfully tested the new Guided version of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) rocket yesterday at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

The missile, which flew a ballistic trajectory, was launched from an MLRS M270 launcher. The missile was equipped with a mass simulator in lieu of a guidance package. All test objectives were successfully achieved. The Guided MLRS rocket program is an international cooperative program between the U.S., U.K., Italy, France and Germany.

"The purpose of this test was to evaluate several components of the Guided MLRS Rocket in a ballistic trajectory flight," said Ron Abbott, vice president - Fire Support for Missiles and Fire Control. "We evaluated how the rocket exited the pod and how the motor performed; and although we did not use a guidance package, we gained a lot of valuable data from this test."

The Guided MLRS rocket incorporates global positioning system (GPS)-aided inertial guidance package integrated on a product-improved rocket body. Additionally, small canards on the Guided rocket nose will add basic maneuverability to further enhance the accuracy of the system. Guided MLRS initial operational capability is scheduled for FY'04.

Guided MLRS is the next major step in the evolution of the MLRS Family of Munitions, offering advanced capabilities, reduced logistics support and precision attack. The rocket will have a range of approximately 60 kilometers.

Located in Dallas, Orlando, Florida, and Sunnyvale, Calif., Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control develops, manufactures and supports advanced combat, missile, rocket and space systems. The company is organized in seven program/mission areas: Strike Weapons, Air Defense, Anti-Armor, Naval Munitions, Fire Control and Sensors, Fire Support and Product Development.

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