Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS)

INVESTMENT COMPONENT

- **Modernization**
- Recapitalization
- Maintenance

MISSION

To provide low- to medium-altitude air and missile defense to maneuver forces and other land component commanders' designated critical assets for all phases of tactical operations.

DESCRIPTION

The Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS) provides a robust, 360-degree defense using the PATRIOT PAC-3 hit-to-kill missile segment enhancement (MSE) against the full spectrum of theater ballistic missiles, anti-radiation missiles, cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, tactical air-to-surface missiles, and rotary and fixed wing threats. MEADS will also provide defense against multiple and simultaneous attacks by short-range ballistic missiles, low-radar cross-section cruise missiles, and other air-breathing threats. MEADS can be immediately deployed by air for early entry operations. MEADS also has the mobility to displace rapidly and protect maneuver forces assets during offensive operations. Netted, distributed, open architecture, and modular components are utilized in the MEADS to increase survivability and flexibility of use in a number of operational configurations. A significant increase in firepower with the PAC-3 MSE is also employed in the MEADS, with greatly reduced requirements for manpower, maintenance, and logistics. The MEADS weapon system will use its netted and distributed architecture to ensure joint and allied interoperability, and to enable a seamless interface to the next generation of battle management command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence (BMC4I). The system's improved sensor components and its ability to link other airborne and ground-based sensors facilitate the employment of its battle elements.

The MEADS weapon system's objective battle management tactical operations center (TOC) will provide the basis for the future common air and missile defense (AMD) TOC, leveraging modular battle elements and a distributed and open architecture to facilitate continuous exchange of information to support a more effective AMD system of systems.

SYSTEM INTERDEPENDENCIES

PATRIOT, Terminal High Altitude Air Defense (THAAD), Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS), Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD), E-2C, AWACS, Rivet Joint, DSP

PROGRAM STATUS

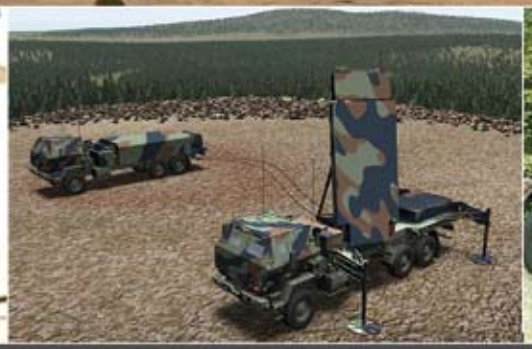
- **4QFY08–4QFY10:** Incremental critical design review (CDR) phase

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- **4QFY10:** System CDR

ACQUISITION PHASE

Technology Development | **Engineering & Manufacturing Development** | Production & Deployment | Operations & Support



Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS)

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES
None

CONTRACTORS
MEADS International (Orlando, FL)