



PATRIOT Tactical Communications Capability

Roland Kemp | SyntheSys

The PATRIOT Air Defence System is in use already since the mid 80's. Many updates and upgrades have been installed to make the system more reliable and to counter an evolving threat like Tactical Ballistic Missiles, Anti-Radiation Missiles, Cruise Missiles, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, etc. From a stand-alone system it evolved to an Integrated Air and Missile Defence System. Since the end of the 90's Link 16 was introduced in order to be interoperable with other Air Defence Systems like Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD). The latest development was the Patriot Advanced Capability 3 (PAC-3) Missile. This type of missile does not carry a warhead like older missile. PAC-3 has an increased effectiveness against tactical ballistic and cruise missiles, through the use of advanced hit-to-kill technology. These missiles can be deployed up to 30 kilometres (remote launch) from the PATRIOT battery in order to gain more battle space. The PATRIOT Air Defence System will be around until 2040 and maybe even beyond. Latest technologies are being incorporated in the radar, for example going from a 120 degrees search sector to 360 degrees. The use of JREAP has become mandatory in order to stay interoperable in the next decades. The system is in use in the U.S., Germany, The Netherlands Japan, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Taiwan, Spain, Jordan, Qatar, Korea and the United Arab Emirates. Poland signed the contract last March for the delivery of systems in 2022 and a possible deal with Sweden and Romania is still pending.