Patriot Battalion and Battery Operations

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Preface

This field manual provides doctrinal how-to-fight guidance for the Patriot battalion and battery, and is intended primarily for battalion commanders, staff officers, battery commanders, platoon leaders, and tactical directors.

This FM is applicable to all theaters of operations. It focuses on Patriot's role in the projection of land and air combat power. Chapters address Patriot's role in the joint battle, the threat, battalion planning, force-projection operations, offensive and defensive operations, and combat service support. Appendices cover unit organization, equipment, communications, intelligence preparation of the battlespace, safety, transportability, and reconnaissance, selection, and occupation of a position.

This FM should be used in conjunction with FM 3-01.87, which describes the tactics, techniques and procedures required to execute Patriot operations and exploit Patriot’s combat power. Classified capabilities and planning data for the Patriot system are found in (S) FM 3-01.13 (S/NF).

This publication implements the following international standardization agreements:

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Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns or pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.
Chapter 1
Overview

This chapter discusses the missions of the Army and air defense artillery as well as the role ADA plays in protecting the force. It also describes the Patriot mission and the roles Patriot plays in supporting the various types of air and missile defense (AMD) operations.

ARMY MISSION

1-1. The mission of the Army is to fight and win the nation’s wars, defend the United States and its territories, and support national policies and objectives articulated in the National Security Strategy and National Military Strategy.

1-2. The Army accomplishes this mission through a force structure comprised of combat, combat support, and combat service support forces.

- Combat forces provide destructive capabilities to defeat the enemy. These forces include, armor, aviation, infantry, and Special Forces units.

- Combat support forces provide fire support and operational assistance to combat forces. These support forces include the ADA, field artillery, engineers, chemical, military intelligence, military police, and signal units.

- Combat service support forces provide essential support required to sustain operations throughout a campaign. These forces include the medical, transportation, quartermaster, ordnance, and several other units.

1-3. The above forces are normally employed within a joint theater of operations, and their activities integrated, coordinated, and synchronized with those of joint and multinational forces in support of the joint or multinational force commander.

ADA MISSION

1-4. The mission of ADA is to protect the force and selected geopolitical assets from aerial attack, missile attack, and surveillance. Aerial threats include fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft as well as unmanned aerial vehicles configured to conduct attack missions. Missile threats include unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and theater ballistic missiles (TBMs), cruise missiles, and air to surface missiles. Surveillance threats include UAVs and other air platforms configured to conduct reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition operations.

ADA ROLE

1-5. The role of ADA is to provide integrated in-depth defensive counterair (DCA) protection of forces and critical assets in the theater, corps, and divisional areas. This protection contributes to the defeat of enemy forces.
through destruction of his offensive capabilities. It also contributes to the success of friendly forces by protecting the force and contributing to air supremacy at both the tactical and operational levels.

1-6. All members of the combined arms team perform air defense operations; however, ground-based ADA units execute most of the Army’s force-protection mission. These units protect deployed forces and critical assets within a theater by preventing enemy manned aircraft, missiles, and UAVs from locating, striking, and destroying friendly forces and assets.

1-7. Today, the threat to friendly forces is significantly greater than in the past because potential adversaries possess weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and have access to updated technology. The prospect of catastrophic loss of soldiers and the disruption of operational plans and objectives highlights the importance of air and missile defense operations in creating and sustaining combat power within a theater.

PATRIOT MISSION

1-8. The mission of Patriot is to protect the forces and selected geopolitical assets from aerial attack, missile attack, and surveillance. Patriot provides protection against theater ballistic missiles (TBMs), and air threats for critical assets in the corps, and echelons above corps (EAC) areas. Patriot can be tailored to the tactical situation in defending against air, and missile attack.

PATRIOT ROLES

1-9. Because of the Patriot system’s firepower, range, and altitude capabilities, the normal role of the Patriot system is to accomplish the air defense mission within the very low-altitude to very high-altitude boundaries. Patriot is the lower level tier of a two-tier TBM defense system.

1-10. Patriot units are employed to protect forces and critical assets in all types of operations. Patriot units may be deployed individually or as part of an AMD task force to protect entering forces, airfields, seaports, transportation centers, population centers, command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence (C4I) activities and geopolitical assets. The AMD task force may include THAAD, SHORAD, and other joint/multinational units.

1-11. Patriot helps to secure the lodgment in entry operations. As the theater matures and entering forces expand into corps areas, Patriot units support shaping and decisive operations. Some Patriot units move with maneuver forces to provide protection for these forces and critical assets. Other Patriot units remain at EAC and continue to provide air and missile defense of critical assets.

1-12. Some Patriot units may remain in theater as a conflict subsides. These units prevent residual enemy forces or terrorist factions from successfully attacking geopolitical assets or friendly forces that are being redeployed.

1-13. Patriot may deploy during small-scale contingency (SSC) operations to contain localized conflicts, thus obviating the need for a major military response. In these conflicts, Patriot units can be employed to protect forces,
civilian populations, and selected military and civilian assets from air, missile, and surveillance threats.

1-14. Patriot units may also be used to promote stability within a country. In some countries, terrorists or rogue elements may threaten to disrupt normal civil and political activities using air and missile threats. Patriot units may be deployed to protect civilians and geopolitical assets, thereby discouraging threat factions and promoting stability.
Chapter 2

Threat

The primary focus of this chapter is the air and missile threat facing Patriot battalions and batteries in theaters. The threat is more diverse now than ever before and may be encountered in virtually every part of the world.

CONTINGENCY THEATER THREAT

2-1. The threat in the most probable, identified theaters may include theater missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, and fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. Patriot commanders must be knowledgeable of these threats because of the danger posed to deployed forces and assets. In the paragraphs below, threats are described in terms of their characteristics, capabilities, payloads, as well as future trends. Classified threat characteristics may be found in FM 3-01.13.

THEATER BALLISTIC MISSILES

2-2. TBMs are surface-launched missiles, normally employed in theaters to attack population centers, airfields, seaports of debarkation, logistical areas, and troop concentrations. The enemy TBMs of primary interest to Patriot commanders are the short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs), which have ranges up to 1,000 kilometers. These TBMs are usually launched from highly mobile, difficult-to-detect transporter erector launchers and have the capability to carry conventional as well as nuclear, biological, or chemical payloads. Most TBMs are single-stage missiles with relatively modest targeting accuracies (about 1 kilometer circular error probability (CEP) for missiles with a 1000-kilometer range). However, state-of-the-art guidance technologies can improve this accuracy to 50 meters or less.

2-3. TBMs are inherently difficult to defend against. Characteristics that increase TBM effectiveness includes reduced radar cross-sections, high terminal velocities, a variety of difficult-to-kill warheads, and an all-weather salvo launch capability. These characteristics may affect Patriot’s detection abilities and engagement timelines, which may result in short notification times for defending forces.

2-4. The major TBM trends are improved accuracy, increased range, and greater payload capacity. TBMs will become more tactically effective. Integration of global positioning systems and terminal guidance features are the current focus of improving accuracy. Tactical utility will increase with improvements in accuracy, range, and payload, allowing them to more effectively target assets that have limited or no mobility. These targets include units in assembly areas, logistical concentrations, command posts, and air defense sites. TBMs can be used to exploit choke points and to create obstacles. Potential adversaries equipped with WMD warheads may also fire them against area targets such as population centers, routes, and likely avenues of approach.