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U.S.-Israel Missile Defense Cooperation

The close partnership between the United States and Israel has yielded leading military technologies such as the Arrow, a missile defense system that is currently deployed in Israel. Jointly developed by the two allies, the Arrow is among the world's most sophisticated missile shields. It is the only operational system that has consistently proven that one missile can shoot down another at high altitudes and speeds.

The joint partnership on this program, which grew from the experiences during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, has brought significant benefits to America as well, which has incorporated many of the technologies into other U.S. missile defense programs. In response to Iraqi Scud missile attacks against Israelis and American troops during the war, Israel determined that it needed a system that would be able to engage long-range ballistic missiles with an exceptional degree of accuracy. The result was the Arrow Missile System, which provided a comprehensive defense network against the long-range, conventional missile threat.

Likewise, the threat of short-range ballistic missiles continues to pose a unique challenge both to America and Israel. Accordingly, the two countries have entered into a working agreement to support the research and development of a relatively low-cost, highly efficient, quick-reaction system to defeat incoming short-range ballistic missiles. In so doing, America and Israel have enhanced their military and strategic partnership to produce added security and strength for both nations.

Arrow Missile Defense Program



Since 1990, the Israeli Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense Organization have cooperated to develop missile defense technology to counter the threat of long-range missiles, which are being developed by countries such as Iran. The close partnership between the United States and Israel has yielded leading military technologies such as the Arrow, a missile defense system that is currently deployed in Israel. Jointly developed by the two allies, the Arrow is among the world's most sophisticated missile defense systems. It is the only operational system that has consistently proven that one missile can shoot down another at high altitudes and speeds. Fully compatible with U.S. missile defense systems, the Arrow can intercept hostile missiles at range and speed high enough to protect citizens and troops from the devastating impact of unconventional warheads.

The centerpiece of the U.S.-Israeli cooperative defense relationship, the Arrow in 2000 became the first theater missile defense system in the world to be deployed. The Arrow program continues to provide the United States with key research and technology for other theater missile defense programs. Evolving threats require development of upgrades for the existing Arrow system so that it may handle more urgent missile threats such as multiple warheads and faster reentry vehicles. In order to

substantially increase their production rate, both parties agreed that the equivalent of 50% of each Arrow missile be produced in the United States.

Short Range Missile Defense (SRMD)

The SRMD program is a joint initiative of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency and Israel's Missile Defense Organization to develop a defense against the short-range missiles and rockets that are increasingly being deployed by hostile forces throughout the Middle East. These missiles are cheap, plentiful, easily concealed, largely exempt from international arms control accords, and the preferred means of a potentially nuclear Iran and the terrorist groups it supports. When fitted with unconventional warheads, these ostensibly insignificant battlefield weapons can be transformed into strategic threats to the United States and allied nations.

Joint U.S.-Israeli development and funding ensures that the missile interceptors will be engineered from the start to integrate into each country's unique missile defense structures, such as Patriot and Arrow, respectively. The bi-national production team will design a system with a sophisticated "hit to kill" performance at a tactical missile price.