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U.S. Army tests Iron Dome interceptor missile against drones

The U.S. Army this week carried out a first successful trial of an interceptor air-defense missile made by Israeli defense company Rafael. According to The Jerusalem Post, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems said the U.S. Army fired the Tamir interceptor, which is used by Iron Dome batteries in Israel to shoot down Gazan rockets, at a target drone. "This is the first time that a trial of the Iron Dome interceptor against a drone target was held on U.S. soil," the company stated. The Tamir, a multi-mission interceptor, struck and destroyed its target, Rafael added. Lt.-Col. Michael Fitzgerald, who heads the interceptor program in the U.S. Army, said the successful trial was part of a program examining several air-defense options. The trial was conducted with the cooperation of major U.S. defense contractor Raytheon. "Ahead of the launch, special adaptations were made to the Iron Dome interceptor, so that it fits the launcher," Rafael added.