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U.S. Air Force Uses Tesla Cybertrucks for Missile Target Practice

August 10, 2025
— *Categories: Defence & Security*

The U.S. Air Force is integrating Tesla Cybertrucks into its missile testing program, acquiring two vehicles for use as targets at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. This move supports efforts by the U.S. Special Operations Command to enhance training realism and prepare for emerging battlefield scenarios. The Cybertruck's distinctive design

and robust construction make it a suitable choice for testing missile systems against unconventional targets.

The decision to include Tesla's electric pickup in training exercises comes from the vehicle's unique attributes. Its angular stainless steel body and advanced electrical systems differ markedly from traditional military and civilian vehicles, offering a realistic challenge to missile operators during live-fire tests. The Cybertruck's build mimics certain adversary vehicles, making it an effective proxy in assessing weapon accuracy and impact.

The Air Force's purchase is part of a larger order of 33 vehicles earmarked for target practice across various military testing sites. These vehicles will be subjected to missile impacts, providing critical data on how they withstand extreme damage and informing future improvements to missile technologies and defensive tactics. The inclusion of Cybertrucks signals a broader trend of the military adapting to evolving threats and technology advancements.

Military officials view this development as an innovative step toward better preparing armed forces for modern warfare environments. As threats become increasingly complex, integrating unconventional target vehicles helps to replicate realistic combat situations. These tests aim to improve operator proficiency and ensure missile systems perform effectively against a wide range of targets.

This approach aligns with a broader strategy within the Department of Defense to incorporate cutting-edge technologies and unconventional assets into training and operational planning. The use of electric vehicles

like the Cybertruck also offers insights into how emerging automotive technologies might impact future conflict zones.

Tesla's Chief Executive Officer, Elon Musk, has previously noted the Cybertruck's durability and potential military applications, though the model's consumer sales have been slower than initially projected. Nevertheless, its design has captured interest beyond the civilian market, especially within defense circles seeking to replicate diverse combat conditions.

The Air Force's adoption of Cybertrucks for missile target practice demonstrates an ongoing commitment to modernizing military readiness. It reflects a willingness to explore non-traditional solutions in response to evolving global threats. By understanding how these vehicles perform under fire, the military can better anticipate and counter adversary tactics that might utilize similar platforms or technology.

As the testing progresses, the results will influence future decisions on target selection, procurement, and the development of new missile systems tailored to current and anticipated battlefield realities. The integration of Tesla's Cybertruck marks a notable intersection of commercial innovation and military application.

The U.S. Air Force's use of Tesla Cybertrucks in missile tests represents a strategic move to enhance training realism and adapt to emerging defense challenges. This initiative highlights how the military incorporates technological advancements into its readiness programs to maintain a competitive edge. The data gathered will support ongoing efforts to refine missile capabilities and ensure effectiveness against a broad spectrum of potential threats.