

## Army to Expand Patriot Missile Battalions with New Unit Planned for Guam

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The U.S. Army is moving forward with plans to add up to four new Patriot missile battalions, including one designated for deployment to Guam as part of a broader effort to strengthen missile defense capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region. The expansion responds to operational strain across the existing Patriot force and growing demands in high-threat environments.

General James Mingus, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, said the current inventory of 15 battalions is overstretched. One battalion is undergoing refurbishment, while others have faced extended deployments, some lasting more than 500 consecutive days in the Middle East. The additional units are expected to ease the burden on existing forces and improve overall readiness.

Each of the new battalions will be equipped with the Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor, or LTAMDS, a next-generation radar that provides 360-degree coverage and significantly greater detection range than the older AN/MPQ-65 system. The enhanced capability will allow units to track and respond to a broader range of threats, including cruise missiles, ballistic missiles, and hypersonic weapons.

The battalions will also be integrated with the Army's modernized command network, known as the Integrated Battle Command System (IBCS). Army leadership believes the combination of advanced sensors and a flexible command framework effectively doubles the operational reach of the current Patriot force. In practice, this means that 15 modernized battalions could function with the effectiveness of approximately 30 legacy units.

The planned deployment to Guam is part of a \$10 billion initiative to establish a layered missile defense architecture on the island, which includes radars, interceptors, and supporting infrastructure. The full system is expected to be operational within the next decade.

The expansion comes at a time of heightened emphasis on missile defense following recent combat use of Patriot systems. The Army credited the system with intercepting multiple threats during missile

attacks on U.S. bases in the Middle East earlier this year, reinforcing its role as a frontline defensive tool.

The new battalions are part of a wider push to modernize air and missile defense across the force. This includes increasing interceptor stockpiles, improving counter-drone capabilities, and enhancing industrial production through long-term procurement strategies. Defense leaders stress that the evolving threat environment requires not only more assets, but smarter, more integrated systems to meet the demands of future warfare.