

2017 Team Achievement Award

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Project Office

From late 2014 to December 2016, the THAAD Project Office Seeker Obsolescence Team (SOT) proactively planned, and designed, a mitigation plan to replace the THAAD Interceptor Seeker, based on both currently known issues, and the forecasted obsolescence predicted to occur over the next eight years. Concurrent with this effort, the THAAD Project Manager initiated a “Block” Acquisition Strategy designed to capitalize on the fact of life obsolescence, to incrementally advance capability for THAAD meeting Warfighter needs and threat evolution. The goal was to leverage the ongoing, robust, obsolescence program activities to apply engineering principles focused on the efficient use of resources to retain capability, while enabling system capability growth at a minimal cost.

Redesigning and replacing the existing one-color seeker to avoid obsolescence would incur a significant cost, while a more capable two-color seeker alternative could be designed and implemented with little additional funding. With evolving system requirements, the two-color seeker redesign was a five-year potentiality based on emerging threats and future Warfighter requirements. The SOT identified this as an opportunity to redesign the seeker, one time, to mitigate the current obsolescence, while providing the ability to upgrade the THAAD Weapon System later, should the two-color capability become an MDA and Army priority. This effort added this capability benefit without increasing risk to the production line or production timelines. The SOT avoided \$100M in potential future, redundant, seeker redesign costs while accelerating two-color capability. Additionally, the SOT's actions enabled timely production cut-in to support United States Government (USG) and Foreign Military Sales (FMS) cases equally, establishing a foundation for future THAAD Weapon System improvement and overall Ballistic Missile Defense capability across the USG and FMS architecture.

Team members: Ms Kim Blackburn, Mr Chris Camacho, Mr Jim Clark, Mr Tom Crowe, Mr Cady Conklin, Mr Stephen Fantasia, Ms Kim Handrich, Ms Kim Junghans, Mr David Kudrav, Mr Gary Lawson, Mr John Lindley, Mr Jon Link, Ms Rachel Moore, LTC (Ret) Raymond Morgan, Mr Charlie Neill, Ms Cassandra Pendergraft, Ms Chera Robinson, Mr David Rodgers, Ms Julie Smith, Ms Jennifer Sullivan