

# Lake Erie scores a hit during test



U.S. Navy photo

Following the successful missile shot, the ship's firing team and project engineers gathered aboard the aft missile deck.

## Sea-based midcourse test completes with successful interception

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USS Lake Erie (CG 70) made history by achieving the first intercept in space of a ballistic missile from a ship at sea on the afternoon of Jan. 25.

The ballistic missile was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility located on Kauai, HI, and the interceptor missile was launched from the ship approximately 300 miles away.

Upon launch, Lake Erie detected the ballistic missile with its SPY-1B radar and began processing intercept data using the AEGIS Weapon System. As the target continued its ballistic path outside the atmosphere, the firing authorization command was given and Lake Erie launched the Navy's newest missile, the SM-3. This missile carried a kinetic warhead, which

had its own infrared target sensor and an onboard fire control system but no explosive warhead. The enormous energy generated by the high-speed impact of the kinetic warhead with the target in outer space was sufficient to destroy the target without the use of traditional explosive warheads.

"Mark India (the Navy's phrase for a successful hit) for the Navy's first exo-atmospheric intercept. A giant leap for Navy Ballistic Missile Defense," said Lt Christopher Wells, the range safety officer for the evolution. The test was the first time in history that a sea-launched missile destroyed a ballistic missile while outside the atmosphere.

The occasion was especially



memorable for

Fire Controlman 2nd Class Pete Landrum who was the Missile Systems Supervisor and actually launched the missile. Not only was he a key part of the history making event - but it was his birthday.

This is the third flight mission in a series of pioneering missile firing tests USS Lake Erie has conducted since becoming the Navy's Theater Ballistic Missile Defense project ship in 1999.



U.S. Navy image

The Navy's newest missile, SM-3 is fired from USS Lake Erie. Inset top: One of the final real-time infrared images seen by the SM-3 Kinetic warhead before achieving contact with the ballistic missile. Inset bottom: The SM-3 warhead after contact.

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