



IDS Business Support,  
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## Missile Defense Systems

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### Avenger Backgrounder

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#### Description & Purpose:

The Avenger is the U.S. Army's premier line-of-sight, mobile, shoot-on-the-move, short-range air defense system.



#### Customer(s):

More than 1,100 Avengers are currently in the U.S. Army, Army National Guard, and U.S. Marine Corps inventory. Several foreign countries have expressed interest in the Avenger, and the first of many international sales was executed in December 1996.

#### General Characteristics:

The system carries eight Stingers in two, four-missile launch pods ready for rapid firing from a gyro-stabilized turret.

The heavy High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) is the primary carrier, but Avenger is designed to also operate in a stand-alone configuration or mounted on various other military vehicles.

Targets are acquired either by direct vision using the Heads-up Display Optical Sight, a Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) system, or digital cueing capability utilizing the air defense architecture.

Designed for easy transport, three systems and their crews can be transported on C-130 aircraft, while six can be transported on a C-141B aircraft. A CH-47 or CH-53 helicopter can airlift two complete units.

#### Background:

In June 2006, Boeing signed a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) agreement with the U.S. Army to deliver Avenger short-range air defense fire units to Egypt. The \$50 million contract includes associated spares and logistics support. Production on these units began in 2007 with expected delivery of the first unit in 2008.

In Sept. 1999, The U.S. Army signed a second multi-year option contract for Avenger fire units and spare parts for the National Guard.

In March 1999, the U.S. Army awarded Boeing a contract to begin production of Slew-to-Cue (STC) upgrades for Avengers. The STC kit significantly improves the detection and engagement of targets including low flying, low observable cruise missiles and

unmanned aerial vehicles by providing a direct link between battlefield sensors and the shooter.

In 1996, Boeing received the first international order through FMS.

In early 1992, the U.S. Army signed a multi-year contract for 679 additional Avenger units, extending production into 1998 when deliveries exceeded 1,000 units.

In 1990, Boeing received Department of the Army approval for full-scale production, increasing the production rate from four Avengers a month to 12 per month in October 1991. The Avenger was deployed to the Middle East in 1991 to support NATO troops during Operation Desert Storm and again in 2003 during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In August 1987, the Army awarded the first production contract to Boeing to build 20 Avenger fire units. The Army exercised five options on the contract.

**Miscellaneous:**

The Avenger team includes the following major industry members:

Boeing Integrated Missile Defense, Huntsville, Ala. – Prime system integrator

General Dynamics – remote control unit, turret drive electronics, turret drive

Raytheon – FLIR, laser range finder

Pacific Optical – optical sight

Fabrique Nationale – M3P .50-caliber machine gun

Smiths Industries – land navigation system

Wildwood Electronics – system computer

Vista Controls – processor

Octec – autotracker

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