Advanced precision kill weapon system (APKWS®) laser-guided rocket

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BAE Systems | Advanced precision kill weapon system (APKWS®) laser-guided rocket
The U.S. Government’s only program of record for 2.75-inch guided rockets

Cost-effective
Declining budgets and concern over collateral damage has increased the need for precision-guided weapons for a more low-cost and effective response against soft and lightly armored targets. As the U.S. Government’s only program of record for 2.75-inch guided rockets, military commanders turn to BAE Systems when they need affordable and reliable precision strike capabilities.

The plug-and-play Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System transforms a standard unguided 2.75-inch (70 millimeter) rocket into a precision laser-guided rocket to give warfighters a low-cost surgical strike capability. It bridges the gap between unguided small-diameter rockets and larger diameter anti-armor munitions.
APKWS® precision-guided
2.75-inch (70 millimeter) rocket

Innovative
The unique, innovative mid-body DASALS® design protects the APKWS guidance section from adjacent rocket fire and delivers a high probability of target acquisition.

Combat proven
The U.S. Marine Corps operators have flown with an APKWS laser-guided rocket as part of their everyday kit since 2012. More than 400 have been successfully fired in training, testing, and in combat, with a 93% hit rate, proving to be the close air support weapon of choice.

Flexible and modular
The APKWS laser-guided rocket has been demonstrated over land and over water on more than a dozen rotary-wing, fixed-wing, and unmanned platforms with different warheads. It has been qualified for use on several platforms, including the UH-1Y, the AH-1W, the AH-64D/E, and the MH-60S.

Additionally, the APKWS guidance section has been successfully demonstrated on the 70mm Forges de Zeebruges (FZ) rocket, with the same proven effectiveness seen when integrated with the Hydra rocket.

The APKWS rocket can be purchased as a guidance section or as an all-up round.

APKWS advantages
• Lightweight which enables more stowed weapons to maximize mission flexibility and capability
• Lowest total cost of ownership for a laser-guided weapon
• Requires no modifications to the platform, the rocket, or the fire control/launcher system and minimal training for the crew
• DASALS® seeker provides 40° instantaneous field of regard for a large viewing area to acquire targets
• Wide field of view and long-range laser acquisition enable precision engagements against moving and stationary targets in a variety of tactical situations
• Exceeds program requirements, providing greater precision and mission effectiveness

Wing-mounted DASALS® laser seeker collection optics
Standard rocket interfaces
Control actuation system
Standard warhead and fuze

BAE Systems | Advanced precision kill weapon system (APKWS®) laser-guided missile

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Standard rocket motor
Developed as a highly cost-effective solution that leverages the military’s existing infrastructure and inventory, the mid-body design of the APKWS guidance section delivers the industry’s most affordable total operational cost. It is available now for U.S. military customers and to international armed forces through the U.S. Foreign Military Sales program.

Benefits

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An MH-60S SeaHawk helicopter fires an APKWS laser-guided rocket from a modernized, digital rocket launcher during a test.

The APKWS rocket was shot from an AH-64D during trials in conjunction with the U.S. Army to obtain an airworthiness qualification.

The first air-launched flight trials of the APKWS were on the USMC AH-1W.

The APKWS rocket was demonstrated on the F-16 as part of the Joint Capabilities Technology Demonstration (JCTD) program.