

# The New York Times

## What is the THAAD Antimissile System the U.S. Is Giving to Israel?

It can intercept missiles above earth's atmosphere, and is being deployed to defend against Iranian attacks.

By Lara Jakes / Oct. 14, 2024

The advanced THAAD air defense system that the United States is sending to Israel is a sign of how both countries are bracing for more attacks against Israel by Iran and its allies.

[...]

"It's a political message of the United States to Israel that, 'We are with you,'" said **Yehoshua Kalisky, a military technology expert at the Institute for National Security Studies** in Tel Aviv. "And to enemies, it's: 'Don't.'"

[...]

Mr. **Kalisky** said the THAAD would be particularly useful in intercepting debris from other missiles that have been downed before it falls to the ground, where it can inflict casualties and damage infrastructure. (He also said the THAAD has an exceptional radar that can detect incoming missiles from farther distances.)

[...]

Mr. **Kalisky** compared the THAAD to one of Israel's main defense systems, the David's Sling, a stationary weapon at a fixed location that can shoot down short- and medium-range ballistic and cruise missiles. It has a range of about 185 miles and is also a "hit-to-kill" weapon that downs its targets by flying into it. The David's Sling is jointly produced by Raytheon and Israeli weapons producer Rafael.

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