Don´t shoot , don´t shoot !

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG EINIGER Zeitungsartikel zum Thema PATRIOT .

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Am 2. April 2003 wurde bei der Operation gegen Irak durch das Luftabwehrsystem PATRIOT

ein Pilot der NAVY getötet.

Dabei wurde durch Fehlfunktionen am RADAR das eigene Flugzeug mit einer anfliegenden feindlichen

Rakete verwechselt und die Bekämpfung automatisch eingeleitet. So jedenfalls wurde es bei einer

gerichtlichen Untersuchung festgestellt.

Juristen der Raytheon Kompanie gaben zu diesem Vorgang keine Erklärung ab. Die Witwe des

getöteten Piloten ließ den Vorgang untersuchen .

Patriot wurde im ersten Golfkrieg mehr oder weniger erfolgreich gegen irakische SCUD Raketen

eingesetzt . Im Letzte Irak Krieg vernichtetet PATRIOT 9 anfliegende TBM im Anflug.

2 mal war PATRIOT für den Abschuss eigener Truppen verantwortlich.2 britische Piloten starben

beim 2 . Abschuss eigener Flugzeuge durch PATRIOT.

An jenem 23. März kamen britische Tornados zurück von einer Operation aus Kuwait.

Es war der 3. Kriegstag. Es gab keine irakischen Flugzeuge im Luftraum. Die Briten kamen von

ihrer Mission zurück und wollten landen. Das PATRIOT System fasste den TORNADO als feindliche

anfliegende Rakete auf und vernichtete diesen.

PATRIOT arbeitet vollkommen automatisch und stellt seine Ergebnisse auf dem Bildschirm dar.

Wenn die Maschine anfliegende TBM anzeigt haben die Operatoren nur Sekunden Zeit den automatischen

Bekämpfungsablauf zu stoppen (warum sollten sie dies aber tun ...oder gar anzweifeln)

Reporter vom Sender KTVT berichten über das PATRIOT System „ wie in einem Science Fiktion

Film , und vor allem wie Falschziele vom Computer generiert wurden....die Bediener wissen nicht

ob es real oder falsch ist....Mehrmals wurden Falschziele generiert oder eigene Flugzeuge als

einfliegende TBM generiert oder es existierten in Wirklichkeit überhaupt keine Ziele. Meistens

korrigiert vergleicht der Computer und stellt die Wirklichkeit wieder her... manchmal aber auch nicht.

Die Reporter berichten ,dass die Tür aufflog (ECS ?) und der Raytheon Ingenieur schrie“

Don´t shoot , don´t shoot ! „ (Nein , nicht schießen)

Am 25. März wurde einem F 16 Piloten eine auf ihn gestartete Rakete angezeigt .Er schoss in

Selbstverteidigung eine Rakete gegen das ihn trackende RADAR.

Es war ein eigenes PATRIOT System, es wurde getroffen.

Behauptet wurde immer wieder, das die ARMY das Problem der Falschziele seit dem Jahr 1991

kannte.

Nach dem ersten Golfkrieg floss sehr viel Geld in die weitere Entwicklung des PATRIOT, alle

glaubten das PATRIOT ein Erfolg sein. Kein einziges System arbeitete fehlerfrei . Einige

PATRIOTs schossen Raketen gegen Raketen wo gar keine waren.

Heute wird behauptet , dass 2- 4 Engagement von 44 erfolgreich waren.

Die Killwahrscheinlichkeit soll nur 10 % betragen haben.

Während Überprüfungen und Tests sollen 1997 , 2000 und 2002 immer wieder Engagements gegen

eigene Flugzeuge durch das System aufgetreten sein

Am 2. April 2003 schoss PATRIOT 2 Flugkörper auf die F 18 des Piloten White. Er war schon auf

dem Rückflug zurück zum Trägerschiff USS KITTY HAWK.

Er meldete über Funk, dass 2 Flugkörper auf ihn flogen. Das Flugzeug wurde direkt getroffen.

Sein Körper wurde nach 10 Tagen geborgen.

gekürzt.

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(CBS) In the Pentagon's multi-billion dollar arsenal of weapons, one weapon that the government has already spent more than $6

billion on has had trouble doing what it was designed to do – bring down enemy missiles.

That weapon is the Patriot missile system, and as Correspondent Ed Bradley reported last February, it also does something it was not

designed to do – bring down friendly aircraft.

The Patriot was originally built nearly 40 years ago to shoot down aircraft. But just before the 1991 Gulf War, its manufacturer,

Raytheon, modified the Patriot to shoot down tactical ballistic missiles.

When the U.S. and its allies invaded Iraq again last year, the U.S. Army deployed Patriot crews across the battlefield. And it wasn't

long before those crews knew they had a problem. On March 23, a British Tornado fighter jet with two men aboard took off from

Kuwait. It was the third day of the war, and there was no Iraqi opposition flying.

Their flight should have gone off without a hitch, according to retired Air Vice Marshall Tony Mason, who is advising a British

Parliamentary inquiry into what happened next: "They had fulfilled their mission and they were returning without weapons back to base."

Mason says the aircraft was in friendly airspace when it was destroyed by a Patriot missile.

The explosion lit up the sky over Kuwait and killed the two airmen aboard the Tornado. The next morning, soldiers recovered their

bodies, and what was left of their plane. U.S. Army commanders explained the Patriot had mistaken the Tornado for an enemy missile,

and said the cause might be a computer "glitch."

"If the system is confusing missiles with planes, that is just not just a minor glitch," says Mason. "The two are so different, that it's

difficult really to imagine a system could do that."

But the Patriot isn't like most weapons systems: it's almost completely automatic. Its radar tracks airborne objects. Its computer

identifies those objects, and then displays them as symbols on a screen. And if the Patriot displays the symbol for an incoming ballistic

missile, its operator has just seconds to decide whether to override the machine, or let it fire.

But Patriot computers were doing some strange things in this war, as reporter Robert Riggs from the Dallas station KTVT was

surprised to learn when he was embedded with Patriot batteries.

"This was like a bad science fiction movie in which the computer starts creating false targets. And you have the operators of the

system wondering is this a figment of a computer's imagination or is this real," says Riggs.

"They were seeing what were called spurious targets that were identified as incoming tactical ballistic missiles. Sometimes, they didn't

exist at all in time and space. Other times, they were identifying friendly U.S. aircraft as incoming TBMs."

And it wasn't only Riggs' battery that had this problem. A U.S. Army report says "various Patriot locations throughout the theater" were

identifying "spurious TBMs" – tactical ballistic missiles that didn't exist.

Usually, the Patriot computers corrected these mistakes on their own. But sometimes they didn't.

"We were in one of the command posts. And I walked in and all the operators and officers are focused intently on their screens. And so

you know something's going on here," says Riggs. "And suddenly the door flies open, and a Raytheon tech representative runs in and

says, 'Don't shoot! Don't shoot!' Well, that got our attention real quick."

On March 25, a U.S. Air Force pilot flying an F-16 fighter jet got a signal that he was being targeted by radar he believed was coming

from an enemy missile system. He fired one of his own missiles in self-defense and hit the system that was tracking him – not an

enemy, but the Patriot battery where Riggs was reporting.

"Suddenly, my whole field of vision is just-becomes white light. We all thought we were under Iraqi mortar attack," says Riggs. "We had

no idea this is the good guys shooting at us."

"There was no way that Patriot system should have still been up and running, targeting aircraft. They should have stood down, knowing

that they had a fatal problem on their hands," says former Congressional investigator Joseph Cirincione.

Cirincione says the Army has known the Patriot had serious problems since at least 1991, when Congress appointed him to lead an

investigation of the Patriot's performance in the first Gulf War, a performance that had looked spectacular on network news programs.

"I saw the pictures. I thought this is amazing. This system is exceeding expectations," says Cirincione. "And all during the war, that's

what I thought. This was what all the newscasters said it was – a Scud buster, a miracle weapon."

And it wasn't just newscasters who said so. This is what President George Bush had to say when he visited Raytheon headquarters

during the First Gulf War: "The Patriot works because of Patriots like you, and I came again to say thank you to each and every one of

you!" "A lot of money started flowing into the Patriot right after the Gulf War, because everybody thought it was a success," says

Cirincione.

But it turns out, that wasn't true. Almost none of the Patriots had worked. Some of them had failed to hit the incoming Scuds. Some had

shot at missiles that didn't even exist. But most of them still exploded in the sky, leading everyone to believe they'd scored a kill, when

in fact they hadn't. "The best evidence that we found supports between two and four intercepts out of 44," says Cirincione. "About a

10 percent success rate."

Cirincione said the Army responded angrily to his findings: "The Army insisted that they knew they had some problems with the Patriot,

but it didn't serve any purpose to make these public. We would just be aiding the enemy. And that they would take care of it in the

course of normal product improvement."

But why would the Army do this? Why is this system so important to them that they would ignore evidence presented by a committee

sent by the Congress to investigate it?

“The Patriot is a multi-billion dollar system. There’s a lotta money involved. There’s a lotta careers involved,” says Cirincione, who says

the Army continued to claim that the Patriot was a success after he presented them with his findings.

And they kept claiming success until 2001, when the Pentagon finally admitted the Patriot hadn’t worked in the First Gulf War. By then,

the Patriot had an even more disturbing problem. On the test range, it kept targeting friendly planes. And the man who oversaw those

tests from 1994 to 2001 was former Assistant Secretary of Defense Phillip Coyle.

The tests, according to Coyle, included pilots flying real planes and soldiers operating the Patriot missile system. And Coyle says that

if they had been using real missiles, they would have shot down friendly planes.

Pentagon, Army and Raytheon officials all declined to talk with 60 Minutes on camera, but a 1996 Pentagon report said the Patriot had

"very high ’fratricide’ levels" in the early ‘90s. In other words, in tests it often tried to shoot down friendly planes.

And the military has since confirmed news reports that Patriots with simulated missiles had problems with "friendly fire. . . in exercises

in 1997, 2000, and 2002" – including one instance when a Patriot with simulated missiles would have, if its missiles had been real,

"shot down an entire four-ship formation of F-16’s."

Would the people who ran the Patriot system have been aware that there were problems in misidentifying planes?

“They certainly should have been. I believe they were. But the focus was on hitting a target. Other issues, such as friendly fire, didn’t get

the same – either spending, or priority, as the first priority of hitting a target,” says Coyle.

Cirincione says that’s not surprising: “There’s a tendency in all our weapons systems to try to play up the good news and get it through

its performance evaluations, and then try to fix the problems later on.”

Even if it threatens American and coalition lives?

“Well, they never think of it that way. They think that it’s a problem with the system that they can fix down the line,” says Cirincione.

But they didn’t fix it. Yet, when the U.S. declared war on Iraq last spring, U.S. Army commanders said the Patriot was ready for combat.

“What’s so disheartening about this is the very things we warned about came to pass in this war,” adds Cirincione. “It’s clear that the

failure to correct some of the problems that we’ve known about for 10, 12 years led to soldiers dying needlessly. To flyers, dying

needlessly.”

On April 2, U.S. Navy Pilot Lt. Nathan White took on his 14th mission of the war. It had been 11 days since the Patriot had shot down a

British Tornado fighter jet, and nine days since it had threatened an F-16.

Lt. White took off from the deck of the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk into skies being scanned by Patriots. Navy officials told his father, Dennis

White, what happened that night.

“They had finished their mission and had climbed out and were flying back to the Kitty Hawk,” says White.

Lt. White’s mission was finished and he was on the way home when a Patriot system, on the ground below, identified his plane as an

enemy missile and fired two missiles.

“He radioed the lead that he saw them. And as he turned he said they’re tracking,” recalls White. “He turned. They turned. They

followed him ... They told me it was probably within four seconds when it was all over with.”

It was a direct hit. Lt. White’s body was recovered 10 days later.

The Patriot had 12 engagements in this war – three of them with our own planes. Since then, U.S. military commanders have often

claimed the Patriot hit "nine for nine" of the enemy missiles it targeted. But they still haven’t produced a report explaining the incidents

of friendly fire.

“You don’t get promoted for reporting bad news,” says Cirincione. “What that means is people turn aside – and I mean just about

everybody in the program will turn aside from the bad news in order to keep the program going, keep the appearance of success.”

Since 60 Minutes first broadcast our report, the U.S. and British governments released reports concerning the Patriot’s first friendly fire

incident, with a British Tornado fighter plane.

They confirmed that the Patriot identified the plane as an enemy missile, and said that communications systems were not in place that

could have helped the crew overcome the Patriot’s error.

The U.S. military has still not explained the Patriot’s other friendly fire incidents, including the one that killed Lt. Nathan White.

Quelle :

CBS Worldwide Inc.

BOSTON — The widow of a Navy pilot who died when his fighter jet was struck by a Patriot missile during the 2003 invasion of Iraq

has sued the air defense system’s maker, Raytheon Co.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Boston on Tuesday, alleges the company was negligent in the design and manufacture of the

Patriot system. It claims the Patriot was prone to malfunctions that misidentified U.S. planes as enemy missiles that “occurred with

alarming frequency and were well-known to Raytheon before the incident.”

A spokesman for the defense contractor, based in the Boston suburb of Waltham, said company lawyers had not had a chance to

review the case and could not comment, The Boston Globe reported Wednesday.

The lawsuit by Lt. Nathan White’s widow, Akiko Ohata White, who also is suing on behalf of their three children, does not name the

Army or other military entities that developed and used the Patriot.

The military is immune from most lawsuits by service members and their families. The U.S. Supreme Court said in a 1988 lawsuit that

government contractors also have broad immunity from liability as long as they follow general specifications.

William O. Angelley, an attorney for the White family, acknowledged the difficulty in suing the government in the case, and said the

family's claims against Raytheon have merit based on publicly reported Army investigations of White's death.

"Based our analysis of the Army investigation, it is undisputed that the root cause of this tragedy is a serious design flaw in the Patriot

missile system," he said.

The Globe said it could not immediately reach Akiko White, who is living in Japan, for comment. Nathan White grew up in Abilene,

Texas.

The Patriot, originally designed to shoot down aircraft, gained attention in the 1991 Persian Gulf War when it was used against Iraqi

Scud missiles. There later was criticism of its effectiveness and technical improvements were made that military officials said helped it

shoot down all nine Iraqi missiles it targeted during the 2003 campaign.

But there were three friendly fire incidents, two of them fatal, involving the Patriot. Nathan White was killed April 2, 2003, while returning

to his aircraft carrier from a bombing mission. Two British pilots were killed in the second incident.

A report the Army gave to White's family in December 2004 said the Patriot system, despite past efforts to correct the problem,

frequently gave false symbols of potential targets that soldiers were not properly trained to expect and deal with. White's plane was

apparently was mixed up with one of the "false tracks" and misidentified, it said.

Raytheon has declined to respond to the report in the past except to say it was "confident that the Patriot system performed as

designed," the Globe reported. An Army spokesman said Tuesday it was not likely to comment about ongoing litigation.