

AKASH (SAM)

By Michael Mykytyn

Users: India

Roles & Mission: A medium range (25 nm), mobile, theater-defense surface-to-air missile which is currently replacing the aging SA-6 Guideline missile system (from which it is derived) in Indian service. Mounted on a BMP chassis and paired with the Rajendra array, this system can engage low to high altitude targets. Development continues on the system to eventually reach an extended range and anti ballistic missile capability. Expect this system to be deployed in forward areas, to provide defense of ground forces and area coverage.



Strengths: The Akash in its current configuration is an excellent platform against the capabilities of India's current rivals (Pakistan, China). It also fills important gaps within the Indian air defence system. It retains the tactical mobility of the old SA-6, and the Rajendra 3D phased-array radar provides it with much better engagement abilities than the old Straight Flush. Its future configuration will give India a limited defence against theater ballistic missile threats.



Weaknesses: The Akash is highly vulnerable to any modern anti-radiation missiles when not working in conjunction with other Indian air defense systems. While being perfectly capable against the current set of regional rivals, this system still suffers from the shortcomings of the SA-6 missile and is thus lacking in ability against modern systems. It remains to be seen if the planned upgrades will come to fruition.

Equipment: Akash SAM Battery (2001) - DB2000 v6.1.9

Radars

Type & Quantity	Max Range	Abilities	Notes
Rajendra	50nm	Air Search, Range Information, Bearing Information, Altitude Information, IFF Information	3D Phased Array Surveillance / Engagement Rad

Mounts

Type & Quantity	ROF	Capacity	Weapon (Service Date)
Akash 3-rail TEL	2	3	Akash SAM (2001)

Text information and pictures provided by Bharat Rakshak the Consortium of Indian Military Web Sites at: <http://www.bharat-rakshak.com/MISSILES/Akash.html>

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