

Missiles

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against the company.

A March 24 General Accounting Office report on missile defects in four Pentagon weapons programs stated that six of 30 Genisco transducers tested by the government — culled from a batch of 1,300 suspect transducers — were defective.

The report also said that Texas Instruments Inc., the missile's prime contractor, told the GAO in July 1987 that computer testing indicated a small increase in "flyers" — missiles that miss their target by more than a specified distance. However, the number of off-target missiles fell within contractual requirements.

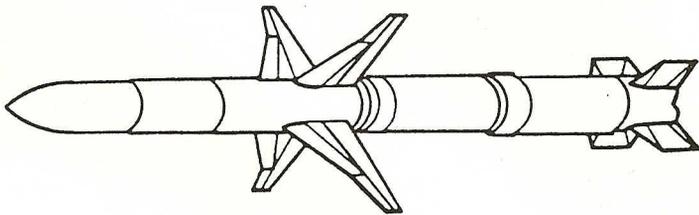
In addition, Texas Instruments said an unspecified number of transducers installed in missiles in 1985 and sold to the government would have to be replaced.

Escaped checks

According to Stockton, the subcommittee wants to determine how defective transducers escaped internal Genisco checks and then traveled through the system undetected by both Texas Instruments and the Navy.

"Major defense contractors get an enormous amount of money to implement quality assurance, and it's not clear to us how (the Genisco incident) happened to the extent that it happened without Texas Instru-

HIGH SPEED ANTI-RADIATION MISSILE



Facts about the missile:

- **Length:** 13 feet, 8 inches
- **Diameter:** 10 inches
- **Wing Span:** 3 feet, 8 inches
- **Weight:** 807 pounds
- **Speed:** more than 760 mph
- **Range:** 22 nautical miles

ments knowing about it," Stockton said.

Texas Instruments spokesman Curt James said between 100 and 150 HARM missiles delivered to the Navy and Air Force before the Libya bombing — between 1983 and 1985 — contained transducers that he termed "out of specification."

Those transducers are being replaced now, James said.

While James said he did not know if any of these missiles were used in the Libya bombing, he said it was "unlikely" the transducers affected the missile's performance.

Navy spokesman Lt. Ken Ross said the HARM missile "proved effective" during the Libyan raids but he said detailed information on its performance is classified.

Another Texas Instruments spokesman, Tony Geishauer, said: "The reliability rate is a

factor of 10 times more than they are supposed to be.

"How can anybody say this thing wasn't working well?"

The criminal indictment against Genisco alleges that the company fabricated data for tests never conducted and switched serial numbers on "test units" to frustrate spot checks by the Navy and Texas Instruments.

Genisco has denied the charges. Chairman Phillip Friedman said the company was unaware of a House subcommittee investigation.

During the predawn air strike on Tripoli on April 15, 1986, U.S. fighters fired rockets and bombs that damaged the French Embassy and an upper-class neighborhood of the Libyan capital. Streets were strewn with smashed cars and huge chunks of concrete from scores of homes that were destroyed.

Errant missiles spark probe of Genisco

By Michael Lev
BUSINESS WRITER

Congressional investigators are probing whether faulty missile parts produced by Genisco Technology Corp. caused errant missiles to crash into the French Embassy and other civilian buildings during a 1986 bombing raid on Libya by U.S. military forces.

Rancho Dominguez-based Genisco already is under federal indictment for falsifying test results for its transducers, a component of the Navy's \$303,000 HARM anti-radar missile.

"We're interested in the performance of the HARM missile during the bombing raid in Libya," said Peter Stockton, an aide to Rep. John D. Dingell, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Stockton said it was likely some of Genisco's faulty transducers found their way into HARM missiles in the Navy's arsenal. The transducers are used as altimeters, which provide altitude readings on missiles and aircraft.

Subcommittee investigators interviewed witnesses in Los Angeles earlier this week about Genisco, which built the transducers at a division in Simi Valley, Stockton said. The Navy has barred Genisco from future Pentagon contracts pending the outcome of the government's case

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