

First Patriot Missiles Already in Poland

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The US Patriot air defence batteries and around 100 American troops have arrived in the town of Morąg, northern Poland, 60 kilometers from the Russian Kaliningrad border.

Since early morning soldiers of the US 5th Battalion and 7th Air Defence Artillery have been unloading the missiles from 37 train carriages.

"It's an important day for Poland and the United States, for our common goals and interests," said U.S. ambassador to Poland Lee Feinstein.

The first Patriots arrived in Poland after the SOFA agreement (Supplemental Status of Forces Agreement) at the beginning of this year.

The US soldiers will train Polish troops on how to use the Patriot defence system. The American soldiers accompanied the battery from Kaiserslautern in Germany last night.

On Wednesday, May 26, Ambassador Feinstein and Brigadier General Mark Bellini, Operations Sustainment Director, U.S. Army Europe, will join Polish officials in Morąg to greet U.S. and Polish soldiers and to inspect the Patriot battery.

Hosting Patriots in Poland was part of Warsaw's condition for the stationing of the now abandoned Central European missile system, agreed with the previous Bush administration in 2008.

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