



Defending our Nation from Unpredictable Threats Requires a Multi-Layered and Integrated Global Missile Defense

AIA RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Layered, integrated, and robust missile defense is critical to U.S. national security, especially as unstable nations advance acquisition of nuclear and missile technologies. Progress made in fielding systems and developing new capabilities for the future should continue to be sustained and promoted. Realistic operational testing of ballistic missile defense system program elements should be accelerated to ensure the nation, U.S. citizens and our allies are afforded a capable defense.**
- **Missile defense funding must be appropriately focused on current system sustainment; near-term systems; and continued research, development, and production to enable fielding of future advanced systems to address long-term goals and ensure capability to counter emerging threats. The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) should continue to receive robust and stable funding to maintain its legacy as a research and development agency.**
- **A strong effort should be made to expand international missile defense cooperation and leverage the available resources of our international partners in order to provide better integrated, more comprehensive missile defense systems while sharing costs and reducing threat levels.**

BACKGROUND

In a hostile world, where nations like Iran and North Korea continue to pursue the development of increasingly sophisticated nuclear and missile technologies, a multi-layered and integrated ballistic missile defense (BMD) system is critical to protecting U.S. national security. Fielded ground- and sea-based BMD capabilities have demonstrated tangible results that have significantly improved U.S. national security and serve to protect U.S. citizens and our allies from harm. However, emerging global threats warrant building upon those capabilities with a global BMD response capability that fosters international cooperation and diminishes political and operational risks associated with fixed sites.

BMD is one of the most technologically complex and challenging defense missions our nation has ever pursued. The operational timelines and technological complexity of detection, tracking and discrimination, communication, interception, and negation are not trivial problems. Yet today, the U.S. has deployed an initial operating system to provide a limited operational defense against an attack against any one of our 50 states. The U.S. has also deployed systems to defend against theater short range ballistic missiles and has a range of other mid-, and far-term programs to defend against threats across the spectrum of a ballistic missile's flight. In addition, great strides have been made in leveraging limited resources by partnering with international allies, as evidenced by the agreements with Japan, Israel, and NATO countries.

While the U.S. has made substantial progress, more remains to be done. Ballistic missile systems to protect the U.S. homeland and to provide forward defense of U.S. global interests can and should be strengthened to protect against more sophisticated threats. An integrated and multilayered missile defense system that addresses near term threats and prepares for the long term is an essential investment in U.S. security. This commitment to BMD needs to be continued and sustained.

KEY POINTS

- **Real and Increasing Threat.** In 1972 only nine states possessed ballistic missiles. Today, over 20 states possess this technology. In the Middle East, Iran and Syria continue to advance their own ballistic missile technology currently capable of threatening U.S. ally Israel and U.S. assets in the region. On February 3, 2009 Iran launched its first satellite into orbit on a space launch vehicle that could be reconfigured as a ballistic missile system. As threats grow, a multi-layered, integrated missile defense is needed for the security of the U.S. and its allies.
- **Real and Proven Systems.** In recent years the U.S. has made great progress in the development, testing, and deployment of working BMD systems from radars and interceptors to sensors and directed energy technologies. According to the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, across all programs, 37 of 47 "Hit-to-Kill" intercept attempts have been successful since 2001, and 13 of 15 "Hit-to-Kill" intercepts have been successful since 2007.
- **Global Partnership is Critical.** Defending our nation from unpredictable threats requires a multi-layered and integrated global missile defense. Work with our allies will be essential to protecting our homeland as well as friends and allies against evolving threats such as Iran.
- **Economic Boost, High Wage Jobs.** Missile defense operations support thousands of critical, high-wage U.S. jobs and millions of dollars in economic activity. These are just the kind of jobs America needs to remain competitive and get our economy moving.