



Fact Sheet

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Washington, DC 20301-7100

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense

The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense element will give the Ballistic Missile Defense System a valuable, rapidly-transportable, forward-deployable capability that will intercept and destroy ballistic missiles high in and above the atmosphere while they are in their final or terminal, phase of flight.

Overview

- Land-based element capable of shooting down a ballistic missile both inside and just outside the atmosphere (i.e., Endo/Exo-atmospheric capability).
- Well suited for defense against asymmetric ballistic missile threats
- Uses "hit-to-kill" technology, to directly hit the incoming missile and destroy it
- The high-altitude intercept allows for enemy weapons of mass destruction to burn up in the atmosphere before reaching ground



Details

- Four main components: truck-mounted launchers; interceptors (eight per launcher); a radar; and command, control, battle management and communications

Launcher: able to fire and reload rapidly, stores and transports interceptor

Interceptor: designed to intercept its target both above and high in the atmosphere

Radar: provides search, track, discrimination and fire control

C2BMC: communication and data-management backbone, links Terminal High Altitude Area Defense components together, and also links to the entire Ballistic Missile Defense System

- Rapid deployment - can be air-lifted anywhere in the world in hours

Development

- System design ensures high standards and efficient production and maintenance
- Continuously completing ground tests, quality assurance programs, and design and development activities
- Major events in the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense program within the next year:
 - Build, test and verify Terminal High Altitude Area Defense Block 2004 capability
 - Three flight tests scheduled to be performed at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. by the end of 2005
 - Continued component development to incrementally improve missile defense capability
 - Continue planning soldier training for transition of operations to the Army
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