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February 6, 2003

Taurus Lite Booster Test Launch Successful

Team Vandenberg successfully launched a Taurus Lite vehicle booster test Feb. 6, 2003 at 1 p.m. PST (4 p.m. EST) in support of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense program.

The booster, a Taurus/Pegasus/Minotaur derivative with no payload, was launched from atop a concrete pad rather than a silo.

The Ground-Based Midcourse Defense program, formerly the National Missile Defense Program, is managed by the Missile Defense Agency, Washington, D.C. This is the first Vandenberg launch for the agency this year.

Detachment 9, Space and Missile Center was the launch agency with Capt. Carrie Brackett acting as the test program manager for this launch.

Colonel Wayne E. Louis, 30th Space Wing Vice Commander, was spacelift commander for final "go, no-go" launch decision.

Taurus Lite team members include Missile Defense Agency's Ground-Based Interceptor office, Detachment 9, Space & Missile Center, Orbital Sciences, Boeing, Northrop Grumman and the 30th Space Wing.