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## Japanese Cooperation

“The Japanese Government continues to be a good example of allied cooperation in missile defense activity,” said Missile Defense Agency (MDA) Deputy Director, Air Force Major General “Trey” Obering, in a recent internal managers meeting.

The Agency began a Cooperative Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) Research Program with Japan in 1999, to design and develop advanced components for the Standard Missile 3 (SM-3). This project will culminate in flight tests incorporating one or more of these components in 2005 and 2006. Following a formal Cabinet Decision in December, 2003, Japan became one of our first allies to decide to proceed with acquisition of a multi-layered BMD system. They will base their initial capability on upgrades of their Aegis destroyers to BMD capability and acquisition of the SM-3 missile. In addition, Japan will equip their Patriot units with the Patriot Advanced Capability -3 (PAC-3) missiles and associated upgrades of ground support equipment.

Japan also plans to conduct performance tests of their newly developed land-based radar, FPS-XX, designed to detect and track ballistic missiles. Japanese tests are expected to continue for about two years and the missile defense capability will augment the established air defense mission.