



For Your Information

7100 Defense Pentagon
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Pacific Explorer IV (PACEX IV)

Pacific Explorer (PACEX) consists of a series of Missile Defense System tests designed to examine the operational communications structure available to defend the U.S. homeland from long range ballistic missile attack. Recently, the crews of USS CURTIS D. WILBUR and USS JOHN S. McCAIN, U.S. Pacific Fleet ships, in concert with the Ground-based Midcourse (GMD) and Command, Control and Battle Management Communications (C2BMC) elements of the Missile Defense Agency's (MDA) Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS), conducted a series of data reception and transmission events in PACEX IV. The events were designed to increase confidence in MDA's efforts to develop a long-range surveillance and tracking capability for Aegis destroyers, and to more effectively communicate that information to other parts of the BMDS to meet ballistic missile threats. The ability to use the Aegis radar systems provides more capability to track long-range ballistic missiles, and transmit target information to the missile defense command and control facilities in Colorado and Alaska.

PACEX IV, the fourth test in the series, was the total system-wide level test of an AEGIS Long Range Surveillance and Track (LRS&T) destroyer in the Limited Defensive Operations (LDO) configuration which will provide the United States - for the first time - a capability to intercept and destroy a long-range missile warhead before it can reach any of our 50 states.



PHOTO CAPTION: The USS John S. McCain during the recent PACEX IV.

Contact: Chris Taylor, Missile Defense Agency – 703-697-8001