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Second Successful Rocket Motor Test of New Target

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) successfully conducted a static fire test of the propulsion system for its new strategic target, Launch Vehicle 2 (LV-2), on April 2, 2009, at China Lake Naval Warfare Center in Ridgecrest, Calif. The two-stage launch vehicle, or LV-2, is MDA's newest target system and will be used as an intermediate-range target in a flight test later this year.

The LV-2 is designed to emulate threat-representative ballistic missiles both in performance and behavior in order to test multiple Ballistic Missile Defense System capabilities.

As a cost-reduction initiative, MDA integrated Trident Missile C4 first and second-stage rocket motors retired from the Navy in 2005, into its new LV-2 design. The target missile will provide required trajectories, heavier payloads, longer downrange distance and higher velocities.

This was the second test of a C4 rocket motor by MDA this year. The first test was conducted successfully on January 22.

MDA's Targets and Countermeasures program office manages the program.

Media Contacts: Rick Lehner, (703) 697-8997, Richard.lehner@mda.mil; or Pam Rogers, (256) 450-1421, Pamela.rogers@mda.mil