

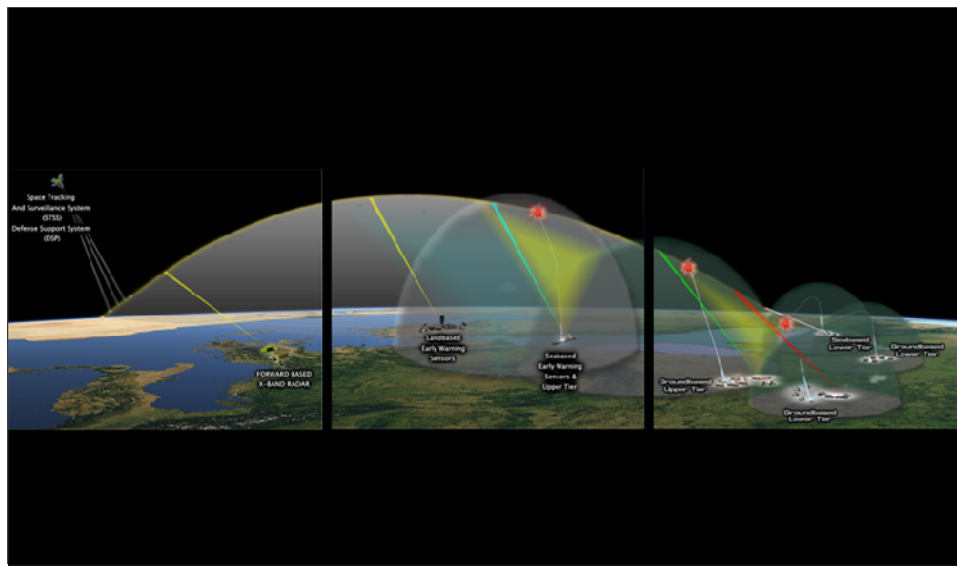


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### Media Backgrounder: NATO Active Layered Theatre Ballistic Missile Defence (ALTBMD)

The ALTBMD programme was established in 2005 to develop a capability to protect NATO deployed forces against short- and medium-range ballistic missile threats (up to a 3000-kilometer range). At the November 2010 Lisbon Summit, NATO Heads of State and Government agreed to expand the programme to protect NATO Europe populations and territory against the full range of ballistic missile attacks.

The complete capability will consist of layered weapon systems (sensors and interceptors), with low- and high-altitude defences. NATO member countries provide the radars and interceptors, while NATO provides the communications, command and control and battle management software that binds national capabilities into an Alliance capability. The costs of the programme are covered by pooling resources from all of NATO's 28 member nations.



#### **Current state:**

On 27 January 2011, NATO's military operators at the Combined Air Operations Centre in Uedem, Germany, formally received a first, interim capability from the technical ALTBMD Programme Office.

Now, for the first time, NATO's military commanders can:

- plan a missile defence battle;
- link radars and interceptors from Nations (currently five - France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and US) into a lower-layer (about 1000 kilometre range) ballistic missile defence capability;
- receive early warning of inbound ballistic missiles; and
- monitor – and to a limited degree – direct a theatre missile defence battle.

The capability is deployable, meaning it can be deployed where and when necessary. The current capability can also communicate with the software, sensors and weapons that make up the US European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) which is planned to contribute to NATO's territorial missile defence capability. As such, it forms a cornerstone of this future NATO capability.

Prior to its handover to the military operators, the capability underwent rigorous testing, including live-fire tests at the NATO test range in Greece in 2009.

**Next steps:**

- end 2014 – an industrialized, more capable version of the lower layer NATO theatre missile command and control system will be deployed; the capability will be fully integrated with NATO's air defence system; additional radars and interceptors should be available from Poland, Italy and Greece; and links with the systems in Europe provided under the US Phased Adaptive Approach will be strengthened.
- 2017 – the first upgrades to the NATO capability providing upper layer and territorial missile defence capability are fielded, fully interlinked with the US Phased Adaptive Approach.

**Additional background:**

The ALTBMD Programme office is hosted by the NATO Consultation, Command and Control Agency (NC3A). It has a NATO staff of 24, led by General Alessandro Pera.