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Ninth Interceptor for Homeland Defense Emplaced

Air Force Lieutenant General Henry "Trey" Obering, Missile Defense Agency (MDA) director, announced today the successful emplacement of the ninth interceptor missile designed to intercept and destroy a long-range ballistic missile.

The missile was emplaced September 18 in an underground silo located in the second missile field at Ft. Greely, Alaska. Six interceptors were emplaced in 2004 in the first missile field at Ft. Greely, and two additional interceptors are emplaced at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

The interceptors are part of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS). The BMDS is an integrated system of sensors, ground and sea-based radars and an advanced command and control, battle management and communication system designed to detect, track and launch an interceptor to destroy a target warhead before it can reach its intended target in any of our 50 states. When the system becomes operational, it will mark the first time the United States will have the capability to defend the entire country against a limited attack by a long-range ballistic missile.



The ninth interceptor missile is lowered into its silo at the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely, Alaska September 18, 2005. The interceptor is designed to destroy incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles before they reach U.S. airspace.