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## Response to Recent Media Coverage

Recent statements appearing in news media in the United States and in Europe citing that the proposed deployment of missile defense elements in Europe will only defend the United States and not Europe are false. In fact, long-range interceptor missiles in Alaska, combined with upgraded radars in the United Kingdom and Greenland, will provide a defense against a limited ballistic missile attack directed at the U.S. by Iran. The deployment of interceptor missiles in Poland and a radar in the Czech Republic is designed specifically to defend most of Europe from intermediate to long-range ballistic missiles launched from Iran, while incorporating a redundant capability to defend the U.S. The type of interceptor proposed for the defense of Europe is the only technology available to intercept and destroy ballistic missiles with a range greater than 3,000 km. We also have the capability to defend against shorter range missiles by relocating existing assets such as Aegis sea-based missile defense and Patriot PAC-3.

From the very beginning of this initiative, the primary objective of deploying a missile defense in Europe has always been to protect Europe and the U.S.. Any statements to the contrary are false.

Any reference to missile defense as a "science project" is without merit. All of our missile defense elements are continually tested in operationally realistic scenarios, including the interceptors designed to intercept and destroy intermediate to long-range ballistic missiles. The radar proposed for the Czech Republic has been in service in the Marshall Islands to support missile defense tests for a decade. These are proven technologies, and most certainly do not fit within assertions that they are a "science project."

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