



04-FYI-0007

2 July 2004

Missile Defense Agency Conducts Change of Responsibility Ceremony

Lieutenant General (Select) Henry A. "Trey" Obering III, U.S. Air Force, became the director of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) today during a change of responsibility ceremony held at the agency's main facility in Arlington, Va. He succeeds Lieutenant General Ronald T. Kadish, U.S. Air Force, who served as the director of the MDA and its predecessor, the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, since July, 1999.

The ceremony was officiated by Michael W. Wynne, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. Secretary Wynne applauded the distinguished career and service of General Kadish, saying "he has earned the trust and respect of our nation's leaders in the White House, the Defense Department and on Capitol Hill. His candor and integrity won him the respect of his allies and his critics across the political spectrum."

In addressing the men and women of the Missile Defense Agency and its military and civilian support team throughout the nation, as well as friends and allies around the world, General Kadish pointed to the continuing success of the missile defense development effort, and also to the many challenges that remain. "We are indeed standing on the threshold of a uniquely necessary capability to provide for our nation's security. And I am deeply aware that this has been a full team effort—a team made up of government and industry partners and military and civilian professionals... your response to the many challenges we have faced has been magnificent, and you have every reason to be proud of your roles in this organization."

In his remarks, Lt. General (Select) Obering cited the need for "a sustained effort on all our parts to ensure that missile defense continues to move from conjecture to reality, from the lab to the field, from technology to the soldier, sailor, airman and Marine...as a team we can do no less...It is not enough to try, we must succeed."

Lt. General Kadish will retire after 34 years of active Air Force service, with an effective date of Sept. 1, 2004.

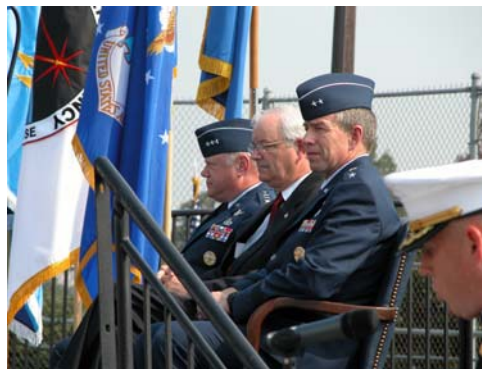


PHOTO CAPTION: Air Force Lt. Gen. Ronald T. Kadish (far left) during the change of responsibility ceremony held July 2 at the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) in Arlington, Va. Next to Lt. Gen. Kadish is Michael Wynne, Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics). In the foreground is Air Force Lt. Gen. (Select) Henry A. "Trey" Obering III, who became the new director of MDA upon the retirement of Lt. Gen Kadish.