



For Your Information

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Missile Defense Agency Completes Sea-Based Radar "Big Lift"

Air Force Lt. General Henry "Trey" Obering, Missile Defense Agency director, announced today the successful completion of lifting and attaching a 4.6 million pound X-band radar to its sea-going platform. The 17-hour operation was completed April 3 at approximately 10:45 p.m. CDT at Kiewit Offshore Services, Corpus Christi, Texas, by a combined Boeing, Raytheon, Vertex RSI and Kiewit team.

Over the next several months the Sea-Based X-band Radar will undergo integration and a wide range of sea trials and exercises prior to beginning its journey this summer to its new home port of Adak, Alaska, in the Aleutian Islands. It is expected to arrive at Adak by the end of this year. Although homeported in Adak, it will be capable of moving throughout the Pacific Ocean to support both missile defense advanced testing and defensive operations. Initially, it will provide the Ground-based Midcourse Defense element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System with an advanced tracking and decoy discrimination capability that will help interceptor missiles located in Alaska and California to provide a defense against a limited long-range missile attack aimed at any of our 50 states. Over time it will be able to support other missile defense elements designed to intercept and destroy short, medium and intermediate range ballistic missiles that may be used against our homeland, our deployed forces and our allies and friends.

The Sea-based X-band radar and its platform stand more than 250 feet above the waterline, and displaces more than 50,000 tons. The Boeing Company is the prime contractor for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense element. Boeing subcontractor Raytheon manufactured the X-band radar. The platform was purchased from Moss Maritime, and was modified by Boeing and subcontractor Vertex RSI at the Keppel AMFELS shipyard in Brownsville, Texas.



The 2,000-ton radar is lowered aboard the converted oil rig in what will become the Sea-Based X-band Radar for the Missile Defense Agency. The assembly took place at the Kiewit Offshore Services in Corpus Christi, Texas on April 3, 2005. The Sea-Based X-Band Radar, a unique combination of an advanced-radar with a mobile, ocean-going, semi-submersible platform, will provide the nation with highly advanced ballistic missile detection and will also have the capability to discriminate hostile missile warheads from decoys or countermeasures. Its mobility gives it the capability to be positioned on the ocean to support Missile Defense Agency tests and also operationally support defense of our homeland, deployed forces and allies and friends.

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