



05-FYI-0062

13 September 2005

## Sea-Based X-Band Radar Transmits First Radar Beam

Air Force Lieutenant General Henry "Trey" Obering, Missile Defense Agency director, announced today that the Sea-Based X-Band (SBX) Radar successfully transmitted a radar beam for the first time on September 11, 2005. Much like an aircraft's first flight, initial radar operation demonstrates that the radar's critical hardware and software components are working together as intended by the design team.

This event followed an extensive integration and test program to verify individual component functionality, operating procedures, radar software, and all radar-related safety systems. The SBX consists of a semi-submersible platform of the type used for oil drilling, and the integrated X-band radar. It is currently involved in sea trials in the central Gulf of Mexico, and will soon start high-power operations and a period of radar calibration.

The SBX is being developed by the Missile Defense Agency to serve as a primary radar for the Ballistic Missile Defense System and will be used to track ballistic missiles for both defensive operations and developmental testing. The powerful X-band radar will provide tracking of ballistic missile warheads, and also advanced discrimination of possible decoys and countermeasures that could be aboard a hostile ballistic missile during an attack on the United States.

The SBX stands 282 feet high and displaces more 50,000 tons at operational depth. Its on-board propulsion system allows it to deploy throughout the world's oceans, giving it the capability to support both operations and testing. It will be home-ported at Adak Island in Alaska's Aleutian Island chain. Boeing Integrated Defense Systems is the prime contractor, and Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems is responsible for development and manufacturing of the X-band radar installed aboard the platform.



The Sea-Based X-Band Radar prepares to depart for testing in the Gulf of Mexico.

Contact: Pam Rogers, Missile Defense Agency – 256-955-2952