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2 July 2004

Farewell Message from Lt. Gen. Ronald T. Kadish, USAF Missile Defense Agency Director, 1999-2004

As I take my leave of this outstanding organization, I want to thank each of you for the extraordinary efforts you have made toward accomplishing our mission. With your professionalism, expertise, and dedication, you have laid the foundation for missile defenses to protect our homeland, our troops in the field, and our friends around the globe. You have set new standards of excellence and pioneered new approaches to development and acquisition.

We are moving from experimentation and discovery to evolutionary implementation of practical layered defenses over time. What you do – especially over the next few years – is very important. The world will be watching.

I leave secure in the knowledge that great leadership is in place and ready for the challenges ahead. This is still a complex and difficult task with many breakthroughs and setbacks ahead. Lieutenant General (Select) Trey Obering is the right leader at the right time. I have been privileged to know him for many years as a visionary professional. He has the Secretary's full confidence, and by his example, he has already earned ours. And the leadership team throughout MDA is superb at all levels.

This team – this organization – trusted with an historic challenge – will be exciting to watch.

I'm proud of MDA - of extraordinary people doing the almost impossible every day in pursuit of success. Smart people, well led at all levels, doing incredible things – that's the MDA legacy; that's the MDA challenge.

Thanks, again, for your support. I am confident Missile Defense will succeed. My hope is that history will judge we made a difference, and that I left it better than I found it.

Cindy and I wish each of you and your families health, safety, and success as MDA and its gifted people continue to do the extraordinary in the next phase of this journey.

Godspeed and good luck!

Ron Kadish