



# Memorandum for Correspondents

**Missile Defense Agency  
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**Huntsville, Ala.--** The Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) System has undergone a name change to more accurately reflect its position in the multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS). The "T" in THAAD will now stand for "Terminal," indicating its position as a terminal element of BMDS. THAAD is designed to intercept targets as they enter the terminal, or last, phase of a ballistic trajectory. The name change was directed last week in a decision by Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish, director of the Missile Defense Agency.

THAAD is the only missile system specifically designed to intercept and destroy incoming ballistic missiles both inside and outside the earth's atmosphere. The program will be entering its next phase of flight testing at White Sands Missile Range later this year.

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