



Archive

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Long Range Air Launch Target (LRALT)

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) successfully conducted a demonstration launch of a Long Range Air Launch Target (LRALT) at 12:06 a.m. (EDT) Monday, May 3, 2004. The LRALT missile boosted a simulated reentry vehicle from a point just south of Midway Island to the vicinity of Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

The LRALT program is managed by the Missile Defense Agency Targets and Countermeasures Directorate and developed for MDA by the U. S. Air Force Space & Missile Command and L3/Coleman Aerospace Corp. LRALT is based on two Minuteman II second stages taken from deactivated assets. The delivery system is air-extracted from a C-17 for launch on any azimuth. LRALT was developed as a target for realistic testing of the Ballistic Missile Defense System using air-launch as a method to relieve the test constraints imposed by fixed ground launch sites.