



# For Your Information

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## Missile Defense Agency Emplaces First Interceptor at Fort Greely

FORT GREELY, ALASKA – The Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) element of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency emplaced the first Ground Based Interceptor (GBI) today on the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely, Alaska.

The emplacement of the first GBI does not mean the missile defense system is operational. This will occur after additional interceptors are emplaced and the inter-connected architecture of radars, sensors, battle management and command, control and communications is activated by U.S. Strategic Command, U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and the Missile Defense Agency.

The emplacement of this GBI, “marks the end of an era where we have not been able to defend our country against long-range ballistic missile attacks,” said Maj. Gen. John W. Holly, program director for the GMD Joint Program Office. “There are countries that possess weapons of mass destruction and have the ability to launch ballistic missiles that could impact the United States,” he said. “While this system will constitute an initial limited capability, it is a vast improvement over our current defensive posture, which is nonexistent,” said Holly.

The GBI installed today has undergone rigorous test and checkout activities. “At the system level, we have been successful in four of the last five flight tests, conducted extensive ground test activities, completed detailed integration and interoperability testing between various sites, and concluded extensive modeling and simulation activities,” said Holly. “We will continue to test the system as it matures and evolves to ensure that we provide the best defense for our country,” he added.

“This is a proud day for our joint team and a historic day for our country. Our soldiers are trained and ready to defend the Nation with the exceptional tools the Missile Defense Agency has worked so diligently to produce and perfect. We are looking to the future with great pride and determination,” said Col. Jeffery C. Horne, deputy commander for operations U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and Army Strategic Command, who was at Fort Greely for the emplacement.

Up to five more interceptors will be emplaced at Fort Greely by the end of 2004, with up to 10 additional interceptors emplaced by the end of 2005. The site will operate and maintain interceptor missiles and related support facilities to provide an initial defensive capability against a limited long-range missile attack against the United States.



PHOTO CAPTION: The first Ground-based Interceptor is lowered into its silo at the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely, Alaska on July 22nd. The interceptor is designed to destroy incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles before they reach U.S. airspace.

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