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Testing Successfully Completed For Integration of Alaska Radar and Other Components For Homeland Defense Against Missile Attack

A series of important tests have been completed over this summer will help the United States to move forward with a defensive capability against a limited long-range missile attack, including the integration of an early warning and tracking radar located on the Aleutian Island of Shemya.

System Integration and Checkout (SICO) tests are a series of internal integration activities that include multiple program elements and sites. The tests will incrementally evolve to help produce an Initial Defensive Capability (IDC), which will form the basis for a first-time ever defense of all 50 states from a limited long-range missile attack.

This test demonstrated several significant capabilities. The elements transitioned from test mode to alert mode, sent launch commands to multiple silos configured as they will be when the system is on alert, and tasked multiple sets of In-Flight Interceptor Communication System Data Terminal (IDT) hardware. These capabilities were demonstrated in a realistic, tactical scenario in a field environment.

Included in this test were the Joint National Integration Center (JNIC), Colorado Springs, Colo., the Space and Naval Warfare (SPAWAR) System Center, San Diego, Calif., the Space-Based Infrared Sensor (SBIRS) Test Node, Boulder, Colo. and Fort Greely.

SICO tests confirm that multiple missile defense system elements distributed around the country will interface, interoperate, and function as designed. The Cobra Dane radar and communications system on Shemya Island were new elements being integrated as part of this test, the fifth in a series. Previous SICO testing has integrated system fire control and communications, ground-based Interceptors and launch equipment, Defense Support Program satellites, and the U.S. Navy's sea-based Aegis Weapon System interfaces.

The SICO test campaign will continue in order to incorporate other activities within the integrated missile defense system, including software upgrades, additional command and control elements and planned missile defense activities at Vandenberg and Beale Air Force Bases, Calif.

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