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## Fifth Interceptor for Homeland Defense Emplaced at Fort Greely

The Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) element of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency emplaced the fifth interceptor missile into its underground silo at Ft. Greely, Alaska on Sept. 25. The interceptor is designed to intercept and destroy a long-range ballistic missile that could be aimed at any of our 50 states.

One additional interceptor is planned for emplacement at the facility by mid-October. Two interceptors are also planned for emplacement later this year at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

The interceptors are part of an integrated system of sensors, ground and sea-based radars and an advanced command and control, battle management and communication system designed to detect, track and launch an interceptor to destroy a target warhead before it can reach its intended target in any of our 50 states. Although the system will initially have a limited capability when it becomes operational later this year, it will mark the first time the United States has a capability to defend the entire country against a limited attack by a long-range ballistic missile.



PHOTO CAPTION: The fifth Ground-based Interceptor missile is lowered into its underground silo at Ft. Greely, Alaska on September 25, 2004. The interceptor is part of a missile defense system designed to intercept and destroy a long-range ballistic missiles. Although the system will have a limited initial capability, it will be the first time the United States will have a missile defense system to protect all 50 states.