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Multiple Kill Vehicle Test Successful

Air Force Lieutenant General Henry "Trey" Obering III, U.S. Missile Defense Agency Director, today announced the successful test of a prototype kill vehicle rocket for the Agency's Multiple Kill Vehicle payload system. The test series conducted July 15-16 by Aerojet General at their Redmond, Wash. plant proved the feasibility of using monopropellant divert and attitude control, a variant of a liquid propulsion system in wide use by many U.S. and International satellites on orbit today, for small kill vehicles.

The Multiple Kill Vehicle is a transformational program adding volume kill capability to the ballistic missile defense system as early as 2013. This is designed to be a force multiplier for all of the elements of an integrated missile defense against threats in the mid-course phase of flight. In the event of an enemy launch, a single interceptor, equipped with this payload, will not only destroy the reentry vehicle, but deployed countermeasures. This many-on-many strategy leverages the Ballistic Missile Defense System's discrimination capability ensuring a robust and affordable solution to emerging threats.

Aerojet is a subcontractor of the Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, Sunnyvale, Calif., the prime contractor for the Multiple Kill Vehicle payload system.

Missile Defense Agency Public Affairs contacts: Rick Lehner, (703) 697-8997 and Chris Taylor, (703) 697-8001. Photos will be available at <http://www.mda.mil>.