

## Appendix J. Newspaper Articles

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NEWS / SCIENCE &amp; SPACE

# Four states to host missile defense meetings

**Next:** Neil deGrasse Tyson falls from grace over quote fabrication scandal

August 1, 2014

10:23 AM MST



*U.S. Missile Defense Agency*

The **U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA)** plans to hold a series of public meetings in the coming weeks to help pave the way for a potential **missile defense** installation in the eastern United States.

The meetings will take place near the four federal sites under consideration: Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ohio; Fort Custer Training Center in Michigan; Fort Drum in New York; and the Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE East) training facility in

Maine.

The agency said the "scoping" meetings will help identify "significant environmental issues" that it must factor into a study of the sites. The study, which is expected to take two years to complete, will look at a how a missile defense installation could affect a host of environmental matters, ranging from air quality to hazardous materials management to wetlands.

"The public meetings will be in an open house format, which provides attendees with the opportunity to talk with and ask questions of representatives from the **MDA** and local installation," the agency said. "Additionally, you will have the opportunity to provide verbal and written official comments on the proposed project."

Meeting dates and locations are:

- Aug. 5: Ravenna High School, Ravenna, Ohio, 6-9 p.m.
- Aug. 12: Rangeley Lakes Regional School, Rangeley, Maine, 6-9 p.m.
- Aug. 13: Rangeley Lakes Regional School, Rangeley, Maine, 9 a.m.–noon
- Aug. 14: University of Maine, Farmington, Maine, 9 a.m.–noon and 6-9 p.m.
- Aug. 19: Carthage High School, Carthage, N.Y., 6-9 p.m.
- Aug. 26: McCamly Plaza Hotel, Battle Creek, Mich., 6-9 p.m.
- Aug. 28: Sherman Lake YMCA, Augusta, Mich., 6-9 p.m.

The missile defense installation would start with 20 ground-based, long-range interceptor missiles and possibly grow to 60. The site would fire interceptors only to defend the United States and not as part of a test.

The United States already has two ground-based interceptor sites in Alaska and California to defend against a limited number of long-range ballistic missiles, such as those that could be fired from North Korea or Iran. Congress has directed the Department of Defense to evaluate eastern U.S. locations for a potential third site to improve protection against Iranian missiles. A decision to proceed with building a third site has not yet been made.

**Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center (CRJMTC),  
Portage and Trumbull Counties, Ohio  
Newspaper Articles in Appendix J**

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## Global Security Newswire

Daily News on Nuclear, Biological & Chemical Weapons, Terrorism and Related Issues

Produced by

**NationalJournal**

### A LOOK AHEAD

July 31, 2014

What's next on nonproliferation and international security, in Washington and around the globe.

-- Aug. 2-9: The Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs holds a series of events in Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorating the anniversary of the two cities' nuclear attacks by the United States during World War 2. A host of additional gatherings to mark the occasion, in Washington and elsewhere, can be found listed here.

-- Aug. 4-8: Geneva, Switzerland, is the host city of the 2014 Meeting of Experts under the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

-- Aug. 4-8: Delegates from U.N. Security Council's committee on Resolution 1540, aimed at advancing worldwide nonproliferation policies, visit Malawi to discuss implementation of the initiative there.

-- Aug. 5: Missile Defense Agency officials will be on hand at Ravenna High School in Ravenna, Ohio, to discuss plans for constructing -- maybe, possibly -- an East Coast missile interceptor site near the town. While the Pentagon has not formally decided whether such an installation is needed, U.S. lawmakers have forced the administration's hand in taking some preparatory motions.

-- Aug. 5: The Brookings Institution hosts issue experts for a panel discussion in Washington about the ongoing crisis in Gaza, posing the question: "No Way Out? Policy Options and Regional Implications."

-- Aug. 6: Tune into a webinar on the latest developments regarding the Marshall Islands' lawsuit against nine of the world's nuclear-armed nations, sparked by the island country's contention that too little is being done toward abolishing nuclear weapons in accordance with the 1970 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

-- Aug. 7: The 2014 U.S.-Korea Conference in San Francisco devotes a panel to the topic of "Challenges and Prospects for U.S.-ROK Nuclear Cooperation."

# NationalJournal

## A LOOK AHEAD

BY GLOBAL SECURITY NEWSWIRE STAFF

July 31, 2014 What's next on nonproliferation and international security, in Washington and around the globe.

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-- Aug. 4-8: Geneva, Switzerland, is the host city of the 2014 [Meeting of Experts](http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/%28httpPages%29/F837B6E7A401A21CC1257A150050CB2A?OpenDocument) under the [Biological](http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/trust-building-efforts-under-biological-arms-ban-near-decade-low/) and [Toxin Weapons Convention](http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/%28httpPages%29/04FBBDD6315AC720C1257180004B1B2F?OpenDocument).

-- Aug. 4-8: Delegates from U.N. Security Council's committee on Resolution 1540, aimed at advancing worldwide [nonproliferation](http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/draft-prepcom-statement-urges-speedier-nuclear-disarmament/) policies, visit [Malawi](http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/transparency-and-outreach/upcoming-calendar.shtml) to discuss implementation of the initiative there.

-- Aug. 5: Missile Defense Agency officials will be [on hand](http://www.mda.mil/global/documents/pdf/CIS_Ravennameetings.pdf) at Ravenna High School in Ravenna, Ohio, to discuss plans for constructing -- maybe, possibly -- an East Coast missile interceptor site near the town. While the Pentagon has not formally [decided](http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/white-house-opposes-house-missile-defense-moves/) whether such an installation is needed, U.S. lawmakers have forced the administration's hand in taking some preparatory motions.

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-- Aug. 6: Tune into a [webinar](http://www.wand.org/trainings-events/coming-soon/) on the latest developments regarding the Marshall Islands' [lawsuit](http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/islands-lawsuit-nuclear-powers-prompts-muted-initial-response/) against nine of the world's nuclear-armed nations, sparked by the island country's contention that too little is being done toward abolishing nuclear weapons in accordance with the 1970 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

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*This article was published in [Global Security Newswire](http://www.nti.org/gsn/), which is*



# Archives

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## **MISSILE DEFENSE MEETING PLANNED PUBLIC CAN ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT INTERCEPTOR SYSTEM THAT MAY COME TO PORTAGE**

**Author(s):** Bob Downing, Beacon Journal staff writer **Date:** August 2, 2014 **Section:** B

The U.S. Department of Defense is holding a public meeting on Tuesday about the possibility of locating an interceptor missile system in Portage County.

The meeting will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at Ravenna High School, 6589 N. Chestnut St. The session will be hosted by the federal Missile Defense Agency and the Ohio Army National Guard.

Activists unhappy with the missile plan intend to speak out against the proposal during the meeting.

The missiles would be located at Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center, the former Ravenna Arsenal that covers 21,000 acres off state Route 5 in eastern Portage County.

The missiles would be used to protect the United States from a missile attack. The existing Ground-based Midcourse Defense system provides homeland defense from a limited long-range ballistic missile attack. Those missiles are based in Alaska and California.

Camp Ravenna is one of four sites under study for housing additional interceptor missiles. The other locations are at military installations in Maine, New York and Michigan. The four sites were first announced last September.

The selected site would have a yet-untold number of underground silos armed with missiles that can be launched in the event of a foreign attack. The missiles are designed to target, track and intercept enemy projectiles above the Earth's atmosphere, well before reaching U.S. soil.

The interceptor missiles are about 54 feet long, about 4 feet in diameter and weigh about 25 tons a piece. Each costs about \$50 million. The missiles are stored and launched from the steel-and-concrete silos.

The missiles do not contain any explosives.

The U.S. Department of Defense has not made a decision to deploy or construct what's called a Continental United States Interceptor Site.

The Ravenna meeting is what's called a public scoping meeting to review the scope of the detailed Environmental Impact Statement. Public input is important to ensure major environmental issues, other areas of concern and alternatives are considered early in the EIS process, the organizers said.

The meeting will be in an open-house format with attendees speaking with and asking questions of the Missile Defense Agency and Camp Ravenna officials.

The public can submit written comments through Sept. 15. Comments can be mailed to Black & Veatch Special Projects Corps, Attention: MDA CIS EIS, 6601 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66211-1504. The fax number is 913-458-1091. The email address is MDA.CIS.EIS@bv.com.

The website is [www.mda.mil/about/enviro\\_cis.html](http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro_cis.html).

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- 10:54 PM

Akron-Canton Airport passengers leave weapons and weird stuff at checkpoints 📷

LeBron-produced TV series "Survivor's Remorse" premieres Saturday 📷

Four Akron residents hoping for fun vacation instead experience Hurricane Odile 📷

- 10:38 PM

Dion Waiters reignites Cavaliers' rivalry with Wizards on same day LeBron James tells him to stop worrying about what others say 📷

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# Public meeting set to review environmental impact of missile defense system on Ravenna

Published: July 30, 2014 8:02PM

The Missile Defense Agency and Ohio National Guard will host a public forum Aug. 5 to discuss the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement for a potential Continental U.S. Interceptor Site at Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center.

Camp Ravenna is one of four locations in the U.S. where the Missile Defense Agency will conduct an Environmental Impact Statement.

The Department of Defense has not yet decided whether to construct a missile defense facility in Ravenna.

The meeting will take place from 6-9 p.m. at Ravenna High School, 6589 N. Chestnut Street, Ravenna.

For more information about the missile defense system, see [this related story](#).

**Headline:** MDA To Hold Public Hearing On Potential Missile Defense Site In Ohio

**News Date:** 8/5/2014

**Media Outlet:** Defense Daily

**Article Text**

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and the Ohio Army National Guard are expected to host a public scoping meeting in Ravenna, Ohio, on Tuesday evening to review the proposed scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a potential Continental United States Interceptor Site (CIS) at the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center. This installation is one of four locations in the United States where MDA will conduct an EIS.

The open house event will provide attendees the opportunity to gather information about the potential project and help the MDA identify environmental and other issues of concern that will be addressed in the EIS. The Defense Department has not made a decision to deploy or construct the CIS and does not have a preferred alternative, MDA said in a statement. In the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress required the MDA to prepare an EIS to evaluate possible additional locations in the United States best suited for future deployment of a CIS capable of protecting the homeland against threats from nations, such as North Korea and Iran. The existing Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS), with interceptors based in Alaska and California, provides protection of the United States from a limited ballistic missile attack, and the proposed system would enhance that protection. Alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS include the No Action Alternative, meaning no CIS deployment; the Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center–Ohio Army National Guard, Portage and Trumbull Counties, Ohio; the Fort Custer Training Center, Mich.; Fort Drum, N.Y.; and the Center for Security Forces Detachment Kittery Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Facility (SERE East), Redington Township, Maine. At each site, impacts will be assessed for a variety of resource categories such as air quality, air space, biological, cultural, geology and soils, hazardous materials and hazardous waste management. Other categories include, health and safety, land use, noise, socioeconomics, transportation, utilities, water quality, wetlands, visual and aesthetic, environmental justice, and subsistence. "We invite the community to learn more about the CIS project and we welcome and encourage feedback," said Rick Lehner, an MDA spokesman. "It's a chance to ask questions, talk with subject matter experts, submit comments and receive additional information about the project." Once the Draft EIS is complete, MDA will host a second round of public meetings to present findings and solicit additional public input. More information is available on the MDA web site: [http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro\\_CIS.html](http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro_CIS.html) . Written comments about the project will be accepted during the public comment period, which extends from July 16 through September 15, 2014. Comments can be submitted via FAX 913-458-1091, e-mail to [MDA.CIS.EIS@BV.com](mailto:MDA.CIS.EIS@BV.com) or by mail: Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp. Attn: MDACIS EIS, 6601 College Boulevard, Overland Park, Kan. 66211-1504. It must be postmarked or received by Sept. 15, to ensure they become part of the official record.

# Portage Co. residents fight possible anti-missile system

August 5, 2014: Camp Ravenna is one of four sites around the county that the Department of Defense is considering. WKYC-TV

Kristin Anderson, WKYC 11:33 p.m. EDT August 5, 2014



(Photo: WKYC)

RAVENNA, Ohio -- Dozens of Portage County Residents are fighting a possible Missile Defense System in their backyards.

Camp Ravenna is one of four sites around the county that the Department of Defense is considering. Other are located in Maine, New York and Michigan.

**RELATED: [Camp Ravenna could be missile defense site \(http://on.wkyc.com/V0jcPk\)](http://on.wkyc.com/V0jcPk)**

Mary Tabather has lived in Portage County for more than 40 years. Like a lot of concerned residents who taped a symbolic target to their shirts, Mary is concerned for her safety.

"The fact that they want to put a missile defense system right here means that all of our enemies will put a big X-mark right on us," said Tabatcher.

The 21,000 acres site was once the Ravenna Arsenal where more weapons were produced during WWII than any other plant in the U.S.

The Department of Defense is in the beginning phase of studying everything there - from the geology of the land to the soil and even housing, transportation and culture of the town.

"If we were to deploy this system and Camp Ravenna were chosen, the people who would operate the system would most likely be a part of the community," said Lt. Col. Chris Snipes with the PM Conus Interceptor Site.

Residents walked around an open house at the high school to learn more about the system. Most say it did not ease their safety concerns.

"When countries around the world are interested in harming us learn that we have a military installation here, we will be on their list," said opponent Mary Greer.

As for Tabatcher, she says enough is enough. "At some point we are going to have to grow up and realize that we are not going to be able to control and dominate the whole world."

The studies could take two years.

Follow WKYC's Kristin Anderson on Twitter: [@KristinWKYC \(http://bit.ly/1nqQRAX\)](https://twitter.com/KristinWKYC)

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Sept. 30, 2014, 10:39 p.m.

# Ravenna May Host Missile-Defense Site

Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at 5:35 PM

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<http://www.ideastream.org/common/images/news/2014/0806interceptor.jpg>

**It was called "Star Wars" during the Reagan administration, but a very real missile defense system has in recent times been expanding along the country's edge. And part of the system may next come to Northeast Ohio. Reporter Mark Urycki has details.**

The army will soon have 40 ground-based interceptor missiles based in Alaska and another four in California. But the former Ravenna Arsenal, now Camp Ravenna, is among four other potential sites the Defense Department is examining.

At a public meeting Monday night in Ravenna, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Snipes said the 55-foot-long missiles would be housed in underground silos.

"Our initial plan right now is to have 20 interceptor silos," Snipes said. "That's what we call our missile defense complex. So we'd have those 20, but we're also looking at the future expansion of up to 60."

The interceptors do not carry explosives, but merely crash into enemy missiles in outer space. As many as 1,800 soldiers would work at the site. The 50-or-so civilians who showed up at the public meeting were mostly positive. But John Garden of Ravenna also both positives and negatives .

"We'll be recognized in the rest of the country as the Ravenna Arsenal is up once again like it used to be. The minuses are, like my son who is eight, he says, would that makes us a target for everybody else?"

Both of Ohio's senators, Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown, are in favor of the project coming to Ravenna.

## Tags

Courts/Crime - Fire/Law Enforcement, Terrorism, [Government/Politics \(http://www.ideastream.org/politics\)](http://www.ideastream.org/politics)

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# Ravenna's former arsenal on short list for missile defense site

Missile Defense Agency visits Camp Ravenna

**BY:** [Dave Arnold \(mailto:arnold@wews.com\)](mailto:arnold@wews.com)

**POSTED:** 7:37 PM, Aug 6, 2014

**UPDATED:** 7:37 PM, Aug 6, 2014

RAVENNA TWP., Ohio - Denise Decker said Wednesday that living along the barbed wire fence next to Camp Ravenna, the Ohio Army National Guard's Joint Military Training Center, is often a test of her nerves.

"They do a lot of training. I know that because I can hear the machine guns. A lot of practice, a lot of practice. Basically training. But, that can get quite disturbing, especially if they're training closer. Sometimes it can sound like a third world country. You're like, whoa, whoa, whoa," said Decker.

Something more than training may be on the horizon for Camp Ravenna, according to Lt. Col. Ed Meade, Garrison Commander at the Joint Military Training Center. Meade said the Army's Missile Defense Agency has been looking at several possible sites in recent years for strategic missile defense locations.

"Originally there were 10 possible sites. That list then was reduced to five, then one of those was taken away, so it's now down to four. Camp Ravenna is one of those four. It is now one of those four under Agency study for two years before the results are turned in to Congress. There are no monies yet for any of those sites. They will be looking at everything from local feedback and concerns, to any environmental impact it may have on each area," said Meade.

Military personnel and local politicians held two meetings Tuesday, one for officials, one as a forum open to the public, regarding the possibilities of a missile defense system being installed at Camp Ravenna. The first meeting was attended by City of Ravenna Economic Development Director Kerry Macomber.

"My view on it is that it would actually be a very good thing for the city of Ravenna; With the potential of hundreds if not thousands of jobs that this kind of an operation would create. I have a lot of confidence in our military system and I think all factors will be weighed carefully and they'll make the best decision for us," said Macomber.

"In many ways I feel safer with security being upgraded for such a project, " said Decker. "I'm still not sure if we would be a better target if they put that in there than we all ready are here. If they go we go. We're all right here next to it. But, I guess we would maybe feel a little bit safer. They may already have plenty of that type of thing there already. We just don't know what's back there."

Ravenna resident and mother of two children Shana King said it still sounds a bit scary to think about from a strategic viewpoint.

"I've never experienced any problems with it (the arsenal) before. We like seeing the helicopters and stuff flying around, we just don't know...uh, it's just kind of scary that they would put a missile launch thing here," said King.

Most military experts admit that any military facility is a potential target to a would-be terrorist. Camp Ravenna is not an exception to that in its current use by joint military forces.

The two year study's gathered facts on Camp Ravenna's viability for such a project is due sometime in 2016.

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NURSING FIELD CONTINUES TO GROW HEALTH, B8

# Record-Courier

COMING THURSDAY: The Bacon Brothers will perform at the Kent Stage while Sutfold hosts music festival this weekend.



## CAVS HAVE HANDSHAKE DEAL FOR KEVIN LOVE

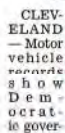
Would end Wiggins to Timberwolves.

SPORTS, B1

## FitzGerald has not had driver's license for five years

■ CANDIDATE FOR OHIO GOVERNOR HASN'T BEEN VALID DRIVER SINCE 2008

By MARK GILLSPIE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS



CLEVELAND — Motor vehicle records show Democrat candidate and Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald didn't have a valid Ohio driver's license for nearly five years starting in 2008, raising further questions about a 2012 incident in which he was found in a car with a woman who wasn't his wife at 4:30 a.m. in a suburban neighborhood.

FitzGerald had only a temporary instruction permit when a worker called police in the Cleveland suburb of Westlake on Oct. 13, 2012, to report suspicious activity at the park. FitzGerald later identified the woman in the car as Joanne Grehan, who was part of an Irish delegation visiting the region. He said Friday the group of people with whom he had been traveling had gotten lost and he was trying to contact her.

One of his top aides, however, has disputed his version of events: Nate Kelly has said he was chauffeuring members of the delegation as a designated driver and didn't get lost.

A police officer noted in a brief report having talked to FitzGerald but did not cite him.

SEE LICENSE, A3

## Portage residents learn about possible missile site



Lt. Col. Chris Snipes, program manager for continental United States interceptor sites, talks about a potential missile site at Camp Ravenna east of Ravenna during a meeting Tuesday at Ravenna High School.

■ CAMP RAVENNA ONE OF FOUR SITES STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR NATIONAL BASE

By MIKE SEVERI | STAFF WRITER

More than a hundred area residents came to Ravenna High School Tuesday to learn and comment on the possible choice of Camp Ravenna, the former ammunition plant east of Ravenna, as the site for an as-yet unfunded ballistic missile interceptor base.

The Missile Defense Agency of the Department of Defense is conducting an environmental impact study of the Portage County site, one of four on the list.

The former Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant is now Camp Ravenna, a 21,000-acre training center operated by the Ohio Army National Guard on land leased from the federal government.

The other potential sites are in southern Michigan, in northern New York and in western Maine.

The missiles, 55 feet long and about 4 feet wide and fueled by solid propellant, are designed to protect against ballistic missiles launched from up to 10,000 kilometers by hitting the incoming mis-

sile, like a bullet hitting another bullet in flight. The system has had at least nine successful test flights.

The system is aimed at defending against potential threats from nations such as North Korea and Iran.

Currently, there are two sites operational for a ground-based Midcourse Defense System, at Fort Greely, Alaska, and Vandenberg Air Force

SEE MISSILE, A3

## Missing Portage girl back at home

■ GARRETTSVILLE TEEN FOUND IN NILES, MAN ARRESTED IN CASE

By DAN POMPLI | STAFF WRITER

A missing Garrettsville teenager is back at home after more than two months.

Portage County Sheriff David Doak said 13-year-old Ashlee Ataman was found in Niles on Sunday. She is back in her parents' custody after last having been seen at a party for a friend in Ravenna on May 25.

"She is in good condition, and we've taken her off the National Missing and Exploited Children list," Doak said.

Doak declined to comment on any details of the investigation into the girl's whereabouts for the past two months or anyone who may have been involved. However, Niles Police Det. Craig Aurilio said Ashlee was found when an officer pulled over a vehicle in which she was a passenger for a bad tail light.

Court records show the driver of that vehicle, David E. White, 56, of Garrettsville, was charged by Niles police with interference with custody, a first-degree misdemeanor, and obstruction of official business, a second-degree misdemeanor.



ASHALEE

SEE GIRL, A2

## Voters in Mogadore turn down school levy for 4th time

■ ISSUE WOULD HAVE GENERATED ALMOST \$500,000 ANNUALLY FOR OPERATING EXPENSES

By DIANE SMITH | STAFF WRITER

The fourth time was not the charm, as voters in the Mogadore Local School District defeated a levy.

The 5.9-mill continuing levy for the district that spans Summit and Portage counties was the only issue on the ballot in

both counties for Tuesday's special election.

A little more than 1,000 voters turned out, with 442 voting in favor of the levy and 586 voting against it, according to complete but unofficial results from the boards of election in Summit and Portage counties.

The levy, which would have generated about \$493,000 annually for operating expenses, would have cost the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$180 per year. For senior citizens, it would have been \$137.28 per year.

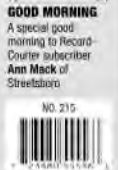
If the district wants to put the levy back on the ballot in November, today is the deadline

to file the necessary resolutions with the board of elections.

District officials said previously that if the levy did not pass, they would have to implement a swath of changes to the schools, including cuts to bus and staff, and new fee structures for athletic programs and for the use of school facilities by outside groups.

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- GOOD MORNING**  
A special good morning to Record-Courier subscriber  
Ann Mack of Streetsboro



## Coleman unveils Phoenix progress

■ VISITORS ABLE TO SEE INSIDE RAVENNA PROJECT

By DIANE SMITH | STAFF WRITER

Visitors to Ravenna's Phoenix Building got a rare chance to see the inside of a downtown landmark on Tuesday, when Coleman Professional Services held a symbolic groundbreaking at the building.

Heavy rains forced Coleman to relocate the ceremony indoors, where they got a glimpse of the bare wooden floors, the exposed brick, the original timbers and remnants of wallpaper from tenants of the past.

Those willing to climb steps to see the second story of the building had a chance to walk the same floors once walked by Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark



Officials gathered Tuesday for a groundbreaking ceremony at the Phoenix Building in downtown Ravenna. From left are Ravenna Mayor Joseph Bica, Ravenna Economic Development Director Kerry Macomber, Coleman Foundation Board Member Dave Petrona, Coleman Professional Services CEO Nelson Burns, Portage County Commissioner Sabrina Christian-Bennett, Rick Coe of Portage Community Rank and Ravenna Councilman

VIDEO & GALLERY

## Kent post office lobby to close at night for repairs

■ NO 24-HOUR ACCESS TO P.O. BOXES FOR CUSTOMERS UNTIL DOOR IS FIXED

By JEREMY NOBLE | STAFF WRITER

The Kent post office is closing its lobby which usually is open 24 hours, at 5:30 p.m. daily until a door separating the retail section from the P.O. boxes can be repaired.

The post office, located at 626 Franklin Ave., notified the public via notes posted on the lobby doors, pointing out that the building will be shut down daily from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 a.m. until further notice.

David Van Allen, a regional spokesman for the United States Postal Service, said the wheels on a door separating the retail counter from the public mailboxes have "disintegrated," so the sliding door no longer functions.

SEE KENT, A7

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**PORTAGE COUNTY GRAND JURY**

*Indictments are only charges and not evidence of guilt.*

■ **Rhea S. Valentine, 22**, of Akron, was indicted Aug. 26, 2013, on one count each of possession of heroin and possession of cocaine, both fifth-degree felonies, and possession of drugs, a first-degree misdemeanor. Valentine allegedly possessed less than 1 gram of heroin, less than 5 grams of cocaine and the drug suboxone on July 3, 2013, according to her indictment.

■ **James J. Hrdy III, 26**, of Middleburg Heights, was indicted Dec. 30, 2013, on one count each of possession of heroin, a fifth-degree felony, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a fourth-degree misdemeanor. Hrdy allegedly possessed less than 1 gram of heroin and several hypodermic syringes used to inject the illegal drug in the parking lot of Fletcher Hall on the campus of Kent State University on Sept. 26, 2013, according to his indictment.

■ **Anthony J. Mazzochi, 28**, of Hilton Head, S.C., was indicted Feb. 4 on one count each of assault on a law enforcement officer and assault on an emergency medical provider, both fourth-degree felonies. Mazzochi allegedly assaulted Robinson Memorial Hospital police officer Hoyte West, kicking him in the head and attempting to punch him, and punched Robinson Memorial technician Tammy Bresnahan in the head and face on Oct. 27, 2013, according to his indictment.



MARC KOVAC/RECORD-COURIER CAPITAL BUREAU  
**A teachers union group gathers for a protest in downtown Columbus Tuesday, voicing concern about standardized testing, the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and other policy issues.**

**Ohio teachers voice concerns about standardized testing**

By **MARC KOVAC**  
R-C CAPITAL BUREAU

COLUMBUS — Jorge Gonzalez rattled off a long list of tests currently required for Ohio's schoolchildren.

"This is what we face: merit pay... right to work, less funding, more students in each classroom, frozen steps, frozen base, third-grade reading guarantee, a rush to (repeal) the Common Core before we know what the standards are..." Gonzalez said.

The Ohio Education Association organized the rally as part of a leadership training session. The union group is particularly concerned about testing requirements, which they say hamper teacher discretion in classrooms and unnecessarily penalize students.

"As professionals, we know that these toxic tests create stakes that are way too high and a school environment that's way too stressful, and that's wrong," Gonzalez said.

OEA President Becky Higgins, a former Cuyahoga Falls resident and longtime teacher in the Copley-Fairlawn district who now lives in suburban Columbus, said state officials are overusing and misusing standardized testing.

"Such tests should be used to shape classroom instruction and help students to learn.

"It's being used, we feel, to punish students and educators and the districts," she said, adding, "All children come to a school and a grade at different levels. So to think that on one test on one day a student has to meet a certain cut score in order to go on... All students are being educated during the year. To think that that one day is going to have an impact on the student's life, we do not believe that's educationally sound practice."

**Streetsboro's bond rating is upgraded**

By **MIKE LESKO** | GATEWAY NEWS

Streetsboro's bond rating has been upgraded from "AA-" to "AA" by Standard & Poor's in New York, one of the nation's top credit-rating agencies. The rating is the second highest category possible, according to Finance Director Jenny Esarey.

The highest rating is "AAA."

"This upgrade actually makes the city more attractive for borrowing," Esarey said, adding the city would get a better interest rate on projects.

"We are absolutely thrilled to have earned the upgrade. The administration has worked hard."

Mayor Glenn Broska agreed, saying the administration and City Council have worked hard "to create a financially stable, economically vibrant city."

"The city has been focused on its economic development efforts, attracting businesses to the community," Broska said, "and has finalized a deal to extend Philipp Parkway, opening up additional commercial development and reducing commercial traffic downtown."

Esarey said there are no plans to refinance in the near future due to the costs associated with refinancing and that the newly issued bonds, issued in 2013 for the water tower and judgment bonds, will be unable to be refinanced until the fall option is available.

Council President Julie Field said the rating upgrade is "excellent news."

"This is a positive reflection on our administration, our mayor and our department heads," Field said.

Esarey said the upgrade occurred after Brian Cooper, the city's financial adviser from ACI Financial Advisors, suggested because of all of Streetsboro's positive budgetary adjustments in the past year, the city should have a review of its bond status with Standard & Poor's. She said she gathered information that was sent to Standard & Poor's rating committee on July 23.

The last review was done in August 2013, and the bond rating issued was AA-minus, Esarey said.

The news about the upgraded rating was received by the city July 23, she said.

Reasons for the upgrading, according to Esarey, were: "The city's per-capita buying income is very strong; the city is maintaining a balanced budget; the city's budgetary flexibility is very strong; and the city has exceptional access to capital. We are very happy to see our conservative fiscal policies are paying off."

Broska noted that the bond rating upgrade occurred while Esarey has been on the job in Streetsboro for less than one year.

**MISSILE**

FROM A1

Base, California, with 30 interceptors on line and another 14 to be added by 2017.

Lt. Col. Chris Snipes, program manager, said about 600 acres would be needed to house the entire missile defense complex, including underground silos for the interceptors and control buildings.

He said plans are for the base to have 20 silos, with the possibility to grow to 60. The complex's acreage would increase to more than 900 acres to fit the added silos. The proposed site would be west of Camp Ravenna's main gate off S.R. 5.

Snipes stressed that no decision has been made on a site. He said the Missile Defense Agency is conducting the environmental study to be ready

in the event the base is funded.

Lt. Col. Ed Meade, commander of Camp Ravenna, said it is too early to tell what effect a missile site would have on the camp's activities as a training center.

Stations around the Ravenna High School gymnasium had displays on the environmental and community resources to be analyzed, and comparison with the other three potential sites.

Some people are in favor of building a missile site, hoping for jobs and a boost to the economy. Others are worried about a missile base making Portage a target.

Joseph Mosykowski of Randolph was one of several people at the forum with bull's-eye targets taped to their chests.

He said he was wearing it "because we're all targets if they build this thing in Portage County. We're the highest populated area out of the four sites they're considering."

"This Congress should take half of the money for this program and just hand it to the politically connected military contractors and build nothing, and then take the other half and fund rebuilding Akron's combined sewer system and give us clean water, something we desperately need in this state. And it'll create more jobs," Mosykowski said.

Diana Kane of Ravenna said she was there to learn more about the project, but is leaning to favoring it.

"I would think most people in this area would understand" the need for a site designed to stop ballistic missile attacks on the United States.

Officials from the Missile Defense Agency noted the Department of Defense is doing the studies at the direction of Congress. No money has been

allocated to build an interceptor base and no authorization to build such a base has been given.

Mary Greer of Shalersville was gathering signatures in front of the school of people opposed to having the site in Portage despite its economic benefits. She said she was gathering signatures to send to the missile agency because she was afraid people would not take the time to make official comments to the Missile Defense Agency.

Written comments will be accepted through Sept. 14.

Comments can be submitted via e-mail to MDA.CIS.EIS@BV.com or by U.S. Postal Service to: Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp. Attn: MDACIS EIS, 6601 Colwell Boulevard, Overland Park, KS 66211-1504 and must be postmarked or received by Sept. 14 to ensure they become part of the official record.

**LICENSE**

FROM A1

If Grehan had a valid Irish driver's license at the time, it would have been legal for FitzGerald to drive with her in the car. Ohio law requires that a motorist with a temporary permit have a sober, licensed driver 21 years or older in the passenger seat next to him.

FitzGerald's campaign spokeswoman Lauren Hitt said Tuesday he "has apologized for the mistake," but she didn't elaborate on what the mistake was or why he failed to obtain a driver's license for so long.

A spokeswoman for Gov. John Kasich, FitzGerald's Republican opponent, declined to comment on Tuesday.

The Columbus Dispatch reported Monday that FitzGerald lacked a driver's license between March of 2008 and 2012.

finally received a driver's license a year later.

It's unclear why FitzGerald, a 46-year-old former FBI agent, assistant county prosecutor, suburban mayor and county executive, the most powerful elected position in Cuyahoga County government, went so long without a driver's license or why he allowed the temporary permits to lapse.

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**PHOENIX**

FROM A1

Twin, who visited the former Day's Hall during an 1869 speaking tour.

Coleman said the first phase of the project, expected to be complete next spring, will include a restored building facade, two to three retail spaces, and 10 apartments for people with mental illness who are able to live independently, including veterans. A second phase is expected to provide other retail and possible apartments at a later date.

Total project cost is \$2.6 million for the first phase.

The East Main Street landmark is now boarded off and blocked by a fence, but on Tuesday people were invited inside the building, where various dignitaries posed with golden shovels that didn't turn any dirt.

Susan Schweitzer, chief operating officer for Coleman, was the original grant writer for the project prior to her promotion. She secured several funding sources, including state and federal historic tax credits, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and funding from Portage County and the city of Ravenna.

She said the building was constructed in 1853. The 1846 date on the building refers to the date the Oddfellows, who still have a hall in the building, were first in Ravenna. She said it was constructed as the first and largest commercial building in Ravenna, and is an important part of Ravenna history. The Oddfellows, she said, added the "fancy cornice" in 1875.

"This rehabilitation project is really a labor of love for us at Coleman, because it encompasses some of the very things we love to do, social enterprise and providing housing for those in need who have mental health issues," she said. "It's all about preserving history, but we're also going to be preserving the lives of the people who live and work here."

Ravenna Mayor Joseph Bica praised Coleman for investing in the project, saying it was an important project for downtown renovation, and would likely spur other economic development.

Dr. Joel Mowrey, executive director of the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Portage County, thanked Coleman and the city of Ravenna for working with Coleman and helping the agency "to do what is right to help others in need."

"When people are already struggling with health issues, stable and appropriate housing is the first step in helping

them recover," he said.

Nelson Burns, president and chief executive officer of Coleman, said Coleman wanted to come to Ravenna to be part of the community where its clients live.

"You don't accept people with disabilities if you put them away," he said. "If you live with people with disabilities, live with people with differences,

you begin to appreciate their strengths, you begin to work together for the common good."

He added that only people who are able to live independently, and who have income to participate in commerce.

"If you don't have a permanent place to stay, you can't get well," he said.

Contact this reporter at 393-256-1139 or dmil@recordcourier.com

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12:06  
Morten Lauridsen: O magnum  
mysterium (Voces8)

12:12  
John Thomas: Men of Harlech  
(Lipman Harp Duo)

12:18  
Felix Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 3  
"Scottish" (Scottish Chamber  
Orchestra)

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Government

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

Will Northeast Ohio house a key piece of the U.S. missile defense shield?

Supporters, detractors and ambivalence mark the first open house to discuss a possible missile interceptor site in Ravenna by WKSU's **M.L. SCHULTZE**



Web Editor  
M.L. Schultze



Two bases are now set up for ground missiles -- both out west. Ravenna is in the running to be third.

Download (WKSU Only)

In about 18 months, people in Portage County are likely to find out if an old World War II arsenal will become the third site in the nation to house interceptor missiles -- the ground-based weapons designed to track and blow intercontinental ballistic missiles out of space.

In The Region:



It's a decision resting on everything from billion-dollar budgets to divining the intentions of North Korea. But as WKSU's M.L. Schultze reports, part of the decision-making played out last night with a small-town feel: an open house hosted by a local high school.

LISTEN: A first look at the missile system that could be coming to Portage County

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At first glance, the Ravenna High School gym looks like it's done up for a science fair.

But mixed in with the tables and easels, maps and charts are lieutenant colonels in full uniform, and videos with messages that are both ominous and optimistic.



About a hundred people are circulating among a dozen tables, raising questions about initialdoms like GMD and EKVs and terms like "boost-phase defenses."

Lt. Col. Dan Martin is here to field some of those questions.

"We want to intercept any of those threats in outerspace in the Exo-atmosphere," he

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explains to a man questioning the number of ICBMs in existence.

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Three other contenders

This same scene will be playing out over the next few weeks at Fort Custer in Michigan, Fort Drum in New York and something called the Kittery Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Facility in Maine. Each is being considered by the Missile Defense Agency to become a Continental United States Interceptor Site - joining the two existing sites on the West Coast.

Lt. Col. Chris Snipes is the program manager for the ConUS interceptor site for the Missile Defense Agency.



Part of his job is trying to figure out what a site would do in each of those communities. And that means environmental studies.

A broad definition of environment

"In the simplest of terms, we're looking at bugs and bunnies."

But there's a lot more: What the project would do to groundwater, terrain, air - on the base and well beyond.

"In our socio-economic pieces, we'll look at potential jobs that are coming in, how is that going to affect the traffic. We're going to have more traffic coming in and off the post, things of that nature. So it looks at it holistically. We look at air quality, look at all the permits we have to gain."

Would the base paint a target on Northeast Ohio?

But many of the public's questions and concerns are about the concept, not the details.



The biggest one has to do with - as Mary Greer, armed with an anti-missile clipboard puts it - making Portage County a target in a hostile world.

"We fear that even though there will be economic impact in the short term from construction, if the site is chosen, that really we're painting a bullseye on Portage County."

Snipes says he heard that concern repeatedly. His response?

"All Department of Defense installations are a target; there's really no way to specifically say that somebody is more of a threat than others or more of a target than others because there's so many different factors that would come into that."

Only in case of national emergency?

Back at his table, Lt. Col. Martin says the interceptor system is crucial to security well beyond Ravenna.

"The only time we would use this system is if a nation would fire an intercontinental ballistic missile against the United States."

So has anyone ever been used?

"In tests, yes. In reality, no. and we hope it is never used in reality."

Dan Fejes says those answers aren't the ones he needs.

"There's no way to look at the money that's been spent on it. There's no way to look at the failures that the program has had in tests that have repeatedly failed even in tests that were designed to succeed. So overall I came skeptical and I'm

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WKSU News: Will Northeast Ohio house a key piece of the U.S. missile defense shield? even in tests that were designed to succeed. So even if I came skeptical and I'm very useful for shop owners, leaving pretty opposed to it."

### Ambivalence and North Korea

But others, including Ravenna Councilwoman Sharon Spencer, remain ambivalent.



"It would bring some jobs here; it would bring some opportunity here. But then you have to look at the big picture and all you can think about are the missiles. And I know it would only be engaged if it was a national emergency. But then you have to think, 'It's right here in our back yard. Is this going to be a target of something?'"

Lt. Col Snipes says three crucial things will play into the military's decision: Cost, schedule and something called "performance metrics," which is "the ability to neutralize a threat from a specific location. What we're projecting as our future threats is North Korea and Iran. So we're using performance metrics from those countries to get to those four locations."

Snipes insists no decision has been made, saying there's even a possibility the entire project could be mothballed if none of the sites work out.

If Ravenna is chosen, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century system, would be installed at what's now an Ohio National Guard base – but which most people around here still call the **Ravenna arsenal** – a place where 14,000 people worked in World War II and which last turned out weapons in the Vietnam War.

(Click image for larger view.)



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**News Date:** 8/6/2014

**Media Outlet:** WTAM-AM (Radio)

**Radio Transcript:**

... Try to understand when countries around the world that are interested in harming us learn that we have a military installation here we will be on their less so if we were to ploy the system if ever there was chosen to have the people who operate this is good for the community and actively one appointed missile-defense system right here means that in all of our enemies we got a big X Mark Wright on us and those residents with Ramona. talking to channel three about a missile-defense system be considered for Ravenna what is better jobs or not in my backyard would concern you if there was a missile defenses of the Northeast Ohio John University ] RBI would be underwater well in Saudi Arabia like a bit of work to my backyard okay what you it is interesting we want to be defense we want to have people take terribles one , the phone system and be safe , like anything else prisons whatever it is not my backyard I want those people around me away lockable not close to where I live I'd like to be saying I'm afraid my target is this the city used to have a lot of the different sides around this town back in the fifties and sixties but usually a lot of around here all my decides or something like that but : and we didn't have a lot of morale cities have them everywhere after the very your even notice her later and decide somebody rushing like I definitely people in Ravenna for going to fire the next what eyes don't see it happening that what I think it's it's I understand the reasoning I know people think like that I probably would too but it's mythological powerlines of misguided little over if anyone is almost right next to me to not understand that you are somewhere for jewelry safe or not at its jobs about my tiltrotor trip your thoughts about the missile-defense system in Ravenna and that's how would you feel they should a letter seems like a good place for one well sourced mobile missile defense system and was signed just completely stupid is to intercept missiles that are sent to the United States from other countries okay it's not for us to fire missiles at other countries its protection from United States of America so let's forget my backyard which is that my street wasn't big okay I want the top general in United States of America will become my Street : top FBI died with my my street I want the medical Mafia woman on my street I want is Landis living on my street and I won a missile-defense system at the end of the street okay and you will let that with all that Mickelson target of people eligible what I'm for certain people power in those areas of course they work but that's what that's how I live that long to have my street okay so that the my Yep and commanders in the top general in the missile-defense system once the winners , all or because one thing the government should



# Key Piece Of Missile Defense Shield Could Be Located In Northeast Ohio

By M.L. Schultze - WKSU/Ohio Public Radio  
Dateline Ravenna, OH  
Updated Wed, Aug 6, 2014 11:07 am



00:00 04:53

In about 18 months, people in Portage County are likely to find out if an old World War II arsenal will become the third site in the nation to house interceptor missiles – the ground-based weapons designed to track and blow intercontinental ballistic missiles out of space.

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played out Tuesday night with a small-town feel: an open house hosted by a local high school.

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Part of his job is trying to figure out what a Conus interceptor site would do in each of those communities. And that means environmental studies.

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But there's a lot more: what the project would do to groundwater, terrain, air – on the base and well beyond.

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But many of the public's questions and concerns are about the concept, not the details.

The biggest one has to do with – as Mary Greer, armed with an anti-missile clipboard puts it – making Portage County a target in a hostile world.

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"There's no way to look at the money that's been spent on it," Fejas said. "There's no way to look at the failures that the program has had in tests that have repeatedly failed even in tests that were designed to succeed. So overall I came skeptical and I'm leaving pretty opposed to it."

But others, including Ravenna Councilwoman Sharon Spencer, remain ambivalent.

"It would bring some jobs here; it would bring some opportunity here," Spencer said. "But then you have to look at the big picture and all you can think about are the missiles. And I know it would only be engaged if it was a national emergency. But then you have to think, 'It's right here in our back yard. Is this going to be a target of something?'"

Lt. Col Snipes said three crucial things will play into the military's decision: Cost, schedule and something called "performance metrics," which is "the ability to neutralize a threat from a specific location. What we're projecting as our future threats is North Korea and Iran. So we're using performance metrics from those countries to get to those four locations."

Snipes insists no decision has been made, and said there's even a possibility the entire project could be mothballed if none of the sites work out.

If Ravenna is chosen, the 21st Century system, would be installed at what's now an Ohio National Guard base – but which most people around here still call the Ravenna arsenal – a place where 14,000 people worked in World War II and which last turned out weapons in the Vietnam War.

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## Windham Township Trustee News

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Aug 7, 2014

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**Windham Twp.** – The Windham Township Trustees met for a regular meeting on July 31, 2014 in the Windham Township Hall with trustees Dann Timmons, Brian Miller and Richard Gano present. The Fiscal Officer was absent.

The reason for having a regular meeting that was not at the usual time was to open bids for the chip and seal of Colton Road. The only bid received was from H. Luli Construction Company of Mogadore, Ohio for \$25,822.92. The trustees expressed their pleasure that the bid came in slightly less than expected and they accepted the bid by unanimous vote.

In other road issues, Dann Timmons reported that Dale Soinski had completed the site for the cul-de-sac at the end of Frasier Road and is now waiting for pavement. Once the county engineers issues final approval, the process to make the land donated by Mr. Soinski and the new construction part of the dedicated road will continue. Mr. Timmons also announced that Mr. Soinski indicated that he intends to place a gate on the vacated portion of the road to deter trespassing.

In zoning, Zoning Inspector Joe Pinti reported he will be posting his hours of availability on the township website when it is completed. In addition, he and Richard Gano are working on updating zoning forms to be more user-friendly. He will also be researching a potential zoning violation where the landowner may be using an unauthorized manufactured home as a residence. Finally, the board is still waiting for answers concerning funding the removal of two non-residential buildings in the township that are in very poor condition and pose potential safety threats.

Richard Gano announced that Larry Cogley has completed his presentation concerning drainage in the cemetery and will be presenting it to the trustees at an upcoming meeting.

Dann Timmons announced that the fire district has not made any decisions concerning possible action since the Village of Windham terminated dispatching after agreeing to provide the service to the fire district through 2019. The inaction of the board stems from two members, himself and the village council representative, having conflict of interest, and the unavailability of one board member due to illness. That one board member was George Bengtson who, sadly, just passed away. It is now the responsibility of the village council to name a village resident as his

replacement. After discussions with the assistant prosecutor, Mr. Timmons suggested that the trustees could pass a resolution to waive conflict of interest that would allow Mr. Timmons to participate in the discussion and vote on a course of action by the fire board. Brian Miller and Richard Gano agreed and the resolution was adopted.

In other business, the Ohio National Guard's Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Site was selected as one of five possible sites for a missile defense site. The Missile Defense Agency, which operates under the authority of the U.S. Department of Defense, will be briefing local elected officials on August 5, 2014 at Reed Memorial library prior to a meeting open to the public. Brian Miller will attend on behalf of the township.

The Windham Township Trustees meet on the first Thursday of each month at the Windham Township Hall, however, the August meeting has been cancelled. The Trustees will next meet on September 4, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

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SAT AUG 09, 2014 AT 01:30 AM PDT

# Missile defense - alive and well, and eyeing Ohio

danps

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On Tuesday the Missile Defense Agency held an open house at a local high school about a proposed missile defense site.

Cross posted from [Pruning Shears](#).

Here are two questions you will not often hear from your average American: How large a threat is Iran's **fictional ICBM** arsenal, and what is the Pentagon doing to protect us from this imaginary threat? I am pleased to report our government is working on the answers. They are, in order, "worryingly grave" and "send more money and we'll get back to you."

I know this because Portage county has been selected as one of four sites under consideration for a proposed ICBM interceptor site. I confess that I haven't kept up with missile defense of

late. I knew it had its roots in Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, that it has been wildly expensive over the years (the New York **Times estimates** \$250 billion), that the priority assigned to it has waxed and waned with **the fortunes** of its political champions, and that it has shown dubious effectiveness. It seemed like one of those zombie defense programs **(e.g.)** that no amount of failure or bad publicity can kill. But I'm resigned to a certain level of expensive Pentagon boondoggles; as long as they aren't being used for saber rattling or launching wars I don't pay close attention.

It turns out, though, that there's more **going on** with missile defense than the occasional **futile and rigged** test:



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The 2013 National Defense Authorization Act requires the MDA [Department of Defense's Missile Defense Agency] to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate possible additional locations in the U.S. best suited for future deployment of a Continental United States Interceptor Site (CIS) capable of protecting the homeland against threats from nations, such as North Korea and Iran. The existing Ballistic Missile Defense System provides protection of the U.S. from a limited ballistic missile attack, and the Department of Defense has not made a decision to deploy or construct the CIS.

No current results.

DANPS'S BLOGROLL

No current results.

As part of the selection process, the **MDA held** (PDF) what it called a public scoping meeting **in Ravenna** on Tuesday to review the EIS.

The MDA had some logo-emblazoned signs in the parking lot directing people to the gym; just outside it was a sign-in table.

Inside the gym was an open house where the public was invited to review placard-sized versions of **these slides**. There were a great number of spokespeople and uniformed personnel on hand. My rough guess would be one for every two citizens.

There was also a "missile defense is wonderful" video showing on a loop, to make sure the public was scoped in the right direction.

There wasn't a huge focus on environmental impact, the ostensible reason for the meeting - it seemed more geared towards selling the public on the program.

The approach was a little off though. For one, there was no introduction to the subject. It

would have been nice if someone from MDA gave an overview of the program, explained why it was vital to national security, what the impact might be locally (both in terms of jobs and environment), and otherwise introduced the topic. Hell, even ODNR **gave us** a canned presentation - the Pentagon couldn't do as much?

Maybe that was by design, however. As a friend emailed: "In the old days they'd have a public meeting where people were allowed to speak and hear from one another in the community. Now things have changed and they just do an information seminar with displays and pick people off one by one for feedback reducing the ability of citizens to communicate with one another."



People just went from station to station and talked to MDA representatives. I spoke briefly to one and asked about the **repeated failures** of the program. He countered that a test **in June** failed to fail, and said that the failures were actually helpful because they helped to understand what to do next. I then asked how much money had **been spent** on the program, and he replied that he didn't know and couldn't speak to it. He suggested that I was taking at a "whole pie" view, and he was just there to discuss one slice of it. I responded that it looked like the MDA was only presenting the slices that looked tastiest, and it would have been nice to see some concerns addressed as well.

Now, those who work for MDA will obviously be in favor of it. At a very minimum it employs them, so if the MDA went away they would either be transferred or out of a job entirely. It isn't surprising that they have a positive view of missile defense. But any attempt to generate public support for MDA ought to treat us like grown ups, and be at least a



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little forthcoming about the problems as well. The "everything is awesome" approach might go over well to those already in favor it, but it won't persuade anyone who has reservations.

It all seemed like a very lightweight and informal way to treat a proposal that could have such significant consequences. That might be enough though. It already has the **vocal support** of both of Ohio's Senators (bipartisanship!) so it doesn't look like there will be much political resistance to it. It may have all just been a formality. I certainly hope for their sake it was, because as I wrote in a comment (and **told a** reporter), I came to it skeptical and left opposed. Whether public sentiment matters is something else, of course.

ORIGINALLY POSTED TO **DANPS** ON SAT AUG 09, 2014 AT 01:30 AM PDT.

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by **dansp** on **Sat Aug 09, 2014 at 01:30:03 AM PDT**

**We should give it a really cool name (11+ / 0-)**

Except I think "The Maginot Line" has already been used.

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by **Major Kong** on **Sat Aug 09, 2014 at 04:29:29 AM PDT**





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# Mon., 11:04am: Hearings focus on missile defense; Camp Ravenna a possible site

August 11, 2014  
Tribune Chronicle

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RANGELEY, Maine - Pentagon officials are coming to Maine this week to discuss a proposal to build a missile defense site.

The Missile Defense Agency is considering four locations in the eastern U.S. for a missile shield system that's supposed to protect Americans from attacks by "rogue states" like North Korea and Iran.

There are currently two West Coast locations.

The Portland Press Herald says the former Loring Air Force Base in Maine was cut from consideration. But Navy property near Rangeley is still in the running, along with Fort Drum in northern New York; Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ohio; and Fort Custer CTC in Michigan.

Meetings are scheduled Tuesday and Wednesday in Rangeley and Thursday in Farmington. Hearings are scheduled the following two weeks in Michigan and New York.

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## Camp Ravenna: Future Missile Interceptor Site?

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**Ravenna** - Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center (Ohio Army National Guard) is one of four new sites being considered by Congress as an “East Coast” national missile defense location. The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) hosted an informational open house for the public at Ravenna High School gymnasium on August 5, with representatives posted by various placards to answer questions from the public. An environmental impact statement is also being prepared for presentation to Congress.

If the local site is selected, ground-based interceptor missiles would be transported along public roads from Akron-Canton Regional Airport or Youngstown Air Reserve Station to Camp Ravenna. Lieutenant Colonel Chris Snipes said the 55-foot-long, 22-27-ton solid propellant missiles would be housed in 20 underground interceptor silos (missile defense complex), with possible future expansion of up to 60 such silos housed under Camp Ravenna’s 22,000 acres. Their range would be up to 10,000 kilometers to intercept an intercontinental ballistic missile.

During the public meeting, if a civilian wanted their concerns expressed in a formal report to Congress, they could fill out a survey form or speak to a court reporter stationed in a corner of the gym. People opposed to the missile interceptor site being located at Camp Ravenna taped paper bulls-eye symbols to their shirts, saying that Portage County is too densely populated for such a purpose, property values would plummet, and the community would become an attack target if the missile site were located here. They also voiced concerns that the large number of hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) waste injection wells in Ohio makes the state more prone to seismic activity, which may not be a stable environment for ground-based missiles.

The other federally-owned locations under consideration include Fort Custer Army National Guard Base in Michigan, SERE East Navy Base in Maine, and Fort Drum Army Installation on New York. Thirty ground-based interceptor missiles currently stand at the ready for homeland defense from Fort Greely, Alaska and Vandenberg AFB in California. Aegis warships are equipped to deploy sea-based interceptor missiles.

In what was termed by MDA representative Ken Anderson as a “capabilities race” rather than an arms race, these additional East Coast sites are being submitted to Congress for consideration in order to bolster the homeland’s capacity to defend itself “against threats from nations such as North Korea and Iran.”

According to an MDA Fact Sheet, “One of the greatest threats facing the world today is the increasing proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction.”

The estimated \$1-\$5 billion proposed Ballistic Missile Defense System at Camp Ravenna would “engage and destroy limited intermediate and long-range ballistic missile threats in space,” intercepting and destroying them before they reach their intended targets. In doing so, the MDA says, “The ultimate goal of missile defense is to convince aggressors that ballistic missiles are not militarily useful or a worthy investment and place doubt in the minds of potential aggressors that a ballistic attack against the U.S. or its allies can succeed.”

Camp Ravenna – formerly the Ravenna Arsenal – was used by the Army during World War II, employing up to 18,000 people to manufacture bombs and projectiles. The site became a National Guard training center in 1971 and now is used to train troops for deployments. Proponents of the missile defense plan see it as an opportunity for Camp Ravenna to be fully utilized again, with the potential for economic benefits for Portage and Trumbull counties.

Of the four sites under deliberation, none is “preferred,” but all meet the criteria for consideration. The environmental impact statement for Camp Ravenna could take up to two years to complete, assessing potential environmental changes on land use, water resources, air quality, transportation, socioeconomics and other factors. The Department of Defense has not made decision to deploy or construct the CIS at this time. This proposal is considered a fact-finding mission in response to Congress’ request in December 2013 for this study to be conducted.

For more details, go to [www.mda.mil](http://www.mda.mil). Members of the public can respond to this proposal through September 15. Email comments to [MDA.CIS.EIS@BV.com](mailto:MDA.CIS.EIS@BV.com), fax to (913) 458-1091 or mail a written letter to Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp., ATTN: MDA CIS EIS, 6601 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66211-1504.

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2014-08-20 / Front Page

## Missile open house held

By Dee Menear Irregular Staff Writer

**RANGELEY** — A group of citizens met one-on-one with representatives from the U.S. Missile Defense Agency Aug. 13 at the [Rangeley Lakes Regional School](#). The open house was held in order for people to give feedback, share concerns and learn more about a potential missile interceptor base to be opened in Redington Township just outside of Rangeley.

The open house was one of four held in [Franklin County](#) last week. Two were held in Rangeley and two at the University of Maine Farmington. In addition to the site at the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape site in Redington Township, the agency is also considering Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in [Ohio](#), [Fort Custer Training Center in Michigan](#) and [Fort Drum in New York](#) as potential interceptor sites.

Stations were placed throughout the gym at the school with information regarding the missiles and how they work. According to Missile Defense Agency information, the site could house up to 60 storage silos and ground-based missiles along with offices, warehouses, staff living quarters and interceptor assembly building and storage facilities.

Where's the story?



8 Points Mentioned

Ground-based interceptor missiles destroy a ballistic missile in air using the force of a direct collision which the military called “hit to kill” technology. Currently, the military has missile interceptor sites on the west coast at Fort Greeley, [Alaska](#) and [Vandenberg Air Force Base in California](#).

The purpose of the open house was to allow the agency to begin to gather information for an environmental impact study. The studies of the four sites will take up to two years to complete and will investigate potential impacts on air and water quality, wildlife and airspace. The study will also consider the effects on quality of life in local communities and will look at the

availability of water service, electricity and housing.

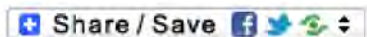
According to the Fort Greeley military website, there are about 1,000 jobs on the base which is also home to the Army Nuclear Power Program. The California base is home to about 3,000 people who work with the missile program and multiple Air Force Command Units. It is unclear how a Maine-based site would affect population or how many jobs would be created.

Written comments about the project are being accepted through Sept. 15, 2014. Comments can be submitted via FAX 913-458-1091, e-mail [MDA.CIS.EIS@BV.com](mailto:MDA.CIS.EIS@BV.com) or by U.S. Postal Service to: Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp. Attn: MDACIS EIS, 6601 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS 66211-1504 and must be postmarked or received by Sept. 15, 2014 to ensure they become part of the official record.

According to a Missile Defense Agency press release, public comments on the scope of the project and environmental issues that should be studied are requested pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. All written comments received during the comment period will become part of the public record and will be considered. Providing private address information with your comment is voluntary and such personal information will be kept confidential unless release is required by law. Your address will be used to compile a mailing list so that you may be notified of any future public meetings and release of the finding. Failure to provide your address will result in your name not being included on the list, and you will not receive notifications about this project.

The agency states no decision has been made on where a potential site could be located. The environmental study will take up to two years to complete.

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OUTDOOR NEWS / SEPTEMBER 2014 / DEFENSE CONTRACT SHOULDN'T INTERRUPT RAVENNA DEER HUNTS

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## Defense contract shouldn't interrupt Ravenna deer hunts

BY JEFFREY L. FRISCHKORN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

September 11, 2014



Ravenna, Ohio — The prospects of a high-security anti-ballistic-missile system being located at Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center ought not to interfere with the 21,418-acre reserve's controlled deer hunts.

Of concern to the Ohio DNR's Division of Wildlife and the sportsmen and sportswomen who apply to hunt here is that such a system would close off access to Camp Ravenna, more popularly called Ravenna Arsenal.

Annually, several thousand applicants submit to a random lottery drawing for an always meager number of permits. This year, for example, 4,798 men and women applied for only 176 available slots.

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And this year the reserve will hold just three hunts: two for adults and one in which lottery-selected women are considered the primary hunters. Those women selected are allowed to harvest any deer while their partners are limited to taking antlerless deer only.

Success varies according to the number of participants selected, which varies each year. Only after joint consultations between the Department of Defense and the wildlife division are held does approval come about for the number of approved hunting slots.

Over the past three years, the tally of deer harvested has ranged from 219 in 2011 to 216 in 2012 and 232 in 2014, said Tom Rowan, assistant chief for the wildlife division.

This year's Camp Ravenna deer herd is estimated to be around 1,100 animals. As such, the reserve needs to keep its deer population in check, and the most efficient method is through the lottery drawing and adherence to both a management plan and a strict set of hunting rules.

Consequently, the hunts almost certainly will go on, even if Camp Ravenna is plucked from a field that includes three other candidates for a much-talked about silo-based anti-ballistic missile interceptor system that could cost upward of \$5 billion.

"We don't believe such a system will impact the hunts, in part because the silos would be off-limits," said Tim Morgan, the environmental supervisor for Camp Ravenna.

Agreeing is Jeff Westerfield, a biologist with the Division of Wildlife's District Three (Northeast Ohio) office in Akron.

"I'd really be surprised if they shut down deer hunting entirely there," Westerfield said.

Westerfield said as well that the only time he remembers Camp Ravenna's controlled hunt being scrubbed was following the al-Qaeda terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001.

"We wanted to get it open again as soon possible because the hunts are much more than just providing recreational hunting opportunity; it's for wildlife management there," Westerfield says.

As for the interceptor missile system, Morgan said initial speculation calls for setting aside 600 acres of Camp Ravenna. Within this small enclave would be installed up to 20 interceptor missile silos, their existence a component of the defense department's Missile Defense Agency.

Each of these silos would likely contain a 55-foot long, 25-ton, \$50 million interceptor killer missile that would be ushered toward incoming ballistic missiles careening from outer space and programmed to strike somewhere within the United States.

These interceptor missiles would not explode, per se. Rather, they would physically strike the arriving ballistic missiles, each projectile traveling at several times the speed of sound, obliterating one another on impact.

Estimates are that such a Star Wars-type, stationary Iron Dome-defense setup could cost between \$1 billion and \$5 billion.

Two such systems are already in place; their job is intended to combat a threat from regimes such as those found in Iran and North Korea.

Currently, one working interceptor missile system is at Fort Greely, Alaska, and another is at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

Thing is, this whole shooting match is one big "if."

While Congress has approved conducting environmental impact studies of Camp Ravenna and the other three potential sites – Fort Custer, Mich., Fort Drum, N.Y., and the Navy-operated Portsmouth Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Training Area near Ranglely, Maine – no final missile installation commitment is included, Morgan says.

Part of the reason for this stems from opposition in the first place to such a system's effectiveness as well as its 10-figure cost.

"All it is right now is a call for a preliminary environmental assessment of each of the four sites, and that's going to take another 18 months to two years," Morgan said.

Thus a decision to install a missile interceptor complex at Camp Ravenna – or at any of the other three candidate sites – is nowhere near at hand, Morgan says. In the end then, hunters hoping their lottery number will come up in the annual drawing to hunt deer at Camp Ravenna still have a chance of being picked, even if the odds are stacked against such luck.

"There's no need to worry; we'll certainly be hunting deer at Camp Ravenna," Morgan says.

*This article appears in the [September 2014 issue of Outdoor News](#)  
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**Center for Security Forces Detachment Kittery Survival,  
Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE East) Training Center,  
Redington Township, Maine  
Newspaper Articles in Appendix J**

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**Headline:** Feds schedule Maine hearings on impact of possible missile defense site

**News Date:** 7/30/2014

**Media Outlet:** Bangor Daily News

**Article Text**

FARMINGTON, Maine -- The Department of Defense is asking for public input as it prepares environmental impact statements for U.S. locations being considered for potential missile defense sites, including one in Maine.

The Department of Defense's Missile Defense Agency is eyeing a U.S. Navy facility in Redington Township, near Rangeley, as a potential home for a Continental United States Interceptor Site. Known as the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape school, the Navy uses the western Maine facility as a cold-weather training ground.

The missile site would be "capable of protecting the homeland against threats from nations, such as North Korea and Iran," by shooting enemy intercontinental ballistic missiles out of the skies, according to the Department of Defense.

The Department of Defense has not yet made a decision to deploy or build the system but is entering early stages by studying the potential environmental impacts on the potential sites, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act.

One of the early steps in that process is a public hearing and comments period. There are four meetings scheduled in the Rangeley area. The first is from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 12 at the Rangeley Lakes Regional School gymnasium. The next meeting will be held in the same place from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 13. On Aug. 14, there will be two separate meetings at the Olsen Student Center at the University of Maine at Farmington, one from 9 a.m. to noon and the other from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

These are "scoping" meetings, meaning they'll help determine the scope and types of environmental issues that will be explored in future environmental studies.

The site would initially include about 20 ground-based interceptor missiles and could expand up to 60 missiles if needed, according to the Department of Defense. There would be no test firing of the missiles from that site, and the missiles would only be launched if the nation needed to be defended from an incoming attack.

Previously, there was speculation that the Department of Defense was considering reviving the missile site at Loring Air Force Base in Limestone. That site was home to a Nike-Hercules surface-to-air missile system until it closed in 1994. Last Fall, federal officials announced Loring was no longer in the running for the new interceptor site. U.S. Sen. Susan Collins, a senior member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, said last year she would continue to press the Department of Defense to consider Loring as a potential location for an additional radar site to buoy a future East Coast missile site.

"In her many conversations with Adm. James Syring, the director of the Missile Defense Agency, Sen. Collins has emphasized that any decision to ultimately locate a missile interceptor site in Maine, or anywhere else in the country for that matter, must have support from those who actually live in the area," Collins spokesman Kevin Kelley said Wednesday afternoon.

Kelley said that a 2012 report by the National Research Council found "significant gaps in our nation's ballistic missile defense system, particularly when it comes to protecting the East Coast."

Last year, budget cuts brought into question whether the U.S. could even afford to build the system in the near future. Missile defense experts say it would cost well over \$1 billion, possibly as much as \$5 billion to build an additional site.

The idea of more missiles already has met resistance from several groups. The Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space issued a statement Tuesday that called into question the effectiveness of missile defense programs because of the "sheer difficulty of trying to have a bullet hit a bullet in deep space at more than 15,000 mph."

"In the end, the program is incredibly destabilizing as the entire [missile defense] program is all about being the shield to take out Russian or Chinese

retaliatory responses after a Pentagon first-strike on them," the network argued.

It also is possible a site near Rangeley could meet resistance because of its proximity to ski resorts.

The other three U.S. locations being considered for the CIS -- Fort Custer Training Center, Augusta, Michigan; Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center, Portage and Trumbull counties, Ohio; and Fort Drum, New York; -- also are holding meetings about the environmental impact statement.

Comments will be accepted until Sept. 15. Those who cannot attend one of the meetings may send written comments, statements or concerns regarding the environmental impact to MDA CIS EIS and by email to [MDA.CIS.EIS@BV.COM](mailto:MDA.CIS.EIS@BV.COM), by fax to 913-458-1091, or by mail to Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp. Attn: MDACIS EIS, 6601 College Blvd., Overland Park, Kansas 66211-1504. Email or fax is preferred.

Follow Nick McCrea on Twitter [@nmccrea213](https://twitter.com/nmccrea213).

Credit: Nick McCrea BDN Staff

**Headline:** Missile Defense Agency to hold meetings on potential Franklin County interceptor site

**News Date:** 8/3/2014

**Media Contact:** DONNA PERRY, dperry@sunjournal.com

**Media Outlet:** Sun Journal

**Article Text**

RANGELEY -- The federal Missile Defense Agency is holding four meetings in Franklin County to seek input on environmental issues and other concerns that people may have if a potential missile interceptor site is located in Redington Township, near Rangeley.

The U.S. Navy's remote training school in the Rangeley Lakes area is one of four sites in the lower 48 states that the Missile Defense Agency is considering as a potential missile-interceptor site.

The U.S. Department of Defense announced in September 2013 that a Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape site in northern Franklin County would be studied to determine its suitability for potential interceptor deployment.

The agency, in cooperation with the U.S. Navy, will host public meetings to review the scope of the environmental impact statement from 6 to 9 p.m. on Aug. 12 and 9 a.m. to noon on Aug. 13 in the gym at the Rangeley Lakes Regional School at 43 Mendolia Road, Rangeley. Two more meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to noon and 6 to 9 p.m. at Olsen Student Center at the University of Maine at Farmington at 111 South St. in Farmington.

"Public input is important to ensure significant environmental issues, other areas of concern, and alternatives are considered early in the environmental impact statement," according to the Missile Defense Agency.

The Department of Defense has not made a decision to deploy or construct an additional interceptor site in the U.S.

The Pentagon also will study Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ohio, Fort Custer Training Center in Michigan and Fort Drum in New York as potential sites. All of the sites are on federally owned land and are operated by the Defense Department, the National Guard or both.

Camp Ethan Allen Training Site in Vermont was initially on the list to be studied but is no longer on it, according to an ad announcing the meetings.

The public meetings will be conducted in an open house format, which will provide those attending an opportunity to talk with and ask questions of representatives from the Defense Agency and representatives of the Redington Township operation.

In addition to the opportunity to attend the meeting and voice input or provide official written comments, people also can submit written comments until Sept. 15. The comments can be emailed to MDA.CIS.EIS@BV.com or faxed to (913) 458-1091. Comments also can be mailed to Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp., Attn: MDA CIS EIS, 6601 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS 66211-1504.

The 2013 National Defense Authorization Act requires the defense agency to prepare an environmental statement to "evaluate possible additional locations in the U.S. best suited for a potential future deployment of an interceptor site capable of protecting the homeland against threats of nations, such as North Korea and Iran," according to the Defense Agency.

The existing ground-based Midcourse Defense System provides homeland defense from a limited, long-range ballistic attack, it states.

The Defense Department initiated a study last year to evaluate the sites in the continental United States for the potential future deployment of additional ground-based interceptors, according to the Pentagon.

Two missile-defense sites with long-range interceptor missiles already are active at Fort Greely, Alaska, and Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. These sites provide protection for the United States against limited intercontinental ballistic missile attacks, according to the Pentagon.

An environmental impact study will take 18 to 24 months to complete once the site study is finished.

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Defense agency plans meetings about missile defense project

# DEFENSE AGENCY PLANS MEETINGS ABOUT MISSILE DEFENSE PROJECT

Published Date Monday, 04 August 2014 22:18 Written by Staff Report

A federal agency called the Missile Defense Agency, in cooperation with the U.S. Navy, announced that it will host public scoping meetings on Tuesday, Aug. 12, at the [Rangeley Lakes Regional School](#), Rangeley, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and on Wednesday, Aug. 13, at the Regional School from 9 a.m. to noon, on Aug. 14, at the [University of Maine, Farmington](#), from 9 a.m. to noon and also from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

#### Where's the story?



8 Points Mentioned

The goal of the meetings is to review the proposed scope of an environmental impact statement for a potential Continental United States Interceptor Site at the Center for Security Forces Detachment Kittery Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Facility (SERE East), Redington Township, according to an MDA press release. The installation is one of four locations in the United States under consideration, the agency reported.

The open house-style event will provide attendees the opportunity to gather information about the potential project and help the MDA identify environmental and other issues of concern that will be addressed in the study, according to the press release.

There has been no decision by the Department of Defense to construct a missile defense site, according to the press release.

"In the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress required the MDA to prepare an EIS to evaluate possible additional locations in the United States best suited for future deployment of a CIS capable of protecting the homeland against threats from nations, such as [North Korea](#) and [Iran](#)," the press release explained. "The existing Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) provides protection of the United States from a limited ballistic missile attack, and the proposed system

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would enhance that protection. Alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS include the No Action Alternative (no CIS deployment) and sites at the SERE, Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center — [Ohio Army National Guard](#), Portage and Trumbull Counties, Ohio; and [Fort Drum, New York](#). At each site, impacts will be assessed for the following resource categories — air quality, air space, biological, cultural, geology and soils, hazardous materials and hazardous waste management, health and safety, land use, noise, socioeconomics, transportation, utilities, water quality, wetlands, visual and aesthetic, environmental justice, and subsistence. The Department of Defense has not made a decision to deploy or construct the CIS and does not have a preferred alternative."

Admiral James Syring, the director of the Missile Defense Agency, last fall informed U.S. Senator Susan Collins, R-Maine, a senior member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, that a site in Western Maine was under consideration as a potential East Coast missile defense site if one is built.

Admiral Syring stated that federally owned land at the Navy's Remote Training Site in Rangeley is one of five sites on the East Coast "under serious consideration" as a potential interceptor site, a press release from Collins' office explained at the time. The site of the former Loring Air Force base in [Limestone](#) had also previously been in contention. Collins added, in a press release from last September, "I know that it will come as a great disappointment to the people of central Aroostook County that the MDA has decided that Limestone will not be included as one of five sites it will continue to evaluate for a potential East Coast interceptor site. The Limestone site received significant support from the Loring Development Authority and the local community. However, as he has testified in the past, Admiral Syring told me that an additional radar is an equally important component for missile defense, and that Limestone might well be a good location for such a radar site. If an additional radar on the East Coast were funded next year or beyond, I would urge that Limestone be strongly considered because of its strategically important location."

Based on comments on the draft EIS, MDA will prepare a final EIS. The final EIS will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency which will publish a notice in the Federal Register, according to the MDA website. Once the NOA is published, MDA must wait 30 days before making a final decision to implement its decision, the agency reported.

For more information, visit

[http://www.mda.mil/global/documents/pdf/CIS\\_EIS\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.mda.mil/global/documents/pdf/CIS_EIS_fact_sheet.pdf);

for more about Sen. Collins and the project, visit

<http://www.collins.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2013/9/missile-defense-agency-selects-federal-western-maine-site-as-potential-missile-interceptor-site>.

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Aug. 11, 2014 - 02:53PM | 0 Comments

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**RANGELEY, MAINE** — Pentagon officials are coming to Maine this week to discuss a proposal to build a missile defense site.

The Missile Defense Agency is considering four locations in the eastern U.S. for a missile shield system that's supposed to protect Americans from attacks by "rogue states" like North Korea and Iran.

There are currently two West Coast locations.

The Portland Press Herald says the former Loring Air Force Base in Maine was cut from consideration. But Navy property near Rangeley is still in the running, along with Fort Drum in northern New York; Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ohio; and Fort Custer CTC in Michigan.

Meetings are scheduled Tuesday and Wednesday in Rangeley and Thursday in Farmington. Hearings are scheduled the following two weeks in Michigan and New York.



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**Headline:** Maine public hearings set on missile defense site

**News Date:** 8/11/2014

**Media Contact:** Associated Press

**Media Outlet:** Alpena News

**URL:** <http://thealpenanews.com/page/content.detail/id/559808/Maine-public-hearings-set-on-missile-defense-site.html?isap=1&nav=5012>

**Article Text**

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Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King said they were monitoring the process to determine if the public supports having a facility near Rangeley that could accommodate dozens of ground-based missiles and silos, along with housing.

Collins, who previously advocated for putting the interceptor site at the former Limestone Air Force Base, noted that the National Research Council has concluded the nation has gaps in its ballistic missile defense.

"This is a concern because an interceptor site would take years to construct and Iran could develop ballistic missiles that are capable of reaching the United States as early as next year," said Kevin Kelley, a spokesman for Collins.

The Limestone idea was scrapped last fall because the federal government no longer owns the land. Another proposed site in Vermont was withdrawn because of lack of support from political leaders there. That left the Navy's "Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape" school in Redington Township; Fort Drum in northern New York; Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ohio; and Fort Custer CTC in Michigan.

Public hearings have been held in Ohio, and will be held in New York and Michigan later this month.

The entire process is expected to take a couple of years.

The land-based interceptors would supplement Navy warships equipped with ballistic missile defense systems. Currently, the only land-based sites are at Alaska's Fort Greely and California's Vandenberg Air Force Base.

King, for his part, remains unconvinced the country needs the interceptor system, and said he "will be in close contact with Defense Department officials to determine whether an additional missile defense site is eventually required to defend the United States," said Scott Ogden, his spokesman

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## Maine public hearings set on missile defense site

**The Associated Press**

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Collins, who previously advocated for putting the interceptor site at the former Limestone Air Force Base, noted that the National Research Council has concluded the nation has gaps in its ballistic missile defense.

"This is a concern because an interceptor site would take years to construct and Iran could develop ballistic missiles that are capable of reaching the United States as early as next year," said Kevin Kelley, a spokesman for Collins.

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**Headline:** Maine public hearings set on missile defense site

**News Date:** 8/11/2014

**Media Contact:** Associated Press

**Media Outlet:** Dayton Daily News - Online

**URL:** <http://www.daytondailynews.com/ap/ap/ohio/hearings-focus-on-missile-defense-site-in-maine/ngzCZ/>

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**Headline:** Maine public hearings set on missile defense site

**News Date:** 8/11/2014

**Media Contact:** Associated Press

**Media Outlet:** Escanaba Daily Press

**URL:** <http://www.dailypress.net/page/content.detail/id/559808/Maine-public-hearings-set-on-missile-defense-site.html?isap=1&nav=5046>

**Article Text**

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**Headline:** Hearings focus on missile defense site in Maine

**News Date:** 8/11/2014

**Media Outlet:** Greenfield Daily Reporter

**URL:** <http://news.vocus.com/?a=18599443479&p=19f&v=1&x=631Q2zcAaxJoy03AXoGk8w>

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**Headline:** Missile defense site being proposed

**News Date:** 8/11/2014

**Media Outlet:** Kennebec Journal

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For more information, go to: [http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro\\_cis.html](http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro_cis.html);[http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro\\_cis.html](http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro_cis.html)

*Kevin Miller -- 791-6312kmiller@pressherald.com Twitter: KevinMillerPPH*

Credit: By KEVIN MILLER Staff Writer

**Headline:** Maine public hearings set on missile defense site

**News Date:** 8/11/2014

**Media Contact:** Associated Press

**Media Outlet:** Marietta Times - Online

**URL:** <http://www.mariettatimes.com/page/content.detail/id/559709/Maine-public-hearings-set-on-missile-defense-site.html?isap=1&nav=5018>

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# Hearings focus on missile defense site in Maine

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Monday, August 11, 2014

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**Headline:** Maine public hearings set on missile defense site

**News Date:** 8/11/2014

**Media Outlet:** Midland Daily News

**URL:** [http://www.ourmidland.com/news/state/maine-public-hearings-set-on-missile-defense-site/article\\_5809dcfc-dae7-5658-aaad-ebf5fbe588c7.html](http://www.ourmidland.com/news/state/maine-public-hearings-set-on-missile-defense-site/article_5809dcfc-dae7-5658-aaad-ebf5fbe588c7.html)

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Maine public hearings set on missile defense site Associated Press

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Posted in State on Monday, August 11, 2014 4:33 pm. Updated: 5:05 pm.

**Headline:** Hearings focus on missile defense site in Maine

**News Date:** 8/11/2014

**Media Outlet:** Midland Daily News

**URL:** [http://www.ourmidland.com/news/state/hearings-focus-on-missile-defense-site-in-maine/article\\_5809dcfc-dae7-5658-aaad-ebf5fbe588c7.html](http://www.ourmidland.com/news/state/hearings-focus-on-missile-defense-site-in-maine/article_5809dcfc-dae7-5658-aaad-ebf5fbe588c7.html)

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Hearings focus on missile defense site in Maine Associated Press

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Posted in State on Monday, August 11, 2014 10:37 am. Updated: 12:04 pm.

**Headline:** Missile defense site being proposed

**News Date:** 8/11/2014

**Media Outlet:** Morning Sentinel

**Article Text**

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*Kevin Miller -- 791-6312kmiller@pressherald.com Twitter: KevinMillerPPH*

Credit: By KEVIN MILLER Staff Writer



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Missile Defense Site

5:40 PM MON AUGUST 11, 2014

# Pentagon Considers Site Near Rangeley for Missile Facility

By [TOM PORTER \(@PEOPLE/TOMPORTR\)](#)



RANGELEY, Maine - Pentagon officials are coming to western Maine this week to gather public input regarding a possible missile defense site in Redington Township. The Franklin County site - which already operates as a survival training facility for the Navy - is one of four locations being considered in the eastern half of the United States. The others are Camp Ravenna in Ohio, Fort Custer in Michigan and Fort Drum in New York state.

Listen  
4:05

*Tom Porter reports on the Pentagon's look at a site in Maine for a missile defense facility.*

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*Hear more from Rick Lehner.*

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*Hear more from Bruce Gagnon.*

Officials say the base would house up 60 long range missiles. There are already two bases established on the West Coast - in Alaska and California - designed to protect the U.S. from attacks by "rogue" states like North Korea and Iran.

"These are very, very advanced interceptor systems," says Rick Lehner, a spokesman for the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency. He says the missiles, once launched, are steered by a command and control system into the path of incoming ballistic missiles while they're in space. No explosives are required, he says: Incoming missiles would be destroyed by the impact of the collision with the interceptor.

However, Lehner says the prospect of a missile defense site in the east is still a long

way off. "There's been no decision to build a new interceptor site," he says. "The sites that we have now in Alaska and California are capable of defending our homeland against what we think would be a limited ballistic missile attack from countries like Iran and North Korea."

But he says the rationale behind having a site nearer the East Coast is that it would be better placed to deal with threats from the Middle East, particularly Iran. If a new base is built, Lehner says there would be no missile testing done from the site - the only missiles launched would be those that are actually being deployed.

Lehner says this week's public meetings in Maine are part of a directive from Congress to draw up an Environmental Impact Statement for the four possible sites, which were narrowed down from a list that was initially in the hundreds.

"What we want to do is get input on what the public and the local governments are concerned about, in terms of water use, land use, electricity, infrastructure, socio-economic, all of those things that we want to find out about, so we can include those in our study," he says.

"There will be jobs related to this - I'm not sure how many, that's going to be one of our questions. What kind of construction jobs, what kind of permanent jobs?" says Tom Saviello, a Republican state senator whose district includes Redington Township, which is near the picturesque Rangeley Lakes region. He says he views the potential base in much the same way as he might regard a proposed factory in his district: There are number of questions to be resolved before he can come to a decision.

"What happens if there's a fire on the base? Does my local fire department go and fight it in the Kingfield area, Carrabasset Valley, or do they have their own fire department? Those are simple questions, but they need to be answered," Saviello says.

Franklin County resident William Rice, a former defense industry employee, also has questions. He wants to know more about the potential risks of transporting 55-foot-long rockets, plus their fuel, to a location in remote western Maine.

"This highly toxic and explosive material would be transported under cover of darkness in a state that is 80 percent forest over curvy mountain," Rice said. "This procedure alone should be a major concern for all the fire, rescue and law enforcement within the entire state of Maine, as far as I'm concerned."

Bruce Gagnon, from Maine Veterans for Peace, has additional concerns regarding the true motivation of why the U.S. might want interceptor bases in the first place. He says they give America more offensive options by removing an enemy's second strike capability.

"Missile defense is a key element in U.S. first strike attack planning," Gagnon said. "It really is not a defensive system at all; it's the shield that goes along with the U.S. first strike sword."

Gagnon, and others, have also raised questions about the reliability of the missiles, pointing out that number of tests have been unsuccessful. The Pentagon's Rick Lehner says confidence in the system is high, pointing out that the most recent test - in June - was successful.

Public meetings in Maine are scheduled Tuesday and Wednesday in Rangeley and Thursday in Farmington.

Learn more about the missile defense site initiative.  
<[http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro\\_cis.html](http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro_cis.html)>

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**News Date:** 8/11/2014

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**Article Text**

A preview of public scoping sessions being held in Rangeley and Farmington next week on whether a site near Rangeley would be a suitable location for a missile defense facility. Three other locations in the eastern U.S. are on the list and the Pentagon has not committed to building the facility.

Federal officials will be in western Maine this week to discuss a proposal that could bring hundreds of jobs and 60 interceptor missiles to the remote mountains near Rangeley in the name of protecting the East Coast from nuclear attack.

The Pentagon is conducting environmental studies of four potential sites in the eastern U.S. for an intercontinental ballistic missile defense system that has been pushed by Congress but may never be built because of tight budgets and performance issues with the interceptors.

One of those sites is a little-known Navy training camp in Redington Township nestled between the Saddleback and Sugarloaf ski resorts. The "Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape" School is where Navy SEALs, pilots and other select personnel go to learn how to survive in extreme conditions, avoid being captured, resist interrogation and escape their captors. The 12-day SERE School program features classroom instruction at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery and field training in Redington.

Whether the SERE School might have to share its space with silos housing 55-foot-long interceptor missiles - or could be displaced entirely - won't be known for several more years. But representatives from the Missile Defense Agency will hold meetings in Rangeley on Tuesday and Wednesday, plus two more meetings in Farmington on Thursday, to gather feedback from the public about the environmental suitability of locating a facility in Redington Township.

Agency officials stressed that these are just preliminary studies for an as-yet hypothetical facility. The Defense Department has said that it does not believe another missile defense site is needed to protect the U.S. against current threats.

"There has been no decision to build an additional missile defense site," said Rick Lehner, spokesman for the Missile Defense Agency. Instead, Congress ordered the Defense Department to conduct environmental impact studies of candidate sites so that construction could begin quickly in the event that the Pentagon decides an East Coast interceptor site is necessary and Congress appropriates the billions of dollars necessary to build, staff and equip the facility.

The potential missile defense site near Rangeley is located in a rugged corner of western Maine where outdoor recreation is the primary economic driver. Sugarloaf and Saddleback ski resorts are both nearby, but separated by several mountains. Rangeley and Rangeley Lake are roughly 10 miles to the west, and the Appalachian Trail passes close to the site.

Despite the location, Fred Hardy, chairman of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, said the topic hasn't come up at the group's meetings. "Not at all," said Hardy.

Asked his opinion on the potential facility, Hardy said he was not opposed to an interceptor missile system in the county, but he wondered how much long-term employment it would generate after construction.

The issue has caught the attention of one of Maine's anti-war groups. Bruce Gagnon of Maine Veterans for Peace said he and several other members plan to attend some of the meetings this week. They also are organizing a multi-day march from Rangeley to North Berwick in October to call attention to the missile defense study and what Gagnon said is the Maine economy's increasing reliance on defense spending.

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The current generation of ground-based interceptors do not carry explosive warheads. Instead, the interceptors are launched via rocket into space along the trajectory of the incoming missile. A separating "kill vehicle" then uses its own sensors, propulsion and outside guidance to crash into the

incoming warhead. The Pentagon also operates another system, known as the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System, that is based on Navy destroyers and cruisers.

The ground-based system - estimated to have cost taxpayers \$40 billion so far - has a spotty record, however. Ground-based interceptors have failed to destroy their target in roughly half of the 17 tests conducted. The most recent test from Vandenberg Air Force Base in June was a success.

A 2012 report by the National Research Council found significant problems with the ground-based system, but also warned of serious holes in the nation's defense system against intercontinental ballistic missiles. The report recommended building a new type of interceptor system in either Caribou, Maine, or upstate New York to better protect the East Coast.

That report bolstered congressional support - strongest among Republicans - for another facility to protect the East Coast from potential nuclear threats from North Korea and Iran. Congress directed the Pentagon to evaluate potential sites, and that list of hundreds was eventually narrowed to five: the Navy training school in Redington Township; Fort Drum in northern New York; Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ohio; Fort Custer CTC in Michigan; and Camp Ethan Allen in Vermont.

Republican U.S. Sen. Susan Collins of Maine pushed hard for the Pentagon to consider the former Loring Air Force Base in Limestone, but the site was eliminated because the federal government no longer owns the land. The Vermont location was dropped from the short list, meanwhile, after all members of Vermont's congressional delegation as well as the governor came out strongly against the project.

Tom Collina, research director at a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit called the Arms Control Association, argued that the environmental impact studies and field meetings are a waste of money on facilities that will never be built. Collina called the procedure "political theater" orchestrated by Republicans in Congress as well as Democratic lawmakers whose districts could benefit from the facilities.

"I think it is very unlikely given the budget pressure that Congress and the federal government are under right now, but also because the systems we have on the West Coast are not doing very well," said Collina, whose organization promotes "effective arms control policies."

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The environmental impact studies of each site will take up to two years to complete and will examine the facilities' potential impacts on air and water quality, wildlife and the local airspace. The study will consider the effects on quality of life in the nearby communities and will examine the availability of water service, electricity and housing.

The Maine site appears to have some logistical challenges when compared with others on the list.

For instance, the buildings, silos and support facilities would have to be built in several locations on the site because of the steep terrain. The 55-foot-long interceptors would be transported from Bangor International Airport by road, and parts of routes 27 and 4 might need upgrades to accommodate the silos and other components.

The Missile Defense Agency will hold so-called scoping sessions in Maine this week in an "open house format" - rather than formal presentations with public comment periods - allowing visitors to talk with agency representatives individually. The meetings are scheduled for Tuesday from 6 to 9 p.m. at Rangeley Lakes Regional School; Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon at Rangeley Lakes Regional School; and two sessions Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon and 6 to 9 p.m. at the University of Maine at Farmington. For more information, go to [www.mda.mil/about/enviro\\_cis.html](http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro_cis.html) Kevin Miller can be contacted at 791-6312 or at: [kmiller@pressherald.com](mailto:kmiller@pressherald.com) Twitter: KevinMillerPPH

Credit: By KEVIN MILLER Staff Writer

# Hearings focus on missile defense site in Maine

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## Team exploring sites for missile defense facility visits Maine

By Kevin Miller  
Portland Press Herald  
Published: August 11, 2014

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Fort Drum in New York and Fort Custer in Michigan, meanwhile, each offer two potential sites for the facility and have airfields on site or local airports capable of accepting delivery of the interceptors. Custer also has Air National Guard facilities that could be converted to use for the missile defense system.

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**Headline:** Hearings focus on missile defense site in Maine

**News Date:** 8/11/2014

**Media Outlet:** WFMJ-TV - Online

**URL:** <http://www.wfmj.com/story/26248495/hearings-focus-on-missile-defense-site-in-maine>

**Article Text**

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8/11/2014

**Media Outlet**

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**URL**

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**News Date:** 8/11/2014

**Media Contact:** Associated Press

**Media Outlet:** The Intelligencer Online

**URL:** <http://www.theintelligencer.net/page/content.detail/id/559709/Maine-public-hearings-set-on-missile-defense-site.html?isap=1&nav=536>

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Sun Journal

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**Media Outlet:** Belmont County Times Leader

**URL:** <http://www.timesleaderonline.com/page/content.detail/id/559709/Maine-public-hearings-set-on-missile-defense-site.html?isap=1&nav=5019>

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**Headline:** Maine public hearings set on missile defense site

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# Missile defense system proposal discussed in Rangeley

Posted by [Bobbie Hanstein](#) • August 12, 2014 •



Presenters of the U.S. Department of Defense's Missile Defense Agency and U.S. Navy discuss with residents the proposal to site a missile defense system near Rangeley.

RANGELEY - A number of residents and 20 presenters from The Department of Defense's Missile Defense Agency and U.S. Navy attended an informational meeting Tuesday night held at the Rangeley Lakes Regional School to learn about a proposal to build a missile defense system in Redington Township and gage the public's take on it.

There are three more informational meetings to be held Wednesday morning 9 a.m. to noon at the Rangeley school and two on Thursday, from 9 a.m. until noon and the last from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the University of Maine at Farmington Olson Student Center that have been set up to provide information and gather comments from the public on the proposal. The comments will be put on record as part of the project's required environmental impact statement.

The site is one of four under consideration for a missile deployment system in the federally-owned and current 12,499-acre home of the Navy's Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape training facility. The three other sites under consideration for the installation are Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ohio, Fort Drum in New York and Fort Custer Training Center in Michigan.

There is a possibility that none of the sites would be chosen, said Ralph Scott of the Missile Defense Agency. But if one is selected, it would consist of an initial potential deployment of 20 ground-based interceptors designed to shoot down incoming ballistic missiles in outer space.

The site could eventually expand its interceptor count to as many as 60 ground-based interceptors and silos over 850 cleared acres in Redington Township, adjacent the town of Rangeley and



situated roughly between the ski areas of Saddleback and Sugarloaf. Other elements of the continental interceptor site would consist of launch field equipment, support facilities such as a missile assembly building and interceptor storage, offices and warehousing. Other support infrastructure such as new roads built and housing for both military and civilian personnel, which is estimated to number more than 1,000, are being considered.

According to presenters Tuesday night, the interceptors are 55 feet long, and weigh 22 to 27 tons. No test firings would be conducted from the site, said Maj. Keith Tucker. The use of interceptors would be only in the event of an attack.



The missile interceptors are 55 feet long, and weigh 22 to 27 tons.

The site would be accessed from Route 16, the current entrance to the Navy's training site. Due to the terrain, the missile defense system would need to be located on a few different hilltop sites. The gravel road into the facility would need to be paved and living facilities for maintenance and security personnel would be constructed on the location. Roads from Augusta to Rangeley, Routes 27 and 4, would probably need to be upgraded to support the transport of missiles and other construction equipment that would be coming from Bangor to the site, according to the information presented.

Part-time Rangeley resident Nancy Skean was disappointed at the presentation set up for those attending the meeting. Illustrated posters ringed the school's gym, with many presenters answering the questions of those attending.

"I needed a general overview of this whole missile thing," she said. "I'm not a military person who knows what all these acronyms mean."

Scott said they have found the one-on-one format to be most effective in answering individual questions. "Not everyone is comfortable getting up in front of a lot of people to ask a question," he explained.

Skean added she wanted to know why this location is being considered and what it will mean to Rangeley.

Ellis Gilliland of the Missile Defense Agency said the answer is, "it's a great location. If something were shot at the east coast- which if you look at a globe, would fly over Greenland- the interceptor (in Rangeley) would be in a great position to stop it."

While Gilliland noted "everything is covered now" in terms of missile interceptor launch sites in the continental U.S. should an attack occur, the additional site, whether it's Rangeley or another of the three under consideration, "would enhance the coverage."



Ellis Gilliland, at left, of the Missile Defense Agency talks with Rangeley Selectman Rob Welch at the meeting Tuesday night on a proposal to site a missile defense system near Rangeley.

"There's a threat coming not just from Iraq; there are more places to be worried about," he said. The literature handed out at the meeting listed North Korea and Iran.

Pointing to a map of the proposed site, Rangeley Selectman Rob Welch said the area is mostly wetlands. He also noted the town's water district headquarters and the Poland Spring pumping site are nearby where proposed new paved roads and other infrastructure upgrades may impact the area.

"We just finished Rangeley's comprehensive plan when we asked ourselves: why do people come to Rangeley? Because it has beautiful streams and lakes and mountains and people can get away from it all. How does this ethos affect those who come here to get away from the world's realities," he asked and then said, what would happen to that ideal if a missile defense system were to be built here?

There is a positive side to it, Welch noted, in that more jobs would be available, new families would come to Rangeley and federally-funded infrastructure upgrades to town could include the

local school to accommodate the increase in population.

"We need to look at it from all sides," Welch said.

Besides asking questions and providing comments at the scheduled meetings, the public can submit their written or oral comments about the proposal to be on record as part of the environmental impact statement. The environmental study, conducted by the Missile Defense Agency, studies the area's impact if a missile installation were to be built here. The study and its findings is expected to take two years, Scott said.

More information is available on the MDA web site: [www.mda.mil/about/enviro\\_CIS.html](http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro_CIS.html). Written comments about the project will be accepted during the public comment period, which extends to Sept. 15, 2014. Comments can be submitted via FAX 913-458-1091, e-mail to: [MDA.CIS.EIS@BV.com](mailto:MDA.CIS.EIS@BV.com) or by U.S. Postal Service to: Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp. Attn: MDACIS EIS, 6601 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS 66211-1504 and must be postmarked or received by Sept. 15, 2014 to ensure they become part of the official record.

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## 30 Responses »

1. *Steve Espeaignnette*  
**August 13, 2014 • 6:39 am**

With the world threats that we now face from Russia, North Korea, China and other nations, this could be a great addition to the defense of the Eastern United States. I do not believe this would change Rangeley much at all. You are not really even going to know that this is up in Redington. It will be great for the local and surrounding economy, as the area needs better paying jobs in Franklin County. Our world is changing very very quickly, we have to be forward thinking and be prepared for what is to come. We need to think about the country that we love and what is at stake by not taking an active role in defending the good ole USA!

2. *david firsching*  
**August 13, 2014 • 7:21 am**

Well said,Steve.

3. *M Moore*  
**August 13, 2014 • 1:56 pm**

If the town of Rangleley wants to be the first ones to be wiped out in case of was, go ahead and let the missle site be built . It sure to get a few missles from some where pointed in there direction. At least be of intrest to the people who are trying to distroy our way of life. Just food for thought.

4. *Connie Canney*  
**August 13, 2014 • 2:47 pm**

Good question!! Why is this location being considered and what will it mean to Rangeley? And "Not everyone is comfortable getting up in front of a lot of people to ask a question," is NOT a good reason to discourage it. The "one- on-one" approach is meant to do just that.

5. *Taryn Canney*  
**August 13, 2014 • 2:59 pm**



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['Rudman Center Conversations](#)  
[With The Candidates'](#)

New England News

3:49 PM TUE AUGUST 12, 2014

## Pentagon Considers Maine Site For Missile Facility

By TOM PORTER

Pentagon officials are coming to western Maine this week to gather public input regarding a possible missile defense site in Redington Township.

The Franklin County site - which already operates as a survival training facility for the Navy - is one of four locations being considered in the eastern half of the United States. The others are Camp Ravenna in Ohio, Fort Custer in Michigan and Fort Drum in New York state.



<http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/nhpr/files/201408/missile.JPG>

*Credit Via US Department of Defense*

Officials say the base would house up to 60 long range missiles. There are already two bases established on the West Coast - in Alaska and California - designed to protect the U.S. from attacks by "rogue" states like North Korea and Iran.

"These are very, very advanced interceptor systems," says Rick Lehner, a spokesman for the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency. He says the missiles, once launched, are steered by a command and control system into the path of incoming ballistic missiles while they're in space. No explosives are required, he says: Incoming missiles would be destroyed by the impact of the collision with the interceptor.

However, Lehner says the prospect of a missile defense site in the east is still a long way off. "There's been no decision to build a new interceptor site," he says. "The sites that we have now in Alaska and California are capable of defending our homeland against what we think would be a limited ballistic missile attack from countries like Iran and North Korea."

But he says the rationale behind having a site nearer the East Coast is that it would be better placed to deal with threats from the Middle East, particularly Iran. If a new base is built, Lehner says there would be no missile testing done from the site - the only missiles launched would be those that are actually being deployed.

Lehner says this week's public meetings in Maine are part of a directive from Congress to draw up an Environmental Impact Statement for the four possible sites, which were narrowed down from a list that was initially in the hundreds.

"What we want to do is get input on what the public and the local governments are concerned about, in terms of water use, land use, electricity, infrastructure, socio-economic, all of those things that we want to find out about, so we can include those in our study," he says.

"There will be jobs related to this - I'm not sure how many, that's going to be one of our questions. What kind of construction jobs, what kind of permanent jobs?" says Tom Saviello, a Republican state senator whose district includes Redington Township, which is near the picturesque Rangeley Lakes region. He says he views the potential base in much the same way as he might regard a proposed factory in his district: There are number of questions to be resolved before he can come to a decision.

"What happens if there's a fire on the base? Does my local fire department go and fight it in the Kingfield area, Carrabasset Valley, or do they have their own fire department? Those are simple questions, but they need to be answered," Saviello says.

Franklin County resident William Rice, a former defense industry employee, also has questions. He wants to know more about the potential risks of transporting 55-foot-long rockets, plus their fuel, to a location in remote western Maine.

"This highly toxic and explosive material would be transported under cover of darkness in a state that is 80 percent forest over curvy mountain," Rice said. "This procedure alone should be a major concern for all the fire, rescue and law enforcement within the entire state of Maine, as far as I'm concerned."

Bruce Gagnon, from Maine Veterans for Peace, has additional concerns regarding the true motivation of why the U.S. might want interceptor bases in the first place. He says they give America more offensive options by removing an enemy's second strike capability.

"Missile defense is a key element in U.S. first strike attack planning," Gagnon said. "It really is not a defensive system at all; it's the shield that goes along with the U.S. first strike sword."

Gagnon, and others, have also raised questions about the reliability of the missiles, pointing out that number of tests have been unsuccessful. The Pentagon's Rick Lehner says confidence in the system is high, pointing out that the most recent test - in June - was successful.

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*The story appears courtesy MPBN News. You can read and listen to that network's radio version [right here](http://news.mpbn.net/post/pentagon-considers-site-near-rangeley-missile-facility). (<http://news.mpbn.net/post/pentagon-considers-site-near-rangeley-missile-facility>)*

*[Learn more](http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro_cis.html) ([http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro\\_cis.html](http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro_cis.html)) about the missile defense site initiative.*

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**Media Outlet:** Weirton Daily Times

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**Media Outlet:** Groversville Leader-Herald

**URL:** <http://leaderherald.com/page/content.detail/id/559804/Maine-public-hearings-set-on-missile-defense-site.html?isap=1&nav=5040>

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# In Maine, Missiles Get Mixed Reaction

Wednesday, October 1, 2014, Watertown, NY



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Story Published: Aug 13, 2014 at 3:24 PM EDT  
(Story Updated: Aug 13, 2014 at 6:18 PM EDT)

The public reaction in western Maine to a proposed missile defense site is mixed.

The Pentagon is considering whether to place a missile defense site on the east coast - a naval training site in Maine is one possibility, Fort Drum is another. In all, four sites are under consideration.

This week, it was Maine's turn to hear from - and speak to - officials from the Department of Defense.

Next Tuesday night, August 19, at Carthage Central school, it will be Fort Drum's turn.

Television station WGME spoke with a couple of people who live near the proposed Maine site, during a session in Rangeley, Maine Tuesday night. (Seen in our picture.)

One of them, Ann Baker, was skeptical. Baker wondered about the effect of a missile site "to the wildlife, to the water - we don't know how that's gonna go."

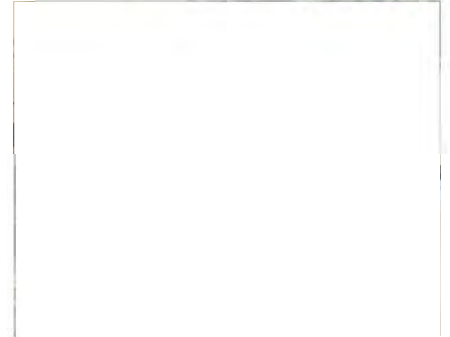
But another, Tom Sullivan, said "We need that kind of thing. We just need to get away from a seasonal economy. This would help."

As well, Maine's public radio reported on the ambivalence some people feel.

"There will be jobs related to this - I'm not sure how many, that's going to be one of our questions. What kind of construction jobs, what kind of permanent jobs?" Tom Saviello, a Republican state senator told MPBN.

"What happens if there's a fire on the base? Does my local fire department go and fight it in the Kingfield area, Carrabasset Valley, or do they have their own fire department? Those are simple questions, but they need to be answered," Saviello said.

The idea of a missile defense system - there are two sites already on the west coast - is that rockets launched from the site would destroy incoming enemy rockets before they could strike the U.S. However, the technology is highly questionable; a Los Angeles Times investigation earlier this year disclosed that after a decade of work and \$40 billion spent, the system still can't reliably shoot down incoming missiles, even when the tests are scripted.



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**Headline:** Missile meeting draws dozens

**News Date:** 8/13/2014

**Media Contact:** Jesse Scardina

**Media Outlet:** Kennebec Journal

**Article Text**

Missile Defense Agency officers gather environmental impact information

RANGELEY -- Dozens of Franklin County residents gathered on Tuesday night in Rangeley Lakes Regional School to solicit information about the potential construction of a Missile Defense Agency interceptor facility in nearby Redington Township.

Residents, including selectmen, the fire chief and concerned and curious citizens, clustered around about 15 informational posters, asking questions about the potential economic and environmental effect the interceptor facility would have on the tranquil outdoor community.

"There would be concerns about what the impact would be on changing the nature of the community," said Cathryn Thorup, a Rangeley resident. "Rangeley is a community that has been based on outdoor tourism, which defines the character of the community. Anything that would challenge that would be of serious concern."

The informal, conversation-based platform was designed to elicit comments, concerns and questions from area residents before the MDA continues formulating its environmental impact statement. The statement will report on the effect of the construction and maintenance of such a facility, which would be housed at the Center for Security Forces Detachment Kittery -- Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Facility in Redington Township. The SERE facility would stay where it is, while the MDA interceptor facility would operate on Department of Defense-owned land.

The MDA held the forum to gather comments from residents.

"They're at a point now where they don't have a lot of information to share with us yet with the specific impact on Rangeley," Thorup said. "I'm trying to figure out the environment impact it may have and the impact on the quality of life in the community, what it will do to the ground water and wildlife."

Army Maj. Chris Anderson, who was answering questions at the first poster as residents entered the gymnasium, said the most common questions in the first hour were how construction would affect the surrounding area, which is dotted with lakes, forests and mountains, and whether such a site paints a target on Franklin County.

"We're getting some great questions, really getting into it," Anderson said. "There are environmental impacts, and that's why we're doing an environmental impact statement to see what those impacts would be on vegetation, animal species and other things."

The study will evaluate the effect of building up to 60 ground-based interceptors and silos, interceptor fields, mission support facilities, nonmissile facilities, living quarters and transportation routes; and of decommissioning and disposal of components; and of conducting day-to-day operations.

The Redington location is one of four of about 450 still being considered, along with Fort Drum, N.Y., Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ohio and Fort Custer Training Center in Augusta, Mich.

Roughly 50 people attended the first hour of the three-hour public forum.

"The more people that come out, the better gauge of the community response," said Ralph Scott, public affairs officer for the MDA.

Rob Welch, a selectman in Rangeley who has lived in the town since 1972, said this is the first of many conversations the town will have with the MDA and other military agencies about the proposal.

"This process, going from station to station, is a fragmentation of ideas and of comments," Welch said. "I'm here to learn. This may be something we want, but this is one of many steps. I want to know what this does long-term to the psychology of Rangeley.

Standing at one of the posters, soliciting information from Army Lt. Col. Dan Martin, was Rangeley Fire Chief Tim Pellerin. With the greater community in mind, Pellerin asked Martin about any hazardous materials that would be housed at the facility -- which wouldn't be much, other than some rocket fuel, according to Martin -- and how responsive the facility would be if emergency and fire personnel needed to enter. Pellerin and Martin talked for about 10 minutes before the fire chief moved along to another informational poster.

"That's what we're doing with the start of this impact study," Martin said. "We want feedback from the community so that we cover everything."

*Jesse Scardina -- 861-9239jscardina@centralmaine.comTwitter: @jessescardina*

Credit: By jesse scardina Staff Writer

**Headline:** Missile meeting draws dozens

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**Media Outlet:** Morning Sentinel

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The MDA held the forum to gather comments from residents.

"They're at a point now where they don't have a lot of information to share with us yet with the specific impact on Rangeley," Thorup said. "I'm trying to figure out the environment impact it may have and the impact on the quality of life in the community, what it will do to the ground water and wildlife."

Army Maj. Chris Anderson, who was answering questions at the first poster as residents entered the gymnasium, said the most common questions in the first hour were how construction would affect the surrounding area, which is dotted with lakes, forests and mountains, and whether such a site paints a target on Franklin County.

"We're getting some great questions, really getting into it," Anderson said. "There are environmental impacts, and that's why we're doing an environmental impact statement to see what those impacts would be on vegetation, animal species and other things."

The study will evaluate the effect of building up to 60 ground-based interceptors and silos, interceptor fields, mission support facilities, nonmissile facilities, living quarters and transportation routes; and of decommissioning and disposal of components; and of conducting day-to-day operations.

The Redington location is one of four of about 450 still being considered, along with Fort Drum, N.Y., Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ohio and Fort Custer Training Center in Augusta, Mich.

Roughly 50 people attended the first hour of the three-hour public forum.

"The more people that come out, the better gauge of the community response," said Ralph Scott, public affairs officer for the MDA.

Rob Welch, a selectman in Rangeley who has lived in the town since 1972, said this is the first of many conversations the town will have with the MDA and other military agencies about the proposal.

"This process, going from station to station, is a fragmentation of ideas and of comments," Welch said. "I'm here to learn. This may be something we

want, but this is one of many steps. I want to know what this does long-term to the psychology of Rangeley.

Standing at one of the posters, soliciting information from Army Lt. Col. Dan Martin, was Rangeley Fire Chief Tim Pellerin. With the greater community in mind, Pellerin asked Martin about any hazardous materials that would be housed at the facility -- which wouldn't be much, other than some rocket fuel, according to Martin -- and how responsive the facility would be if emergency and fire personnel needed to enter. Pellerin and Martin talked for about 10 minutes before the fire chief moved along to another informational poster.

"That's what we're doing with the start of this impact study," Martin said. "We want feedback from the community so that we cover everything."

*Jesse Scardina -- 861-9239jscardina@centralmaine.com Twitter: @jessescardina*

Credit: By jesse scardina Staff Writer

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## MDA wraps up missile defense site informational meetings, EIS is next

Posted by [Ben Hanstein](#) • August 14, 2014 •



Officials with the Department of Defense's Missile Defense Agency and U.S. Navy meet with people interested in the possibility of a missile defense installation being constructed in northern Franklin County.

FARMINGTON - After more than 175 attendees and significant written and oral public commentary collected in Franklin County, officials associated with the Department of Defense's Missile Defense Agency will be heading off to New York and then Michigan later this month, as they continue to schedule informational meetings ahead of a study that will examine the environmental impact of installing a missile defense site in several locations across the country.

Approximately 25 residents had signed in with the meeting organizers roughly halfway through Thursday evening's event, many of them leaving written comments that will be considered as part of the Environmental Impact Statement that MDA officials estimated would take about two years to complete. Others left oral comments utilizing a microphone manned by a technician in a quiet corner of the Olsen Student Center's North Dining Hall.

The MDA is currently looking into four different sites as possible locations to deploy one facility capable of storing and launching 20 ground-based interceptors: Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ohio, Fort Drum in New York, Fort Custer Training Center in Michigan and the U.S. Navy's Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape training facility in Redington Township.

No decision has been reached to install the missile defense site, and it is possible that none of the four sites would be chosen.

If selected, and the missile defense site was approved for installation, the 12,500 acre, federally-owned SERE site would become the home of a 600- to 800-acre facility, employing somewhere between 1,200 and 1,800 personnel. According to U.S. Navy Community Plans & Liaison Officer Gary Dion-Bernier, planners are estimating the number of personnel based on a similar facility in Alaska, which holds 30 interceptors. The new site was being planned with a 20-interceptor fleet in mind, Dion-Bernier said, but the MDA had also been asked by Congress to include the capability

to expand the site's capacity to 60 interceptors.

In addition to the launch facility, Dion-Bernier said, the site would include "life support" amenities such as dormitories, cafeterias and so forth, as well as other supporting facilities. "It'd basically be a small military installation," he said.

Included within the scope of the Redington Township-portion of applicable environmental studies, ranging from vernal pools to aviary impact to watersheds, is 5,700 acres of the SERE facility.

The site would be accessed from Route 16, the current entrance to the Navy's training site. Due to the terrain, the missile defense system would need to be located on a few different hilltop sites. Roads from Augusta to Rangeley, Routes 27 and 4, would probably need to be upgraded to support the transport of missiles and other construction equipment that would be coming from Bangor to the site, according to the information presented.

The interceptors themselves are 55 feet long, and weigh 22 to 27 tons. There would be no test firings conducted from the Redington Township facility, if it were to be installed, and interceptors would only be launched in the advent of a missile attack.

The open house-styled meetings conducted in Rangeley and Farmington consisted of representatives and experts of various aspects of the program answering questions on a one-on-one basis. Those in attendance were also able to leave either written or oral comments, which are also being accepted by the MDA through mail, email and other, electronic means until Sept. 15.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Chris Snipes said that comments the staff had reviewed, mostly written opinions, had been "pretty split" between those in favor and opposition of the proposal. He had not heard of any unanticipated issues being cited in public comments, such as an unexpected endangered species in the EIS area or something of that nature.

"The process has been pretty great," Snipes said. He noted that the MDA staff would be moving on to New York and then Michigan to continue hosting informational meetings. Snipes, and other officials, stressed that the deployment of a new site had not been authorized by the President or Congress.

Those in attendance include representatives of local trails and conservation groups, collecting information about the project, as well as organizations such as CodePink: Women for Peace, who were in opposition of the project.

Among those in favor was Peter Tracy of Farmington, who submitted a comment supporting the Redington Township proposal. He noted that the state had lost a significant number of military jobs over the years, and the proposal represented a way to get some back.

"I think defense is definitely the way to go," Tracy said, referring to the installation itself. "You can argue about offensive systems all day but defense; it's like having locks on your home."

William Rice of Wilton was opposed to installing the system in Redington. Rice, who said he worked as a technical photographer with an interceptor project for more than eight years, said that his concerns were what "they haven't been able to answer."

His concerns centered around the propellant used to launch the interceptors, and its transport to the potential base. Issues such as responding to a fire involving the propellant needed to be considered, Rice said. He also took issue with the open house-style of the session, which he said was "fine for a job fair" but not for a project of this magnitude.

Written comments about the project will be accepted during the public comment period, which extends to Sept. 15, 2014. Comments can be submitted via FAX 913-458-1091, e-mail to: [MDA.CIS.EIS@BV.com](mailto:MDA.CIS.EIS@BV.com) or by U.S. Postal Service to: Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp. Attn: MDACIS EIS, 6601 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS 66211-1504 and must be postmarked

or received by Sept. 15, 2014 to ensure they become part of the official record.

More information about the project is available on the MDA web site:

[www.mda.mil/about/enviro\\_CIS.html](http://www.mda.mil/about/enviro_CIS.html).



The missile interceptors are 55 feet long, and weigh 22 to 27 tons.

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## 14 Responses »

1. *Darren*

**August 15, 2014 • 6:39 am**

Hopefully people see the jobs opportunity as well as infrastructure upgrades as something the area needs. This is the low hanging fruit the area needs to start growing again.

2. *Zach*

**August 15, 2014 • 8:36 am**

this would make franklin county a target for Chinese and Russian missiles. I definitely oppose this.

3. *Travis*

**August 15, 2014 • 8:09 pm**

Land of the free, Because of the Brave! dont worry Zach there will always be people like myself willing to give our all for this country if your that scared maybe you should move out of the country! God Bless America and all those who have served and continue to do so i

**Headline:** WCSH News Center 6 Morning Report

**News Date:** 8/15/2014

**Media Outlet:** WCSH News Center 6 Morning Report - WCSH (NBC)

### **Transcript Text**

area entertains kids of all ages with a bounce house, miniature horse rides, games, carnival rides and face painting. It doesn't have to just be a spectator sport either-arrange in advance to take a flight yourself.visit the festival website great falls balloon festival dot org. Fundraising opportunities for local nonprofit groups and a great way to celebrate the twin cities community if a foreign country were to shoot a missile at the united states - another missile that would intercept and destroy it could be fired from maine. The department of defense is looking at land near rangeley to build a missile interceptor system.and while the military says it would be safe, people living in the area have some concerns about the proposal. News center's danielle waugh reports on a meeting held tonight in farmington. It's going to change the way of life in rangeley.western maine may have the next military base - and missile interceptor system - ready to destroy an incoming air strike. Congress is directing us to look at placing an additional missile interceptor site in the eastern united states.the missile defense agency has targeted redington township, near rangeley - as one of its possible locations. The installation itself is pretty remote.if approved - the site would hold 20 to 60 missiles, about 25 tons each. So we have our early warning systems which would identify the launch, would tell us what type of launch it is.in the event of an attack - satellite and ground radar systems would track the missile, and pinpoint a location. A ground missile from the base would intercept it - and destroy it - in space. I was told here tonight that if a nuclear war head enters over canada, and they intercept it, that that material wouldn't affect us here on the ground. I have a real problem with some of these statements.the mda says civilians shouldn't be concerned about safety. There's no warheads on them. So the missiles are fired into outer space and it is destroyed with kinetic energy, meaning hitting a bullet with a bullet.but some mainers say - it doesn't matter where the interceptor is located it's bad for the whole country. Wearing all pink for peace - lisa savage is worried about out-of-control military spending.none of this makes us safer, none of this makes us more secure. Nor do I think it's sustainable economically. The mda says there's a real threat from countries such as iran, or north korea. Beware the military industrial complex. And this state needs to take a serious look at this missile site before it's approved in farmington, danielle waugh, news center. The other locations being considered for the missile system are: camp ravenna joint military training center in ohio, fort drum in new york and fort custer training center in michigan.it's also possible that none of the locations will be chosen for construction. Life in prison without parole. That's the sentence for the man convicted of murdering u-n-h student lizzi marriott. The victim's family spoke at yesterday's sentencing in new hampshire for seth mazzaglia -- talking about lizzi's hopes and dreams, as well as their anger. Mr. Mazzaglia, I'm melissa marriott. I'm lizzi's mother. And I want you to know unequivocally, that I hate you. Lizzi's mom, melissa marriott was one of 13 people to speak on her behalf.she talked about how she and lizzi used to travel to boston every week so lizzi could volunteer at the new england aquarium. She talked about how much lizzi loved marine biology and teaching visitors about the ocean.and she talked about the loss she feels every day because her daughter -- one of her closest friends -- is gone. I miss lizzi every day. I wake up in the morning and she's gone. I go to bed at night and she's still gone. I know she's never coming home, and even after 22 months, I still have trouble comprehendin g that she's never coming home. And all because a 30 year old man could not deal with a confident young woman. Other family members showed their disgust for mazzaglia -- calling him a monster, a murderer, a rapist and a coward. Officials have identified the fisherman found in the water alongside his empty lobster boat off vinalhaven island.the maine marine patrol says jeremy philbrook of vinalhaven is believed to have fallen overboard and drowned.he was 36 years old.a boater discovered his body wednesday afternoon in hurricane sound. There's a good chance many homeowners and businesses in south portland are still cleaning up this morning from the heavy flooding on wednesday night.one of the



**Headline:** WCSH News Center 6 at Noon

**News Date:** 8/15/2014

**Media Outlet:** WCSH News Center 6 at Noon - WCSH (NBC)

**Transcript Text:**

...williams. If a foreign country were to shoot a missile at the united states – the missile to intercept and destroy it could be fired from maine. The department of defense is considering four locations to build a missile interceptor base in the eastern united states - and one of them is in redington township, near rangeley. The missile defense agency is studying the area for environmental impact. If proved, the 12 thousand acre site would have between 20 and 60 missiles. The mda is presenting plans in public meetings at each of the proposed sites. I was told here tonight that if a nuclear war head enters over canada, and they intercept it, that that material wouldn't affect us here on the ground. I have a real problem with some of these statements.there's no warheads on them. So the missiles are fired into outer space and it is destroyed with netic energy, meaning hitting a bullet with a bullet. The other locations being considered for the missile stem are: camp ravenna joint military training center in ohio, fort drum in new york and fort custer training center in michigan. It's also possible that none of the locations will be chosen for construction. As we first told you yesterday... "old town fuel and fiber" has shut down indefinitely , leaving more than two hundred workers out of a job. Company spokesman dan bird says there are three reasons for the closure. One is that the cost of natural gas which the mill uses to operate rose sharply this past winter. Second, the long winter made it difficult for loggers to get wood to the mill. And ird, old town fuel and fiber can't compete with foreign markets. The shutdown is sure to send financial ripples through the community. "people in the community are scared, I mean rightfully so. They tighten up their purse strings. You know it just filters down and I'm not spending as much money in the community whether it be going into restaurants or buying local things in local shops." maine's senators released statements saying that they're disappointed with the suspension of operations. Senator susan collins says she'll do whatever she can to expedite assistance to those affected. And senator angus king says he plans to work for better trade agreements so maine workers can compete with foreign manufacturers. It will probably be a couple of hours before the power is back on for more than 12-hundred emera maine customers in bangor. A truck took down a pole late this morning on mount hope avenue, knocking power out to several homes and businesses in that neighborhood. Power crews are working to replace the snapped pole and are still on the scene. No one was

**Headline:** WLBZ News Center 2 Morning Report

**News Date:** 8/15/2014

**Media Outlet:** WLBZ News Center 2 Morning Report - WLBZ (NBC)

**Transcript Text**

If a foreign country were to shoot a missile at the united states – another missile that would intercept and destroy it could be fired from maine. The department of defense is looking at land near rangeley to build a missile interceptor system.and while the military says it would be safe, people living in the area have some concerns about the proposal. News center's danielle waugh reports on a meeting held tonight in farmington. It's going to change the way of life in rangeley.western maine may have the next military base - and missile interceptor system - ready to destroy an incoming air strike. Congress is directing us to look at placing an additional missile interceptor site in the eastern united states.the missile defense agency has targeted redington township, near rangeley - as one of its possible locations. The installation itself is pretty remote.if approved - the site would hold 20 to 60 missiles, about 25 tons each. So we have our early warning systems which would identify the launch, would tell us what type of launch it is.in the event of an attack - satellite and ground radar systems would track the missile, and pinpoint a location. A ground missile from the base would intercept it - and destroy it - in space. I was told here tonight that if a nuclear war head enters over canada, and they intercept it, that that material wouldn't affect us here on the ground. I have a real problem with some of these statements.the mda says civilians shouldn't be concerned about safety. There's no warheads on them. So the missiles are fired into outer space and it is destroyed with kinetic energy, meaning hitting a bullet with a bullet.but some mainers say - it doesn't matter where the interceptor is located it's bad for the whole country. Wearing all pink for peace - lisa savage is worried about out-of-control military spending.none of this makes us safer, none of this makes us more secure. Nor do I think it's sustainable economically. The mda says there's a real threat from countries such as iran, or north korea. Beware the military industrial complex. And this state needs to take a serious look at this missile site before it's approved.in farmington, danielle waugh, news center. The other locations being considered for the missile system are: camp ravenna joint military training center in ohio, fort drum in new york and fort custer training center in michigan.it's also possible that none of the locations will be chosen for construction.

# Maine considered for missile interceptor facility

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Danielle Waugh, WLBZ 12:12 a.m. EDT August 15, 2014



(Photo: NEWS CENTER)

**FARMINGTON, Maine (NEWS CENTER)** -- If a foreign country were to shoot a missile at the United States, another missile that would intercept and destroy it could be fired from Maine.

The Department of Defense is looking at land near Rangeley to build a missile interceptor system.

The 12,000 acre base would hold between 20 and 60 missiles, with each interceptor weighing between 22 and 27 tons.

Here's how the interceptor system works: satellite and radar systems can detect an incoming missile, and pinpoint the target and flight trajectory. The missile interceptor base would fire off a missile to strike the weapon

before it reaches its destination.

There are already interceptors in Alaska and California, but Congress has directed the Missile Defense Agency to look in to adding a location in the Eastern U.S.

The four sites being considered are: Redington Township, Maine, Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ohio, Fort Drum in New York, and Fort Custer Training Center in Michigan.

As the MDA completes the environmental impact studies for each location, there are public meetings and presentations at each potential site.

On Thursday evening, presenters fielded questions at a meeting in Farmington.

"I was told here that if a nuclear warhead enters over Canada, and they intercept it, that that material wouldn't affect us here on the ground," said Wilton resident William Rice. "I have a real problem with some of these statements."

But team members working on the study say it would be safe for civilians.

"There's no warheads on [the interceptors], so the missiles are fired into outer space, and it is destroyed with kinetic energy, meaning hitting a bullet with a bullet," said Lt. Col. Chris Snipes.

But some peace advocates at the meeting said it doesn't matter where the missile site is built – it's bad for the country.

Lisa Savage said she's worried about out-of-control military spending. "None of this makes us safer, none of this makes us more secure, nor do I think it's sustainable economically."

There is no time-table for the decision and construction, said Lt. Col. Snipes.

"Once this process is done, it could sit on the shelf for years," he said.

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Danielle Waugh, WCSH 12:12 a.m. EDT August 15, 2014



(Photo: NEWS CENTER)

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# Agency details proposed missile defense site in Maine

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**FARMINGTON, MAINE** — Building a missile defense site in western Maine aimed at protecting the East Coast would mean upgrading some roads, building housing and a backup power plant, and scattering missile silos to accommodate hilly terrain, a defense official said.

The 55-foot-long interceptors would be taken from Bangor International Airport to the site using public roads, and road upgrades could be necessary for transport of 75-foot silos, officials said.

The Missile Defense Agency provided details of the proposal to local residents during a series of public hearings last week in Rangeley and Farmington. The agency is considering four possible locations for an interceptor site aimed at protecting the East Coast in response to a perceived threat from Iran.

If it's built in Maine, the missile interceptor base would encompass 600 to 800 acres of about 12,000 acres at the U.S. Navy's training site in Redington Township.

Not everyone was thrilled by the idea. Critics raised concerns about construction damaging the natural beauty. Others were concerned about the toxicity of missile fuel, the Sun Journal reported.

"It is a no-brainer; totally inappropriate for this location," Bob Kimber of Temple said. "Why is that kind of money being spent on more defense when people are starving in the U.S.? Why are we continuing to start wars in this country?"

But Darryl Brown of Livermore Falls said the interceptor site is a great opportunity for the state to help in the nation's defense and to create jobs at the same time.

The site would start with 20 missiles, and eventually have 60. There would be no test-firing; missiles would only be fired in defense of the country, officials said.



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Other sites under consideration for an interceptor site are Fort Drum in northern New York; Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ohio; and Fort Custer CTC in Michigan.

The defense department is currently considering the environmental implications of the sites. Once the environmental study is put in draft form more than a year from now, there will be public review meetings for the 1,000- to 1,500-page document, said Eric Sorrells of the Missile Defense Agency.

The land-based interceptors would supplement Navy warships equipped with ballistic missile defense systems. Currently, the only land-based sites are at Alaska's Fort Greely and California's Vandenberg Air Force Base.

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# Agency details proposed missile defense site in Maine

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**FARMINGTON, MAINE** — Building a missile defense site in western Maine aimed at protecting the East Coast would mean upgrading some roads, building housing and a backup power plant, and scattering missile silos to accommodate hilly terrain, a defense official said.

The 55-foot-long interceptors would be taken from Bangor International Airport to the site using public roads, and road upgrades could be necessary for transport of 75-foot silos, officials said.

The Missile Defense Agency provided details of the proposal to local residents during a series of public hearings last week in Rangeley and Farmington. The agency is considering four possible locations for an interceptor site aimed at protecting the East Coast in response to a perceived threat from Iran.

If it's built in Maine, the missile interceptor base would encompass 600 to 800 acres of about 12,000 acres at the U.S. Navy's training site in Redington Township.

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Other sites under consideration for an interceptor site are Fort Drum in northern New York; Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ohio; and Fort Custer CTC in Michigan.



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The defense department is currently considering the environmental implications of the sites. Once the environmental study is put in draft form more than a year from now, there will be public review meetings for the 1,000- to 1,500-page document, said Eric Sorrells of the Missile Defense Agency.

The land-based interceptors would supplement Navy warships equipped with ballistic missile defense systems. Currently, the only land-based sites are at Alaska's Fort Greely and California's Vandenberg Air Force Base.

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### HALL OF VALOR

**Headline:** Missile defense in Maine

**News Date:** 8/28/2014

**Media Outlet:** The Providence Journal

**Article Text**

We suppose that many people were startled to read that the Department of Defense held hearings on a possible anti-ballistic missile defense facility in Maine this month. Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) has even noted that there are "gaps" in the nation's missile defense.

Some people did not realize that the United States had a missile defense system. In fact, two ABM sites are already operational on the West Coast. The hearings in Maine are part of an effort to bring the East Coast under similar protection.

The proposed site, in mountains near the western Maine town of Rangely, currently hosts the Navy's Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape school in Redington Township. The hearings gauged local support for the proposed interceptor facility, which would be home to dozens of projectiles and their launch silos.

President Ronald Reagan was criticized, even mocked, when he proposed a Strategic Defense Initiative (opponents dubbed it "Star Wars") in 1983. Many considered it a dangerous escalation of the arms race, but some argued his persistence on the idea helped win the Cold War. President Clinton didn't push the idea but didn't kill it. Such systems rarely make the news these days, although a proposal to install missile defenses in Poland and the Czech Republic, suddenly withdrawn by President Obama in 2009 in deference to Russia, did stimulate debate.

With the recent success of Israel's U.S.-financed missile defense, the Iron Dome, at intercepting Hamas rockets fired from the Gaza Strip, the idea of our own missile defense does not seem so out of left field. Mainers at the hearings this month seemed to have an open mind about the proposed Rangely ABM installation. The Pentagon will weigh that in deciding where to locate the interceptor missiles.