



04-FYI-0008

19 July 2004

## **Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Interceptor Software Completes Verification Tests**

The final version of the software that will be used for near-term testing and operation of the interceptor missile designed to defend the nation against long-range ballistic missile attack successfully completed formal qualification testing last month. The software controls the interceptor missile's communication and in-flight guidance, as well as discrimination technology used to distinguish real target warheads from decoys, which is essential to a successful "hit to kill" intercept using only the force of a direct collision between the target and the interceptor to completely destroy the target warhead before it can reach a city or town in the United States.

Contact: Rick Lehner – 703-697-8997