



05-FYI-0063

20 September 2005

## Missile Defense Elements Participate In Air Force Test

Air Force Lieutenant General Henry "Trey" Obering, Missile Defense Agency (MDA) director, announced today the successful completion September 14, 2005 of an exercise involving Ballistic Missile Defense System elements, using the operational test of a U.S. Air Force strategic missile from Vandenberg AFB, Calif. as a "target of opportunity." MDA's primary objective of the test was to verify sensor function and evaluate engagement scenarios for the Forward-Based X-Band Transportable Radar, a transportable radar that can be moved by aircraft to anywhere in the world to support ballistic missile defense.

During the test, the radar acquired, tracked, and collected data on the target vehicle from acquisition of signal until approximately 500 seconds into the flight. The radar transmitted reports of the missile's flight track to the Ballistic Missile Defense System's (BMDS) Command, Control, Battle Management and Communications (C2BMC) system. Similarly a U.S. Navy Aegis ballistic missile defense ship also tracked the target vehicle and relayed tracking data to the command and control system, using operational communication links.

Other MDA elements that participated in the test included the Airborne Infrared System, Project Hercules (improved missile detection and tracking research), and External Sensors Lab.

The mission, called Glory Trip 189, was part of the Air Force's continuing program to ensure the readiness of our ground-based strategic deterrent force.

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