



05-NEWS-0013

10 January 2006

Sea-Based X-Band Radar Arrives at Pearl Harbor

Air Force Lieutenant General Henry "Trey" Obering, Missile Defense Agency Director, announced that the Sea-Based X-Band Radar (SBX) arrived in Hawaii today after its 15,000 mile trip from Texas.

The SBX made the trip from Corpus Christi, Texas aboard the MV Blue Marlin, a semi-submersible heavy lift vessel. Although the SBX is self-propelled, it rode aboard the Blue Marlin in order to save time on the trip and to avoid wear and tear on the vessel. Later this week the SBX will be offloaded from the heavy lift vessel and will begin minor modifications, post-transit maintenance and routine inspections before completing its voyage to its home port of Adak, Alaska. Offloading and berthing operations are expected to take several days and during that time a safety perimeter will be maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The SBX is compliant with existing national and state environmental regulations and laws and will pose no threat to people or wildlife in Hawaii. It has completed many major milestones in its development, the two most recent being tracking satellites and completing sea trials. Early on Oct. 12, 2005, the radar aboard the SBX successfully tracked several orbiting satellites over a three-hour period. The radar acquired each object and maintained tracks for several minutes, demonstrating this key functionality for the first time. Achieving this milestone demonstrates the radar software is able to control thousands of individual transmit and receive modules.

The SBX stands more than 280 feet tall and displaces more than 50,000 tons. It consists of a semi-submersible oil production platform, topped with an X-band radar array.

Although it will be homeported in Alaska, the SBX will be capable of moving throughout the Pacific Ocean to support both advanced missile defense testing as well as defensive operations. The SBX will provide missile tracking, discrimination and hit assessment functions to the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System. It will support interceptor missiles located in Alaska and California if required to defend against a limited long-range missile attack on the United States. Over time, the SBX will be able to support defense from missiles that may be used against our homeland, deployed forces, allies and friends.



The Sea-Based X-Band radar arrives in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, aboard the heavy lift vessel Blue Marlin on January 9, 2005, passing behind the U.S.S. ARIZONA Memorial.