



News Release

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Lt. General Obering Receives National Defense Cross from the Czech Republic

Air Force Lieutenant General Henry A. "Trey" Obering, Missile Defense Agency director, was awarded the National Defense Cross of the Defense Minister of the Czech Republic during a ceremony held in Prague on October 31, 2008.

Czech Republic Defense Minister Vlasta Parkanová presented the medal, citing General Obering's role in the negotiations leading to an agreement between the United States and the Czech Republic to place a radar in the Czech Republic to support a missile defense capability against a limited ballistic missile attack on Europe and the United States from the Middle East.

The European Missile Defense element is scheduled to be operational in 2013, and will include the radar in the Czech Republic and ten long-range interceptor missiles at a single site in Poland.

As previously announced, General Obering will retire from the Air Force. The new Missile Defense Agency director is Army Major General Patrick O'Reilly, who was recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate for promotion to the grade of Lieutenant General. General O'Reilly will assume the duties of MDA director at a ceremony later this month.