

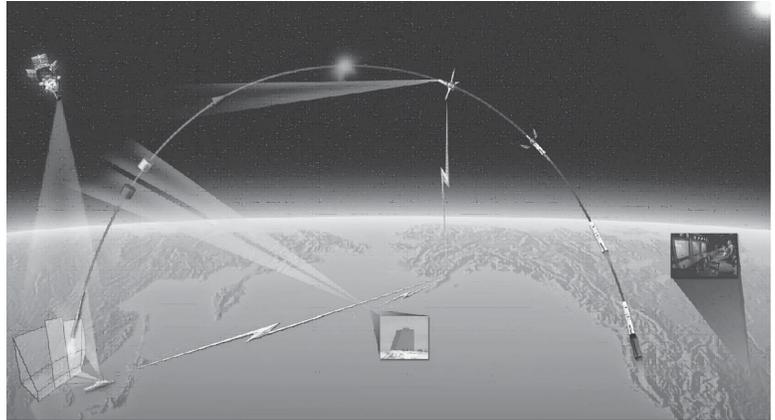
Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS)

INTRODUCTION

This report provides an unclassified assessment of the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) test program during FY04. Classified discussions will be included in the Annual Operational Test & Evaluation Assessment of the Ballistic Missile Defense System Test Program that DOT&E will submit in February 2005.

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) continues to develop a missile defense capability to defend the United States, our deployed troops, friends, and allies from ballistic missile threats of all ranges and in all phases of flight. During FY04, MDA focused on system integration testing. Numerous ground tests and exercises have demonstrated system interconnectivity and limited interoperability. However, the components of the BMDS remain immature. It is not possible to estimate the current mission capability of the BMDS with high confidence. Any such assessment of mission capability and military utility will rely heavily on models and simulations of individual elements and the integrated BMDS. The lack of flight-testing has delayed the validation and accreditation of some key performance models and simulations. Nevertheless, MDA has made significant progress in the construction and equipping of the BMDS test bed. Ground testing has improved our confidence that military operators could exploit any inherent capability that may exist in the test bed, if needed in an emergency. Our assessment of the major BMDS elements follows.

MDA, DOT&E, and the Service Operational Test Agencies are finalizing an Integrated Master Test Plan that details the combined developmental and operational testing planned in 2005. MDA and DOT&E will approve the plan in November 2004.



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