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Missile Defense Agency Successfully Completes Ground Test Exercise

Air Force Lt. General Henry "Trey" Obering, Missile Defense Agency director, announced today the successful completion of Ground Test 04-5 (GT-04-5), an important exercise of hardware and software ("Hardware-in-the-Loop") in a variety of scenarios involving the defense of the United States and specific theaters of operations overseas against a variety of threat ballistic missiles. The test was conducted from June 6 -16, 2005 at the Joint National Integration Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. Due to the huge amount of data collected during the test, it took more than two months to complete the extensive analysis after test completion.

Numerous system elements played a role in the test, including personnel involved in Command, Control, Battle Management and Communications; the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (long-range missile defense) Fire Control; the Missile Defense Wargame and Analysis Resource and components from the U.S. Army's Patriot Advanced Capability-3 operations unit; the U.S. Air Force's Space-Based Infrared System (new missile detection capability); the Joint Tactical Ground Station and the U.S. Navy's Aegis missile defense.

Ground tests have played, and will continue to play, a vital role in the development of new technologies for missile defense. Advanced computers using new modeling and simulation techniques specifically designed to depict complex missile threat scenarios create an extremely challenging test environment that provides program officials with detailed information about the performance of missile defense hardware and software while reducing the cost and schedule demands that would be required to provide the same performance data through an extensive flight test program.

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