



For Your Information

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Combined Test Force Achieves Full Operational Capability

Lt. General Henry "Trey" Obering, Missile Defense Agency director, announced today that MDA's Combined Test Force (CTF) has achieved full operational capability. The CTF's mission is to plan, integrate and analyze tests of the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS).

With the maturation of several BMDS elements, including Ground-based Midcourse Defense, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense and the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System, MDA recognized a need for an integrated approach to testing and analysis of the entire BMDS, not just separate elements.

The CTF was created a little over a year ago from legacy elements within MDA. Manpower was shifted from several different locations to Huntsville, Ala. While not a part of the Base Realignment and Closure process, the move and streamlining was made with BRAC in mind. The bulk of MDA's current military and civilian workforce are scheduled to move to Huntsville over the next few years as part of the BRAC process.

Full operational capability of the CTF also marks the beginning of an MDA "center of gravity" in Huntsville, according to Maj. Gen. Chris Anzalone, the agency's deputy for Test, Integration and Fielding. "This is the beginning of the beginning," he said during a ceremony in Huntsville yesterday.

Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer acknowledged the importance of the announcement, noting that Huntsville stands ready to support MDA during upcoming personnel moves, and to welcome the agency as part of the community.

While the CTF is located in Huntsville, it is supported by teams in Washington, D.C. and at the Joint National Integration Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. The organization consists of four divisions:

- Test Planning and Design Division: performs campaign-level test planning and design;
- Test Operations Division: performs detailed test planning and execution processes;
- Test Analysis and Reporting Division: performs test event data collection, analysis and reporting;
- CTF Support Division: performs Test Configuration Working Group secretariat functions and CTF integration and business operations functions.

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