



# FACT SHEET



## MDA FACT SHEET

# BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE FISCAL YEAR 2002 BUDGET

### INTRODUCTION

In the decade since the end of the Cold War, the increased proliferation of ballistic missile systems and the weapons of mass destruction they may carry has raised the importance of developing and fielding a capable Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) System. A number of states, some of which are overtly hostile to the United States, our Allies, and our friends, have acquired these dangerous capabilities. In response to this changing geopolitical environment, the Department of Defense has restructured its approach to building ballistic missile defense.

The goal of the planned BMD System is to develop the capability to defend the forces and territories of the United States, its Allies, and friends. The planned BMD System will be capable of engaging all classes of ballistic missile threats. The program will increase system robustness over time by incrementally deploying layered defenses that use complementary interceptors and sensors to engage threat targets in the boost, midcourse, and terminal phases of flight. The acquisition approach is structured to adjust to change more easily in order to overcome the significant engineering challenges and schedule and cost uncertainties we face in building missile defenses. The Department will pursue promising technologies and approaches towards BMD to hasten the fielding date of an effective, reliable, and affordable system.

### BMD STRUCTURE

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) plans, manages, directs, and executes the BMD program. MDA has developed a program corresponding to the Department's guidance that focuses on missile defense as a single integrated BMD Architecture, no longer differentiating between Theater Missile Defense and National Missile Defense. This revised structure involves three basic thrusts. First, the approach is designed to build on the technical progress we have made to date and undertake incremental improvements that could permit early fielding of demonstrated and prototype BMD capabilities, as directed. Second, the BMD program will pursue a broad range of research, development, testing, and evaluation (RDT&E) efforts in order to aggressively and simultaneously explore and develop technologies for integration on land, sea, air, or space-based platforms to counter ballistic missiles in all phases of their flight. Third, the testing program will incorporate more realistic scenarios and countermeasures to achieve greater confidence in our planning and development.

To improve coordination over activities that are important to the overall BMD System, the Department is transferring responsibility for program execution and management for the Airborne Laser (ABL), Space Based Infrared System-Low (SBIRS-L), and Spaced Based Laser (SBL) to MDA from the Air Force.

The MDA budget is made up of two major funding appropriations: Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) (\$7,036.480M) and Military Construction (MILCON) (\$8.299M). The RDT&E budget funds all work to create new weapon system capabilities and/or improve existing capabilities. This includes basic research on advanced concepts and designing, engineering, or testing prototypes.

