

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
JOINT ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

March 15, 2005

1:08 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Nancy Dahlstrom, Chair
Senator Gary Wilken, Co-Chair
Representative John Coghill
Representative Bob Lynn
Senator Charlie Huggins
Senator Fred Dyson
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Gretchen Guess

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Jay Ramras
Representative Eric Croft
Representative John Harris
Senator Gene Therriault

COMMITTEE CALENDAR Major General Holly presented an overview on the Missile Defense System and its Alaskan elements.

ACTION NARRATIVE

Co-Chair Dahlstrom called the Joint Armed Services Committee meeting to order at [1:08:13 PM](#). Present were Senators Fred Dyson, Gary Stevens, Gretchen Guess, Charlie Huggins, Co-Chair Gary Wilken, Representatives John Coghill, Bob Lynn, and Co-Chair Dahlstrom.

Presentation of the Missile Defense System and its Alaskan Elements by Major General Holly.

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GENERAL HOLLY introduced his senior staff members: Colonial Kevin Norgard, Senior Missile Defense Agency officer assigned to the State of Alaska, Mr. Dick Black, Director of Customer Relations for Boeing's GMD program, Major Rich Gange and Major-General Craig Campbell.

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GENERAL HOLLY informed the mission of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is extremely important to the national security interests

of the nation and Alaska plays a critical role in the ongoing development of the system. The mission of the missile defense system is to develop an integrated system to defend the United States, its allies, its friends, and its forward-deployed forces. The system is being designed to counter missiles of all ranges, not just intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

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GENERAL HOLLY said the command and control element of the system is operated from the situation room in the Whitehouse. He presented a slide describing the space, terrestrial, and marine based sensors in the system. He drew attention to a fixed base component on Shemya Island and a large mobile X-band radar component on Adak Island.

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He gave a brief description of the components of the assent phase of missile defense system, the airborne laser and the kinetic energy interceptor. He noted these components are some of the less mature aspects of the system. He described the Aegis ballistic missile system and the ground-based mid-course defense program based in Alaska.

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GENERAL HOLLY briefly described the terminal missile defense systems: Patriot 3, Arrow, Terminal High Altitude Defense Weapon (THAD), and the Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS).

He outlined the current presidential directives for the development of the missile defense system which include: first, establishing a limited defense capability for the United States against North Korea's long-range missile threat while continuing to mature and evolve the system; second, developing capability for the United States against long-range threats from the Middle East and third, expanding the system's depth of protection with additional interceptors, sensors and layers.

GENERAL HOLLY remarked that the geographical situation of Alaska confers a great strategic advantage to the United States in that the missile interceptors at Fort Greely will be capable of defending all 50 states with missiles launched from North East Asia and the Middle East. He presented a slide showing the geographical distribution of the different components of the missile defense system and another slide showing the short-term development schedule for the missile defense program. He said that the MDA expected to complete the initial phase of the President's directives by the end of 2005. The completion of

this phase will give the United States a limited missile defense capability.

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GENERAL HOLLY presented a set of slides on ground based midcourse defense that included an overhead picture of Fort Greely, Alaska showing the roughly 800 acres of the missile defense complex. He noted when he first saw the site it contained only a wellhead, but today it contains 33 different buildings, 6 operational interceptor silos, a command and control facility and Alaskan National Guard units manning the site.

He presented another slide related to the ongoing development of interceptor's kill vehicles. He briefly explained why two recent interceptor tests had been aborted.

He presented a slide and a brief description of the interceptor's kill vehicles and their ongoing development. He briefly explained the abortion of two recent interceptor tests.

He described the X-band radar to be stationed in Adak, Alaska. He said radar itself is 13 stories tall and its platform is 12 stories tall. The platform rests on two pontoons, each about as large as an attack submarine.

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GENERAL HOLLY presented another slide and a brief description on the command and control, battle management, and communications (CCBMC) of the missile defense system. He remarked the command and control system is still under development.

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He presented a slide and gave a brief description on Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD).

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He presented a slide on Kinetic Energy Interceptors (KEIs). He said that the KEI component of the missile defense system would not be deployed until about the year 2012. This component would replace ground-based interceptors such as the ones currently installed at Fr. Greeley.

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GENERAL HOLLY presented a slide on the airborne laser and commented on the sophistication of laser weapons. He noted early-stage success of laser program and remarked that the system is years away from deployment.

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He presented a slide on the space-tracking component of the missile defense system and a slide on the multiple kill vehicle system within the interceptor missiles. He stressed that there were no nuclear weapons in the missile defense system.

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GENERAL HOLLY presented a slide on the Alaska sites in the missile defense system. He said Ft. Greely is the center of gravity for the Alaskan elements but noted that Erickson Air Force provides sensor coverage. Adak will be the homeport of the X-band Sea going radar and Kodiak will provide target-launch facilities. Currently additional silos and silo-interface vaults are being installed into the second missile field at Ft. Greely and there will be even more interceptor installations by the end of this year.

The MDA has worked extensively with Ft. Greely to attain the aforementioned progress. He said when he made his first visit to Ft. Greely, there were only 66 people either living or working there. Today there are 1064 people, of which 195 are military dependants. By the end of fiscal year 06' there will be about 1350 people either living or working at Ft. Greely.

He presented a slide of Erickson Air Force Station and described it as a relatively small plot of land near the end of the Aleutian Islands. He said that this station has missile defense sensors and communication system.

GENERAL HOLLY presented a slide of Adak that featured the X-Band radar platform. He said if the radar were operating on the east coast of the United States in Chesapeake Bay, it would be able identify a soft ball-sized object over Seattle. He said that it is a very significant addition to the MDA's ability to discriminate and cope with counter-measures in the mid-course range of flight.

He presented another slide that briefly described two recent successful target launches from Kodiak Island. He said that the MDA had received great support from the local population. The MDA invests about \$7.5 million a year on operation, support, and maintenance of the various facilities at the Kodiak Launch Facility. He said that when the MDA conducts a flight test mission, the nominal value of a mission is about \$5 million and requires the deployment of 100 to 200 people to the island to

support the mission. They typically stay 30 to 60 days depending on their missions.

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GENERAL HOLLY said the MDA has tried to work with the local community at Kodiak when their tests conflict with local interests. He noted it recently changed a scheduled flight time to accommodate a fishery opening. While he hopes that the MDA can always accommodate local interests, he could not guarantee that would always be the case.

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GENERAL HOLLY said the project at Ft. Greely was divided into two different activities, one of which was conducted exclusively under the contract that the MDA has with Boeing and the other, which was conducted through the Army Corps of Engineers. He said that in the first activity, 82 percent of the business was conducted, in terms of contracts issued, with Alaskan businesses. In the second activity 89 percent of the business was conducted Alaskan businesses. In the aggregate \$600 million has been invested in Alaska over the past two and an half years and of that \$600 millions, well over 80 percent was accomplished by Alaskan businesses. He said the real success is not that Alaskan businesses achieved that, but rather the quality of work they accomplished, especially given the extreme environmental conditions in which they worked.

He said the capabilities of the missile defense system would be continually expanded and upgraded. The MDA is making the greatest effort to expend its funding in a intelligent, responsible manner, whilst employing a strategy that maintains alternatives as long as possible while using the best knowledge available to determine the best time to terminate one alternative and proceed with another.

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CO-CHAIR GARY STEVENS asked whether placing critical missile defense components in Ft. Greely has made it a prime target of potential enemies.

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GENERAL HOLLY speculated about the targets of our potential enemies. While Ft. Greely is probably not a target prior to the interceptor installations, Anchorage probably is.

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REPRESENTATIVE COGHILL asked whether Canada was party to the system.

GENERAL HOLLY responded Canada is not.

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CO-CHAIR DAHLSTROM and CO-CHAIR WILKEN presented a citation of the legislature to General Holly.

[2:06:57 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR WILKEN adjourned the meeting at [2:07:41 PM](#).