

Billing Code:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Notice Of Availability Of The Ground-Based Midcourse Defense

Extended Test Range Draft Environmental Impact Statement

LEAD AGENCY: Missile Defense Agency

COOPERATING AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration

ACTION: Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Extended Test Range Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), that analyzes the potential for environmental impacts associated with the proposed action of the establishment of an extended test range capability providing more realistic operational flight testing. The current capability includes missile launch sites and array of sensors and other test equipment located at the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Test Site (RTS) at Kwajalein Atoll, the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) in Hawaii, and Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB) in California.

The proposed action and alternatives examined in the DEIS include development of the capability for single and dual launches of interceptor and target missiles at the Kodiak Launch Complex (KLC) Alaska, RTS, and/or Vandenberg AFB, with

intercepts over the Pacific Ocean. Development of these capabilities would entail construction of two interceptor launchers, one additional target launch pad and construction/alteration of launch support facilities at KLC; target pad modifications at RTS; modification of support facilities at Vandenberg AFB; construction of In-Flight Interceptor Communication System (IFICS) Data Terminals and military and commercial satellite communications in the mid-Pacific and at KLC or Vandenberg AFB; additional range instrumentation (tracking and range safety radars) in the vicinity of sites; and use of either existing Battle Management Command and Control (BMC2) facilities at Reagan Test Site, or new BMC2 facilities that may be developed at Fort Greely, Alaska and/or Shriever AFB, or Cheyenne Mountain Complex, Colorado, in the validation of the GMD operational concept effort.

Additionally, the proposed action and alternatives include the construction and operation of a Sea-Based Test X-Band Radar (SBX) that would operate in the Pacific broad ocean area and would be home-based in either Alaska, California, Washington, or Hawaii.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: In order to facilitate public review and comment on the DEIS, public hearings have been scheduled at the following cities:

CITY	DATE	LOCATION
Oxnard, CA	February 24, 2003	Oxnard Public Library
Kodiak, AK	February 24, 2003	Kodiak High School
Lompoc, CA	February 25, 2003	Lompoc City Council Chambers
Anchorage, AK	February 25, 2003	Egan Convention Center
Valdez, AK	February 26, 2003	Valdez Convention Center
Everett, WA	February 27, 2003	Everett Holiday Inn
Honolulu, HI	March 6, 2003	Disabled American Veterans Hall Keehi Lagoon Park

Detailed information on location and times for each of the public hearing will be published in local and regional newspapers two weeks in advance, and public service announcements will be provided to radio and television stations. MDA, GMD, and U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command personnel will attend all sessions to present information on the DEIS, to receive comments, and to answer questions. Copies of the document will be made available at the following public libraries:

- Anchorage Municipal Library, 3600 Denali St, Anchorage, AK 99503
- Everett Library, 2702 Hoyt Ave, Everett, WA 98201

- Kodiak City Library, 319 Lower Mill Bay Rd, Kodiak, AK 99615
- Lompoc Public Library, 501 E North Ave, Lompoc, CA 93436
- Mountain View Branch Library, 150 S Bragaw St, Anchorage, AK 99508
- Oxnard Public Library, 251 S A St, Oxnard, CA 93030
- Valdez City Library, 212 Fairbanks, Valdez, AK 99686
- Hawaii State Library, Hawaii Documents Center, 478 South King St, Honolulu, HI 96813
- University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hamilton Library, 2550 The Mall, Honolulu, HI 96822

INFORMATION/COMMENTS: For additional information on the MDA GMD program, please call Mr. Rick Lehner at (703) 697-8997.

Requests for copies of the document or to provide comments on the DEIS should be addressed to: U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, ATTN: SMDC-EN-V (Mrs. Julia Hudson-Elliott), 106 Wynn Drive, Huntsville, AL 35805, by e-mail at gmdetreis@smdc.army.mil, or by phone at 1-800-823-8823.

Public comments are invited and must be postmarked by March 24, 2003.