



ALASKA MISSILE DEFENSE WEEKLY

(Thirty-Seventh Edition)

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ALASKA SPECIFIC NEWS BREAKS #37

NOVEMBER 11, 2002-NOVEMBER 15, 2002

MDA ASKS CONGRESS TO SUPPORT SEA-BASED X-BAND RADAR FOR TEST BED, [Aerospace Daily](#), November 13, 2002. The Missile Defense Agency has asked Congress to support its proposal to build a sea-based X-band radar for the Pacific test bed, saying a sea-based platform would cost less and have greater mobility than a land-based system, a Defense Department official said Nov. 12. In a report delivered to lawmakers Nov. 8, MDA estimated that putting an X-band radar on what would resemble an oil-drilling platform would cost about \$800 million-about \$90 million less than it would cost to put the same test radar on land in Alaska, the official told The DAILY...Either radar system would be available in about the fall of 2005, the official said...Unlike a land-based radar, a sea-based radar platform would be self-propelled and also could be towed, allowing it to move around the test best and conduct tests in different locations. The report, which MDA has not publicly released, came in response to the fiscal 2003 defense appropriations conference report. That report blocks MDA from using GMD funds to buy the sea-based platform until 30 days after it explains the

Congress why it wants to pursue a sea-based platform instead of a land-based approach, which Congress has funded in the past.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION IN ALASKA TO INCREASE DURING 2003, 2004, Alaska Journal of Commerce, November 12, 2002. Military construction in Alaska appears headed for a jump in 2003 and 2004, according to information presented by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other military services to construction contractors meeting in Anchorage Oct. 31...The Corps of Engineers manages major construction projects for the military along with other projects built with federal funds, such as ports and harbor improvements. According to figures given to contractors by the Corps, construction contracts on federal military projects managed by the Corps will increase from \$175 million this year to \$263 million in 2003 and \$440 million in 2004. The totals for military construction may rise because some projects in the planning stages were not included in the estimates given on Oct. 31, according to Lt. Col. Richard Gingraf, deputy chief engineer for the Corps' Alaska district. The figures do not include missile defense test projects now under construction at Fort Greely, east of Fairbanks, and Eareckson Air Force Station at Shemya, in the Aleutian Islands. That work was estimated at \$250 million in the current year, according to Pat Richardson, spokesperson for the Corps.

GLOBAL NEWS BREAKS #37

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2002

Veteran's Day

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2002

PRESSURE ON JAPAN TO GET MISSILE SHIELD, Sydney Morning Herald, November 9, 2002. Japan is reportedly under pressure from the United States to install a ballistic missile defence system to counter the new North Korean nuclear weapons threat...Japan's biggest newspaper, Yomiuri Shimbun, quoting a briefing by a senior Pentagon official, said yesterday that the U.S. would ask Tokyo to develop and deploy a missile defence system. The plan was to be discussed in talks in Tokyo yesterday between the U.S. Undersecretary of Defence, Douglas Feith, and Japan's new Defence Minister, Shigeru Ishiba. Mr. Ishiba is regarded as a hawk, and recently called for further development of a missile defence program with the U.S...Australia's Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, in Tokyo for talks with leaders including Mr. Ishiba, gave his support for a missile defence system for Japan. He said missile defence was a "component of military architecture". As long as Japan felt threatened by North Korean missiles, "it's a legitimate consideration for the Japanese to have missile defence

capabilities”...The research on missile defence that Japan has been undertaking has focused on its warships equipped with the state-of-the-art Aegis combat defence systems. In an attempt to allay concern that the move would breach Japan’s war-renouncing constitution, Mr. Ishiba said recently that missile defence was “nothing but a posture meant exclusively for self-defence.”

IN A FIRST, BATTLEFIELD LASER BLOWS UP SPEEDING SHELL, The Associated Press, November 9, 2002. Weapons that travel far faster than a speeding bullet are as little as five years from use in combat, say defense officials who used a laser to shoot an artillery shell out of the sky this week in a first-of-its-kind feat. The Army used a high-energy laser built by TRW Inc. to heat the shell and cause it to explode in flight. The test was successfully repeated a second time. The shell was fired from a howitzer at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. As it traveled at about 1,000 mph, it was tracked by radar and infrared heat sensors. Then it was locked onto and zapped by the laser beam traveling at light speed. The Mobile Tactical High-Energy Laser is a short-range weapon being developed with Israel, which wants it to destroy Katyusha rockets fired at its border villages by Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon. The weapon, which looks like a searchlight, is one of a few laser devices the Pentagon is working on under the umbrella of missile defense...Also under development are space-based lasers, which would also target ballistic missiles, and ground-based systems that could take out orbiting satellites, crippling enemy communications.

TOP U.S., RUSSIAN DIPLOMATS DISCUSS MISSILE DEFENSE, OTHER DISARMAMENT ISSUES, Associated Press, November 10, 2002. U.S. Undersecretary of State John Bolton met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Mamedov on Sunday as part of the latest round of regular consultations on disarmament issues. Mamedov said the two discussed missile defense, according to the Interfax news agency. He said the issue could be a topic of discussion when Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President George W. Bush meet later this year. Mamedov said a joint U.S.-Russian working group aimed at achieving “transparency and cooperation” in missile defense was recently held in Geneva.

RUSSIA WILL NOT JOIN CENTRALIZED EUROPEAN MISSILE-DEFENSE SYSTEM, Interfax News Agency, November 10, 2002. Russia will not be able to join Europe’s missile-defense if it represents a tightly centralized system with a single command, Col. Gen. Vladimir Mikhailov, Russia’s Air Force commander, has suggested. “A centralized European missile-defense system is undesirable for Russia as it does not meet its security interests,” Mikhailov told Interfax. He said that “first, Russia’s missile- and air-defense tasks are much broader than those of Europe, since the country is facing more threats. Second, only the Russian command may give an order to resist air attacks in any form.” “We cannot depend on NATO as far as our security is concerned,” Mikhailov said.

NORAD'S FUTURE TIED TO U.S. MISSILE PROGRAM, Calgary Herald, November 9, 2002. Canada must sign on with the United States' "Star Wars" missile defence program or risk causing a "rift" in NORAD and a diminishment of our role in the protection of North America, says the vice-chief of the Canadian military defence staff. Lt.-Gen. George Macdonald, speaking in Calgary on Friday, said NORAD's communication and detection infrastructure will likely be the basis of any future U.S. missile defence program. If Canada refuses to participate, Macdonald warned we could find ourselves on the outside looking in in terms of having a say in decisions involving the North American Aerospace Defence Command. "It will be important in the future whether Canada and the United States participate (together) in ballistic missile defence," Macdonald said... Kimberly Phillips, a Foreign Affairs spokeswoman, said the government has made no decision regarding ballistic missile defence. However, Phillips added: "One of the factors that will affect any possible future decisions is the impact the ballistic missile defence will eventually have on Canada's interests in NORAD."

NOT SUCH AN INFLATED NOTION, Los Angeles Times, November 11, 2002...Pentagon officials believe that airships could play a crucial role in protecting the United States from attack. They have quietly asked the country's largest defense contractors to develop giant unmanned craft -- two to three times as big as Goodyear's gasbag -- that would ring the continent. Hovering high in the stratosphere, beyond the reach of unfriendly forces, such blimps would be used to spot incoming enemy missiles and planes. The airships would be far more complicated than any built before, and it could take seven or eight years before they are deployed. But Pentagon and industry officials say technological advances, including highly efficient solar cells, make them optimistic that the giant blimps can be added to the U.S. arsenal...The effort gained momentum a couple of weeks ago when the Missile Defense Agency, charged with protecting the country from ballistic missiles, officially launched a competition to develop a high-altitude, helium-filled airship. It said such blimps should be capable of floating for months at an altitude of 70,000 feet, carrying more than 4,000 pounds of unspecified payload...The goal is to deploy an operational system by 2010...The airships, at least initially, would not carry weapons, although eventually they could be equipped with chemical lasers to shoot down ballistic missiles.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2002

HOUSE PASSES DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL, Reuters, November 12, 2002. The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday passed a final \$393 billion defense authorization bill after a last-minute deal that would expand benefits for combat-injured veterans but avoid a veto from the White House, which had opposed costlier plans. Scrambling to complete a lame duck session of Congress by Friday, the

Republican-led House passed the huge wartime Pentagon bill on a voice vote after a flurry of meetings between key members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees to reach a deal to increase benefits for some disabled veterans. The Senate was expected to vote later this week on final passage to send the bill to President Bush...The standoff threatened to block the legislation, which authorizes defense and nuclear weapons programs, clears the way a 4.1 percent pay raise for military personnel, and frees money to help control material in Russia and elsewhere that could be used for weapons of mass destruction...If the deal was not struck quickly, lawmakers had said they would bypass the measure until the next Congress convened in January as the Pentagon already was set to receive a nearly 12 percent funding boost from a defense budget bill that cleared Congress before it recessed before the Nov. 5 election...[The bill] contains key compromises struck earlier this year to fund Bush's program to develop a national missile defense program and to back the Pentagon's decision to kill the 40-ton self-propelled Crusader howitzer, but save a number of jobs and technologies from the \$11 billion program.

PENTAGON APPROVES FUNDS FOR MORE PAC-3 MISSILES, NEW P3I EFFORT, Inside Missile Defense, November 13, 2002. The Defense Acquisition Board has authorized funds to boost the production of Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missiles in fiscal year 2003 from 72 to approximately 100, along with additional funding for a pre-planned product-improvement program for PAC-3, sources close to the program said last week. The current low-rate initial production contract for FY-03 calls for 72 missiles. According to one source, the new target number of 100 or so missiles would require about \$70 million...The DAB convened Oct. 31 to consider an increase in PAC-3 production. The Defense Department, the Army and the Missile Defense Agency would not comment on the outcome of the DAB review until an acquisition decision memorandum is signed and released by Pentagon acquisition chief Pete Aldridge... The PAC-3 program has appeared to seesaw between the service and the agency in the past months. Its fate has been "under discussion" for months now, according to MDA officials -- ever since the program's IOT&E phase ended with mixed results. The testing program comprised four tests that began in January and concluded in May. Only two PAC-3 missiles achieved successful intercepts in six launches...Traditionally, a full-rate production decision is made after a system completes its IOT&E. In the case of a missile defense system, the FRP decision would determine whether it gets transferred back to the service for procurement

HOON BACKS US 'SON OF STAR WARS' PROGRAMME, Financial Times (London), November 13, 2002. Geoff Hoon yesterday gave unprecedented government support to the controversial U.S. "son of star wars" system, claiming there was no divergence between American and British interests on the issue. The defence secretary also linked missile defence to the threat of rogue states, saying it could enhance existing nuclear and conventional weapons in deterring dictators. Mr. Hoon's strong backing for

the U.S.'s multi-billion dollar development work - which he said was "bringing closer the possibility of a credible and useful" defence system - is the clearest statement yet of the government's stance. It will be seen as giving a clear signal that the UK would accede to a U.S. request to use British air bases for its system. The defence secretary appears determined to move the issue up the political agenda. He promised last month to provide MPs with a dossier of evidence on missile defence, to allow a debate - probably in the new year - on co-operating with the U.S. Any agreement to back the Bush administration... would anger many within Mr. Hoon's party. Leftwing MPs characterise the system as a costly folly, which testifies to the US's overbearing militaristic approach. But Mr. Hoon seems determined to override these objections. While he stressed yesterday that the system was still at an early stage, he underlined British support for the concept... Arguments that missile defence "will somehow spark a new arms race" were dismissed by Mr. Hoon. Indeed, he argued that missile defence could "enhance strategic stability" by providing an additional deterrent against rogue states.

MDA STILL HASN'T TURNED IN FY-04 BUDGET PLAN TO THE PENTAGON, *Inside Missile Defense*, November 13, 2002. The Missile Defense Agency is continuing to put together its fiscal year 2004 budget plan, nearly three months after the military services and other defense agencies submitted their financial blueprints to the Office of the Secretary of Defense. An MDA official told *Inside Missile Defense* last week the agency's FY-04 budget plan would be submitted to OSD "after a few programmatic details are worked out."... During an Oct. 31 breakfast with reporters, MDA Director Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish alluded to the difficulties he faces in putting together the agency's 2004 budget request. "As we produce each budget, we review where we are and decide what to do about it," Kadish said. "In the past two years, we decided we needed to continue the [research and development] in a very aggressive way. But in the last two years, we've made an extreme amount of progress and so the decisions this year are a little bit more difficult than they have been in the past, from that standpoint."... [Stephen Cambone, the director of OSD's program analysis and evaluation office] explained what MDA faces this year in building the 2004 budget request. While MDA's budget is still dominated by research and development dollars, Cambone said the agency's 2004 budget has to reflect the possibility the Bush administration will decide to deploy some systems on an emergency basis. The most notable example is MDA's efforts at Ft. Greely, AK, which will be part of a new extended Pacific testing range the administration is considering using on a limited, emergency basis once it comes on line in late September 2004. Also, the Navy's sea-based midcourse defense program may be made deployable on a limited basis over the next few years. "So [Lt.] Gen. Kadish, not unreasonably, wants to see, well, where do you think I ought to fit this into this [budget] process and how should I structure the program," Cambone said.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2002

CONFEREES COMPLETE FY '03 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL, Defense Daily, November 14, 2002. Finally wrapping up work on the FY '03 defense authorization bill, congressional defense authorization conferees, meeting in a lame duck session, reached compromise on a number of areas and moved the bill for final passage. The House passed the final version of the bill and conference report in a voice vote on Tuesday night... On missile defense, the conferees provided \$7.6 billion, but added a provision allowing the president to shift \$814.3 million of those funds for activities to combat terrorism. [Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin (D-Mich.)], who pushed for that option, said the White House would have to notify Congress if it intends to shift the funding. He also said language in the bill will increase oversight and provide better management of the missile defense program. For example, the conferees agreed the Pentagon must provide adequate programmatic information on ballistic missile defense (BMD) BMD programs to the congressional defense committees. That information must include the annual budget and justification materials together with a report on the cost, schedule and testing goals of the BMD program. In addition, the conferees require a one-time Joint Requirements Oversight Council review on the cost, schedule and performance criteria of the BMD programs to assess the validity of those criteria in relation to military requirements. The conferees also call for a better cooperative relationship between the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and DoD Director of Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E)... In a more controversial area, the conferees adopted a Senate proposal prohibiting use of any funds for research, development, test, evaluation, procurement or deployment of nuclear-armed interceptors for a missile defense system.

KADISH SET TO SIGN WHITE SANDS SCUD TESTING PLAN, Inside Missile Defense, November 13, 2002. A recently completed Army plan to test Scud and Scud-like missile targets at White Sands Missile Range, NM, is awaiting approval from the Pentagon's director of missile defense programs, according to the Army Space and Missile Defense Command. The plan does not call for the targets to be intercepted and destroyed. A final assessment of the environmental consequences of carrying out flight tests of Scud targets at White Sands was sent to Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish, the director of the Missile Defense Agency, in late October, Julia Hudson-Elliott of SMDC told *InsideDefense.com* Nov. 7. Hudson-Elliott said once Kadish approves the assessment, the Army and White Sands can move ahead with scheduling the tests... In all, the plan calls for 15 Scud and Scud-like targets to be launched at White Sands to test the ability of U.S. missile defense systems against what is the most widely proliferated ballistic missile in the world... The final assessment did not address intercepting Scud targets over White Sands. "Such activity would be addressed in other environmental documentation," White Sands said in a press release issued Aug. 14. Hudson-Elliott said SMDC is not working on that type of assessment.

BRITISH DEFENCE MINISTER URGES MORE CONSIDERATION OF MISSILE DEFENSE, Defense Daily, November 14, 2002. British Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said Britain needs to think more about the dangers from the growing proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction and about how to respond. “As I told the House (of Commons), with the end of the ABM treaty, the U.S. program on missile defense is gathering momentum,” Hoon said in a speech on Tuesday to the London-based think tank The Foreign Policy Centre. “That is not to say that there is a quick and easy solution to be found within the next few years. Hitting a bullet with a bullet, which is often how the Americans describe their efforts, is no mean feat. But there are signs of progress.”... “Let me also make it clear that developing the capacity to defend against the threat of ballistic missile attack is in the interest of the U.K. and its people, just as much as it is in the interest of the United States.” Nonetheless, Hoon said there are still many technological challenges still to be met. “Assembling an elaborate warning system using a wide range of passive sensors deployed on land, at sea, in the air and in space and command and control--to direct fast-moving interceptors to targets moving at thousands of kilometers per hour,” Hoon said. “This may sound like the stuff of science-fiction but advances in technology are bringing closer the possibility of a credible and useful defense against limited numbers of missiles. What is achievable by when still remains uncertain. But we can expect the U.S. to deploy ever more sophisticated solutions over decades, as the system evolves and improves.”... The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) this fall expected to pen an agreement with British counterparts to proceed with upgrades to a radar site for integration into the U.S. ballistic missile defense system, Pentagon officials told Defense Daily... Meanwhile, Hoon said the United States has not yet decided whether it needs to use bases in the United Kingdom for this architecture. “They have not asked us for such use, but clearly they may do so,” [Hoon] said. “We need, therefore, to consider the security issues that would arise. Not least among these is whether, and how, any U.K. involvement and participation in their developing systems will affect the security of the U.K. and of Europe.”

MDA’S LASER PROGRAM FOCUSES ON A HANDFUL OF KEY TECHNOLOGIES, Inside Missile Defense, November 13, 2002. The Missile Defense Agency’s Laser Technology Program, an effort that evolved out of the now defunct Space-Based Laser Integrated Flight Experiment, will concentrate on seven or eight key component laser technologies, MDA officials said last week. Gary Payton, MDA director for advanced systems, told sister publication *Inside the Air Force* during a Nov. 4 interview that the focus of the program had shifted from a large experiment with design teams to working on technologies that could be applied to a future space-based laser effort or other programs... Other efforts include producing more efficient laser transmitters and developing better methods for cooling solid-state lasers... However, the list may further shrink. For fiscal year 2003, Congress sliced in half the program’s \$50

million budget request, according to Payton... In an Aug. 26 memo, MDA Director Air Force Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish created the LTP and consolidated the SBL effort under the management of the ABL program, ending the IFX. "As the Missile Defense Agency continues to explore and integrate directed energy systems as solutions to the challenges of missile defense, the coordination of project execution becomes increasingly important," Kadish wrote.

GREENLAND READY TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF U.S. BASE, Copenhagen (AFP) November 12, 2002. The Danish territory of Greenland is willing to discuss the status of a US radar base that it hosts, and which is thought to be a lynchpin in US plans to create a missile defence shield, the island's leader said Tuesday. Jonathan Motzfeldt, head of Greenland's local government, said he was "willing to discuss the Thule radar base" with Denmark, speaking after talks here with Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller.

The Cold War era station was originally designed as a listening post to warn Washington in the event of a Russian nuclear attack and will need substantial modification before it can become operational in the planned defence shield. "Greenland must not be obliged to pay or even to contribute to the expense of modernizing the Thule base," Motzfeldt insisted after the talks, with both men describing the US plan as a "peaceful project." Denmark and Greenland would voice neither support nor opposition to the US plans until Washington raises the issue formally at a NATO summit in Prague later this month, Moeller said at a joint press conference.

Motzfeldt will also attend the Prague talks, marking the first time Greenland has attended such high level NATO talks. The missile defence project is designed to protect the United States from a missile attack launched by so-called "rogue states" such as Iraq, Iran and North Korea. The line of the current and former Danish administrations has always been that Denmark will only agree a policy on the US plans in the event of a formal US request for it to play a role. "The government has informed the United States that it would be ready to study and consider a request if such a request were ever made," Moeller said last week. Greenland residents are thought generally to oppose the US plans, due to concerns it will put their island at the centre of a new Cold War.

BRITAIN NEEDS MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEM TOO: MINISTER, London (AFP), November 12, 2002. Britain needs a missile defence system just as much as the United States does, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said Tuesday, hinting at a more support for Washington's plans from London. In a speech to the Foreign Policy Centre in London, he said the development of a defence against ballistic missile attack was "in the interests of the UK and its people, just as much as it is in the interests of the United States". His comments will be seen as the strongest signal yet that London would be prepared to back Washington's bid to create a defensive missile shield. Hoon, who told parliament last month that he had ordered a detailed analysis of the implications of

missile defence, again insisted the US had not yet decided whether they needed to use British bases for their so-called "Son of Star Wars" system. He emphasized that when it came to considering such issues, he saw no "divergence" between basic British and US security interests. He said Iraq was only one of a number of "rogue" regimes seeking to acquire both a ballistic missile capability and weapons of mass destruction (WMD). US President George W. Bush has made building a missile defence system a cornerstone of his national security policy, despite criticism at home and abroad leveled by those who believe the project will be destabilizing.

Administration officials have brushed off the criticism, insisting an anti-missile shield could help protect the United States from an attack by what they see as "rogue states", such as Iran, Iraq and North Korea.

MISSILE SHIELD NOW APPEALS TO JAPAN: REPORT, New York (AFP), Nov 12, 2002. Japanese officials and experts believe fear of North Korea's missile and nuclear weapon programs is pushing Tokyo toward joining the United States in seeking to develop a missile defense program, The New York Times reported Monday. "We should exert efforts to get the program to leave the research phase as soon as possible," Japan's Defense Agency chief, Shigeru Ishiba, told a Parliament committee in Tokyo last week, appealing for faster work with Washington on a program that uses missiles to intercept other missiles, the daily reported.

Japanese have been rattled by North Korea's admission that it maintains a secret nuclear bomb program, and after last Tuesday's reaction by a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman to a breakdown in talks with Japan, "saying that North Korea was 'reconsidering' the moratorium on missile tests that it adopted after it test-fired a rocket over Japan in 1998," the Times said.

"The impact of the news from North Korea has been strong," Masashi Nishihara, president of the National Defense Academy, Japan's interservice military college, told the daily Friday. "North Korea has reversed its positions. That justifies us to move forward to develop missile defense, and to eventually deploy it," the report quoted him as saying. In a poll conducted a week ago for the liberal daily Asahi Shimbun, 95 percent of 2,068 Japanese respondents surveyed said they were "concerned" about North Korea's nuclear program. The Times said Japan is already conducting research on antimissile technology, which the United States hopes to deploy in 2008. But, wary of provoking China, the long-established nuclear power of Northeast Asia, Japan had planned to delay until 2004 any decision on taking part in field trials, according to the paper. Ishiba, who took over as Japan's defense minister last month, has pushed for a commitment, though Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has remained noncommittal, the report said.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2002

SCUD MISSILE LAUNCHED IN TEST, Associated Press, November 15, 2002. The Air Force launched a Scud over the Pacific Ocean on Thursday in a rare test designed to glean information on how the widely proliferated missiles fly. The 33-foot unarmed Scud, which was acquired from an unidentified foreign source, was launched at 11:25 a.m. ... Fuel to the missile was cut off 59 seconds into the flight, shortly before the Scud reached its maximum altitude of 150,000 feet, said Lt. Col. Rick Lehner, a spokesman for the Missile Defense Agency. The missile then coasted to an impact in the ocean, after traveling between 115 and 120 miles, he said. The Air Force hoped sensors on the Scud, as well as tracking data, would give them details of the missile's velocity, flight profile and how its fuel system worked, Lehner added...By studying how the Scud flies, the Air Force hopes to improve the ability of its next-generation Patriot missiles to shoot them out of the sky... The Scud currently is part of the arsenals of at least 25 nations. Iraq is believed to have about two dozen of the tactical ballistic missiles. In two 1997 tests near the Kwajalein Missile Range in the central Pacific Ocean, the Pentagon used Patriot missiles to shoot down two Scuds. A second Scud is scheduled to be launched and tracked later this year from Vandenberg Air Force Base, on California's Central Coast. The test program began in 2000 and is not tied to current tensions with Iraq, defense officials said. The Scud is a Russian derivative of the World War II-era German V-2 rocket. Like the V-2, the Scud flies under power for only a short duration and then coasts to its intended target. The missiles have a range of about 180 miles.

SCUD SHOT A PRELUDE TO IRAQ WAR? Santa Maria Times, November 15, 2002. A Scud missile left a tiny plume of white smoke across blue skies Thursday, blazing a new trail as the first foreign-made vehicle to blast off from here. After weather-related delays, the 36-foot-long Scud -- a symbol of attacks against allied troops in the Gulf War -- blasted off from a north Vandenberg Air Force Base launch site at 11:25 a.m. "It was beautiful looking," said Chris Taylor, a Missile Defense Agency spokesman. "It was a beautiful test."... Missile Defense Agency officials said they conducted the launch to collect flight characteristic data about the world's most reproduced ballistic missile. Thursday's attempt did not involve an intercept attempt. This is the first of two Scud missile tests planned for Vandenberg. Pentagon officials said the next launch will come some time before the year's end. Other sources said the second Scud could take off before Thanksgiving. The Scud launches are part of a Missile Defense Agency \$13 million program known as Blue Velvet. Data from both test flights will be compiled into a report submitted in fall 2003 and comes as an effort to develop a missile to shoot down Scuds...Scud missiles are in the hands of more than a dozen governments. "It's the most proliferated ballistic missile in the world," said Lt. Col. Richard Lehner, Missile Defense Agency spokesman. While Scud tests have occurred at other U.S.-operated missile test facilities, Thursday marked the first from the Central Coast. It also carried another first for Vandenberg. "We have launched foreign payloads before, but as far as vehicles are concerned this is the first time we've launched a foreign vehicle," said Lt. Kelly Gabel, a Vandenberg spokeswoman.

DEFENSE CONFEREES WANT REPORT ON MDA'S THAAD PLANS, Defense Daily, November 15, 2002. The defense authorization conferees, in the language accompanying their FY '03 Defense Authorization Bill, directed the Pentagon to provide detailed programmatic information on plans for the Lockheed Martin Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) program. A report on THAAD is due to the Congress by Jan. 15, according to the authorization conference report. That report from the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) must include details on the development schedule and planned procurement schedule. The report also must include a life-cycle cost estimate for the THAAD program. The authorizers added that no more than 50 percent of THAAD funding can be spent until the information is provided to lawmakers... While lawmakers routinely request reports of this sort on weapons programs, THAAD was one of the very few singled out from the missile defense activities... Over the past few years, MDA discussed plans for a block upgrade approach to THAAD, in which additional reviews could take place before 2007. MDA officials also have indicated with added funding the start of integrated flight tests could be moved from the end of 2005 to 2004. While that shift would not accelerate the pace of the program, it would advance some test activities earlier, program officials said. The EMD program currently contains extensive ground component testing and a full qualification test program, according to program officials.

RAYTHEON DELIVERS TRACK ILLUMINATOR LASER FOR ABL INTEGRATION, Defense Daily, November 15, 2002. Raytheon yesterday reported that it delivered the first track illuminator laser (TILL) to Lockheed Martin for the Airborne Laser (ABL) program. The ABL TILL is the first diode-pumped laser that has qualified for flight operation aboard a military aircraft, Raytheon said... Raytheon is subcontracting to Lockheed Martin to provide the ABL track illuminator laser, one of the system's four critical lasers. Raytheon's TILL will be integrated with the beam transfer optics for an end-to-end test of the ABL's Beam Control/Fire Control system at the Lockheed Martin ABL test facility in Sunnyvale, Calif., Raytheon noted. TILL is an integral part of the Beam Control/Fire Control system and will project rapid, powerful pulses of light to a small section of a boosting missile threat, Raytheon said. The light will then be reflected back to an extremely sensitive camera. The reflected light data is used to obtain information about the threat's speed and elevation, it added. This month, Raytheon also began technology development work on a variant of the TILL system to extend performance and accuracy and the production of contract spares... Earlier this month, Air Force Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish, director of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), said MDA and the Air Force would continue to integrate and test components of ABL but have no firm date when the system will demonstrate its ability to shoot down a target.

U.S. MISSILE CHIEF TO VISIT EARLY WARNING STATION, Press Association, November 15, 2002. The head of the U.S. missile defence project will visit the UK base which is key to its success, it was confirmed today. Defence chiefs played down the significance of General Ronald Kadish's trip to RAF Fylingdales, an early warning radar station, in North Yorkshire. But it comes just days after Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon signaled British participation in the controversial project. Gen. Kadish will tour the base on Wednesday after attending a conference on missile defence in London. "It is an informal familiarisation visit," a Ministry of Defence spokeswoman said. "It is not a pre-cursor to anything more serious." The general will not be accompanied by technicians, the spokeswoman said. "He asked to visit the base and it would be churlish, if not difficult, to refuse," she added. Labour MPs have spoken out against the U.S. National Missile Defence programme. Ministers insist they cannot even consider allowing the U.S. to use the Fylingdales and Menwith Hill bases in North Yorkshire until a formal request is made. However, Mr. Hoon signaled British involvement in a speech he delivered just three days ago. The Defence Secretary warned of the growing threat of a missile attack on Britain from "rogue state" like Iraq. And he said the development of a defence against ballistic missile attack was "in the interests of the UK and its people, just as much as it is in the interests of the United States." Mr. Hoon last month told MPs he had ordered a detailed analysis of the implications of missile defence. However, on Tuesday he again insisted the U.S. had not yet decided whether they needed to use the British bases for their so-called "Son of Star Wars" system.