



## Defending our Nation from Unpredictable Threats Requires a Multi-Layered and Integrated Missile Defense

**The Aerospace Industries Association of America represents 300 aerospace manufacturing companies and a U.S. workforce of more than 635,000.**

**Our nation's space industry generates over \$41 billion dollars a year.**

**U.S. aerospace and aviation industries represent approximately 10 percent of the GDP.**

### BACKGROUND

**Since its conception, ballistic missile defense (BMD) capabilities have demonstrated tangible results that have significantly improved our national security and serves to protect our citizens from harm.**

In a hostile world, where rogue nations such as North Korea and Iran continue to pursue development of increasingly sophisticated BMD technologies, a multi-layered and integrated missile defense system is critical to protecting our national security.

The United States has made significant progress in this field in the past 25 years. BMD has proven to be one of the most technologically complex and challenging defense missions our nation has pursued. The U.S. has deployed an initial operating system to provide a limited defense against an attack against any one of our 50 states. The U.S. has also deployed systems to defend against short range ballistic missiles in the field and has a range of programs to defend against threats across the spectrum of a ballistic missiles flight. The U.S. has also made great strides in leveraging limited resources by partnering with international allies, as evidenced by the agreements with Japan, Israel and NATO countries.

While the U.S. has made great progress, more remains to be done. Ballistic missile systems to protect the U.S. homeland can and should be strengthened to protect against more sophisticated threats. The Aegis BMD and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) systems are nearing the end of their development phases and must be transitioned to deployment – and deployed in greater numbers than currently planned. U.S. systems that can defeat ballistic missiles in the boost and ascent phases, are in the midst of development, and require ongoing investment to continue as planned. The U.S. is also

currently exploring the potential for space-based defenses in the nascent space test bed program.

### ISSUES

- Funding must be appropriately focused on both near-term systems and developmental systems to address long term goals. Failure to address long-term goals will result in capability gaps to counter future threats.
- Budget pressures force tough decisions about priority and long-term development often serves as a source of funding for near-term needs.
- The fielded mid-course defense system provides a much-needed initial capability but should be expanded with the addition of a European component. This will be essential to protect our homeland as well as friends and allies against evolving threats such as Iran.

### RECOMMENDATION

**Support the President's FY 2009 Budget Request for Missile Defense. The United States and its allies continue to face near and long term threats against the homeland. It is important that the U.S. sustain its current systems, while ensuring continued R&D for the future. This strategy must also include leveraging the available resources of our international partners.**

**Contact:**  
**J.P. Stevens**  
**AIA VP, Space Systems Division**  
**703-358-1030**  
**jp.stevens@aia-aerospace.org**