

Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance

"Protecting our way of life"

To: Members of the 111th Congress
From: Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance
Date: September 11, 2009
Re: Completion of current construction of silos for Ground-Based Interceptors at Fort Greely, Alaska – per MDAA onsite visit September 3rd, 2009.

Background

The Obama Administration and Department of Defense have halted full construction of Missile Field Two at Fort Greely, Alaska that is engineered to hold 14 silos. In addition, Missile Field One has 6 fully operational silos in place that will be "mothballed." The entire missile defense system at Fort Greely is over 90 percent funded for a total of more than \$10 billion dollars. To finish the silo construction and complete the system would cost an estimated \$116 million dollars. To restart the construction, as the Secretary Defense has mentioned, would cost the U.S. taxpayers 3 to 5 times more.

Completion of Fort Greely would provide 40 operational silos for the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) missile defense system as previously planned for deployment and testing, with the option of using Missile Field One as a test bed for the ground-based interceptors as it was intended. The Administration's stated position to reduce the deployed Ground-Based Interceptors to 30 would come from the 40 silos in Fort Greely and 4 silos in Vandenberg Air Force Base with the cost efficiency and savings to have silos available for modernization and deployment as the long-range ballistic missile threat evolves and grows against the United States of America. Regardless the number of Ground-Based Interceptors – whether that is 30 or any number up to 44 – all 44 GBI silos should be built.

Findings

- Missile Field One has six silos, a maintenance and engineering building and is operational. It was designed as a test bed, but later made operational. Since it is the oldest field its sustainment costs are much higher than the other two missile fields.
- Missile Field Two is under construction with 14 silos in progress. A maintenance and engineering building has already been completed.
- Missile Field Three is complete with 20 silos, a maintenance and engineering building, and is fully operational. New Ground-Based Interceptors are currently being deployed there.
- 14 Silo Interface Vaults (SIVs) have been custom-made and built for Missile Field Two.
- Maintenance and engineering buildings for all three missile fields that control all heating and cooling of each individual silo are constructed and paid for.

- More than \$10 billion dollars has been invested at Fort Greely and it would be a misuse of taxpayer money not to finish the construction, especially bearing in mind the fact that the threat will continue to evolve over time and future situations will require an increased number of interceptors.
- If the Administration and Secretary of Defense proceed with their plan to limit the number of Ground-Based Interceptors to 30 we will see 31.8 percent reduction of our long-range missile defense capability.

Analysis

Missile defense is a vital part of our national security and the Obama Administration should proceed with the original plan to deploy 44 GBI silos at Fort Greely and Vandenberg Air Force Base. Any reduction in the amount of silos will result in decreased protection to our homeland. However, if the plan to reduce the number of GBI silos to 30 has already been decided and is non-negotiable we recommend completion of all the silos currently under construction rather than abandoning them. Under the proposed plan Missile Field One would be “mothballed.” We recommend that Missile Field One be used for testing as it was originally intended.

Infrastructure at Ft. Greely has already been built and a significant investment of time and resources has already been committed. The estimated amount that it would cost to complete the project (\$116 million) pales in comparison to the amount that has been spent (+\$10 billion). Stopping the project now would essentially be wasting taxpayer dollars. Further, if the Administration or Secretary of Defense chooses to stop construction and begin at a later date it will come at an even higher cost to taxpayers due to the cost of restarting construction. We must also consider that the threat to our nation will continue to increase and it is imprudent to not invest in foundation and infrastructure technology now at a lower cost when we know that it will be necessary in the future.