



Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance
Issue Brief for the 114th Congress

Aegis Ashore and the European Phased Adaptive Approach



Background

Aegis Ashore is designed to protect Europe from short to intermediate range ballistic missiles threats originating from the Middle East. It is a land-based version of the proven, ship-based Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense system. Phase 2 of the EPAA is on track to become operational at the Deveselu Military Base in Romania by the end of 2015. Phase 3 in Poland will become operational in 2018. The European Phased Adaptive

Approach (EPAA) replaced a plan to place a third Ground Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) site in Europe. Aegis Ashore is configured with the AN/SPY-1 Radar, MK-41 Vertical Launch System, and SM-3 interceptors. The Romanian site will feature the Aegis BMD 5.0 software configuration along with the SM-3 Block IB interceptors. Phase III will cover a wider area using SM-3 Block IIA interceptors.

Recent Developments

- **February 2015** The FY2016 MDA Budget request calls for **\$169 million** in military construction for Aegis Ashore site in Poland.
- **November 2014** The Missile Defense Agency successfully conducted a flight test (FTM-25) of Aegis BMD technology including components of Aegis Ashore. The USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) features Aegis BMD 5.0 software configuration and SM-3 Block IB interceptor. The system tracked and intercepted two cruise missiles and a short-range ballistic missile simultaneously.
- **October 2014** The United States Navy held a Naval Support Facility Establishment Ceremony to install an American commander at the Deveselu facility. The ceremony was the first step in transitioning the base from a construction site to a site of operations.
- **May 2014** The first live flight test of the Aegis Ashore system was successfully conducted at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) in Kauai, Hawaii. Tests at the PMRF will ensure that the software and hardware architecture of the Aegis Ashore system in Romania is tested on a live-fire range.

Issues for Congress

1. Russia continues to state that it views missile defenses in Europe as a threat to its strategic nuclear forces. In July, the State Department found Russia in violation of the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty. Moscow responded with its own accusations including concerns that the MK-41 launcher component of the Aegis Ashore system also violates the INF, citing its ability to launch offensive ground launched cruise missiles as well as defensive interceptors.
 - a. The United States maintains the position that missile defense in Europe lacks the technological capability to threaten Russia's ICBMs.
 - b. The EPAA has already been scaled back previously with the cancellation of Phase 4, which would have provided protection of the U.S. homeland by 2020.
 - c. Future discussions with Russia on arms control will likely include attempts by Moscow to limit American/NATO deployment of missile defenses in Europe.
2. Ballistic missiles threaten to further destabilize the Middle East as Iran continues to develop its missile program. Phase 2 of the EPAA seeks to mitigate the risk with a robust capability to defend against these threats. Therefore investment in sufficient resources, including an adequate number of interceptors to meet the threat, is critical to the success of the system.
3. Given the proven success of the system, in the future, the U.S. may consider the export of the Aegis Ashore system to close allies such as Japan or GCC countries which are under threat of medium and intermediate range missile from rogue nations.