

Public reading copies of the Final EIS and the ROD are available for review at the public libraries within the communities near proposed activities and at the MDA Internet site: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo/>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### A. MDA Decision

The MDA is issuing this ROD, selecting portions of Alternative 2 as described in the GMD ETR EIS, to establish a GMD extended test range capability, to provide for the construction and operation of an SBX, and to select the location of the SBX PSB. This decision includes the capability to conduct single and dual launches of interceptor and target missiles at RTS and Vandenberg AFB. Development of these capabilities will include target launch facility modifications/construction at RTS; modification of launch and support facilities at Vandenberg AFB; construction of an In-Flight Interceptor Communication System Data Terminal (IDT) at Titan Pasture at Vandenberg AFB; a TPS-X radar; added range instrumentation (tracking and range safety radars) at the test site and test support locations; and use of either existing GMD Fire Control/Communications (GFC/C) facilities and links at RTS, or new GFC/C facilities that may be developed at Fort Greely, Alaska and/or Schriever AFB or Cheyenne Mountain Complex, Colorado.

Additionally, MDA has decided to construct an SBX for Pacific range testing. MDA has also decided to establish a Primary Support Base at Adak, Alaska. The vessel will be constructed and outfitted with an XBR and ancillary test equipment in the Gulf of Mexico and will transit to the Primary Support Base (PSB) and testing region when completed.

This Record of Decision makes no decision regarding Alternative 2's components at KLC. The FAA is contemplating re-licensing activities at KLC. Should FAA re-license KLC activities, MDA may issue a second ROD regarding the KLC portion of Alternative 2.

##### B. Background

In July 2000, the MDA completed the National Missile Defense (NMD) Deployment EIS to support decisions concerning deployment of a GMD (formerly NMD element. At the direction of the Secretary of Defense, the MDA re-directed the GMD element to focus on operationally realistic testing. The GMD ETR EIS analyzed the proposed GMD Extended Test Range

actions and alternatives for potential impacts on the environment.

The proposed action analyzed in the GMD ETR EIS is to develop the capability to conduct more realistic interceptor flight tests in support of GMD. The extension of the existing GMD test range will increase the realism of GMD testing by using multiple engagement scenarios, trajectories, geometries, distances, and speeds of target and interceptors that closely resemble those in which an operational system will be required to provide an effective defense. Extended range testing will include pre-launch activities, launch of targets and Ground-Based Interceptors (GBI) from a number of widely separated geographic locations, and missile intercepts over the Pacific Ocean.

On December 16, 2002, President George W. Bush issued National Security Presidential Directive 23 announcing plans to begin fielding an initial set of missile defense capabilities by the year 2004. The MDA proposes to use existing test facilities and infrastructure to the extent possible in fielding these initial capabilities. Some of the assets proposed for the Initial Defensive Operations (IDO) capability are analyzed as part of the GMD ETR EIS. For example, facilities at Vandenberg AFB will also be used in support of the IDO capability. Due to the nature of the IDO, the configuration and use of those assets will be separately analyzed under NEPA, and are also assessed in the relevant cumulative effects sections. Some assets, such as the SBX, will also be used in support of IDO. As the SBX in an IDO role will be operated in the same manner as in a test mode, no further NEPA analysis is required.

##### C. NEPA Process

The GMD ETR EIS was prepared pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulation implementing the NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508), Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 4715.9, and the applicable service environmental regulations that implement these laws and regulations.

The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the GMD Extended Test Range was published in the **Federal Register** on March 28, 2002, initiating the public scoping process. Public scoping meetings were held from April from December 2002 in eight communities perceived to be affected by the proposed GMD extended test range. The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the GMD Extended Test Range Draft EIS was published in the **Federal Register**

on February 7, 2003. This initiated a public review and comment period for the Draft EIS. Seven public hearings were held from February 24 through March 6, 2003. Comments on the Draft EIS were considered in the preparation of the Final EIS. The NOA for the Final EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on July 15, 2003, initiating an additional 30-day review period. This ROD is the culmination of the NEPA process.

##### D. Alternatives Considered

###### 1. No-Action Alternative

As required by the CEQ regulations, the GMD ETR EIS evaluated a No-Action Alternative. Under this alternative, the GMD ETR would not be established and interceptor and target launch scenarios would not be fully tested under operationally realistic conditions. All existing launch areas and other support facilities would continue current operations for GMD and other mission activities.

###### 2. Alternative 2 (Selected Alternative)

Target missiles will be launched from Vandenberg AFB, KLC, PMRF, RTS, or from mobile platforms in the Pacific Ocean. GBIs will be launched from Vandenberg AFB or RTS. Dual target and GBI missiles launches will occur in some scenarios. Existing, modified, or newly constructed launch facilities and infrastructure will support these launch activities at the various locations.

Missile acquisition and tracking will be provided by existing test range sensors, shipborne sensors, an SBX, and/or a mobile sensor (TPS-X) positioned at Vandenberg AFB, PMRF, or RTS; and existing/upgraded radars at Beale AFB, California, and Clear Air Station and Eareckson Air Station, Alaska. An IDT will be constructed/installed at a site near the proposed Ground-Based interceptor launch sites on Vandenberg AFB. Six potential sites were considered at Vandenberg for the IDT. Commercial satellite communications terminals will be constructed at launch locations that do not have fiber optic communications links.

###### 3. Alternative 1

Alternative 1 is similar to Alternative 2, with the exception that ground-based interceptor launches would be from KLC and RTS instead of Vandenberg AFB and RTS. The GBI launch would require construction of an IDT and modifications of existing launch support facilities at KLC. Alternative 1 would include site preparation and operation of a TPS-X radar at KLC, Vandenberg