



Sea-Based X-Band Radar

Once integrated into the Ballistic Missile Defense System, the Sea-Based X-Band Radar will track, discriminate and assess incoming target missiles and will greatly increase the Missile Defense Agency's ability to conduct strenuous, operationally realistic testing of its Ground-Based Midcourse Defense element.

Overview

- The Sea-Based X-Band Radar is a unique combination of an advanced X-band radar with a mobile, ocean-going, semi-submersible platform that provides the Ballistic Missile Defense System with a discrimination capability that can be positioned to cover any part of the globe.
- The vessel is a high tech, fifth generation semi-submersible oil drilling platform. It is twin-hulled, self-propelled, and stable in high winds and turbulent sea conditions.
- Its ocean-spanning mobility allows the radar to be repositioned as needed to support the various test scenarios envisioned for the Ballistic Missile Defense System or to provide radar coverage of possible threat missile launches from anywhere in the world.



Details

- The Sea-Based X-Band Radar is 240 feet wide and 390 feet long. It towers more than 280 feet from its keel to the top of the radar dome and displaces nearly 50,000 tons.
- Larger than a football field, the main deck houses living quarters, workspaces, storage, power generation, a bridge and control rooms while providing the floor space and infrastructure necessary to support the radar antenna array, command control and communications suites, and an In-flight Interceptor Communication System Data Terminal.
- The Sea-Based X-Band Radar will be manned by approximately 75 crew members.

Development

- Construction and integration were completed in two Texas shipyards, and extensive sea-trials were conducted in the Gulf of Mexico.
- The Sea-Based X-Band Radar is scheduled to transit to the Pacific in late 2005 enroute to its primary support base at Adak, Alaska.