

**Opening Statement by
The Honorable Thomas P. Christie
Director, Operational Test and Evaluation**

**Before The
Senate Armed Services Committee
Strategic Subcommittee**

**Ballistic Missile Defense
March 13, 2002**

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you and discuss the role of the office of the Director of Operational Testing (DOT&E) in overseeing the planning and execution of a robust test and evaluation strategy for the various components that comprise our Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) program.

As you know, the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is embarking on a new and aggressive approach to the development and acquisition of missile defense capabilities. The traditional paradigm of developing and producing weapon systems based on a set of user and technical system level requirements is being transformed. The new approach is evolving to provide for the successful development of capabilities that are responsive to imminent threats and can be readily deployed, while at the same time maintaining essential operational effectiveness and suitability standards for equipment that is fielded with our operational forces. As this MDA acquisition and oversight process evolves, DOT&E is adjusting the way we execute our responsibilities to accommodate this new acquisition approach.

I use the word “evolving” in my references to this new process because I view that evolution as not yet complete. My staff and I have been given access to the MDA’s initial plans, which are still in the early stages of implementation. My staff has been working with their MDA counterparts to assure that DOT&E access to MDA’s plans and programs is adequate for us to accomplish our oversight mission. We have agreed to an oversight approach where we are broadly involved at the MDA and element levels during the early RDT&E phases.

Our level of involvement will increase appropriately as the programs mature and progress into and through the Transition and Procurement phases. We plan to monitor significant testing and technology interchange activities at the project level throughout all the phases. We will provide the results of our evaluations directly to the MDA and to the senior leadership of the Department through the Missile Defense Support Group (MDSG) and its Working Group, both of which include members of my staff. As the programs

move through the Transition phase, we will increase our involvement in test planning and execution activities, especially as appropriate to support both Live Fire Test and Evaluation and Operational Test and Evaluation. We plan to provide an independent operational assessment that addresses the operational effectiveness and suitability for each capability at each of its major decision points. DOT&E will also prepare an annual report for the Department and Congress on each of the MDA programs. As required by Congressional language, this report will provide our assessment of the “adequacy and sufficiency” of MDA’s testing program over the previous year.

In addition to missile defense program redirection, MDA is redefining the ballistic missile defense architecture to provide a System of Systems approach to a layered missile defense. The new approach replaces the old National and Theater Ballistic Missile Defense initiatives with an integrated, layered approach, now called the Missile Defense System. We will closely monitor testing of the individual elements within the Missile Defense System, as well as the testing of the integrated elements, including the battle management, command, control, communications and intelligence (BMC3), which will tie the individual elements together to provide a robust, integrated layered Missile Defense System capability.

A key aspect of the development and testing of the new Missile Defense System is establishing the Missile Defense System Testbed and its supporting infrastructure. This integration of both existing and new facilities and equipment is planned to support the execution of operationally realistic ground and flight-testing. The Testbed should mitigate many of the existing test limitations that prevented operationally realistic flight-testing of the old National Missile Defense system. As a result of phasing in new launch and tracking facilities, future Ground-Based Midcourse System flight-testing can gradually increase in realism and complexity at a pace consistent with disciplined engineering practice and fiscal responsibility. I strongly concur with the funding and development of this vital testing asset.

I intend to work very closely with both Under Secretary Aldridge and General Kadish to support the development and adequate testing of a capability that will secure the defense of our nation and its fighting forces, while maintaining our responsibility of acquisition oversight.

Mr. Chairman I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.