



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



October 21, 2009

## Navy Ballistic Missile Defense Capability

*“The best way to responsibly advance our security and the security of our allies is to deploy a missile defense system that best responds to the threats that we face and that utilizes technology that is both proven and cost effective.”*  
– President Barack Obama

Combatant Commander demand for ballistic missile defense (BMD) capabilities continues to rise as ballistic missile threats proliferate. BMD is a capability required to defend U.S. territory, assets and allies against ballistic missile attack. Interoperability of Navy BMD capability with other elements of the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) and international partners provides for defense in depth using the inherent mobility of deployed maritime forces.

### A key warfighting capability for the Maritime Strategy

Navy BMD provides mobile and layered defense against both established and emergent threats.

- Aegis BMD using the Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) provides midcourse engagement capability against short, medium and some intermediate-range ballistic missiles. Additionally, the modified SM-2 Block IV provides terminal defense against shorter range ballistic missiles.
- Aegis BMD advancements provide the ability to conduct long-range surveillance and tracking of ballistic missiles, transmitting information to domestic and international ballistic missile defense sensors and interceptors.
- A cooperative effort with Japan will provide a version of the SM-3, to begin testing in 2014 and deploy as early as 2016, with capabilities to counter longer-range and faster ballistic missile threats. This effort will further expand the BMD capability of the surface fleet.

### Concept of Operations

The Navy executes the BMD mission at sea through the Joint Force Maritime Component Commander using Aegis BMD-capable multi-mission ships in a joint and international BMDS architecture.

- Interoperability with our own forces and allies contributes to the defense of the U.S., forward deployed forces, allies and friends while evolving the BMD architecture. Exercises, war games and real world operations strengthen cooperation between joint entities, allies and friends.

### Scalable, flexible and mobile

- Aegis BMD is a proven afloat capability that will also transition ashore in the future to help defend Europe.
- Aegis BMD is beneficial to Combatant Commanders in all regions of the globe.

### Key Messages

- Aegis BMD provides a mobile missile defense option using international waters to provide defense to both U.S. and allies against established and emergent threats.
- Improvement of U.S. and partner BMD capabilities is important to maintaining an effective posture against current and projected threats.
- Aegis BMD is a vital part of the Navy’s future, providing homeland defense and defense of allies and forward deployed forces.
- The Aegis weapon system with Standard Missile provides effective, in-stride BMD capability at sea and, in the future, defense ashore.

### Facts & Figures

- Aegis BMD tests results:
  - 16 successes out of 19 tests in SM-3 midcourse intercepts.
  - 3 successes out of 3 tests in SM-2 Block IV terminal intercepts.
- In February 2008, USS Lake Erie launched an SM-3 that destroyed a non-functioning National Reconnaissance Office satellite in space over the Pacific Ocean.
- Nineteen U.S. ships (three cruisers and 16 destroyers) are now equipped to provide BMD protection against short-intermediate range threats. The Navy is adding to its BMD capability by way of new construction and Aegis modernization programs.