



Department of the Air Force
Scientific Advisory Board

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Theater Ballistic Missile Assessment Study

Abstract

The proliferation of Theater Ballistic Missiles (TBMs) is a growing threat to our fielded forces and coalition partners. It is of critical importance that the U.S. Air Force maintains a high level of confidence in its understanding, on a global scale, of current TBM capabilities (e.g., characteristics of warheads, guidance systems, propulsion, and command and control systems). The ability to detect, track, target, and potentially to engage and destroy TBMs is required, whether the missiles are located in garrisons or depots or are deployed in the field. An accurate assessment of the desired effects against TBMs is further required as a critical element of the timeline for defeat.

The study will:

- 1) Identify current and projected global capabilities in TBMs including range, precision (CEP), and potential yield, and broadly assess the severity of the threats.
- 2) Assess specific characteristics of global TBM systems, including warheads, guidance systems, propulsion, transportation methods, and command and control.
- 3) Identify current and projected gaps in AF capabilities with respect to the detection, tracking, targeting and engaging of TBMs, whether they are located in garrisons or depots or are being deployed in the field. Recommend promising technological solutions for detection, tracking, targeting, and engagement that could be deployed in the near-, mid- and far-term.
- 4) Assess the current and projected state of defense against TBMs as well as the current and projected ability to perform battle damage assessment. Recommend promising technological solutions for defense as well as battle damage assessment that could be deployed in the near-, mid-, and far-term.