

PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee Bob Stump, Chairman

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HASC CHAIRMAN BOB STUMP: MISSILE DEFENSE TEST AN “IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD”

“Tonight’s missile defense test is an important step forward on the path toward development and deployment of an effective missile defense system. This test had multiple objectives designed to advance our understanding of how to defend against a real and growing threat. A rigorous test regime is essential to this goal.

“I am encouraged that this intercept test was successful. However, the test would still have been tremendously useful even had the intercept failed. We often learn more from our failures than from our successes. Test failures are a fact of life and should neither be feared nor exaggerated. Every test conducted thus far has given our engineers and scientists more of the information they need to make the program succeed. Tonight’s test was no exception. What is exceptional is the amount of attention paid to a singular event that is a routine part of any research and development program.

“I am pleased to note that the President’s fiscal year 2002 defense budget provides significant budget increases to missile defense testing programs and am confident that the information gained from tonight’s successful test will help move us forward toward the day when all Americans are protected against the growing threat of ballistic missile attack.”

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