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## **Ground-Based Midcourse Defense**

Activated in 2003, the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD) is a small group of Soldiers serving as the only U.S. military unit tasked with defending the homeland against long-range ballistic missile attacks. Soldiers operate a sophisticated fire control system supported by an array of sensors and a ground-based, missile-launched exoatmospheric kill vehicle to track, intercept and destroy an enemy warhead in its midcourse phase of flight, outside the earth's atmosphere.

## **100th MD BDE Headquarters**

The 100th Brigade is located in Colorado Springs. It is a multi-component headquarters primarily comprised of Colorado Army National Guard Soldiers integrated with a small number of regular Army Soldiers. The 100th has responsibilities to multiple chains of command: administratively, as a part of the Colorado Army National Guard and operationally, as part of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. The 100th Missile Defense Brigade also has a supporting relationship to its geographic combatant command, U.S. Northern Command.

## **The Missile Defense Element**

The Missile Defense Element is located at Schriever Space Force Base in Colorado. This is the operational node of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade where missile defense crews monitor Ballistic Missile Defense sensors that detect incoming missiles. On order, these Soldiers destroy intercontinental ballistic missiles in midcourse to defend the U.S. and designated areas. The MDE has oversight of the Fire Direction Center at Fort Greely, Alaska, which is operated by 49th Missile Defense Battalion Soldiers.



*Two Ground-based Interceptors are launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base March 25, 2019, in the first-ever salvo flight test of the GMD system. The GBIs intercepted a threat-representative ICBM target launched from the Marshall Islands. (Missile Defense Agency)*



*A Ground-based Interceptor emplaced at Fort Greely, Alaska. (Archive photo)*



Soldiers with Military Police Ground-based Interceptor Security Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, patrol the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely, Alaska. (Archive photo)

## The 49th Missile Defense Battalion

This battalion is headquartered at Fort Greely, Alaska, and comprised of Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers. Military Police Soldiers are responsible for securing the Missile Defense Complex where most of the nation's ground-based interceptors are emplaced underground. Also located at Fort Greely is the Fire Direction Center, which is nearly identical in composition and function to the MDE in Colorado. The key difference is that the FDC is responsible for the tactical-level execution of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense mission with the MDE providing guidance and oversight during the execution of that mission.

## The 117th Space Battalion

The Colorado Army National Guard's 117th Space Battalion at Fort Carson is assigned to the 100th MD BDE for administrative and operational control. The 117th BN plans, coordinates, integrates, and executes space operations support for Army, Joint, Combined Forces, Homeland Security and Domestic Operations relief missions by training, organizing, sustaining and deploying combat-ready Army National Guard space forces.



## Detachment 1

The detachment is located at Vandenberg Space Force Base, California. This detachment is responsible for operating GMD launch facilities and support equipment in direct support of the MDE and FDC's missions. All Soldiers of the unit are members of the California Army National Guard.



## Fort Drum Security Detachment

The 100th Brigade provides operational, administrative and logistical oversight and support to this small detachment of regular Army leadership and Department of the Army security guards who provide constant security to a communications component of the GMD system at Fort Drum, New York.