

## Update on U.S. Missile Defense Spending

Written by

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From the Congressional Research Services of the Library of Congress we learn that the Bush administration has requested \$3.3 billion for the Ground-Based Interceptor program currently being deployed in Alaska and California.

-- Space & Technology Editor For FY2006, the Bush Administration requested \$8.8 billion for the Missile Defense Agency budget. This includes \$3.3 billion for the Ground-Based Interceptor (GBI) program, currently being deployed in Alaska and California.

Five more interceptors are requested in the FY2006 budget (versus 10 planned previously), and the selection of a third site is delayed to FY2007. The Administration also asked for a significant increase in the Kinetic Energy Interceptor (KEI) program, which Congress in FY2005 reduced. Previously, for FY2005, Congress appropriated almost \$10 billion for all missile defense programs, a cut of about \$175 million from the President's budget request.

Although missile defense remains strongly supported, Congress and others continue to raise questions and concerns over several programs, including the Airborne Laser, the SSTS (Space Surveillance and Tracking System), and the BMD System Interceptor program. Questions also continue over significant flight tests delays in the ground-based system that is currently deployed in Alaska.

The complete document can be retrieved from the Federation of American Scientists <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/weapons/RL31111.pdf>