

CHAPTER 1.

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTIONS

1.1 INTRODUCTION

On December 16, 2002, National Security Presidential Directive -23 (Bush 2002) directed the Department of Defense to establish a capability to protect the United States (U.S.) homeland, forces, and its allies from ballistic missile attacks starting in 2004. Although there has not yet been a final determination of whether the Army will be given the ballistic missile mission on Guam, this Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzes how that mission would be conducted. The ultimate decision on whether to establish the AMDTF will be made at some time after the Record of Decision (ROD) regarding the Marine Corps relocation.

The ballistic missile defense program develops the capability to defend territories and forces of the U.S. and its allies against all classes and ranges of ballistic missile threats. To protect the territory of Guam and the U.S. forces on Guam from such threats, an Army Air and Missile Defense Task Force (AMDTF) is proposed.

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED

The overarching purpose of and need for the proposed actions, including the AMDTF, is outlined in Volume 1, Section 1.3.1. With regard to the specific proposed actions in Volume 5, the purpose is to provide a land-based terminal air defense and to develop infrastructure and facilities that support the presence and operation of an AMDTF land-based air defense capability on Guam.

A significant number of countries have ballistic missile capabilities and others are working to establish these missile systems. Such systems can deliver conventional, nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. The range of the defensive ballistic missiles dictates that their location must be in the proximity of the protected assets. The need for the proposed actions is to protect the territory of Guam, its citizens, and U.S. forces on Guam from the threat of harm from ballistic missile attacks from other countries and enemies of the U.S.

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1.2 Purpose and Need

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