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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

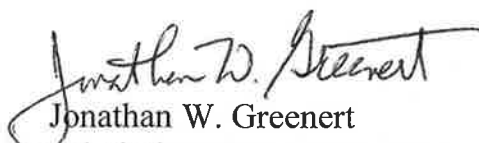
SUBJECT: Adjusting the Ballistic Missile Defense Strategy


The recent Army-Navy Warfighter Talks highlighted the growing challenges associated with ballistic missile threats that are increasingly capable, continue to outpace our active defense systems, and exceed our Services' capacity to meet Combatant Commanders' demand.

Additionally, looking ahead at the long-term budgetary horizon and the attendant financial pressures that the Budget Control Act would impose, we believe a Department sponsored ballistic missile defense strategy assessment is warranted.

Our present acquisition-based strategy is unsustainable in the current fiscal environment and favors forward deployment of assets in lieu of deterrence-based options to meet contingency demands. Now is the opportunity to develop a long-term approach that addresses homeland missile defense and regional missile defense priorities - a holistic approach that is more sustainable and cost effective, incorporating "left-of-launch" and other non-kinetic means of defense. The proposed strategy would serve as the capstone for the Department to balance priorities, inform resourcing decisions, and restore our strategic flexibility.

The Departments of the Army and Navy stand ready to work collaboratively with your staff to realize a Services-informed strategy that addresses our shared objectives.

  
Jonathan W. Greenert  
Admiral, United States Navy  
Chief of Naval Operations

  
Raymond T. Odierno  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff