

## **Iron Dome for America**

### **Administration Actions:**

President Trump issued an Executive Order (EO) titled [the Iron Dome for America](#) which makes it the policy of the United States to deploy and maintain a next-generation missile defense shield and guarantee its secure second-strike capability.

This EO requires that the Secretary of Defense submit an implementation plan for a next-generation missile shield to defend the U.S. against ballistic, hypersonic, advanced cruise missiles, and other next-generation aerial attacks from peer, near-peer, and rogue adversaries.

Section 3 (a) requires the Secretary to accelerate the deployment of the [Hypersonic and Ballistic Tracking Space Sensor layer](#), proliferated space-based interceptors capable of boost-phase intercept, underlayer and terminal-phase intercept capabilities postured to defeat a countervalue attack, and a custody layer of the [Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture](#). To this end, the Secretary and Director of the Office of Management and Budget would be required to submit a plan to fund this directive.

Section 3 (d) requires an updated assessment of the strategic missile threat to the Homeland and a prioritized set of locations to progressively defend against a countervalue attack by nuclear adversaries.

Section 4 requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct an “Allied and Theater Missile Defense Review,” regarding ways the U.S. and its allies can increase cooperation on missile defense and improve theater missile defense.

### **Background:**

- The threat of next-generation strategic weapons, including hypersonic, has become more complex with the development of next-generation delivery systems by adversaries such as China.
- China now has the world’s leading hypersonic missile arsenal.
  - Hypersonic missiles [travel](#) at speeds of Mach 5 or faster, using advanced propulsion systems to maintain velocity while gliding through the upper atmosphere.
  - In 2021, China test [fired](#) two intercontinental hypersonic missiles that flew at least partway around the world.
  - In addition, [Russia and North Korea](#) present a long-range missile threat.
- Prior to this order, the Pentagon [had](#) begun work on the National Capital Region Integrated Air Defense System designed to shield the Washington, DC area from incoming aerial threats, which will include systems like the [Norwegian National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System \(NASAMS\)](#).
- The [Iron Dome](#) is an Israeli mobile all-weather air defense system designed to intercept and destroy short range rockets and artillery shells. Israel developed this system with U.S. backing, and it has been operational since 2011.