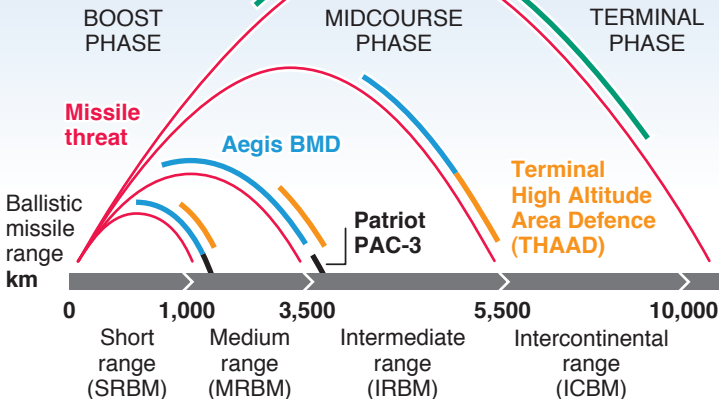


Options to shoot down North Korean missile

North Korea's firing of a ballistic missile over Japan could push Washington to use its multi-layered missile defence system to attempt to shoot down a future test launch

BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENCE (BMD)

Thick lines represent approximate extent of intercept capabilities



1 Patriot PAC-3: Used by U.S. and allies, including South Korea and Japan, to protect key installations. Could target slower ballistic missiles. Range: **40km**

2 THAAD: Deployed to South Korea and island of Guam. Intercepts missile inside or just outside atmosphere. U.S. says it has made 15 successful interceptions out of 15 tests. Range: **200km**

3 Aegis BMD: SM-3 interceptors on Japanese and U.S. warships could hit missile in midcourse phase if close to its trajectory. Range: **500km**

4 GMD: Interceptors in Alaska and California designed to protect U.S. mainland. Ten of 18 tests successful since 1999. Range: **5,300km**

