

New U.S. approach to missile defence

The Trump administration is responding to the threat of a North Korean attack by spending billions of dollars on existing defence systems and new strategies to defeat Pyongyang's long-range missiles

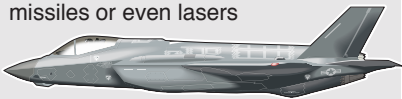


NEW STRATEGIES

1 Before launch

Stepping up cyberattacks to interfere with missile control, or carrying out industrial sabotage to slow North Korea's test programme

2 Boost-phase defence: Shooting down missile in first five minutes of flight – when it is rising slowly and before it releases any decoys – using patrolling drones or **F-35** fighter jets armed with long-range air-to-air missiles or even lasers



EXISTING SYSTEMS

1 Expansion: Boosting number of *Ground-Based Interceptor* missiles – deployed in Alaska and California to defend U.S. against incoming warheads during midcourse phase – from 44 to as many as 104

2 Reliability: Equipping interceptors with improved *Exoatmospheric Kill Vehicle*, which destroys warhead by force of impact. In trial runs, conducted in ideal conditions, interceptors have achieved only 50 percent success rate