



MISSILE DEFENSE

on Guard

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U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and the Colorado Army National Guard activated the nation's first ground-based Midcourse Defense Brigade Oct. 16, 2003.

The brigade operates the first part of the integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System, which, in concert with sister services, is designed to protect the nation from accidental or intentional limited ballistic missile attacks. It is manned both by Colorado Army National Guard and active-component Soldiers.

The brigade provides expertise to U.S. Northern Command's command and control operations from the Schriever Air Force Base. Alpha through Echo crews man the computers that monitor the skies. There are also crews in Alaska and California that monitor computers and Missile Defense systems to aid the efforts to keep the skies over America safe.

Soldiers in the 100th Missile Defense Brigade perform their crew drills at the missile defense element at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo. These photos have been modified to exclude classified information for operational purposes.

