

Part of the Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration, the Tactical High Energy Laser (THEL) at the High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility (HELSTF) has successfully demonstrated the Army's ability to intercept rockets and artillery pieces. On June 6, 2000, the THEL intercepted its first Katyusha rocket. Since then, testing in November 2002 has illustrated the THEL's increased abilities with intercepts of smaller and faster moving artillery pieces.





Only Time Will Tell

CONCLUSION

Few documents that purport to look out 40 years survive the passage of time. The Army Space Initiatives Study does better than most. When you consider that an ad hoc group thrown together for six months produced this document, they did extraordinarily well in their predictions. Their recommendations forecast the basic organizational structure, personnel management, requirement/demonstrations/concept development processes and many of the materiel solutions that have actually come to pass. It will be interesting to see how well it stands the light of day in 2025.

To quote one team member who I think displays undue modesty, “Maybe, ASIS recommendations in fact shaped and planted seeds which have blossomed over the years. Maybe not. But, we did present an action plan to the Army – if many aspects of our plan have come to fruition, it may validate the process we used for the recommendations we made.” From my perspective, ASIS, the effort as opposed to the report, caused a large number of officers to look at Space and its ability to enable the Army to better perform its missions. In turn these officers convinced many others of the value of Space and the need for the Army to be a participant in Space operations. That got the ball rolling leading to the creation of FA40, the Space Brigade (and its subordinate units), and a more robust role in Space requirements and experimentation through the creation of what is now the Futures Warfare Center of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. Truly the Study team has every right to be proud of their job and the fact that this is one report that did not just fill up Space on a shelf in the Training and Doctrine Command library. ⚠