

# How the US anti-missile system works

**1** Satellite detects launch



Intercontinental ballistic missile

Warhead

Kill vehicle

Multi-stage booster

**2** Ground- and sea-based radars track missile's flight



## Lines of defence

**3**

Patriot and Thaad (Terminal High Altitude Area Defence) interceptors from South Korea and Guam.

**4**

Aegis ballistic interceptors fire from warships in the Pacific.

**5**

Ground-based Midcourse Defence (GMD) system which fires interceptors from Alaska and California. Interceptors will fly into the path of an incoming missile before releasing a kill vehicle which uses onboard sensors to hunt down and physically collide with the warhead, destroying it on impact.