

Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Systems Directorate

The Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Systems Directorate, under the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, is presented the David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award for its efforts in targeting affordability and controlling cost growth as it performed true cradle-to-grave life cycle management for the Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile System and delivering on the Chief of Staff of the Air Force's top priority of strengthening the Nuclear Enterprise. The team developed a novel acquisition strategy that inserted inter-service technology and components to modernize and replace the entire fleet of nuclear arming and fuzing capabilities. This strategy promoted industry innovation, as well as joint and international cost and technology sharing, reducing the overall burden of strategic investment over a broad base of interested stakeholders while also reducing the future Minuteman III fuze from two aging Configurations to a single modern configuration. This single biggest modification to the weapon system in 20 years developed business case analyses that included interagency Department of Energy warhead stockpile reduction considerations to teaming initiatives with international strategic weapons partners, accounting for 3.2 billion dollars in cost avoidance since 2010 and a Future Years Defense Program 2015-2019 savings of 478 million dollars, while at the same time refreshing technologies and leveraging pre-existing nonrecurring engineering work. Their efforts will keep 450 Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, 45 launch control centers, dozens of maintenance vehicles, multiple communication systems, and 34.6 thousand square miles of infrastructure operational.