

U.S. Homeland Air-Breathing Threats Dossier

Impetus

Throughout the research project on IAMD capabilities developed for NEC, TextOre collected and synthesized several pages of information outside of the research scope that were somewhat related to the topics in review. Further conversations with NEC elucidated that there was client interest for part of this out-of-scope information. This inspired TextOre to compile the side-products of value and fill in the gaps with further research and analysis to produce a new coherent report.

Purpose

This dossier is intended for U.S. and allied defense ministries, prime contractors, and system integrators. Using the U.S. as a case study, it explains how integrated air and missile defense (IAMD) architectures must adapt to counter emerging air-breathing threats, including cruise missiles, hypersonic weapons, and remotely piloted aircraft. It analyzes how the Golden Dome initiative fits into this picture.

Report features

- Threat analysis: The report details the various air-breathing threats faced by the U.S. homeland.
- Defense analysis: The analysis identifies the various defensive systems, kill chain considerations, and the policy posture recognized as being required to respond to the threat environment.
- Status Review: The analysis looks at the state of current integration efforts and the challenges they are facing - including capabilities gaps and policy implementation hurdles.
- Future Planning: The report looks at how the identified requirements are addressed by Golden Dome, and specifically through the SHIELD acquisition vehicle, and by other parallel efforts.
- Source Basis: The analysis draws on U.S. and allied government publications to examine existing systems and identify where they are inadequate under complex threat conditions.

Summary Excerpt

As of late 2025, the United States is moving from acknowledging its vulnerabilities to actively addressing them. The Commander of NORTHCOM testified, “establishing a layered domain awareness network to detect and track threats approaching North America, from the seabed to space, remains our top priority,” and that is now being translated into concrete programs. Similarly, Congress affirmed that deterrence by denial must extend to non-nuclear attacks on the homeland, which means robust cruise missile defenses and counter-UAS measures to prevent coercion below the nuclear threshold. The U.S. homeland is no longer considered a sanctuary, but with the concerted efforts outlined in this dossier, it is becoming a harder target.