



FACT SHEET LGM-35A Sentinel

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Never Doubted, Always Feared

The U.S. Air Force is replacing the aging LGM-30 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with the LGM-35A Sentinel ICBM. The Sentinel represents the modernization of the land-based leg of the U.S. nuclear triad.

Mission

The LGM-35A Sentinel is the next-generation intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and the replacement for Minuteman III (MMIII). It will be a core element of the nation's strategic deterrent forces under the control of the Air Force Global Strike Command. The "L" in LGM is the Department of War designation for silo-launched; "G" means surface attack; and "M" stands for guided missile.

Features

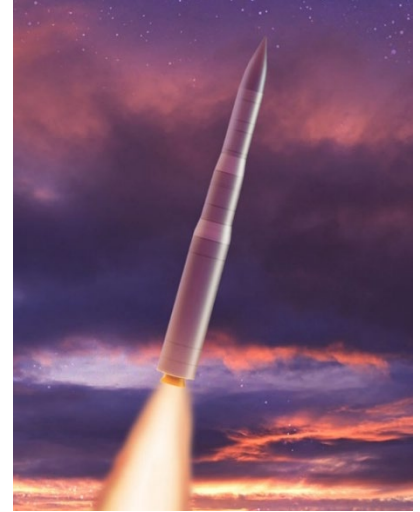
The Sentinel weapon system will be deployed in hardened silos to protect against attack and connected to underground launch centers through a system of modern, hardened fiber-optic cables. Launch crews, consisting of two officers, will continue to perform around-the-clock alert.

The system will integrate with the nation's upgraded Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications (NC3) architecture, providing the president and secretary of war with highly reliable, secure command and control. A key feature of the Sentinel missile is its modular, open-architecture design, which allows for the rapid integration of new technologies to counter emerging threats.

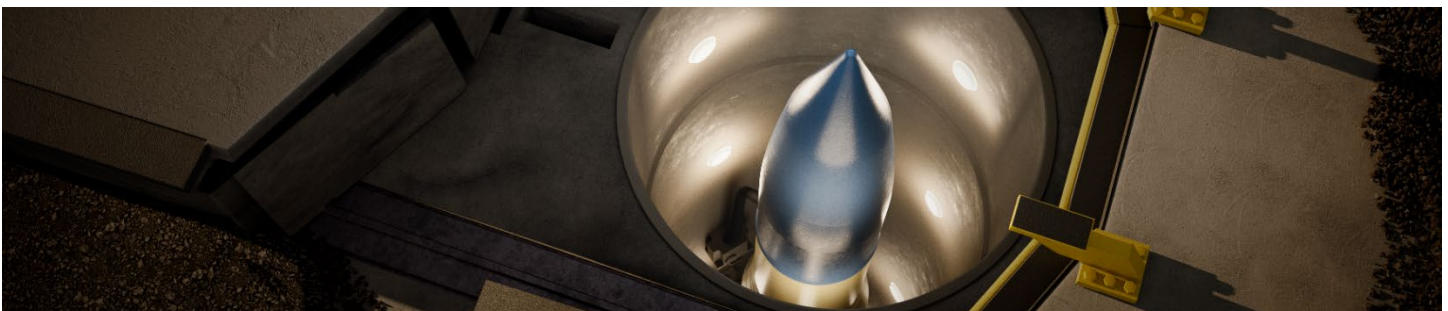
Background

The Sentinel program, formerly known as the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD), was initiated to replace the aging LGM-30G Minuteman III, which has been in service for more than 50 years. After extensive analysis, the Air Force determined it would build entirely new, modern launch silos, launch centers, communications systems, and infrastructure rather than trying to refurbish the existing Minuteman III 1970s-era structures.

This modernization effort is the largest construction project in Air Force history and will re-capitalize the land-based leg of the U.S. nuclear triad, ensuring a credible deterrent against the 21st-century adversaries for decades to come. The Sentinel will be deployed at the 90th Missile Wing at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming; the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom AFB, Montana; and the 91st Missile Wing at Minot AFB, North Dakota.



Shown is an undated artist rendering of an LGM-35A Sentinel missile. (Courtesy illustration by Northrop Grumman)



Shown is an undated artist rendering of an LGM-35A Sentinel weapon system. (Courtesy illustration by Northrop Grumman) (April 2026)