



# NAMDC

## Navy Air and Missile Defense Command

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### **NAMDC NEWS RELEASE**

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## **NAMDC Establishment Ceremony**

The Navy Air and Missile Defense Command (NAMDC) was formally established 30 April 2009 in a ceremony at Naval Support Facility Dahlgren, VA. Announced publicly for the first time just two months before by the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Gary Roughead, the establishment ceremony culminated months of work by a cadre of military and civilian professionals dedicated to the common vision of standing up a center of excellence designed to synchronize and integrate Navy efforts across the full spectrum of air and missile defense to include air, cruise missile and ballistic missile defense.

In announcing his decision to stand-up NAMDC at a speech to the Fredericksburg, Virginia Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council on 4 March, Admiral Roughead commented on the emerging importance of Ballistic Missile Defense as a core Navy mission; "When I became CNO, I said Ballistic Missile Defense is going to be a core mission for the Navy, and we're seeing that capability and capacity in greater demand than ever before." His decision to establish NAMDC, he said, was driven by the need for Navy to "stay in front of this critical mission area."

Admiral Robert Willard, Commander Pacific Fleet, was the featured speaker at the establishment ceremony, and affirmed CNO's commitment to this key warfighting mission. "We're on a quest to field a Naval capability that is equally adept at servicing National Missile Defense of The United States, regional missile defense for our allies and friends abroad, and theater defense for our forward fighting forces. This capability must fold seamlessly into the joint force and accommodate both U.S. and foreign command and control protocols."

Joining Admiral Willard to mark the occasion, Vice Admiral Samuel Locklear, Commander Third Fleet, picked up where Admiral Willard left off, commenting "NAMDC will mature our proven ballistic missile capability and move us towards a new level of integrated air and missile defense dominance in the maritime domain."

Both guest speakers were direct and to the point in recognizing NAMDC's first Commander; "In our Navy, there was only one perfect choice to develop and lead this center of excellence. His brilliant work as a Program Director for the Missile Defense Agency, combined with his renowned experience as an Air Defense Commander have made him indispensable, and the Navy's foremost uniformed authority in air and missile defense, RADM Brad Hicks was the unanimous pick by Navy three and four star leadership, across the board, to be the first Commander of

the Navy Air and Missile Defense Command." While serving as NAMDC's first Commander, RADM Hicks was dual-hatted as both the NAMDC Commander and as the Director of the Aegis BMD Program Office. NAMDC is an Echelon IV Command, reporting to Commander, Pacific Fleet via Commander, Third Fleet.

On 13 November 2009 at the Washington Navy Yard, Admiral Hick's Retirement Ceremony and the Change of Command Ceremony took place. Rear Admiral Joseph A. Horn, Jr. has relieved Admiral Hicks, becoming the new Commander of NAMDC and the Director of the Aegis BMD Program Office. Admiral Hicks retired after 33 years of Naval Service.

The establishment of NAMDC is part of a larger Navy initiative to enhance combat capability and assessment through the establishment of six distinct Warfare Centers of Excellence (WCOEs). The two Warfare Centers of Excellence already established are the Naval Strike Air Warfare Command (NSAWC) in Fallon, NV, and the Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command (NMAWC) in San Diego, CA. The remaining WCOEs, which will focus on Surface Warfare, Expeditionary Warfare, and C2 are in various stages of development.