In response to an increasingly complex threat, we must chart a clear path forward to provide flexible, agile and integrated air and missile defense (AMD) forces capable of deploying, fighting and winning against any adversary.

To clearly communicate how the AMD enterprise is postured to synchronize efforts to execute multi-domain operations, defend the homeland and succeed in future operational environments, on behalf of the Army, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command recently published the Army Air and Missile Defense 2028.

Incorporating input from subject-matter experts across the AMD enterprise, this roadmap provides the overarching vision for future AMD forces and describes how they are postured to support the Army and joint forces. It also articulates what must be accomplished to prevent and defeat an adversary’s complex and integrated air and missile attacks through a combination of deterrence, active and passive defense and support to attack operations.

AMD forces are critical enablers within the multi-domain operation concept. For the Army to succeed in large-scale combat operations, our AMD forces must be able to execute three essential tasks across the multi-domain operations framework. AMD must protect maneuvering forces and their fixed and semi-fixed assets; defend critical assets in the theater and operational support areas; and converge to help create windows of opportunity in the air domain for joint forces to exploit.

AMD capabilities will span the multi-domain operations framework providing ballistic missile defense capabilities to protect assets in the operational, tactical support and close areas; counter-unmanned aircraft systems; and counter-rocket, artillery and mortar capabilities to support the fight in the close area.

We need integrated Fires, both offensive and defensive, across domains, regions and missions, using multi-mission, high demand, low density assets. Our future architecture will be layered and integrated utilizing the full suite of space, cyber, electronic warfare, as well as land and air sensors to match the best shooter with the best sensor. Offensive and defensive integration during multi-domain operations will enable neutralization of enemy missile forces prior to launch.

Bottom line: Army AMD must provide combatant commanders with a flexible, agile and integrated AMD force capable of executing multi-domain operations while defending the homeland, regional joint and coalition forces, and critical assets in support of unified land operations. To do this, the AMD enterprise will execute four lines of effort: Modernize and develop AMD capabilities; build AMD capacity for multi-domain operations; provide trained and ready AMD forces; and maintain forward presence and build allied and partner capacity.

**Modernize and develop AMD capabilities**

AMD is one of the Army’s top six modernization priorities. The enterprise remains focused on modernization while balancing fiscal resources to ensure the timely development and implementation of those priorities. To achieve the AMD force of 2028, the Army is developing AMD capabilities to overmatch adversaries by prioritizing protection of the maneuver forces with the ability to defeat complex integrated attacks through the air domain.

Continued modernization of air
and missile defenses including the development and fielding of Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor (LTAMDS), Maneuver-Short Range Air Defense (M-SHORAD), Indirect Fire Protection System (IFPC), and Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System (IBCS) will result in a multi-mission AMD force capable of providing protection throughout the multi-domain operations battlespace framework. The Army has already begun the production of the interim M-SHORAD systems and has selected Iron Dome as the interim IFPC solution.

**Build AMD capacity for multi-domain operations**

The Army is also making investments in personnel and increasing AMD force structure by activating an air defense artillery brigade in Japan and a SHORAD battalion in Europe. These new forces, and those to come, will contain a mix of capabilities that are agile, rapidly tailorable and scalable.

A significant shift in Army AMD formations in the future will be multi-mission AMD battalions with a mix of capabilities such as: Terminal High Altitude Area Defense; Patriot systems; M-SHORAD; and IFPC. In addition, future formations will employ tailored, composite force packages at the battalion, battery or platoon level as missions dictate.

**Provide trained and ready AMD forces**

Leveraging the 2018 Air Defense Artillery Training Strategy, the Army is developing flexible and adaptive AMD leaders and Soldiers who are able to master AMD’s core competencies, expertly employ fielded systems and fully exploit new capabilities. Training will be tough, realistic, interactive, and battle focused. It will integrate into the Synthetic Training Environment and leverage virtual, constructive and gaming applications.

**Maintain forward presence and build allied and partner capacity**

By maintaining an extensive forward presence Army AMD assures allies and partners with a credible deterrent to adversaries. The continued cooperation toward interoperability with allies and partners significantly increases the capabilities of the combined defense.

Army AMD forces will continue to reduce barriers brought by foreign disclosure considerations to increase technical integration and interoperability. This will be necessary to emphasize a shared commitment to a combined defense.

Finally, Army Air and Missile Defense forces of 2028 will be ready to deploy, fight and win decisively against any adversary, anytime and anywhere. They will do so in a joint, multi-domain, high-intensity conflict, while simultaneously deterring others and maintaining the Army’s ability to conduct irregular warfare. There is no single silver bullet to counter the rapidly changing and complex threat set; rather, we must have an assortment of capabilities available to counter the threat in any weather and in a denied, degraded, or contested environment. We owe this to our fellow warfighters and to the nation.

Lt. Gen. James Dickinson is the commanding general of United States Air and Space Missile Defense Command and ARSTRAT.