



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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Air Force Quick Reaction Launch Vehicle set to fly from Kodiak

Kodiak Island, Alaska - The Air Force is set to launch its fourth sub-orbital sounding rocket in four years from the Kodiak Launch Complex here Wednesday April 24 at 1:30 p.m.

The launch window for the Air Force Quick Reaction Launch Vehicle flight 2 (designated QRLV-2), extends from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Alaska Daylight Time beginning April 22 and ending May 15.

The Air Force previously launched two atmospheric interceptor technology rockets from the Kodiak Launch Complex in November 1998 and September 1999, and the Quick Reaction Launch Vehicle flight 1 in March 2001.

The primary objective of the QRLV-2 mission is to provide a theater ballistic missile scenario in support of the Alaskan Command Northern Edge 2002 exercise. The Northern Edge exercise is an annual joint-service arctic-weather training exercise involving more than 10,000 troops from all branches of the U.S. armed forces and Alaska-region Canadian Forces. The exercise is designed as a regional crisis response scenario, with participating units employing selected component forces. The QRLV-2 rocket flight will allow Northern Edge participants to execute defensive strategies and test response scenarios that would occur during an actual ballistic missile attack.

As secondary objectives, the QRLV-2 vehicle will also host a suite of experiments, including a U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command developmental flight battery and advanced accelerometer package, and an Air Force Research Laboratory Ballistic Missile Range Safety Technology mobile range safety tracking system. The QRLV-2 flight will additionally provide an opportunity for the U.S. Navy Sea-based Midcourse Defense program to exercise tracking capabilities and computer-simulated intercept scenarios.



The QRLV-2 rocket sits on the pad at the Kodiak Launch Complex April 16, 2002. *USAF Photo by Maj. Richard Williamson.*

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The United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command Airborne Surveillance Testbed aircraft and High Altitude Observatory/Infrared Instrumentation System aircraft are scheduled to participate in airborne observations of the Quick Reaction Launch Vehicle flight. The AST aircraft is a version of the commercial Boeing 767 jet transport modified to support flight testing of ballistic missile defense technology, such as infrared sensors and laser communications. The HALO/IRIS sensor is flown in a modified Gulfstream IIB aircraft.

The QRLV-2 development, acquisition, and launch process are managed by the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center, Detachment 12, Rocket Systems Launch Program located at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Air Force Space Command's Space & Missile Systems Center, located at Los Angeles Air Force Base, is the headquarters for Detachment 12 and the contracting authority for numerous Defense Department launch vehicle and satellite programs.

The QRLV program began in Fiscal Year 2000, and consists of launching up to eight sub-orbital vehicles (one QRLV per year) until FY 2008. For the \$13.5 million QRLV-2 mission, the Rocket Systems Launch Program office awarded contracts to Orbital Sciences Corporation of Chandler, Arizona for integration and launch of the vehicle, and to the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation for use of the Kodiak Launch Complex located on the Narrow Cape peninsula of Kodiak Island. AADC is a public corporation created in 1991 to develop aerospace-related economic, technical and educational opportunities for the State of Alaska. The Integrated Concepts Research Corporation, a subsidiary of Koniag, Inc., is also providing logistics support for the launch. The Air Force estimates the local economic impact to the State of Alaska to be about \$5 million for this launch.

The QRLV-2 is a 30-foot long single-stage vehicle weighing approximately 14,000 pounds at liftoff. The rocket will fly a southeasterly trajectory, along an azimuth of 120 degrees from the Narrow Cape peninsula of Kodiak Island. The rocket will fly for approximately seven minutes, reaching an apogee of 160 kilometers before splashing down in the Gulf of Alaska 605 kilometers downrange. The rocket motor is an M56A1 - a four nozzle solid propellant rocket motor with a titanium case, which uses a thrust vector control for steering and stabilization. The M56A1 was manufactured by Aerojet General Corporation as the second stage rocket motor for the now retired Air Force Minuteman 1 ICBM weapons systems. Since the deactivation of the Minuteman 1, the M56A1 rocket motors have been stored by the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center and used on several flights.

The QRLV-2 Fact Sheet may be found online at http://www.losangeles.af.mil/SMC/PA/Fact_Sheets/index.html

This is an Air Force and Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation coordinated news release.

Memorandum for Correspondents

News media representatives interested in attending the launch should contact Martha Schoenthal at the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation 907-561-3338 (Anchorage) or 907-868-1574 (KLC).

The Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center Public Affairs point of contact is Major Richard Williamson at 907-868-1574 (KLC) or Ms. Tina Greer, Media Relations at Los Angeles AFB 310-363-6428 / 0030, or Mr. Joe Davidson 310-363-6827 / 0030 or Mr. Hap Parker at 310-363-0030.

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