

Russian General Staff chief Gen. Nikolai Makarov said the nation's armed forces intend by 2020 to field an "impenetrable" missile defense system, the *Washington Times* reported today (see [GSN](#), Dec. 8, 2010).

"The state will have an umbrella over it which will defend it against ballistic missile attacks, against medium-range missiles, air-based cruise missiles, sea-based cruise missiles, and ground-based cruise missiles, including missiles flying at extremely low altitudes, at any time and in any situation," Makarov said in reports on Monday by Russian news organizations.

"Of course this is a long process that requires a significant financial investment," the general said, adding that fundamental elements of the system could be put in place as soon as this year.

Makarov's remarks seem to contradict U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates's statement last year that Russian officials' unceasing criticism of U.S. missile defense efforts demonstrates that they "hate" antimissile systems, according to the *Times* (Bill Gertz, *Washington Times*, Jan. 6).

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