

From: ACC/CC Commander  
Sent: Friday, September 05, 2008 10:33 AM  
To: Obering, Henry A LtGen MDA/D  
Cc: AF/A3/5 DCS/Air & Space Operations; Worden, Mike M MajGen USAF ACC  
ACC/CV; ACC/A8 Director of Requirements; ACC/A5 Director of Plans and  
Programs; ACC/DS Director Of Staff; Foster, Mark P Col MDA/D; ACC/CC  
Commander  
Subject: Airborne Laser Program

MEMORANDUM FOR Director, Missile Defense Agency

SUBJECT: Airborne Laser Program (ABL)

1. I recently received an ABL update briefing from Col Andy Dobrot and was very impressed. This program has overcome significant technical challenges and appears to be tracking well for a lethal test next year.
2. I am fully aware of the fiscal constraints that are being placed on MDA within the multi-layered BMDS and how this is impacting the ABL program specifically. However, this technology should remain on track and achieve the capabilities needed to support its primary mission. Additionally, I am very interested in the aircraft's potential for adjunct missions and what this can deliver to our combat air forces.
3. Finally, I assure you that ACC remains committed to transformational technologies that offer the accuracy, flexibility, C2, and power a platform like ABL promises. ACC has published the ABL Operational Concept document and continues to refine it as we better understand system performance. As we migrate these transformational and potentially "game changing" capabilities into realistic warfighter scenarios we are realizing the tremendous potential this next-generation technology will deliver for our national security and how it will extend into other mission sets.

//Signed//  
JOHN D. W. CORLEY  
General, USAF  
Commander