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<b>TITLE</b>	<b>THE U.S. AND RUSSIAN MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEMS AND STRATEGIC STABILITY</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>Since the beginning of the XXI century the United States has been demonstrating a commitment to an idea of building a global layered ballistic missile defense system. Such a project could undermine strategic stability between the two nuclear superpowers – the United States and Russia – which dates back to the Cold War era and rests upon the principle of mutually assured destruction. The latest developments in this sphere, including those under the Donald Trump administration, call for a balanced assessment of the current state and prospects for the development of the U.S. global BMD systems as well as of the Russian Federation’s countermeasures aimed at ensuring its security and preserving strategic stability. The first section of the paper thoroughly examines the key elements of the contemporary U.S. BMD systems. While acknowledging limited capabilities of the U.S. homeland missile defense, the author insists on assessing capabilities of regional missile defense systems (developed by the United States in cooperation with their allies in Europe and Asia-Pacific region) as well. The second section examines both the progress of the European Phased Adaptive Approach and the ongoing cooperation between the United States and Japan, Republic of Korea and Australia in ballistic missile defense. The author also assesses the U.S. prospective and promising BMD programs, including plans for deploying weapons in outer space and development of the long-range high precision non-nuclear missiles for a prompt global strike. The last section examines capabilities of the Russian BMD system, including its intelligence data system and strike capability, in terms of its contribution to maintaining and strengthening strategic stability. The conclusion is drawn that whereas the U.S. BMD projects have offensive nature, since they are aimed at undermining</p>

	the existing military and strategic balance, Russia's strictly defensive efforts, meant to ensure protection of the country's key regions from missile attacks, have much lesser impact on strategic stability.
<b>KEYWORDS</b>	United States, Russia, U.S.–Russian relations, strategic stability, ballistic missile defense, European Phased Adaptive Approach, European Missile Defense System, NATO, Asia-Pacific region, prompt global strike, strategic nuclear forces, Donald Trump.
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