

Discombobulator

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in News?

The US reportedly used a weapon system called the "Discombobulator" during a military strike on Venezuela, which led to the capture of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife.

- **Discombobulator-** It is a **U.S.-classified weapon system**.
- It is designed to disable enemy defensive infrastructure and disorient personnel.
- **Developed by -** United States military; the exact developer or manufacturer has not been publicly disclosed.
- **Objective -**
 - To incapacitate personnel through disorientation and physiological effects.
 - To support stealth operations by neutralizing electronic and physical defence capabilities.
- **Features - Electronic Neutralisation (Soft Kill) -**
 - Uses pulse-modulated high-power microwave energy to disable electronics, causing logic gates to latch up and semiconductors to freeze without physical destruction.
- **Directed Energy Effects -** May use high-intensity acoustic waves or sonic energy to disorient personnel.
- **Microwave Auditory Effect/Frey Effect -** Creates phantom sounds inside a target's head, contributing to confusion.
- **Physiological Impact -** Personnel reportedly suffered nausea, vertigo, nosebleeds, vomiting, and collapse.
- Capable of disrupting radars, communications, missile guidance systems, and electrical power grids.
- **Operation - Electronic Disruption -** Made Venezuelan radars, communications, and missile guidance systems inoperable during the raid.
- **Stealth Support -** Helped support the operation by knocking out lights

and power in Caracas, aiding surprise entry.

- The weapon is likely *a combination of electronic warfare*, sonic/directed energy and non-lethal disorientation tools.

References

1. [IE | Discombobulator](#)
2. [Business Today | Discombobulator](#)

