

## Hellfire missile

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Science & Technology - Defence Technology*

### Why in news?

*During a recent Congressional hearing on Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAPs), footage shows a US military Hellfire missile appearing to 'bounce' off an unidentified flying object (UFO) off the coast of Yemen.*

- The Hellfire missile is an **air-to-ground (AGM) missile** developed as a multipurpose missile capable of defeating a broad target set.
- **Developed by - USA** in 1974.
- **Launch platform** - It can be launched from **multiple air, sea and ground platforms**.
- **Target** - It has a **multi-mission, multi-target precision-strike** ability against tanks, structures, bunkers, and helicopters.
- **Features -**
  - **Length** - 5.33 ft
  - **Diameter** - 7 in
  - **Wingspan** - 28 in
  - **Weight** - 98 to 107 lbs
  - **Range** - 0.5-11 km
  - **Speed** - Subsonic speeds to a **maximum of Mach 1.3** (450 m/s).
  - **Platforms**
    - **Navy** - SH-60B/HH-60H Seahawk
    - **Army** - AH-64 Apache
    - **Marine** - AH-1W Super Cobra
    - **Air Force** - MQ-1 Predator, Reaper
  - **Warhead** - Shaped charge and blast fragmentation
  - **Propulsion** - Single -stage Solid propellant rocket
- It uses a **semi-active laser guidance system** and millimeter-wave radar.
- The **Lock-on before launch (LOBL) or lock-on after launch** (LOAL) for increased platform survivability.



- **Uses** - It is used in the United States armed forces and many other countries in the world.
- It is capable of defeating any known tank in the world today.

***Unidentified flying object (UFO)*** - *UFO is defined as phenomena or observations of events in the air, sea, space, and land that cannot be identified as aircraft or as known natural phenomena.*

*UFOs are also known as unidentified aerial phenomena or unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP).*

## Reference

[Hindustan Times | US Hellfire Missile](#)

