Hellfire missile

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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 Apach
    - **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

