

AIM-174B Missile

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About AIM-174B Missile:

- It is an **air-launched variant of the versatile SM-6 missile** of the US Navy.
- It became **operational in July, 2024** and is **derived by Raytheon, an Aerospace and defense company**.
- It is an extremely **long-range air-to-air missile**.
- It is capable of **striking targets up to 400 km (250 miles) away** and it surpasses the range of China's PL-15 missile.
- It has been **deployed in the Indo-Pacific region**. This deployment is part of a broader strategy to enhance US power projection as tensions in the region escalate.
- It is an **engaging high-priority ground targets**, such as air defence sites and warships, functioning in a quasi-ballistic manner.
- **Advantages:**
 - One of the significant advantages of the AIM-174B is its **ability to fly several times farther than the AIM-120 AMRAAM**, the previous long-range US missile.

- The AIM-174B **retains the surface strike capability of the SM-6**, making it useful for targeting large maritime vessels.
 - The AIM-174B allows the US to keep PLA carrier-hunting aircraft out of firing range and even threaten Chinese planes attacking Taiwan.
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Q1: What is Standard Missile 6 (SM-6)?

Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) is a multi-mission missile capable of antiair warfare, terminal ballistic missile defense, and antiship strike roles. It was developed by Raytheon Company, a major U.S. defense contractor, primarily for the United States Navy.

Source: [US Navy's newest air-to-air missile AIM-174B could tilt balance in South China Sea](#)

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