

Hellfire Missile

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Hellfire Missile Latest News

The U.S. military fired a Hellfire missile at a tanker heading toward Iran recently as part of a blockade being imposed by President Donald Trump, who is pressing Tehran to negotiate a peace agreement on his terms.

About Hellfire Missile

- AGM-114 Hellfire is a **short-range, air-to-ground, subsonic tactical missile**.
- **Manufactured** by **Lockheed Martin**, the Hellfire originates from the **United States** and **entered service in 1984** as a potent **anti-tank weapon**.
- It can **also be used as an air-to-air weapon against helicopters** or slow-moving fixed-wing aircraft.
- The missile is **compatible** with a wide **array of platforms**, including **attack helicopters (AH-64 Apache)**, **drones (MQ-1 Predator, MQ-9 Reaper)**, **fighter jets**, and ground launchers.
- It is currently **used by the United States military as well as 30 US allies**.
- The Hellfire missile is capable of **defeating any known tank** in the world today.

- The Hellfire family of missiles consists of **4 generations: the basic (AGM-114A, AGM-114B, AGM-114C)** and the **Anti-Ship-Missile (AShM) interim (AGM-114F)**, the Hellfire-2 (AGM-114K, AGM-114M, AGM-114N, AGM-114R), and the **Longbow (AGM-114L)**.

Hellfire Missile Features

- AGM-114 missiles measure between 1.63-1.75 m in length, 0.178 m in diameter, and weigh 45-48.5 kg.
- **All Hellfire missiles are similar in shape** in that they have a **cylindrical body** with a **dome-shaped nose section** that has four small clipped delta stabilising-fins in a cruciform configuration.
- They have a **range of 7-11 km** while carrying a payload of 8-11 kg.
- The missile flies at **subsonic speeds** to a maximum of Mach 1.3 (450 m/s).
- It is propelled by a **single-stage solid-propellant solid-fuel rocket motor**.
- Its **guidance options** include **laser, radar, and imaging infrared (IIR) systems**, allowing for **both fire-and-forget and semi-active targeting**.
- Its **warheads are modular, supporting high-explosive anti-tank (HEAT), fragmentation, and thermobaric payloads**, making it effective against armored vehicles, bunkers, radar installations, and small naval vessels.

Source: **TP**

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