



Air Force: Let's Name the B-21 Bomber



Didn't See the Solar Eclipse? NASA Has You Covered



You Should Probably Buy This Adorable 1959 Jeep...



To Save My Friend, I Abandoned Him in the Wild



There Will Be Netflix on Mars

# The Navy's Air Defense Missile Will Become a Supersonic Ship Killer

The long-range SM-6 will now target surface naval vessels in addition to aircraft.



U.S. Navy

By Eric Tegler Feb 10, 2016

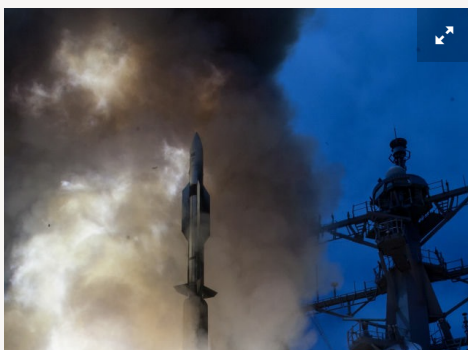
323



Back in 2014, the guided missile-carrying destroyer USS *John Paul Jones* made history. During a live fire missile tests, one of its SM-6 air defense missiles completed the [longest surface-to-air engagement](#) in naval history. The Navy wouldn't say the exact range of the missile for security's sake, but the ability to take out incoming missiles or aircraft at long range is obviously valuable.

Now, that ability is expanding. The Navy says it will modify the Raytheon-built Standard Missile-6 to act as a supersonic anti-ship missile. [Defense Secretary Ashton Carter has confirmed](#) the service was developing the anti-ship SM-6 in an effort to give Navy cruisers and destroyers a weapon capable of reaching such targets more than 200 nautical miles away.

"We are going to create a brand-new capability," Carter said during a February 10 press conference in San Diego. "We're modifying the SM-6 so that in addition to missile defense, it can also target enemy ships at sea at very long ranges."

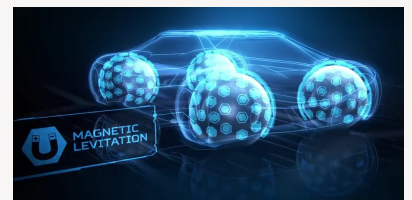


This new capability is clearly aimed at countering the surface strike threat from increasingly sophisticated Chinese naval assets, forcing them to stand off at ranges more favorable to U.S. aircraft carriers. The AGM-158C Long Range Anti-Ship Missile, also under development, has the same purpose and an even longer potential range. The SM-6, which boasts a top speed of Mach 3.5, should offer American cruisers and destroyers a weapon with considerably more than the reported 67 nautical-mile range of the current Boeing RGM-

## MOST POPULAR



"Bitchin' Betty" The Voice Of The F/A-18 Hornet Is Retiring



Goodyear Made Spherical MagLev Tires That Are Totally Nuts



Graphene-Laced Bike Tires Are Both Stiffer And Softer

84 Harpoon anti-surface missile which was first introduced in the late 1970s.

*HiPDF Evaluation 03/09/2016*



U.S. Navy

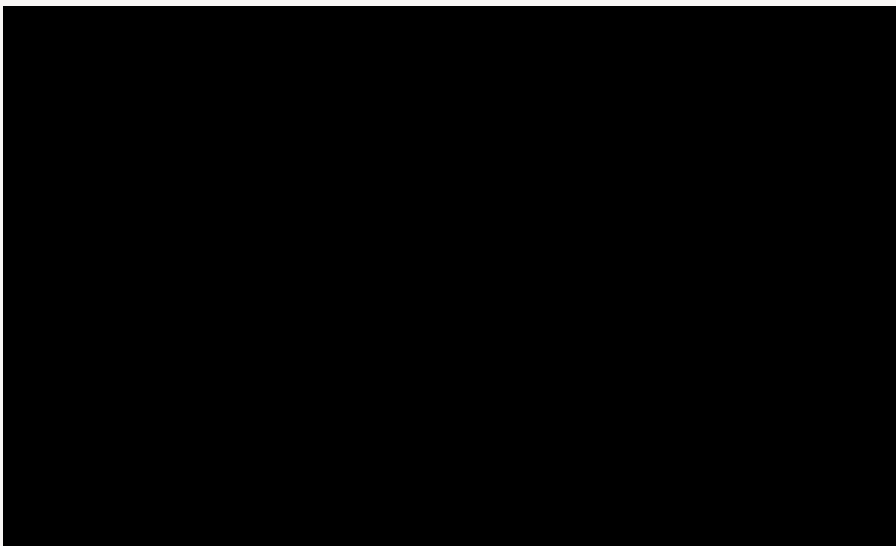
How much more? Raytheon won't provide more details, but assuming Carter's statement that the SM-6 in development would be capable of reaching a target "over 200 miles away" is conservative, and recognizing that the official published SM-6 range is 150 miles, it wouldn't be outlandish to expect that an anti-ship SM-6 would quadruple the range of the Harpoon.

The SM-6's builder did give us a few tidbits.

According to Michael Campisi, Raytheon's senior program director for the SM-6, there are no plans for the modified SM-6 to have a different warhead than its air-interceptor cousin. Campisi also reveals that the anti-ship version probably will use the same seeker as the anti-air version. "SM-6 is a multi-mission missile," he asserts. "One configuration performs all missions."

The new SM-6 will also incorporate network/distributed information abilities. That's important because the Naval Integrated Fire Control Counter-Air (NIFC-CA) concept foresees scenarios in which data from offboard sensors is passed around a network. For example, NIFC-CA could upload targeting data from a Northrop Grumman E-2D Advanced Hawkeye and send that targeting information to a SM-6 to intercept a surface target that's beyond the range of the cruiser or destroyer firing the weapon.

If this kind of networked warfare works, it would create yet another headache for the vessels of U.S. adversaries, who'll potentially have to deal with a supersonic missile capable of reaching out and touching them from more than 200 miles away.



**See the Conversation!**

Advertisement - Continue Reading Below

More From  
**MILITARY**



WEAPONS  
MAR 9, 2016

## North Korea Unveils a Miniaturized Nuclear Warhead

If it's real, it could be put on a missile and lobbed at the USA. But it's probably a mock-up.

By Kyle Mizokami

WEAPONS  
MAR 9, 2016

## North Korean Spies Hack Cell Phones, Create Zombie PC Army

A South Korean intelligence report tells of rampant phishing and botnets.

By Kyle Mizokami



WEAPONS  
MAR 8, 2016

## "Bitchin' Betty," Voice of the F/A-18, Retires

The familiar voice that warned pilots when they were in danger.

By Kyle Mizokami

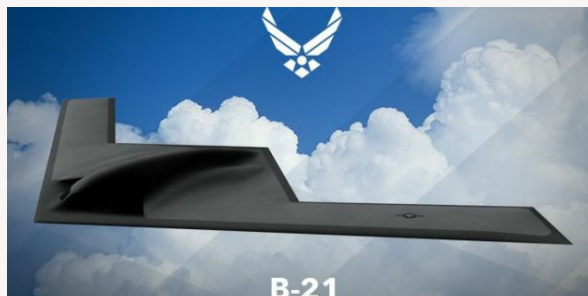


WEAPONS  
MAR 8, 2016

## Air Force: Let's Name the B-21 Bomber

The service is asking for suggestions in naming the new long-range strike bomber.

By Kyle Mizokami



MILITARY

U.S. NAVY

THE U.K. WILL ATTACK ISIS WITH A MISSILE THE U.S. COULD ONLY DREAM OF

WATCH A TOMAHAWK MISSILE GUIDED BY AN F/A-18 STRIKE A SHIP

KILLER LASERS WORK, BUT ARE THEY THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST UAVS?

THE NAVY'S NEW AI MISSILE SINKS SHIPS THE SMART WAY

WATCH THE NAVY'S NEWEST LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP ABSOLUTELY TEAR IT UP AT TOP SPEED

WHY THE PENTAGON WANTS TO USE BLIMPS FOR MISSILE DEFENSE



### MORE FROM MILITARY



[About Our Ads](#)

[Give a Gift](#)

[Why Did I Get This Ad?](#)

[Customer Service](#)

[Events & Promotions](#)

[Product Reviews](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Giveaways](#)

[Other Hearst Subscriptions](#)

[Being Green](#)

*HiQPDF Evaluation 03/09/2016*

**HEARST** *men's group*

A PART OF HEARST DIGITAL MEDIA

©2016 Hearst Communications, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

[Privacy Policy](#) [Your California Privacy Rights](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Site Map](#)