

HYPERSONIC MISSILE VS. ICBM DETECTION

Because their flight takes them high above the Earth, the current generation of intercontinental ballistic missiles can be detected by ground-based sensors relatively early in their flight. Hypersonic missiles glide just above the atmosphere at 5 to 20 times the speed of sound and are much harder to detect from the ground because their flight path is hidden by the curvature of the Earth.

