

Tomahawk cruise missile

These missiles can be launched from U.S. Navy ships and U.S. and British submarines and can carry conventional or nuclear warheads. The U.S. has used them in every major combat operation since Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

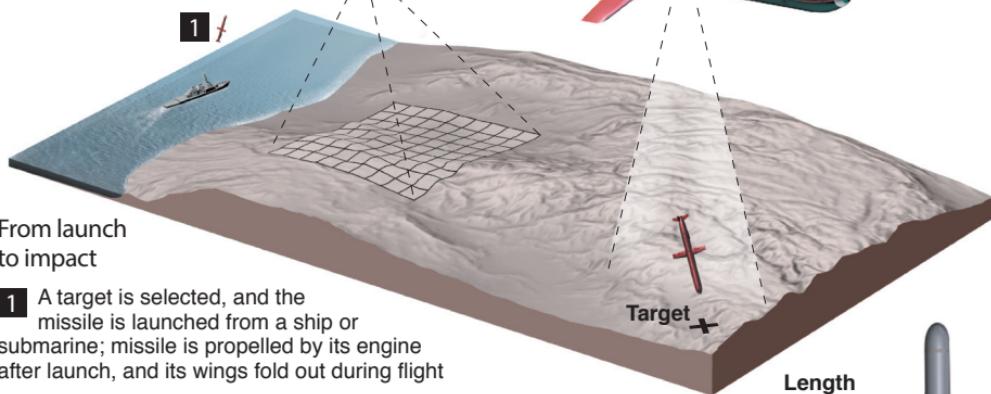
Block IV missile

Range Up to 1,000 mi.
(1,600 km)

Speed About 550 mph
(885 kph)

Wingspan 8.8 ft. (2.7 m)

Weight 2,900 lb. (1,300 kg); 3,500 lb. (1,600 kg)
with booster



From launch
to impact

- 1 A target is selected, and the missile is launched from a ship or submarine; missile is propelled by its engine after launch, and its wings fold out during flight
- 2 Newest version of missile uses GPS satellites and other guidance systems for navigation; can be redirected to new target while in flight
- 3 Missile can take image of target or other areas of interest during flight and "loiter" near target before striking
- 4 The missile can strike a fixed or moving target

Length
20.5 ft.
(6.2 m)
(with solid-fuel booster used at launch)



Source: U.S. Navy, Raytheon, Federation of American Scientists, Institute for the Study of War
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service