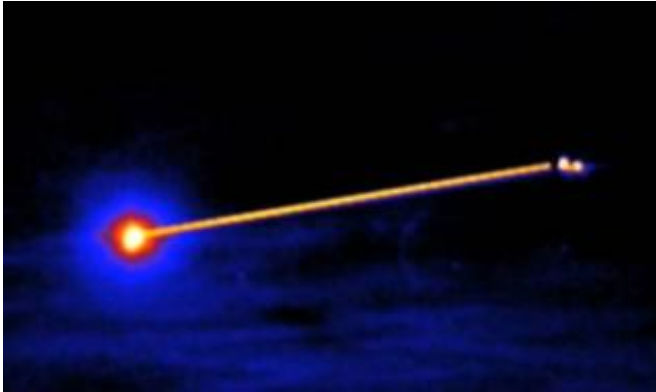
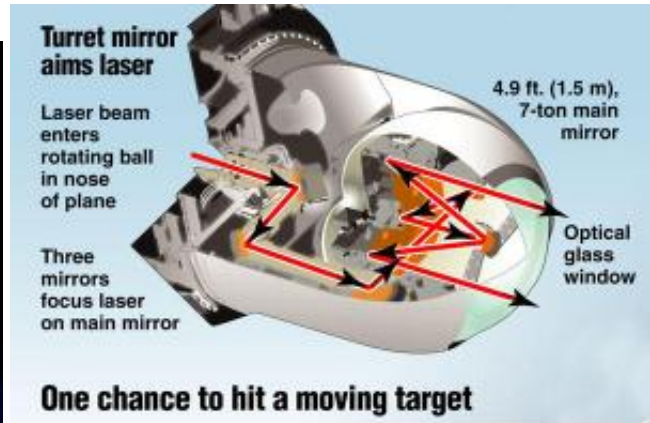


Laser knocks down test missile off Calif. coast

14 February 2010



Airborne Laser Test. Image credit: U.S. Department of Defense



This airborne laser mounts to the front of a special military 747 jumbo jet.

The Air Force says a high-powered laser has destroyed a missile in flight during a test of a national defense system off the California coast.

The successful test is a boost to a program that has had billions in cost overruns and saw its budget sharply cut by the [Pentagon](#) last year.

The Air Force and Boeing Co. announced Friday that an airborne laser system tracked a target missile as it accelerated over the ocean off the Point Mugu Naval Warfare Center on Thursday night. The Air Force says an energy beam heated the missile until it broke up.

It's the first time the laser has knocked down a liquid-fueled missile. The [Air Force](#) says it destroyed a solid-fuel [missile](#) during a test on Feb. 3.

Copyright © 2010 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

APA citation: Laser knocks down test missile off Calif. coast (2010, February 14) retrieved 6 May 2021 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-02-laser-missile-calif-coast.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.