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SEP 7, 2015 @ 1:04 PM

MILITARY WEAPONS MISSILES HELICOPTERS HELLFIRE

The Army Lost a Dummy Hellfire Missile That Fell Off an Apache Helicopter in New York

Pardon me, sir, but have you seen our missing missile?



By Eric Tegler

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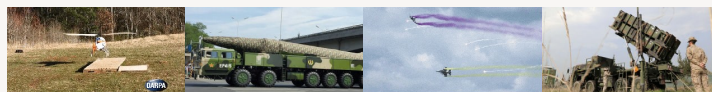


Fort Drum

"It has not been found it yet," says Fort Drum spokeswoman, Julie Halpin.

The "it" in this case is an M36 Captive Flight Training Missile, an inert training or dummy version of the AGM-114 Hellfire air-to-surface missile used by attack helicopters like the Apache as well as unmanned combat aerial vehicles like the Predator drone. An AH-64D from the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, part of the 10th Mountain Division assigned to Fort Drum in northern New York, lost the training round during a flight from Fort Drum to Stewart International Airport in New Windsor, NY.

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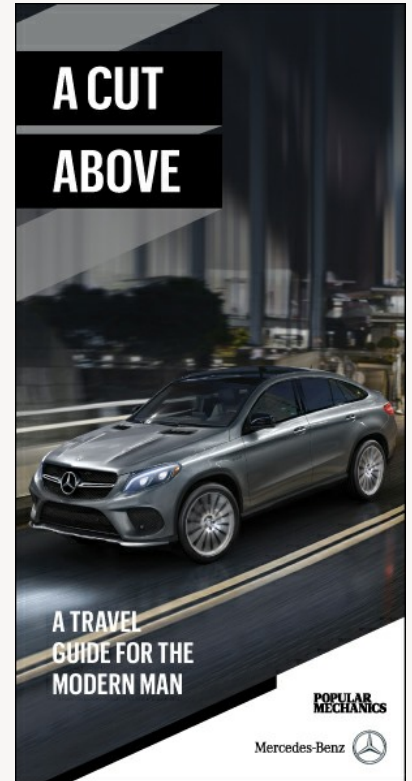
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The helicopter was on its way to an airshow at Stewart International, carrying the training missile for display purposes. The 100-pound M36 measures 64 inches in length and 7 inches in width. The object poses almost no danger (unless you happened to be unfortunate enough to be standing directly beneath it as it fell), as it is non-explosive and not motorized. The training missile simulates the Hellfire by providing the aero-profile and weight that the real thing generates in flight.

Fort Drum officials won't speculate as to where might be the resting place of the M36, which is emblazoned with the words "U.S. Army." The Army initiated a search last Friday, sending other helicopters to retrace the



Apache's flight path in an attempt to find the missile. However Fort Drum's spokesperson could not confirm that the Army has continued searching this week.

HiQPDF Evaluation 09/14/2015

Army officials have yet to explained how the helo lost the simulated Hellfire and will not release any information until the investigation is complete. Possibilities range from human error in loading the round to the failure of the weapons-rack coupling which holds the Hellfire in place. A more remote possibility would be maneuvering the AH-64 beyond the training missile's flight envelope—the is, the Apache flew somewhere it wasn't supposed to.

For a little informal insight, we asked a former AH-64 pilot whether one would notice losing the training missile during flight. The answer: It would be "very unlikely" that the pilot would notice. It's pure speculation, but the simulated Hellfire's absence probably wasn't noticed until the Apache landed at the air show at Stewart International.

Since then, nobody has noticed one lying around anywhere. Fort Drum officials have appealed for the public's help in locating the missile. The Army asks that any individuals who come across the training missile or who may have information about it simply call their local police agency or the 10th Mountain Division Operations Center at (315) 772-6324. Call it the Hellfire hotline.



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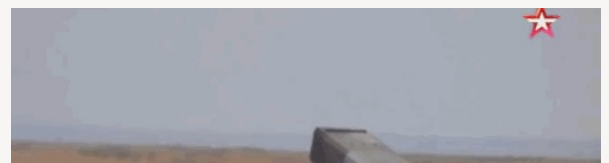
"Drop a grenade on it, and walk away." By Eric Tegler

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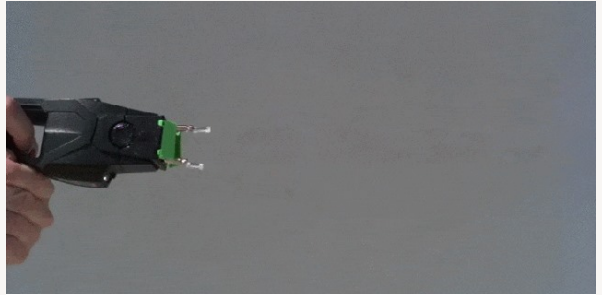




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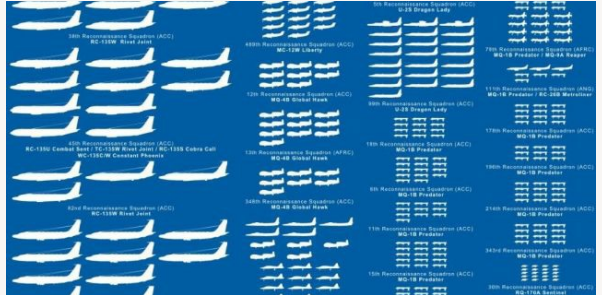
It looks even more painful when you slow it down. **By Rollin Bishop**



MILITARY
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We got a lotta damn jets. **By Rollin Bishop**



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