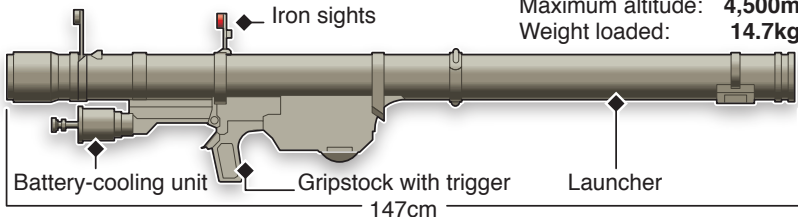


Threat from Libya's ageing MANPADS

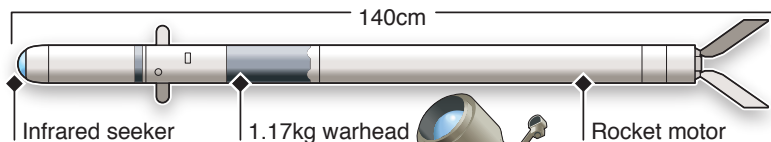
British and French attack helicopters deployed to Libya are vulnerable to tens of thousands of Soviet-era SA-7 man-portable air defence systems – MANPADS – that were delivered to Muammar Gaddafi's forces in the 1970s

Strela shoulder-launched missile (SA-7)

Maximum range: **5,500m**
Maximum altitude: **4,500m**
Weight loaded: **14.7kg**



9M32M surface-to-air missile



MANPADS in action

1. Operator activates power supply and waits for missile's gyroscopes to stabilize
2. Target tracked with iron sights, operator pulls trigger – this activates infrared seeker
3. Missile alerts operator that target is locked on by illuminating red light in sight and producing buzzing noise
4. Operator has 0.8 seconds to provide lead to target before rocket motor ignites
5. Missile homes in on heat from aircraft's engines

