

## Iran Continues Preparations for War

*Q. What's the current political situation in Iran, I realize that's a big question. Does Ayatollah Ali Khamenei still call the shots?*

*A. "Khamenei still calls the shots but it is much more complicated...there are several divisions within the leadership....the cracks are wider than they have ever been since the revolution...Khamenei is trying to undermine the capability of Ahmadinejad...the hard liners want Ahmadinejad out...it has become a very complex situation...there are many divisions within the Guard, there are some sympathizers with the Green Movement...Khamenei lacks...[the]...authority [of Khomeini]...nonetheless all of those running the country right now...are messianic people...this is a messianic regime..[which believes]...that the 12th Imam appears and kills all the infidels and establishes an Islamic caliphate worldwide...and pursues a nuclear bomb...you must differentiate between the Iranian people and the regime. Because the Iranian people are even more Westernized than when the Shah was there...right now they don't respect Islam anymore, they resent it...they now are truly of the opinion that Islam is a vicious religion, intolerant...I believe that when this regime is gone, the religion will be gone for many years to come..."*

*Q. So the theological precepts of Shia Islam, especially those concerning the 12th or the Hidden Imam, are driving this administration?*

*A. "Yes, absolutely..."*

*Q. Are they so devoted to this, to the point of being suicidal?*

*A. "...I have no doubt about that...these people are truly messianic they are suicidal...they believe with every cell in their body...[that]...the 12th Imam will appear..."*

*Q. So under their theology, the destruction of Israel would be the final event to make way for the Mahdi [the 12th Imam]?*

*A. "Yes, absolutely...[adding]...there are several key Hadiths which have to take place, one of them interestingly is the fall of Yemen, the Yemeni government...[therefore] Yemen is of significant importance to them...they are arming Shia rebels, training and arming them...inciting them..." He goes on to explain that in theory, after Yemen falls then the king of Saudi Arabia must die, then Jerusalem must be conquered in order to bring the prophecy of the Mahdi into reality. They take this literally.*

<http://www.pipelinenews.org/index.cfm?page=kahlili672011101.htm>

Several events have occurred in the last few days that amplify the words of Reza Kahlili. Syria continues to organize protests on its border with Israel. The latest one was last Sunday in remembrance of "Nakla Day", the day that Israel secured Jerusalem during the Six Day War.

*Syrian President Bashar Assad's security machine is creaking judging by its failure to raise thousands of Palestinian and Syrian volunteers to brave the Israeli troops manning the Golan Sunday, June 5 - three weeks after his success in staging the first mass border incursion. Debkafile's intelligence sources reveal that even the few hundred willing to turn out demanded a fee: \$1,000 for every demonstrator who managed to cut a piece of razor wire from the Israeli border fence – and exorbitant fee in Syrian terms - and \$10,000 for the families of volunteers shot by Israeli troops before they reached their goal. (<http://www.debka.com/article/21000/>).*

Then Iran announced that it was increasing its capability to produce enriched uranium. *Iran will shift its production of higher grade uranium to an underground bunker and triple its production capacity, it*

said on Wednesday in a defiant response to accusations it is trying to produce atomic bombs.

*"This year, under the supervision of the (International Atomic Energy) Agency, we will transfer 20 percent enrichment from the Natanz site to the Fordow site and we will increase the production capacity by three times," the head of Iran's atomic energy agency, Fereydoun Abbasi-Davani, told reporters after a cabinet meeting, the state broadcaster IRIB reported.*  
(<http://www.jpost.com/IranianThreat/News/Article.aspx?id=224149>).

In addition, President Ahmadinejad has proclaimed that uranium enrichment is Iran's privilege and it will continue no matter what the 5+1 powers may offer Iran to stop enriching uranium.

Iran has also sent submarines into the Red Sea. *"Iranian military submarines entered the Red Sea waters with the goal of collecting information and identifying other countries' combat vessels," Fars said. It did not specify the number or type of vessels involved but said they were sailing alongside warships of the Navy's 14th fleet. State-run Press TV said in May the 14th fleet, comprised of two vessels, the Bandar Abbas warship and Shahid Naqdi destroyer, had been sent to combat piracy in the Gulf of Aden. "The fleet entered the Gulf of Aden region in May and has now entered the Red Sea in the continuation of its mission," Fars said.*  
(<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/06/07/152231.html>)

Debka provides some amplification. *The deployment of Iranian "military submarines" in the Red Sea, announced Tuesday June 7, was Tehran's response to the latest International Atomic Energy Agency's report accusing Iran of nuclear work with "possible military purposes." It was also a pointed comment on the controversy in Israel over whether or not to go for the military option. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad then delivered his most uncompromising statement yet on Iran's nuclear program, calling it "a train with no brakes or reverse gear."* (<http://www.debka.com/article/21004/>).

And on the home front: Q. *What kind of presence does the IRG and Hezbollah have within the borders of the United States; are there numerous cells; are there no cells?*

A. *"...I'm going to quote to you Hassan Abbasi...he was the brains behind the strategy to bog the U.S. forces down in Iraq...he says...and he is very open about things...they have recognized about 800 sensitive sites within the U.S....when the time comes and the order comes their cells...will attack many of these sites...so basically they have agents here...they have a large network here through Islamic student associations...they collaborate with the Muslim Brotherhood...they do run a large network through the mosques in the U.S..."* (<http://www.pipelinenews.org/index.cfm?page=kahili672011101.htm>).

**Analysis.** If you have not done so lately (or ever), now would be a good time to read Winston Churchill's *The Gathering Storm* and volume three of Samuel Elliott Morrison's *History of United States Naval Operations in World War Two: The Rising Sun in the Pacific*. The current international situation reminds me a whole lot of the buildup to World War Two as described in these books. The current sanctions against Iran are roughly equivalent to the petroleum and scrap metal embargoes imposed upon Japan by President Roosevelt.

The Japanese had their version of a messianic destiny called *Hakko Ichui*: the eight corners of the World under one roof. This is roughly equivalent to the return of the Mahdi as described in *The Coming Is Upon Us*. Like the Japanese, the Iranian economy and war effort has its weak points. The Iranian weak point is the lack of refining capability for oil. Iran has the second largest currently proven

reserves in OPEC. It is also only able to produce about 60 percent of its requirements for refined products. It must import the rest. The UN has embargoed the Iranian oil industry and the United States and EU have placed additional embargoes upon Iran.

The entrance of Iranian submarines into the Red Sea will set off alarm bells in Egypt and Jordan as well as Israel. One of the causes of the Six Day War was the Arab blockade of the Israeli port of Eilat in the Gulf of Aqaba. I suspect that one of the main purposes of the Iranian submarine mission is to bait American and Israeli antisubmarine surface units into displaying their tactics and capabilities against these particular submarines. They will also attempt to do the same with the attack submarines that are part of every carrier group.

The purpose of the Iranian nuclear program has never been in doubt as much as the Iranian government would like us to believe otherwise. The Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps recently took delivery of two nuclear capable warheads. They expect to take delivery of ten warheads by the middle of 2012. I do not doubt that these warheads will be used offensively against Israel and possibly US bases in EU countries should we attempt to interfere with their war to bring forth the Mahdi and bring down Sunni Islam as the predominant sect of Islam. I still expect Iran and North Korea to conduct a joint nuclear test in North Korea by the end of the month.

President Saleh of Yemen was wounded in an attack a few days ago and has gone to Saudi Arabia for treatment ostensibly for burns suffered in the attack. It is doubtful that he will return to Yemen at least in the near future. According to Reza Kahlili, the removal of Saleh is one of the preconditions that must be satisfied prior to the return of the Mahdi. Saleh's removal has been one of the reasons for the Houthi rebellion in the north of Yemen. Iran supplied the rebels through the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Qods Force. Saudi Arabia and Jordan supplied forces to help suppress the revolt when it crossed in to Saudi Arabia.

The next condition that must be fulfilled according to the current interpretation of Shiite Hadiths is the death of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. King Abdullah is in his middle 80s and may simply fail to wake up some morning. This would be a signal to the Iranians that the Hadiths had been fulfilled and it is time to start the war.

Meanwhile the Iranians continue to probe the resolve of their enemies. So far only the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations lead by the Saudis have actually shown firm resolve. The Saudis sent a large contingent of their National Guard into Bahrain to restore the rule of the al-Khalifa family after probably Iranian inspired civil disobedience. This contingent was reinforced by forces from other GCC states. When the Iranians tried to send a boatload of students and others to provide aid to their Shiite brothers, the Saudis and Kuwaitis sent destroyers out to convince the Iranians to turn around. They did.

All Muslims believe in the establishment of the Caliphate. The more fundamentalist sects (Wahhabis, Deobandis and Shiites) believe in the use of force to establish the Caliphate as Mohammad attempted to do and the Muslims who followed almost did. While Shiites believe in the return of the Mahdi as the event that will see Shi'i Islam conquer the world, those who follow Ayatollah Mesbah Yazdi (including President Ahmadinejad) believe it is their duty to create the conditions that will cause the Mahdi to appear. As far as I can tell, the vast majority of Shiites presume that the Mahdi will return in his own good time and it is bad karma to try and speed this event along.

In the meantime Bashar Assad is having a hard time containing the protests against his rule. While these protests are undoubtedly genuine, I also don't doubt that the Saudis are stirring the pot with money and possibly weapons for the demonstrators. The Saudis are highly upset with Assad for not following their lead to pacify Lebanon to the detriment of Hezbollah and the Iranians. They have done

what they consider their best to wean Assad away from the Iranians and failed. Now they will, if possible, topple his government and throw the Iranians out.

According to previous article on Debka.com, the Iranians have dispatched between 10,000 and 20,000 IRGC Qods Force members and some 800 intelligence agents to assist Assad to maintain his rule. So far Hezbollah has not become directly involved that I can discern. They are undoubtedly monitoring the Syrian refugees in eastern Lebanon but apparently are not taking any action against them that has been reported. That may come later presuming that Assad is able to fully suppress the uprising.

The continuing uprising is causing Assad to spend resources that might otherwise be used in the Iranian war against the Sunni countries. What effect this is having on the overall Iranian timetable is unknown if indeed Iran has a timetable for events. It will take the Syrian Army units that have participated in suppressing the uprising some four to six months depending on resources to repair the vehicles used in the suppression. This will be a rough indicator of the possible beginning of any offensive against the Sunni countries.

I have never had any doubt that Hezbollah has cells in the United States. While I believe that a lot of the terrorist threat is hype, Hezbollah is not. None of the terrorist activities in the United States have been associated with Hezbollah or Iran. They have all been associated with El Queda. Other than the attack on September 11, 2001, El Queda has not been able to conduct significant attacks other than by “wannabe” terrorists. It is doubtful that they have the capability to do so. The Iranians are more than happy to let the various franchises of El Queda in the Middle East-North Africa area provide distractions from whatever the Iranians are doing.

Iran cannot reach the United States with missiles fired directly from Iran. It is dependent upon the Hezbollah cells to bring the war to us. That is why they have remained dormant. When the war starts the Hezbollah cells will be a significant law enforcement problem. This problem may be more significant than expected depending upon the economy and how many law enforcement personnel are available.

A significant number of the 800 sensitive sites are not in major metropolitan areas. They are in rural areas such as where I live. Most of them are poorly guarded if guarded at all. While there may be contingency plans to guard these sites probably with national guard units, I suspect that the Hezbollah cells will achieve a large number of successes at destroying or crippling these sites.

And just to make sure that everybody knows what the purpose of the Iranian nuclear program is, this from the UK Guardian spotted while taking a break from writing this article.

*Any mention of an Iranian nuclear weapon is taboo in the Islamic Republic, which insists that its nuclear programme is entirely for peaceful, civil purposes. So it is remarkable, to say the least, that [an article has appeared](#) on the Gerdab website, run by [Iran's Revolutionary Guards](#), anticipating the day after Iran's first test of a nuclear warhead. Here is a translation of the text:*

*The day after Iran's first nuclear test is a normal day.*

*The day after Islamic Republic of Iran's first nuclear test will be an ordinary day for us Iranians but in the eyes of some of us there will be a new sparkle.*

*It's a good day. It's seven in the morning. The sun is not fully up yet but everywhere is bright. In the northern hemisphere many countries are beginning the day...*

*The day before, probably in central deserts of Iran, where once Americans and some other*

*Western countries wanted to bury their nuclear waste, an underground nuclear explosion has taken place. The strength of the explosion was not so great as to cause severe damage to the region nor so weak that Iranian scientists face any problems in running their tests. (http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/julian-borger-global-security-blog/2011/jun/08/iran-blogging.)*

Earthquake preparedness.