

## Turkey May Invade Syria Within a Week

NOW! Lebanon is reporting on an article in a Kuwaiti newspaper that indicates that Turkey may invade Syria within a week.

*Turkish officials informed several western powers that Ankara might launch a military operation in northern Syria in an attempt to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad's Baath Party, Kuwaiti newspaper As-Seyassah reported on Monday.*

*"Turkey informed Britain, France, Italy, Germany and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) leadership of the possibility that it would launch an offensive in... Aleppo, Homs, Hama and Latakia," the daily quoted unnamed British officials as saying.*

(<http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArticleDetails.aspx?ID=286033#ixzz1QXYN5owh>)

I have seen this Kuwaiti newspaper before. It appears to be a convenient place to leak information where it will be picked up by a lot of area papers. However, we must add to this the apparent short notice Iranian exercise Great Prophet 6. Iran used this exercise also to unveil an underground ballistic missile launch facility.

The Jerusalem Post reports :

*Iran unveiled underground ballistic missile silos for the first time on Monday in a warning to the world of its ability to protect its missiles and secretly store them in hidden locations throughout the country.*

*State TV broadcast footage of several military officers touring an underground silo that was holding a Shahab 3 ballistic missile. The missile has a range of 2,000 kilometers, putting Israel within its reach, but is powered by liquid fuel, which means that it requires more considerable preparation immediately before launch than a solid rocket. The missile silos could also be used to launch Iran's longrange solid-fuel missile called Sajjil, which is expected to be test-fired by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) during the 10 days of war games that began on Monday under the name of "Great Prophet 6."* (<http://www.jpost.com/IranianThreat/News/Article.aspx?id=226833>)

This is confirmed by Iranian media.

*Iran has successfully tested 14 surface-to-surface missiles on the second day of Great Prophet 6 military drills. The missiles fired on Tuesday included Zelzal, Shahb-1, Shahb 2 and Shahab-3 missiles. Iran began the Great Prophet 6 drills on Monday. On the first day, Iran unveiled underground missile silos and tested Fateh-110 missile.* <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/186550.html>

Debka reports that Israel has moved an Iron dome system to Haifa as a precaution against missiles fired from southern Lebanon by Hezbollah. Debka also reports:

*The Iranian exercise has two primary objectives:*

*1. To spread Iran's ballistic missiles to their maximum operational extent in support of Iran's signals to Washington and Ankara in the past two weeks warning that an attack on Syria by a US-backed Turkish or NATO force would spark Iranian missile reprisals against Turkish and US military targets on Turkish soil and other parts of the Middle East.*

*2. Iran has fanned its fighting forces out across the country, with the densest concentrations on its Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea coasts, ready to repel any American attack that might follow an Iranian*

*missile assault on US, Turkish or allied targets.*

*The ground-air-naval exercise is scheduled to last 10 days – unusually long for a military drill – so that Iran stands ready for a decision in Washington and/or Ankara to attack Syria.*  
(<http://www.debka.com/article/21067/>)

Please read all of the referenced articles for more important information.

**Analysis.** This is a tough one. There is really insufficient data to come to an absolute conclusion. The Turks are obviously very upset at the Syrian Army coming within approximately two kilometers of the border with a large armored force consisting of the Fourth Armored Division and the Republican Guard. Nor does Turkey especially like the idea of being host to a large number of Syrian refugees for an indefinite time. They went through that with the Kurds when Saddam Hussein tried to throw them out of Iraq after Desert Storm.

The Iranians obviously believe the worst. Great Prophet Six is a perfect example of an exercise used to deploy troops and weapons and break out live ammo. The only thing that has to happen to turn an exercise into an attack is to change the target coordinates in the missile guidance systems. You never know that has happened until the missile is in flight. However, somebody must believe the Iranians are serious or the USS Bremerton, a Los Angeles class attack submarine, would not likely allow itself to be detected in the Persian Gulf much less be in the relatively shallow and confining waters of the Persian Gulf.

If the Bremerton is in the Persian Gulf I would suspect that more than one Aegis equipped cruiser or destroyer is also there. The Aegis ships most likely have the Standard Missile Three on board. This missile is capable of intercepting ballistic missiles as was proved when one shot down a satellite a few years ago. These are the same type of ships that are stationed in the Sea of Japan when North Korea is preparing a missile test.

But there are several pieces missing from the picture. The Jordan Times did not say anything about the mobilization status of Jordan's armed forces. I would expect King Abdullah II to be in fairly regular contact with Prime Minister Erdogan. King Abdullah owes Bashar Assad a decapitation for the El Queda attack with nerve gas in Amman on New Year's Eve 2000.

Has Hezbollah mobilized? I suspect there would be something mentioned in the Israeli papers if that had happened and it had been detected. But a lot of Hezbollah's weapons are already in the place from which they would be employed or very close to it. Iran may be depending on Great Prophet Six being enough of a deterrent to keep Turkey from attacking Syria and precipitating a Middle East wide war.

We also don't know what the mobilization status of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states is. I suspect that all the GCC countries are at least partially mobilized due to Great Prophet Six. No ground component has been revealed as part of Great Prophet Six. Nor has any movement of Iranian troops towards the Iran-Turkey border been mentioned.

At this point it looks like Iran is threatening Middle East wide war if Turkey attacks Syria and expects that to be enough of a deterrent. Iran expects the United States among others to pressure Erdogan not to attack. Nor am I sure at this point that Erdogan wants to attack. I suspect he would rather not. Neither does he want an armored division plus real close to his borders. I do not doubt that Turkey will defend its borders and the Syrian refugees.

Assad and the mullahs of Iran have a serious decision in front of them. It is doubtful that Assad and the Alawite regime can withstand a protracted revolution. Even though all of the conditions listed in *The Coming is Upon Us* have not been fulfilled yet (King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia is still alive), if Syria falls Iran's war of conquest in the name of the Mahdi becomes a one front war instead of a two front war. It is doubtful that Iran could prevail in a single front war.

Therefore, it is possible that Assad will be ordered to goad the Turks into attacking. Syria then retreats and establishes a defensive line some distance from the northern border where it fights a holding action against the Turks. The bulk of the Syrian Army turns south towards Amman and the Two Mosques. The Iranians use Great Prophet Six to launch the bombardment of Israel and the GCC states. It goes down hill from there.

The mullahs expect that the US and others will work hard to keep Turkey from attacking Syria. I suspect that right now the Iranians are being very aggressive in the Straits of Hormuz. It is their way of reminding us all that war with Iran means closure of the Straits. But at some point we must refuse the blackmail and take the chance that Iran cannot close the Straits. Or, be prepared to raise or dismember any ships sunk in the ship channels.

This is a watch and wait situation.