

Scott Ritter: Trump Leaks SPACE WEAPON, US F-15 DOWNED Over Yemen!

Former Weapons Inspector Scott Ritter discusses US deployment of a new space weapon and why a nuclear space race is being launched by Trump just as Yemen downs an f-15 and leaks over the extensive damage to US bases has come out. Support Scott's work: <https://scottritter.substack.com/PATREON.COM/DANNYHAIPHONG> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhai...> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #iranwar #nuclearwar #trump #yemen

#Danny

Welcome, everyone. As you can see, I'm joined by Scott Ritter, former UN weapons inspector, to go over the latest developments. Well, we begin with the United States now acknowledging that, for the first time, it has deployed weapons in space. Now, for years, anyone who said that there was a militarization of space going on, you were labeled a conspiracy theorist. Well, that mask has completely slipped. The United States Air Force has announced that they have weapons actively deployed in Earth's orbit right now. They're not telling us what they launched, when they launched them, or what kind of rockets they used to get these weapons into Earth's orbit. But nonetheless, here they are. And Scott, I wanted to begin with you. Your initial reaction to this—what exactly is going on here, and what you saw about this admission? What's your immediate reaction to what they're actually trying to pull off?

#Scott Ritter

First of all, this is not something new. Anybody who's been following this issue—believe it or not, Danny, I do follow some issues like this one—we've had these weapons in space for a long time. You remember Operation Midnight Hammer, you know, the American B-2 strike on Fordow and Natanz? The United States, in March—I think it was Trump. We always have to rely on our president to tell us the good stuff because he doesn't have an ability not to speak. When we sent the aircraft in, we carved out a blind spot of all satellite coverage in the world. All, I mean, whether it's imagery, electronic—boom. We literally made a corridor of blindness that allowed our aircraft to penetrate Iranian airspace undetected, do their thing, and get out.

And that didn't happen by accident. That happens when you have an asset that's able to overwhelm the frequencies that overhead coverage is being used to collect on, whether it's imagery or whether it's electronic warfare, et cetera. That means that we put something in proximity to collection assets and we shut them off, drowned them out, fuzzed them up. And when I heard that, I went off. So we

basically put electronic warfare in space, because that's the only way we could have done that. We've been testing systems for some time now that are ground-based that we can put out with—you know, this is what the Russians have done with Starlink. They've created a system that can come out and basically jam the signal of Starlink and create a dead space that Starlink can't operate on.

And what you're seeing in the Ukraine-Russia war is that—and the Ukrainians admitted this—the, I think, the Azov guys, the Third Assault Brigade, have said, yeah, the Russians are shutting down Starlink. We've lost all the advantages we have. We've got no advantages anymore. But that's ground-based. We, of course, don't have any ground-based systems active inside Iran. So in order for us to carve this corridor, we had to use satellites. Now, you know, we have for some time now been watching the Russians and the Chinese deploy these satellites. They come up and they maneuver close to American satellites, and then they take pictures of the American satellites.

But by getting close to them and being able to maneuver close, what that means is that they've shown an ability to get a killer satellite next to an American satellite and hit it kinetically. Nobody wants to do this. Once we get in the business of killing satellites like this, you create space debris and you deny the entire spectrum to all satellites. So nobody wants to get in the kinetic killing business. So we're not talking about kinetic killers, even though we ourselves recently have tested the ability to put up a target and have another satellite maneuver right next to it. We didn't maneuver against an enemy one, but Space Command has hired several private companies who've done experiments where they put up a target satellite, then they maneuver up with another one, get close to it, and prove.

Another capability that's been demonstrated, I think the Chinese did it, is they can come up and they can latch on, and they can drag a satellite out of orbit. And that's another way to de-orbit a satellite. And sides have tested that. But, you know, de-orbit, you can at least get it out. But once you get it out, once you start touching, touchy-feely, it's a kinetic game. All sides have demonstrated the ability to do that: the United States, Russia, China. But what we've done here is we've come in with electromagnetic capabilities, which—the important thing about this is that it's reversible, meaning we're not hitting them with a lethal death beam that's disabling the satellite. Because once you get into the business of disabling satellites, retaliation comes in.

But if you come in and you just drown it out and it can no longer function for a period of time, and it comes back online, you know, it's hard to speak of retaliation. What are you going to do? Kill a satellite, and they'll kill the satellite that they didn't kill. So we have deployed satellites that we can maneuver and basically blind out certain areas of the world that need to be blinded. The problem for us is that probably the nation that's better in electronic warfare than any other nation in the world is the Russians. And I'm sure they have the same capacity. And when the time comes, they can do that. We have to be careful about using this technology. You know, who did we blind out when we went across?

Did we blind out a Chinese reconnaissance satellite or Russian reconnaissance satellite? Once we start targeting Chinese and Russian satellites, national assets, you know, then the retaliation is guaranteed. They will blind us. And at a critical time when we think we have overhead imagery, we won't have overhead imagery. Or when we think we have satellite connectivity for digital communications, we won't. So I'm thinking that what we carved out, we picked a window of time where, you know, the Russians and the Chinese don't have permanent coverage, and the Chinese are getting there. But I think we picked a window of time strike when you had commercial satellites available, and we blinded them and carved this corridor in.

But I think that's what we're looking at here, is that we've deployed a family of electronic warfare-capable satellites that can create blind spots anywhere, if necessary, to knock out hostile intelligence. And this is important. You know, if we take a look at what happened with Iran, they were clearly getting high-quality intelligence about American deployments and troop locations and things of that nature. If, for instance, we were preparing to deploy a strike package to Kharg Island that was home-based out of Jordan, and the Iranians preempted it, then they had to have intelligence to get that. Maybe what we should have done is deploy our vaunted electronic warfare satellites and blind the enemy during a window of time when we're preparing to launch this strike so they don't know that we've deployed our forces for it, et cetera. But I think this is what we're talking about here.

#Danny

Scott, what about the timing of this? You know, because there were some reports about this maybe being a missile, some kind of missile in space that could be launched into the atmosphere. So you're saying this is all satellite-based, and I'm wondering, why is the U.S. Air Force now announcing this, and for what purpose, do you think?

#Scott Ritter

Well, it's curious because the man who made the announcement came out and he said, "This statement has been crafted very carefully for a very specific purpose, and every word has been reviewed, and every word matters." And I've gone through that statement over and over again. I think, to be honest, that Russia and China have been doing a lot of satellite launches lately. And I think that they have deployed certain capabilities that, you know, might be of similar purpose, and that we deploy this as a sign to the Russians, Chinese: don't do what you think you were getting ready to do, you know, or what we think you were getting ready to do, because we now have the ability to retaliate.

And I think that's the case. The statement didn't say much more than to publicly acknowledge a capability that the Russians and Chinese probably knew existed. But by publicly saying we have this

capability, we have the ability to retaliate, that sends a signal to the Russians and the Chinese maybe not to do what they were planning to do, or what we think they were planning to do. I think that's what's going on here.

#Danny

Could this turn into a space military arms race, do you believe, given that—I mean, you probably saw Russia's response to this. It was very condemnatory. Your thoughts on that, and whether this could be another kind of arms race now, just in space?

#Scott Ritter

I think that, first of all, we need to understand the United States gets it wrong all the time in terms of intelligence. You know, I can't speak to the total capacity of the intelligence collected to collect data. I know that when I was familiar with the total capacity, there was a lot of fractional data that you're bringing in that you have to read into. And oftentimes we read into it wrong. And then there's political aspects where we just mirror-image what we want to do onto things that we see. We see something happening, we say, "Oh, that has to be this because that's what we would be doing." And so here we are preparing for offensive space warfare capacity that we haven't deployed yet, and we see something happening in Russia or in China, and we just assume the worst.

I would imagine that Russia, having had NATO and the United States make flexes—what did the CIA threaten me with today? Not a damn thing. I love your questions. Sorry, I was reading chat comments, which I shouldn't do. The ability that we... we collect data that we don't understand, and then we project ourselves into the assessment and say, "What would we do?" The Russians and the Chinese are very legalistic, and they have both made commitments not to weaponize space. But Russia's taking a look at what the United States and NATO claims to be preparing to do. We're talking about potential conflict over Kaliningrad, morons just making statements day after day after day. Kallas just came out and talked about the Arctic issue.

You know, and so when Russia says, okay, if they were to act on this, what would they do? They have to read statements made by Trump and others about the weaponization of space. And they also have to take a look at, you know, what the United States has been doing. If you recall, a little while back, there was a great controversy because, you know, the United States had basically committed all of its strategic communications to a satellite architecture that gave us unprecedented ability to control the battlespace and do everything. And then, you know, somebody said, all the Russians have to do is put a single nuclear warhead in space, blow it up, and the whole constellation's gone, and we can't communicate anywhere in the world.

And Congress suddenly panicked and went, "Oh my God, what are they doing?" Because they realized we had literally put all our eggs in one basket. There was no Plan B. If Russia did that, that's the end of everything. And so, you know, we've been building architecture that Russia's taken a look

at and recognizes that if you leave it unimpeded, it can do harm. I mean, you know, if you give the United States the ability to do full-spectrum control of a battlefield, you know, using satellites and information, you might lose because they'll get inside your OODA loop, your decision-making cycle. They'll be able to gather information quicker, make decisions quicker, et cetera. It's a sign that the Russians have been preparing a counter for that.

#Danny

Sorry, Scott, you cut out. After you talked about getting inside the OODA loop cycle, there was a connection issue. So if you want to continue from there.

#Scott Ritter

No, I'm just saying that there's no doubt in my mind that Russia has been preparing a counter for American digital dominance that hasn't been deployed. But, you know, the Russians have been launching satellites into space, and I have a feeling that the United States has misread intelligence and made certain assumptions that Russia did X, Y, and Z. And so now we've actually crossed the Rubicon. We've crossed the red line. We've deployed a capability, and this is why you see the Russians saying, "Are you guys crazy?" You know, because now that we've deployed it, the Russians probably have no choice but to deploy their own, because you can't let us get ahead of the game. And now we've weaponized it. Now we run into a situation in space that's similar to, you know, Barbara Tuchman wrote a book, *August 1914*. No, I'm sorry. That was Solzhenitsyn who wrote the book. She wrote a book called the—what was it? Famous Pulitzer Prize-winning book about the lead-up to World War I. Horrible.

#Danny

I'll try researching.

#Scott Ritter

But we're in a similar situation where we now have this arms race. We have treaties that say you're not supposed to do it, but now everybody's doing it. And then you start, you know, creating tension. You got Europe creating tension in the Baltics and the Arctic. Trump should be smart enough not to engage, but, you know, he's never smart enough. And at some point in time, we reach this point where, you know, the side that acts first is going to have the advantage. And maybe Russia decides to hit the kill switch before America hits the kill switch. And then America says, well, they've killed. Now we go kinetic, and boom. Next thing you know, we have this war in space. Then, you know, suddenly it becomes a war down on the ground. This is very dangerous. We've opened up another potential front of conflict. And people need to understand, these aren't little silly games we're playing here.

We're talking about the termination of all life on the planet. First of all, understand this: if we get in the business of shredding satellites, this show ain't happening. Nothing's happening, because everything is done through satellites. And when the satellite infrastructure goes down, we lose banking, we lose everything. We have to learn how to live together as neighbors in peace, and that includes in outer space. And Donald Trump should just basically stop talking about the need to weaponize. We don't need a Space Force. We need to de-escalate in space. And maybe this announcement will trigger enough concern on the part of Congress, who should be saying what Russia has been asking for all along: a treaty to prevent what's happening right now. We do need arms control treaties in space, and it's something that all nations should sign up to.

#Danny

Yeah, well, maybe, Scott, to follow up on this, the orbital hardware, all of this is reportedly tied to the vaunted Golden Dome missile defense initiative, and it's being framed as defense. What's your reaction to this? Because the Golden Dome, similar to Star Wars back in the '80s, has been criticized, especially for being a big money suck. What's your assessment of the connection to this announcement and this Golden Dome initiative that Trump has paraded about during his term?

#Scott Ritter

I don't think there's any connection between this capacity and Golden Dome other than that we take space seriously. I mean, this capability, if it is what I think it is, is a, you know, a defensive slash offensive weapon, a dual-use capability. But, um, you know, it's not kinetic. Um, the danger with Golden Dome, again, is that when we build this infrastructure that they're talking about, I mean, Theodore Postol, the professor from MIT, has laid out what this architecture would look like, you know, and how it would work, you know, the connectivity issues and all that.

If the Russians went up there and did some electronic warfare and shut everything down, there is no Golden Dome. Just understand that. So all the Russians have to do is deploy what we just deployed, bring it near a couple of the communication nodes, and then hit the magic button, and Golden Dome goes away. There's no communication. The Russians launch. It's not going to be detected. Nothing's going to be aiming. Nothing's going to be communicating. The missiles go through, do their business. So I just see peripheral connectivity there. Golden Dome is totally different. The architecture that was laid out by Theodore Postol is a completely different satellite network.

You know, we're talking about deploying that, but again, it's just not going to work. The expense associated with this is crazy to get the kind of global coverage they're talking about. We're talking hundreds of billions of dollars. And as we just said, thanks to the United States, we can make money. The enemy can literally make it go away, just like we can supposedly now make things go away by hitting a button, making a satellite do its thing. The Russians deploy similar capacity. So maybe our system is designed to shut down the Russian system before it shuts down Golden Dome. Who knows?

#Danny

Well, Scott, how does all this connect to the very deleterious and, I guess we could call it, desperate situation for the U.S. on the ground, on land? I mean, Saudi Arabia seems to be a case here because the United States is not getting involved in that conflict directly. Their armaments, including the F-15—here is the video of Ansarallah posting their surface-to-air missile hitting the F-15, and it was downed last night. Of course, they're on a blistering offensive, and the Pentagon inspector general just came out with reports that proves a lot of the damage that Iran has done to U.S. military infrastructure all across the Middle East.

Talk about, Scott, first the Saudi Arabia situation. The U.S. is not trying to get involved in this. They're even claiming that they're in talks with Ansar Allah to negotiate over the Bab al-Mandeb Strait. So what do you make of this situation and how this whole space race, the opening up of a space front, comes at a very, I think, difficult and challenging time, it seems, for the United States' posture, particularly in this part of the world.

#Scott Ritter

Well, I don't make any connectivity between the two. I think that the timing of the space race announcement is linked to something that's happening, or perceived to be happening, in Russia and China related to their parallel capacity. This is totally independent of what's going on in the Middle East. That's my take, again. Trying to connect dots with—it's like trying to solve a 1,000-piece puzzle. Not a crossword puzzle, but a puzzle. You know, little cats playing with yarn in a field of flowers. And you get five pieces. What is the image? I don't know. I got five pieces. And so you're moving around and trying to—that's the intelligence business. You need to collect more pieces and see what you can put together before you can tell what the picture is.

That's hard to say. But what's going on with the U.S. and Saudi Arabia is much easier now because we've got a whole bunch of pieces in place. We know that there's a midterm election coming up. We know that Donald Trump's in trouble. We know that the economy plays an important factor in deciding how the nation will turn on Election Day. And we know the economy is going south. And we know the reason for the economy going south, at least in terms of the immediate cause and effect, is high energy prices, high oil, high diesel prices—over six bucks a gallon right now. And we know that nothing we're doing is making matters better. It's nothing but making it worse. We were trying to solve the Strait of Hormuz problem.

We haven't come up with a solution with that. And meanwhile, you know, we were hopeful that Saudi Arabia would be able to ship enough oil through the Yanbu port, through a pipeline, the East-West pipeline, and get that through the Bab al-Mandab Strait onto the market in order to control prices. But now Saudi Arabia can't do that. Why? Because Saudi Arabia decided, for whatever reason, to pick a fight with Ansar Allah. If you remember the funeral of Qasem Soleimani, an Iranian

airline landed in Sana'a, took a delegation to the funeral, came back, returned, and boom, Saudi Arabia took umbrage at the fact that Iranian aircraft were landing in Sana'a, and they bombed Sana'a airfield.

And then, in retaliation, Ansar Allah unleashed hell, and they're continuing to unleash hell, their own counter-blockade of Saudi Arabia. And it's all going bad for Saudi Arabia right now. You know, maybe Saudi Arabia thought that they had, you know, some immunity. They thought that the United States would be there for them. But the United States just lost a war with Iran. How could we be there for Saudi Arabia? And previously, we lost a couple of conflicts with Ansar Allah, the Houthis. And while we normally don't shy away from doing stupid things militarily, we're in a situation now where Trump has to resolve the Strait of Hormuz problem.

He has to resolve the Bab al-Mandab problem to get energy security reestablished globally, to get prices down so he survives politically. So the last thing we're going to do is back Saudi Arabia in this insane conflict with Ansar Allah, because there's nothing we can do. You know, the fact is, if you look at the map, Ansar Allah has just recently launched this amazing counteroffensive, driving the pro-Saudi forces off of the Red Sea coast all the way down, seizing strategic islands in the Bab al-Mandab Strait. You know, one would think, you know, we have Marine Special Operations forces assembled in Djibouti. Look at the map. It's right there. And Djibouti, you know, we could take those islands today. Would it be easy?

Easier than you think. But then what does that accomplish? Because now we have an island, and Ansar Allah still has missiles that sink ships. And all we did is escalate and make matters worse. America right now, Trump is in the business of de-escalation. We need the Strait open. You can't get it open by continuing to support Saudi aggression against Ansar Allah. And so we're basically letting the Saudis simmer in their own juices. This is a war that Saudi Arabia began in 2014, if you recall, in the war against Ansar Allah. And it's a war that never went well. This is a war that's supposed to make MBS, Mohammed bin Salman, the great military leader, give him his military spurs so he could be on his way to becoming king.

And it's just gone bad for him all the way around. And then Saudi Arabia got humiliated by Iran by supporting the losing side in the conflict between Israel, the United States, and Iran. And MBS isn't looking so strong and forceful. Remember, this is a man whose image is important. If you recall back in 2014, 2015, when he started this war, he started rounding up Saudi princes. Go back, remember, he put them all in prison, put them all in hotels, tortured them, forced them to resign, pushed them out of power so he could position himself to be the man who would be king. There's thousands of Saudi princes, and he's pretty much pissed them all off. But he gets away with it because of the perception that he is MBS: I am a strong man.

Don't mess with me or I'll Khashoggi your ass. You know, put you through a grinder and acid, as we did with that dissident reporter. This is who he is. The man's a brutal murderer. People forget what he is. He's a murdering, brutal son of a bitch. He killed a journalist and had his body melted. That's

MBS. That's who he is. He arrests his countrymen, his fellow princes, and he tortures them because he is power hungry. He's all about power. He typifies the Saudi mentality of wealth-based privilege, that wealth comes from oil. And Saudi Arabia used to have their ability to produce oil shielded by an American shield that turned out to not exist anymore. So they turned around, they created the Mecca Pact. You know, I don't understand the rationale behind the Mecca Pact.

I really don't. Pakistan. Well, Saudi Arabia tried to go to Pakistan a couple years ago and say, please, please, please, please send your troops in to help us out with this Ansar Allah thing. This problem never goes away because MBS created this problem he can't solve. He tried to get the United Arab Emirates involved, but then the UAE turned out to be a regional competitor, and it became more of a problem than a solution. So they went to the Pakistanis and said, come on in. The Pakistanis went, no thanks, we're not doing that. So now he turned back to them as if the second time is going to be the charm. When we tell the Pakistanis, come on in, the Pakistanis will do it. But the Pakistanis didn't do it. The Pakistanis failed. What are they going to do?

What are they going to send? They don't have anything readily available. People tend to say, "Oh, Pakistan's got a big army." Sure. Last time I checked, that army was sort of fighting a little border skirmish with the Taliban, and they did a big blowup with India a little while back. So why don't we just take away all the Pakistani soldiers that are shielding us from the Indian incursion and bring them on down here? Where? Where are you going to put them? A place that Ansar Allah can't hit with missiles? Because you've got to assemble them. Troops have to land. They have to assemble. And missiles hit the assembly area. But now you've got the troops. You've got to move them. They need trucks, vehicles. They need fuel. Where's that fuel coming from? You've got to gather it.

It gets struck. You need ammunition. Where does that get gathered? Boom. Then you have to move them to the front. That's a line of communication. They get hit with drones. And what happens to the Pakistani soldiers is they're going to end up in the middle of some godforsaken Yemeni desert, out of water, out of food, out of ammunition. They're all going to die or be taken prisoner. That's what's going to happen. Pakistan went, "We don't want any of that." Turkey. Why did Saudi Arabia turn to Turkey to be a regional ally to begin with? Oh, because of animosity with Israel. Maybe. But the last time I checked, there's a lot of animosity with Saudi Arabia as well. There's thousands of Turkish troops in Qatar. People tend to forget that. Why are they there?

Did the Saudis threaten the Qataris? Yes, they did. And so they went there to tell the Saudis, no, you can't do this. And so here's Turkey saying we're not a fan of Saudi Arabia to begin with. And now Saudi Arabia wants to drag Turkey into a conflict with Ansar Allah that makes no sense. Turkey's not going to do that as well. Turkish Air Force—Turkey's not going to send its air. Again, Turkey's looking at a potential conflict with Israel. And so you want the Turkish Air Force to say, no, we're going to displace and go all the way down to Saudi Arabia so we can bomb Ansar Allah. For what reason? No reason. Same with Pakistan. We're going to send our Air Force? Really? As if the Pakistani Air Force could defend Pakistan from India by being deployed to Saudi Arabia.

So what are they doing now? My understanding is that Saudi Arabia, like a drowning nation, is turning to Egypt and saying, "Come on in, Egypt." But Egypt has the same problem that Pakistan has. Where do you send the Egyptian troops? How do you sustain them logistically? People better start learning about logistics before they open their damn mouth about going to war. It's the same thing with Sikorsky in Poland. We may talk about that later. Two thousand five hundred NATO planes? Really, Sikorsky? Have you had no familiarity with air operations at all in your pathetic little life? But Saudi Arabia right now is a nation that's dying, literally right before our very eyes. It's a nation that 100% needs oil to be pumped and sold.

And right now, not only can they not sell it because the Strait of Hormuz has shut down, Bab al-Mandab shut down, but they can't get it to the market because the East-West pipeline has been blown up, and now their oil fields are being blown up. We are looking at the real potential of Saudi Arabia to disappear as a functioning nation-state because MBS is being exposed to be the man who has destroyed the dream. And Saudi Arabia has always been a deal with the devil, an internal deal with the devil. The Al Saud family made a deal with the Wahhabists about giving them control of Mecca and Medina in exchange for them not opposing this decadent family rule. But they played, you know, Game of Thrones with these different Saudi princes. And MBS right now is being exposed as a very weak man, inefficient man, not a good leader. What's happening?

What's brewing inside Saudi Arabia? And the situation is only going to get worse. But it's not just for Saudi Arabia. What about Europe? I mean, they slit their throat by cutting themselves off of cheap Russian energy. I mean, Vladimir Putin was brilliant the other day. One hundred fifty dollars. They were sort of locked into that price. Now they're paying \$1,000, so they're going to pay then \$1,500. Europe can't afford this, so Europe's going to history. Goodbye. But they said, well, the Saudis will give us oil. The Saudis just said, "Nah, that ain't going to happen. You ain't going to get it until November." I can guarantee you they're not going to get anything in November because the situation is only going to get worse for Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia is desperate right now. It's a drowning man. They're taking everybody down with them. We could be looking at the extinction of Saudi Arabia as it's currently configured, the death of the Al Saud family. And I don't think anybody should shed any tears over this. These aren't good people. These are people who have not done anything good for the world. These are people who literally made a lot of money, and they bought gold-plated airplanes that they fly to London, and they hang out in gold-plated hotels, and they buy gold-plated prostitutes, and they shop in gold-plated stores with gold-plated perfume, and then they come back and drink gold-plated whiskey before they land and become pious all over again.

And when they get bored of flying to London, they get in their gold-plated limousine and go across a gold-plated causeway to Bahrain, where they do gold-plated nonsense there too. These aren't good people. The other thing they have to know about the Saudis is they don't know how to fight at all. That's why they want Egyptians. That's why they want Pakistanis, because they can't fight. They especially can't fight against Ansar Allah. And they have no solution to Ansar Allah right now. Ansar

Allah is dismantling them. The only good news is that other nations are looking and saying, "That could happen to us."

Nations like the United Arab Emirates, who in New Delhi sat down with Iran and said, "How do we solve this issue so that that doesn't happen to us too?" They're talking. So maybe the death of Saudi Arabia will bring about something good. But the reality is, we really don't want—as much as I despise them—we don't want Saudi Arabia to die, because the vacuum that we've created will be disastrous for global energy security. What we need is this conflict to end. And, you know, that's where Donald Trump needs to exercise some leadership. Don't just tell the Saudis no. Tell the Saudis, "Knock it off. End your war with Ansar Allah. End it now. Finish it. Done."

You lost. This is why we're not helping them, because what could we do? Anything we could do would only make matters worse. We want to keep ourselves as close to getting oil flowing through the Bab al-Mandeb as possible from a policy standpoint. Right now, we're down here. There ain't no oil flowing through, but there's a gap that we can narrow with some diplomacy, we're hoping. If we side with Saudi Arabia, we just went down here. And if we're down here, next thing you know, you ain't going to bridge that gap. And for Donald Trump, this is a problem. If he doesn't get energy prices under control, he's going to have a hell of a time in November.

#Danny

Yeah, that's 100% the case. I mean, as you said, it doesn't look like Saudi Arabia is... These dates that are being bandied about too, like one month, the East-West pipeline will be back online. That seems very optimistic. A couple of months, as you said, Scott, oil will be back to Europe. Yeah. Europe has been saying that they were going to get their stuff, you know, shit together for years since the Ukraine conflict has started. I want to show you this, though. This is Prince Sultan Air Base. This happened because of Iranian missiles and drones. And CBS has released footage, like actual footage now, of what the results of the Iran war is.

And I'm wondering, Scott... You know, given you mentioned Pakistan and Turkey and all these things, they don't want to get involved with Yemen. They don't want to get involved with Saudi Arabia's war of aggression on Yemen. Pakistan even used, like, a U.S. health insurance—it was like they were reading from a U.S. health insurance company: "This is not within the pre-existing conditions that we cover." So here we have more news about the United States' military bases. And this is what it looks like, Scott. So how much does this factor into the United States not getting involved with Saudi Arabia and Ansar Allah? Are there just literally logistical factors that just make it even more difficult now that the U.S. has taken these blows from the war on Iran? Yeah.

#Scott Ritter

Yeah. I mean, you have the head of the Navy acknowledging that the Navy is not going back to Bahrain anytime soon. That was headquarters, Fifth Fleet. That means Fifth Fleet doesn't have a

home anymore. It's gone. You know, we can't go back to Kuwait. We can't go back to half these Saudi bases. The infrastructure has been devastated. We'd have to rebuild at unbelievable costs. But, you know, the fact that they've been devastated exposes the fact that there's vulnerabilities that we can't defend from. So, you know, the definition of insanity, of course, is doing the same thing over and over again, expecting a different result. So what are we supposed to do?

Flow back into the Middle East, rebuild these facilities, and defend them with capabilities that we don't have, only to expose ourselves to repeated strikes by Iranian missiles that we can't defend ourselves against. And we don't have the ability to interdict. It's over. We're out. We're done. We're gone. We just haven't had the courage to acknowledge it yet, and we're not even being honest about the price tag. I saw a price tag that people put out there that doesn't even begin to cover half the costs that we've suffered. I looked at the list of damaged facilities. Did you see the billion-dollar radar system in Qatar that was taken out? I didn't see that on the list.

There's a whole bunch of other stuff, classified capabilities that were taken out. We can't replace them. These were the early warning triggers. One of the reasons why the Israeli defense system doesn't work as much is that they aren't getting the advance warning time. The Qatari radar was supposed to give the initial launch indicators that allowed layering of defenses, et cetera. But when you take that out, you're now, you know, dependent upon a Turkish radar in Piringlik that is detecting later in the game, flowing data into nodes that aren't optimized the way the Qatari system was. And, you know, next thing you know, the Israelis have far less time to respond when the missiles come in.

Same thing with us. Those systems are gone. And all the intermediate systems that we put in place, they're gone too. Nobody wants to talk about it because it's classified infrastructure architecture that, once you understand, you realize that we never were going to defend anything anyway. But we certainly don't want the Russians and the Chinese to know about this because we use similar architectures in the Pacific and in Europe. But I'm here to tell you right now, the Russians and Chinese know everything. And we don't have the ability to defend ourselves. Europe can't defend itself. That's why I laugh again with Sikorsky. We have 2,500 airplanes. None of them can take off.

#Danny

Where are you going to land them?

#Scott Ritter

What fuel are you going to use? What ammunition are you going to use? And the biggest one is, where are they going to land when it's done? Because Russia, once you take off, Russia takes everything out because you have no defense. Meanwhile, everything you send to Russia gets shot down because Russia has the most sophisticated integration. My dogs agree. They're like, yeah, that Russian air defense is awesome.

#Danny

They're about to join in, yeah.

#Scott Ritter

They're part of the integrated defense. Remember that electronic warfare capability where they suppress sound? Yeah, the Russians hit the dog whistle, and we're getting the suppressed sound. It's the mailman. He's hanging around my house.

#Danny

Either he's delivering a package, or he's an FBI agent in disguise using the mail delivery, and you'll hear a forcible entrance. I don't know what's going on. Somebody said in the chat, "the dogs of war." They're ready. Yeah. But, Scott, well, let's now connect this because you mentioned, when I was looking through those photos, the amount of money that the Pentagon Inspector General is putting out is \$33 billion, I think, for the entire cost of the war, which, as you said, very, very, very low. Yeah. But I even heard, I even saw reports that said that there were—are you saying that because of how Iran has taken out all these radars, that the reality of the U.S. using 60 to 70 interceptors for 20 missiles or so is a big part of this? And, yeah, your thoughts on this before we get to the Ukraine conflict. Oh, you muted yourself. Sorry, hold on.

#Scott Ritter

I was hoping the dogs would stop barking now that the mailman has left, but they continue to bark. Such is life. Okay, 60, yeah. You know, ours—come on, guys. Now they're getting on my nerves. But just because they hit that, as you said, I've been traveling, and when you get tired, your body sort of becomes—you know, there's just little things, and there's a certain frequency that, when you're tired, when it hits, it hits the irritation button big time. Oh yeah, I love my dogs. They can bark all day, and I don't care. But right now, he hit that one. I'm like, "Oh, that hurt." But, you know, we deal with systems. You hear this all the time: a system of systems. We have a system of systems and systems and systems and systems and architecture and all this stuff. Nothing functions by itself. It's not designed to be autonomous.

And so everything functions in an optimal fashion. So let's say I have a Patriot battery on the ground in Jordan. And so now it's plugged into an architecture, a missile defense architecture, anti-ballistic missile defense architecture, and it's going to receive cueing. So when a launch takes place over here, it's going to get detected, queued in, and then what's going to happen is that the architecture is going to designate systems to focus in on it. And so, you know, they'll be given priority for this sector of the sky, et cetera. They'll be given advance notice what's coming in, and you have a man

watching the system, and he can, you know, override if necessary. But everything's designed to come in, and then you fire off the optimal number of interceptors to deal with the threat as it approaches. And this way we can, you know, keep everything optimal.

But when I take out the eyes, and now the Iranians fire systems that were not getting detected, by the time they get factored into the system, the system is getting overwhelmed with data. And let's say the Iranians have learned about this, and they've learned that if they deploy some decoys of their own, they can maximize the threat potential early on so the computer can't cycle through. And next thing you know, the system hits the panic button: fire everything. The next thing you know, every Patriot PAC-3 that we've saved up all our money to get gets shot up into the sky, and it's done. And the Iranians win. If you think this was done by accident, you don't know anything about the Iranians. The Iranians study every aspect of American warfare. Just to show you the sophistication, two stories. One, they kidnapped a drone called the Beast of Kandahar.

To do that, the Iranians parked intelligence operatives off the Kandahar airbase with electronic capture or warfare capability, intercepting the signal. So as the drone takes off, there's a ground operator who is controlling the drone. They're intercepting that, and in doing so, they're reverse engineering the very apparatus necessary to control, to receive how the drone works. Then as the drone goes up, there's a period of time where it transfers control over to a satellite, and then the satellite gives control to some guy out in Millis Air Base or somewhere in Utah who's controlling it long distance. And the ground controller waits until the drone comes back, and then they transfer control back. That moment of that handshake is a very critical moment because what the Iranians did is they reverse engineered every aspect of the ground control.

And when the time came to make the handshake, they just jumped in and they shook hands first and said, "We got it." And they flew it away and they landed it. Guys, that's trickery that no other nation has shown an ability to do. Iran did it. Ask the Israelis. The Iranians trained Hezbollah, gave them capabilities. Israel was using U.S. frequency-hopping radios. Now, frequency hopping means that we don't operate on one frequency. We hop from frequency to frequency. And we're hopping from frequency to frequency using encrypted digital communications. So it's not just that we have to figure out what frequency they're hopping to. We have to be able to assemble it all together. It's encrypted and decrypted if you want to have tactically valuable intelligence.

Hezbollah, using Iranian electronic warfare capability, broke into Israeli Special Operations Forces' tactical communications. That means that they are breaking into frequency hopping and decrypting at the same time. But they go one step further, because now when you do that, you still have an operator on the end who's speaking. So they have a Hebrew speaker who can mimic the voice of the person speaking. And so they jumped into the Israeli comms, jammed out the original one, inserted their own using the voice of the speaker, and gave an order to initiate an advance prematurely. And so the Israeli Special Forces, Sayeret Matkal, advanced into a Hezbollah ambush. Guys, again, that's a level of sophistication. This was in 2008—2006, I'm sorry. The other one took place a couple years ago.

The Iranians are so damn good at what they do, and they are so responsive in terms of capabilities that they have gathered all the intelligence about how air defense works, how anti-missile defense works, all the communication nodes, and they have figured out how to defeat it. They can hit any target they want to that's defended by the United States and Israel anytime they want to, and there's nothing we can do to stop it. This is what Donald Trump knows. Donald Trump now has been briefed on the reality of it, which is why he doesn't want to escalate the war, because we don't have a solution to this problem yet. Maybe one of the solutions lies with this new magic weapon that we've deployed in space that can shut things down. But I think the sophistication of that statement is, who knows?

Like I said, there's not enough dots. I'd need to know more about what the Iranians were using to gather. Because, again, a lot of this information that they're gathering—to give you an example—China parked a giant spy ship off the coast of Israel during the war. A lot of people don't realize that. Every Iranian missile coming in was tracked, and every electronic signal generated in response was tracked. The Chinese sucked it all in. And so the Chinese used this as a laboratory, a giant intelligence collection laboratory. China and Russia's satellites are over the area collecting data too. So for 39 days, every time Iran fired missiles, everything that happened from the moment of launch—remember, if we have a satellite in space that's collecting launch data, we have to transmit it somewhere.

That's being collected upon. And the Russians and the Chinese put together a picture of U.S.-Israeli defense capabilities that was fed back to the Iranians. And the Iranians were able to build weapon systems capable of defeating this picture, this capability. Now, the Russians—this is why, again, I have to laugh at Sikorsky. Dude, you know, the Russians know everything that the United States—there's no more secrets because we used our best capability to defend Israel. There's no more air defense secrets. It's all there, and the Russians are adapting. Sikorsky's a moron. He speaks, but then again, I think everybody knows he's a moron, and therefore only the uninitiated give credence to what he says.

But the intelligence game... who knows if a book will ever be written about this? You know, there was a fascinating book that was written about technical intelligence in World War II. And when I worked with the Israelis from '94 to '98, every one of their technical intelligence officers was given this book when they went to school. And they had to study this book because it's how the British approached technical intelligence, you know, going with Germany. But if you read that book, you understand how complex this topic is and how essential it is to have a bunch of geeks that can take things apart, put them back together, and figure out how they work and how to defeat them.

The Iranians are very good. I already told you they're some of the best in the world at doing this. We used to be pretty good at that. We used to have capabilities that could reverse engineer things and stuff like that. But then the Cold War ended, and we did the peace dividend, and we got rid of a lot of this capability, and the result is we get a lot of things wrong. The Russians are very good. I

mean, I watched how they operated at the tactical level. A Ukrainian drone's down, the Russians get it, take it apart, assess it, and they're able to figure out what the Ukrainians are doing, how to defeat it. They did that with Starlink.

You know, we put Starlink on drones, we attack schools, but the debris is there. We get that. The Russians reverse engineer the signal. Next thing you know, they have the ability to shut Starlink down, which they're doing. The Russians are very, very good. They learned a whole bunch about how the U.S. anti-missile architecture functions in this war, and it includes a lot of things. Like, a lot of people talk about the Navy ships off the coast of Israel, you know, firing their SM-3s and SM-6s, which were a big factor in defending Israel. Everybody talks about THAAD and Patriot, but the standard missiles that were being fired played an even bigger role.

They're even more expensive, and the Russians figure out how to defeat them, and that means the Chinese know how to defeat it. So anything we think we're going to do to defend Taiwan from Chinese missiles, it's all gone. It's finished. And we spent trillions of dollars building this architecture, and it doesn't work anymore because they now know how to defeat it. This is the reality of what's going on here. And the United States, I think we broadcast this capability just to say, hey, we still have a punch. There's still things that we can do. So don't take advantage of how weak we are or how weak you perceive us to be. We still have certain capabilities.

#Danny

Yeah, well, I think that segues very well into this. You know, you can comment definitely more on Radoslaw Sikorski, the foreign minister of Poland, and what you were referencing earlier, because he is urging for more aggressive NATO drills near Kaliningrad, a very big red line for Russia. And I think everybody remembers Radoslaw Sikorski, a.k.a. Radek Sikorski, and this X post that he gave right as Nord Stream was destroyed: "Thank you, USA." So, it's a big clown, but nevertheless, he is speaking for NATO right now. Scott, please elaborate on this whole situation. Well, I don't think he speaks for NATO. I think that he's the foreign minister of Poland.

#Scott Ritter

So he ostensibly speaks for Poland. I know that he speaks for a lot of the Baltic states because we've seen similar insanity coming out of the mouths of Estonian diplomats, Lithuanian diplomats, Latvian diplomats. The idea of, you know, we go back to Chris Donahue, the U.S. general, I believe, just earlier this year, he made a statement at a conference in Germany implying that NATO could basically wipe Kaliningrad off the map very shortly. We had the capability to do it, the capacity to do it, and all this kind of stuff. There was even an AI-driven targeting program called Maven, I think it's called. And all this factors into how Kaliningrad's going to—now, we use the same Maven program.

We use the same long-range capabilities to try to take Iran off the map. It didn't work. But, you know, he's implying that Kaliningrad is easy pickings. And now you have other people talking about

Kaliningrad's not really Russia. It's fake. You know, they took it away from the Germans and all this stuff. It's a difficult topic. It's obviously very sensitive to the Russians, and I just think that people should be careful with what they say, because the Russians view all of Russian soil as holy, and they're not going to allow any ancient Russian soil to be taken away from them, especially by force. And anybody who thinks that they can go into Kaliningrad and take it away from Russia is inviting suicide. I don't have to speak.

I think it was Patrushev who just said, the former head of the FSB, who said Poland would disappear in three days. All of Europe will disappear if you think you can take part of Russia. So it's just very dangerous rhetoric. But again, Sikorsky is a man who is not attached to reality. He is the Polish equivalent of Stepan Bandera. He is a man who is sick in the head, filled with nationalist dreams of glory. He represents a threat to all of Poland, all of Europe, all of the world, and people should treat him as such. He should be shunned from every stage, not allowed to speak, at least not allowed to speak in an official capacity, because it's an absolute joke. What do they think they're going to accomplish by targeting Kaliningrad other than their imminent death?

#Danny

What's going on in the last five minutes? Where are we now in the conflict in Ukraine, given that the United States itself is very much concerned about, on the phone with Bab el-Mandeb, trying to get these oil prices down? And Trump even, I think you probably saw this, Trump tried to say that there was some kind of temporary ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine around energy strikes. That wasn't at all true and did not come to fruition. So what's going on in the conflict right now? What's your summary of it?

#Scott Ritter

I think reality has caught up to a false narrative. I think that many people in the West were sold this narrative that Russia is weak, that Russia is vulnerable, that, you know, Russia can be manipulated to the point of, you know, changing outcomes in elections. September 20th is the parliamentary election. Everybody was hoping that, you know, United Russia would be swept from the playing field, and that would trigger a Moscow Maidan to bring down Vladimir Putin. That was the whole reason of the 40-day drone war: to bring the pain to the Russian people so that they can understand how bad Vladimir Putin is as a leader. Nobody's talking about September 20th anymore because that narrative has collapsed. We were told that Russia is weak.

We had the Ukrainian intelligence services publish a report about how Russia can't produce missiles. Ursula von der Leyen famously said that Russia needs to take computer chips out of washing machines to fly their missiles. Everything Russia can't do, Russia can't do this, Russia's economy can't survive, Russia this, that, and the other thing—it all turned out to be a lie, 100% lie. Russia actually can do just about anything it wants to do and is proving that right now. Russia's on the path to making Ukraine extinct. This is an extinction-level event that's taking place for Ukraine. You know,

I don't doubt Vladimir Putin when he says he wants peace, but he wants peace on terms that are acceptable to Russia.

And that means that Banderist Ukraine, as it currently exists, can no longer exist. And anybody who has the notion that somehow this war ends with Zelensky still in power, with Zelensky still viable, Budanov still viable, doesn't understand that all that does is guarantee there will be another war in five years or 10 years or 15 years. When Russia says it wants to solve the root cause of the problem, that means that there never will again be a war over Ukraine, that the problem is solved once and for all. And if the West keeps insisting on pumping Ukraine up to be something that Russia won't accept, then Russia will simply destroy Ukraine. And that's where we're at right now.

Russia is now taking the fight to Western Ukraine, starting to tear down Western Ukrainian energy infrastructure so that when the winter comes, it won't just be, you know, Kharkov and Kiev and Odessa and the east that suffers. It will be the totality of Ukraine. And this, again, is an extinction-level event. The Ukrainian population hovers a little bit over 20 million today. When winter comes, cities, entire cities, will be uninhabitable. Kiev may be uninhabitable. What happens to the population? If you can't live in Kiev, they have to go somewhere. They go west, but the west can't hold them now. Russia is making sure of that, that there's not enough energy resources to absorb. So they have to flee to Europe. And that's going to create a crisis for Europe. But you think Russia cares about Europe at this point in time? This war is over.

I mean, in the same way that Russia knew that it had won the war in the summer of 1943 when they defeated the last major German offensive capability at Kursk, there's still more than a year, less than two years, of heavy fighting left to win it. I don't know how long Ukraine can hold out when you have a nation willing to sacrifice everybody, then the capacity to kill is there. Is it going to be hard for Russia? Yes. Again, to bring up World War II, the United States, you know, the bloodiest month of fighting for the United States wasn't June 1944, going across the beach in Normandy. It wasn't December 1944, the Battle of the Bulge. It was April 1945. That was the single bloodiest month for the United States Armed Forces in Europe, when Germany was already defeated, when everybody knew that Nazi Germany was going down.

We lost more men that month because a desperate enemy was fighting desperately. So as this war winds down, it doesn't mean that the Ukrainians lose the capacity to resist. This is the mistake people make by pointing to maps and saying, "Oh, arrows." You know, in the Battle of Berlin, as Konev and Zhukov and Rokossovsky were coming in, taking the city, the Germans launched a counterattack right at the end of May, trying to cut through in the south and drive up and sever the lines of communication to the Russian forces going into Berlin. And they actually drove in deep into the lines, and they defeated the Soviet forces. They overran. They recaptured a German city. I mean, it looked great.

If you just focus on that, there's a giant Nazi arrow pumping up, recapturing a city, and Soviet forces scattered everywhere, German tanks burning. And if all you did is film that, you'd say, "My God, the

Germans are still fighting. There's a chance." Nope, they lost the war. But they had a moment of, you know, localized success. So on the battlefield, what you see is the Ukrainians going, "Look, outside of Liman, we launched a counterattack." They're not mentioning that the Russians withdrew because of the momentary superiority of the Ukrainians in that sector. They withdrew, and as the Ukrainians advanced, they got knocked out, and they're all dead today. Nobody talks about that, what ends up happening.

This war is over. It's done. Ukraine lost. The sooner the world accepts this, the more Ukrainians will live. The sooner the world accepts this, the better chance Ukraine has of surviving as a viable nation-state in a post-conflict environment. The longer this goes on, it's inevitable that Ukraine will die as a nation. And we're talking about potential total extinction of the Ukrainian people. They've already lost 50 percent of their population. They're probably going to lose another 50 percent this winter in terms of refugees. What's left? And, you know, as I said, when they go down fighting, they're already talking about mobilizing women. So you're killing—you have death rates.

So for every live birth, there's four recorded deaths. This doesn't include all the unrecorded deaths on the battlefield. The population is disintegrating before our very eyes. The only chance of regeneration of the population are Ukrainian women, and they're not going to put them on the front lines and let them get killed. So congratulations, Boris Johnson and Lindsey Graham and John McCain and Victoria Nuland, all the people that brought this war on and encouraged Ukraine to fight to the last Ukrainian. You're getting your wish. That's what's going on with Ukraine right now. Russia has this war under control. And it's going to be just tragic, tragic, what's going to happen.

#Danny

Well, Scott, it was a great show today. Any final words before we do a bit of announcements and then end the stream?

#Scott Ritter

No, I mean, I would just say that, as I always say to your audience, you know, independent journalism doesn't happen by accident. And if you like the work that Danny's doing, that I'm doing, and others, you can help us out by subscribing. Or in the case, for instance, I mentioned that I'm getting ready to take off to Russia, you know, hit the donate button and help that. I just got the news about the hotel bill, and so I need help with the hotel. I don't need help with the hotel. I actually got this trip funded. But, you know, nothing happens in a vacuum. I'm actually dead serious. This trip is fully funded, but there's a plan for me to go back in November. That's not fully funded, and the November trip is equally as important as the trip. And then, you know, so, you know, no donation is misspent. I can promise you that.

#Danny

Yeah, so ScottRitter.com. That's in the video description below. Definitely hit the like button before you go. That helps boost the program. Thanks to everyone who moderated. Thanks to everyone who viewed the show today. Also, in the video description, all the places to support this show: Patreon, Substack, and much more. ScottRitter.com again, in the video description below. Hit that like button. Tomorrow, 2 p.m. Eastern Time, Patrick Henningsen's coming on to continue the conversation. All right, everybody. Thanks so much for joining today, and until next time.