

# US F-15s DOWNED by Iran, Israel Under Missile Fire | Henningsen & Wilkerson

Geopolitical analyst and war reporter Patrick Henningsen joins to discuss the latest breaking developments in the US-Israeli war on Iran including: Iran's massive retaliation escalating in attack on USS Lincoln, missile hellfire over Israel, Hezbollah joining the war, and new revelations that Trump may be tapping out. Follow Patrick: <https://patrickhenningsen.substack.com/> FOLLOW ME ON RUMBLE: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> FOLLOW ME ON TELEGRAM: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> SUPPORT THE CHANNEL ON PATREON: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: [chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com](https://chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com) Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #iran #israel #trump

## #Danny

Welcome, everyone. Welcome back to the show. It's your host, Danny Haiphong. As you can see, I'm joined by Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, former Chief of Staff to Colin Powell at the State Department and a retired U.S. Army Colonel. We also have Patrick Henningsen, geopolitical analyst and independent journalist, joining today. Thanks so much, gentlemen, for being here. We have a lot to get through.

## #Patrick Henningsen

Thank you. Cheers, Danny.

## #Danny

Yeah. Well, let's get to it. I want to begin with the breaking news, okay? The breaking news is that three F-15 fighter jets have been downed in Kuwait. CENTCOM is saying this was friendly fire by Kuwaiti forces, firing off their air defenses at these F-15s. It all happened in a very short period of time. Iran, meanwhile, is saying that they fired at the F-15s and are responsible for it. I'm just going to play a quick video and get your reaction—especially you, Colonel Wilkerson—because I think this is part of a pattern we're seeing now in this war. Here we go. This is the fighter jet video that's been circulating not only on social media but also confirmed by Western mainstream media. So, Colonel Wilkerson, please help us understand what may have happened here, and what your overall reaction is to what's been going on in this war that the U.S. and Israel launched at the end of February.

## #Wilkerson

Regarding the specific incident in the video, we'll probably never know the truth of who did what to whom. Both sides' stories are believable. Friendly fire on three aircraft is almost unbelievable—but it could be. Still, that's really irrelevant, except as it shows the nature of this conflict. What we have here is a failure to understand, as Clausewitz was so emphatic in saying was critical, the nature of this war. And that misunderstanding is gross and almost unbelievable on the side of the empire. I cannot believe that we started this the way we did, the way we're propagandizing it—and it is major propaganda.

You can't find a mainstream media source in America—I dare you—that isn't putting out the propaganda of the administration and, ultimately, of you-know-who: Bibi Netanyahu and the Israel lobby. So you just have to discount that. And then you have to say to yourself, well, Americans aren't as stupid as I thought they were, because polls now show damning evidence that even MAGA and much of the Republican following of Donald Trump, to percentages unparalleled in the past with actions like this, are against it. And across the country, it looks like you could fairly say that three-quarters of the American people are opposed to this war.

So we have a president starting a war unconstitutionally—no question about that. No question whatsoever. Toss the War Powers Act out; it was an abridgment of the Constitution anyway. Go to the actual Constitution. This is an impeachable offense of the first order that Donald Trump has embarked on. And then let's talk about the nature of the war, which Clausewitz, of course, points out is a crucial assessment. On the Iranian side—and that is the valid side, I think—it's going to be a very long war, a very long war. And it's going to bring a lot of casualties no one was contemplating, in materiel, in economies, and in actual people killed.

Ask the Israelis, who had one strike that, I think—let's see—nine killed, seventy wounded, and six missing in action already. And that was a couple of hours, or at least maybe twenty-four hours ago. So this is going to have ramifications all across the region that none of us can calculate or estimate right now. I think one of the reasons, for example, Iran is doing something that I thought, as a military professional, would be unwise to do early on—but I think I see, I glean, their operational approach here, and even the strategy behind it—is that they're attacking some of the people in the region, Arab countries in particular, that aren't necessarily their enemies, or not their avowed enemies at the moment.

And they're doing that because they want to get people out on the street—like what happened so vividly in Bahrain—to cheer when they attack. And that's what they're getting. We might have another Arab Spring, if you will, one that's actually successful in overthrowing some of these tyrants who are our allies. And then the last thing I'd say about the nature of the war, which I think is critical here: there's no way the empire can put up with this. Let's just look at some parameters. When we went to war in 1940–41—and really, we'd already gone to war in 1936 and '37—we were

already building the supply route through Iran, for example, into the belly of the Soviet Union. So when we went, we had roughly 70 million in Germany and roughly 70 million in Japan. We put 12 million men in the field.

And the strategic assessment by Admiral King and by George Marshall was that that was inadequate to confront the German number of divisions. The maximum we could build from that was 100 divisions. We were smart—we knew the Soviets ultimately would take the bulk of the casualties in that war, and we knew we had to supply the rest of the allies. All of them we supplied from the arsenal of democracy, as it were. That's the best title for our World War II strategy, by the way. We kept a lot of men, in other words, in the industrial base in order to be that arsenal of democracy. Twelve million men. We couldn't put half a million, Danny, in the field today—and that's what it would take to subdue this very resolute country of 90 million people in Iran, about 53% of whom are Persian, and another 20 to 25% are right there with them in solidarity on this.

And you've seen that sort of exemplified by—I couldn't believe the mainstream media—putting up pictures of the people protesting the regime, and then just a brief look at the people protesting the death of Khomeini. That was incredible, the difference. Millions came out, and they're coming out all across the Muslim world too, from Pakistan down to—Pakistan is on fire right now. Yeah, so... and at war with Afghanistan, of all things. I mean, Kabul going up against a nuclear power—are you dumb or something? But this is what we're doing. And the nature of this war is not realized by this idiot in charge of the empire or the idiot in charge of his Pentagon. They simply do not understand what they've embarked upon, and they're going to get a rude, rude awakening.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. Well, Patrick, I'm going to pass it to you. And as I do, I'm going to play more footage of what happened with those downed F-15 fighter jets. When I heard this, Patrick, I said, no matter what the explanation is, this is an incredibly humiliating scene. Even the explanation that CENTCOM is giving is humiliating, given that it's Iran's response that has caused this panic and, of course, all the military problems we're seeing surface in the mainstream media. But your thoughts—your assessment?

## **#Patrick Henningsen**

I'm not surprised. If it was friendly fire, I'm not surprised at all. As you can see, manned fighter aircraft aren't something the Iranians have invested heavily in over the last 20 years. They've focused on drones, missile technology, and air defense. This is one of those deconfliction issues that can be somewhat embarrassing. But one of the good things about this, from the Iranian point of view, is obviously the public relations optics for U.S. public opinion as we approach a vote in Congress. But I just want to backpedal on that congressional vote.

This vote could have happened last week. Ro Khanna and Thomas Massie had this ready on the table, and it was people like Chuck Schumer, the Democratic senator, who said, "Oh yeah, sure, sure, we want to vote on that. But let's do that later—let's do that in a week." So clearly, Chuck Schumer and others knew this war was happening over the weekend, and they chose to drag their heels on that effort. And that's something that should be known to the American people and the world—that all of these senators and congressmen who are bought and paid for by the Israeli lobby are intervening in our constitutional due process on behalf of a foreign entity.

The other thing is, Donald Trump did not consult Congress beforehand. But this is important—the U. S. is working hand in glove with Israel. You can't separate the two. They like to play good cop, bad cop. This is all theater. Bibi Netanyahu briefed the Knesset and his security committee about U.S. operations that were coming up over the weekend. But Donald Trump didn't brief our Congress or senators on those same operations. To me, this is a constitutional crisis in the United States of America. This president has completely disregarded his obligations and duties as chief executive and bypassed our constitutional system in order to serve and accommodate a foreign entity.

And I think... this is so clear. This is so clear. It's embarrassing on one level, but on another level, it really should shock people. And then the cavalier attitude of Trump and people like Lindsey Graham, just kind of waving their hand about U.S. servicemen being killed—like, well, it happens, and there's going to be more, but, you know, this is a fight worth fighting for. And then Pete Hegseth goes in front of a press briefing saying that we didn't start this war, but we're going to finish it. No, no, no—the U.S. did start this war. The U.S. did start this war.

This was premeditated. They agreed on December 29th at Mar-a-Lago on the date of this attack. It might have been delayed a week or a few days or whatever, but it was already premeditated. So the whole façade of peace negotiations or nuclear negotiations was, again, a ruse—used to provide cover for a sneak attack. This is the way the United States is doing business in the world. And this is what they're projecting to other superpowers like China, Russia, India, and everybody else. The U.S. has kind of inadvertently put the world on notice that it is a rogue actor in the international system. We don't even need to comment on Israel—everybody knows what you're dealing with there.

But there should be no question globally about what this administration is capable of—conducting high-level negotiations, even bringing them to Geneva—with full intention. And this is why, and I want to make this point clearly, this is not a flippant point; this is absolutely factual. This is why Donald Trump and the Israeli lobby have inserted Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner as the chief diplomats of U.S. foreign policy, so they could front-run all of these negotiations that have, multiple times, been used as cover for a sneak attack. So they're working on behalf of Israel. That means, effectively—de facto—these are Israeli agents posing as diplomats who don't have any official portfolio with the State Department, and are basically running this façade, this vaudeville show that looks like diplomacy, or is meant to look like diplomacy.

Meanwhile, they're preparing military actions to start an undeclared, unprovoked war of aggression. Not once—they've done it twice. They've done it, if I count the Nasrallah–Hezbollah negotiations, or the Hamas negotiations, or the two times they've done this in Ukraine. We're up to five sneak attacks in twelve months? Excuse me? I mean, this just defies analysis at this point. You're dealing with a criminal gang that has usurped the White House, and they are not working for the American people or the United States of America. They are working exclusively on behalf of a foreign entity. I mean, there's no way to deny this at this point. This is all the proof we would ever need. They did it again. And I don't know—I don't know at this point.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, no, important words, Patrick. Now, Colonel Wilkerson, given what Patrick is saying, I just want to show some of the casualty numbers on the U.S. side. Of course, the Iranians have taken a beating—hundreds, including, of course, a horrible attack on a school that killed over 150 schoolgirls. But here's what Iran has said: they claim that 560 service members have been injured or killed up to this point under Operation True Promise 4. That's from the IRGC itself.

What CENTCOM is saying is that about four people have been killed—or at least six now, maybe, given that there have been more reports about this. But CENTCOM is keeping it very low. About six have been killed so far. And this is what Iran has done—these are all the places it has hit: U.S. military, naval, air bases, et cetera. So, Colonel Wilkerson, what do you make of this? I mean, Donald Trump has said that there will be a guarantee that more Americans die. Pete Hegseth just said it as well. How do you react to something like that?

## **#Wilkerson**

Well, first thing, let me say that I agree with every word Patrick just said. And I'll just reemphasize the fact that this is the highest impeachable offense anywhere. Certainly, on the agenda of people like James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and a host of other founders—this was it. This was why they put the impeachment clause in our Constitution. Taking the country into a nefarious, undeclared, unconstitutional violation of international law—lay down your marker and it will be valid, I assure you—is the number one impeachable offense. And the very first thing that should start—and it won't, for the very reason Patrick said—is because Schumer is a lobbyist, a compliment for the Jewish lobby par excellence, and is buried in Israel's rear end, just like Mike Huckabee and a host of other people, including the director of the CIA. So it isn't going to happen.

But that shows you how perilous our straits are right now—to remain even a modicum of a democratic federal republic, or better said, a federal republic with democratic aspects. We're disappearing. And counting beans in a field, targets hit, and tactical things like that are really not what should be going on right now. What should be going on is a fundamental assessment of this enterprise we're embarked upon, which has no outcome—none whatsoever—but disaster. And I don't just mean on the side of the United States; I mean on the side of regional players too, not least of

which is Iran. A lot of people are going to die in Iran, but they are resolute—resolute to the point where this is going to be long and bloody. And even if Trump were to say, “Let’s stop,” they probably would not.

And the deeper we get into it, that probably becomes a certainty. The nature of this conflict is being seriously misinterpreted by people like Hegseth, Trump, and others in the administration, as well as by Lindsey Graham and Chuck Schumer. We’re embarked on something that’s going to really tear at us—majorly tear at us. And we’re doing it at a time when Xi Jinping has publicly announced, in a document you can’t mistake, that China has reached the pinnacle in so many areas—technology, economic might, industrial base, shipbuilding, you name it. But there’s one place they haven’t, and he says this in his pronouncement.

I didn’t think I’d see this happen in Xi Jinping’s time. I thought Deng Xiaoping still had enough influence going forward, if you will, that he wouldn’t do this—but he’s done it. The one thing they’re missing is control of the international financial empire. So they’re now going to make a move—and it will be successful, I guarantee you—to replace the dollar with the renminbi. This is a major move for them because they understand, viscerally, what that does to a power. It really begins to corrupt them, as you’ve seen with us, because you can do deficit spending out the rear end, since your currency is the one that the deficit spending is denominated in—oil sales and so forth. And Saudi Arabia right now is on the cusp of agreeing with Xi Jinping.

I think we’ll see that agreement within the next 12 months, where they’ll start doing all their oil sales denominated in renminbi rather than dollars. This is a monumental change in the world. And look at where we are right now—look at what we’re doing. If we wanted to bring this to some kind of successful end, which I don’t think is even possible with regard to Iran—well, we put 12 million men in the field for Germany and Japan and had the Soviets helping us, with over 20 million casualties. They beat the Wehrmacht. We didn’t. They beat the Wehrmacht. Ninety million in Iran—we couldn’t put half a million soldiers and Marines on the ground there. They’d be consumed. They’d be destroyed.

## **#Danny**

How would they even get there, Colonel Wilkerson?

## **#Wilkerson**

How would they even get there? That’s possible. You could get them there because there are enough amphibious ships to mount an attack on the Iranian coast, though it would probably suffer a lot of casualties. But nonetheless, you might get a quarter of a million men ashore. They would be engulfed. They would be enveloped. So what are we going to do? That’s the pity here.

## **#Danny**

And the revolts in the U.S. would be incredible—the casualties that would occur.

## **#Wilkerson**

Let's think—if he tried to implement a draft, half the American youth would be in Mexico and the other half in Canada overnight. There's no way we would have a successful draft. I don't care how draconian it is. He could send ICE. I wish he would disappear—he would disappear real fast. You just can't fathom the depth of the danger he's placed this country in—constitutionally, domestically, and internationally, globally. Patrick is absolutely right. We have no reputation left. We have nothing. It's in shreds. If I were Putin, I'd turn to Witkoff and Kushner and say, "Special envoys, get out of my country. Get out of my face, and don't come back."

## **#Danny**

Powerful. Colonel Wilkerson and Patrick—Colonel Wilkerson said this is going to be a long war. And Ali Larijani, who's now the head of the Defense Forces in Iran, said the same thing. He said it on his X account. He said Iran, like the U.S., has prepared itself for a long war. And this is a unanimous statement across the IRGC, across the Iranian military. Political officials are all saying the same thing. Your reaction to anything that Colonel Wilkerson said, but also to this—I mean, this has to be frightening the Trump administration a bit. We've heard reports of them already scrambling: What do we do? Do the air defenses surge more, send more troops, send more equipment if we have it, or the opposite? They're in a bind here, Patrick. Oh, sorry—hold on. There you go. Patrick, I don't know why I can't hear you. You're not muted.

## **#Patrick Henningsen**

Yeah, sorry about that on my end—I accidentally hit the button. Iran's been planning for this since the '80s, effectively since the Iran-Iraq War. They've been planning for this. They know this confrontation was inevitable. And so, with what little resources they have—our government talks as if every single penny in Iran's political economy goes toward missiles and drones—it's just patently ridiculous. I mean, they're literally working on shoestring budgets. But what they're able to do on those relatively marginal and humble budgets for their defense is quite incredible.

They've been able to do this methodically over a period of years, and now you're seeing the result of it. They only have to be lucky once. You know, the United States has this supposedly undefeated record—which isn't really undefeated—but in the minds of the war hawks in Washington, they think they've had an undefeated season for the last, you know, hundred years or whatever. But Iran only needs to get lucky a few times. Trump needs to throw—well, I said this in an interview last week—Trump needs to throw a no-hitter. He's now lost the no-hitter. So, who's the relief pitcher that's going to come in and save this?

What sort of desperate move are the neocons, or the Zionist lobby if you will, going to make if the United States starts taking too many hits, too many casualties? What Trump has done is effectively sacrifice—he's potentially sacrificing—the U.S. military footprint around the Persian Gulf. This is a fortification the United States has built up over many decades, in fact. And now he's threatening to sacrifice that on behalf of Israel—Israel's short-term political and military aims. That's quite significant in terms of the U.S. ability to project power.

And people say, well, Iran's made a huge mistake because they've hit targets in the Gulf states instead of rallying them behind them. The Arab Gulf states are now, you know, opposing them. So this was a bad move by Iran. No, I think this was a very shrewd, canny, and deliberate move by the Iranians, because they're like a normative power. And if you study international relations—which nobody in the Trump administration has done, and if they have, I don't see any evidence of it—what a normative power would do, like China, Russia, or a previous United States, or other significant countries, is try to impose a cost on their neighbors for acting as accessories or accomplices to another power.

In other words, they want to impose a cost on the Gulf states for hosting all these U.S. bases. Each of these bases—in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, the UAE, and Kuwait—fulfills a specific role. This is a division of labor for the U.S. military, and each of them, in one way or another, plays an essential part. Now all of that comes into question, and I think each of these countries is asking, "Do we want to be permanently at war with Iran just so the U.S. can supposedly defend us?" I mean, that's the sales pitch: "We're going to provide defense for you." When in fact, they're just drawing fire by hosting these U.S. bases.

So, I mean, it's pretty obvious how this is actually turning out, and it took Iran to push the issue. The other thing people said was that Iran would never strike Cyprus because it's a NATO country and that would trigger Article 5. And that's the stupidest argument I've ever heard, because the United States is the leading NATO power, and they've already initiated an undeclared war. So forget Article 5 or any of that nonsense. And what did Iran do? They attacked RAF Akrotiri, the British base in Cyprus, which Israel uses as an escape hatch during missile attacks and as a place to temporarily stash F-35 fighters and other assets—including Benjamin Netanyahu himself—in the event of a siege on Tel Aviv, and so forth.

So they've shown that. What are the European countries going to do? They're going to do nothing. They're going to do nothing. Why? For the simple reason that the U.S. and Israel started this war. They drew the fire to Cyprus. Cyprus is so important for GCHQ and for the NSA as a relay station—it's absolutely essential, that base in Cyprus. The fact that Iran had that on their target list, in their bank of targets, shows you that Iranian intelligence in the UAE—I can tell you, and I have this on extremely good authority—their intelligence is par excellence when it comes to the Gulf states. They know where everything is.

They know where every U.S. CIA base is. They know where every Israeli base is. They know in Erbil, in the Kurdish Regional Government in Iraq, they've also demonstrated that they'll hit those Israeli bases—as far back as January 2020, when they responded to the assassination of Qasem Soleimani. So people have this idea that Iran's a backward country, that they don't know what they're doing, that it's just mullahs bumbling around with missiles and things like that. No, no. They're very specific in their strategy. They've prepared to respond immediately if they're attacked. They did not believe the negotiations were legitimate or sincere.

And I think the U.S. has lulled itself, institutionally, into a kind of complacency from the Iraq War period and the Afghanistan War period. They've reconfigured their entire military around a certain type of mission profile. Douglas McGregor said this previously, I think in the summer. He said that the current U.S. forces really only have just over 400,000 or 420,000 troops, and out of those that are combat-ready, maybe 120,000 to 150,000. He's said this repeatedly in interviews. So if it's about deploying in the event of needing to put ground troops in or create leverage that way, you're talking about, what—maybe 120,000 potentially combat-ready troops? That's the United States of America.

They've really scaled down their capabilities over the last couple of decades and totally relied on this overwhelming deterrence. And Israel's entire defense profile is based on overwhelming deterrence. They wouldn't believe that anybody would have the temerity to attack Israel's homeland territories, or that anyone would dare hit U.S. bases in the region. And Iran has done both of those things—not once, but twice. Now, in this round, they're just banking on the idea that Iran's going to run out of missiles, that they're going to run out of drones. I wouldn't make that bet. But with the United States, you can calculate more or less what they have in terms of anti-aircraft or anti-missile munitions, and what they have in terms of offensive munitions and capabilities.

That you can calculate. That's a fairly straightforward equation here. The numbers just don't add up. So then the question is, what's the upside to this attack—for the Trump administration, for America? In the short term or otherwise, what's the upside? None of the intelligent pundits you have on your program, or the other podcasts, or Judge Knapp—nobody could identify the upside of this attack. So what are they doing in Washington? Like, who's running operations? Well, we've answered that question before. So now you're in a hole. What are you going to do in that hole? Are you going to get desperate? Are you going to use tactical nuclear weapons to try to save face? And then you're in an even bigger hole at that point. So, yeah, that's incredible.

## **#Wilkerson**

What Patrick just said is the most frightening aspect of it to me, because I got my hands on a transcript. He was speaking in Hebrew, of course, but I trust the translation—I don't speak Hebrew. It was of his remarks not only to the Knesset, but also before that, to members of his cabinet, as it were. And one of the things he ended with in Hebrew—and when he speaks in Hebrew, he's

speaking expressly for, if he can maintain the secrecy around it, his audience in Israel, not the United States. When he speaks in English, of course, he's speaking for the U.S. Congress, for everybody in America, and so forth. He's very shrewd that way.

In Hebrew, he ended his remarks in a way that was really frightening. He said, essentially, if everything turns sour, they'll get the surprise of their life. That can only mean one thing—that he's maybe even uploaded some of the weapons from Dimona, and he's perfectly willing to use them if everything goes bad, which it has every prospect of doing. So not only is it scary from the perspective of the conventional warfare that's going on—which can't possibly go well for the empire, ultimately for America—but also the prospect of bringing nuclear weapons into it. A very, very vivid prospect with this man, who is the number one pariah leader in the world today.

Sixty percent of the world, if not more—that's a lot of people—realize that he's a homicidal maniac. And one of the things Patrick was just talking about stirred my memory of a briefing three days ago. Naftali Bennett was not just blowing in the wind when he said Turkey's the next target. One of the reasons Israel is doing some things in Cyprus and southern Greece that have nothing to do with what Patrick was enumerating—all of which was accurate—but this is a separate operation altogether—they're trying to destabilize Turkey, and they're going to use Cyprus to do it, because that's their next target.

If I were Erdoğan right now, and I had half a brain—and I know some people in his military and intelligence apparatus actually do, unlike what we tend to think of the Turks in general—if the truth were known, they'd realize it's not in their interest whatsoever to even be neutral in this. They need to make a decision on which side they're going to enter and how they're going to enter, because all kinds of prospects for Turkey's advantage or disadvantage are right here. And Netanyahu has every intent—and I suspect his follow-on entourage of leadership, once he's in jail or whatever—has every intent of expanding Israel's realm. I mean, it's clear: Greater Israel is Greater Israel, and they're very interested in it. And when Mike Huckabee gave his disquisition on it, he was not joking.

He's been in Israel—in the corridors of power, as it were, in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv—and he knows what the Israelis are planning. So there are some people who've got to wake up here, not least of all Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, and other countries that are going to be impacted, because they are going to be impacted by this, and maybe in a very significant way. So this has all kinds of ramifications. Here's what \*Haaretz\* said—in one word. I was surprised to see this, but even \*Haaretz\* has gotten on my bad side lately, because they have so much "balance," if you will, and the balance they have is to tell lies. They called it "a war without end." Bingo. Bingo. And wars without end have a tendency to pull all manner of other antagonists, protagonists—whatever—into them.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. Well, Patrick, I'm wondering also what role the air defense depletion shortage is going to have. I can just, uh, show this video as you're talking. You know, Israel and the United States are—

this is Israel, by the way—they're expending such a large number of air defense interceptors to counter what's usually just a single missile. And the mainstream media—here, I'll show it—there's the Iranian missile completely evading all of it. The mainstream media is making a lot about this. They're saying these interceptors are fading fast, and I'll pull it up as you're speaking. The U.S. and Israel are spending upwards of \$44 million to try to down missiles that cost about a quarter of a million dollars. So this is a major issue. But your reaction to anything Colonel Wilkerson said, as well as to this—and I'll pull up some of the warnings about it that I've been seeing around—uh, hold on one second. Okay, sorry.

## **#Patrick Henningsen**

Iran's statements sound very confident that they have an advantage the longer this conflict goes on—and that confidence isn't just hollow bravado. You know, it's not Baghdad Bob. They have good reason for it. I have a little bit of knowledge about this because I was in Tehran, you know, two or three weeks ago, and I was speaking to someone who's a general in the missile program—we'll just leave it at that. But the missiles we saw launched last June—it's important to underline this—the newest ones you saw then, during Operation True Promise 3, were six or seven years old.

So there are two more generations of missiles, including hypersonic ones, that they haven't revealed to the public—capable of speeds in excess of Mach 10 and able to change course mid-flight. And this is important: they can hit moving targets. You don't need to be a genius to figure out what those are for. There are different waves to this conflict as it could escalate, and Iran's prepared to bring out different kinds of tools. They have loitering drones, very effective drones—they've already shown what those can do, taking out a major U.S. radar facility. And that's just a taste of what's to come. They have the ability to overwhelm, as you said, Danny, Israel's air defenses. So those are all things that are still yet to come.

Now, the U.S. is claiming in the media that they've destroyed all of that capability—that Iran doesn't really have anything left, that they wiped it all out in the first 24 hours. I have a hard time believing that, given the size of the country and the amount of strategic depth Iran has. The sheer size of the country is comparable to continental Europe. So they have these things they can unveil and roll out as time goes by. And then the other thing is, when you see the hypersonic missiles start coming and the air defenses are depleted, they have the larger missiles—something equivalent to advanced Scud missiles—with huge payloads of explosives. These are big, heavy missiles, and they can do tremendous damage once Israel's defenses are depleted.

And then they have old rolling stock, which they'll send—basically, they'll dust off their old rolling stock and throw that at Israel and the U.S. bases. And, you know, it's going to be—you already saw some of the damage in the last 12 hours. I mean, it's significant in Israel already. That level of damage, that level—and then more—is what you can expect the longer this thing goes on. So that's why they're confident. This is why they're, you know—there's no threat of a ground invasion by the United States or Israel. Maybe special forces doing sabotage. I'm sure the British, or the SAS, will be

deployed to blow things up behind the lines, as they normally do. And the U.S. will do that, Israel will do that, but that's not going to be enough.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, Colonel Wilkerson, same question to you—and anything else you want to add about this?

## **#Wilkerson**

Well, to Patrick's last point, I understand the helicopters I just received were specifically for taking care of SAS, and I don't doubt that for a minute. I think we're looking at a situation here, as I said earlier, that we've misjudged badly. And I think what Patrick was talking about is one of the things we misjudged. The Iranians are really, really clever about how they're using their missiles and their drones. They're using the cheaper stuff, if you will—which is deadly if it gets through—but it's not going to get through very often because the Israelis, or we, are going to shoot it down. But what are we going to keep shooting things down with? Because we're going to run out—and we're going to run out a lot faster than a lot of people think.

I'm not thinking it's much longer than about four days. Then they're going to shoot their better stuff, and it's going to get through without any inhibition whatsoever. It's going to devastate targets in Israel, which is a tiny little enclave, really. I think the Iranians are being judicious, as they always have been—especially when striking someone with their missile rate—and not hitting civilian targets. Unlike Netanyahu, who loves to kill civilians, he just revels in killing civilians. They're going to take that imprimatur, if you will, off, and they're going to start hitting everything in Israel, including civilians. They've already killed a few. I think they're going to kill a lot more.

Then you're going to see Netanyahu having an incredible problem keeping people in Israel. He's already lost probably close to a million of the Jewish inhabitants of Israel, and he's going to lose many, many more because, basically, it's not going to be any kind of safe haven for them anymore—nor is there going to be a prospect of it returning to being a safe haven. So he's got an enormous problem. That brings me back to that proposition he stated, apparently in Hebrew, that he had the ultimate weapon in his inventory. That was clearly the insinuation, which is extremely disturbing, because if there is a place on the face of the earth—and there are several right now, including Pakistan—that might use a nuclear weapon in the near future, it is Israel most prominently.

And that's truly disturbing in my mind, and something I don't think—even with the contacts that Trump has, most of them buried up his rear end or he buried up theirs in Israel—are apprising him of. I don't think he understands that he's embarked on a road that could very well lead to the use of a nuclear weapon, or two, or three. Let me come back to the allies—this trilateral alliance now. And it is trilateral, not bilateral: Russia, Iran, China. All three are in an alliance with Iran. If you want to replenish Iran after it has very thoroughly devastated the region with its more sophisticated missiles—perhaps sunk one, if not more, U.S. aircraft carriers and combatants like the two stupidly

positioned DDs in the northern Arabian Sea, or Persian Gulf, as some would call it—if they do that and run out of those really sophisticated missiles, or come close to running out, guess who's going to resupply them? No doubt in my mind they're going to get resupplied, and on a timely basis.

And by the way, so is Al-Ansar—the Houthis in Yemen—who are going to shut down the Red Sea again, at least for traffic coming up for Israel or for Israel's interests. So we're going to have two of the most important choke points in the world essentially sealed off. We're already seeing insurance companies refusing to insure. We're already seeing shippers refusing to ship. We're already seeing oil prices begin to tick up. We're already seeing the possibility of their rising at an alarming rate, even exceeding the rate they did previously when we got in a real pinch with it. And that's when we sank Iranian ships and went into Operation Earnest Will, reflagging Kuwaiti tankers.

We went into Operation Praying Mantis and sank one Iranian warship, and we were going to sink the other one until Ronald Reagan called us off. They're a different Iran today. And if they want to close the Strait, they can close the Strait. And if they want the Houthis to close the Red Sea, they can close the Red Sea. We've already spent billions of dollars trying to reverse that in a previous operation. Thank you very much, Pete Hegseth. And we failed. We failed miserably. So we're talking about real, genuine, solid, unbelievable impact on the world economy that Iran, all by itself but with some help from Russia and China, can cause.

And I guarantee you that China, which gets a percentage of the oil through the Strait—and it's not the percentage someone was saying yesterday on TV—they don't get anywhere near 40%. But they do get, and I ran this by the oil experts last night, about 20% from Iraq. China is probably Iraq's single most prominent buyer. They're not going to let that get cut off. India gets a significant amount too. So, you want to see India suddenly swing to the other side of the coin, if you will? This is tragic, what we're doing. This is truly tragic. These are the prospects for a much wider impact and a much wider war. And we are responsible. We are responsible. Donald Trump is responsible.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, and Patrick, Colonel Wilkerson mentioned Saudi Arabia earlier, and I thought to myself, Iran's already hitting. They're hitting it lightly. They haven't destroyed Saudi oil facilities yet, but they've hit them, and that's already causing oil prices to spike. Yeah. And I'm going to put up some images of what Iran has been doing to Israel as you talk, because Israel is already taking a beating. And as you said before, the Iranians haven't unveiled what they say are their more advanced capabilities yet.

## **#Patrick Henningsen**

Yeah, I'm not sure about those reports. I'd have to check on Iran hitting oil production facilities in Saudi Arabia. I don't know—I can't confirm that. I know the Iranian foreign ministry made a statement saying they're not targeting oil facilities, but maybe I was looking at an old statement. Things are happening very quickly, so I might already be out of date on that. But obviously, the U.S.

has been using its bases in Saudi Arabia to position assets for deployment—air assets, lots of air assets. And a Chinese commercial satellite has already revealed some of those images, which is incredible—that the world now has real-time access to U.S. deployment positions.

That's amazing in itself. But as far as the Strait of Hormuz, if you look at the end of trading for February, it was the end of last week that Brent closed at around \$74. So it was already pushing up over \$70. It'll be very interesting to see what the trading markets do as they close today and tomorrow. I'm sure it's going to gap up to \$80, maybe higher. And if you see that momentum past \$80 after today, then by midweek you could start to see futures contracts looking toward \$100 a barrel. How long this goes is anyone's guess. But I will say, as a caveat to that, I would not be surprised.

In fact, if I were an investigator in the United States government—someone actually objective, an anti-corruption investigator, whatever agency still does that—I'd be looking at whether all of Trump's inner circle had placed bets on a spike in oil prices. That's Howard Lutnick and the entire inner circle. They'd basically be looking at futures bets. What they've done on Polymarket is disgusting. In the last couple of days, the amount of money people have made—getting windfalls by betting on the Iranian attack hours before it was launched—is outrageous. There should be an investigation, a fraud or securities investigation, into that organization. I believe, if I'm not mistaken, Donald Trump Jr. sits on the advisory board. I might be mistaken, but I don't think I am.

But people can correct me if I'm wrong on that. The amount of money that Trump's inner circle would have made off this war—think about it. If the Strait of Hormuz closes, that's also Qatari LNG that supplies southern Europe. Who's the number one supplier of LNG to Europe? The United States of America. What's that going to do to U.S. LNG prices? Record-breaking profits for U.S. producers. So if the Strait of Hormuz closes, there's even a short-term incentive—not for the American people, who'll take the inflation hit we're all going to feel—but for Trump's inner circle to make an ungodly sum of money by betting on an outcome they themselves have initiated, and they've done so with full intention.

This is a level of corruption and criminality, and I tell you, I'd be shocked if they're not all making money off this. It would be very easy to track, and very easy for people to investigate if that's the case. Because I think Wall Street and Trump's inner circle are betting institutionally, and the people who were in the know in advance have parked their money accordingly to profit off this crisis. And that's just one aspect of it. I'm not even talking about all the other potential financial opportunities. It's bad for the people—bad for us generally, in terms of inflation—but good for Trump's inner circle. That's one thing I'm going to throw out there. If there are financial forensic economists out there, they could very easily start to triangulate this across a number of pundits and websites that we probably read every day.

**#Wilkerson**

Now, another person—Danny Haiphong—that’s going to benefit from this, or rather another country, is Russia. One wonders what kind of deals might have been made behind the scenes with Putin.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. Well, Patrick, I know you’ve got about 60 seconds before you have to run. Any final thoughts before you head out?

## **#Patrick Henningsen**

No. The last thing I’ll say is that the other piece of disinformation and propaganda they’ve been pushing in the West, and among our politicians, is that the death of Khomeini would have triggered a collapse in the Iranian political system. I can tell you it’s just the opposite. This is what I witnessed three weeks ago—the solidarity, the cohesiveness increased. This is, in a way, going to bring moderates, even reformists, together with, quote, hardliners. It’s streamlining support for the country. And when I say the country, I mean the Iranian nation. This is another mistake Americans make—they just write off Iran, thinking it doesn’t have a national identity or a republican form of government.

They absolutely do. It happens to have Islam at the center, and it happens to be extremely conservative—socially conservative as well. So they’re getting the opposite result. If the intended result was that this was somehow going to magically cause a cascading effect and the house of cards of the mullahs was about to fall, and Pahlavi could ride in on a lion or something like that, it’s beyond a joke. If I ran for president in Iran, I’d get more votes than Pahlavi. And I’m not joking. I probably would—or you would, Danny—and certainly Colonel Wilkerson would.

## **#Danny**

Let’s form a ticket and see what happens.

## **#Patrick Henningsen**

He has no support base at all. He doesn’t even know anyone living in Iran. It’s just the level of projection and fantasy on the U.S. side. I’m afraid a lot of that’s informing strategy—that level of delusion. And, you know, it’s pretty breathtaking at this point to even think that would be the case. But it seems that’s what’s happening.

## **#Danny**

Patrick, I’ll have to have you back on soon. Thanks so much—I’ll be in touch.

## **#Wilkerson**

Before Patrick leaves, let me confirm something for him. I had a lot to do with strengthening the U.S. consulate in Karachi. We put in windows, for example, that were impregnable right after 9/11. I watched yesterday as the Pakistanis tried to break those windows. I mean, they were hitting them with everything they had—axes, pickaxes, shovels. That's what we're looking at. And all of it was because, you know, we say Sunni and Shia Islam are poles apart. But they're not so far apart when it comes to murdering one of the leaders of whatever sect or clan. That's happening.

## **#Patrick Henningsen**

Oh, and Pakistan and Iran have a very fraternal bond as well—those two countries, as you know. And just lastly, Larry, on that embassy point, I was privileged to go into the U.S. embassy in Tehran, which has been preserved as a museum, and I got to go into the SCIF room. As a U.S. taxpayer, I'd never have access to see where all that money gets spent—the encryption room, the decryption room, the SCIF room—and to see all the shredded documents they didn't finish shredding in their haste in 1979. They've rebranded it the Den of Espionage.

They have a sign outside. Yeah. As an American, to me, it was a great privilege because very few Americans get to see that. They can if they go to Tehran—they can actually go and see it. But to me, it was incredible. I grew up watching that crisis when Jimmy Carter was president. Every night, the countdown—how many days the hostages were held. It was Ted Koppel and Dan Rather and all those guys. So for me, it was a great experience. Maybe not for the neocons. What I just said is absolute heresy, I'm sure, but anyway.

## **#Danny**

Patrick, great to be with you. We'll close up here. Your substack is in the video description, so after people leave the show, they can tune in and find you. Colonel Wilkerson, let's close out with this. There are so many crises that have arisen from here. We have the entire Shia and much of the Muslim world in the region in revolt. We see protests—we see it in Bahrain, we see it in Pakistan. You just mentioned what's happening at the embassy. We have people dying, and we don't know how many U.S. personnel are getting caught up in this as well. We have Iranians in the streets. I don't know if you saw the images.

While Iranian air defenses are active, people are protesting, cheering, rallying in the streets after Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed. We have Israel being pummeled. We don't know where Netanyahu is. Iran has said they've targeted him. They sent Israel's president, Herzog, out to Beit Shemesh, where there were major Iranian attacks, and we have not yet been able to confirm where he is. Iran says they targeted him and that they're awaiting signs of life. So, Colonel Wilkerson, take us home—what are we witnessing here, and what can we expect in the coming days and weeks? The Trump administration says this could go on for weeks, but there's a lot of concern about all this.

## **#Wilkerson**

There should be genuine concern—deep concern, profound concern. It can't go on for weeks. It simply can't, not in terms of the amount of ordnance that's being dropped now and maybe dropped for another four or five days. It can go on in a desultory fashion, but that desultory fashion will be met by increasing rapidity, increasing ordnance, increasing weight of that ordnance in terms of explosive power on the other side, because the Iranians are well stocked, and their allies are even better stocked, and they will not stop. I think decisions have been made in both Moscow and Beijing that this is a serious threat—first of all, to China's Belt and Road Initiative and everything that it portends—which means a serious threat to China's economy, not to mention the oil.

And Russia has determined that even though it's tied down in Ukraine, we are absolutely untrustworthy and no longer a partner of consequence, so it's up to them to finish it off. But that's a ground operation. She still has, for example, submarines out the yin-yang—submarines that can operate in the North Arabian Sea, which, by the way, is one of the most conducive bodies of water in the world for submarine operations. The convergence zones there, the salinity there, mean you can hide one submarine beside another, and no matter the active or passive sonar capability, they don't even know the other one's there.

This is really interesting—perfect submarine water. So you've got all this capacity on the part of China and Russia, over a hundred submarines, many of which can sortie and be there in a short period of time. Some very solid diesel-electric submarines from China operate exclusively and extremely well in this kind of water. So you have the potential here for taking down much of what the empire—the American empire—represents in the world today. You have the potential for starting the unraveling of the American empire. Whether or not these other powers will take advantage of this and move forcibly and fundamentally to do it is a huge question.

But it should be a question on the mind of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Kane, and on the minds of all the leaders of the armed forces. I don't know if Pete Hegseth has a mind, but it should be on the minds of those within the administration, like J.D. Vance, who do seem to have at least a partial brain. They should be thinking hard about the prospects of this unwinding in a very, very disadvantageous way for the country they're leading right now, because it's a perilous situation. And I think the greatest problem right now is that none of them realize it at all.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, no, that is—they don't realize that. We even have Donald Trump saying, as we speak, Colonel Wilkerson, that they're bragging they haven't even hit Iran hard yet. And while no doubt Iran has already—Dmitry Medvedev said this just earlier—he said that Iran is going to pay a heavy price, especially in terms of human cost, but that the U.S. has ensured Iran's consolidation. And I just want to play for you, Colonel Wilkerson, a few snippets of Donald Trump and what he's demonstrating here in line with what you're saying. He talks about a guarantee of more loss of life, and then when he's questioned about it, he has nothing to say. Here's Trump in these instances.

## **#Donald Trump**

Our immense love and eternal gratitude to the families of the fallen. And sadly, there will likely be more before it ends. That's the way it is—there will likely be more.

## **#Danny**

That's the way it is, Colonel Wilkerson. And then he goes on to be questioned by the media—you might not be able to hear it.

## **#Danny**

What do you have to say to the families of the fallen? That's what the reporter is trying to ask. There you hear it—and he just walks away. No message, Colonel Wilkerson, to the families.

## **#Wilkerson**

He wouldn't have a message. He doesn't care—he simply doesn't care. I go back to his remarks to General Kelly, who was his chief of staff—egregious remarks. His remarks to Jim Mattis, who was secretary of defense, and to others who had spent their lives in service to the nation in uniform. He clearly has no respect whatsoever for any of them, the highest rank or the lowest rank. He uses them as tools for his political gain. He uses them just as he uses Christians like Franklin Graham and other absurd, Zionist-loving Christians in America—the so-called Christian nationalists. He uses them all. And just as an indication of this—a minor indication, but nonetheless telltale.

He was reading from a teleprompter when he gave those remarks. Watch his eyes—he's reading from a teleprompter, however they set it up. There's no genuine sentiment in the man's heart or mind, wherever that rests in humans at all. His entire instinct is money—his immediate family making that money, corruption, staying out of the Epstein scandal, and doing whatever he has to do to appease his MAGA following, which is rapidly, rapidly falling away from him. I saw some polls this morning—I was astounded by them. And part of that's the Charlie Kirk assassination, of course, and the reexamination of TPUSA—its membership and the different things going on there.

A large part of it now—the thing that's eating away at the MAGA constituency—is the fact that, as one newspaper put it this morning, they're starting to question Trump's promises: no more stupid wars in the Middle East and things like that. And this... it just doesn't compute. MAGA is at least smart enough to figure that out. That's going to cost him the midterms. It's going to cost him the following that's most powerful for him. And God knows what that's going to bring on us domestically, because he does not want to lose that.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, yeah. And then finally, I'll pull up just one of these polls that came out in the last day. Only a quarter of Americans back the Iran strikes. This is according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll—a new poll that found 27% of respondents approve of Operation Epic Fury, 43% disapprove, and 29% are unsure. But it goes on and on. Of course, it's split along partisan lines, but nonetheless, there are people dying in this war—Americans dying. It's likely an undersell. If we take what Iran is saying, they claim it's been far more. Regardless of who's correct, we know there are more than likely four who have been killed in this.

But Colonel Wilkerson, this is a pretty historic moment, in my estimation. It appears that Iran has really shocked the United States and Israel with what it's been able to do. Do you foresee—since the U.S. is saying, Trump is saying—they're going to hit Iran harder, but given the overall orientation of the population, given the capabilities that don't seem to be diminishing to any significant degree from U.S. attacks, what do you see as the outcome if this goes on for three to four weeks? I mean, that's a significant period of time; a lot could happen by then. So let's close on this.

## **#Wilkerson**

I think we're looking at a lot longer than that, Danny. I was just thinking about how appropriate the title we selected—Epic Fury—is for this conflagration, but not in the way we think. The fury, and the epic nature of it, are on the other side. And we're going to pay dearly for that.

## **#Danny**

And here's a question for you, Colonel Wilkerson, as we wrap up. What would happen if Israel used its nuclear arsenal against Iran? I was pondering this earlier and wondered—would Israel be capable of launching those weapons before Iran detected it and responded with a very fast hypersonic missile to destroy their nuclear facilities and launchers? What are your thoughts on that?

## **#Wilkerson**

That's an excellent question, and I would put it this way—knowing that I really am talking out of my hat. But I am speaking from some experience. For example, in the 1973 war, I think this actually happened. They were getting ready to upload, and we forbade it, along with the Soviets. I think Iran has very good intelligence about what's happening inside Israel. But as in any conflict, that intelligence deteriorates to a certain extent once the bombs start dropping. Sometimes it improves in specific areas where the bombing has enabled it to, and in other places it becomes very confusing—the latter being the more common situation. That said, I do think they would have some intelligence if bombs were being uploaded. And yes, you're right.

They probably would strike them. Here's the concern: the Israelis know that. And if Netanyahu has enough complicity within the group that's doing this for him—and that's a question too—would they go ahead? Because I saw in '73 big objections within the IDF to uploading nuclear weapons. They

were going to drop one on the Egyptian Third Army, for example, because they were really seriously in Israel's face at that point. So the question becomes, how much turmoil will there be in the high command that's involved with this, and could that turmoil stop it? And then again, while that's going on, is Iran going to detect it soon enough to interdict it—and to interdict it successfully? But to your ultimate question, look at the size of Iran.

You could drop several nuclear weapons on Iran, and you could kill some people and destroy some infrastructure, but what's underground—you wouldn't destroy. We learned that big time with regard to Soviet silos, where we put as many as ten warheads on each one just to destroy that little missile down in the silo. That's how difficult it is to destroy underground targets, even with a nuclear weapon. All to say, it would not be that physically damaging to Iran. Now, if you launched a whole bunch of them, I'd change my view there. If you launched a hundred of them—I think they have somewhere around 202, 203—it would be a little bit different. But that would be detected, as you said. You could get a reverse explosion in Israel. It's just not somewhere you want to go. And I think Ben Netanyahu is fully prepared to go there, and that's very, very concerning.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, and then, in 60 seconds or less for you, Colonel Wilkerson—are they saving the good stuff for the U.S. fleet, Iran? Probably.

## **#Wilkerson**

Particularly because those ships are stupidly—utterly stupidly—placed in the Persian Gulf, which is so narrow and so shallow that you could swim out there with a mine and sink one of them.

## **#Danny**

This is going to be quite the historic moment that's unfolding. This war is going to be covered here daily, everybody. Colonel Wilkerson, thanks so much for joining me. We're going to head out together. Everyone who gave a super chat, who became a member—that is so much appreciated. Thank you so much for coming out today. We've had some huge audiences for our guests. As we, uh, continue to cover this, I'll be back tomorrow at 12 noon Eastern time with Greg Stoker, and then Lowkey will also be joining me after him. So we'll have a long two-hour show tomorrow, where we'll go over everything that has transpired in the next 24 hours. Colonel Wilkerson, thanks so much. We're going to head out of here together. Hit the like button before you go, and be sure to check out all the places to support this channel—Patreon, Substack, and much more.

## **#Danny**

Take care, and bye-bye.

**#Wilkerson**

Thank you, Danny.