

# Iran & Hezbollah's Missiles SLAM Israel, Trump PANICS | Johnson & Wilkerson

Former CIA analyst Larry Johnson and Col. Lawrence Wilkerson REACT to Trump and Israel's war on Iran going fully regional as Hezbollah has entered the field and is coordinating massive missile and drone strikes on Israel with Iran. Trump administration panic is reaching fever pitch as a race against dwindling ammunition and defenses meets Iran's furious retaliation. Larry Johnson blog: <https://sonar21.com/> PATREON.COM/DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhai...> 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 #trump #israel #hezbollah

## #Danny

Welcome, everyone. Welcome back to the show. It's your host, Danny Haiphong. I'm joined by former CIA analyst Larry Johnson and former Chief of Staff and retired Army Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson. Gentlemen, thanks so much for joining me today.

## #Larry Johnson

Hey, thank you.

## #Danny

Yeah.

## #Larry Johnson

Well, I wish we were talking about something else, for God's sake.

## #Danny

Yeah, me too. Me too. But it seems like we'll be talking about this for a while, guys. And that is the war of aggression on Iran. Now, one development that's been breaking over the last day or so is Hezbollah's entrance into the war, joining Iran in coordinated strikes—which very few are talking about, gentlemen. As I get your reaction to this and your assessment of what's going on, I'm just going to pull up some of the information about these coordinated attacks. There are sirens blaring all

over Tel Aviv as we speak due to these attacks. Here's DD Geopolitics—they shared the overnight attacks by Iran, which coincided with Hezbollah launching rockets and drones at IOF positions as well.

That's the Israeli occupation forces. I just want to pull this up because Hezbollah's entrance has been furious recently. The summary of operations since the 4th of March overnight has been incredible. I believe Hezbollah has hit four Israeli tanks. They've repelled attacks because there's a simultaneous invasion of Lebanon as they, along with the United States, attempt to bomb Iran. And I'm just going to play this now as I get your reaction to all of it, Larry. As you're talking, I'll show the damage from these attacks on Israel—especially Iran's missile attacks—because it's being heavily censored. We even have proof of that from CNN right there.

## **#Speaker 01**

We're not showing you that because the Israeli government doesn't allow us—or want us—to show where that interceptor may have come from.

## **#Danny**

So there's heavy censorship, gentlemen. I'm going to play the footage of the damage as you talk. So, Larry, what's your reaction? How does Hezbollah's entrance change things? And what do you make overall of where this war stands now as we enter, I believe, day five? Are you saying Hezbollah is still a viable force?

## **#Larry Johnson**

They were dead. They've been wiped out. They were assassinated with that brilliant cell phone blow-up. I mean, the court destroyed them. Yeah, see, look, this is just one more example of how this gaslighting goes on in the West, where, you know, the fact of the matter was—and I was saying it back then—that Hezbollah went underground. The smuggling routes that have existed for millennia were still open and operating. So maybe they weren't getting direct flights from Tehran anymore, but by God, they were still getting weapons, supplies, and money from Iran and from others.

So, you know, with Hezbollah now entering the fray, it forces Israel to divide its forces. Israel doesn't have unlimited troops; it doesn't have unlimited supplies. And, you know, they don't learn. So they've gone back in on the ground, going to, quote, "get control of the south of Lebanon, south of the Litani River." And Hezbollah is already ambushing them, engaging them on the ground, and Israel is now taking more casualties. Some of the reports filtering out say there's a growing number of reservists being called up, and they're saying, "Hell no, I'm not going to war. No, no, no, no, no. I'm not doing this."

And then, you know, the police are being sent out to round them up, and that's setting off confrontations. So I'm still waiting for the Houthis to start weighing in. You know, they've got to start landing their punches as well. The fact of the matter is, Israel—none of its air defense works. None. The Iron Dome is designed basically for rockets and drones; it's not stopping a single ballistic missile. And the Patriot as well—the United States' supply of PAC-3 missiles will probably be depleted by the end of next week or the start of the following week. I mean, it's that low. Unless they just, you know, put it there like a museum piece to look at.

And similarly with the THAADs—you know, the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense weapon—they make about 79 of those a year, at a tune of 12 to 13 million dollars a pop. And they'll fire two of those to go after a \$50,000 drone? Yeah, the economics on that just don't quite work out. So this is—the West can only get away with this lying for so long. And yet, like grass finding a way to grow through concrete, the information is going to keep leaking out. I posted one—RT had access to a video yesterday showing, in Tel Aviv, all these air defense missiles being fired, none of them hitting, and then four major impacts from Iranian ballistic missiles.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. Yeah, and Colonel Wilkerson, I'll just play this to emphasize the point. Here you'll see exactly what Larry means. We won't see the impact here, but we'll see how many interceptors Israel is firing into the air. It ends up being something like a dozen at a time. You can see it—it's a little small—but they're in the background just firing, firing, firing, usually at a single ballistic missile. But Colonel Wilkerson, your thoughts? I just showed all the damage—damage to a military facility in Tel Aviv, and damage to Tel Aviv itself.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

I think—coming up a little bit—and let me echo what Larry was saying. I'm hearing that, of the 90,000 reservists they called up, they barely got 60,000. That's a pretty heavy shortfall. And there are other tactical things like that too. Let me come up a little bit to a higher level of analysis, if you will. I think we're looking here at a distinctly different appreciation, as Clausewitz would say, of the nature of this conflict. I'm not sure there's any distinct appreciation on the Trump, Peg, Seth, Rubio side, because listening to them answer questions alone—but listening to them say things that are going to get back to people like Mark Warner, who's excoriating them right now from his position on the Intelligence Committee.

I don't think they have any real idea of the nature of the conflict. The first principle of warfare is to understand, viscerally, the nature of the conflict you're engaged in. Let me just point out how widely different the assessments apparently are, because I can't pin down what anybody in the U.S. national security structure really thinks. First of all, it seems as if they think this is going to be a short war. It isn't. I've got news for them—it's going to last for years if they persist. And they're not

going to persist, because other things are going to impact it. Second, they seem to think the Iranians are the kind of people who roll over. And they think arming the Kurds is a really good idea to keep Erdoğan on their side.

It's ridiculous, because one of the reasons those last shipments of helicopters came in is that that's what they're going to use to kill those people—and very efficiently, I think. The understanding of what's happening here is diametrically opposed. The Iranians are in it for the long haul, with 93 million people and a vast territory. We're in it for a short-term political boost, a lot of money to be made, and a point that Trump wants to show to MAGA about his war-making ability—and to give to Miriam Adelson as proof that Israel is safe. All of these things are just hogwash. They're absolute hogwash. I wouldn't be surprised.

I was just listening to Doug on the Judge's show, and he's worried about the same thing I am—that Netanyahu is going to upload three or four nukes, have them ready, and use them, because Israel is going down the rat hole with this. That's the biggest concern. I haven't even talked about the misappreciation of what it's going to do economically—not just to our allies, friends, and potential enemies, but also to us, ultimately. Let's look at what Trump did with the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. He kept guaranteeing through his first term, and then into the politicking for the second term and the first month of that term, that he'd refill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which is now at dangerously low levels. He hasn't put a jot of oil in that reserve. India's is not in good shape either.

China's is in great shape. But let's look at India. Modi has quickly come off his "I love you, Bibi, because you kill Muslims" approach to international relations and is now looking at reality. It's going to cost India about \$15 billion a day if the Strait is permanently closed—or even semi-permanently closed. They get about 60% of their raw and refined product from that strait, or through that strait. And look at the route—it's very short. So India has a very economical situation going on. Now they're going to have to diversify completely. And what the oil people tell me is that it's probably going to cost India \$15 billion just to do it.

When we did the exercise I've explained to you before, in Beijing in 2009, we had everybody there—Marad, Lloyd's of London, all the shippers, all the insurers, China, Japan, Korea, all the countries involved. We simulated taking out, at that point, Ras Tanura—ostensibly by a terrorist attack—about six and a half million barrels per day, as I recall. Ras Tanura is still significant, but there's a bigger port now, or at least a larger facility for offloading oil. When we ran that scenario, we had credible people sitting all around the table from all those countries who knew the oil markets—multinationals represented there: Royal Dutch Shell, ExxonMobil, Total from France, and so forth.

They went to \$200 a barrel for West Texas Intermediate and Brent Crude almost immediately. We haven't seen that yet, but we are seeing prices going up. And if this persists, and Iran really does close the strait semi-permanently or whatever, then you can expect \$150 to \$200 a barrel. That's going to wreck the world's economy. It's going to take people down and apart. Putin's going to

benefit majorly, I prophesy, but it's not going to be good for the world. It's going to be disastrous for the world. So at that level, this conflict is absolutely insane.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, I'm glad you brought in the economy here, Colonel Wilkerson, because it's already having an effect on the world economy. We know oil prices have ticked up to a certain degree. We also hear that damage to Israel's economy from this war could reach \$2.9 billion a week—that's from Israel's defense minister. And, Larry, I mean, this kind of damage, I think, would suggest that, yes, the economy could be in really—oh, sorry about that. Here we go, let me remove that. I'll pull it up again in a second. But yeah, \$2.9 billion a week hemorrhaging from the Israeli economy, while we know oil prices are going up as well. But Larry, your thoughts?

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, Saudi Arabia is actually going to come out of this a little better than I initially anticipated, because I forgot that the Saudis have an oil pipeline running from their eastern shore on the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea. So as long as the Houthis don't start blowing up Saudi ships—you can never rule that out—the Saudi oil will keep getting to market. The ones who are really in trouble are Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Kuwait. They don't have that outlet; they're utterly dependent. And within—let's take Qatar—two of its major economic activities are, first, the supply of liquefied natural gas, but that's now shut down.

And the word is that getting it restarted and back to business as normal is going to take at least a month. And the liquefied natural gas market is such that it's not like, you know, if you're a smoker and you need a new pack of cigarettes—you just run to the store and get one. No, there's no store you can go to for more liquefied natural gas. That stuff is contracted in advance, six months to a year out. So the natural gas that's currently on ships is already spoken for. Particularly in Europe, they're going to be suffering, and quickly so. So you've got that. And then the aluminum smelter that Qatar has—reportedly, it's going to take a year to get that back online.

So right away, Qatar's, you know, bright economic future—the one it was counting on, with the United States covering its ass because of Al Udeid Air Force Base there, a major hub—I mean, that's been the main gateway for the U.S. military going in and out of the region. I was there; I showed up in May of 2006 en route to Iraq, going up to Balad. And, you know, they had this incredible facility at Al Udeid—hot as blazes. But all U.S. personnel flowed through there to get into Iraq or Syria. So that's gone. And, you know, the other thing is the United Arab Emirates—they're suffering as well. So they're going to be putting enormous pressure on the White House.

And, you know, they've already made frantic phone calls to Putin. Now, the Israelis—to show you how despicable they are—they've been conducting false flag attacks. They carried out an attack on Aramco in Saudi Arabia. Iran has been pretty careful to limit its attacks to U.S. military and

intelligence targets in the Persian Gulf, and they've been quite effective. It has effectively driven the United States out of the Persian Gulf. At Al Udeid—which, you know, again, had the Combined Air Operations Center, the CAOC, coordinating all air and military operations in the region—it can't do that anymore because the billion-dollar radar system was destroyed by Iran, apparently using a drone.

And the so-called air defense there didn't work, so you lost that. The Fifth Fleet, based out of Bahrain—its headquarters is decimated—so they're not going back in there. You know, thinking ahead, when all this fighting stops eventually, because it will stop, the United States may say, "Okay, well, hey, we're ready to get back to work." And I can see these countries saying, "No, sorry, we're not having you back anymore. You bring too much baggage with you." Iran is taking steps to try to—well, it's been coordinating with Saudi Arabia—and so Israel's efforts to spark a broader war so far have failed.

Similarly, Israel has launched attacks in Azerbaijan and in Turkey that they tried to blame on Iran. And Iran is quick to respond to both and say, "Hey, no, that's not us." Then in Cyprus—again, that attack in Cyprus was initially touted as, "Oh, this was Iran attacking Cyprus." It looks like instead it was Israel trying to make it look like it was Iran. Why? Because if you get NATO involved, if you get an Article 5 incident, then all of a sudden it's a war of NATO versus Iran. That's what Israel is trying to pull off. And so far, Iran has been able to withstand it. But, you know, the amount of gaslighting that's going on is phenomenal. And one final comment about those radars.

The radar is a similar system to the one destroyed in Bahrain. When we talk about multi-layered air defense, the foundation of it is those radars, because they can immediately detect where a launch is and where it's headed. I hadn't appreciated this point until now. Think back to the 12-day war—during that entire war, those radars were working and giving Israel foreknowledge of where the missiles were coming from, so they could prepare to defend themselves. They can't do that now. That's gone. There's no immediate replacement, and some reporting indicates that Iran has destroyed up to five of those radar systems scattered throughout the region.

So, you know, the United States and Israel decided to pick a fight that they're not ready to finish. And what they've created, instead of despair and discontent in Iran, is unity in the society. It's the same phenomenon we saw in the United States in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks in 2001. And I don't want to get into whether it was a CIA operation or a missile—just step back and note that there were political divisions on September 10th, and then on September 12th, all of a sudden, there was unity. And Colonel Wilkerson can talk about that far better than I can.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, well, Colonel Wilkerson, please jump in. I can pull up images of the damage, too, because the censorship has been less severe when it comes to what we're seeing on these bases. And I believe also, Larry, to your point, Iran has taken out, I think, two THAAD systems now—which is a big deal.

Three? Three, yeah. I think there are only 11 of those, or there were 11. Yeah. So anyway, Colonel Wilkerson, please join me.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

Yeah, it's forcing us to do some other things that are not good for us and not good for our alliances. When you go to the Korean Peninsula and look at some of the things that are there, they're expressly there—supposedly, according to the Koreans and according to Strategic Directive Number One—to defend Korea. And when you start preparing for another conflict and pulling things off the peninsula to bring them to that conflict, the Koreans begin to have even deeper doubts about whether or not you're really there to defend them. So we're doing that sort of thing too. And as for that pipeline, I can't wait to see—it's not pumping fully yet. One of the reasons Saudi Arabia and the Emirates were having problems with Al-Ansar, the Houthis, was that pipeline. That was a reason—maybe not the only one—but it was a reason. And I can just see the Houthis jumping on that pipeline.

It doesn't take much. It doesn't take much at all. One of the problems with pipelines—like the ones being built all over the world now—is that they need peace. Because if you don't have peace, even guerrillas can come in and disrupt your pipelines. And if they know what they're doing, they can disrupt them so badly that you can't get to them or use them for months, if not years. We found that out in Syria when Paul Wolfowitz, from his position as deputy secretary of defense, ordered General Franks to bomb a certain head in Syria in order to prevent that pipeline from doing what the Syrians were planning to do with it. And we then moved in and diverted it to pump oil to Israel, of course. And there's a lot more to that story.

But illegal oil—let's face it, sub-cost oil—has been going into Israel, with us expediting it ever since Mark Rich formed Glencore and started stealing oil out of the UN Oil-for-Food program and shipping it at discounted prices, using this pipeline from time to time, as well as others, into Israel. That's why Bibi Netanyahu, as finance minister, became so politically tenable—because of the job he did as finance minister. Well, he was doing it off illicit oil. And of course, Mark Rich got caught at it and was put in jail. But Bill Clinton, on his way out of the Oval Office—guess what he did? He pardoned him. So this has been going on for a long time with oil, and it's going to be really interesting to see what Russia and China, now with Iran, do for the Houthis to make them even more powerful than they already were.

Remember Pete Hex's great boast about how "we'll open the Red Sea and everything will be great again"? Well, he failed completely. They'll try it again. And then we'll have the Bab el-Mandeb, which is actually a far more important strait than the Strait of Hormuz—also an untenable passage point. And it's about a lot more than oil and gas; it's about virtually everything the world makes that passes through the Suez Canal. So we're looking at the possibility—again, I can't stress this enough—we're looking at the possibility of a global situation that really rebounds to a lot of people's hurt, harm, and damage. And they are going to hate our guts.

I can't imagine a single NATO country—no matter Article 5—under any circumstances jumping into this fray, because fundamentally they don't like us anymore. And they're going to like us even less when they see the economic picture that's shaping up because of what we've done, because we don't understand the nature of this conflict. And coming back to that, the most profound thing we don't understand is the likelihood of Bibi Netanyahu opening the nuclear box and letting the genie out. I have no doubt that if Israel is going down, and he can't get it through his head that we are not destroying Iran, he'll use one. That's really a problem.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, I would say so. Larry, before we came on, you said that Donald Trump, the Trump administration, the U.S., and Israel—because this is really both their war—were desperate. Now, of course, we have, I believe, about a thousand Iranians killed up to this point. And we've got a lot of hubris coming from the likes of Secretary of War—well, Secretary of Defense—Pete Hegseth. I'm just going to play a bit of what he said in his report, just to torture you. I'm going to file a human rights abuse case against you. Cruel and unusual punishment—I'm violating it. But here's what—see my Christian symbols? Yeah, yeah. And here he goes, talking a really big game, and I definitely want both of your thoughts about it. Here we go.

## **#Speaker 2**

In a few days—less than a week—the two most powerful air forces in the world will have complete control of Iranian skies: uncontested airspace. I hope everyone watching understands what that means. It means we'll fly all day and all night, finding, fixing, and finishing the missiles and the defense industrial base of the Iranian military. Finding and fixing their leaders, their military leaders. Flying over Tehran, flying over Iran, flying over their capital, flying over the IRGC—Iranian leaders looking up and seeing only U.S. and Israeli air power every minute of every day until we decide it's over. And Iran will be able to do nothing about it. B-2s, B-52s, B-1s, Predator drones, fighters controlling the skies, picking targets—death and destruction from the sky all day long. We're playing for keeps. Our warfighters have maximum authorities granted personally by the president and yours truly.

## **#Danny**

So there it is, Larry. And now I wanted to—well, they definitely are hitting things. Here are some of the things they're hitting. Here's one—oh, I think this is a decoy, actually. So this is one of the things that's been going around, Larry. There's a lot of talk about all this control. There's also talk about this war now going—well, it was supposed to be four days. Now they're saying eight weeks. Now they're saying it could go longer than that. What do you make of this?

## **#Larry Johnson**

Let me ask you a couple of questions. Did we have complete control of the air over Yemen last March, during Operation Rough Rider?

**#Danny**

Absolutely.

**#Larry Johnson**

Yeah, we did. We did. How did that work out?

**#Danny**

Well, they totally capitulated—in the fantasy of Donald Trump’s mind.

**#Larry Johnson**

Did we have complete air supremacy and control over Iraq as of May 2003? Yeah. How’d that work out? How about Afghanistan? Twenty years we controlled it. How did that work out? To put it politely, Pete Hegseth is a dumbass and an ignorant man with no understanding of history. If he had even the intelligence level of a cretin, he’d understand there’s no example in modern history of air power bringing about regime change. Zero. We tried it in Serbia in 1999—didn’t work. We tried it in Iraq—had to put troops on the ground.

And even after we got the troops on the ground, instead of “mission accomplished” on May 1st, 2003, we had basically another ten years of insurgency that we couldn’t quell until we started paying off the sheiks. And actually, we didn’t have full control in Vietnam, but during Operation Rolling Thunder we got a lot of pilots put into POW camps—that was one of the major “accomplishments.” But apart from Vietnam, the United States hasn’t fought a country with the military power and size that Iran has. And I’d simply note, they’ve had four F-15 Eagles shot down in the last three days—and no, it wasn’t friendly fire the first time.

**#Danny**

Are you sure it wasn’t Kuwait firing at them? Yeah, okay, so—three times in a row, are you sure?

**#Larry Johnson**

First we’re told, oh, they were taken down by Patriot missiles. No, no, no, no—they were taken down by a Kuwaiti pilot. F-16, I think they said, right? The F-16 took down the F-15. Yeah, get your story straight, guys. You know, those jets have IFF—identify friend or foe—and it’s tied into the air defense systems. Now, I could believe one mistake, but not three. And then they did initially admit

yesterday that another one was shot down inside Iran. The two pilots were recovered by Combat Search and Rescue, U.S. CSAR. And then today, CENTCOM took it down—they pulled that. “Oh, it didn’t happen. Nothing to see here. Move along.” So yeah, Hegseth needs to pull his head out of his ass.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, Colonel Wilkerson, over to you.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

I couldn't agree more. You study the history of air power ever since Douhet and others claimed it was the end-all and be-all, and you'll find it never has been—but you can't convince air people of that. Even if you look at World War II, where we now know from papers and confidential conversations that have been revealed, the real reason for our daylight precision bombing wasn't to destroy Germany's industry. In fact, the reports—the BDAs and everything—showed that German production actually increased during those years of incessant daylight precision bombing. It was really to get the Luftwaffe to rise up against those B-17s. My father, if he knew that today, would be pretty furious about it, because he was in those B-17s.

But it was to get the Luftwaffe to come up and shoot them down, so that when we did enter the continent of Europe—Operation Overlord, finally delayed a whole year, really because we hadn't finished that task yet—when we did enter, you hardly saw a German plane contest it. And that was the purpose. It wasn't to destroy German production; that was incidental. And it did not happen to the extent that we said it did. It was to get the Luftwaffe to come up and shoot them down. So if you have an indirect strategy like that, air power might add to your eventual victory, but it is not going to win the war for you. And it is most assuredly, Pete—baby, Christian Zionist ass—not going to defeat 93 million people on the ground who are probably extending the middle finger to every PGM you send their way. Sorry.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

This morning, Doug pointed out—something I didn't know. I hadn't been specifically checking on it—but he said that even with JDAMs, which basically take an iron bomb and turn it into a precision-guided munition, we were running out of PGMs. So, Petey, if there's only a week or two of PGMs left, it's not going to do you much good to drop those old iron bombs all over that place. And I'm sure we've got tons of them. We dropped more iron bombs on North Vietnam than we dropped on Germany in World War II. Dumb iron bombs.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. Yeah. Well, Larry, you know, how does this reflect the desperation? Because now we keep hearing the timeline get bigger and bigger. And as you said, they're facing an adversary that, unlike Afghanistan and Iraq—I mean, Yemen had some fight-back capabilities—but unlike Afghanistan and Iraq in 2001 and 2003, Iran has already shown that it's not just hitting back at the U.S. in direct confrontation. It's hitting everywhere. It's hitting every single asset the U.S. has in the region.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, in less than a week, Iran has driven the United States out of its military bases in the Persian Gulf. Facilities like the main one, Al Udeid in Qatar, and the naval base in Bahrain—those were critical operation centers with a lot of activity. That activity isn't happening now. We had to abandon those facilities. So right there, Iran has effectively curtailed the U.S. ability to project force through those outlets. The other thing is, Danny Haiphong showed a map yesterday of where all these attacks had taken place in Iran. And when you see that map, it runs from Tehran in the north straight down south. It covers a distance of about 250 miles from the border with Saudi Arabia going east.

What does that mean? It means all these missiles, all these explosions we're seeing in Tehran in particular and around the country, are being launched from outside the territory of Iran. Why? Because Iran still has an air defense system that, once U.S. planes get in there, seems to be pretty effective at shooting them down. It's not as good against missiles. And the Chinese reportedly have technicians in Iran who are basically testing to see what works and what doesn't. So there are lessons being learned every day. And, you know, the United States is tipping its hand. I want to go back for a second, though, and, you know, Colonel Wilkerson will appreciate this.

Can you imagine the fistfight that's going to take place over at the Pentagon between the Commander of CENTCOM and the Commander of INDOPACOM? Because right now there are a total of 14—if I recall correctly—14 Patriot missile battalions. Each battalion has between four and six batteries. Three of those battalions are assigned to INDOPACOM. So when you do the math, that's three battalions, meaning anywhere from 12 to 18 batteries. Each battery, depending on the configuration, has a supply of either 72 PAC-3 missiles or 96. When you look at the total production of PAC-3 missiles since 2015, it's 4,620. That's the total. And when you understand that, in combat, they fire two of those per incoming target, you see how quickly that stockpile can be depleted.

Now, we've delivered at least 1,000 of those to Ukraine. So right away, subtract that from 4,620. Now we're down to 3,620. And then you're looking at, you know, close to the upper end—do the math—96 times 18. So you're well over 1,000 PAC missiles in INDOPACOM. So literally, the United States is running out. They're going to run out, if not this week, then next week or the week after. It also depends on whether they've got targets they think they have a reasonable chance of hitting. So that fight—this is going to be a real fight—because you're going to have those who argue, "Hey, the

real threat is China, not Iran.” And that’s going to set off some real turmoil in the entire defense establishment.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

Yeah, Danny, I was really surprised listening to Mark Warner this morning. I don’t know when he said it, because there’s no date stamp on the video, but I think it was within the last 48 hours. He was very dramatically saying there is no threat to the United States of America from Iran—there is no threat. Now, there is a threat to Israel, but tell me why we are going to war over a threat to another country. I didn’t think I’d ever hear a sitting senator, even a Democrat of Mark Warner’s status and position in the Senate, say that. So we are rapidly awakening some somnolent people in the third branch of the U.S. government with this war. Yeah.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, Danny, you're too young to remember. In fact, you may not even have been around when George H.W. Bush—yeah, it was back in 1988—made the famous promise, “Read my lips: no new taxes.” And then what happened? He raised taxes, and then he got his ass kicked in the subsequent election. Now, Trump’s not going to run in a subsequent election, but there will be an election in November, and the betrayal we saw yesterday, when Alex Jones jumps off the Trump train—you know he’s in trouble.

I mean, Jones was almost crying, but he was outraged over the fact that Trump promised, “I’m not going to start any new wars. I’m not going to get us involved in endless wars in the Middle East.” And that’s exactly what he’s done. The people in his base—a significant number of them—are abandoning Trump. They’re going to abandon the Republicans in the fall. And then, all of a sudden, you’ve got a Democratic House of Representatives, you’ve got a Democratic Senate, and Trump will be impeached. And he will be convicted. I’ll make that prediction right now.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

I was, Danny, I was watching one this morning—about 4:30 this morning—and they played all the clips they had on file. It was 14 different episodes, I counted them, of Trump saying that Biden was a fool, that the presidents who went into the Middle East were fools, that he would never go into the Middle East. He said it over and over and over again. Okay, MAGA, that’s what you elected.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, well, you know, of course the goalpost keeps on moving. So here, Israel is saying—and I think they’re right on this—that no matter how much hasbara they spread, Iran’s government is far from collapse. That’s coming straight from \*Haaretz\*. There’s no indication that Iran is anywhere close to collapsing. I think it’s the opposite. So there’s a level of ineffectiveness and incompetence being

demonstrated here. I want to ask you, Larry—both of you—why is it that the U.S.... I'll play some of this while you're talking. Why does the U.S. publish all these strikes on decoys? Because I think that's quite something. There are people showing, quite aptly, that the images and videos of Iran's military being "crushed" are literally thermal-painted fakes. I'll show a few of these, but Larry, to you—why are they doing that?

## **#Larry Johnson**

Again, they think they're legitimate. They don't understand history. If they knew history, they'd go back to the air war in Serbia in 1999. Man, we blew the hell out of the Serbian artillery—which turned out to be cardboard. Yeah, either cardboard or carts and logs, wooden logs made to look like cannon barrels. Yeah. The one that gets me is, "Oh man, we're destroying all their launchers." Really? Because we spent seven weeks trying to do that with the Houthis, and we had a hell of a time doing it. And the terrain in Iran is far more favorable for hiding launchers and moving them around. So, you know, again, we're propagandizing ourselves. And meanwhile, this is how their analytical minds work.

They say, "Oh, well, yeah, we're really having an effect because Iran's not firing as many missiles. They're firing 30% fewer now than they were the other day." Yeah, why could that be? "Well, that's because we degraded and destroyed them." Well, that's one possibility. Let's entertain this: their initial flush of missiles and drones was designed to saturate our air defense system, to force us to deplete it—which it's actually accomplished so far. And once it's depleted, they don't have to fire as many missiles to get through. They can now take a more leisurely pace and just keep carving us up, which is what they're doing.

I mean, if our air defense system worked, we'd still have our personnel in those bases in Bahrain and Al Udeid. We don't. They've had to abandon ship, so to speak. So this is a war that neither the United States nor Israel can control. And the situation in Israel—even though the censors are working desperately to control the information—is getting critical. Five more days of this kind of punishment, and they're going to be begging Trump: "We've got to get this stopped. Stop it. We've got to bring it to an end." And I predict Iran will say, "Go fuck yourselves." Iran is going to continue until they get a victory out of this.

And they're going to exact concessions from the United States and from Israel. I mean, it's not likely that Iran is going to say, "Oh, we surrender, we give up, we can't stand this." They don't understand—it's not fanaticism—but it's like the faith of Christian martyrs. The faith of Muslim martyrs is this: our fate is in the hands of God. If I live, it's according to the will of Allah. If I die, it's according to the will of Allah, and I'll be with Allah in paradise. But we're going to fight. We're not going to give up. They forget—the heritage of the Shia comes down to this: the third son of the Prophet.

You know, we're going back more than a thousand years. He was surrounded, but he refused to accept this corrupt successor to the Prophet, and he went out with only seventy men to face an army of three thousand. He lost—he was defeated, he was killed. But the point was, he didn't care what the odds were. He was going to fight, and he took as many with him as he could. We don't have that level of commitment in the West, nor does Israel, because the Zionists are not driven by a deep religious faith—they're driven by hatred. And I would argue that the religious faith of the Shia will prove more enduring and more powerful than anything the West has to offer.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

And that's—Danny, let me make a comment on that, because I just finished watching John Hagee riling his crowd up. And Larry's absolutely right. I'll bet you—I'd love to see it tested, if I could somehow conduct an experiment—that those people in that audience who were all rah-rah about Jesus coming down with a flaming sword and Armageddon, all of which Hagee was predicting, of course... I know you won't believe this, Danny, but we have a considerable problem in the armed forces of the United States right now with that very phenomenon.

Hegseth has done nothing but deepen it and make it more profound. But I'd love to see them on a battlefield. Of course, they're not going to go on a battlefield for the very reasons Larry just discussed. They're a bunch of cowards, and they don't have a deep religious faith beyond "I want to be lifted up to the kingdom with Jesus, and I want to live forever." That's all their faith says to them. I'm sure some of them have a bit of courage, but fundamentally—put Hagee on a battlefield. How long would Hagee last? Maybe a minute. But Larry's right: the other side isn't like that.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, and let's remember, among Muslims, Jesus is at least revered as a prophet. The Jews? Jesus is nothing. In fact, if you're Jewish—ethnically, genetically—and you convert to Christianity, you're not allowed to return to Israel as a citizen because they're anti-Christian. The Muslims revere Mary, the mother of Jesus, as one of the holiest women—she's either number one or number two on their list. The Zionists refer to her as a whore. And yet we're siding with those people. It's ridiculous.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

This is the most bizarre relationship—that Huckabee, as our ambassador in Jerusalem, stands so prominently in defending, and others like him—that I've ever seen befall the Christian church. It's bizarre. It really is. I've studied the other three or four, depending on your historian, Great Awakenings all the way from Salem forward, and this is bizarre. This is a bizarre Great Awakening. One of them produced Prohibition, of course—one of the worst things that ever happened in this

country, the progenitor of organized crime, if you will. So they've been dangerous for us, but this one is utterly bizarre, that it's infiltrating our armed forces to the extent that it has. And I'm not just talking about the ranks; I'm talking about flag officers, too.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, that gets me to the question, Larry—and to both of you. Given that killing Iranian people, as the U.S. and Israel are doing, is not weakening the Iranian government or the sovereignty of Iran—it actually seems to be doing quite the opposite—given that the United States is showing decoys and telling fantasies about Iran's military being degraded to the point of no return, given these realities and the fact that the Trump administration has supposedly kept sending U.S. troops in large numbers to Iran, are we going to see that? And what exactly would be the outcome of what I believe would be one of the biggest crises the United States, as a so-called empire, has faced in maybe its history—if that's going to be the case?

## **#Larry Johnson**

We don't even have the manpower, number one, to attempt it. Number two, remember that both in 2003 and, going back to the first Gulf War in 1990, we needed a minimum of about eight months to deploy forces to the area and prepare for, quote, a ground operation. Because it's not just infantry—you've got armor as well that has to be shipped. And that's not done in a week. You know, this isn't like a crisis-response deployment that the special operations community does. I worked those operations for 23 years, or exercises where they're supposed to be able to get up and go within 24 or 48 hours.

You know, that's moving a small number of people—maybe 200 or so. No, no, what we're talking about here is, when you realize that the Iranian combination of the Revolutionary Guard, the regular army, and the Basij, you're looking at over a million people. And the proper ratio is that you need about a three-to-one advantage. So we'd have to take our 470,000-person Army, supplemented by about 110,000 Marines. That gets us up to close to 600,000. Yeah, we'd need to multiply that by five—get up to about a three-million-man army—to take on Iran and have any hope of capturing and conquering it.

That's not going to happen. And again, where are we going to stage these forces? At least in Saudi Arabia, we had that long border up there where we could stage. The ISR back then wasn't as sophisticated as it is today. So when you start staging those kinds of forces, as we've seen in Ukraine, you get the hell blown out of them. So, I mean, this "boots on the ground" nonsense isn't even thinking through the reality of what's needed to maintain the logistics train—just to keep the troops supplied with ammunition, food, and water.

## **#Danny**

Well, Colonel Wilkerson, is there anything else we're not discussing when it comes to this idea of U. S. troops?

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

Well, Larry's right. Larry's absolutely right. You would have to at least partially—and I would suggest you'd have to fully—mobilize. And when you fully mobilize the Army Reserve, you'll find that it's 33% to 40% short. It's short in areas like hospitals, nurses, and other essentials a war like this would require. Mobilize the Naval Reserve and you'll find it's a solid 40% short, basically in the same categories. The Marine Corps Reserve is in a little better shape, but that's not very many soldiers. And the Air Force Reserve is in a little better shape, but you're really not augmenting anything but technicians, really. So Larry's absolutely right. First, you need a place to land—and it needs to be benign, as it was for us in the first Gulf War.

And it needs to have lots of allies who are interested in our succeeding. My God, we had Syrians, French, Turks, and others in that 625,000-strong force. And it also needs time, as Larry suggested. I'd say even more time today, given the sophistication of the equipment we'd be trying to bring with us—if we have any left. And it needs basically a benign environment, as I said before. By that, I mean a period of time to allow you to establish a landfall. Trump and Hicks were talking about putting an amphibious bottom out there—if you could find one that floats—and putting some Marines on it, sending them over to Bandar Abbas or wherever, and making a landing. Thank you very much. A lot of dead Marines.

## **#Danny**

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I mean, that begs the question, Larry—how the United States is putting out these huge timelines, right? "As long as it takes." Israel is saying the same thing. But it seems like things are rapidly escalating, especially regarding the air defense problem. How does that affect things? How do the equipment and ammunition problems affect it? Because it seems like what Danny Haiphong was telling the Trump administration—Donald Trump himself—before this all started has virtually been, I don't know, suppressed, squashed, ignored.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Well, Iran's strategy right now is to continue to, if you will, destroy the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf. At the same time, they're going to keep hitting targets in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and a couple of air bases in Israel—the primary one being Nevatim. They'll have to start destroying aircraft there. They're still going to take casualties, but they'll be delivering more damaging attacks, particularly against Israel. Israel doesn't have the ability to sustain pain. They've only got about seven million people. Iran's got ninety-one million.

Apart from Jerusalem, most of the population lives in Haifa and Tel Aviv. They've got about four million people—around 4.2 million out of seven million total. So that's more than half the population. That's where Iran is concentrating its attacks right now. And at some point, Israel is going to demand that the United States, you know, get us out of this, as they did last June. Only this time, there's no off-ramp unless Trump comes out and says, "Okay, we win, we're pulling out, mission accomplished." But I don't see Iran stopping at that point. They're not going to stop until they've extracted concessions from the West.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. That's what they've been asking for, right, Colonel Wilkins?

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

I'm just going to add to Larry's list there, which is absolutely spot on. 1982 in Lebanon—they had to bail their ass out there too. That was Ariel Sharon.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Yeah.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

It's a defense at that time. Yeah, I don't disagree with anything he said. I think we're in for a long conflict. They don't—meaning Hegseth, Trump, and Rubio. Let me point out another thing about Rubio that really got my goat yesterday. He was giving an interview that led me to believe he didn't even know what non-combatant evacuation operations consist of. And he didn't even know that in every consulate and embassy we have F-77 reports that tell us where all the Americans live, what their telephone numbers are, how to reach them otherwise, where a particular aid plan is, and all that kind of stuff. What he meant to say, really—if he were telling the truth, and I listened to him—I don't think he knew the truth, which is incomprehensible for a Secretary of State. He hasn't been paying attention to his real job.

He was saying that they couldn't get them to the locations and that they were unaware of what was happening. Either one of two things happened: one, they were so focused on tactical surprise that they didn't tell any of the ambassadors in the region to start preparing to get their people out; or two, they don't have that network anymore. And since I toured, as chief of staff, many of these places to find out if things like this were going according to oil—and found out they weren't—I suspect there's some of that operational. Because if you have a Secretary of State who doesn't insist on it, it lapses into lassitude. They don't do anything, so they don't expect the crisis. And then they don't have any paperwork, and they don't know who's where or when.

The other thing is that he said they didn't have any aircraft. Well, they had closed most of the airports in the areas Iran was striking, for obvious reasons. But you're supposed to have civilian reserve air fleet aircraft on standby, ready to go wherever they need to, to evacuate citizens. Think about 250,000 Americans in the northern part of South Korea, in the Seoul Greater Metropolitan Area, and 30,000 North Korean rounds—which is what we projected landing on Seoul in ten hours. We still had a NEO plan. He didn't have anything planned. Nothing at all. So we've got a bunch of stranded people over there, apparently, and God knows what's going to happen to them if Iran keeps pounding those facilities that belong to us. It's just unconscionable.

## **#Danny**

They just didn't think. Well, any closing thoughts from both of you? Larry, you first, and then Colonel Workson, for sure.

## **#Larry Johnson**

Yeah, just, you know, the Trump expectation for a quick end to the war. I mean, they literally thought it'd be over by now. We're going to be talking about this next week and the week after. All of this early euphoria about, "Hey, we win." You know, we've seen this over and over and over again. You were probably just early in high school or college when George W. Bush stepped in. You know what aircraft carrier he was on when he did his "mission accomplished" speech? The Abraham Lincoln—the same one that's out there in the Arabian Sea right now. So, hey, that was "mission accomplished" on May 1st, 2003, and we were still fighting an insurgency there eight years later. So, you know, I said, we've learned nothing—nothing—from history.

## **#Danny**

Yeah. Any final thoughts, Colonel Wilkerson, before you head out?

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

My final thought is that once I walked into the chairman's office and said, "General, can I say something in confidence to you that'll be really damning?" He said, "I don't know. What is it?" I said, "We should never have a chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff again who's an Air Force officer."

## **#Larry Johnson**

No, that's true. Yeah? Yeah. It'll—yeah, well, like I said, there's going to be a food fight in the Pentagon. Maybe it's already underway now.

## **#Lawrence Wilkerson**

Yeah.

## **#Larry Johnson**

But they're going to face the need to try to strip Indo-PACOM of the Patriot missile batteries. That's rough—maybe a battalion or two—and Indo-PACOM's going to scream. They'll go to their political allies on the Hill, and the whole anti-China crowd is going to rise up. So this is going to be a disaster.

## **#Danny**

It's going to be messy. Yep. Well, everybody, thanks so much for watching. We had a huge audience today for Larry and Colonel Wilkerson. Make sure you go to the video description where you can find Larry Johnson's blog. I put up all the super chats and new members and current members—everything. Thanks so much for your support. We didn't get to questions today, but we'll have plenty of time for that, because this war is not over by any stretch of the imagination. Hit the like button before you go; that helps boost the stream so more people can hear Larry and Colonel Wilkerson after the show is over. All the places to support this channel are there as well—Patreon, Substack, and more. And tomorrow I'll be back at 11:30 a.m. Eastern Time with Sharmin Narwani of The Cradle, as we continue daily reports on this war and analysis. All right, everybody, see you then. Bye-bye. Thanks a lot. Take care.