

Seyed M. Marandi: U.S. Military DIVIDED? Iran's Secret Defense EXPOSED

An intense discussion on escalating U.S.–Iran tensions highlights internal divisions within the U.S. military and claims of miscalculation in confronting Iran’s long-prepared defense systems. The interview argues Iran’s capabilities remain largely intact, with underground bases and strategic planning shaping its response. It emphasizes regional involvement, warning that Gulf states hosting U.S. forces are deeply entangled. The conversation frames the conflict as potentially catastrophic globally, with risks to energy routes, economies, and civilian infrastructure, while stressing that continued escalation could trigger widespread retaliation and long-term geopolitical consequences.

#Nima

Yesterday and the day before, I would say there was something going on in the Pentagon, in the military, in the U.S. Army, because many generals—more than twelve—were somehow forced to resign or were dismissed from their positions. There is, I would say, huge disagreement within the command system in the United States. On the other hand, yesterday we saw the supposedly obliterated air defense system of Iran responding to American fighter jets and Black Hawk helicopters that came in the aftermath of what happened with the downing of the fighter jets. What is your understanding? Because many people—even CNN had an article—are saying that 50% of Iran’s arsenal was depleted during this war. What’s your take? What do you make of what’s going on right now?

#Seyed

I think those generals were actually quite fortunate to be removed right after the events in Iran, where the jets were downed and the helicopters badly damaged. I think it’s quite clear that the generals believe what Trump and Netanyahu are pushing for—and what the Zionists are pushing for—is a terrible idea. And Trump is so obsessed, or maybe he’s being forced to because he’s compromised, that he has to carry on. And I think that’s exactly what the Iranians want. The Iranians want the United States to attack, because they’ve been prepared for this war. As I’ve said on many occasions over the years, Iran has been planning for a U.S. attack on the country for well over two decades. And it’s not just the missile systems and the drones.

And remember, we have to keep in mind that it’s been well over a month now. There’s no shortage of missiles, no shortage of drones, and there won’t be any shortage in the months ahead either. The Americans and the Israeli regime either miscalculated, or there are people who intentionally lied to get the United States into this war. But the Iranians have been preparing themselves for a very long time. So when they prepared their missiles, drones, and anti-aircraft systems—I think we discussed

this at least once before—I retweeted a post of my own a while ago, maybe ten days ago, showing Iranian air defenses deep underground in Iran, in underground tunnels, just like the drones and the missiles.

So Iran's air defenses are protected. They didn't leave them out in the open for the Americans and the Israelis to target at the beginning. And as we all know, over the last eight or nine months, the Iranians have put out huge numbers of decoys—for air defense, for launchers, for all sorts of things, for drones, for planes. So the Americans and Israelis have destroyed a large number of decoys, spending billions of dollars, I suppose, destroying those, while the real systems were underground. Iran's navy is in a similar situation. The Americans bombed a few naval ships that aren't useful for war.

Those were in port when they were bombed, and they'll be repaired later on. Of course, they destroyed one that was unarmed, and it was part of an international program between India and Sri Lanka. But that aside, the Americans have not touched the Iranian Navy. The Navy's speedboats are in huge underground bases, and they'll be deployed when the time comes. So when Iran has all those underground bases—and we've seen footage of the underground bases for the Navy, for the air defenses, for the drones, and for the missiles—it's clear that Iran has also prepared itself for a land attack, for an attack on its territory in the Persian Gulf.

They've been preparing for decades. So when the Americans try to take an island or try to take territory, they'll be badly hammered. They might hold territory for a while, but ultimately they'll have to leave. And that will have no impact on the status of the Strait of Hormuz, as we discussed before. The Strait of Hormuz isn't controlled by people standing along the shore. This isn't the 20th century. This isn't the 19th century. Iran's bases are hundreds of kilometers inside Iranian territory.

The same way Iran strikes the Israeli regime on a daily basis, and the same way it strikes U.S. assets in the Persian Gulf, that's how it will strike U.S. troops, ships, and tankers in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman, or even the Indian Ocean. The Iranians are prepared for this. The longer the war lasts, the better it is for Iran. Not that we like war—we didn't want this war. We didn't start this war. We didn't start the previous war nine or ten months ago. We didn't start the war the Americans imposed on us in 1980 by encouraging Saddam Hussein to invade us, when the West gave him chemical weapons. We didn't start a single war.

But now that we're in this war, we have to make sure the Americans never attack us again. The only way to do that is to punish them so they regret attacking Iran—so that when a future president, after this psychopath, comes to office, everyone will say, "Forget Iran." Iran's security has to be assured, and that can only happen when the facts on the ground change. Iran has destroyed U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf and will not allow them to be used ever again against the country. The regimes in the Persian Gulf, from now on, are going to have to behave differently. That is what changing the facts on the ground means. And one way of doing that is by controlling the Strait of Hormuz. So these regimes now know how they have to behave differently.

Even the Saudis, who are perhaps exporting—who knows the real amount, because a lot of this is propaganda—maybe three or four million barrels a day to the Red Sea, maybe less, maybe a bit more. I'm not sure, because a lot of different things are being said, and some of it is just meant to bring down the price. But the Saudis and the others still rely heavily on the Persian Gulf, and they will always rely heavily on the Persian Gulf. They will always be forced, in their foreign future, to make sure they do not carry out any act of aggression against Iran, nor allow themselves to be used as a platform for acts of aggression.

So the Strait of Hormuz, for Iran, is not just about seeking or demanding reparations from these regimes for killing all these Iranians, because Qatar, the Saudis, the Emirates, Kuwait, and Bahrain are all complicit in war crimes. They're all complicit in massive death and destruction. Right now they're bombing Tehran—I don't know if you can hear—but in any case, it's not just about that. It's also about the fact that the United States has been using the Strait of Hormuz to build those bases. So Iran is going to make sure that, in the future, the Persian Gulf is a Gulf of peace where Iranians can feel safe. That is changing the facts on the ground. And also, of course, Iran's allies across the region will have to be able to feel safe and secure as well. This is what has to happen.

And the United States has not yet reached that stage, but it will—it will. The crisis that the Zionists and Trump have imposed on the world is going to end badly for the Israeli regime. Indians, who are now facing severe economic difficulties that will get worse by the day, will recognize that the Israeli regime brought this upon them, that the Zionists brought this upon them, that Trump brought this upon them. Across Latin America, in Argentina, they will recognize, when the hardship strikes, who started this war. They'll know it was the Americans, the Zionist regime, the Zionist lobby, and those Arab proxies obedient to the United States that brought this upon them. This is not going to end well for the Israeli regime. True, we're going to be hurt.

We're going to be badly hurt. Iranians recognize that. Those who are on the streets at night recognize that. Last night in Tahrir, they fired missiles very close to where people had gathered, and foreign journalists were there. They were shocked to see that people would not budge. Apparently, they hadn't been at previous gatherings to see that this wasn't the first time people had been killed by missiles, and still, people did not budge. So the people on the streets who are steadfast, people across the country who are supporting the armed forces—they recognize that every day we're being hit, we're losing martyrs, our infrastructure is being hit. But the only way to bring an end to this aggression is to make sure the price is so high for the Americans and the Zionist regime that it never happens again.

#Nima

How are these Arab GCC countries participating and cooperating with the United States? Because these helicopters should—have they come from, you know, I don't know, the UAE, Kuwait, or some other country in the Persian Gulf, one of these Persian Gulf Arab states? Or are they still using these

countries? And to what extent are they using them? Because we had two drones come into Iran from the UAE, if I'm not mistaken. You're taking that.

#Seyed

Those two drones you're referring to are UAE drones. In other words, they're directly involved militarily—the UAE is directly involved militarily. That's important. But all of these countries are providing the United States with their airspace, their territory, and their coasts. All of them. HIMARS missiles are being fired at Iran from these countries, not even from within the bases the United States controls, but from outside the bases. U.S. forces are stationed outside the bases. U.S. weapon systems are outside the bases. U.S. jets fly over these countries; they land in these countries. And in the case of the Emirates, Iran, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, they pay for this war.

They help fund the war. So all of this is well known to the Iranians. And of course, the helicopters all land in these territories—where else can they go? It's clear that these countries are all part of the war effort. Every time they pretend they're neutral or feign outrage when Iran retaliates, they're just insulting our intelligence. It's obvious they're in the camp of the Israelis, the Zionists, and the Americans. They're proxies; they don't have much agency. Qatar can pretend it's a bit different, but it's not. They're all in the same camp. They may not like each other that much, and they may not be happy with the situation.

But they have really—I mean, if these five regimes, these five family dictatorships—told the Americans today, "Okay, enough is enough. You have to leave. We're going to have great relations with you. We'll continue to have excellent economic and political ties, but no more military. You can't use our airspace, you can't use our territory, you can't have bases here, and you can't use the Persian Gulf alongside our shores," the war would be over. Of course, Iran would still demand compensation, and they would receive it. And every day the war continues, the cost is going to be much higher for these regimes. But the war would be over, because the Americans cannot wage a war against Iran without using their territory.

It's just not doable. So we are where we are. The war will continue. This war is not in the interest of the United States, obviously. It's going to be catastrophic, but it's not in the interest of the Israeli regime either. It may be in the interest of Netanyahu and his people, but it's not in the interest of the Israeli regime. The longer this war lasts, the more despised this regime will be by all those people across the world whose lives are going to become more difficult. Everyone will know who's behind the war. It is Zionism. It is the Zionists. It is Netanyahu. It is Trump. And that, just like the genocide in Gaza, is going to make the regime sink further and further and further.

#Nima

Professor Marandi, what happened yesterday was unique, because you see the people living in the region, in Yasuj—they're taking up their rifles and firing at the American helicopters.

#Seyed

This is something I think, for many people— You're talking nonsense. Iranians want regime change. They're waiting for their freedom. Those police officers shooting at the helicopters, they thought these were ducks they were hunting—it's hunting season, you know. I'm sorry for interrupting and joking, but people in Iran are so proud of these people across the country, because they're just taking light weapons, and they know they can't bring the helicopters down. They might be able to cause some damage—maybe, with a great deal of luck or with God's help, they could do something.

But it's more symbolic than anything else. They're telling them, "We're not afraid of you, and we're going to kick you out of our territory." So how are the Americans ever going to think about invading this country? People in small villages take up their pistols and local guns—whatever they have. And the kids, I'm sure you heard the girls saying, "Dad, shoot them, shoot them, hit them!" It's clear where people stand—on the streets of Tehran, in the cities, in the villages—wherever you look, there's resistance, there's resilience.

You know, General Soleimani said, "We're the nation of martyrdom, we're the nation of Imam Hussain." That was no exaggeration. The Americans fantasize, the Europeans fantasize, these Arab despots and their media fantasize, these monarchists or whoever they are—the corrupt people in the West—they all fantasize about Iran. They produce propaganda and then believe their own propaganda. It's been five weeks now, and they're the superpower supported by the entire West. Not that they're fighting, but they impose sanctions. They're doing whatever they can to weaken Iran—everything short of actually sending troops.

These despots in the region—even Turkey, even the family, the dictator in Azerbaijan—all of them are in their camp. Erdogan is transporting oil to Netanyahu to help him out. Whose oil? Azeri oil. The dictator there is part of these Arab family regimes. Jordan, the most treacherous of them all probably—all of them are in this. The Koreans, the Japanese, their governments, Australia, New Zealand—they're all part of this. But they failed against Iran, in this axis of resistance that has been saying no to genocide. So I thought the footage—and I'm sure you saw it—you saw the little girl telling her dad to shoot, to shoot, to bring him down. It was fascinating.

#Nima

I think many people are asking what would happen to the second pilot if Iran captures him. Because, you know, in the West—in the United States, right?—last night we learned that around 11 p.m. they were trying to find him somewhere in the Yasuj region. But what's the latest news from that area? And if Iran captures this guy, what would happen? People want to know what Iran would do with the pilot.

#Seyed

Well, he's murdered a lot of Iranians, hasn't he? Perhaps he was involved in the slaughter of 165 schoolgirls. Perhaps he was involved in the killing of the 20 young girls who were playing volleyball in that gymnasium. Maybe he took part in bombing a hospital—or several hospitals. Maybe he helped slaughter people who were driving across the bridge in Karaj, or sitting under the bridge having a picnic when everything started falling down on their heads and on their children. Maybe he murdered some of those little girls in their homes, the ones we see being pulled out from under the rubble. These are murderers. So I don't think they're going to be welcomed. And any other pilot who gets shot down—I don't think the people who find them will be very pleased to see that person alive.

So I don't know what happened to this person. I have no idea. I would assume that if the Iranians captured him, they wouldn't announce it for the time being. They'd want to leave the Americans in a state of confusion. Maybe they could gather more information about U.S. capabilities and the routes they'd use inside Iran, that sort of thing. But maybe they haven't found him—maybe he's dead. It's unclear. What's important is that it's becoming evident what we've been discussing for a very long time: that Iran's capabilities were hidden away for when the time was right. And I would imagine that when the United States carries out its assault—well, I think those generals were probably saying, "Don't do that." They were probably saying, "Let's not do this."

The Iranians are prepared for that assault, and I think they gave the Americans a taste of it. They proved that the generals were right. And if the Americans—and if Trump—carry out this assault, then I think a heavy price will be paid. You know, Nima Alkhorshid said this elsewhere. I tweeted it too. The Americans could have had a completely different relationship with Iran. It didn't have to be this way. They didn't have to fight a war—and they're going to lose this war. This so-called "Epstein coalition" is going to lose. These pilots for Epstein will not succeed. They can kill kids—these American pilots and these Zionist monsters who've been killing kids out there since childhood, or have been planning to do so since childhood—but they're going to lose this war. There's no doubt about it. We will defeat them.

And the axis of resistance will defeat them. The Iranians are determined. But it didn't have to be this way. It's because of the Zionists—the same Zionists who are bringing down the world economy. They pushed the Americans in this direction. There's a book I think you know, **Going to Tehran**, and I advise all your viewers to read it. It was written by two people who worked in the White House, Flynt Leverett and Hillary Leverett—a Catholic and a Jew. They were in the White House during the Bush years, on the National Security Council. Flynt was in charge of the Middle East, and Hillary was in charge of the Persian Gulf.

That's how they met, and that's how they got married. Flynt resigned over Iraq—the invasion of Iraq—so he's a principled person, and so is his wife, Hillary. Both are very principled people, very scholarly, top-notch academics with enormous government experience. They wrote a book about Iran, which I think is a very good book. I don't agree with everything in it, obviously, but among the

books on Iran that I've read, this is the best one around. And the idea in *Going to Tehran* was that the United States should go to Tehran and solve its problems—deal with Iran in a realistic manner.

It's not that demonic state or regime they tell their own people about—and that they themselves believe—the nonsense that comes from CNN, The Guardian, the BBC, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Fox News, and so on. It's not that. Iran is something different. All that media is Epstein-class controlled media—oligarchs, the media of the oligarchy, the plutocracy. They wrote that book, and they were hammered for it, by the way. They were marginalized, attacked day and night, just for saying, you know, "Let's choose a reasonable path." So they wrote this book, and I think people should read it.

And if U.S. analysts, if U.S. experts—those who were influential in the United States—had read the book, instead of demonizing these people, from both sides, by the way—the Republicans and the Democrats—all of them are the same when it comes to empire, just like The Guardian and Breitbart. When it comes to the empire, they don't have that difference. But if they had listened to these people, we wouldn't have this war. We would probably have diplomatic relations by now. But that's it. That's how it is. When the state is captured by Zionists and neocons, which are more or less one and the same, then you're going to have forever wars. And ultimately, that empire is going to collapse.