

Andrei Martyanov: Iran Ended US DOMINANCE in the Middle East

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#Nima

What Pete Hegseth said today—his message to Iran—here’s what he said.

#Guest

To Iran’s military leadership, to the KH leadership and IRGC leadership—we’re watching you. Our capabilities are not the same, ours and yours. Remember, this is not a fair fight. We know what military assets you’re moving and where you’re moving them. While you’re digging out—which is exactly what you’re doing, digging out of bombed-out and devastated facilities—we’re only getting stronger. You’re digging out your remaining launchers and missiles with no ability to replace them. You have no defense industry, no ability to replenish your offensive or defensive capabilities. You only have what you have.

You know that, and we know that. You can move things around, but you can’t actually rebuild. You can dig out for now, but you can’t reconstitute. But we can. We’re reloading with more power than ever before—and, even more importantly, with better intelligence than ever before—as you expose yourself through your movements to our watchful eye. We are locked and loaded on your critical dual-use infrastructure, your remaining power generation, and your energy industry. We’d rather not have to do it, but we’re ready to go at the command of our president and at the push of a button.

#Nima

Yeah. Andrei, what’s your understanding? What is he trying to say to the Iranian army, to the IRGC? Because what we’ve learned—at least, they’re not talking that much about missile and weapons production—but what we’ve heard from the Iranian army’s executive deputy, Brigadier General Sheikh, is that the army’s destructive drone production has increased tenfold. What is he talking about? Because this kind of message doesn’t really resonate with Iranians. They know these kinds of claims are meant for people in the West.

#Andrei

Pete Haxett is the guy with the NCO mentality. He learned a couple of buzzwords. He has absolutely no serious military background, no military education. He's been in this theater of operations where there's not really a war—more like a medium-intensity police operation in Afghanistan, which was controlled by the Taliban since 2005, essentially. So when this guy comes up with all that, it's all spin and PR—basically putting lipstick on the pig of a catastrophic military humiliation. Whatever he says is just a bunch of verbiage about nothing. Locked and loaded with what? Iranians are not idiots.

They know how many Tomahawks and JASSMs the United States has. And if they want to do what the U.S. usually does—bomb something—it doesn't have many standoff weapons left. And, yeah, whatever. The guy's in PR; he's not the Secretary of War. Operationally, he's an amateur. He doesn't understand real things. The only thing is, the American generals—who aren't very good operationally either—come to him and brief him with nonsense. We're looking at the decomposition of the system, especially when you consider who the boss is, a completely unhinged and insane man. So, yeah, it's the decomposition of an administration that's been defeated militarily.

Now we have the situation with the ceasefire in Lebanon, which, of course, yeah, that's the United States again submitting to the demands of Iran. So they have to put on a brave face and, you know, project this thing that everybody loves now—that the United States military has been exposed for what it is. And it was always like that, you know, except that there was this... you know, I want to remind everybody that the whole notion of American strategy, if you can call it that, especially when you consider how the political system evolved, was all about show. It's all about showing off—the chest-thumping and things like that. It was Mr. Michael Ledeen.

He was the national security advisor for Mr. Dick Cheney. And he's a neocon—neocons, really. He's just absolutely, I mean, a fanatical dude. He said, and I quote, once every ten years we have to take a crappy country, smack it against the wall, and show everybody that we mean business. And of course, they're talking about "crappy countries." Iran is not a crappy country. They actually know how to fight, and we see the result. This strategy was always to hide behind proxies, to fight with the backs of proxies. But once you're exposed to the real enemy, to a real war—there you go. You have the tactical and technological realities dictating the operational and strategic ones. And the United States doesn't have the resources to fight.

So the United States moves—what now? Another 10,000 personnel to the theater. You'd need to have about, I don't know, it's very rough, but I'd say if you look at the order of things, you'd need over a million combat troops—not support troops. That means you'd probably have around 2 million of the force somewhere in the deserts of Kuwait and Iraq, or wherever, just to even have realistic expectations of invading Iran and achieving whatever the political aim might be. All the political aims the United States has tried to pursue—whatever they were, and we know it was fighting on behalf of Israel—they failed. And that's the result.

#Nima

Yeah. Actually, the Wall Street Journal is reporting that they're asking car manufacturers to produce missiles and, I don't know, munitions. Is that going to help them?

#Andrei

Well, they've never tried it before. I don't know how automakers can make missiles. Theoretically, you can—well, first, missiles are flying objects, okay? And basically, assembling missiles and delivering the tactical and technical parameters required is an order of magnitude more complex than building a car, okay? It's a combat system, and it involves all kinds of different things, including testing—serious testing—and quality management, which differs dramatically from whatever they have in auto plants.

You can theoretically retool things, but it's more natural, if you will, for automakers to get involved in producing things like APCs—armored personnel carriers—or infantry fighting vehicles, you know, things of that nature. At least that's within the same parameters or technological capabilities: transportation, means of movement. How can you retool an automobile factory unless you build something totally adjacent to it, which from the outset is already designed as a missile factory? Then, yeah, maybe. But again, don't forget, this is the Wall Street Journal. It's staffed, like any American or Western media—or, for that matter, even most Russian media—with people who wouldn't understand the first thing about anything real in life.

And they'll report to you any kind of garbage. But yeah, theoretically, you can employ your automakers and make them, if you can do that in the United States, do some transportation things. And, you know, again, APCs, infantry fighting vehicles with missiles—automakers could maybe handle that. It's like if Boeing went and found some people at Ford Motor and said, "Hey, you're going to be making this flying thing now," and they'd go, "What?" So you have engineers, people who have no clue about the actual issues related to production—because a missile is, effectively, an aircraft. That's what it is.

#Nima

Yeah. Andrei, we had this report confirmed by Washington that they've lost a drone—an MQ-4C—which is so expensive, more than twice the cost of an F-35. It's huge. What is that, Andrei? What does it do that makes it so expensive? Why is that? Well...

#Andrei

Well, it's signal intelligence and optical intelligence. I don't remember all the parameters of that thing, you know. I don't keep them in mind because it's the same old, same old. You have the radar there, and you can see this kind of hump on the front—it contains the optical-electronic systems. It basically scans and collects signals across all kinds of the electromagnetic spectrum, including optical. Optical is part of the electromagnetic spectrum too. And yeah, basically, that's what it is—it's

a recon, a very expensive recon platform. And yeah, they shot it down. What can I say? It was going to be shot down. It's an easy target; it's not very fast.

And yeah, there are all kinds of things. Many people still don't understand, but yesterday there were massive amounts of videos showing the Iranian Air Force in the air, flying MiG-29s and even old Air Force Phantoms. And yeah, Mi-28s were actually patrolling the skies over Tehran, and they're evidently very good at shooting down drones and relatively slow-flying targets. And yeah, what can I say? Mr. Pete Hemsett lives in an alternative universe—he always has. He's a Zionist fanatic; he's not Christian. So, the guy, what can I say? He's simply not adequate for the job. But who was, really, over the last so many years in the United States, in terms of developing a military appropriate for specific political goals? The United States is basically an extension of Israel, and it acts quite like Israel—bombing.

#Nima

Andrei, do you see a military solution for the United States in the Middle East, or do you see that—how do you see the current situation with the Trump administration? Somehow you hear, as you've mentioned, they're talking about a ground invasion of Iran. On the other hand, they're talking about talks and negotiations, and there's so much confusion happening right now.

#Andrei

Well, I mean, there's confusion in Washington, D.C. People who deal with Russian planning on the Iranian side—which has actually been demonstrated quite well—and others who help Iran, so to speak, you know, not publicly announcing it, but still. They do what any military operational or strategic planner would do: they deliberately put themselves in a disadvantageous position. When looking at contingency planning, they start from the worst-case scenario. What is the worst-case scenario? Okay, we have a situation where the United States clearly reinstates the draft, somehow tries to train this, you know, crowd of people, and then throws them—somehow puts them into assembly areas. And that assembly process would require, well, many months to put it mildly, if not years.

And so they begin to invade Iran, you know, for some reason. I'm absolutely positive they have a contingency plan for that. They're prepared for it. And then after that, they develop all kinds of other scenarios that are lighter in terms of their, you know, operational and strategic strain on the country's resources. And... that's about it. The United States simply doesn't have the resources. Again, you cannot fight a war with stock options and hedge funds. This is what many people still don't understand. All this—again, I'm not even talking about modern times—and any kind of GDP numbers, it's all fake. You know, Wall Street is fake. It's essentially nothing more than a collection of psychopaths who basically make money out of thin air, trading things that aren't even there.

And it goes across the board because this is the systemic crisis of financial capitalism. It's a system that's basically eating itself alive. And now add to that the aggravating factors—like the United States being controlled by Israel and Mr. Trump being an unhinged, insane person who is obviously blackmailed. When you look at that, it's complete decomposition. And as Michael Brenner correctly stated a couple of weeks ago, he wrote this wonderful article after Gaza, after everything that was happening with the special military operation in Ukraine, and now with this—the United States, as painful as it is for me to admit, has debased itself.

It's just not a moral beacon. It's basically an aggressor state, an imperialist state, which is, you know, in the throat of—well, convulsing, actually—before its complete departure from the self-proclaimed greatness, the “greatest thing ever.” So yeah, this is exactly what's happening right now. And it's not good for the United States, and it's not good for the world. But again, as I already said, I wrote books about this, I've spoken about it on many occasions, and I've written about it. The moment the United States decided to step out—due to the incompetence of people in Washington, behind the backs of its proxies—that was the moment. As always, they miscalculated, because they don't have the skills.

#Nima

Andrei, one of the biggest problems the United States has right now in the Middle East—trying to protect Israel or any of the GCC countries—is, you know, what's happened to their radars in the region. They're just not there anymore to protect them or send signals. And here's one of the “solutions” the U.S. embassy in Baghdad came up with: they made a cage for the radar. I don't know how that's supposed to help. I mean, let's assume they're going to install new radars—how is that going to help them?

#Andrei

Well, I mean, it might help against a single drone, but still, depending on the type of warhead—actually, you have to understand there could be a cumulative warhead, what's called a tandem charge, and things of that nature—it can still break through. Especially if it's not specially designed. It's one thing to put things around a tank, which, of course, from the outset is essentially an armored fortress on tracks—that's what it is. And then, in that case, the cage can basically trigger the first charge of the tandem warhead, and the second one will just hit the armored plating, which can theoretically withstand it.

It didn't help much with Western tanks. But here, it's just ridiculous, you know. So yeah, one good Shahed with a cumulative tandem charge—and even if it explodes at their, uh, what's the name of it, the net, the cage—basically, the shrapnel and fragments can still go through the gaps and damage

the radar, effectively annihilating it. So this is ridiculous, you know. But again, they saw videos, Ukrainians told them, filled their ears with BS about how effective all that is. So yeah, it's pathetic, honestly—but sure.

Whatever floats their boat, because they're desperate. They need to have something—and again, keep in mind, most likely this radar, I didn't see exactly what it is. It could be anything. I didn't see the antenna itself, but it's difficult for me to tell. Actually, from what I can see, it might not even be the radar itself. It could be a satellite comms antenna or something like that. I don't see it clearly here anyway, but it doesn't matter. Yeah, I mean, a comms antenna—yeah, it's important, they're critical—but it's not radar. At least I don't see it from this. I'll have to take a look after that. But yeah, it's not going to help much.

#Nima

So what will be the solution for the United States? We know they want to protect Israel, but they're not going to have the radars back in the GCC countries, in my opinion, because—well, you know.

#Andrei

GCC countries are done. They're done as such. As I already stated—and again, I'd be lying if I said I don't feel a bit of Schadenfreude seeing how Dubai basically implodes on itself, which it will—because there are so many issues with the infrastructure, and they can't maintain it now. Their occupancy rates are down even with tremendous discounts, something like 20–25%. So nobody wants to go there anymore. You'd have to be a complete moron to start with. It's fake luxury—you know, completely fake. Luxury isn't gold-plated garbage they put there. It's like those imbeciles eating steak covered with gold or whatever that thing is.

It's... it's complete decomposition of morality, taste, you know, things like that. And yeah, essentially Dubai was a playground for old perverts and new variations—riffraff, people without culture who went and invested. Now it's completely destroyed. It's not going to recover. There's no way to maintain whatever infrastructure was there, and it's already rusting, actually. Because of the climate—you saw yourself what they did with those World Islands—it's a catastrophe. And I'm really happy seeing this, because obviously it was understood by anybody, any normal person, even fifteen years ago when they were building it, that it's all crap.

You know, eventually it will dissolve itself, because you need to constantly reproduce this fake feeling—which many of them believed in, made money on the stock market, and so on. And now it's all come to fruition, and it's gone. There's not going to be any more of this fake luxury in the Gulf. They don't have the economic infrastructure to maintain it, except for the oil. So it doesn't matter what they do there—they can't put radar there anymore. Again, it's complete bankruptcy of the

strategic vision of the U.S. military with all those, “Oh, we have 800 bases around the world.” Yeah, you have 800 fat, prestigious, defenseless targets—that’s what it is. And that’s been demonstrated to devastating effect. And again, it was exposed so much.

The United States doesn’t have air defense in any functional sense. What they call air defense can barely intercept maybe 25 or 30 percent of the targets—the rest just flies through. I don’t know if they even knew it. I mean, it wasn’t a military designed to fight a modern war. Again, it got lucky by choosing an enemy as dumb and as incompetent as the Iraqi army—if you can even call it an army. And that’s the result. Again, we see this collapse of a whole number of myths, including the myth of the Gulf states’ wealth and all that. But it’s over. And no matter what they do, if they try to put any kind of radar there, it’ll be annihilated the moment anything flares up again. And that’s it.

#Nima

Andrei, how do you see the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz—what does that mean, a blockade of the blockade?

#Andrei

Yeah, it’s a freak show, okay? That’s the only way I can describe it. First, it’s definitely difficult to do a proper blockade if you have to stay really far from the shore because of the missile threat. And they have, well, relatively limited naval resources there. And again, we don’t even know what the hell is going on with those aircraft carriers—only one of them is somewhere in the area, south of Pakistan, basically. So they’re trying to blockade whatever they’re trying to blockade. But then again, there’s another incredibly powerful choke point—the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea. So we’ll have to wait and see how far this develops.

The United States Navy certainly has some resources—and they do, especially with the helicopters they carry on the destroyers of the Arleigh Burke class and things of that nature. They can enforce some of it, but the reality is that you cannot enforce, you cannot create, a total blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. And then again, you have the economic dynamics with oil. All those so-called markets have nothing to do with real, physical oil—all those futures, all this garbage of derivatives they sell to each other and pretend they’re selling real oil. It’s paper oil. Real oil is—well, yesterday I looked it up—Urals, 121 dollars per barrel. So that’s what it is. It cannot continue forever, and obviously Europe is now basically on the verge of hysteria.

Well, they’re the ones getting hit hard. And yeah, Trump made an admission yesterday that, oh yeah, high prices—high gasoline prices—will still be around during the, you know, basically through the midterms. The GOP and his administration will probably get thrashed at the polls, and the midterms are a huge factor. And there’s nothing they can do. I mean, I keep repeating it nonstop: the United States doesn’t have the resources. It just doesn’t. And even if they produce, let’s say, more missiles—whatever they’re going to be producing, JASSMs or air defense missiles for, say, the

PAC-3—if they're not effective, you just multiply the ineffectiveness of the same technology, which is stuck in the early '90s. That's what it is. All of it. The military concepts are from there. But this is 2026.