# Wyatt Reed visits Isfahan battlefield where US planes were destroyed

The Grayzone's Wyatt Reed tells Max Blumenthal about his experience visiting the Isfahan battlefield where several US troop transport planes were destroyed, and raises questions about whether they were in the area to rescue a downed F-15 pilot, or for a more ambitious operation that went awry. ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at https://thegrayzone.com Support our original journalism at Patreon: https://patreon.com/grayzone Facebook: https://facebook.com/thegrayzone Twitter: https://twitter.com/thegrayzonenews Instagram: https://instagram.com/thegrayzonenews Minds: https://minds.com/thegrayzone Mastodon: https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone #TheGrayzone

## #Max

Let's go to your most viral report, which contained the least amount of context, but it's just a minute of sheer drama. This is you at the scene of the Battle of Isfahan, where I think eight U.S. aircraft—very costly aircraft—were destroyed as the U.S. attempted to rescue a downed airman from an F-15E that had been taken down by Iranian air defenses. We still don't know who that airman is, by the way. It's a high-ranking, I think, like a...

## #Wyatt Reed

Supposedly a colonel.

## #Max

A colonel, yeah. That's pretty high-ranking.

## #Wyatt Reed

And bizarre—why is this colonel flying around instead of being back at the base ordering other people to do it?

## #Max

Exactly. And he was supposedly the weapons specialist. The whole thing is weird. Well, let's watch your report and get your take.

## #Wyatt Reed

We're here on the outskirts of Isfahan, at the site of the most famous battle of the entire U.S.-Israeli war on Iran. Around me are the remnants of the U.S. warplanes which came, according to the United States, to rescue pilots. According to the Iranians, that's not why they were here. They say they were here to steal the enriched uranium, to seize it and prevent Iran from ever pursuing nuclear power or any type of nuclear program. But as you can see, the American warplanes which came here never left. They came to Isfahan, and in Isfahan they will stay.

## #Max

So what was going on there? There was sort of a patriotic rally that you happened upon. What was it like at the scene for you?

## #Wyatt Reed

Well, we were brought in, I think, as the first foreign journalists to be able to inspect the site of this battle—what seemed to be a battle—between the American military forces, which were ostensibly brought in to rescue this downed airman, but which Iranians insist was actually sort of a forward operating base established in order to seize the uranium in Isfahan. And frankly, just given the amount and the range—sorry, the kind of distance between the charred areas of the ground, the craters across the ground—it seemed far less likely that these were simply, as the U.S. side claims, sort of disposed of on their way out of the country in order to prevent the Iranians from getting their hands on them. It looked much more like a serious battle had taken place there to me.

So I was able to take footage up close of the charred remains of several of these aircraft. I'm not enough of a military expert to have been able to identify the different parts of the wreckage, but I did come across a metal plate bearing the name Lockheed Martin on it, attached to one of these. It was very clear these are indeed American aircraft. I believe they may have been the MC-130s that were supposedly brought in to, for some reason, enable a rescue mission, which again is just a very strange aircraft to use. Why would you need a huge cargo plane? Right.

In order to rescue a handful of airmen, why wouldn't you use a helicopter? Something that would be much easier to get in and out, something that would make much less noise, have much less of a heat signature, be far less easy to spot from a radar perspective or simply to the naked eye. You know, another one of these strange points that has never really been totally explained. And, you know, while we're at it, it's been 60 days. This is the least popular war in modern American history. Why on earth, if we had conducted this amazing Black Hawk Down–style, you know, movie cinematic rescue, why on earth are the airmen not being named?

Why aren't they being paraded around Times Square? Why aren't we having huge rallies in their honor, saying, wow, look at these wonderful guys, and look, here are the heroes who brought them home? Why are they anonymous still? It's just, none of it really adds up. So that, to me, just on the basis of the kind of circumstantial evidence—which I think is probably the only thing we're going to

have, at least for the next few years—pointed far more in the direction of the Iranian narrative than it did in the U.S. And going back to, why was a colonel among the two airmen who were downed?

## #Max

Someone so high-ranking, who was a weapons specialist, who clearly has some advanced skill set.

## #Wyatt Reed

We're not the Israeli military. Colonels are real officers in the Air Force.

## #Max

Exactly. In Israel, everyone gets to be an officer. There were ID cards found of nuclear specialists as well, who had assignments in Israel.

## #Wyatt Reed

Well, and there are other strange things. Why was somebody carrying around a passport? There was a passport located. Why would they be carrying around a passport if they were operating on a rescue mission? Military, you know, soldiers, airmen, naval officers—none of them carry around identifying documents. They have dog tags. That's what they have—dog tags wrapped around their necks. That's how they identify themselves when they're going on missions. Nobody carries around a passport for a standard combat operation.

## #Max

It does seem to me like there's a cover-up at play and there's more reporting to be done on the Battle of Isfahan. It just doesn't add up. And I have to assume that both of the airmen who were rescued were severely injured, which might be one reason why we're not hearing from them or seeing them. But they should be speaking about what the mission is. Reporters should be asking these questions.

## #Wyatt Reed

If they indeed do exist, yes.

## #Max

If they exist. Yeah, the whole thing is utterly bizarre. Do they even exist?

## #Wyatt Reed

Right.