

Martyanov: Israel Missile Blast Exposes Western Defense Collapse

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#Nima

The huge explosion that we've seen in Israel, and basically nobody in the mainstream media talked about it — they just forgot about it. What happened? Israelis were saying it was some sort of test that went wrong in Israel. What's your understanding of what happened?

#Andrei

Well, I mean, make no mistake, I'm not in place there to also, you know. But anybody who says that it was a controlled explosion, I have a bridge to sell them. This is sheer Israeli propaganda, which they try to cover up, which evidently, from what is being circulated, they lost a huge storage of the Arrow 3 missiles. This is their allegedly best air defense complex. And, yeah, that's how it looked. And some people say it was during an unloading or loading protocol or something like that.

But we cannot completely exclude the hand of the Iranian special services and intelligence because, obviously, when you have Iranian agents making videos from inside the nuclear facility in Dimona, that tells you that if they can do that, then certainly they can do this. And it's a total embarrassment, and that also diminishes dramatically the already bad, really not effective, and not good news air defense of Israel. And so that is a serious impact on whatever remaining capabilities they have.

#Nima

Andrei, we know that the war, despite having the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon, is happening between the two parties, namely Israel and Hezbollah, not the government of Lebanon. And we've seen recently many videos, footage coming out showing these FPV drones going and hitting Iron Dome batteries. Is that going to be a serious problem as time goes by with these sorts of attacks on the air defense system? And how important is that for the air defense of Israel?

#Andrei

Well, it's huge. I mean, well, it depends, obviously, on how many have been taken out. I don't know, and nobody really knows the actual number of those Iron Dome batteries. But Iron Dome is the system that was designed to intercept, essentially, their so-called cottage industry rockets — you know, they call them Katyusha, whatever the name in Arabic is — which were basically made out of, you know, plumbing, essentially, pipes, water pipes, put some kind of explosive, like an RPG maybe, head there and launch it. You know, very easy, very slow ballistic trajectory, easily calculable if you have good enough computational capability, which Israel does have. And, yeah, that was the thing.

They will intercept whatever number was flying. This is what many people do not understand: Iron Dome is not designed to intercept serious missiles, be they tactical or operational-tactical, let alone operational, essentially, because they fly—and especially Iranian ones—which evidently do maneuver. The Iranians do have the technology with the maneuvering technology at the terminal warheads. And you cannot intercept that with this. It's just kind of, you know, a feel-good thing, like sticking a band-aid on stage-four cancer, you know, elsewhere. And for that, they have those Hetz, Arrow, and all that—essentially American systems that have been developed, designed, and built, actually, much of it by Raytheon and Boeing.

And, of course, Israel, Rafael — that's their company — they stick their label there, "Made in Israel." They get some, whatever, updates for their specific needs in software and in some other purely hardware elements. And that's it. That's what they have. But, I mean, come on. I mean, since last year and now since February, we saw what they are. And evidently, this explosion doesn't have to, to put it mildly. So yeah, this is a purely American view on air defense. It is absolutely backward. It's obsolete. It is designed against an enemy which doesn't exist in terms of a serious state. Iran already proved it in terms of whatever was deployed, including THAAD, for example, and let alone Patriots in the special military operation.

They have been, by different estimates, their number, the monetary expression, 130 billion have been blown out on Patriots and all other types of air defense systems by the United States in the special military operation. And now you have another dozens of billions, especially when Iranians blew them up to smithereens—three out of seven THAADs. Yeah, it's just backward air defense, that's what it is. What can I say? And Israel is up there with the United States because essentially the United States is the main supplier, so to speak, of their hardware for Israel, apart from the monetary aid, financial aid. And it's totally bankrupt. And that means they might as well not have it.

#Nima

When you hear General Keane come to Fox News and talk about “we have to continue this war, we have to hit them hard,” what comes to your mind? Because he's basically talking about a military operation. He doesn't have any other solution for what's going on in the Middle East. And he believes that the United States can do something, because we know that Benjamin Netanyahu wants to—at least from the report on Axios—Axios reported that Benjamin Netanyahu wants to continue

the war. Which doesn't seem that Donald Trump is that much into, because he knows the reality at least. I don't know if he knows, but at least some of this information is getting to him.

#Andrei

The Pentagon is incompetent. It's incompetent across the board. They don't understand their technological capabilities realistically. They cannot assess them properly. Those people who can assess them are not allowed anywhere. And Keane, he's a pilot. He graduated, whatever, he graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Then he graduated from all kinds of those things for general, you know, command and general staff college in, you know, Leavenworth, Kansas, which is not a very high academic level, to put it mildly. It's nowhere near real serious military education you have to have for the 21st-century education.

And so he can say, what else can he say? He got his position as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by, well, kissing ass. That's what they do. And Larry Wilkerson told you, I believe it was you he told that when he was the chief of staff to Colin Powell during the Gulf War, he said, we go into this staff meeting with all those four-stars, three-stars, you know. And he said, never allow a U.S. Air Force general to command anything, which I agree with. These guys grew up on the, you know what, the Top Gun Maverick fairy tales. Keane has no clue about it. We already saw it. We saw it.

We have the, I mean, the horrendous, mounting-in-scale empirical evidence that those people don't understand what real war is. They know the only thing they know — the bomb, that's it. You know, just take off, stick whatever, some ER or some JDAMs, get into the line and launch, and wow, we won. It's complete garbage, I mean. And so when you have your officer corps — generals, admirals — who grew up on this technological fairy tale, and who do not understand that, well, some people actually shoot back, and they shoot back really well at you, well, then it hurts. And then suddenly the plan, what, unravels.

And, you know, as Mike Tyson stated, everybody has a plan until you get smacked in the face in the ring. And then everything goes, you know, completely awry. And so that's exactly the situation. Listen, and especially again, look at the line of basically the chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. All kinds of people were there — admirals, specialists in special operations — you know, all kinds of people who actually wouldn't have a first clue of what combined arms operations are. And that's it.

The only thing the United States military is capable of is bombing from the air, because this is where the American military culture is based — it's the foundation of American military mythology. And so now suddenly it doesn't work. What can he say? If he says that, okay, we have to go back, we need to rethink the whole damn thing because we're actually bankrupt financially and technologically, he will immediately be, as you know, thrown out of his position. But they worked really hard. They kissed so much ass to get there that obviously he's not gonna go out and say it. They are managers. They are not generals. They are not officers. That's the whole thing.

They teach him how to get into whatever, F-16 or F-15, and take off. Well, that's fine. It's good. America still has good pilots. The problem is, did he grow up to be basically an operational, strategic-level officer? I don't see anyone in the U.S. military who really has a grasp of what is happening. I saw the position of Mr. Brad Cooper, who is the commander of CENTCOM. It is, I mean, cringeworthy. It's like... I don't know. This is ridiculous. And he was actually taken to the cleaners by one of the U.S. senators or representatives on a linguistic matter. What does it mean — annihilated, degraded, and all that? These guys do not operate in even professional military terms.

#Nima

Andrei, are there people still believing that an invasion of Iran would be the solution? Here is Keith Kellogg talking about it.

#Andrei

Oh, good Lord.

#Speaker 03

Why? Getting ready to do a very major attack tomorrow. I was asked by Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, and some others if we could put it off for two or three days, a short period of time, because they think that they are getting very close to making a deal. And if we can do that where there's no nuclear weapon going into the hands of Iran, I think, and if they're satisfied, we will probably be satisfied also.

#Speaker 04

I cannot believe how reasonable he's been in this whole process and how measured he's been. Look, there have been immutable principles of war, nine of them, since 500 BC. One of them is simplicity, and I'll make this simple. What I'm saying is, I think we should break negotiations off. We should seize Kharg Island for a couple of reasons. One, it controls 90% of their economy. You put the whole country at risk there, especially. You could put a provisional government in charge, an opposition government if you want to do it. The second thing I'd do is you go 300 miles to the east. You take the Ra's al-Kuh Island, which is a command and control hub for the Strait. You put your Marines in there. The third thing you do is you line up your Avenger-class minesweepers and you escort everybody out of the Gulf on the Omani side if you want to do it, and just clear the Straits out going forward. Look, I don't trust the arrangement.

#Nima

Even a Hollywood scenario would be more complicated than this. He is an idiot.

#Andrei

I mean, he is an American general. American generals don't know what it means to conduct real war. They are Avenger-class minesweepers. The guy doesn't even understand anything—what the bottom, sea-bottom mines are, which, by the way, Iran has. He doesn't understand that Iran has the equivalent of the Russian Shkval missile, which, well, it's a rocket essentially, with a speed in excess of 120 knots. You cannot outrun it. You cannot shoot in the water. So, and these are the other things. And of course, Keith Kellogg wouldn't have the brains to wrap his—what is he, after 80? The guy is stuck in World War II, and that's why the United States loses all its wars and sustains humiliating defeat after defeat. So you have these people who never won anything in their life.

They lose all their wars. Kellogg was in Vietnam. He was in some special forces. Then he commanded a division. But again, in what? In what campaigns? In what war did he serve? He saw the humiliation of the United States in Vietnam. He now observed humiliation in Afghanistan. The Iraq war was lost. And so you go on and on, and now you have this catastrophic, humiliating defeat in the special military operation, and now Iran. So this guy doesn't understand the fundamentals of modern war, which start from air defense, serious naval force. He doesn't understand the role of anti-ship missiles. He has no clue. And that's the whole thing. I don't know why this person—well, again, the Trump administration, it's a bunch of nincompoops, you know, controlled by Israel.

And so what can I say? It's complete decomposition of the military-political power in the United States when you look attentively at people who go and parade themselves like morons, you know. And the only thing they can do is PR. They talk tough, you know. But in reality, as I already stated, the average American general, including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, would be laughed out of a brigade-level staff meeting in the morning briefing as people who have no clue what they are dealing with. This is how bad it is. And again, listen, I wrote four books about it. I've warned about it since 2014, that the United States doesn't understand what it's getting itself into.

And Keith Kellogg, let him gather the proper force and control and command it for the invasion of Iran. He knows only, let's put Marines on some island. He doesn't even understand that Iran has long-range fires. Some of them are very long-range. And I'm not talking about ballistic missiles, obviously. He's never heard about Fajr MLRS, which can deliver from 130 kilometers away. And what's going to happen with the fixed position? The guy doesn't even have a clue what he's doing. He thinks he can put the Marine force there, which will be in a fixed position and nowhere to run. And guess what's going to happen?

This is an assembly area. The United States cannot conduct modern combined arms operations because we saw it. Where are those 13 U.S. bases, which were, you know, the force projection power? Iran simply wiped them out. That's it. But you cannot explain it to American generals because they watch – their education is basically, well, what can I say, the extremely low academic

level in the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, if they even get there. Most of them are ROTC material who grow up watching the movie *Patton* and all kinds of things. And yeah, they believe this. So, Keith Kellogg evidently doesn't understand what a fixed position is.

He doesn't understand it because he thinks that the United States can outrange everybody. It can't, not for a long time now. And when you tell them that, yeah, Iran has a lot of long-range fires and it can bring them to bear, the U.S. Air Force will do nothing about it. So... he cannot wrap his brain around it. Neither can most of the U.S. Armed Forces generals. They don't understand it. Well, now they kind of feel the heat, you know, and what can I say? That's what they have to say. They go out there in the media and say the same old baloney over and over again. You have to go there. We have to, you know, kick some ass. Okay, go. See what's going to happen.

#Nima

Andrei, before the war started, Iran said if the United States starts attacking Iran, it's not going to be a war between Iran and the United States, but the whole region. It's going to be a regional war, which is literally what has happened so far — the translation of what Iran said before the war started. And right now they're talking about if the United States decides to attack Iran again, it's going to be beyond the region. It means that Romania, Germany, Greece — all these American bases in these countries — are going to get hit by Iranian missiles. And what is your understanding of that? Do they really understand it? Because I don't see Iran bluffing or saying something just for the sake of saying it, because they proved that before, as I've mentioned.

#Andrei

Well, I mean, some understand, some... but the majority — and you have to understand what Washington, D.C. is — it's a collection of political scientists, journalists, and lawyers. These people have no freaking clue about anything. And even, as already stated, you saw the degrading of the cultural, intellectual, and professional level of the U.S. military. And it was steady for the last 30 years. As already stated, the last competent people are gone from the U.S. military. And so... they really don't understand because they don't have the toolkit. They don't have the brain for that. They're not trained. They are mostly run through those degrees in the Ivy League, where they prepare — not really prepare — it's basically professional and political fraud. They produce their future leaders.

They go into the Ivy Leagues to basically mingle with the same, like the good old boys and girls, you know, from these families — political families and business families — which are producing these imbeciles, essentially, you know. So if you take a look at their actual qualifications, they cannot even wrap their brains around the fact that Iran does have range at all — Romania, for example, or Greece, or, you know, a British Air Force base, for example. The British are now trying to kind of distance themselves from that. But yeah, Iran has the range, and they can launch, and they have pretty much most of their missile force intact. And so... and again, they go out in the media and lie

because this is the only thing they are trained to do. Maybe they have their private conversations that, "My boy, we are screwed."

Evidently, Trump begins to feel it. But again, Trump has no morality, has no humanity in him. He's into making money for the family, and he is controlled by Israel. Simple as that. And so this is what Washington is. So you cannot really communicate with them on a rational basis because these are not... and many of them are hysterical because some of them, you know, this rumor goes around and they begin to sense or understand that, boy, we've got our ass handed to us. That is why there is procrastination and talk happening over and over again. Trump, you know, Trump always chickens out because they know if they go at it again, they might. I'm not saying that they will not, out of desperation. But they don't have any good options. They don't. They simply don't. And you know what?

The only thing the United States in the last 30 years was good at was spin. They learned nothing about war. Because they don't. I mean, you ask any U.S. officer, most of them, nine out of ten, will have no clue about, for example, the Eastern Front in World War II. They never studied it. They don't even have an understanding of the scale of what was happening there. So, and when you look at that, they might go out of desperation because by doing this, they will exacerbate an already humiliating military defeat. And the United States simply doesn't have resources. I mean, how many TLAMs, you know, Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles, and JASSM-ERs it has? No, not many. Even Kane, even other people, including Brad Cooper, were mentioning, yeah, we are down on our, you know, our storages.

In terms of the long-range weapons, we might need to go inside or near—I like how they use this term—Iranian airspace. What's going to happen? Well, they will lose. They lost 42 aircraft this time. They will probably lose way more than that because... what can I say? The passive air defense, you know, air defense ambushes and things like that—they never experienced anything like this. They beat the crap out of this pathetic Iraqi Saddam's army, which didn't even have a real air defense, which was from, you know, before the American Civil War, 1861–1865. So that's, "Oh yeah, we're good." No, you're not. And so you saw yourself what happens, and especially if it is passive, its optronic channels can detect you actually pretty far, up to 40 kilometers, depending on the elevation and things of this nature—obviously line of sight.

But again, you have the integrated system, which is basically networked. And you saw what happens. They fly, they're shot down—F-35s, A-10 Warthogs, F-15s, and things like that. So they will be coming up with all those fairy tales, like this rogue Kuwaiti pilot who shot down three... I mean, it's kindergarten, okay? It's not a mature superpower that can handle itself properly and say, okay, we, you know, so... I don't know, it's... And again, Trump—the guy is, you can take a look at him. He's a defeated man. The only thing he's doing is making money. He is no statesman. He doesn't have a single statesmanship quality. And so that's what we have. And he's controlled by Israel.

