

Top US general tacitly admits defeat by Iran

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal and Aaron Mate discuss revealing testimony by Pentagon Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Dan Caine in which he acknowledges the US has no military means of wresting control of the Strait of Hormuz from Iran. ||| 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

Iran remains on the target board, though. And I don't know, do you think there's a chance that Trump will attack Iran again? We're seeing new troop transport planes being transferred from, I believe, the Ukrainian battlefield toward the region. There are some ominous signs. Trump obviously can't accept any Iranian conditions, and Iran isn't really afraid of the United States attacking again because they, as Robert Kagan has acknowledged, have checkmated the U.S. Do you think this is possible?

#Aaron Mate

Maybe on his way out, he launches some strikes as sort of a parting gift, a consolation prize, a door prize to disappointed neocons like Robert Kagan and, of course, the Israeli government. But in terms of a kinetic war to overthrow the government, I think that part is over because, as Robert Kagan said, he's lost because of Iran's leverage over the Strait of Hormuz and its ability to do damage to the Gulf States complicit in the attack. And Trump, you know, can't go too far in attacking Iran because he has such close financial ties to them. And so there's only so much he can do. So I, you know, I think he's lost at best.

I think in terms of warfare, maybe some parting strikes on his way out, but in terms of a full-blown regime change campaign, I think that's over. But at the same time, do I see Trump reaching a deal with Iran, engaging in serious diplomacy? No way. This guy can't do diplomacy, especially with Iran, which he's got so much contempt for because Iran has been defiant of him. It's humiliated him, as it has U.S. hegemony for many decades now, and sort of been a deterrent, a curb on Israeli-U.S. power. And especially – and you've covered this, Max – like him recently appointing, or the Trump administration recently appointing, Nick Stewart of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, which is an Israeli front group, to Steve Litkoff's so-called negotiating team.

There's no way he reaches a deal that builds on the JCPOA, the one that he walked away from. So I think at best we're getting a frozen conflict. He'll have to concede Iran control of the Strait of

Hormuz and charging tolls there, because how else will Iran pay for its reconstruction from all the damage that Trump and Israel caused? They have to find a way to fund that, and Trump's not going to pay reparations, and he can't wrest control of the Strait of Hormuz from Iran, as he's shown. And The New York Times recently reported that Iran maintains the bulk of its military capacity, despite Trump and Pete Hegseth's claims to the contrary. So what I'm foreseeing is just a frozen conflict — no war, but also no deal.

#Max

Yeah, I think long term, that's what we're looking at. You can kind of hear that in the words of Pentagon Joint Chiefs Chairman Dan Kane, who testified for, I think, 14 hours three days ago. And this was a very revealing exchange in which Dan Kane, under questioning from Senator Dick Durbin, really couldn't point to any real victory and couldn't deny having been defeated or at least checkmated by Iran.

#Speaker 1

Could you explain to the American people why, with the vast investment we've made in national defense and the military, Iran, after being attacked by us, is still capable of stopping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz?

#Speaker 2

Well, sir, it's a complex situation out there with a lot of different small boats and other capabilities. Some of this is on the commercial traffickers. Some of this goes back to the main problem, and that's Iran holding the global economy hostage through the straits. I would encourage them to think wisely about their next moves and to take the opportunity to open the straits. They have that choice to make.

#Speaker 1

They certainly do. I guess the question in my mind is, as we talk about trillion-dollar-plus budgets for our military, it appears that a very small budget is holding us hostage in the Strait of Hormuz.

#Max

Brutal.

#Aaron Mate

By the way, what Kane says there about, I would urge Iran to reopen the straits. I mean, they had a deal to do that, but then the problem is Trump said, I'm going to keep on this blockade. Yep. Yep.

So, you know, Senator Durbin could point that out, but of course, these pro-war narratives are seldom challenged. But yeah, overall though, an admission of defeat, a tacit admission of defeat.