

Trump Begins ALL-OUT WAR, Iran SLAMS F-16s | Larry Johnson & Lawrence Wilkerson

Former CIA analyst Larry Johnson & Retired Army Col. Lawrence Wilkerson join the show to review the US's latest round of strikes that led to full-scale confrontation in the Strait of Hormuz and a massive retaliation from Iran. The war has escalated in a huge way and two of the top analysts of geopolitics join to break it all down. Larry's blog: <https://sonar21.com/> FOLLOW ME ON RUMBLE: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> FOLLOW ME ON TELEGRAM: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> SUPPORT THE CHANNEL ON PATREON: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #iranwar #iran #trump

#Danny

Welcome everyone, welcome back to the show. It's Danny Haiphong. As you can see, I am joined by former CIA analyst Larry Johnson and former Chief of Staff for Colin Powell and retired Army Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson. Gentlemen, good to see you again. Hello, hello, good to be with you. And Danny, let me say, I just saw a couple of shots of Larry when he was younger. He's a dashing-looking dude. I don't doubt it one bit. All right, well, how about we get started with the busy times in and around Iran, the Strait of Hormuz, the clash that occurred overnight. The United States, Donald Trump essentially has been declaring strikes each and every day for the last couple of days. And last night and into today, he is talking more and more about what sounds like all-out war, whether that is even possible or not.

But let's review a little bit of what happened. And, Larry, you can help summarize and analyze exactly what you believe happened last night. This is what CENTCOM said — a very brief report that they completed their latest strikes against Iran. They launched strikes on Iran's military surveillance capabilities, communication systems, and air defense sites across Iran using precision munitions on Iranian targets that pose a threat to U.S. forces and international commercial ships transiting regional waters. The strikes are in response to Iran's unwarranted and continued aggression. U.S. forces remain vigilant, lethal, and ready. So Qeshm Island, Sirak — very similar targets to the night before — the United States once again hit. And then I'll just go a little bit over what Iran did.

This is what they announced — that they targeted five military bases in retaliation to all of this: Jordan, Kuwait, and Bahrain — the Muwaffaq al-Salti Air Base, and then a bunch of bases in Bahrain and Kuwait. One of these, the Jordanian base, these strikes included 12 ballistic missiles that targeted F-35s, F-15s, and F-16 jets in military facilities located at the Muwaffaq al-Salti Air Base.

And they're claiming that they destroyed a lot of those aircraft, which has been confirmed generally when they announce this some days and weeks later. But, Larry, help us understand what happened. Maybe you can go over a bit. There were also clashes in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran says it's completely closed now. U.S. warships did come under fire. There were clashes between the U.S. Navy and Iran as well. So what's going on? Help us understand the events of last evening.

#Larry Johnson

I don't understand it. It doesn't make any sense. So Trump had a deal in hand that had been negotiated with the intervention of Pakistan since May 30th. And we noticed, if you go back and watch Trump's public comments from May 30th until June 8th, Monday, Trump's voicing and talking about Iran was somewhat conciliatory. He's talking about maybe getting together, hanging out with the Ayatollah. You know, he's a good guy. He said, you know, that kind of nonsense. And then, over the weekend, when you had this, you had a sort of, let's call it an insider offensive to try to push forward getting this deal done. You had the leak to the New York Times about Israel spying on America. You know, I thought that was a dog-bites-man column.

You know, hello. They've been doing that for years. But this was particularly focused — that the Israelis were trying to derail the peace process because they didn't know what the United States was really negotiating with Pakistan. And then came Israel's strike in southern Beirut, which elicited a retaliation by Iran, who had said, hey, if you hit Beirut, we're going to hit you. And Iran did. So then that set off this initial round of exchange of fire. And Trump, instead of coming out immediately, you know, condemning Iran and backing Israel, stayed neutral. Oh my God, you could hear the neoconservative and Zionist heads in Washington exploding. You know, it was like the city was under attack. They went crazy.

And so Trump spent about 24 hours getting savaged, and lo and behold, then on Tuesday we get this—I'll call it, it's a staged incident—this crash of the Apache. What's most likely that happened here is this Apache was out on armed reconnaissance doing nap-of-the-earth flying, except you're flying over water, which is a whole different animal, I'm told, than flying over land. And, you know, the pilot there—boom—the copter goes into the water, but it doesn't kill the pilots. They're able to get out, and then they're picked up. But that is translated into, oh, Iran attacked us. Now, because these negotiations, they were progressing. Remember, you had Iran's UN ambassador say on Monday that, yeah, you know, we've got a lot of details worked out. There's still some things, but, you know, it's through the good offices of Pakistan.

And the Pakistani sources that Pepe Escobar and I have been in touch with, they were confirming, oh yeah, this is great, we're going forward. And then yesterday, Trump blew it up. He went back to, instead of the conciliatory language, he said in one of his Truth Socials, and I'm quoting, we're going to bomb the shit out of them. Yeah, that's very presidential. That's a good way to get them to come over to your side. So what happened yesterday, when Trump says we're going to hit them hard, they tried to hit us. But I think the Iranian retaliation has inflicted some significant damage on U.S.

air assets at the Muwaffaq Salti Air Base. YouTube channel Borzikhman reporting that both IRGC and Russian sources are saying that that initial strike took out or damaged 12 F-35s. So the war started again. It's that simple.

#Danny

Yeah, Colonel Wilkerson, what's your reaction to these developments? I played a video that demonstrated those interceptors going up, missing. It was hard to see the missiles. I tried to zoom in on them. I think we could see them, but more than a few of them hit their targets, and that's where, as Larry said, these fighter jets are located. And I looked it up later because I'm not an expert on what's in each of these military bases. And indeed, the U.S. actually does like to station almost all of the fighter jets that they have deployed there at this particular one. But your thoughts about what's going on and what happened?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, that's true. And they're running out of apron space in Israel. And Israel has let it be known that they don't appreciate the fact that the IAF can't find any space to park its planes because there are so many damn U.S. fighters there. You know, I take Larry's point there. I hadn't heard that explanation about the Apache, but I take that point to heart because I had to fly over water a lot when I was flying between Vung Tau in Vietnam and maybe 100 kilometers out at times to various naval vessels to do shipments and transfers and things like that. And it's really difficult to fly over the ocean if you're flying low, and that's the only way we would fly. You can lose it really quickly, stick your skid in the water or whatever. So wouldn't that be something if that's the way the Apache went down?

And I don't doubt for a minute that that is probably the highest possibility, that he just took his eye off the ball, so to speak. Water all looks the same. The waves all look the same. So you're flying low and you crash your aircraft. As to the other matters, I was looking at Musavian in Middle East Eye this morning, and the title of his article, which goes into much more detail than this, was "Iran will no longer," or the lead-in to it, "Iran will no longer accept endless talks. It's creating deterrence on its own terms." I think it's probably true, and I think we are giving it every excuse possible to be successful in creating that deterrence on its own terms. And I don't understand it, just like Larry. I'm lost as to where this president and his Secretary of Defense were, and if the Secretary of State is even to be heard from other than getting embarrassed in front of the Congress over the last few days.

I don't know where he's headed. All I can see is delaying tactics. All I can see is a president who doesn't know how to get out of what he started, doesn't have a clue how to end it on a successful political basis for him, and is trying everything he possibly can to obfuscate, to make it look like he's doing something when he's, in effect, not doing very much at all except exacerbating the conflict. I can't make any other determination than that. There's no clarity. And I don't know why we're doing

this business of covering up, as it were, casualties, whether it be equipment or people. I suspect it's both. It's not a good tactic. It really isn't. You pay for it, ultimately. I don't know why we're doing it. Maybe Trump's put out an edict to HEC that there will be no damage reports because they help the enemy.

#Larry Johnson

Let me just add one other thing with respect to the helicopter. Again, I'm told by one of my friends who retired out of JSOC, he says that normally on these kinds of even reconnaissance missions, they fly tandem. In other words, there was another Apache most likely on scene, which explains they see their partner go down. They're able to then call in the coordinates immediately to get that drone boat there to rescue them. And so that begins to make sense. But Trump's a complete idiot — confabulation, you know, where he's saying things that he believes are true that are simply absolutely not true. And, you know, I've been trying to reconstruct, and a good colonel will understand, I think, where I'm going with this. What is the operational mission?

In other words, these military forces that are there, they are operating under rules of engagement, and they are operating under a specific defined mission. So I'm trying to think, okay, what is their mission? Because they're not just taking off every day and saying, oh, let's fly around and see if there's anything to shoot. So I suspect that what they finally came up with is, okay, to open the Strait of Hormuz, we're going to have to identify the firing positions the Iranians have along Qeshm Island and along the coast. We'll need to identify the communication nodes, how they're giving orders, how those orders get issued. And then we need to look at the radar systems, et cetera. And they're using some bait tactics because this has been going on now for at least three weeks.

What set it off last Wednesday was they sent four ships a week ago Wednesday. Four ships tried to go through the strait. Iran detected them, fired at them. They retreated. Then the United States attacked Iran, the Iranians, and then in response to that, Iran launched attacks in Bahrain and Kuwait at that time. So, you know, it appears that this is designed to smoke them out. But now the bombings have extended. They're trying to go inland. The most notable thing that happened, though, yesterday was we got early reports that the Iranian air defense shot down five Tomahawk missiles and engaged an F— I think it was an F-16 — that started to enter Iranian territory and then ran off. So clearly, it looks like the Iranians have had a significant upgrade in their air defense systems.

#Danny

Yeah, and I'm constantly seeing people share information about the air defense systems that are detecting thermal energy, like heat—like heat-seeking almost—rather than the F-35s, which are supposed to be invisible and have that capacity not to be detected by radars. But it seems like whatever Iran's using, they might not need any complex radar system if they're simply seeking heat from an engine.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

This is a good point that Larry's made, too, about tactics, and that's all this is—we're discussing tactics. Of course, it's supposed to be attached to some sort of operational concept and some sort of strategy above that, which I detect none of. But one, using Apaches in the way that Larry just described is ridiculous. Two, you've got other assets that are far more capable of getting eyes on the target, if you will, out of an Apache—the worst aircraft to try to get eyes on the target with. That's the reason you have Coyotes accompany them and provide the observation that the Apache then uses to shoot. So they're operating completely out of any environment—probably, I would put a 99 on this—that the Army has ever operated in. They've never operated over water extensively.

And they've never operated in an environment like this, which is land-water, land-water, land-water, and very different kinds of climatic conditions and very different kinds of visibility. Believe me, that can make a hell of a lot of difference in a helicopter. And so I don't understand how they're even using tactics. It's crazy to me. These guys are not the people that go out and fly over open ocean and do reconnaissance. Now, not that they can't, but it's stupid to use that really expensive asset to do that when you have much cheaper assets to do that with. Even if you're using rotary wing, they're much cheaper.

#Danny

Guys, and Larry, you can start. Can you help me understand exactly what kind of damage the U.S. is inflicting on Iran militarily? Because two straight days now we've seen the United States essentially target what they say are the same targets that they hit the day before. They're saying they're hitting all these military targets. There's absolutely no real proof whatsoever of any of this. We just get, what, three, four sentences from CENTCOM. And then Donald Trump tells Fox News this. It seems like Donald Trump has a pretty big mouth and he likes to be very hubris-filled in his descriptions of things. He claims that Iran called him and asked him to stop the bombing. So here is that report.

#Fox News 1

But at one point, when I first spoke with the president, he had to go briefly because he was getting an incoming phone call from Iranian officials in Tehran. When the president called back, he described what that call was like. He said they asked him to stop the bombing because, at that point, there were fighter jets over the skies of their country, and they lacked the ability to actually defend their own territory. And ultimately, the president was very clear: he'll stop bombing if they sign the agreement. It's a very clear equation.

#Danny

Larry, Colonel Wilkerson, I mean, there's absolutely no evidence that that occurred. But this is the story that was being promoted as the strikes started to wane, actually. And of course, Iran has denied all of this. But Larry, what exactly do you believe the U.S. is doing when they're conducting these strikes? Are they having any significant material effect?

#Larry Johnson

No, they're having no significant material effect. It's just tactical strikes that damage equipment, destroy some systems that are replaceable. Look, Trump's lies about communicating with Iran are just... You know, I view it as another symptom of mental illness. We've had, you know, we go back more than a year. Trump has not had a direct conversation with any Iranian official of the Iranian government since taking office or before taking office. You would notice prior to last June and in the ensuing negotiations, whenever the United States delegation would get together with the Iranians, they weren't sitting in the same room talking to each other. We'd talk to the Omanis, the Omanis would talk to the Iranians, and the Iranians would talk to the Omanis and back to us.

So there was always somebody in the middle. And over the last 104 days, that team in the middle has been Pakistan. So everything that the United States says to Iran is not said to Iran directly, and vice versa. So, you know, he's lying about that. There was that incident I described that took place last week, or like a week ago Monday, when Iran struck in Bahrain. I am told they hit a system that is described as some sort of communications coordination system that was classified. It was top secret, so nobody knew what it was. All they knew was that the senior commanders on the Joint Staff were going crazy over losing this. And they concluded the only way they could have lost it was that the Russians or Chinese had provided the Iranians with intelligence.

So the Iranians are actually in a better position to damage the U.S. If the U.S. thinks that they can take out all of these firing points there—and it's about 100 miles long, let's understand that—even as the news reports come out and make it sound like it's very intense and widespread, it's not. It's very localized. You've still got all of these drone and short-range ballistic missile systems inland that are still capable of firing on ships there. So, again, this appears to have no other purpose than to provoke Iran into responding militarily so the United States can then justify what it continues to do. And it's going to turn into—I think it's going to turn into—a disaster for us.

#Danny

Yeah. Colonel Wilkerson, same question to you, with your own particular expertise. Like, what are these strikes actually doing?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I don't—I think Larry's right. I don't think they're doing a whole lot. Maybe making the ground rubble a little bit more and maybe killing some people, usually taking out water facilities and other things that are not necessary, other than war crimes. And Larry's point about the vastness, or the lack of vastness, whichever way you want to look at it, was brought home to me in a very dynamic way by Ahmadinejad. And I went home and got maps and got some people to ascertain for me, because I know from my own fishing experience in lakes in this country, where you have a hundred-mile coastline, for example, the coastline is really about 500 miles, because no coastline goes straight. You've got bays and fields and all kinds of things. So when Ahmadinejad told me there were 1,800—I think he said 1,875—kilometers of Iranian coastline on the Persian Gulf, I said, whoa, boy, that sounds like a lot.

But when we did the analysis, he was very close to being right. When you take into account the vicissitudes in the coastline, that's a lot of territory to have a lot of weaponry in, to have impact all through the Gulf, depending on the range of the weaponry. And you've got to take all that out, or at least a good part of it, if you're going to operate in the Gulf with impunity. So, I mean, this is—and I agree with Larry with regard to—I think they had it before. I think they hit that radar, that seminal radar in Bahrain in the first volley. You recall back there when they actually started this thing from their perspective. I think they hit that with Russian help or Chinese help, maybe both, because it was just pinpoint. It was absolutely—missile gone. What was that, Larry? A \$400 million radar or something like that?

#Larry Johnson

\$400 million. One's \$400 million, one is a billion plus.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Yeah, okay. It was the eyes and ears, I know, of the Fifth Fleet and others that used it. And it was gone.

#Danny

But the interceptors aren't just growing on trees, and they're intercepting everything. That's what the United States is saying: every time Iran retaliates, nothing gets through.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I think this is a, you know, I can understand operational security, and I can understand keeping the enemy's impact on you a secret. If it's devastating in particular, I can see you keeping it a secret. But I think that backfires on you eventually. I mean, because people start talking to people. I know we're small—less than 1% serves in the military—and it takes a while for this word to get around

and to get back to the States and to get disseminated. But it's dangerous to hide everything completely, and I think that's pretty much what we're doing. I think Heth has put the edict out to Bradley Cooper and others involved. Maybe Trump put it out to him: I don't want the American people to know anything about our casualties, materiel, or people. And I think that if you're going to wage a long war—and this is already a lot longer than Trump said it would be, and has every promise of being much longer—then you're going to get caught eventually.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Well, how about we get into now the next phase of all of this, which is that despite everything that you two both said about what's going on and how it's actually going, the Trump administration, Donald Trump, appears poised, if we can use that word, to keep at it, as you said, Colonel Wilkerson, to keep this ball rolling. Now, he's made many statements. The State Department shared this Truth Social. I mean, it's just absolutely ridiculous. The State Department is supposed to be—we know it's not, we know it's mostly a spy agency, a war agency now—but it's supposed to be the diplomatic arm of the United States. But they shared this Truth Social post: "The United States will be hitting Iran, whose navy, radar, anti-aircraft, all other forms of defense together, most of its offensive capability, are gone very hard tonight."

At some point in the not-too-distant future, we will be taking Karg Island and other oil infrastructure points and assume total control of the oil and gas markets, much like we have with Venezuela, which is working out brilliantly for both Venezuela and the U.S. of America. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Uh, and then he went on, and I won't play all those just yet. Uh, Fox News phone call just reiterating these points. But, Larry, your reaction to this? It seems like, yeah, we've gone from negotiations—oh, we might have to go back, the blockade is enough, it's doing more damage than strikes ever could—and now it seems like daily airstrikes, daily war, kinetic war on Iran. And now talking about Karg Island again and destroying oil infrastructure again. Seems like déjà vu, but what are your thoughts about why this is happening now?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, it looks like Trump has got a Babe Ruth complex. You know, Babe Ruth was famous for—he came to bat at one game and pointed his bat to center field where he was going to hit the ball, and then he hit the ball out there. So, telegraphing your moves, that could be fun in baseball. This ain't baseball. This is where people can get killed. So you've got to step back and say, what in the world is he doing now? Telling the Iranians, we're going to attack you tonight, and we're going to hit your oil infrastructure, and we're going to hit—you know, you start telegraphing what you're going to do. Why do you do that? Now, in Trump's mind, I guess he thinks that it's a clever negotiating tactic, that it's going to put pressure on the Iranians.

All they're going to do is line up to ambush you. Now, we saw another sort of demonstration of this yesterday with him talking about this covert program that smuggled out 100 million barrels of oil.

And our—excuse my language—but our stupid fucking press didn't have the common sense just to go back and say, oh, wait a second, Mr. President. So you're saying you've got this top-secret program that you've been running. Why are you announcing it now? You're saying it's successful, but in announcing it now, you're exposing it, so it may not be successful. And beyond that, 100 million barrels—that represents only five days of consumption in the United States. And it also represents only five days of exports out of the Persian Gulf in normal times.

In other words, it's a nothing burger. And he said he's been doing it for 30 days, but the average tanker size is about a million barrels. The very, very large ones can carry two, and there are some monsters that can carry more than that. But let's just assume what you're talking about is 80 ships in 30 days transiting the Strait of Hormuz without the knowledge of the Iranians? That's crazy. That just doesn't make sense. And yet he says this, and the press is like a bunch of bobblehead dolls going along with it. So these are public relations tactics designed to fool the American people into supporting a war that should have zero support, and to not ask questions, just accept everything the government's telling you.

#Danny

Yeah, Colonel Wilkerson, to you, not only unearthing a so-called secret operation, but touting such success with absolutely zero to show for it except for, what, 4.2% inflation over the last month. Not really what a lot of people like to digest when they're thinking about how U.S. foreign policy affects them, but what are your thoughts about all of this?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, when he does something like that, the first thought that comes to my mind is it's all made up. It's all propaganda. Maybe something sailed here or something sailed there and he got the idea about it. But it's really not happening. But Larry's right, it's a minuscule drop in the bucket. And if you look at what he said about Venezuela, look at that. I'm told by very competent authority in the oil business that no one would touch Venezuela among the majors except Chevron, and that Chevron is now involved in, shall we say, to-and-froing that might drive them out.

So where is the beauty in Venezuela, and where is what Trump alleged was his purpose? Which, you know, in some ways I could support in a national security interest manner and say, OK, we need the oil that Venezuela produces, and we don't want others to have it, particularly China. And so we are going to do what we did, and we're going to ensure that whoever comes in to beef that oil structure up—because it was falling apart and it was being bled dry, what it did produce in the way of profits by people around Maduro, and not necessarily Maduro himself—and they're still there, by the way, and the vice president was one of them, and she's still there, of course. And so what are you talking about, Donald?

How is Venezuela a positive aspect of your strategic approach to the region and the world? There is nothing happening there that looks like it is ultimately going to be favorable to the United States, and quite a lot happening that looks like it's going to make what you did a farce. Are you doing the same thing right now with regard to Iran, and in particular with regard to the oil situation in the world?

Because we're looking at potentially Iran going to a second tier of targets, which I've said many times before—I can't overemphasize it—that would do irreparable damage to our ability to deal with this, and all the way through the fall probably, and through the midterm elections for sure, and be very, uh, injurious to the Republican Party in a political sense in this country. So I don't know what he's doing, and I don't know why he's doing it, other than, one, he doesn't know what to do, so he's delaying in the only way he knows how—pontificating and propagandizing. Two, his people beneath him don't know what to do and don't have the courage and the guts to tell him that whatever it is they're supposed to be doing. I'd love to see a copy of the campaign plan, a copy of the strategy statement.

It gets stopped, if it is said, by exit or adulterated by him. And then three, what the future is—where are we going from here? Because it's been proven, I think, as Musavian is saying, that Iran is resolute, and you aren't breaking their resolution. And it takes me back to that Haaretz headline that said all Iran has to do to win is not lose, and all we have to do—and Bibi—is achieve a spectacular victory. And oh, by the way, what's Bibi doing right now? Bibi, in the meantime, is taking on the principal reason for this situation existing in the first place. He's killing Palestinians again, 30 to 40 a day.

He's doing it with bullets, bombs, and he's also doing it with humanitarian assistance that's corrupt as hell. He's doing the same thing in Lebanon, in defiance of the president apparently, and causing the situation in Israel politically, perhaps, to be a little better for him, but causing the situation with Iran to be probably worse because they now see that. Clearly, they now see that as another theater. And it's a theater of—I'm waiting for him to make the Palestinian situation writ large—another part of the theater in which they respond, which would be right along the lines of expanding their own strategy. So we're going to make this wider, deeper, and worse.

#Larry Johnson

Well, and let's not forget, Netanyahu is also pissing off Turkey, picking a fight with Turkey. I was just like, this is... this is insane. I mean, Turkey actually can cut off oil to Israel, and Israel would be in desperate straits. And yet, you know, here's Netanyahu insulting and verbally attacking Erdogan. And, you know, Erdogan's as big a narcissist as Donald Trump. So, you know, he doesn't take that well either. So you just got to step back and say, is anybody thinking about any kind of endgame where they can come out intact and alive? I don't see it.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

And along those lines, Danny, yesterday they were talking about inside Israel. They were talking about the number of Jewish Israelis now that would be classified probably as sympathetic with Smotrich, Ben-Gvir, and others of that ilk wanting Netanyahu to step down.

#Danny

Not surprising at this point, not surprising given the way things are going. There are also those reports that since the theater against Lebanon, the so-called war against Hezbollah, which has killed far more civilians than anything else, supposedly 1,300 Israelis have been injured over that time. And with Israel's penchant for hiding, with the U.S. taking the Israeli playbook and hiding actual casualties and deaths, it's probably a lot higher. So things aren't going too well for Israel on that front or anything else. And speaking of Iran's resoluteness, maybe Larry, and then you comment on this.

You know, Fars News Agency is commenting on how during these retaliatory strikes, there was actually a pretty sophisticated intelligence operation underway where Iran carried this out. You know, overnight, they said the sources of the attacks inflicted significant damage on expensive military equipment. Iranian forces reportedly tracked the flight paths and deployment locations of two large P-8 aircraft the moment they took off. One of the aircraft had taken off from Diego Garcia, based in the Indian Ocean, while the other flew from a U.S. base station in Western Europe heading toward Syria and the southern Gulf region.

They added that the locations of the two aircraft were stationed at the Sheikh Isa Air Base in Bahrain and Ali Al-Salem in Kuwait, and they were targeted with precision weapons after this. They also monitored the deployment of three U.S. F-35 jets inside a hangar at the Salt Air Base in Jordan until before the missile launches, so the exact location of the hangar was then targeted. So this is very sophisticated stuff, Larry. I mean, we're talking about Iran not just targeting the bases because they know they're there; they're targeting exactly when these aircraft are landing to be stationed there. I mean, that's impressive stuff. But what are your thoughts on this and how this all happens?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, Iran's not sophisticated enough to do that. They're doing that because of Chinese and/or Russian assistance. The Chinese and Russians have, you know, the strategic assets, satellite assets and such. They can do all of that. And so, you know, Iran's happily taking credit for doing it. I don't blame them. But that's what, you know, that's what's making this phase of the war difficult. I'll call it the start of the ceasefire war because you go back to April 15th, and really the United States has been violating the ceasefire, as has Israel. So as these attacks back and forth continue, Iran is getting intelligence now that it did not get back in the 12-day war last year.

And so its ability to respond and to target was somewhat limited. I mean, they still have a capability, but it's not as robust as what's going on now. And just like I referenced that one system that was destroyed recently in Bahrain, the Joint Staff was, you know, the basic message was, Russia or China did this to us. This went beyond Iran's capabilities. But those kinds of tracking, those kinds of assets and destroying them are going to be a critical part of Iran's attrition strategy for defeating the United States, because the reality is the United States doesn't have unlimited capabilities. And I'm not saying Iran does, but Iran's backed up by Russia and China, who do.

The United States is not backed up by anybody, and I did—I looked into the materials required to produce a Tomahawk missile yesterday. Eighteen rare earth minerals to make one of those. And who controls those? China. And China's not—gallium in particular is a critical component—China's not exporting that. So here's the United States, who reportedly used up 39 Tomahawks just yesterday, in one day. And, you know, right now their monthly production is around 40. So basically, you know, in one day they used up all that you could produce and replace in a month. You know, it's not a good picture for the United States. So this, you know, Iran has adopted this war of attrition with the full backing of Russia and China. And I don't see how the United States can sustain it.

#Danny

Yeah, Colonel Wilkerson, your thoughts about this intel operation, and also anything else you want to comment on there?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Yeah, I think Larry's right. And I hearken back to several briefings that we had. And be careful here, as Larry has to do sometimes. Yeah. We were trying to develop a capability, and we were very fearful that both the Chinese and the Russians were working on the same thing and, in one case, might have already achieved it. Basically, the best way to explain it in layman's terms is the satellite actually has a—not a lingering capability so much as it is a surveillance capability that lasts for a lot of its orbit.

And that surveillance capability is augmented by the fact they can download almost instantaneously, almost like you're looking through a camera at the target, with a lot more resolution than you would with any camera and normal moving satellite technology. And so what you get is a downstream that is almost real time, and that can be passed to the targeting people. And so you can surveil an F-35 taxiing into a hangar, or you can surveil whatever is going into that hangar or onto that airfield or into hiding or whatever. And not only that, you get coordinates that are passed so fast, and if your targeting is good and your munitions coming in are good—and the Iranians have proved they have some that are—you can hit that.

And the only way you can hit that is with that overhead ability. So there's no question in my mind, as Larry said, that they are in this big time now—China and Russia, the former in particular. And

that's what we're contending with. And it's really interesting to see—interesting and dangerous, in my view—to see that we're not aware of that and not capable of dealing with it in some way, because we've been thinking about it and understand how you defend against it. But apparently we haven't. Maybe it's simply because we didn't anticipate this level of cooperation. But that was stupid too, if we did that.

#Danny

Well, let's now talk about how Donald Trump is speaking, not just on Truth Social, but how he's speaking about the next phase of this thing and where this is all going. So here is, to Fox News, what Donald Trump said about Kharg Island. It seems like there's an obsession with Kharg Island again. And here is what he said about that.

#Larry Johnson

What did the representative say in your phone call?

#Donald Trump

They have finished. Excuse me. They have finished. But the papers, the media, refuse to write it. They're finished. We can walk in there tomorrow. We could take soldiers. I don't want to have boots on the ground. But if I wanted to, we could put a small group of soldiers and take over the whole place.

#Danny

So the whole place. And then this is what he hopes Iran will do and believes it should do. It's very offensive. I mean, this is just akin to if there were any talks between the U.S. and Iran before this, I can't imagine that this doesn't completely eradicate them.

#Donald Trump

It could be the greatest deal in history. They could wave the white flag of surrender. They could say, we surrender, we surrender, we're finished. We've had it. The United States is the greatest power. Praise be to Allah. And they could do all of this. They could say it loud and clear. And the fake news would say it was a great victory for Iran. I mean, it's the craziest thing ever.

#Danny

So this is Donald Trump's thoughts, and he did promise that tonight there would be more strikes. Your thoughts, though, Larry, and then Colonel Warxton, about this posture. It does seem like we are back to where we were before the April so-called, I guess, ceasefire that wasn't.

#Larry Johnson

Well, I defer to Robert Barnes, who has actually had interactions with Trump. He was his attorney at one point. And, you know, let's say four or five years ago when he dealt with Donald Trump, he actually, you know, he wasn't—he's not a stupid person. He would ask lots of questions, and he would seek lots of different opinions. He wasn't just listening to one person, and he'd get, you know, contrasting opinions. So he really would work through those options. That's not him today. He is 180 degrees opposite from that. He's become brittle, mentally brittle, and gets locked into these things that he believes, even though they're not true—he believes they're true—which is called confabulation. And so that's what makes it so dangerous, this notion that we could waltz into Kharg Island, not understanding that.

So now summer has hit. Temperatures at Kharg Island are 105 degrees. First of all, you've got to figure out how you're going to get, let's say, a battalion of soldiers on there—say, the 82nd Airborne. You know, to do what? I mean, what's the mission? And once they're on that island, how do you keep them resupplied? Because, you know, in particular in this kind of heat, these soldiers are going to be wearing body armor and carrying heavy ammunition loads—a lot of weight. And so they're very quickly going to burn through their water. And then if you're dehydrated in that kind of environment, you die. You pass out. You're incapacitated. So again, they haven't thought this through. Assuming you can get them on the island—let's say the battalion is 800 guys—about 90 of those can go on one C-130J.

#Larry Johnson

With a full combat load. So, you know, do the math—90 times—so you're going to need close to, you know, 10 aircraft to get them all there. And our total contingent of C-130s in the entirety of the force is 33. And they're going to be flying in against air defense systems, even though hopefully they're suppressed. And then what, are they going to jump out? Are they going to try to land? And then once they're there, how do you resupply them? Because they'll burn through quick if they are contested and they're fighting back against armed people on the ground.

But also, the other thing the Iranians have done—they've mined Kharg now. So you have to go in with a demining team, which is great if you're in a non-hostile environment, but they'll be in a hostile environment. So none of this adds up. I mean, he's not thinking through any of this. You know, I'm not saying those are insoluble problems, but you've got to put resources and have a plan in place to solve them. And Trump's not doing it. He's just—he's now throwing the jello at the wall and seeing what sticks.

#Danny

Yeah, Colonel Wilkerson, same to you.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, I think Larry's right. I have to go back to Trump and say, okay, you're saying all these things, which Larry has, I think, described quite well—the impossibilities of, or the dangers of, or the impracticalities of, at best. And Trump is saying them, and I'm wondering to myself, what is the military saying when he says these things? I mean, has he given them this mission? And has this mission been articulated down to the troops that are going to have to carry it out? Do the commanders in this chain know what they're doing? Do they know how they're going to do it? Are they contemplating right now some of the things that Larry just suggested? And there are other things that I would suggest too—they're almost impossibilities. But if it is going on like that, like it should be, where are the people who are saying back to the people above them, "I got a better plan," or "I've got an alternative," or whatever?

I don't want to do this. I'm not going to do this because it's impossible. Or are they just saying that's the president talking? And, you know, Bradley Cooper's not interpreting it, if you will, down through the chain. I don't know. I'm trying to put myself in the place and say, what if I got this warning order, and what if I started planning, and then the word came down to do what Larry just said, however you do it—with Ospreys or C-130s or whatever. I would not want that mission. And I'd make some complaints up the chain. Is this happening? Or are we just hearing bullshit from a demented mind, searching for any way to make himself seem successful? I don't know. I don't know what the answer is. And that in itself is a dilemma, I think.

#Danny

Well, speaking of demented minds, here is what Treasury Secretary Scott Besant had to say in the face of Iran's retaliation, saying that Iran will lose this zero-sum game that it is playing, that any damage it inflicts on allies in the Gulf will be paid for with funds from Iranian accounts. Any tolls paid to the Persian State Authority will be offset by funds extracted from these accounts. Every attack Iran launches will only deepen the economic and financial consequences it faces. Mind you, Larry, yesterday or, you know, in the face of these strikes, I know they occurred both yesterday and technically today.

They have announced that the Strait of Hormuz is closed. And then CENTCOM says, nope, it's open. It's open. But Iran is firing at tankers. They're stopping tankers. They're there. They just warned, I believe, anyone fishing in the area not to be fishing in the area. So it looks like it's closed completely. The oil markets are not even reacting to this. It's a very strange moment. I want to know your reaction to these comments, especially the consequences of the war on the economic front. I've been saying there's been a lot of whistling past the graveyard and manipulation, as we have all talked about on this show. But... what's your thoughts on this?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Danny, let me just say one thing before you go, to lunch.

#Danny

Sure.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I would have put at the bottom of that, if I were Scott Besant, "when we win." How do you do any of that if you haven't won, at least partially, if not completely?

#Danny

Hmm.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, you know, everything you learned, those of you who went to college and had to take an economics course, you were taught that the markets—we've got this thing called a free market—that they respond to pressures, supply and demand, you know, very simplistic. But now we're out in the real world and we find out, no, it's like a casino run by the mafia. So the house is always going to win. Sometimes the house loses control, like if the casino itself catches on fire. You know, that makes it a little tough to cheat. But yeah, they're clearly cheating here on this, artificially suppressing the price of oil, doing that in part by draining strategic reserves around the planet. The United States is going to be basically close to zero within another three weeks.

Then it's going to be interesting because there actually will be a demonstrable shortage of oil, both for refining for gasoline and aviation fuel, as well as the heavy crude for diesel fuel. These threats that they're going to destroy Iran's oil infrastructure. Then they go back and say, okay, Besant, then why in the first week of this war, in the first week of March, did you lift sanctions on Iranian oil? Why did you do that? Well, the reason they did it is they absolutely needed that oil out on the market. Otherwise, they feared there was going to be a big crisis. And now they're claiming that they can take it off and it's going to be inconsequential. No, this is an administration that's completely under the control of emotions. There's no thinking. There's no strategy. It's simple reaction. And is the president angry or not?

And what's he angry at? And therefore, we're going to punish those who made him angry. So this is Iran's move now to shut down the Strait of Hormuz. I believe what they say. And they, you know, it has been largely, if you will, open for any ship, whether it's a tanker or a container ship, that paid the fee and was not involved with supporting Israel or the United States. They were passing about 20 to 30 ships a day. But those were under the control of Iran. And Besant keeps thinking that Iran's going to have to hold all of its money in dollars. Not at all. Iran is shifting its money to yuan, getting

it in Chinese banks outside the reach of the United States. They've learned their lesson: don't hold petrodollars. And other countries are following suit because they say, if the United States can do that to Iran, they can do it to me.

#Danny

Yeah, Colonel Wilkerson, your reaction?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, everything that Larry just said, plus this, a chapeau. Right, an article written in the Jerusalem Post, as I recall, bringing Mackinder back into the argument and his Heartland Theory, only expanding the heartland, as it were, all the way down through Central Asia and down to Iran now, and saying that what you have—and we don't recognize, we don't seem to be able to deal with it if we recognize it—what you have is a heartland now that consists of some of the biggest countries in the world in terms of landmass. That's what the Heartland Theory is all about, in opposition to, say, the maritime theory. And they consist of Russia, Central Asia, China, of course, and Iran.

And possibly, remember, there's an "I" in BRICS—India, eventually. And what this means is that commerce, world commerce—and you can just look at the pipelines pumping, pipelines contemplated, pipelines under construction—world commerce with the pipelines and the railroads is going to switch from what it has been now for a long, long time, ever since the British Empire sort of made it this way: maritime enterprise to land enterprise. This has happened before in history. When that happens, the maritime powers, such as they might be—the Portuguese in the past and others—kind of dry up and kind of don't get it and wind up on the short end of the stick.

And in this case, you have, as this guy was pointing out in his article, a vast accumulation of land power, accounting for about 62% of the world's population and roughly the same percentage of its GDP, and with hugely successful countries at its core. In many respects, Putin, perhaps based on petroleum primarily, but other things too now, like from defense industrial base capability. And you also have China, of course, now, in all manner of indicators and factors, the number one power in the world, economically speaking, and now you've thrown Iran into it. And you've thrown the connectivity, almost all that into it—land-based connectivity. So you negate the need for the high seas in many respects.

And you put the land powers in ascendancy and the sea powers in descent. And that's what's happening. That is actually what's happening. All you have to do is look at the railroads and the pipelines and such, as I've said. And that's to the detriment of us if we don't recognize that pretty soon and try to accommodate and deal with it. And I don't mean accommodate it and deal with it by military force or sanctions. We've got to get in there, and we've got to become, in essence, a part of it—and a part of it that protects our own bona fides and our own interests as best as we can. And on top of all of that, we've got this potential now.

I think it was—who was it? I was right, yeah, it was. It was Sergei Karaganov pretty much stating it now categorically that Putin ought to take on NATO outside of Ukraine. And the ultimate thing was, teach them a lesson. And if the lesson doesn't stick, teach them a lesson with small-yield nuclear weapons. And then you've got Bibi down there talking about the Samson Option and so forth in various and sundry ways. This is a very dangerous thing we're doing, a very dangerous thing. It's a very high level of geopolitical thought, if you will. It's a very dangerous thing. And we don't seem to even recognize what we're doing.

#Danny

Well, in the interest of the last minute or so, Larry, you can have the final words. My thoughts are, if the United States could—if it were—I think what's so interesting, I've never seen anything like this, where U.S. presidents, the military, neocons, all of them have a lot of hubris to them. It's exceptionalism. They think they can dominate the world forever and ever and ever. That's not a surprise. But I've never seen a time where the United States declares that they've won, that they've beaten Iran, that Iran is obliterated, annihilated, and yet things keep going the way that they're going.

There's no resolution. There's no, "Okay, we won, and so this is what's going to happen now." No, it's "We won, but we're fighting a war." The United States' CENTCOM, the Trump administration, fighting the war like it's still very much in play. And that's not—even people who do not follow geopolitics, who don't follow world politics—they can understand that there is a big gap between the words there and the reality. But any final thoughts from you two? Larry first, and then Colonel Warwick.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, I'm waiting until we see the report. Perhaps tonight it will say—the Iranian air defense system radar that we destroyed tracked our inbound aircraft and then shot it down with the air defense missiles that we destroyed. The absurdity of it. If people weren't dying and this didn't involve destruction, this would be a hilarious Monty Python skit because it is just that absurd. Instead of the Department of Silly Walks, we've got the Department of Make Outrageous Claims That Can't Be Backed Up. So, I mean, if Iran truly was defeated, then they wouldn't be firing back. But they are. And they are firing back, to the growing consternation and frustration of Donald Trump, which, again, with his mental state, he becomes so emotionally enraged.

He's making one foolish mistake and decision after another. And there's no adult there in the room to pull him back and say no. General Milley... yeah, Milley reportedly told him, no, we're not going to use nukes, and he was musing about that. In fact, Sy Hirsch came out with a story yesterday saying that that had been on the table. So, you know, I wasn't just making that up. But it's, you know, it's

going to get more dangerous with each passing day because Trump's going to feel compelled to commit more assets, and the more assets he commits, the greater the risk of those assets being killed, captured, or destroyed.

#Danny

Yeah, Colonel Wilkerson, any final words?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I do, and I go along with everything Larry just said, and I would add this. One of the things that the Eisenhower Media Network and elsewhere, the All-Volunteer Force Forum and other places like that, we've been talking about all along is the dangers of the All-Volunteer Force, the dangers of having less than 1% of America serve, the dangers of having a reserve component that is almost completely broken now. Mm-hmm. I had conversations at George Washington University with one of the significantly placed representatives of that reserve component, and God, the horror stories he was telling me yesterday. And yet America doesn't sense it.

America has no feel for what's happening to this less than 1% of its population, men and women. And we're using them. We're just using them as tools of this now. I would have given Trump credit long ago, maybe even all the way up to the first couple of months of his second administration, for at least going after a couple of things that made sense, like our rapprochement with Moscow, for example, which now he seems to have just thrown over the heap along with Ukraine. But now it's dangerous. It's extremely dangerous. But nowhere is the danger more poignant—and unfortunately, Americans don't feel this way—it's for these young men and women who are having to live at the pointy spear of this demented individual right now.

#Danny

That's my aching point. Yeah, no, I think it's a good one. I think it's a good one. You know, fuel to the cannon, to the fodder.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

It seems like that's how—cannon to the right of them, cannon to the left of them—and yet they rode into the valley of death.

#Danny

Yeah, that's what war generally is. So everybody, this was a great show. Show your support by hitting the like button—that helps boost the show after we all head out of here. You can find Larry Johnson's blog in the video description below, so be sure to check that out. All the places that

support this channel are there too. Also, tomorrow, June 12th, 10 a.m. Eastern Time, we'll have a mutual friend of ours, Alastair Crooke, on. We'll review the events overnight, as it seems like there will be more war flaring up from U.S. aggression. So we'll talk about all of this and more. All right, everybody, see you then—tomorrow, June 12th, 10 a.m. Eastern Time with Alastair Crooke. Thank Larry and Colonel Wilkerson with a like. All right, take care. Bye-bye. Thank you.