



## Iran Unveils Ghadir Submarine Upgrades

**OE Watch Commentary:** The Iranian military regularly trumpets the supposed successes of its indigenous military industries, and claims through state media that its domestically-produced military platforms achieve the same technological prowess as Western-produced products purchased by Arab rivals across the Persian Gulf.

In the excerpted article from the official *Islamic Republic News Agency*, Abbas Fazelnia, the head of Iran's naval factories, bragged that overhaul of the navy's Ghadir-class submarine enabled Iran to operate in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman with stealth and with "high capability in diving." This likely is an exaggeration, at least for Persian Gulf operation, given that the Gulf's maximum depth is less than 300 feet. Likewise, there is no indication that the Iranian military has mastered the technology used by the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force to maximize acoustic properties in order to elude passive sonar.



*The refitted Ghadir submarine in Bandar Abbas, 8 April 2020.*

Source: Islamic Republic News Agency, <https://img9.irna.ir/d/r2/2020/04/08/4/157064527.jpg>

Still, any upgrade—especially should it incorporate Chinese, Korean, or Russian technology—could increase the Iranian submarine fleet's nuisance factor within Fifth Fleet operational environment. Fazelnia told the Iranian media that the Ghadir class submarine could fire torpedoes from two tubes, release minesweepers, launch missiles, and transport commandoes. Given recent Iranian attacks on international shipping in the Sea of Oman and Emirati waters, any upgraded capability for stealthily inserting commandoes should be of concern. That the Iranian navy seeks this capability also suggests that the Islamic Republic will not cease its efforts to support insurgencies across the region. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)**

***“The strength of the Ghadir class is its small size, which cannot be tracked or detected.”***

**Source:** “Zirdaryaye Ghadir Ghabul Kesef va Rangiri Nist (The Ghadir Submarine cannot be Detected or Intercepted),” *Islamic Republic News Agency*, 8 April 2020. <https://www.irna.ir/news/83743884>

### ***The Ghadir Submarine cannot be Detected or Intercepted***

*According to the public relation's office of the Navy, Rear Admiral Abbas Fazelnia, with reference to the addition of the overhauled Ghadir-class submarine to the navy's patrol group, said, “Worldwide, there are three classes of light, semi-heavy and heavy submarines, and the Ghadir is in the light class.” He added, “For the past several years, we have been producing the Ghadir-class submarine, and we are among the countries that are able to build all submarine classes.” The Commander of Naval Factories said that building a submarine is one of the most advanced sciences in the world and on the cutting edge of technology, and he said, “If a country can build a submarine, it means it has access to all the sophisticated technology. Admril Fazilnia clarified, “At the direction of the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, we have taken good measures to improve the combat capability, especially in the area of submarines....” He said, “Today, we are witnesses the addition of the Ghadir-class submarine whose systems are indigenous and are built in the naval factories belonging to the Ministry of Defense.” He continued, “The strength of the Ghadir class is its small size, which cannot be tracked or detected. On the contrary, it can pose a great threat to the enemy by carrying smart torpedoes. It has a higher ability to destroy the enemy.”*