



Iran Improves its UAV Technology

OE Watch Commentary: Iran's Armed Forces and Ministry of Defense recently showcased a series of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) to the public. On 20 April, *Tasnim News Agency*, linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), posted a report and video of the UAVs in use, as shown in the first accompanying source. They also unveiled an air-to-air missile that can be affixed to the Ababil-3 UAV. According to the report, the missile uses a thermal image seeker as its guiding system, similar to the "Spike" missile.

Khabar Online, another Iranian-state news source, detailed a series of UAVs and their specifications. The latest production is the Atlas UAV, which is reportedly an improved version of the Ababil-3. Some of the latest improvements to the Atlas include a new landing gear design. The report explains that the front landing gear uses hydraulic technology and the rear wheels have undergone changes to improve the drone's taxi ride on the runway. In the fuselage, the drone is equipped with tiers to carry bombs, pylons under its wings so that it can carry vertical series bombs, and an "auto take-off land" system, in which take-off and landing operations are done automatically. The Atlas also has a laser sensor under the fuselage to use with the automatic landing and take-off system. The report also noted the Jet Naseh UAV, which is a series of drones produced by the Qods Ministry of Defense Industries. The Jet Naseh has a turbo jet engine and is reportedly modeled after the U.S. MQM 107 UAV.

The Iranian government has had a UAV development program for years, with these activities representing a continuation of their ongoing efforts. The reverse engineering of foreign UAV technologies and designs by the Iranian program is a common occurrence. Iranian UAVs have been provided to Hizballah in Lebanon, Shia militias in Iraq and Syria, and Houthi rebels in Yemen to support their proxy activities and for field combat testing of the Iranian systems. Typically the provision of these systems is limited to less advanced UAV designs but Hizballah has, at times, been provided with more advanced models. **End OE Watch Commentary (Bunker/Keshavarz)**



Khabar Online.

Source: Khabar Online, <https://www.khabaronline.ir/news/1379562/م-ا-وی-ک-م-ا-د-پ-ه-پ-ی-ن-اری-ه-ن-وم-ن>

“During the presentation of these drones, they released a video of them in use and firing missiles. Some of the drones have air-to-air missiles with solid fuel rocket engine and wings that can be opened from inside the body in the style of anti-tank missiles.”



Iranian UAV Launching A Missile.

Source: Tasnim News Agency, <https://www.tasnimnews.com/fa/news/1399/02/01/2247479/م-ا-وی-ک-م-ا-د-پ-ه-پ-ی-ن-اری-ه-ن-وم-ن>



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Source: “Nemoneh Irani pahpad MQM 107 Amrika-e ra beshnaseed/Artesh mojehez beh een 4 pahpad tehjmeh shod + ax (See the Iranian copy of the U.S. MQM 107 UAV – Army equipped with 4 aggressive UAVs + photos),” *Khabar Online*, 19 April 2020. <https://www.khabaronline.ir/news/1379562/زه-چم-شترادی-سانش-ب-ار-اکیرم-آ-DB%۱۰۰-م-او-یک-م-ادی-پ-ن-اری-ه-ن-من>

Atlas UAV

The drone, which is actually an optimized version of the Ababil 3 drone, was a new drone that was delivered to the Army Air Force. The main structure of this drone is similar to Ababil 3, but changes have been made in some parameters of this drone. The first change that can be seen is the different design of the UAV's landing gear compared to Ababil 3.

The UAV's front landing gear uses hydraulic technology, and its rear-wheel drive vehicles have undergone changes to improve the drone's taxi ride on the runway.

In the fuselage, the drone is equipped with bomb-laying pylons under its wings so that it can carry vertical series bombs. Therefore, the structure of the atlas body is strengthened.

The Atlas is also equipped with a laser sensor under the fuselage to use the automatic landing and take-off system, which helps the drone detect the exact location of the landing runway.

Jet Naseh UAV

Jet Naseh is modeled after the U.S. MQM 107 and has a flight duration of less than an hour, speed of Mach 0.7, and recovered by a parachute. The jet engine is the Tolo 4 mini-jet engine.



Tasnim News Agency.

Source: Tasnim News Agency, <https://www.tasnimnews.com/fa/news/1399/01/30/2245982/ش-ت-را-ه-ف-و-ی-اس-ان-ش-م-ز-ن-ی-ش-ن-ر-س-ن-و-د-ب-ت-ج-ی-ا-ه-ام-ی-ا-و-ه-و-ب-ن-ا-ی-ه-د-ل-ی-و-ح-ت/2245982>