



IRGC Navy Showcases Unmanned Underwater Vehicle

OE Watch Commentary: On 28 May, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy unveiled a series of naval vessels in a ceremony in Bandar Abbas. Of particular interest was the unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV). According to Iran state media outlet *Mehr News Agency*, the IRGC Navy developed this underwater vessel in response to activities in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf. The unveiling was done before a group of high-profile officials, including IRGC Commander General Hossein Salami, Minister of Defense Amir Hatami, Commander of the IRGC Navy Admiral Alireza Tangsiri, the Governor of Hormozgan, and a group of other commanders and senior ranking officials stationed in Bandar Abbas.

Another Iran-state media outlet, *Mashregh News* discussed the latest development within the greater context of unmanned military equipment for operation at sea level and below sea level, covering a variety of submarines and other vessels, and their importance to Iranian missions in the region. The report indicates that the UUV has a range of up to 12,000 kilometers and can be equipped with various types of weapons and sensor systems for reconnaissance operations. The cargo capacity is 8 tons and it uses a combination of GPS receivers, inertial routing systems, sensor systems and submarine locators for navigation. The report points to the accompanying image of the UUV with two men on each side, noting that the metal cover on the surface of the vessel is part of the floating surface and the steering system at the front of the vessel controlled the unmanned system. In terms of how to communicate with the UUV, the report says that the IRGC Navy may turn to developing low frequency waves.

Increasingly, the Iranian military is developing the capacity to threaten and engage commercial shipping—and also foreign naval vessels—within its regional seas by means of manned and unmanned surface, underwater, and aerial systems. The growing unmanned capability is meant to augment its traditional force structure and provide new operational approaches including using those systems in advance of manned systems, deployed amongst them (in a human-machine teaming role), or in a singular manner relying solely upon unmanned system strikes. **End OE Watch Commentary (Bunker & Keshavarz)**



IRGC Navy UUV (Unmanned Underwater Vehicle).

Source: Mashregh News, <https://www.mashreghnews.ir/news/1077418/> مهم-ه-دع-و-ق-ق-خ-ت-م-ز-ن-ش-ن-ر-س-ن-و-د-ب-ی-ای-ر-د-ر-ی-ز-ا-ه-ا-پ-س-ی-م-س-ر-ی-ا-م-ن-و-ر

“The UUV has advanced hydraulic dynamics, high speed maneuverability, low radar cross section and high offensive power. This vessel closely resembles the Ghadir series, but smaller and without a command bridge.”

Source: “Vorood Iran beh club nokhbgan nobgan zeerdaryae bedoon sarnsheen (Iran enters elite unmanned underwater vessel club),” *Mehr News Agency*, 28 May 2020. <https://www.mehrnews.com/news/4937326/> ن-ی-ش-ن-ر-س-ن-و-د-ب-ی-ای-ر-د-ر-ی-ز-ا-ه-ا-پ-س-ی-م-س-ر-ی-ا-م-ن-و-ر

The IRGC Navy developed these unmanned unwater vessels in response to activities in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf.

Source: “Roonmayee rasmee Sepah az zeer daryae bedoon sarnsheen razmee/tahgheegh va’dee mohem sarleshkar Salami zarf comtera az 8 mah + ax (IRGC unveiled unmanned combat submarined/fulfillment of Major General Salami’s promise in less than 8 months + photo),” *Mashregh News*, 28 May 2020. <https://www.mashreghnews.ir/news/1077418/> م-ه-م-ه-د-ع-و-ق-ق-خ-ت-م-ز-ن-ش-ن-ر-س-ن-و-د-ب-ی-ای-ر-د-ر-ی-ز-ا-ه-ا-پ-س-ی-م-س-ر-ی-ا-م-ن-و-ر

The IRGC Navy said that they have passed the development stage of the UUV and are not in experimental. They are working on whether the vessel can carry a torpedo or if it will be used to attach from a depth to sink heavy vessels.

According to the official announcement, this underwater drone has a range of up to 12,000 kilometers and can be equipped with various types of weapons and sensor systems for reconnaissance operations, depending on operational needs. The cargo capacity of this submarine is 8 tons and it uses a combination of GPS receiver, inertial routing systems and sensor systems and submarine locators to understand its route.

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In discussing how to communicate with this submarine, the IRGC may have moved towards developing low frequency waves to communicate the long submarine range, which is not unattainable technology due to the relatively small area of the region and of course the long coasts of our country.