



The Three Main Missions of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran

OE Watch Commentary: The Islamic Republic of Iran has a bifurcated military structure with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and the regular army having overlapping missions. However, the IRGC is the regime's more trusted military pillar, often raising questions about whether the regular army has any main mission besides taking the secondary missions, which the IRGC passes to it. It is against this context that Army Chief Seyyed Abdolrahim Mousavi's comments, excerpted in the accompanying *Defa Press* article, are interesting.

Mousavi's visit to the 23rd Takavar Division in Parandak, about 50 miles southwest of Tehran, may have been meant as a moral boost to the regular army, but it also hinted at some problems within the military. He noted that the three main missions of the army were "improving the quality and quantity of the combat [forces], capability, and the capacity to be combat ready; spiritual and insightful excellence; and meeting the living needs [of army employees and their families]." Mousavi emphasized the need to increase combat readiness at all levels of command, an entreaty he would be less likely to make should the regular army already be combat ready. His promise to upgrade facilities also suggests that years of neglect and of the IRGC receiving the bulk of Iran's military investment are undercutting morale among Iran's non-IRGC forces. That he grounds the needs to upgrade and "beautify" facilities in a command by the "Supreme Commander-in-Chief" suggests that the problem of deteriorating facilities is serious enough that it has come to the attention of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei himself. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)**



The Islamic Republic of Iran Army on Parade in Zahedan, April 2016.

Source: Tasnim News, <https://newsmedia.tasnimnews.com/Tasnim/Uploaded/Image/1395/01/29/139501291300051897529714.jpg>

“Improving combat readiness... is the task of all levels of command.”

Source: “Seh Mamoriyat-e Asli Artesh-e Jomhuri-ye Islami Iran (Three Main Missions of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran),” *Defa Press*, 31 May 2020. <https://defapress.ir/fa/news/399130>

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The Commander-in-Chief of the Army said: “Improving the quality and quantity of the combat [forces], capability, and the capacity to be combat ready; spiritual and insightful excellence and meeting the living needs are our three main missions, which should be taken care of in all categories.”

According to the Defa Press media group, Major General Seyyed Abdolrahim Mousavi, commander-in-chief of the Army, visited the operational base of the 23rd Ranger Division and assessed the combat capabilities of 223 special forces and 123 offensive mobile units in the Ground Forces. He said: “Let’s do our best to observe justice and ask God Almighty to give us the ability to implement and serve justice.”

He further talked about the improvement in the combat capability and spiritual readiness and insight and added that, “Improving combat capability both in terms of quality and quantity and in proportion to the mission and threats is on our permanent agenda.” Improving combat readiness means keeping and preparing what we have in the best way and using it in the best way; this is the task of all levels of command.

Major General Mousavi said: “Spiritual and insightful excellence are two powerful wings for culminating and correctly recognizing the path and goal that all employees and their families are subject to this command.”

The commander-in-chief of the army also stressed the need to beautify organizational premises and remove the antiquity from the faces of houses and barracks: the issue of beautification is one of the orders of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief and should be a priority.