



## Iran's IRGC Navy Unveils 3rd Khordad Defense System

**OE Watch Commentary:** On 20 June, Iran's IRGC-Navy unveiled a new defense system, coinciding with the one-year anniversary of Iran downing a US drone over the Strait of Hormuz. According to the accompanying excerpt from *Fars News*, the new defense system – 3rd Khordad – is located on IRGC-N vessel Shahid Siavash. The indigenous system is capable of target lock and missile firing from a moving frigate. The article further states that the defense system can engage and intercept four active targets and can be used for countering tactical and strategic aircraft, helicopters, cruise missiles, and UAVs, and can also shoot down its targets under electronic warfare conditions.



IRGC-N vessel with 3rd Khordad system.

Source: Fars News, <https://www.farsnews.ir/news/13990329000724/> ری‌واصت-راشتن-اداد-خ-موس-ی-دن فادپ-ه نام اس-ی-ی ای رد-ه خ س ن-ز-ای-ی ام نور

According to another Iranian news outlet, *Mashregh News*, a full development of the 3rd Khordad defense system sea model is being prepared for other IRGC vessels. The article relates that the increase in air defense capability in medium to high altitude and at high altitude is necessary for Iran's national security. The 3rd Khordad system can use missiles such as the Saed-2 and 3 and, according to the article, this development is an important event in the country's defense field to increase deterrence and for times of conflict.

A vessel and air-defense system analysis suggest that the Shahid Siavash and Khordad integration is derived from the placement of a mobile ground-to-air missile launcher parked on the aft section of a Revolutionary Guard logistics vessel. While this improvised 'new defense system' may primarily fulfill propaganda narratives, it does indicate the creativity of the Iranian regime and its willingness to explore cross-domain weapons systems modularity. The validity of the claim of moving vessel system target lock and firing is unknown, however, given the standard static launch protocols of the Khordad system and the lack of a wake behind the Shahid Siavash while firing (based on the imagery reviewed), it is suspect. **End OE Watch Commentary (Bunker/Keshavarz)**

***“The 3rd Khordad defense system can fire Taer-2 missiles, which are also indigenous, and mass produced. It can also launch Saed-2 missiles with a range of 75 kilometers. The system has the ability to engage simultaneously with four targets, including tactical and strategic aircraft, helicopters, cruise missiles, and UAVs.”***

**Source:** “Roonamahi az noskhe darya-ee samane padafandee sevom Khordad/enteshar tasaveer khat toleed baraye nokhosteen bar (Unveiling of a sea version of defense system third Khordad/publishing pictures of the production line for the first time),” *Fars News*, 20 June 2020.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/news/13990329000724/> طخ-ری‌واصت-راشتن-اداد-خ-موس-ی-دن فادپ-ه نام اس-ی-ی ای رد-ه خ س ن-ز-ای-ی ام نور

*The system, which was unveiled for the first time during the Supreme Commander-in-*

*Chief's visit to the IRGC Air Force Exhibition, has the ability to engage four targets simultaneously, and its mission is to counter tactical and strategic aircraft, helicopters, cruise missiles and UAVs.*

*It is worth mentioning that last year, Sardar Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the IRGC Air Force, announced in a televised interview that the defense system was designed and built. It destroys.*

*The Tayer-2 missile, which is the main missile of the 3rd of Khordad defense system, has also been developed by the IRGC Air Force and has been mass-produced. In addition to Tayer-2, the 3rd of Khordad system is capable of firing Sayad-2C missiles with a range of 75 km.*

**Source:** “Cherah Amrika do bar be shanavar ‘shahid siavash’ nazdeek shodand? (Why did Americans approach ‘Shaid Siavash’ twice?),”

*Mashregh News*, 20 June 2020. <https://www.mashreghnews.ir/news/1085399/> دن‌دش-کی‌دزن-یش‌وای‌س-دی‌هش-روان‌ش-ه‌ب-ر‌اب-۲-اه-ی-ی‌اکی‌رم‌آ-ر‌چ

*A full development of the 3rd Khordad defense system sea model is being prepared for IRGC Navy vessels.*

*The increase in air defense capability in medium to high altitude is due to the success of Saed-2 and Saed-3 and others. The 3rd Khordad is important to the country's defense both for current conflicts to increase deterrence and in times of future conflict.*