



Iran: Advancement in Radar is the Basis for Deterring against Threats

OE Watch Commentary: The excerpted article from *Defa News*, the official news site of the Iranian Ministry of Defense, reports on the highlights of a radar symposium at Malek Ashtar University. While University President Aboutaleb Shafqat spoke about the importance of radar technology and Deputy Minister of Defense Ghasem Taghizadeh described radar as a first line of defense and deterrence, the true relevance of the article is to illustrate the close relationship between the Defense Ministry and universities.

During the conference, Taghizadeh praised Malek Ashtar University of Technology not only for its “very important role” in converting the theoretical to military reality, but also for creating a pipeline from the university into the Defense Ministry and its various industrial centers. This is illustrated by his comment that “the average age of our scientists in the field of radar is about 32 years-old.”

Malek Ashtar University of Technology is only one of several military universities. Imam Hussein University in Tehran, for example, coordinates closely with the Ministry of Defense, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, and the Ministry of Science and Technology. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps also operates Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences in Tehran. That the military runs universities not only for graduate but also undergraduate programs suggests that it actively recruits secondary school students, assesses their aptitude, and channels them into specific programs. The mechanism for this is likely the afterschool programs operated by local chapters of the Basij paramilitary.

Beyond immediate references to augmenting the range and utility of Iran’s radar, Taghizadeh spoke about a desire to develop space-based radar arrays, and Shafqat argued that radar is insufficient to identify the broad array of enemy attacks given the role he argues that cyber-attacks and social media play in enemy strategy. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)**

“The enemy’s battle with the Islamic Republic is multifaceted.”



Malek Ashtar University of Technology, an affiliate of the Ministry of Defense.

Source: Malek Ashtar University of Technology, <http://www.mut.ac.ir/gallery/74.jpg>

Source: “Ertaqa-ye Ilmi dar Hawzeh-e Radar Bestarsaz Eyjad-e Bazdarandgi dar Barabar Tahidat Ast (Scientific Advancement in the Field of Radar is the Basis for Creating Deterrence against Threats),” *Defa News*, 21 November 2020. <http://www.defanews.ir/news/رد-ی-علمی-ع-ی-ا-ق-ت-را>
ت-س-ا-ت-ا-د-ی-د-ه-ت-ر-ب-ا-ر-ب-ر-د-ی-گ-د-ن-ر-ا-د-ز-ا-ب-ا-ج-ی-ا-ز-ا-س-ر-ت-س-ب-ر-ا-د-ا-ر-ه-ز-و-ح

Aboutaleb Shafqat emphasized the importance of scientific growth in the field of strategic sciences, and said, “Scientific advances in equipment is a bedrock to create deterrence against threats.” According to public relations department of the Ministry of Defense, Dr. Aboutaleb Shafqat, president of Malek Ashtar University of Technology, said at the 7th Conference on Radar and Surveillance Systems, which was held in the conference hall of the university, “What is more important for us is the scientific presence in this conference.” It leads to the acquisition and absorption of scientific findings and the insertion of research in this field. He added, “The radar field is one of the technologies that is very effective in producing security because guarding and monitoring of the country’s air and land borders are done with these systems.” The President of Malek Ashtar University of Technology, emphasizing the importance of upgrading the country in the fields of cognitive, cyber and equipment battles, said, “Today, the enemy’s battle with the Islamic Republic is multifaceted, one of which is the battle for technology....” Emphasizing the importance of the growth of the scientific level in the field of strategic sciences, he said, “Another aspect of the enemies’ battle with the Islamic Republic is the cyber battle and social networks and channels and we must raise the scientific level in all dimensions [to counter this].”