



Iran: Enemies Will Be Destroyed with Missile Power

OE Watch Commentary: The Iranian military has made its missile program a pillar of its asymmetrical warfare program. While Iranian small boats and unmanned aerial vehicles can counter adversaries at short and medium ranges, Iran's vulnerability has long been confronting adversaries operating outside the range of its boats and planes. Crudely put, while U.S. or other aircraft carriers operating in the Persian Gulf might be vulnerable to various Iranian platforms, the same aircraft carriers operating in the northern Indian Ocean would effectively be immune from Iranian attack simply because they were out-of-range. Iran's missile program may slowly be eroding the immunity born of distance, however.

In the excerpted article from *Mashregh News*, an outlet close to Iran's intelligence and security apparatus, Mohammad Bagheri, chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces, announces the latest iteration of annual military exercises. The exercises included the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' successful launch of missiles at targets more than 1100 miles away in the northern Indian Ocean. However, while Iranian television showed footage of both the launch and the alleged destruction of targets, the Iranian press often doctors or misrepresents coverage to exaggerate success or cover up failure. Nevertheless, the missile test does elucidate an increasingly important element of Iranian deterrence, one Bagheri underlined when he threatened to use Iran's evolving missile power to strike not only at an adversary's naval ships, but also its maritime trade. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)**



A Missile Launch During the Great Prophet-15 Exercises.
Source: Mizan Online, https://www.mizanonline.com/files/fa/news/1399/10/27/2938354_122.jpg

“They have maritime trade which can targeted and destroyed by missiles.”

Source: “Entekhab-e Ahdaf Razmayesh Payambar ‘Azam-15 dar ‘Amagh 1500-kilometer Aghiyanos-e Hind Mo’anandar Ast” (The Choice of Targets in the Great Prophet-15 Exercises 1800 Kilometers Away in the Indian Ocean is Significant), *Mashregh News* (outlet close to Iran's intelligence and security apparatus), 16 January 2021. <https://www.mashreghnews.ir/news/1168797>

Major General Mohammad Bagheri, chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces, spoke on the sidelines of the final stage of the 15th Great Prophet Exercises of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which were held in the general region of the central desert of Iran, and said: “The exercises of the past 15 days and the upcoming five days, which are intensive and almost conducted almost simultaneously, show the extraordinary readiness of the armed forces in all dimensions of land, air, sea and air and missile defense.”

...General Bagheri described the choice of targets at a distance of more than 1,800 kilometers south of the Oman Sea and in the Indian Ocean as meaningful and said, “If the enemies of Iran have malicious intent toward our national interests, they have maritime trade which can targeted and destroyed by missiles.... Although we do not intend to carry out any attack, if the adversary acts with bad intentions towards our country, he will be attacked with Iran's missile power in the shortest time possible.”