



Iran Unveils New Bahman Radar System

OE Watch Commentary: The Iranian military increasingly worries about its air defenses, especially against the near impunity with which Israel often launches airstrikes on Syrian government, Iranian military, or Iranian proxy targets inside Syria. After all, if Israeli jets can penetrate Syrian airspace without detection or triggering air defense countermeasures, could they do the same against targets inside Iran? As the Iranian government ratchets up its nuclear program, the possibility of an Israeli airstrike on Iran also increases. That the Iranian government made the Air Defense Force a separate service in 2008 rather than a subordinate part of the Air Force shows its importance within the Iranian military hierarchy.



Iran's New Bahman Radar System.

Source: Roozanehnews.ir, https://roozanehnews.ir/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/13990703000701_Test_PhotoN.jpg

In the excerpted article from *Etemad*, a reformist daily, Alireza Sabahifard, commander of the Air Defense Force, announces the operation of a new passive radar system named Bahman [Avalanche]. If the Bahman performs as Sabahifard states, then it provides an advantage over more active radar both because a passive array is more difficult to jam and because such a system is less vulnerable to anti-radiation missiles. Sabahifard claimed that the radar could detect ordinary fighters and drones when they were close to 100 miles away and track stealth targets at slightly over half that distance. He also said that an associated missile defense system could intercept ordinary aircraft at 80 miles and stealth aircraft at 30 miles, engaging six targets simultaneously.

While the Iranian military leadership often exaggerates its capabilities, it has shown itself successful against American drones. And while Iranian leaders brag about the indigenous nature of their systems, the growing Iranian military alliance with Russia and perhaps China raises the possibility that one or both countries would help Iran enhance its systems to better defend itself against the United States or its allies. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)**

“It can detect and identify all sorts of conventional aircraft and small objects such as UAVs”

Source: “Samaneh Radari Bahman Cheh Khasusiyati Darad? (What are the Features of the Bahman Radar System?).” *Etemad* (Iranian reformist daily news outlet), 20 February 2021. <https://etemadonline.com/content/466127>

What are the Features of the New Bahman Radar System?

Amir Alireza Sabahifard, commander of the Air Defense Forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said this morning, Saturday 20 February, at the unveiling ceremony of the new achievements of the Army Air Defense Self-Sufficiency Research and Jihad Organization: In a year that the Supreme Leader has named ‘the year of leaping ahead in production’ The army air defense force has been able to design and operate more than 20 projects with its internal strength and its young scientists. The projects that we could have publicized have been introduced to the people and the media, and a number of them that could not be publicized have been provided to the Air Defense Force. He continued: “One of the projects that was unveiled today is called Bahman Radar System, and there has been nothing else like it seen anywhere in the world.” One of the characteristics of the Bahman radar system is that it is passive, and it can detect and identify all sorts of conventional aircraft and small objects such as UAVs and small birds.

The commander of the Army Air Defense Force said, “We can put this system into operation from today.” This project has been carried out with the support of Sorena Sattari, vice president for Science and Technology, who is the son of the martyred Major General Mansour Sattari. He continued: “The next project is a mobile operating room, which is present in all battlefields and critical situations such as floods and earthquakes....”