



Iran: Admiral Fadavi Selected as Revolutionary Guards Deputy

OE Watch Commentary: On 21 April 2019, Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei announced the appointment of Major General Hossein Salami to be the new commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), replacing Mohammad Ali Jafari who had held the position for 12 years. The 59-year-old Salami was a long-time head of the staff college, operations deputy for the joint staff, and a former head of the IRGC Air Force. While Salami has held many portfolios, his past positions have largely been more theoretical and bureaucratic than operational. He is best known in Iran and the West for his fiery and often threatening rhetoric.

According to the excerpted article from the *Fars News Agency*, an outlet close to the IRGC and which often covers military matters, Khamenei has appointed Ali Fadavi to fill Salami's critical deputy position. This can be very important to the operational environment, largely because Fadavi was the head of the IRGC-Navy until recently, and his decade at this position saw a marked increase in confrontation toward the United States and other Western powers. It was Fadavi, for example, who oversaw the detention of American sailors off Farsi Island in January 2016. Fadavi has repeatedly spoken about probing American weaknesses and has also overseen the development of suicide drone boats. His threats and statements tend to be more understated than Salami's but also more substantive. If Fadavi is now Salami's deputy, it suggests that the IRGC may take a far more aggressive posture toward the United States and its allies, on both land and sea. As Fadavi is still relatively young by Islamic Republic standards at age 58, his appointment to be IRGC deputy could signal Khamenei considering him for the top IRGC spot in the near future. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)**



Admiral Sardar Ali Fadavi.

Source: Tasnim News Agency via Wikimedia, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sardar_Ali_Fadavi_by_Mbazri_02.jpg, CC BY 4.0

“We needed somebody...who could surprise the enemy.”

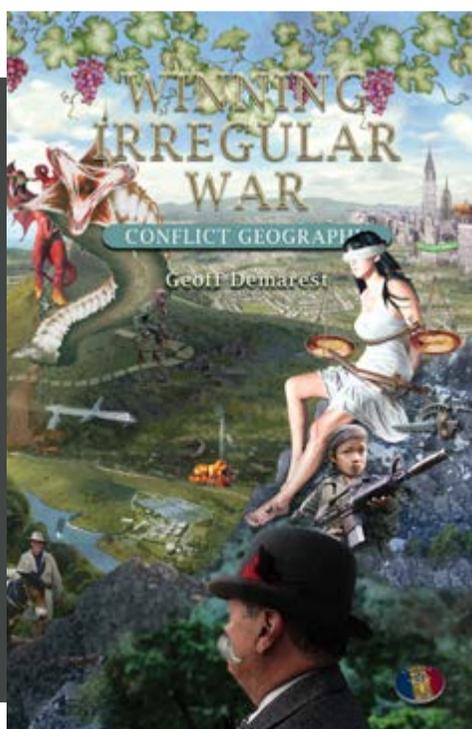
Source: “Sardar Shirazi: Sardar Fadavi ba Tawjeh beh Savabegh ‘Amiliyati Ziad dar Niru-ye Daryaye baraye Janshini Sepah Entekhab Shod (General Shirazi: Admiral Fadavi, Because of His High Operational Record in the [IRGC] Navy, is Selected as Successor),” *Fars News Agency*, 19 May 2019. <https://www.farsnews.com/printnews/13980229000200>

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On a farewell occasion and at the introduction of the new deputy of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps [IRGC], Brigadier General Mohammad Shirazi, head of the Supreme Leader's military office, noted: “The work and mission of the IRGC is jihadi and revolutionary, and so under the commander of all of IRGC, we needed somebody hardworking and operational. Commander Fadavi was our choice because of his record in the navy.

He continued: “The progressive development of the IRGC's powerful missions... is happening as our enemy is in decline. We needed someone to take command who could surprise the enemy, and so the new commander appointment will hurt the enemy.

General Shirazi said: “For the IRGC to be able to fulfill its duty, it needs to have strong headquarters....”



Geoff Demarest's *Winning Irregular War* is about a broader set of conflicts than just 'insurgency.' In its 144 sections, Geoff Demarest uses a distinct, reconciled, more effective strategic grammar that draws on the disciplines of law and geography over political science. As Geoff Demarest puts it: “I hope that some of the ideas in it will be contagious.”

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