



# PROPHETIC TIMES

Weekly World News Briefs

January, 1998

April 13,, 2019

## Iran's Military Vows to 'Spare No Effort' to Fight 'Terrorist' U.S. Army

*April 11, 2019* Breitbart.com reported: "The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Iran, the highest-ranking branch of the nation's military, issued a statement vowing to 'spare no effort' in fighting the U.S. military on Tuesday, suggesting the potential of a planned attack against Washington.

Like other branches of the Iranian government and military, the General Staff referred to U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) as a 'terrorist' group, a response to the declaration by the U.S. State Department on Monday that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) would join the agency's list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) for its decades of involvement in terrorist activity worldwide. The Iranian Islamic regime rapidly responded to the declaration – the first of its kind against a state actor – by reciprocally branding the U.S. military a terrorist group.

'The General Staff will spare no effort in supporting the IRGC's counter-terrorism measures in fighting the terrorist CENTCOM,' a statement from the agency read, according to Iran's state-run Press TV outlet. 'A review of criminal and bloodthirsty America's adventurist actions in the region over the past several decades proves the fact that Washington wastes no effort towards destabilizing the West Asia region as a means of creating a comfort zone for the infanticidal Zionist regime [of Israel].'..."

## Battle for space more stealth than Star Wars

*April 10, 2019* spacedaily.com reported: "At tens of thousands of kilometers above the Earth, a Russian satellite slowly approached the French-Italian satellite Athena-Fidus in October 2017, a move France later denounced as "an act of espionage."

What is less widely known is that just a few days before that, the same Russian satellite -- known as Luch or Olymp-K -- had been approached by an American military satellite named GSSAP, which came to within 10 kilometers (six miles) of it.

Since 2010, China has also demonstrated an ability to pilot satellites to approach designated targets. These discreet maneuvers are just the most real sign of the militarization of space, several US experts told AFP.

The United States, Russia and China are certainly capable of destroying enemy satellites using missiles, and probably by deliberate collision too. They may also be developing lasers to blind or damage satellites.

But none of these types of attacks have ever happened in the six decades that humans have been venturing into space. The real space war is about jamming, hacking and cyber means, rather than blowing things up in orbit.

"It's not an immediate collision threat," said Brian Weeden, director of program planning at Secure World Foundation, who has written a report on the movements of those satellites and other space threats.

"My sense is that all of that stuff is being done for intelligence and surveillance purposes, that those close approaches are being done to take pictures of those satellites to figure out what they're doing, or to listen in on what signals are being broadcast up to them."

One only had to see the number of US and allied uniforms this week at the 35th Space Symposium, the big get-together of the space industry in Colorado Springs, to get a sense of how much interest military leaders now have in space.

When Marty Whelan started working on military activities in space in 1984, "we put things in orbit, the hardest part was getting there. If you could get there, you were fine."

The Gulf War in 1991 was the first time the US military really integrated space tech into ground operations, mostly using GPS to guide its "smart bombs."..."

## Transgender Rights: Judge Warns Girls Have No Right to 'Visual Bodily Privacy'

*April 10, 2019* Breitbart.com reported: "A federal judge is allowing a lawsuit against transgender facilities in a school district to proceed, but warned the student-plaintiffs that, if the government allows boys who claim to be female to use the girls' bathrooms and locker rooms, then the girls have no right to 'visual bodily privacy.'

Judge Jorge Alonso of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Eastern Division is allowing a lawsuit to proceed against the school district that adopted the Obama-era transgender policy permitting boys claiming to be female to use the girls' bathrooms, showers, and locker rooms. However, the judge informed the girls, represented by Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), that, '[s]o far, the right not to be seen unclothed by the opposite sex is not on the Supreme Court's list.'..."

## U.S. to Move Fast on Hypersonic Weapons Like China, Russia – Stratcom Chief

*April 10, 2019* SpaceDaily.com reported: "Last week, Army Space and Missile Command chief Lieutenant General James Dickinson said in congressional testimony that the US armed forces were planning five test programs on hypersonic weapons systems in the Marshall Islands in the central Pacific Ocean

The United States is moving quickly to develop hypersonic weapons just as Russia and China are doing, US Strategic Command Commander Gen. John Hyten told reporters on the sidelines of a space forum in Colorado on Tuesday.

'Russia and China are going really fast in hypersonics right now, we're going to move fast to make sure we can do that,' Hyten said. The official also noted that the US had no intention to use hypersonic weapons in its nuclear deterrence force..."



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## U.S. sails massive, F-35-laden warship in disputed South China Sea

*April 9, 2019* JapanTimes.co.jp reported: “ In the latest show of military muscle in the South China Sea, the U.S. has apparently sailed its USS Wasp amphibious assault ship near a strategic reef claimed by Beijing and Manila that lies just 230 km (140 miles) from the Philippine coast.



Filipino fishermen near the site known as the Scarborough Shoal initially spotted what appeared to be the massive U.S. vessel on Tuesday, according to ABS-CBN News. It said planes were seen landing and taking off from the ship, some 5 km (3 miles) away from the fishermen’s boat. A video clip shown by the news network appeared to corroborate their account.

Contacted by The Japan Times, a U.S. military spokeswoman would not confirm or deny the Wasp’s presence near the collection of outcroppings that barely jut out above water at high tide, citing “force protection and security.” However, the spokeswoman did confirm that the Wasp “has been training with Philippine Navy ships in Subic Bay and in international waters of the South China Sea ... for several days.”

Scarborough Shoal, which is also claimed by Taiwan, is regarded as a potential powder keg in the strategic waterway. It was seized by Beijing in 2012 after an extended standoff with Manila. China later effectively blockaded the lagoon, which is rich in fish stocks, and routinely dispatches scores of fishing vessels and government-backed “maritime militia” ships to the area to continue its de facto blockade.

The Wasp was taking part in the annual Balikatan U.S.-Philippine military training exercise “that focuses on maritime security and amphibious capabilities, as well as multinational interoperability through military exchanges,” said U.S. Marine Corps Second Lt. Tori Sharpe, a spokeswoman for the exercises, adding that the exercises were “unrelated to current events.”

Still, beyond the location of the exercises, the Wasp’s presence alone in the South China Sea was likely to draw Beijing’s attention since this year’s Balikatan exercise was the first to incorporate the Wasp paired with the U.S. Marines Corps’ cutting-edge F-35B Lightning II stealth aircraft. The F-35B is the short takeoff and vertical landing variant of the aircraft.”...”

## India looks to expand space weaponry after satellite-killer test

*April 9, 2019* SpaceDaily.com reported: “The successful test of India’s brand new anti-satellite weapon last month has drawn criticism from NASA and Pakistan, but New Delhi does not plan to stop yet. The capabilities under development include directed-energy and laser weapons – arms that have been popularised by video games but have not been seen in real life yet.

India has been developing ‘space deterrence’ technologies which would be able to knock out enemy satellites, the country’s military research chief has revealed.

‘We are working on a number of technologies like DEWs (directed-energy weapons), lasers, electromagnetic pulse (EMP) and co-orbital weapons etc. I can’t divulge the details, but we are taking them forward,’ G. Satheesh Reddy, the head of India’s military R and D agency DRDO, told reporters on Saturday, according to The Times of India.

Directed-energy weapons, which today still remain experimental, generate a targeted non-lethal or lethal beam; types of DEWs include lasers, microwave weapons, sonic weapons, and particle-beam weapons...”

## Erdogan says Russia missile deal to go ahead after U.S. suspension

*April 8, 2019* SpaceDaily.com reported: “President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday vowed to go ahead with a deal to purchase Russian missiles despite Washington’s suspension of Turkey’s participation in a US jet programme because of security concerns over Russian deal.

Turkey’s agreement to buy the Russian S-400 system has further tested its relations with Washington, stoking US concern about Erdogan’s burgeoning relationship with Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

United States officials have repeatedly warned of the risks the Russian system would pose to Western defences and the lack of interoperability with NATO hardware. Relations between NATO allies US and Turkey were already on shaky ground over issues including US support to a Syrian Kurdish militia viewed by Ankara as terrorists...”

## Iran Warns ‘Idiotic’ U.S. it Will ‘Retaliate’ if Republican Guards Designated as Terrorists

*April 7, 2019* Breitbart.com reported: “If Washington designates Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) as terrorists then Tehran will immediately retaliate in kind, a majority of Iranian parliamentarians said on Sunday.



The United States is expected to designate the Revolutionary Guards a foreign terrorist organization, according to Reuters, marking the first time Washington has formally labeled another country’s military a terrorist group. This has prompted an immediate response by 255 out of the 290 Iranian lawmakers, the domestic IRNA news agency reported. They said:

We will answer any action taken against this force with a reciprocal action. So the leaders of America, who themselves are the creators and supporters of terrorists in the (Middle East) region, will regret this inappropriate and idiotic action.”...”

## Philippines’ Duterte warns China to back off disputed island

*April 5, 2019* SpaceDaily.com reported: “Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has warned Beijing to back off from a disputed island in the South China Sea, warning of possible military action if China ‘touches’ it amid rising tensions over the key waterway. Duterte, aiming to attract trade and investment from the Asian superpower, has mostly withheld his early criticism of Beijing’s expansive claims to the sea — a point of regional contention because trillions of dollars of goods pass through it.

But as the Philippine military warned this week that hundreds of Chinese coast guard and fishing vessels had ‘swarmed’ the Manila-held Pag-asa island, also known as Thitu, the Philippine president spoke out late Thursday.

‘I will not plead or beg, but I am just telling you that lay off the Pag-asa because I have soldiers there,’ Duterte said in speech to prosecutors.

‘If you touch it, that’s another story. Then I will tell my soldiers ‘prepare for suicide missions’, he added...”