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**UNCLASSIFIED REPORT ON  
MILITARY POWER OF IRAN  
April 2010**

**Congressionally Directed Action (CDA) – Military Power of Iran**

Section 1245 of the Fiscal Year National Defense Authorization Act requires the Secretary of Defense to submit an unclassified and classified report to Congress on the current and future military strategy of Iran. Below is the unclassified report in response to the congressional direction.

**Goals of Iranian Strategy**

Since the revolution, Iran's first priority has consistently remained the survival of the regime. Iran also seeks to become the strongest and most influential country in the Middle East and to influence world affairs. The theocratic leadership's ideological goal is to be able to export its theocratic form of government, its version of Shia Islam, and stand up for the "oppressed" according to their religious interpretations of the law. In recent years, Iran's ideological goals have taken a back seat to pragmatic considerations.

To ensure regime survival, Iran's security strategy is based first on deterring an attack. For years it has publicly discussed its "20-Million Man Army" and its asymmetric warfare doctrine as deterrents to any would-be invader. Iran has also extended its outreach and support to governments and dissident groups that oppose U.S. interests. Diplomacy, economic leverage, soft power, and active sponsorship of terrorist and paramilitary groups are tools Iran uses to drive its aggressive foreign policy. In particular, it uses terrorism to pressure or intimidate other countries and more broadly to leverage it as a strategic deterrent. The most notable example of this strategy includes Iran's support for Lebanese Hizballah as well as its influence over proxy groups in Iraq.

Iran's military strategy is designed to defend against external or "hard" threats from the United States and Israel. Iran's principles of military strategy include deterrence, asymmetrical retaliation, and attrition warfare. Iran's nuclear program and its willingness to keep open the possibility of developing nuclear weapons is a central part of its deterrent strategy. Iran can conduct limited offensive operations with its strategic ballistic missile program and improved naval forces.

**Trends in Iranian Strategy**

According to press statements, Iran's 20 year outlook plan (2005-2025) provides the framework for the policies of the 5 year plan (2010-2015) and seeks to make Iran a "top regional power." Among other objectives, the 5 year plan seeks to expand bilateral, regional, and international relations, strengthen Iran's ties with friendly states, and enhance Iran's defense and deterrent capabilities.

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**Iranian Nuclear Weapons Capabilities and Developments**

Iran is developing technological capabilities applicable to nuclear weapons and, at a minimum, is keeping open the option to develop nuclear weapons, if it chooses to do so. Iran continues its uranium enrichment and heavy water nuclear reactor activities in violation of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions and also continues to develop ballistic missiles which could be adapted to deliver nuclear weapons.

Iran has installed over 8,000 centrifuges at Natanz and accumulated more than enough low enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon, if further enriched and processed. However, according to the IAEA, Iran also appears to be experiencing some problems at Natanz and is only operating about half of the installed centrifuges, which constrains its ability to produce larger quantities of low-enriched uranium.

For several years, Iran has been constructing an underground enrichment facility near Qom, and has stated it intends to begin enrichment operations there in 2011. Iran has been building this facility in contravention of U.N. resolutions and in violation of its international nuclear safeguards obligations.

Tehran has also refused to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency's requests for access to facilities, documents, and personnel as part of its investigation of Iran's past nuclear weapons-related work. Iran's nuclear activities and related lack of openness with the international community pose a significant threat to the peace and stability of the Middle East.

Iran has gone to lengths to protect its nuclear infrastructure from physical destruction and has placed an emphasis on a number of factors to include locating facilities in buried, hardened facilities and is attempting to acquire sophisticated air defense systems, like the Russian S300, to be installed at nuclear installations.

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**Iranian Missile Capabilities**

**Ballistic Missiles**

Regular Iranian ballistic missile training continues throughout the country. Iran continues to develop ballistic missiles that can range regional adversaries, Israel, and central Europe, including Iranian claims of an extended-range variant of the Shahab-3 and a 2,000-km medium range ballistic missile (MRBM), the Ashura. Beyond the steady growth in its missile and rocket inventories, Iran has boosted the lethality and effectiveness of existing systems with accuracy improvements and new sub-munition payloads.

<b>Missile</b>	<b>Deployed</b>	<b>Range (mi)</b>	<b>Propellant Type</b>	<b>Deployment Mode</b>
Tondar	Yes	93	1 <sup>st</sup> Solid / 2 <sup>nd</sup> Liquid	Road-Mobile
Fateh-110	Yes	120+	Solid	Road-Mobile
Shahab 1	Yes	185	Liquid	Road-Mobile
Shahab 2	Yes	310	Liquid	Road-Mobile
Shahab 3	Yes	800	Liquid	Road-Mobile
Shahab 3 Variant	Possibly	1200+	Liquid	Road-Mobile
Sejil MRBM	No	1200+	Solid	Undetermined

**Iranian Ballistic Missiles**

With sufficient foreign assistance, Iran could probably develop and test an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of reaching the United States by 2015. Iran could also have an intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) capable of threatening Europe. In late 2008 and early 2009, Iran launched the Safir, a multi-stage space launch vehicle, which indicates progress in some technologies relevant to ICBMs.

Over the past two decades, Iran has placed a significant emphasis on developing and fielding ballistic missiles to counter perceived threats from Israel and coalition forces in the Middle East and to project power in the region. Iran actively began acquisition and production programs in the 1980s during the Iran-Iraq war to address its inability to counter Iraqi missile attacks. In developing and expanding its missile program, Iran has received assistance from North Korea and China. At present, Iran is assessed to have the largest deployed ballistic missile force in the Middle East with approximately 1000 missiles that range from 90–1200 miles. To demonstrate its missile capabilities; Iran has conducted a total of four highly publicized exercises (“Noble Prophet”), since 2006.

Short-range ballistic missiles provide Tehran with an effective mobile capability to strike coalition forces in the region. Iran continues to improve the survivability of these systems through technological advances, such as solid-propellant and the use of anti-missile defense tactics.

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Iran has also developed medium-range ballistic missiles to target Israel and continues to increase the range, lethality, and accuracy of these systems. For example, the Shahab 3, based on the North Korean No Dong, can reach all of Israel. The Ashura or "Sejil" is an indigenous, two-stage missile that is in development. It uses solid-propellant technology, which reduces the launch preparation time and footprint.

### **Cruise Missiles**

Coastal defense cruise missiles (CDCMs) are an important layer in Iran's defense of or denial of access to the Gulf and Strait of Hormuz. Iran can attack targeted ships with anti-ship cruise missiles (ASCMs) from its own shores, islands, and oil platforms using relatively small mobile launchers.

The C801/802 is Iran's primary CDCM, first imported from China in 1995. The C801/802 is capable of engaging targets at a range of six nautical miles, and has greater accuracy, a lower cruising altitude, and a faster set-up time than the Seersucker missile Iran used during the Iran-Iraq War. The C801/802 allows Iran to target any point within the Strait of Hormuz and much of the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. Iran has also worked with China to develop shorter range missiles, including the C701, for deployment in narrow geographic environments.

Iran can readily deploy its mobile CDCM launchers anywhere along its coast. These systems have auto control and radar homing guidance systems, and some can target using a remote air link. Mobile CDCMs, combined with multiple rocket launchers (MRLs), coastal artillery, and ballistic missiles, Iran hopes to overwhelm enemy air defenses.

### **Iranian Funding for Nuclear Weapons and Ballistic Missiles**

We have no information on Iran's missile funding nuclear or weapons program budget.