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## Iran Starts Production of Stealth Fighter Jets

**TEHRAN (FNA)-** Iran's Air Force chief announced that the Islamic Republic has successfully launched the production line of radar-evading "stealth" fighter jets.



Brigadier General Ahmad Mighani was quoted by press tv as saying Tuesday that the new jets would significantly enhance the Air Force's combat and defensive capabilities.

Iran has recently started manufacturing superior "Quick Reaction" tanks to increase its defense self-sufficiency.

Iran has also developed an electro-optical surveillance system that acts as a viable alternative when radars fail to cover a particular range.

"We have upgraded our air force fleet, radar-systems, and missile systems over the past few years and we are now ready to counter any threat," Brig. Gen. Mighani continued.

He added that the Iranian Air Force would prove its dominance by immediately crushing anyone who dares to try and penetrate Iran's airspace.

Washington and Tel Aviv accuse Tehran of pursuing a military nuclear program and threaten Iran with the use of military force if the Islamic Republic continues with its nuclear enrichment program.

Tehran insists its nuclear program is aimed at generating electricity and is in line with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The most recent UN nuclear watchdog report concluded that there is no link between the use of nuclear material and the 'alleged studies' of weaponization attributed to Iran by Western countries.

Despite the rules enshrined in the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) entitling every member state, including Iran, to the right of uranium enrichment, Tehran is now under three rounds of UN Security Council sanctions for turning down West's illegitimate calls to give up its right of enrichment.

Tehran has dismissed West's demands as politically tainted and illogical, stressing that sanctions and pressures merely consolidate Iranians' national resolve to continue the path.

Meantime, the commander said that the Air Force plans to hold a large-scale exercise to strengthen deterrence against any threats.

Mighani said that the combat and defensive drills will be held in the near future.

Iran last week tested missiles in the oil-rich Persian Gulf, including one which could reach Israel and US bases in the Middle East.

Israel, long assumed to have its own atomic arsenal, has sworn to prevent Iran from making progress in the field of nuclear technology.

The Iranian war games and missile tests are viewed as a strong response to heightened threats by the Zionist regime and the United States.

Speculation that Israel could bomb Iran has mounted since a big Israeli air drill last month.

In the first week of June, 100 Israeli F-16 and F-15 fighters reportedly took part in an exercise over the eastern Mediterranean and Greece, which was interpreted as a dress rehearsal for a possible attack on Iran's nuclear installations.

Iran has responded by saying it will strike back at Tel Aviv, as well as US interests and shipping, if it is hit.

Some US facilities across the Persian Gulf are little more than 200 km (124 miles) from Iran's coast, with air and naval bases in nearby Arab states such as Qatar and Bahrain.