

## 'We are not in the habit of warning more than once': Iran tells U.S. not to send aircraft carrier back to gulf after missile test

- **USS John C. Stennis sailed through Strait of Hormuz last week on 'routine' passage**
- **10 days of naval exercises staged by Iran in Persian Gulf, including test-firing of anti-ship missiles**
- **Tehran threatens to shut strait and block shipping of crude oil**

By [Wil Longbottom](#)

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Iran has threatened to take action if a U.S. aircraft carrier returns to the Persian Gulf.

The USS John C. Stennis, along with another vessel, left the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz last week after Iran launched a series of military exercises.

Tehran has also threatened shutting the strait - through which 40 per cent of the world's traded oil is shipped - if foreign powers impose sanctions on its crude exports.

**Scroll down for video**



**Bravado:** A medium-range missile is fired from a ship during Velayat-90 war game in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday



Warning: This anti-ship missile can be seen streaking through the sky. Iran today warned the U.S. not to return an aircraft carrier to the Gulf

Speaking at the end of 10 days of naval exercises today, General Ataollah Salehi said: 'Iran will not repeat its warning... the enemy's carrier has been moved to the Sea of Oman because of our drill.

'I advise, recommend and warn them [the Americans] over the return of this carrier to the Persian Gulf because we are not in the habit of warning more than once.'

Gen Salehi did not name the vessel, or give details of the action Iran would take if it does return.



Force: The Nimitz-class USS John C. Stennis aircraft carrier sailed through the Strait of Hormutz last week after visiting Jebel Ali port in Dubai

The USS John C. Stennis is one of the U.S. Navy's largest vessels.

It had been on a 'routine' passage through the Gulf after visiting Dubai's Jebel Ali port last Tuesday.

Iran has staged a series of naval exercises at the mouth of the Gulf, including the test-firing of three missiles designed to sink warships and 'mock' drills on shutting the strategic waterway.



**Security:** A long-range Qader shore-to-sea missile is launched during military exercises. Tehran has promised to respond if the USS John C. Stennis returns



**Concerns:** The missile disappears in a plume of fire on the Sea of Oman shore. The West has become increasingly worried about Iran's nuclear programme

The U.S. keeps at least one aircraft carrier in or near the Gulf at all times, on rotations of weeks or months.

Its Fifth Fleet is based in the state of Bahrain, and has insisted it will not allow shipping to be disrupted in the strait.

It comes after mounting criticism over Iran's nuclear programme.

Tehran denies western accusations that it is secretly trying to build atomic bombs, claiming it needs nuclear technology to generate electricity.

# IRAN'S BALLISTIC MISSILES

## RANGES



## TYPES



Earlier today, French foreign minister Alain Juppe said Iran was continuing to develop nuclear weapons and called for stronger sanctions.

'Iran is pursuing the development of nuclear arms, I have no doubt about it,' he told French television I-Tele.

'The last report by the International Atomic Energy Agency is quite explicit on this point.'

The U.S. and Israel have not ruled out military action against Iran if diplomacy fails to resolve the nuclear row.

The EU is considering following the U.S. in banning imports of Iranian crude oil.

President Barack Obama signed new sanctions against the Middle East country on Saturday, stepping up the pressure by adding sanctions on financial institutions that deal with Iran's central bank.

## Video: Iranian Government-controlled news footage of missile test

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read lots about how others think the US wants war. ITS very far from the truth. We don't want it. BUT lets face it. WHO is going to put these dicators in thier place? EVERY ot her nation pulls out, rather quickly..remember libya? No one wants to spend their moiney or lives..which I dont blame them for. BUT you cannot have it both ways. So if you don't want the US to intervene, its quite easy. JUST tell us, we wont come to your aid, we wont send money, nor troops. You can do what you want. IITS really not that hard. we can and will take NO for an answer. in fact we will welcome it, since it will cost us less in lives and money. Its not so hard is it? -- get behind your anti US pols and go for it. do you really think the average US tax payer wants to suppor the world? NO WE DONT

- Mena, US, 03/1/2012 23:42

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