Can Iran Be Deterred?

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Deterrence Discussed Openly?

- Deterrence is inherently **open**
- Discussing deterrence vs. exercising it
- In this presentation –
  - No operational plan
  - **Potential** for deterring Iran
  - Paradigm
  - **Illustrative** approach
Focus on Deterrence

Deterrence distinguished from –

- Prevention
- Preemption
- Active defense
- Passive defense
- Survivability enhancement

Deterring Iran means:

Maintaining a **credible threat** on Iran to inflict on it a **damage, in case** it performs certain aggressive activities, so that the **perceived severity** of the damage causes it to **refrain** from performing such activities.
The Challenge

- Uncontrollable adversary logic
- Israel's vulnerability
- Threshold for reaction
- Multi-polar Middle East
- Attack by group, by proxy, by terrorists…
- Decisive victory = existential threat?

Extremely complex situation
– not all problems answered yet!
Required Components

- Damage specification
- Demonstration of technical capability
- Demonstration of operational capability
- Presentation of decisiveness
- Balance between credibility & uncertainty
- Preparation for outcomes

Declared goal: absolute elimination of the adversary's existence as a national entity
Iran is Vulnerable!

- Dependence on fuel import
- Significant ethnical minorities
- About half the population in 6 urban areas
- (Fear of religious extremism)
- (Limited agreement with regime's policy)

Clever targeting is needed
Iran Minorities (50%)
Deterring Nuclearization

- Strategic installations
- Firms supporting the process
- Persons –
  - Political leaders
  - Religious influential extremists
  - Technical key professionals
Second Strike Capability

- Destruction of fuel import system
- Elimination of all major sea ports
- Heavy strikes on major military assets
- Destruction of all major airports
- Incapacitation of the electricity system
- Incapacitation of telecommunication
- Elimination of 4-6 major urban centers
Iran Can Be Deterred!
Thank you
Economic Facilities
Nuclear Facilities

- Bonab
- Ramsar
- Tehran
- ARAK
- NATANZ
- ISFAHAN
- Saghond
- Yazd
- BUSHEHR

The map shows major nuclear facilities in Iran, including research reactors and uranium mines. Source: 1155/New Scientist Global Security.
Nuclear Facilities (2)

Bushehr
←
Natanz
→
Farj
↓
Ports & Fuel Terminals
Kharg Island
Military Assets
Telecommunication & Electricity
Transportation System
Major Iranian Oilfields
Supporting Efforts

- Efficient anti-ballistic missile defense
- Robust survivable deployment of second-strike capability
- Develop boost-phase-intercept systems
- Extensive & reliable intelligence system
- Comprehensive after-strike assessment
- Adequate C4I to handle the above
- Civil systems to ensure country connectivity, suitable shelter areas, population dispersal