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Iran makes a huge show of blowing up 'US aircraft carrier' in explosive TV spectacle

- More than a dozen Iranian speedboats attacked a US aircraft carrier replica
- The country's elite Revolutionary Guard carried out the televised display
- Show of force occurred near strategically vital entrance of the Persian Gulf
- The drill, named Great Prophet 9, was executed near the Strait of Hormuz
- Navy spokesman said US military was 'not concerned about this exercise'
- Drill was near where French and American ships are fighting against ISIS

By [Evan Bleier For Dailymail.com](#) and [Associated Press](#)

Published: 10:37 EST, 25 February 2015 | Updated: 14:21 EST, 25 February 2015

Iranian officials had more than a dozen speedboats attack a replica of a US aircraft carrier today and featured the large-scale naval drill on a state TV broadcast.

The nationally-televised show of force by the country's elite Revolutionary Guard occurred near the strategically vital entrance of the Persian Gulf.

The 'Great Prophet 9' drill was held near the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of the world's oil passes.

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Iranian officials had more than a dozen speedboats attack a US aircraft carrier replica on national TV today



The televised show of force by Iran's Revolutionary Guard occurred near the entrance to the Persian Gulf



Iranian state TV broadcast images of the drill, 'Great Prophet 9', being carried out near the Strait of Hormuz

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Iran's regular army carried out naval drills near the strait in December.

The staged attack comes just weeks ahead of a deadline for Iran and world powers to forge a historic deal on the fate of the Islamic Republic's nuclear program.

Iranian live-fire war games are not uncommon.

But by simulating for the first time an attack on the ultimate symbol of American naval power, hard-liners hoped to send a message that Iran has no intention of backing down to the US - whichever way talks over its contested nuclear program go.

The Guard's navy chief, Adm. Ali Fadavi, said: 'American aircraft carriers are very big ammunition depots housing a lot of missiles, rockets, torpedoes and everything else.'

He added that a direct hit by a missile could set off a large secondary explosion.

Fadavi last month boasted that his force is capable of sinking American aircraft carriers in the event of war.

He previously called carriers easy targets and said Iran naturally wants to sink them.



In addition to the carrier attack, the drill included the Guard shooting down a drone and planting mines at sea



The Revolutionary Guard said it test-fired 223 mph underwater missiles during the Great Prophet 9 drill

The Great Prophet 9 drill featured 'speedboats equipped with naval radars, electronic communications systems, cruise missiles with a range of 25 kilometers, anti-ship medium-range missiles, medium- and large-caliber torpedoes, sea mines, heavy machine guns, rocket-launchers and shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles', according to [Press TV](#) said.

The Revolutionary Guard said it test-fired 223 mph underwater missiles during the drill.

Tensions near the Strait of Hormuz have caused oil prices to spike in the past - good news for producers like Iran.

But traders seemed to take today's maneuvers in stride, with benchmark US crude dipping slightly and continuing to hover below \$50 a barrel by mid-morning.

State TV showed footage of missiles fired from the coast and the fast boats striking the carrier.

The drills also included Guard forces shooting down a drone and planting undersea mines.

Footage did not show that the assault had managed to sink the mock-up, but it was heavily damaged.

The Guard's chief commander, Gen. Mohammad Ali Jafari, indicated the drills send a 'message of [Iran's] might' to 'extraterritorial powers,' a reference to the United States.



Members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard troops rappelled down a helicopter (above) during the exercise



The drills were held close to where French and American vessels are engaged in the fight against ISIS



In a speech earlier today, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani called for all sanctions against his country to be lifted once a final nuclear accord is reached later this year

The spokesman for the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet in Bahrain, Cmdr. Kevin Stephens, said the simulated carrier attack was being monitored the US.

Stephens added the American military was 'not concerned about this exercise.'

He said: 'We're quite confident of our naval forces' ability to defend themselves.

'It seems they've attempted to destroy the equivalent of a Hollywood movie set.'

The US routinely stations at least one aircraft carrier and other warships in and around the Gulf.

It and its allies conduct periodic naval exercises of their own in the region, including ones aimed at countering the threat from undersea mines that could be used to block ship traffic through the strait.

The American aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson is currently deployed in the Gulf, as is the French carrier Charles de Gaulle.

Planes from both vessels are carrying out airstrikes against the ISIS, which has seized roughly a third of Iraq and Syria.

Iran backs Syria's government and is supporting Iraq in its fight against the militants, but it is not part of the US-led international coalition against the extremist group.

Iran mocks-up US warship then blows it out of the water



The drills were not publicly announced in advance, but the Guard has previously held similar military exercises around this time of year.

The last one, in February 2013, featured 'suicide drones' that attack enemies kamikaze-style.

The Guard, which has a 200,000-strong force, is different from the regular army and is charged with protecting the ruling system.

It also controls the paramilitary Basij militia, for which there are no precise personnel figures available.

Iran put the Guard in charge of defending the country's territorial Gulf waters in 2008 as Iran turned its attention toward beefing up its naval and air defense forces.

Iran is currently negotiating an agreement over its disputed nuclear program with the United States and five other world powers in exchange for relief from crippling economic sanctions.

The two sides hope to reach a framework agreement next month and a final deal in June.

Western nations have long suspected Iran is covertly seeking a nuclear weapons capability - charges Tehran

denies.

In a speech today in the holy city of Qom, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani called for all sanctions to be lifted once a final nuclear accord is reached.

He said: 'Our opposite negotiating party has to know that the end of these talks and the result of a deal must be lifting of the entire oppressive and illegal sanctions.'

'In the negotiations, we will not accept any imposition, humiliation or continuation of the sanctions.'



During the broadcast, missiles were fired at the mock US aircraft but it was shown as damaged, not sunk



The drills were not announced in advance, but the Guard has held similar military exercises in the past

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[Sam](#), TX, 27 minutes ago

Carriers don't travel alone, they are part of the carrier strike group and have cruisers, destroyers and frigates, and probably a submarine or two, all of it in addition to the 50 or 60 fighter jets on board. They wouldn't stand a chance

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[Cynic](#), Common Sense, United States, about an hour ago

Uh yeah, sure Iran. Now attempt that while you're little rafts attack a real aircraft carrier that is firing back with its whole arsenal? Not a chance. Your little rafts wouldn't ever get close enough before they were transformed into a floating debris field.

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[Blighty212](#), Chinatown, United Kingdom, about 2 hours ago

These people are so sad, how hard were the yanks laughing when they watched this.

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1

[Michael of NJ](#), Princeton, United States, about 3 hours ago

Seems like a strange spectacle for a nation supposedly negotiating nuclear disarmament in good faith with the United States. Can we really trust anything coming out of Tehran? Apparently, Obama, Rice and Kerry do.

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[snoopy1234](#), Downingtown, United States, about 3 hours ago

Oh wow, tug boats sink a plastic toy. This is very funny.

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[Cyrus R.](#), yorba linda, United States, about 5 hours ago

Wonder how we would feel if the Iranians parked their war ships in our gulf, but I guess Americans have the luxury of not having to see the world from other people's perspectives.



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40

[Trey Eskridge](#), Philadelphia, United States, 28 minutes ago


international waters.....lets be smart here
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[nonreligiousperson](#), wellington nz, about 6 hours ago
on national tv, and these are the people you are negotiating with regarding nuclear weapons, words fail me, pc brigade again

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[Listen to my opinion](#), Dubai, UAE, about 6 hours ago
Now for the Americans go....On ALL there ships.... At the same time!! KA-FRIGGI-BOOOOOOOM!

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 [lo6](#), Plant City, United States, about 3 hours ago
What hell are you TALKING about???

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[Trey Eskridge](#), Philadelphia, United States, 25 minutes ago
are you trying to say tha you want to blow up american ships?

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[Dreamtime in Oz](#), sydney, Australia, about 6 hours ago
How thick are the Iranians? Plenty if you look at the video.

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[Needham1982](#), London, about 6 hours ago
The phoenix defence system on all us ships would destroy all inbound misses. Lol which look really slow by the way lol. But it would also wipe out all those ships in about 2 mins. Google phoenix gun

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[Justabrake](#), New York, United States, about 7 hours ago
Teaching the next generation to hate Americans !

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