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Jan. 15, 2006 12:59 | Updated Jan. 15, 2006 17:15

Report: IAF trained for Iran attack

By JPOST.COM STAFF

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IAF pilots have completed their mission training and fighter jets have been prepared for an [Israeli attack on Iran](#), the British *Sunday Times* reported.

The article reported that "the elite 69 strategic F-15 I squadron" had been equipped with weapons that will be tested in combat for the first time, and that two missile submarines were on standby: one in the Persian Gulf and the second in Haifa Bay.

The *Times* also said that special IDF forces would be helicoptered into Iran to take out targets that could not be destroyed in an air strike.

Iran's nuclear facilities, according to the newspaper report, are widely dispersed at some 40 underground sites throughout Iran, which would make any attack by Israel - or any other nation - exponentially more difficult that Israel's successful attack on Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981.

Col. [res] Ze'ev Raz, the former IAF pilot who led the Osirak mission, was quoted by the *Times* as saying, "What we now have is a lot of targets, which makes the operation much more difficult."

Raz believes an aerial assault on Iran's nuclear facilities is possible. There are many things that the IAF has done over the past few years that the public is not aware of,



IAF F-15i squadron
 Photo: Israel Air Force web site

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and it has made many important advances in mid-air refueling. Israel can strike the Iranian nuclear program, Raz said on Israel's Channel 1 TV's *Politika* program last week.

Former IDF Deputy Chief of Staff Uzi Dayan said last week that if Iran gets nuclear weapons, then so would terror organizations, like Hizbullah. "Israel needs to be ready to act on a military option," Dayan said. "Without getting into details, Israel is capable of doing these things."

When Dayan was head of the National Security Agency, he advised the government not to allow a situation in which Israel, and the world now finds itself, with a radical regime in Tehran on the verge of attaining nuclear weapons. Dayan laid much of the blame on the United States, which allowed this to happen. "The military option does exist, but only if the international community works together. The government that arises in Israel after the elections will have to deal with this issue," he said.

Shabtai Shoval, a former operative in the Israeli intelligence community, who wrote a book that Iran will reach nuclear weapons capability by 2009, says that covert action, for example by the Mossad, is the most interesting option, but would still not stop Tehran's push for nuclear weapons.

Dr. Reuven Pedatzur, a senior lecturer at the Strategic Studies Program at Tel Aviv University, believes Israel would be making a "disastrous strategic error" if it embarked on a full-scale attack on Iran's nuclear facilities. "The military option is not relevant, we simply don't have the right amount of intelligence and information; many of the targets are buried deep under ground.


Only if the Americans decide to do it, then that option is possible," Pedatzur said last week. Pedatzur added that the day Iran gets a nuclear weapon, Israel will have no choice but to abandon its policy of nuclear ambiguity.

Amir Mizroch contributed to this report.



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63. Iranian scientists are a target

Yuri Guri - USA (01/19/2006 21:31)

62. Iran - nukes

Tom - (01/17/2006 11:32)

61. Iran

Tom - USA (01/17/2006 11:25)

60. Iran attack

archduke - Ireland (01/16/2006 23:28)

59. miller

anna - USA (01/16/2006 19:40)

58. Israel's future settlements actions.

Alan A. Grosser - USA (01/16/2006 18:51)

57. ANNOOOSH UMANUSH

CHARLEY - (01/16/2006 13:54)

56. Iran plays with what it should fear, in the first place.

Mauricio Kaplan - Brazil (01/16/2006 13:54)

55. Iran

sybil - usa (01/16/2006 12:52)

54. One way to solve the problem

ANDY - America (01/16/2006 12:38)

53. Iran

Sybil Sullins - USA (01/16/2006 12:25)

52. the hand is quicker than the eye

Charley - (01/16/2006 12:14)

51. SDI

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50. Israel The Puppet

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49. Iran- Nukes

Mr. Great Idea - There (01/16/2006 10:15)

48. David #18. Ask you buddy to explain

Anoosh - (01/16/2006 09:29)

47. Mahdi madness

Chris Adams - USA (01/16/2006 07:29)

46. Plan for He Ran

Charles - USA (01/16/2006 06:58)

45. IT'S A GO AGAINST IRAN

DEBRA - USA (01/16/2006 06:03)

44. Iran strike

TheWatchman - U.S.A. (01/16/2006 05:59)

43. To "11. Iranian Jews" Grow Up

Joe - USA (01/16/2006 05:12)

42. What are we waiting for. Attack already.

James.B - Pennsylvania, USA (01/16/2006 04:58)

41. Beppe has it right.

Alex - Canada (01/16/2006 04:38)

40. Go Get 'Em!

Debra Mc - USA (01/16/2006 03:39)

39. attack on Iran

David - Canada (01/16/2006 03:38)

38. #20. Anoosh

alechiko - (01/16/2006 03:04)

37. War has already been declared

Benjamin - (01/16/2006 02:47)

36. mistake

ali - (01/16/2006 02:31)

35. #20-Anoosh

Joyce - USA (01/16/2006 01:52)

34. Israel between a rock & hard-place

Joyce - USA (01/16/2006 01:42)

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