

## Iran holds military parade to mark 8-year war with Iraq, Shows off New Fighter Jet

Contributed by AP  
Sunday, 23 September 2007

Iran yesterday held an annual military parade in Tehran to mark an eight-year war with Iraq, displaying its new home-made "Saegheh" fighter jet and long-range missiles.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and ranking commanders of the armed forces, the elite Revolution's Guards, and the defense ministry presented in the parade which kicked off at the mausoleum of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini.

"Iran is influential in the area and the world, the world must understand that the Iranian power always prefer peace, stability, brotherhood and justice," Ahmadinejad said in his speech during the ceremony marking the 27th anniversary of the 1980-88 war.

Meanwhile, the top leader urged the US troops to withdraw from Iraq, stressing "the presence of illegitimate forces in the region is the cause of all threats."

"It would benefit themselves and the region if they leave (Iraq)," he added.

Large crowds of soldiers and military equipment marched in front of Iranian officials and foreign delegates in a show of Tehran's military and defense power, including two new "Saegheh" fighter jets and a long-range missile with a range of 1,800 km.

"Saegheh", which Iran said was home-researched, designed and built, has just been successfully testified two days ago. Iranian officials have said this new plane would join the air force during the parade.

Iran held the large military show amid growing international pressure on the country's disputed nuclear program.

Washington has never ruled out the possibility to attack Iran over Tehran's refusal to halt uranium enrichment work. However, Iran has repeatedly vowed to fight against any aggression.

A top Iranian military commander warned last Wednesday that his country would bomb Israel back if Iran was attacked by the Jewish state, which is the ally of US and considers Tehran its biggest enemy since President Ahmadinejad called an "elimination" of the Jewish country.

<http://english.eastday.com/eastday/englishedition/node20676/userobject1ai3124530.html>

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Saegheh - Just a Rebuilt F-5

{youtube}Rf1AMcJli1Y{/youtube}

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Iran Reports Test of New Fighter Jet

Thursday September 20, 2007 9:31 PM

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)- Iranian air force pilots made successful test flights Thursday in two of Iran's new domestically manufactured fighter jet, the official Islamic Republic News Agency said.

IRNA said the Saegheh jet is a new generation of the Azarakhsh class of fighter planes. Both Azarakhsh and Saegheh mean lightning in Farsi.

``The test flights of a new generation of Azarakhsh jet fighters, called the Saegheh, were completed by brave pilots from Iran's air force," Iran's defense minister, Gen. Mostafa Mohammad Najjar, was quoted as saying by IRNA. ``The two will officially join the air force on Saturday."

State television showed video of the two blue jets, each with one pilot, taking off and landing. It said the flights each lasted 15 minutes.

The jet was first tested in 2006 and is derived from re-engineered components of U.S. combat aircraft. Iran exhibited the plane last year during large-scale military exercises, claiming the Saegheh is similar to the American F-18 fighter but more powerful.

Iran said in August that it had begun industrial-scale production of the fighter as part of its efforts to become militarily self-sufficient after decades of relying on foreign weapons.

Since 1992, Iran has produced its own tanks, armored personnel carriers and missiles, the government says. It announced in early 2005 that it had begun making torpedoes.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,,-6937111,00.html>

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File Photo 1

File Photo 2 - not resemblance to the American Northrup F-5 Freedom Fighter

File Photo 3 - Senior Military Analysts with CRNews: Saegheh is just an F-5 with minor mods

File Photo 4: F-5 with twin tails, minor mods

File Photo 5

File Photo 6: Twin Tail Mod to an existing (in inventory) F-5

File Photo 7: Saegheh flying with Iranian F-5, note the distinct similarities, Saegheh is just an F-5 with minor mods.

File Photo 8: Saegheh flying with an F-5