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Attack on Iran?: Rhetoric Escalates - Evidence Mounts

The May Media Watch featured an uncovered report on a National Security Council decision on Iran. Below is a chronology which places that decision in the larger context of preparations, statements, and other decisions on U.S. intentions toward Iran that have surfaced in media reports over the past year. Rarely, do mainstream journalists gather disparate items and publish them in a chronology that provides evidence of an emerging pattern of government behavior.

- The National Security Council's "2006 Nation Security Strategy" paper names Iran as the number one threat to national security. [read the NSC paper](#)
- **On September 26, 2007**, by a vote of 76-22, the Senate passed the Lieberman-Kyl amendment, which threatens to "combat, contain and [stop]" Iran via "military instruments." Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA) called the amendment "Cheney's fondest pipe dream" and said it could "read as a backdoor method of gaining Congressional validation for military action. [Read more](#)
- **In October 2007**, Congress approved the FY 2008 Global War on Terror Amendment which included funding for Boeing to deliver by April 2008 30,000-pound bombs—the Massive Ordnance Penetrators—designed specifically to destroy alleged Iranian nuclear sites. The same amendment provided funding for Whiteman Air Force Base to begin retrofitting B-2 bombers to carry these Massive Ordnance Penetrators. [read amendment](#)
- **On March 11, 2008**, Admiral William J. Fallon, Commander of the U.S. Central Command, who declared that Iran would not be attacked on his watch, resigns. [read Washington Post article](#)
- **On March 20, 2008**, the U.S. Treasury Department issues an advisory calling for a de facto economic blockade of Iran. [read Japan Focus article](#)
- **In April 2008**, Navy personnel on US ships around Iran are placed on "alert." status. (Call for Navy officer on board one of the ships)
- **On April 9 and 10, 2008**, General David H. Petraeus's testimony before Congress is filled with references to Iran as the source of the U.S. military's problems in Iraq. Petraeus has replaced Adm. Fallon as Commander of the U.S. Central Command. [read Huffington Post article](#)
- **On April 22, 2008** in an interview on ABC's *Good Morning America*, Senator Clinton warned Tehran that if she were president, the U.S. could "totally obliterate" Iran in retaliation for a nuclear strike against Israel. [read Guardian article](#)
- **On April 29, 2008**, a second US aircraft carrier steamed into the Persian Gulf as the Pentagon ordered military commanders to develop new options for attacking Iran. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen warned Iran not to assume the U.S. military can't strike. "I have reserve capability, in particular our Navy and our Air Force, so it would be a mistake to think that we are out of combat capability," [read CBS News report](#)
- **On May 9, 2008**, Philip Giraldi, a former CIA agent, writing for the *American Conservative Magazine*, reported that two independent sources with the access to know have disclosed that the National Security Council (NSC) has agreed in principle to proceed with an attack on Iranian Revolutionary Guard bases in Iran. According to Giraldi's sources, the NSC decision in principle to attack followed a U.S. demand through a Kurdish emissary for the Iranian government to admit and cease its support for Iraqi militias and not to interfere in Lebanon. [read article](#)
- **On May 28, 2008**, the *Asia Times* reported that a retired US career diplomat and former assistant secretary of state still active in the foreign affairs community had disclosed that the Bush administration plans to launch an air strike against Iran within the next two months. Two US senators briefed on the attack planned to go public with their opposition to the move, according to the source, but their projected *New York Times* op-ed piece has yet to appear. [read Asia Times report](#)
- **A June 3, 2008**, McClatchy Newspapers article examines Senators Obama and McCain's positions on Iran and finds that, like President Bush, they are choosing to ignore the December 2007 National Intelligence Estimate, which concluded that Iran halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003. [\(read article\)](#)
- **On June 3, 2008**, speaking before the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice accused Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons and calling any dialogue with its leaders pointless until Iran suspends enrichment of uranium. [Read New York Times article](#)