



NATIONAL COUNCIL ON  
U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS

The views expressed are solely those of the author and do not represent official US Government policy.

# The Iranian Way of (Near) War

Professor DB Des Roches

[david.desroches@ndu.edu](mailto:david.desroches@ndu.edu)

[www.facebook.com/dbdesroches](https://www.facebook.com/dbdesroches)

 @DBDesRoches

28 June 2019



# How Does Iran Fight?

DISRUPTION not  
Dominance

Proxy Attacks

Disrupt Shipping

Take Hostages

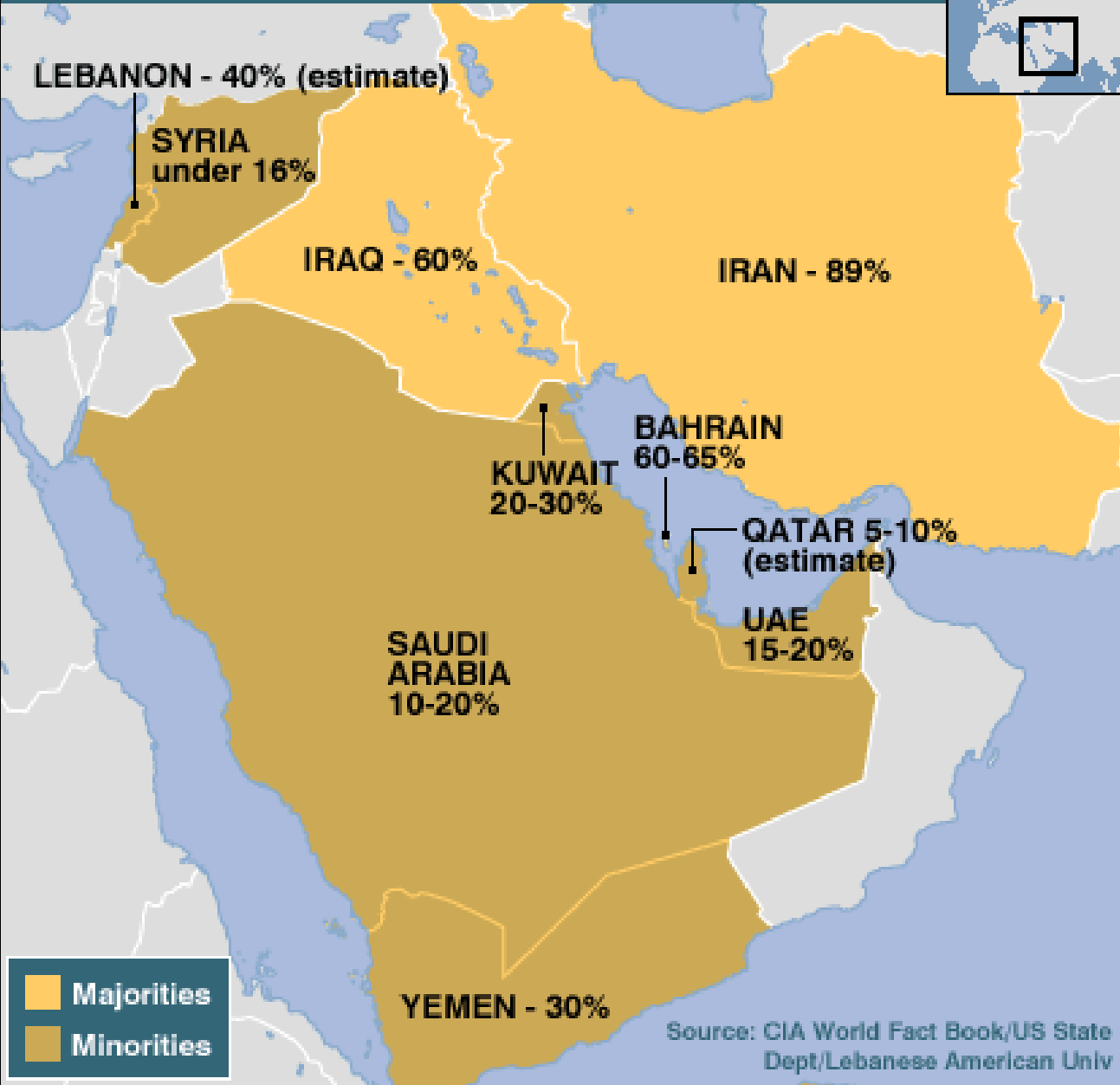


The Arab Gulf States  
Institute in Washington  
Building bridges of understanding



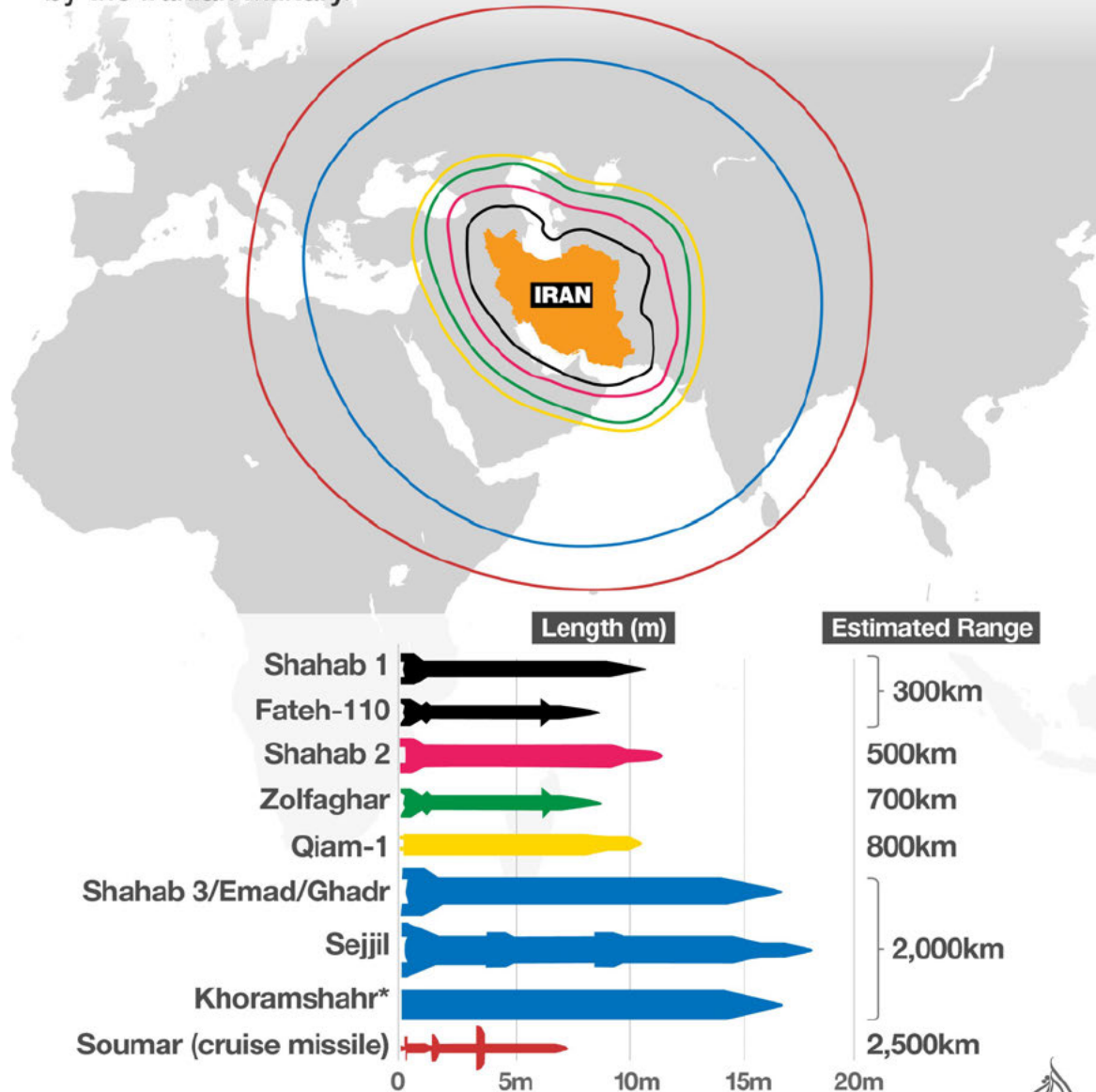
Dominance versus Disruption:  
Asymmetry in Gulf Security  
DB Des Roches

# SHIAS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

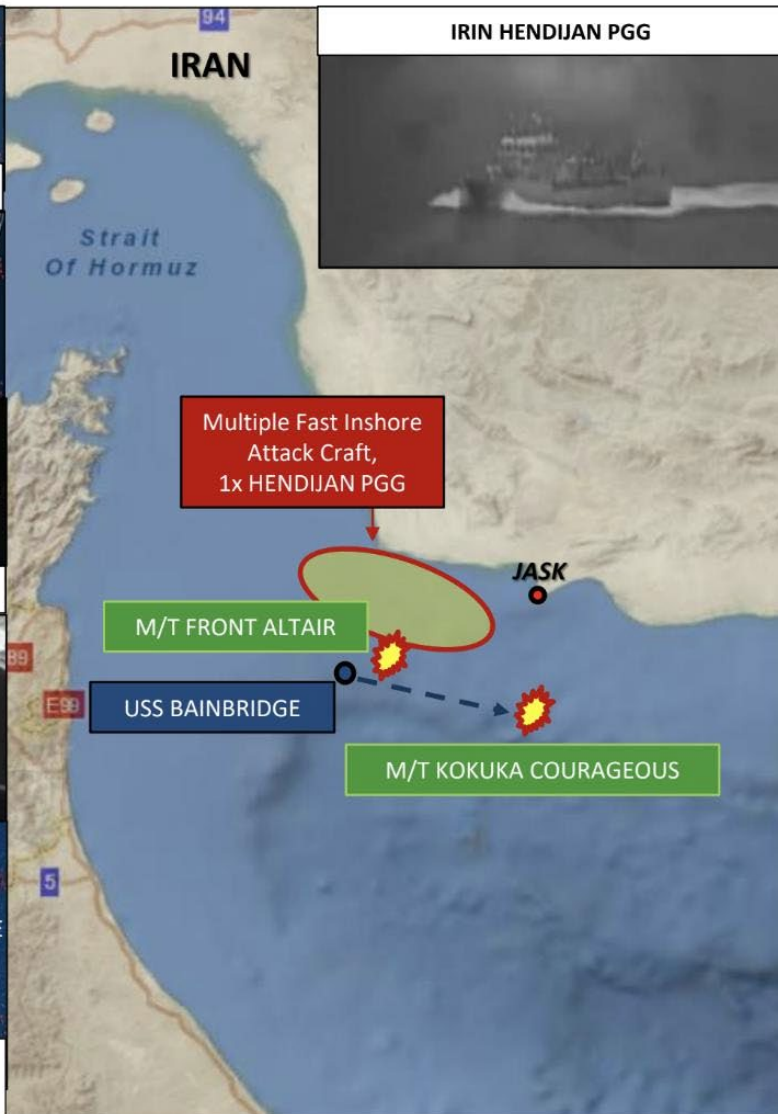
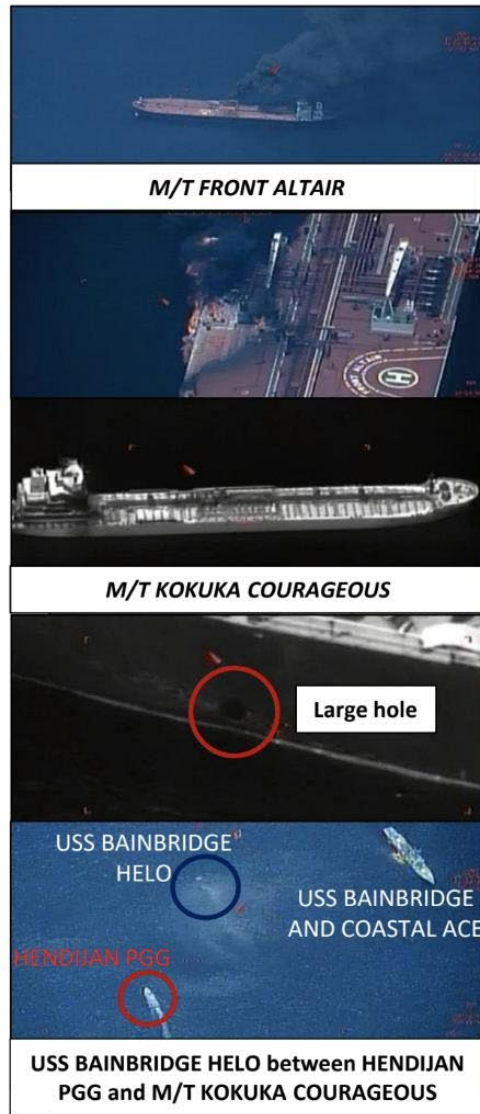


# Iran's ballistic missiles

Iran has been working on its ballistic missile capabilities for the last three decades. These are some of the most prominent missiles used by the Iranian military.







**Timeline: 13 June 2019**

**0312Z:** USS MASON receives bridge-to-bridge call from M/T FRONT ALTAIR reporting they were attacked in the Gulf of Oman (GOO).

**0320Z:** Large fire observed onboard M/T FRONT ALTAIR.

**0320Z:** USS BAINBRIDGE, 40 NM from M/V FRONT ALTAIR, closes to render aid.

**0400Z:** M/T KOKUKA COURAGEOUS reports being hit by an external projectile, taking on water, and a fire in engine room.

**0400Z:** M/T FRONT ALTAIR and M/T KOKUKA COURAGEOUS are approx 10 NM apart.

**0509Z:** Iranian HENDIJAN PGG and multiple fast inshore attack craft observed within the area.

**0515Z:** M/T FRONT ALTAIR confirms major fire amidships.

**0535Z:** HENDIJAN PGG, 8 NM southeast of BAINBRIDGE, closes to intercept BAINBRIDGE.

**0612Z:** Iranian fast inshore attack craft crew pull M/T FRONT ALTAIR unoccupied life raft from water.

**0626Z:** Unidentified Iranian patrol boat requests M/V HYUNDAI DUBAI turn over crew rescued from M/T FRONT ALTAIR. M/V HYUNDAI DUBAI complies.

**0629Z:** HENDIJAN PGG transits east, closing M/T KOKUKA COURAGEOUS.

**0805Z:** BAINBRIDGE approaches Dutch tug COASTAL ACE, which had rescued the crew of M/T KOKUKA COURAGEOUS.

**0805Z:** HENDIJAN PGG attempts to reach COASTAL ACE before BAINBRIDGE.

**0810Z:** BAINBRIDGE reaches COASTAL ACE and the M/T KOKUKA COURAGEOUS master requests BAINBRIDGE take his crew onboard.

**0832Z:** Crew safely aboard BAINBRIDGE.

**Attack on M/T FRONT ALTAIR in international waters 19NM south of Iran.**

**Attack on M/T KOKUKA COURAGEOUS in international waters 21NM south of Iran.**



**Timeline: 13 June 2019**

- ① 0830Z: BAINBRIDGE begins approach of M/T KOKUKA COURAGEOUS-approx 5.2NM North of BAINBRIDGE.
- ① 0830Z: As BAINBRIDGE turns north, HENDIJAN PGG attempted to block BAINBRIDGE from gaining an inside track to M/T KOKUKA COURAGEOUS.
- ② 0915Z: BAINBRIDGE closes to within 1.8NM.
- ② HENDIJAN and Iranian fast inshore attack craft arrive on scene.
- ③ 0920Z – 1415Z: BAINBRIDGE maintains constant observation of the Iranian vessels near M/T KOKUKA COURAGEOUS.
- ④ M/T KOKUKA COURAGEOUS has a large hole above the waterline on the starboard side (see image on previous slide) and a probable explosive device attached above the waterline amidships.
- ⑤ 1310Z: Crew onboard a GASHTI WPB were observed removing the device attached amidships.
- ⑥ The GASHTI that removed the device conducted an at sea rendezvous with a U/I tug. No transfer of material was observed.



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# M/V KOKUKA COURAGEOUS – Likely Limpet Mine

13 JUNE 2019

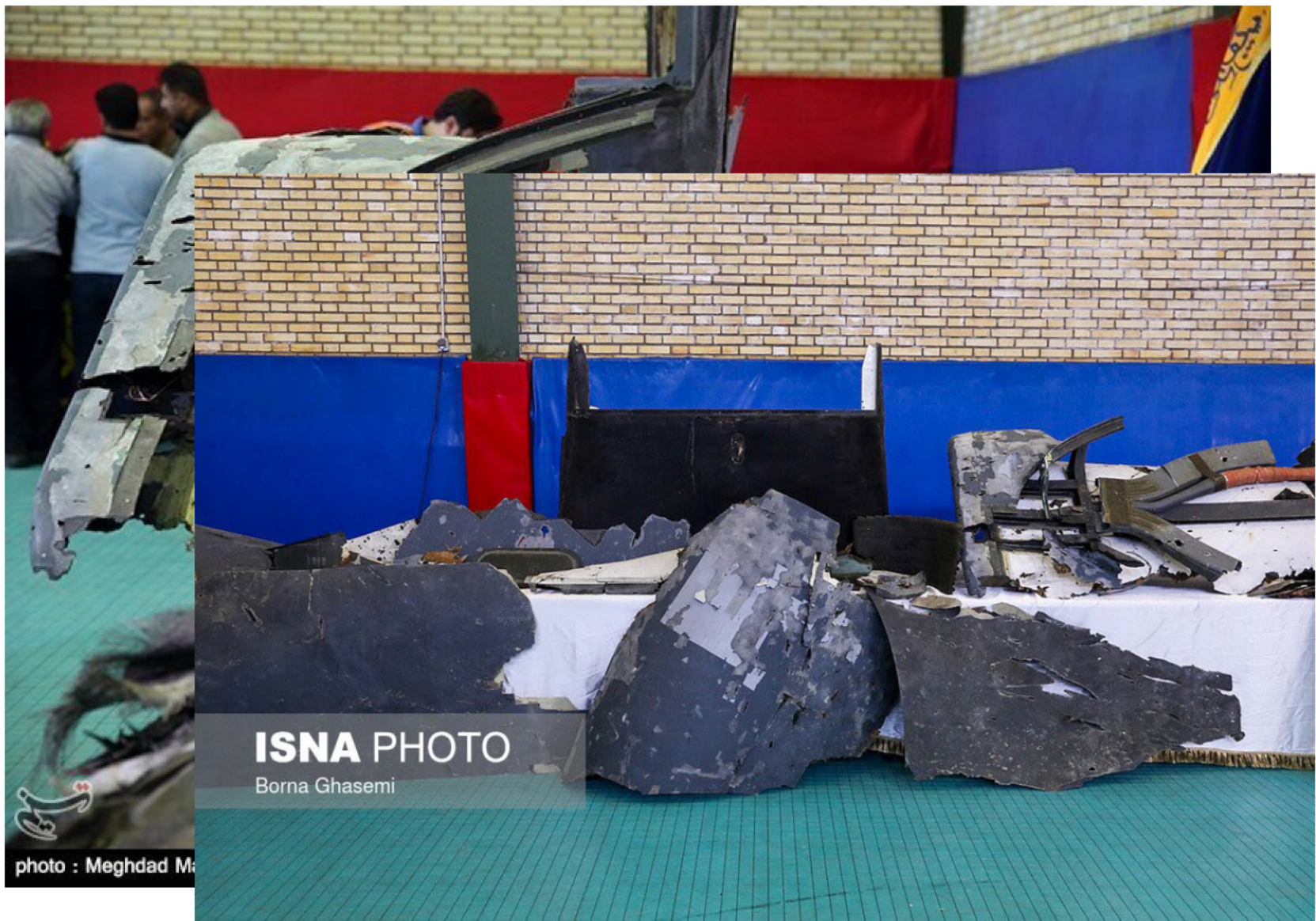


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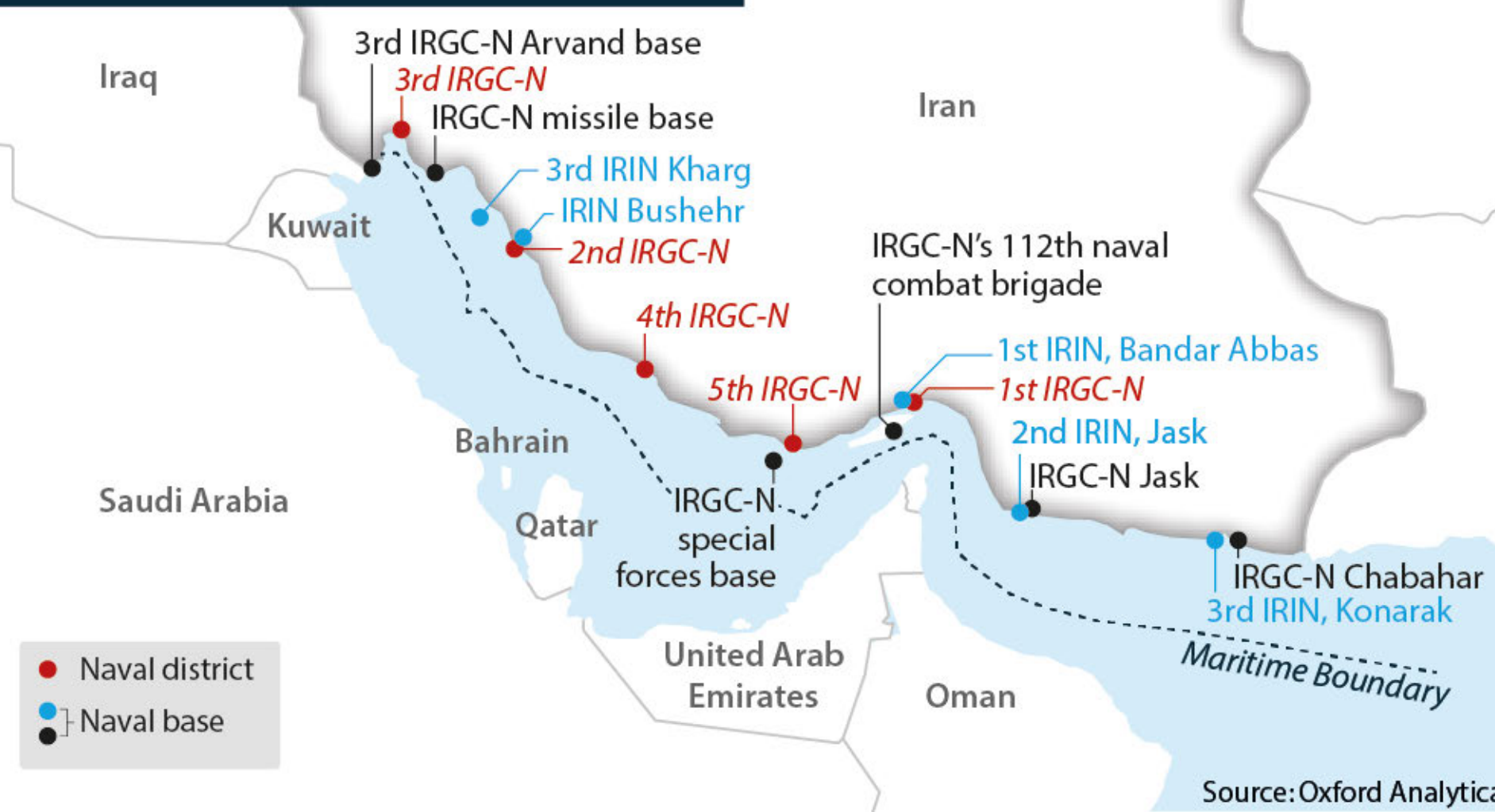
**ISNA PHOTO**

Borna Ghasemi



photo : Meghdad M

# Iran: Naval districts in the Strait of Hormuz



● Naval district  
● Naval base

Source: Oxford Analytica



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## QUESTIONS

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[@DBDesRoches](https://twitter.com/DBDesRoches)

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