

During Embassy Move to al-Quds

U.S. Warship Loitered a Month in Red Sea

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – U.S. Marine forces were placed on high alert to engage in rapid military response in anticipation of major violence stemming from Washington’s controversial bid to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to al-Quds, according to a newly-revealed Pentagon document.

The 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) aboard the amphibious assault ship Iwo Jima loitered in the North Red Sea for the entire month of May in 2018 after assuming an “elevated crisis response posture” in response to the contentious embassy move, a command chronology of the 26th MEU detailed as cited in a Friday report by Marine Corps Times news outlet, which was obtained through a government records request the command chronology of the MEU’s actions and exploits, containing its historical archived record.

According to the chronology, at the time the MEU was focused on “high risk embassies” in [Jordan’s capital] Amman, [Lebanese capital] Beirut and [Egypt’s capital] Cairo, as U.S. authorities prepared



Tear gas is fired at protesters during clashes with Zionist troops near the border between the Gaza strip and Israel, east of Gaza City on May 14, 2018, following the controversial move to al-Quds the United States embassy.

to move the embassy to al-Quds in face of international condemnations and massive protest rallies within Palestine and elsewhere.

“Marines aboard the Iwo Jima were on standby to provide alert forces for quick reaction troops or Marines for the tactical recovery of aircraft personnel, commonly known as a TRAP mission,” the chronology further explained.

It also added that those troops “were on standby to react within

two hours to six hours of notification of an event that would require their forces to be launched on a mission.”

The decision by U.S. President Donald Trump to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to al-Quds was announced in early December 2017, prompting worldwide censure, even from US allies. Trump further declared at the time that Washington would recognize al-Quds as the occupy-

ing regime’s official capital.

The newly-declassified document also revealed that on April 25, 2018, the 26th MEU carried out a “full mission profile” of a noncombatant evacuation operation as part of its annual Eager Lion war games in Jordan.

During the military exercise, it added, the U.S. Marines forces inserted security augments and evacuated 36 Department of State and military personnel to the Iwo Jima.

The 26th MEU also took part in the biennial war games dubbed Juniper Cobra held in the Israeli-occupied territories in March 2018, several months prior to the U.S. embassy move.

Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip have been holding protest rallies every week since March 2018, demanding the return of the local population driven out of their homeland by Israeli aggression.

Zionist troops have so far killed at least 307 Palestinians since the beginning of the rallies and wounded more than 18,000 others, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry.

U.S....

(Continued From Page One)

Lincoln do not venture near Iranian waters, despite a U.S. warning that the warship is in the Middle East “to send a clear and unmistakable message” to Iran to steer clear of U.S. interests in the region.

“Instead, it is the Lincoln that has steered clear of Iran. In the past four months, the ship has entered neither the Persian Gulf nor the Strait of Hormuz, the crucial oil-tanker highways it is supposed to protect,” the paper wrote.

So the Lincoln remains in the North Arabian Sea and at times more than 600 nautical miles from the Strait of Hormuz, the New York Times said, adding often, the Lincoln is off the coast of Oman, not far from Muscat.

F/A-18s would make sure to stay away from the 12-mile border that encompasses Iranian airspace, Navy officials said. To get to the Persian Gulf, the warplanes fly above Oman and other Persian Gulf allies, not over Iran.

The IRGC shot down an intruding American spy drone over Iran’s southern coastal province of Hormozgan in June, prompting President Donald Trump to boast that he had called off airstrikes only minutes before they started for fear of civilian casualties.

“We shot down the drone though it had not intruded into our airspace more than a few kilometers. Even if it had ventured a few meters, it would have still been shot down,” Hajizadeh said on Sunday.

The commander also dismissed Trump’s claim about canceling airstrikes, saying U.S. statesmen and military officials had likely debated the issue and failed to reach a consensus.

“If they had gone ahead with an attack, we would have targeted American bases by our missiles,” he said.

U.S. military bases of Al Udeid in Doha, Qatar, Al Dhafra in the United Arab Emirates, and one of the American aircraft carriers positioned in the Sea of Oman and the Arabian Sea had been staked out for retaliation, he said.

Hajizadeh said the good news is neither Tehran nor Washington seek a war, but still an “unwanted skirmish may lead to a war”.

Presidents...

(Continued From Page One)

a ceasefire to prevent any further civilian casualties.

“The expectation here is not a momentary ceasefire. First, it is to put a stop to the migration here,” he told Reuters. “Second, to ensure a ceasefire here. Third, to seriously get terrorist organizations under control,” he added.

“Turkey, which is hosting 3.6 million refugees in its home at the moment, cannot take the millions of people that will arrive from there,” Erdogan said. “We cannot carry that weight.”

Erdogan’s ruling AK Party (AKP) suffered some stunning local election losses this year in part due to impatience among Turks over the Syrian refugees. Erdogan has claimed one million refugees could return to a “safe zone” in northeast Syria, which Turkey is trying to establish with the United States.

On Monday, Erdogan, Putin and Rouhani are expected to hold bilateral talks with each other before holding trilateral talks on the developments in Idlib. The three presidents will then hold a joint news conference.

Iran...

(Continued From Page 2)

of quantum technologies, saying the document would come into force once it is ratified by the parliament and other related government bodies.

He said Iran was willing to keep its pace with a fast-growing quantum science in the world, saying expert groups had been formed in the AEOI to focus on various fields where quantum sciences are increasingly applied, including in communication, imaging, and in making new computers and sensors.

Salehi said his organization had also launched a public information campaign about quantum physics and its role in the future of the world, saying textbooks were being prepared for schools and universities with a special focus on quantum mechanics.

He said a successful entanglement experiment for photons carried out by AEOI scientists last summer had hugely boosted the morale in the field.

The senior official said that a large research center focused on new fields of science like the stem cells and quantum physics will be built by the AEOI in a near future.

Salehi said Iranian scientists could replicate the “quick” progress achieved in the field of nuclear technology in the country over the past years.

“The quantum technology is moving so fast that if we don’t act we’ll regret it,” said the official.

Unilateralism...

(Continued From Page 2)

The U.S. along with the occupying regime of Israel also officially pulled out of UNESCO at the stroke of midnight on New Year’s Day over what they described as the world body’s anti-Israel bias.

In June 2018, the United States withdrew from the United Nations’ top human rights body, accusing it of “chronic bias” against Israel.

Back in May 2018, the U.S. president sparked international criticism when he pulled his country out of the landmark Iran nuclear deal, reached between Tehran and major world powers in 2015.

Trump also announced that the U.S. was withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement in January 2017.

Terrorists in Syria’s Idlib Using Civilians As Human Shields: Report

DAMASCUS (Tasnim) – Al-Nusra Front terrorists are preventing Syrians in Idlib province from leaving Abu al-Duhour checkpoint, a safe corridor opened by the government to help evacuate civilians from terrorist-held areas.

Al-Nusra terrorists are preventing cars carrying civilians

from leaving Abu al-Duhour corridor, threatening to kill them, SANA reported.

The report added the terrorists are using the civilians in terrorist-held villages and cities in Idlib as human shields.

Recently, the Russian and Syrian coordination centers agreed to open a humanitar-

ian corridor at Abu al-Duhour corridor to help evacuate those willing to leave Idlib.

On August 5, the Syrian army announced the start of an offensive against foreign-sponsored militants in Idlib after those positioned in the de-escalation zone failed to honor a ceasefire brokered by

Russia and Turkey and continued to target civilian neighborhoods.

In late August, the Syrian army officially announced the liberation of the strategic town of Khan Shaykhun south of Idlib along with other localities from the clutches of militants.

Turkey Says Delivery of Second S-400 Battery Complete

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkey’s defense ministry said on Sunday that the delivery of a second battery of Russian S-400 missile systems has been completed as of Sunday, and added that the systems would become active in April 2020.

Ankara and Washington have been at loggerheads over Turkey’s purchase of the S-400 systems, which the United States says are not compatible with NATO system and poses a threat to Lockheed Martin’s F-35 ‘stealth’ fighter jets.

The initial parts of the system were delivered to Ankara in July despite warnings about possible U.S. sanctions over the purchase. The United States has also expelled Turkey from the F-35 program, but Ankara has so far dismissed the warnings.

In a statement, the defense ministry said the delivery of the second S-400 battery to Ankara was completed. Efforts to mount the systems and train personnel who will use them were continuing, it said, adding that it planned to activate the S-400s in April 2020.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusglu told an interview with CNN Turk on Saturday that the S-400s would be activated despite repeated

U.S. warnings.

“They (U.S. officials) told us ‘don’t activate them and we can sort this out’, but we told them that we didn’t buy these systems as a prop,” Cavusoglu said, adding that Turkey would be open to buying U.S. Raytheon Co Patriot systems as well.

In an interview on Friday, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan told Reuters he will discuss buying U.S. Patriot missiles with U.S. President Donald Trump this month, saying his personal bond with the U.S. leader could overcome the crisis caused by the S-400s.

Though Washington has not yet announced whether it will impose sanction on Ankara, U.S. President Donald Trump has shown sympathy towards Turkey. He has not fully ruled out sanctions.

On Monday, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the Trump administration was considering imposing sanctions related to Turkey’s purchase of the S-400 systems, but no decisions have been made.

The dispute over the S-400 systems is one of several issues straining ties between the United States and Turkey that include the ongoing conflict in Syria, among others.

Over Border Incidents

Pakistan Summons Diplomats From Afghanistan, India

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) – Pakistan has summoned diplomats from Afghanistan and India after several shooting incidents along two different borders killed four Pakistani soldiers and a civilian woman.

Accusations of firing by both sides across the Afghan-Pakistani border, and by both Indian and Pakistani forces across an old ceasefire line dividing their areas in the Muslim-majority region of Kashmir are common.

The latest incidents come at an especially tense time between Pakistan and India, and as talks between the United States and the Afghan Taliban have broken down.

Pakistan’s Foreign Office summoned an Afghan diplomat on Saturday to account for what it said was firing into Pakistan by militants in Afghanistan, a spokesman for Pakistan’s foreign ministry said in a statement.

The militants shot and killed a Pakistani soldier on patrol in one incident late on Friday.

In a second incident, Pakistani forces fencing a section of the border were attacked and three were killed, the ministry said on Saturday.

Both incidents occurred in Pakistan’s northwestern Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.

Pakistan underscored in its meeting with the Afghan diplomat that Afghanistan was responsible for securing its side of the border.

An Afghan government spokesman could not be immediately reached.

Afghan officials have in recent weeks accused the Pakistani military of several incidents of heavy artillery fire into Afghanistan.

Both of the uneasy neighbors are battling militant factions along their largely porous border and each accuses the other of harboring their militant enemies.

Pakistan also summoned an Indian diplomat on Saturday after it said firing by Indian forces across the Line of Control (LoC) in

the disputed territory of Kashmir killed a 40-year-old woman from the village of Bala-kot.

The nuclear-armed neighbors have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir.

The LoC, an old ceasefire line, is the de facto border between the parts of Kashmir that India and Pakistan administer.

Tensions between the two countries have flared since Aug. 5 when New Delhi flooded Indian Kashmir with troops to quell unrest after it revoked the region’s special status.

Pakistan foreign affairs spokesman Mohammad Faisal said in a statement on Saturday that India deliberately targets civilian areas.

A spokesman for India’s external affairs ministry could not be immediately reached. India has long accused Pakistan of supporting militant groups fighting Indian security forces in its part of Kashmir. Pakistan denies that.