


The Right Side of History

 KHAMENEI.IR

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The Right Side of History Magazine





Words of Wisdom

Martyr Khamenei's selected statements

The US President keeps saying that they have the strongest military force in the world. The strongest military force in the world may at times be struck so hard that it cannot get up again.

Feb. 17, 2026



Word for Word

"How many a town we have destroyed ..." (Quran 21:11). This is telling us that people shouldn't lose hope about being able to bring a power or [even] an enormous empire to its knees. Don't say that the US is a global power, so how could a nation bring down such a power? This has been done over and over in history.

Who could have imagined that the US's well-equipped, organized military system would be disgraced and embarrassed to such an extent in the Tabas Desert, a desert in the middle of Iran? We went and witnessed that steel elephant from up close, and a person is reminded of the holy verses of the Quran, "Have you regarded how your Lord dealt with the owners of the elephants? Did He not foil their stratagems?" (Quran 105:1-2) [The Holy Quran is saying,] "Have you seen how the tricks and stratagems that they had devised for the people were thwarted?" You can see the wreckage from the planes and helicopters – those steel shells that have been reduced to a pile of ash - on both sides of the road from Yazd to Tabas. There were dead bodies under that pile of ash, and there may even be some there now. They had come with the intention of attacking Iran. They were thieves who had come to carry out a night raid and escape. They were mercenaries.

Alas for humanity's wretchedness! Alas for this misery, these regimes that rule over such elements, which are their crutches and a means of support for them.

From Martyr Khamenei's speech on May 2, 1980



Memorable Frame



We went to Tabas with a group of army officers and IRGC brothers. A few days earlier, the Americans had planned to carry out an operation from there against the Iranian students and extract their spies from what they called their "embassy." But the desert sands had pinned them down in place. Before they could even begin their operation, a helicopter crashed into a fuel-carrying aircraft, and their mission was completely aborted. The burned bodies of American marines were scattered across parts of the desert, and other photographers had already captured images of them before me.

We arrived in Tabas. I see a few familiar faces. Mostafa Chamran is there too. Perhaps if the sands had not grounded those aircraft, Chamran would have been the most worthy person to shoot them down, the physics professor, the founder of guerrilla warfare groups in southern Lebanon. Perhaps now he stands over them with a sense of regret that this prey slipped from his hands.

I also see Sayyid Ali Khamenei. In Tehran, they call him Sayyid Morassa' (the adorned Sayyid), because his Friday prayer sermons are delivered with such eloquence that it seems as though they have been crafted over days and months. Perhaps even now, as he looks at these blackened pieces of metal, he is arranging his words, perhaps preparing to proclaim to America: We defeated you.

For a moment, I doubt my own judgment. It seems as though Chamran and Khamenei are thinking about the same thing. There is no trace of pride on their faces, nor do they appear as victors of this scene. It is as if they are learning something. What is it in these burned pieces of metal that my camera has failed to capture? Today is Friday, May 2, 1980. I must go to Tehran's Friday prayer. The eloquent Sayyid will deliver the sermon there. I wait to hear him say something about Tabas, and he does:

"Who could have imagined that the US's well-equipped, organized military system would be

disgraced and embarrassed to such an extent in the Tabas Desert, a desert in the middle of Iran? We went and witnessed that steel elephant from up close, and a person is reminded of the holy verses of the Quran, 'Have you regarded how your Lord dealt with the owners of the elephants? Did He not foil their stratagems?'(Quran 105:1-2) [The Holy Quran is saying,] 'Have you seen how the tricks and stratagems that they had devised

for the people were thwarted?' "I found my answer. Sayyid Ali Khamenei and Chamran were learning a lesson of Tawhid from the wreckage of the American aircraft. The sermon ended. He stepped down to lead the prayer. I looked into his eyes—it was as if he could already see many Tabases in the future of this country...

The People Rise Up

Should any event befall this country, Almighty God will raise these people to confront it. The people will be the ones who will stop it.

Martyr Khamenei
Feb. 1, 2026



Courageous Iranian women holding guns as a sign of resistance against the American-Zionist aggressors



Opinion

Reality's stinging slap to the US

Humiliating images of destroyed American aircraft call their Hollywood-style claims into question

The US efforts to spin the extraction of a missing co-pilot as a victory have turned into an unparalleled spectacle for Iran. Now, the situation has reached a point where the Americans, who had designed the aggression for a glorious four-day finale, are now trying to sell a costly operation, marked by charred aircraft and humiliating images left behind in central Iran, to their media and public as a success and an achievement. The US's war strategies have now descended from dominating and disintegrating Iran, and from the subsequent overthrow of the Islamic Republic, to the stage of rescuing a missing airman from Iran's central deserts.

Although the Americans are busy crafting a heroic Hollywood-style image of themselves, reflecting on two realities leads to meaningful conclusions. First, if the Americans truly carried out this operation based on a fully pre-planned and meticulously designed scheme, why did they ultimately accept leaving their destroyed and annihilated equipment behind on the scene? If the operation had truly gone according to the Americans' exact planning, why would they have been satisfied with allowing such humiliating images of themselves to remain on the battlefield, evoking the memory of the Tabas operation failure in the historical memory of Iranians? The very truth of the matter is that events did not unfold as the Americans claim — especially

the current leaders of the White House and the Pentagon, who in showmanship have outdone many performance artists.

Another important point is the slap of reality delivered to the showmen of the White House and the Pentagon. These are the same people who, until now, stood behind podiums and in front of cameras, boasting about heliborne operations and deep infiltration into Iranian soil — convinced they were showcasing the Hollywood-style power of the US military.

What happened on April 5 demonstrated that the reality on the ground is far more complex than anything that can be understood through political rhetoric or video-game scenarios. The American plan to rescue their pilots in the remote, rugged, and sparsely populated regions of central and southwestern Iran has now left them with a growing toll: two transport aircraft, one helicopter, and two fighter jets added to the US military's list of losses and costs. The slap of reality has now made it painfully clear what risks and costs await the theatrical schemes of the Americans when they collide with the real world.

The Issue is not whether these plans will be carried out. The other side has become so intoxicated with power that nothing from them would be surprising. The point, however, is that the reality of what took place on April 5 has shown that the cost of America's theatrical ambitions in the real world is far greater than what they boast about before the cameras. And if they are truly willing to pay these costs, Iran has

no hesitation in confronting them and in recording its name among those who have dealt a blow to the United States. They are weeks into a war that was supposed to be over in four days.

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz— which they initially claimed, with arrogance, they would reopen by force— is also a slap. The

fact that Iran’s political, security, and military systems have not collapsed is another. The refusal of the population on Iranian soil to side with the aggressors, and their full-fledged support for Iran’s defenders, is yet another. With each passing day since the start of the war, the list of slaps delivered to White House officials continues to grow.



Choose the Right Side of History



The message of the people of Gaza to Iran: We will win.



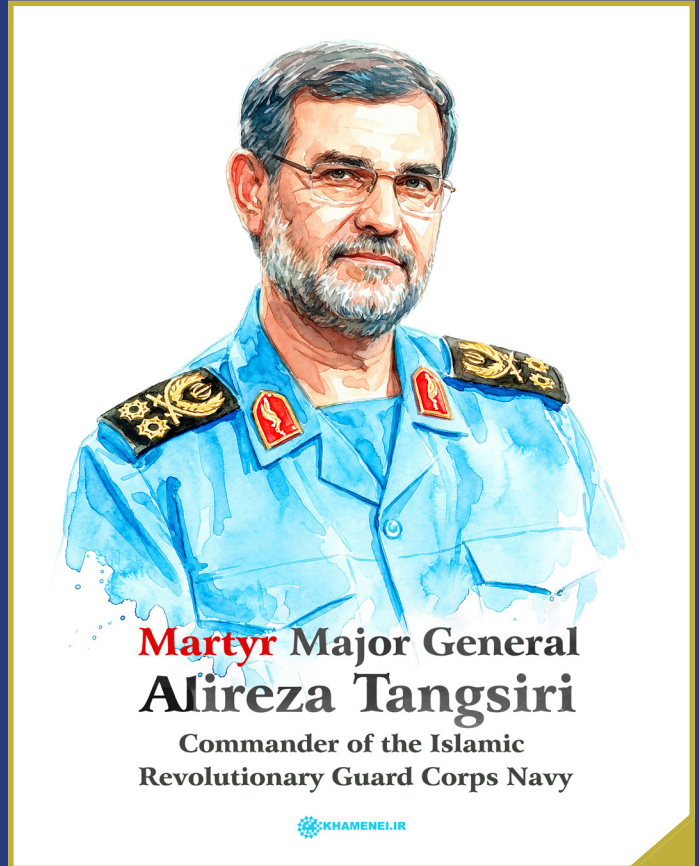
A Moment with Caravan of Martyrs

Martyr Alireza Tangsiri

"Martyr Tangsiri was a true son of the heartland of Bushehr's brave, born in the proud and resistant city of Abadan, and a servant to the honorable and noble people of Bandar Abbas. He was a man for whom geography was never a boundary, and whose heart beat across the vastness of the entire south. He lived for years among the underprivileged, understood their pain, and spared no effort in easing their suffering.

Tangsiri was a soldier — and remained a soldier. Ranks and responsibilities never changed his character or temperament. Simplicity, sincerity, and a humble, down-to-earth nature remained the defining traits of his life, all the way until the moment of his martyrdom."¹ From the sun-scorched shores of Tangestan—land of Rais-Ali Delvari's immortal defiance—rose another lion of the Persian Gulf: Martyr Alireza Tangsiri. Born in Bushehr in 1962 and raised along the waters of Khuzestan, he grew up with the memory of colonial cruelty in his people's stories. He did not seek fame or power. He sought only to protect Iran's soil, its honor, and its sacred independence.

For decades, Tangsiri served as a sentinel against modern colonialism—those powers that still, today, openly confess their greed for Iran's oil and their lust to dominate its destiny. In April 2026, while fortifying Iran's coastal shield and organizing the defense of the islands and shores, he



faced an enemy armed with every weapon of arrogance. But Tangsiri had something greater: faith, courage, and a nation behind him. Before his martyrdom, he led operations that inflicted devastating blows on the aggressors. His name now rests beside Delvari's in the eternal list of those who traded life for honor. One gave his life 110 years ago against British tanks. The other gave his life today against American missiles. Both came from the same small, proud coast. Both refused to bow. The sea remembers. History will not forget. And the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue, because men like Tangsiri teach us that martyrdom is not an end—it is a beginning.

1. Excerpt from the message of the family of martyred Admiral Alireza Tangsiri following his martyrdom.



Narrating the Art



"We have destroyed their air defense system and annihilated their radars — we won!" These words came from a president who, in less than 48 hours, had lost nearly 20 of his own aircraft.

It began on the evening of Thursday, April 3. That was when the Integrated Iranian Air Defense System locked onto an American fighter jet over Qeshm Island and sent it plunging into the sea. As expected, US CENTCOM denied everything and pretended the matter was closed — but in reality, they had just walked into a nightmare.

The next day, disaster truly struck the US and its vaunted Air Force. Another American warplane — either an F-35 or an F-15 Eagle — was intercepted, hammered, and blown

out of the sky over the heart of beloved Iran. Wreckage footage left no room for lies. The kill was undeniable. By nightfall, two Black Hawk helicopters had been crippled, and two A-10 Thunderbolts had also been added to US's growing list of losses. A total rout for the so-called "most powerful Air Force in the world." And still, it was not over.

The following morning, an Iranian Shahed-136 strike drone slammed into a Chinook helicopter at one of US's regional bases, putting it out of action. Hours later, the most humiliating blow yet landed on the showy American Air Force. They had tried to infiltrate a secret nuclear site near Isfahan — to invade it. The truth, however, is that US lost a staggering number of its aircraft fleet that day. According to reports, US lost twelve aircraft in total — including drones, helicopters, and military transport planes. It also appears that some of their elite commandos were killed during that catastrophic mission. In the end, they were forced to bomb their own equipment to keep it out of Iranian hands.

Throughout the entire episode, US CENTCOM remained silent. No official statements. No explanations. On the other side, Trump scrambled to hide the scale of the defeat, spreading lies on his X account and during press conferences — desperate to conceal the magnitude of what the courageous Iranian Armed Forces and Intelligence Services had inflicted upon them. And all of this unfolded just days after the US president had arrogantly declared that Iran's air defense system was completely gone.



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