

GET 6 MONTHS FOR \$199

IBD DIGITAL

MARKET SURGE

IBD Live

Leaderboard

SWING Trader

MARKET DIEM

 Store

Subscribe

Sign In

Better Ads Experience
Program Certified

Choose to support our journalism

Ads help make IBD's reporting possible. Please disable your ad blocker to directly support the journalism you depend on.

Allow Ads on IBD

[Continue without enabling ads](#) | Need Help? [Contact support](#)

EDITORIALS

Iran Is Serious About Nuclear Electromagnetic Pulse Warfare

Nuclear Terrorism: President Obama's deal may help Iran develop a nuclear electromagnetic pulse weapon. A 2010 Iranian military textbook reveals Tehran's growing interest in the subject.

The Associated Press just dropped, excuse the expression, a bombshell story: A copy of a draft of one of the side deals between Iran and the United Nations' nuclear watchdog agency reveals that Tehran will be allowed to inspect its Parchin nuclear site itself, where it is suspected of testing nuclear detonators. International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors won't get physical access and will just trust the Iranian self-inspectors.

In the meantime, Iran is obviously very interested in a type of nuclear weapon that Secretary of State John Kerry and the other negotiators for the U.S. and the major powers left unaddressed during their many months of talks — electromagnetic pulse.

The American Foreign Policy Council's Amanda Azinheira wrote of the risks in Defense News on Wednesday: "A nuclear warhead detonated 18 miles off the ground anywhere over the eastern seaboard could collapse the whole eastern grid, which generates 75% of the country's electricity. The recovery time from a nationwide EMP event might be anywhere from one to 10 years. In the meantime, tens of millions of Americans would likely die from starvation and/or societal collapse."

Foundation for Defense of Democracies chairman and former CIA Director James Woolsey and EMP Task Force Executive Director Peter Vincent Pry noted Iran's work on EMP in the Washington Times on Tuesday.

"Iran has apparently practiced surprise EMP attacks, orbiting satellites on south polar trajectories to evade U.S. radars and missile defenses, at altitudes consistent with generating an EMP field covering all 48 contiguous United States," according to Woolsey and Pry. "Iran launched its fourth satellite on such a trajectory as recently as February 2015."

They also noted that the use of nuclear infrastructure permitted under the Iran deal makes getting an EMP weapon "relatively easy."

other forms of warfare.

Yet the left makes fun of those in Congress who warn of the threat of EMP warfare. Slate magazine last month slammed Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., for grilling Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz on the subject, arguing that an EMP attack was "absurdly unlikely to occur," because, among other reasons, Tehran would have to "trust that the U.S. will not turn Iran into a lifeless radioactive wasteland in response."

The point seems lost on many that the Islamist rulers of Iran don't care if their own country is obliterated if the will of Allah is carried out — part of which they believe includes an apocalyptic holy war involving a 12th imam.

But as we learn of existential threats to the U.S. homeland from unexpected forms of warfare, the black comedy continues.

USA Today this week told us that the chants of "Death to America!" during Friday mosque prayers and political demonstrations within Iran don't really mean death to America.

Foad Izadi, assistant professor of world studies at the University of Tehran, told the paper that the chant only "means death to American foreign policy," and that when Iranians "see you're an American" visiting Iran, "everyone wants to take care of you."

Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian is being taken care of by Iranians in a different way — held for 13 months in the inhuman conditions of the infamous Evin Prison, often in solitary confinement and without a mattress or toilet.

"Death to America" may come sooner and differently than we expect.