



National security experts warn of the dangers of an Iranian EMP attack

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Amidst the Obama administration's [ongoing efforts](#) on Tuesday to negotiate only a partial reduction in [Iran](#)'s uranium enrichment in exchange for the easing of sanctions, a panel of noted [national security](#) experts is warning of the dangers of an Iranian [electromagnetic pulse \(EMP\)](#) attack.

In statements sent to the Paulding County Republican Examiner, the panel gathered on Tuesday and discussed the danger of that country's escalating nuclear program and the risk that such capabilities could result in an electromagnetic pulse attack on the United States, Israel, or other allied nations.

The panel of national security experts was sponsored by [EMPACTAmerica](#) and moderated by Frank J. Gaffney, Jr., President and CEO of the [Center for Security Policy](#) and former Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy.

Gaffney, in his own remarks, discussed the nature of a nuclear-detonated EMP attack, the effect of which would be to take down the electrical grid indefinitely and the potential for an Iranian EMP attack in light of that regime's determination to develop nuclear weapons and frequently stated intent to bring about "a world without America".

Ambassador John Bolton, former United States Representative to the United Nations, and Lt. Gen. Thomas McInerney, USAF (Ret.), former Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, discussed the dangers, from both a foreign policy and defense perspective of lifting sanctions or of otherwise negotiating with Tehran on its nuclear weapons program.

Furthermore, Bolton noted that President Obama's troubling decision effectively to "chase down" Iranian president Rouhani in order to negotiate a deal would have ramifications for American credibility in the Middle East.

Morton Klein, President of the Zionist Organization of America, discussed the impact of Iran's nuclear weapons development on Israel's security, noting that Israeli security officials remain deeply concerned about the Obama administration's outreach to Tehran in light of the threats that regime continues to pose in the region.

Klein added that in the entire history of warfare, appeasement has never worked and remains an ill-advised approach to addressing the Iranian nuclear program.

Clare Lopez, a senior fellow with the Center for Security Policy and former operations officer with the Central Intelligence Agency, discussed Iran's continuing sponsorship of global terrorism and the extent to which Iran could position proxies such as Hezbollah to carry out an EMP attack against the United States.

In a report in October 2012, the Times of Israel [reported](#) that the EMP threat in Israel is not being discussed that often.

Dr. **Emily Landau**, director of the Arms Control and Regional Security Program at Israel's **Institute for National Security Studies** and a lecturer at Tel Aviv University [said](#), "There isn't much discussion of it right now, but when the discussion does begin, there is no doubt that it will focus on the balance between how much it will cost to deal with, versus how likely such an attack may be."

[Landau](#), an expert on Iran's nuclear program said that she believes that Iran could very well be planning an EMP attack on Israel, based on statements the Iranian regime has made, and actions it has taken.

"Iran doesn't have a nuclear bomb yet, and hopefully they won't have one, but if they do manage to build a bomb, an EMP attack is a real possibility," [Landau said](#). "Many people in the US are concerned about EMP now, and although the public discussion hasn't begun in Israel yet, I expect that it will in the near future."

In July of 2013, President Bill Clinton's former Director of Central Intelligence, R. James Woolsey, [led a panel](#) discussion on the growing and imminent threat of a natural or nuclear electromagnetic pulse (EMP) by U.S. enemies to the U.S. electrical grid and other critical infrastructures that are largely unprotected.

With all of the talk of the EMP dangers, Gaffney stated that President Obama will need to take the EMP threat seriously for the U.S., Israel, and other allied nations.

"This month, as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the contrast between that president's steadfastness in the face of the Cuban missile crisis, and President Obama's eagerness to negotiate a flawed deal with Iran on its nuclear weapons production, is both stark and alarming," said Gaffney.

"The failure to appreciate the threat posed by a fully realized Iranian nuclear capability is further compounded by the ongoing failure to harden the American electric grid against

electromagnetic pulse, an entirely conceivable form of attack should the Iranians develop the ability to execute it by detonating a nuclear weapon,” Gaffney said.

“We urge President Obama to heed the warnings of these and other national security authorities in this regard.”

<http://www.examiner.com/article/national-security-experts-warn-of-the-dangers-of-an-iranian-emp-attack>