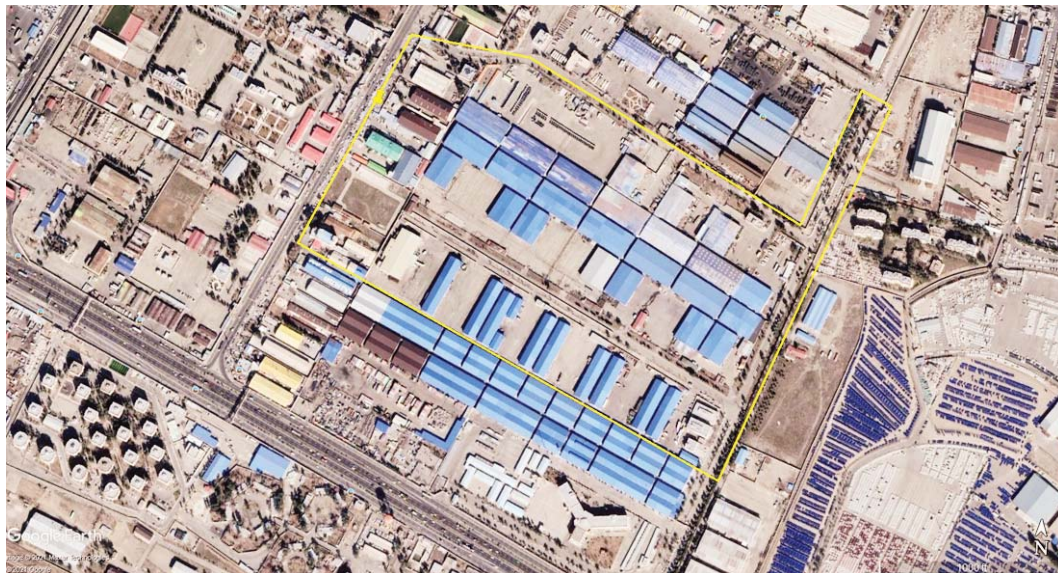




OPINION

OTHER VOICES



Ghazanfar Roknabadi Industries



Drone production facility in Semnan



Quds Air Industries near Mehrabad Airport

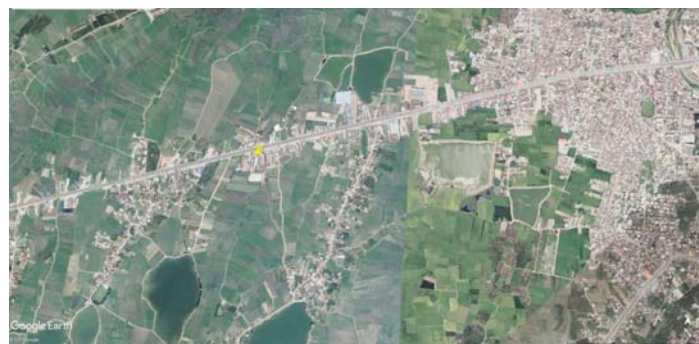


Quds Force uses various air, land and sea pathways to send weapons and equipment, including UAV parts, to its proxies in the countries of the region.

AIR, LAND, SEA SMUGGLING ROUTES



Fajr Industries located next to Quds Air Industries



Basir Industries located at Km 1 of the Babol-Amol highway.



HESA in Shahin Shahr, Isfahan



Bespar Sazeh involved in building Mohajer UAVs

Information on UAV production, use, storage and export disclosed

Role of drones in Quds incitement of regional war

Provided by National Council of Resistance of Iran

Drones are one of the primary weapons used by the Iranian regime to export terrorism and warmongering, which is why, over the past decade, Tehran has invested heavily in drone production despite drastic economic challenges.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force is chiefly using various unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for its terrorist operations as well as for supplying its proxies in the region. To an extent, the regime is trying to compensate for its outdated and decrepit Air Force with this technology.

The information about production and utilization systems on the basis of information obtained from the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK).

Section I UAV production by the Ministry of Defense and the Aerospace Force of the IRGC

To produce UAVs, the clerical regime smuggles some of the main parts, such as engines and electronic components, from foreign countries; other required components are produced in various industries within Iran.

There are, according to our information, 8 industries in Iran responsible for manufacturing UAVs. Some of these industries operate under the "Aviation Industries Organization" of the Ministry of Defense, including Quds Air Industries, Iran Aircraft Manufacturing (HESA), Fajr Industries, and Basir Industries.

Other sections of these complexes are affiliated with the IRGC Aerospace Force or the regime's various armed forces, or operate under the guise of private institutions.

1 - Ghazanfar Roknabadi Industries

Ghazanfar Roknabadi Industries, affiliated with the IRGC Aerospace Force, is involved in the production of drones. This entity provides support and training for the IRGC Aerospace Force factories. It builds different parts of drones for the IRGC and other industries related to Aerospace.

The Ghazanfar Roknabadi complex includes dozens of sheds and buildings. The workspace for engines and drone cameras is located in the northern part of the complex.

The storage space for various parts related to the Aerospace Force is located in the southern part of the complex.

According to reports obtained, the raw materials for making drone parts, such as fabrics and special fibers, are imported from China.

This center is located at the Old Karaj Road (Fatah Highway), Bilal Boulevard (Sepahe Eslam), eastern side of the boulevard.

2 - The armed forces drone production in Semnan

Beginning in 2019, the regime's armed forces launched a new drone complex, a specialized drone unit headquartered in Semnan. All military institutions, including the IRGC, Bassij, State Security Forces (SSF) and Army defense, are jointly active in this complex. This complex is essentially a specialized working group for the production of UAVs, and works on the design and reproduction of light and quiet UAVs. A number of information technology specialists and engineers are working in this unit. The drones produced are intended to control the western and eastern borders of the country. The specialists transport the parts in separate pieces to the desired location and assemble the final product there.

3 - Quds Air Industries

Quds Air Industries operates under the Aviation Industry Organization of the Ministry of Defense. It changed its name to "Light Aircraft Design and Construction Industries" on December 13, 2019. The headquarters is located at km 4 of the Tehran-Karaj special highway and is adjacent to the IRGC's Ghadr Airbase at Mehrabad Airport.

4 - Fajr Industries

Fajr Aerospace Industries and Composite Materials is one of the factories controlled by the Aviation Industry Organization of the Ministry of Defense. It produces small single-engine aircraft. Some materials and parts related to UAVs are also produced by Fajr. Fajr Industries is located next to Quds Air Industries on the Karaj special road.

5 - Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Company (HESA)

This company is one of the largest subsidiaries of the Aviation Industry Organization of the Ministry of Defense. It is located in Shahin Shahr, Isfahan. In addition to manufacturing aircraft parts, it is also involved in the construction of UAVs and their components. The so-called Ababil UAV, a smaller type of drone, was first built by this company. The current head of this company is Hamid Reza Nouri.

6 - Basir Industries (in Babol)

Basir Industries is a subsidiary of the Aviation Industry Organization of the Ministry of Defense. It produces various parts and components for the aerospace and marine industries, including the production of small batteries for UAVs and also diesel engines for IRGC speedboats. This company is located at 1 Km of Babol-Amol highway.

7 - Bespar Sazeh Composite Company

Bespar Sazeh Composite manufactures UAV body parts. It was established in 2015. The company primarily operates in the areas of design, modeling, molding and production of various composite and metal parts.

The original address of this company in 2015 was near the location of Quds Air Industries on Karaj Road. In 2016, it was moved to the Mallard area in the southwest of Tehran. The new location is near the IRGC missile and UAV barracks, including Falaq Barracks and Sajjad Barracks.

According to these reports, the company procures roughly 50% of its required raw materials from inside Iran. The remaining 50% is smuggled from abroad. At present, other types of raw materials are imported from China, Turkey and South Korea. In the past, the company imported high-quality glass fibers from France and some other materials, such as high-quality resin, from Germany and the United States. However, they are no longer able to do so as a result of sanctions, and instead obtain lower-quality raw materials from China.

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