

CALLING IRAN'S BLUFF

By G Murphy Donovan

President Trump claims progress in talks with a “new, more reasonable regime” in Iran while threatening to obliterate electric plants, oil wells, and Kharg Island oil terminal if no peace deal comes soon and the Hormuz Strait stays closed.

The month-old U.S.-Iran war began with U.S.-Israeli strikes on February 28 targeting Iran's nuclear and military sites; Iran retaliated by blocking the Strait, a key route for 20% of global oil, driving prices over \$100 a barrel. Secretary Rubio backs Trump's pressure, regional mediation seems to be in limbo, and uncertainties persist over any real leadership change in Tehran.

Ironically, the fates of both the Iran regime and the Trump administration are now joined at the merge. Tehran seems to think, by not losing before the US midterm elections, it will survive. Team Trump is clearly aware of the stakes and knows that time is not an ally. If recent history provides any clues, **team Trump is all in for this next round – in the air, on the sea, and on the ground.**



U.S. Marines during training in Okinawa last year. [AP Photo/Chris Wedel](#)

The Trump administration has assembled what is arguably the largest concentrate of military force to seize and control a single objective since WWII.

April Fools Day in 2026 has the tactical, operational, and strategic potential to redefine the Middle East and global politics for the first half of the 21st Century.

The Iran problem has been festering for 50 years. At this juncture, it's not a question of who blinks; it's a question of winners and losers.

The die has been cast.

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