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## Iran Says It Has Technology to Build Supersonic Cruise Missile

**August 10, 2023** *voanews.com* reported: "Iran said on Wednesday it has the technology to build a supersonic cruise missile, Iranian state media reported, an announcement likely to heighten Western concerns about Tehran's missile capabilities.

The announcement comes days after reports on the arrival of more than 3,000 U.S. sailors and Marines aboard two U.S. warships in the Red Sea. The U.S. forces are there to deter Iran from seizing and harassing merchant ships traveling through the Gulf's Strait of Hormuz.

'The supersonic cruise missile will open a new chapter in Iran's defense program, as it is extremely difficult to intercept a cruise missile flying at supersonic speeds,' the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

'The new cruise missile is currently undergoing its tests,' it added.

Despite U.S. and European opposition, Iran has said it will further develop its 'defensive' missile program. However, Western military analysts say Iran sometimes exaggerates its missile capabilities..."

## Berlin offers to extend Patriot missile deployment in Poland

**August 9, 2023** *spacewar.com* reported: "Germany said Tuesday that it had offered to extend the deployment of its Patriot missile defence systems in Poland, likely until the end of the year.

Berlin sent three Patriot units to eastern Poland in January after a deadly blast struck a Polish village in late 2022, believed to be from a stray Ukrainian air defence missile.

The deployment of the advanced US-made systems was originally meant to be for a maximum of six months, as Berlin seeks to ensure its own weapons stocks are not depleted.

But the defence ministry said in a statement that it had offered to allow Poland to keep the systems 'over the summer, probably until the end of the year'. The ministry added however that there were no plans to extend the deployment beyond 2023. From 2024, the systems would make an 'important contribution' to a NATO rapid response force, the ministry said..."



*Patriot Missile Defense System*

## Porsche apologises for removing Jesus statue from car advert

**August 9, 2023** *christiantoday.com* reported: "Porsche has apologised after being accused of airbrushing out a Jesus statue from the background of one of its car adverts.

An advert celebrating the 60th anniversary of its classic 911 model was filmed in Lisbon, Portugal, where the Christ the King statue is a local landmark. In the advert, a red 911 speeds along the banks of the River Tagus and the statue's plinth can be clearly seen in the background, but the statue itself is missing.

The omission prompted users of X - formerly known as Twitter - to question why the statue was gone from the advert.

"Hey, @Porsche, why did you erase the statue of Jesus Christ from your video filmed in Lisbon?" said X user Alex B, alongside a screengrab of the video next to a picture of the statue.

X users accused the luxury car brand of being woke and anti-Christian.

"Looks like Porsche doesn't want Christians buying their cars," said one. Another said: "Well, guess if Porsche can edit Jesus out of their video 'celebrating' 60-years — we can all edit them out of our memories. Apparently, Porsche doesn't care about Christians."

Another user tweeted: "The lack of self-awareness, a company born in Europe with its Judeo-Christian roots and values, pretending to hold dear its origins while erasing one of its most important symbols. Even I as an atheist find this to be disconcerting."

Porsche has since apologised "for any offence caused" in a comment on its YouTube page, although it has not given any explanation as to why the statue was edited out of the video..."

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## **Russia to Launch Lunar Mission Friday, First in Nearly 50 Years**

**August 8, 2023** *voanews.com* reported: “Russia said Monday it plans to launch a lunar lander this week after multiple delays, hoping to return to the Moon for the first time in nearly fifty years. Russian space agency Roscosmos said it had scheduled the launch of the Luna-25 lander for the early hours of Friday.

With the lunar mission, Russia’s first since 1976, Moscow is seeking to restart and build on the Soviet Union’s pioneering space program. The launch is the first mission of Moscow’s new lunar project and comes as President Vladimir Putin looks to strengthen cooperation in space with China after ties with the West broke down following the start of Moscow’s offensive in Ukraine last year.

Engineers have assembled a Soyuz rocket at the Vostochny cosmodrome in the Russian Far East for the launch of the lander, Roscosmos said.

‘The Luna-25 will have to practise soft landing, take and analyze soil samples and conduct long-term scientific research,’ Roscosmos said in a statement...”

## **Thousands of US troops arrive in Red Sea amid ratcheting Iran tensions**

**August 7, 2023** *aljazeera.com* reported: “More than 3,000 United States military personnel have arrived in the Red Sea aboard two warships, part of a beefed-up response from Washington after tanker seizures by Iran, the US Navy said Monday.

The deployment adds to a growing US military buildup in tense Gulf waterways vital to the global oil trade and led Tehran on Monday to accuse the US of inflaming regional instability.

The US military says Iran has either seized or attempted to take control of nearly 20 internationally flagged ships in the region over the past two years.

The US sailors and Marines entered the Red Sea on Sunday after transiting through the Suez Canal in a pre-announced deployment, the US Navy's Fifth Fleet said in a statement.

They arrived on board the USS Bataan and USS Carter Hall warships, providing "greater flexibility and maritime capability" to the Fifth Fleet, the statement from the Bahrain-based command added.

The deployment adds to efforts "to deter destabilising activity and de-escalate regional tensions caused by Iran's harassment and seizures of merchant vessels," Fifth Fleet spokesman Commander Tim Hawkins told AFP.

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## **Russia and China Sent Large Naval Patrol Near Alaska**

**August 7, 2023** *wsj.com* reports: “A combined Russian and Chinese naval force patrolled near the coast of Alaska last week in what U.S. experts said appeared to be the largest such flotilla to approach American shores.

Eleven Russian and Chinese ships steamed close to the Aleutian Islands, according to U.S. officials. The ships, which never entered U.S. territorial waters and have since left, were shadowed by four U.S. destroyers and P-8 Poseidon aircraft.

‘It is a historical first,’ said Brent Sadler, a senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation and a retired Navy captain. ‘Given the context of the war in Ukraine and tensions around Taiwan, this move is highly provocative.’

A spokesman for the U.S. Northern Command confirmed that Russia and China had carried out a combined naval patrol near Alaska, but didn’t specify the number of ships or their precise location.

“Air and maritime assets under our commands conducted operations to assure the defense of the United States and Canada. The patrol remained in international waters and was not considered a threat,” the command said...”



*US troops deployed to Mideast*

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