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## Iran to launch electronic warfare gear

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A senior Iranian Navy commander announces that the Islamic Republic plans to soon deploy the most up-to-date domestically-built hardware to counter enemy electronic warfare.

Iran naval forces will deploy the most modern home-manufactured equipment during a massive military exercise, *Velayat 90*, in international waters in the near future, said Iran's Navy Deputy Commander Rear Admiral Gholam Reza Khadem Bigham on Wednesday.

He added that during the drills, the country's latest defensive equipment would also be deployed, IRNA reported.

The commander stated that a number of domestically-built *Ghadir* submarines, which have recently joined Iran's naval fleet, would be used in the maneuvers.

On November 28, three Ghadir submarines joined the country's naval fleet which are capable of launching torpedoes and operate in shallow waters as well as precision targeting.

Khadem Bigham noted that foreign observers are scheduled to be invited to attend the Velayat 90 drills and added that neighboring and friend countries were present in previous exercises.

The Iranian Navy staged the eight-day "Velayat 89" maneuvers in May 2010. The drills successfully tested various types of destroyers, submarines, anti-submarine torpedoes, mid-range cruise missiles, missile launcher frigates and fighter jets.

Over the past years, Iran has made important breakthroughs in its defense sector and attained self-sufficiency in producing important military equipment and systems.

Iran has repeatedly clarified that its military might is merely based on the nation's defense doctrine of deterrence and poses no threat to other countries.