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'US army ready to engage in Iran war'

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Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey says that the US military is ready to launch a military strike against Iran if necessary.

"We are examining a range of options. I'm satisfied that the options that we are developing are evolving to a point that they would be executable if necessary," he said in an interview with US media in Afghanistan.

His warning came after US Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta said "no options were off the table" regarding Iran's nuclear program.

General Dempsey said he had been quietly leading behind the scenes preparations for an attack against Tehran, *The Daily Telegraph* reported.

"My biggest worry is that it may miscalculate our resolve. Any miscalculation could mean that we are drawn into conflict and that would be a tragedy for the region and the world," he said.

Dempsey also confessed that the United States is collaborating with Israel in its intelligence gathering about Iran.

However, he refused to say whether the US military is collecting information on Iran via spy drones.

On December 4, Iran's Army downed with minimum damage a US reconnaissance drone, which had crossed into Iran's airspace over the border with Afghanistan.

Washington and Tel Aviv have repeatedly threatened Tehran with the "option" of a military strike, based on the allegation that Iran's nuclear work may consist of a covert military aspect.

Iran argues that it has the right to develop and acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes as a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency.