

# Mullen: 'Nuclear Iran' an Existential Threat to Israel

Admiral Open to US Attack, Concedes War Would Be Incredibly Destabilizing

By [Jason Ditz](#)

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Speaking today at the National Press Club, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral Michael Mullen declared that "[it's very clear to me that a nuclear weapon in Iran is an existential threat to Israel.](#)"

Adm. Mullen has repeatedly met with Israel's military chief Gen. Ashkenazi, and says foiling Iran's nuclear program is "the number one priority for Israel." This has been underscored in recent days as [Israel has repeatedly threatened to attack Iran.](#)

But while Admiral Mullen said he still wanted President Obama to continue with diplomacy, he was fully prepared to see the US attack Iran to prevent a nuclear Iran from "undermining the stability" of the Middle East. At the same time, Mullen admitted that attacking Iran itself "would also be incredibly destabilizing."

Though Western officials [have repeatedly issued warnings about Iran's nuclear program](#), the IAEA has repeatedly certified that none of Iran's uranium has been enriched to anywhere near weapons-grade level and that none of it is being diverted to anything but civilian use.

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