

Opinion / Editorial

THE ENDGAME OF EPIC FURY IS NEAR

By Bill Connor

As Operation Epic Fury nears the month mark, it moves into the next phase. The Air Campaign has been an absolutely successful in both planning and execution. Over ten thousand Iranian targets have been hit. Senior Iranian leaders have been killed, Iranian Air Force and Navy have been destroyed, and long-range missile capability has been degraded to a fraction of before. Our air superiority allow for the less expensive conventional platforms drop bombs. Israel is now targeting Basij and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps ground force checkpoints, with coordinates provided by Iranian civilians. Iran's decision to target

Gulf states made enemies of formerly neutral powers in the Gulf. The only Iranian "strength" left is the ability to close the Strait of Hormuz to cause worldwide economic pain. Opening the Strait has become the focus and way to victory.

First, as happens in most F R Q A L F W V Z H K D defensive positions. The hedgerows were huge, and provided the perfect defensive positions for the Germans. American tanks were destroyed by German anti-armor whenever hedgerows forced US tanks up, exposing the lightly armored



Attorney Bill Connor
BILL CONNOR LAW FIRM, LLC
1408 RUSSELL STREET, SUITE 11,
ORANGEBURG SC 29115
P 803-937-5571

underbelly Germans would target. The Americans adapted and developed the "Rino" system for the tanks: Welding metal beams to the front of tanks, which would stick into the hedgerow mounds and prevent the tanks from angling up. This allowed the tanks to move in I U R Q W A defensive positions.

Like in overcoming the Hedgerows, we are seeing US ingenuity over unforeseen challenges in the Strait of Hormuz. The challenge in this case is with small and cheap U D Q L D Q which are a primary danger to ships traversing the Strait. These boats were mass produced and armed with relatively cheap anti-ship missiles. They had been hidden away from sight during the initial Epic Fury bombing, and US supersonic high-tech and expensive jets, like the F-35, were not able to track them. The answer to this problem became an old, slow ground support aircraft never intended for this operation. From "National Interest": "A-10 Warthog is ideal for (destruction of Iranian speed boats), in part because of its relatively slow V S H H G the F-15 Eagle, F-16 Fighting Falcon, and F-35 Lightning II D U H S U L aircraft. Because their engines are optimized for supersonic speeds, they have a very high stall speed—meaning they cannot confront slow-moving targets without quickly overshooting them. The Warthog, a subsonic aircraft, has no such limitations; L W Z D V

tackle targets on the ground and provide assistance to friendly troops..... The Warthog, was designed around its enormous GAU-8/A 30mm rotary cannon. The close air support aircraft can still outpace an Iranian speedboat, but it has a good loiter time and can stay on target for reasonably long periods. <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/a-10-warthog-could-be-iranian-navys-worst-nightmare-VD> relatively inexpensive rounds compared to high tech missiles.

In addition to the A10s and Apache helicopters (with similar strengths against speedboats as the A10) being used to clear the Strait, small elite ground units have been "publicly" deployed to the area. A Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) of around 2500 troops came from East Asia and has the capability of an amphibious seizure of Islands in or around the strait. A Brigade Combat Team from the 82nd Airborne of a few thousand airborne soldiers has also been deployed. This unit can be deployed by parachute assault on top of an Island or Islands in the strait. Further special operation ground units, like the Ranger Regiment, have the capability to seize critical ground. The publicly reported deployment of these forces has sent a message to Iranian leaders while in negotiations with the US: If the regime does not agree to US demands in, we have the capability and willingness to quickly end their control of the strait. Along with the capability

Family & Marriage

Bug Lights



Roger Rollins,
Family and Marriage Coalition

"And this is the forbidden truth, the unspeakable taboo - that evil is not always repellent but frequently attractive; that it has the power to make of us not simply victims, as nature and accident do, but active accomplices." - Joyce Carol Oates

"The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time." - Bible (Genesis 6:5)

Do you have outdoor lighting around your house at night? Maybe it's to scare away the burglars! Maybe it's because you like some minimal lighting around the house when it's dark. If you have such lighting, you have probably noticed how the bugs tend to collect around the bulbs. I have an outdoor bulb inside a plastic casing, supposedly to keep the moisture out, but it doesn't keep the bugs out. The casing needs to have the dead bugs removed periodically. Ever wonder why the light attracts bugs? There are several scientific explanations, but the bottom line is they are attracted to the artificial light, and it usually kills them.

The bugs have the light from the sun in the daytime, but it's too far away for them. At night, however, they have the light bulbs that are nearby just waiting to help them say bye-bye to this world! We are also attracted to the light. Most of us appreciate good lighting. We tend to avoid dark places - who knows what might be lurking there! We prefer the light that is nearby. If

it's dark in the house, we flip the nearest light switch. The sun is too far away from us, and the night-times sometimes are pretty dark.

We look around us and the whole world seems to be in darkness. All that's going on around us is scary! We want light, so we reach for the nearest light. The world will be happy to satisfy our desire. More food. More TV. More social media. More alcohol. More sex. Unfortunately, all those sources of "light" in the world don't satisfy us. Ultimately, they lead to death.

There is another source of light that does bring life, but we have to look up, and not to the world around us. Jesus declared Himself to be the Light of the world, the exclusive source of spiritual light. John 8:12 records, "He said, 'I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but have the light of life.'" No other source of spiritual truth, the light that will lead us to life and not death, is available to mankind.

Easter reminds us that Jesus came to bring light into the world. We enjoy it for the weekend, but then we move back out into the darkness. Jesus seems so far away. It's easier to see the lights of the world. They are in our faces. They beckon us.

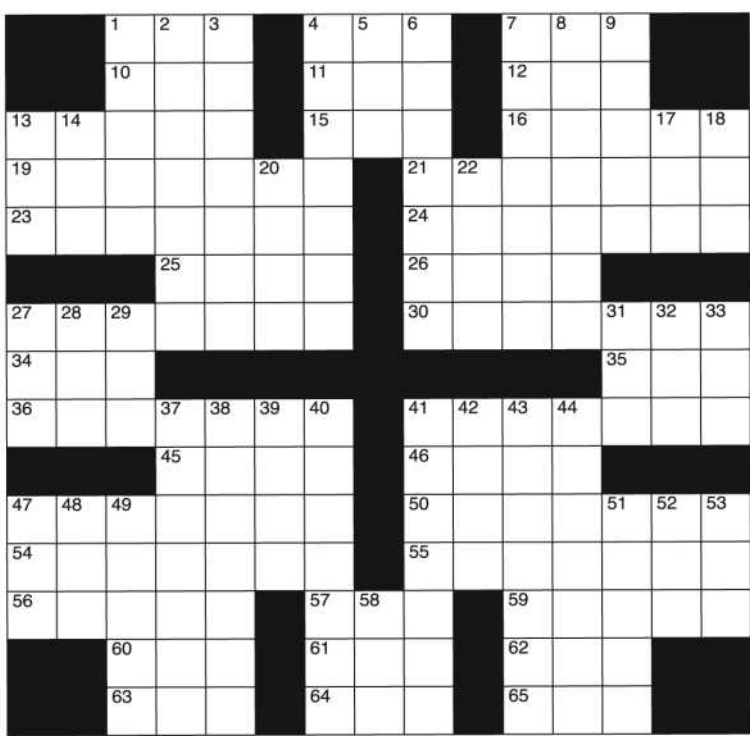
Although we may celebrate the light of Easter morning with our family, then comes Monday, and the ongoing attractions of the world. Husband and wife and family may show up in church, and probably in the restaurant, on Sunday, appearing all bright and beautiful and happy together.

er. But then comes Monday. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we treated (and loved) our family on Monday as much as we appear to do on Easter Sunday? Is it easy? No! The attitudes of the world don't encourage it. We have to watch out for ourselves in the world. Nobody else will. So, we act the same way in our families.

God tells us in the Bible that husband and wife are to love each other in a manner of mutual submission, each fulfilling their roles as God designed them. We frequently choose to deviate from those roles. Family problems, including the divorce rates, are running rampant.

We can be like bugs circling the lights on our back porch and getting zapped. Or we can head toward the light of the world and receive light. The latter is recommended.

The Family and Marriage Coalition of Aiken (FAMCO) was created to provide resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 803-640-4689. Let us know how we can help.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Health care pros
- 4. A person inhabiting Benin
- 7. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 10. Split pulses
- 11. Frozen water
- 12. Small constellation
- 13. Perennial mountain rice
- 15. Pick up
- 16. Japanese historical period
- 19. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
- 21. Unattached
- 23. Fishing port in SE France
- 24. Products for dogs
- 25. One point south of southeast
- 26. Having the skill or resources to do something
- 27. Involve oneself deeply
- 30. Immobile
- 34. ___ pai dong: Hong Kong food stall
- 35. Move quickly on foot
- 36. Gathered
- 41. A way through
- 45. Another name for Thor
- 46. Sharp dueling sword
- 47. The supreme commander of a fleet
- 50. Seasoned sausages
- 54. Path
- 55. Christian hermit
- 56. Ancient region of Asia Minor
- 57. Where wrestlers go to work
- 59. Roman statesman
- 60. Explosive
- 61. Licensed for Wall Street
- 62. Where golfers start
- 63. Grow old
- 64. Autonomic nervous system
- 65. No seats available

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A legally binding command
- 2. General feeling of discomfort
- 3. Dribble
- 4. Soft touch
- 5. South American plant
- 6. Clouds of gas and dust in space
- 7. Warm-blooded vertebrates
- 8. Lines created by folding
- 9. Strong belief
- 13. Senior officer
- 14. Adult
- 17. Joint entrance examination in India
- 18. Passports and drivers' licenses are two
- 20. Those who go against an accepted authority
- 22. One point east of northeast
- 27. Journalist Tarbell
- 28. One's mother (British)
- 29. Nowhere to be found
- 31. A way to save for old age
- 32. Fall behind
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. The work of a sailor
- 38. Mark with striae
- 39. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 40. Sticky situation
- 41. Monetary units of Spain
- 42. Three-banded armadillo
- 43. Chooses
- 44. More disreputable
- 47. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 48. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
- 49. Livestock owners assn. in Spain
- 51. Duplicating machine (abbr.)
- 52. OJ trial judge
- 53. Politician
- 58. Airborne (abbr.)



of the A10s and Apaches, the threat of our troops becomes decisive. The regime knows US ground forces could seize Kharg Islands and the control almost all Iranian energy exports. In that event, the regime be forced into an unconditional surrender versus the current US 15 point plan for peace. <https://indiasworld.in/trumps-15-point-plan-and-why-iran-rejected-it/>

The troops deployed to the region are relatively small and specialized, which means we are not planning or even threatening an Iraq war type ground invasion. If the administration was considering a ground invasion, hundreds of thousands of troops would have been alerted and moving to the region. That isn't happening. I believe the troops being deployed are more about the threat and capability to leverage the regime to capitulate to the 15-point plan. Once the strait is open, or the regime believes that opening is inevitable, the regime will have no choice but to submit. We hope the Iranian people overthrow the regime, but that is not necessary for mission success of Epic Fury.

Let us remain steadfast and with faith in the words of Psalm 91:2 "I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.'"

SUDOKU

		5				6	7
	4			9	1		
		7		6	2		9
4						2	1
	7	1		2		9	
	5						
			4		3		
	2				6		
		3	5		7		

Fun By The Numbers

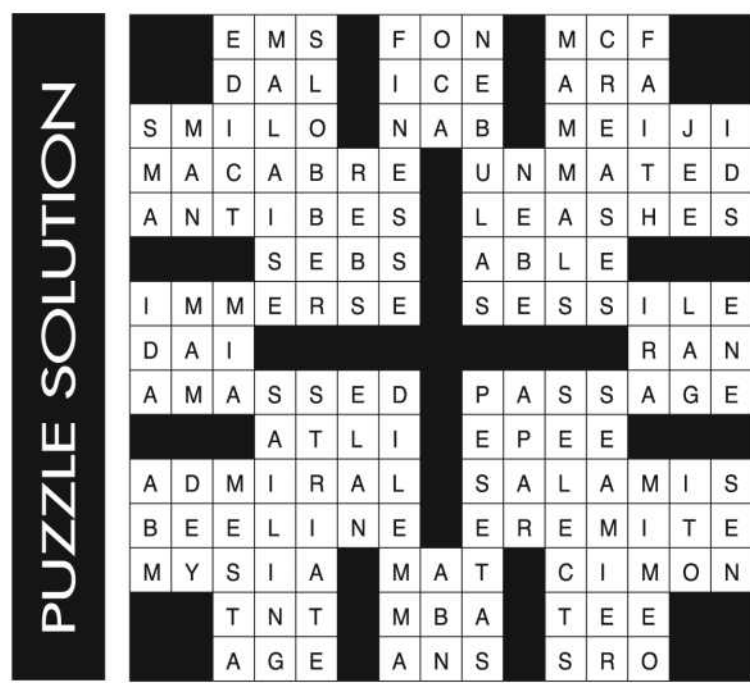
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

9	6	4	3	1	5	8	7	2
5	2	8	9	7	6	3	4	1
7	1	8	2	4	6	5	9	3
6	5	2	1	3	9	7	8	4
8	7	1	6	2	4	9	3	5
4	3	9	8	5	7	2	1	6
1	8	7	5	6	2	4	9	3
3	4	6	7	9	1	5	2	8
2	9	5	4	8	3	1	6	7

ANSWER:



PUZZLE SOLUTION