



THE INKERMAN GROUP

## **IS A MILITARY ACTION IN IRAN INEVITABLE?**

If 2011 was the year of the Arab Spring and wider MENA unrest then perhaps, following the past few weeks of increased rhetoric between Washington and Tehran, war drums are indeed sounding for the Middle East in 2012. If some assessments are to be believed, conflict is inevitable following Iran testing missiles, exercising its navy, and issuing a sharp warning cautioning the US against moving an aircraft carrier into the Persian Gulf. Despite this rebuke, the US has made clear operations will continue in the international waterway, dispatching a second US aircraft carrier, the USS Carl Vinson, into the Gulf days later. Iran then threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of the world's oil flows. It seems that this, coupled with an admission from Tehran that it plans to start uranium enrichment in the "near future" at the Fordow underground site, which is located in a highly-protected bunker beneath a mountain close to the Iranian holy city of Qom, could prove to be the final straw for many in the West. Yet does it signify that a military conflict is inevitable?

For an analysis of the current situation please see our blog <http://bit.ly/zi7EmT>

The Inkerman Group continues to monitor events and provide pre-emptive advice through our intelligence led approach to threat mitigation on this and other geo-political issues globally set to shape the near future and potentially impact business considerably.

For more information on this subject and to talk to one of our Corporate Intelligence team on regional matters affecting business please contact [Alice.boyes@inkerman.com](mailto:Alice.boyes@inkerman.com) or call 01233 644940.