

April 24, 2015

Iran's powerful Guard rejects inspection of military sites

International nuclear inspectors will be barred from all Iranian military sites under any deal with world powers, a senior commander in the Revolutionary Guard said Sunday, setting up a possible standoff as negotiators try to reach a final deal. According to The Associated Press, Gen. Hossein Salami, the Guard's deputy leader, told Iranian state television that allowing foreign inspection of military sites is tantamount to "selling out," raising the stakes as talks between Iran and the six-nation group are to resume April 22 in Vienna. "They will not even be permitted to inspect the most normal military site in their dreams." Meanwhile Sunday, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei described such Western claims about its nuclear program a "myth." "Americans, Europeans and some apple polishers fabricated the myth of nuclear weapons to say that the Islamic Republic was a threat. No. The threat is America itself," he told military commanders Sunday. Khamenei's remarks are seen as an effort by Iran to toughen its position ahead of the next round of talks.