MINTEL WORLD

Conflict and energy consultancy

GLOBAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS DAILY

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Executive Assessment

Military escalation between the United States, Israel, and Iran continues to shape the global security environment as sustained air operations target Iranian military facilities, IRGC command centers, missile infrastructure, and increasingly the country's energy logistics network. Forward deployment of U.S. strategic bombers to the United Kingdom and continued large-scale logistical airlift operations to Middle Eastern bases indicate preparations for sustained high-tempo strike operations. The gradual decline in daily Iranian ballistic missile launches suggests that ongoing U.S. and Israeli strikes are degrading Iran's missile launch infrastructure and operational capacity, although retaliatory attacks against regional targets continue.

Regional tensions are further intensified by the expansion of the conflict into additional domains. Hezbollah has continued rocket and drone attacks against northern Israel, prompting new Israeli strikes on Hezbollah missile depots and command infrastructure in Lebanon. Casualty figures within Iran have risen significantly as air operations expand. The United States and its allies are reinforcing regional defensive posture through additional air defense deployments, airborne early warning capabilities, and counter-drone systems designed to intercept Iranian loitering munitions.

The widening conflict is increasingly affecting global strategic dynamics. Diplomatic engagement between Washington and Moscow reflects growing international concern over escalation risks, while the Russia–Ukraine war continues without meaningful de-escalation and planned peace negotiations have been postponed due to the Middle East crisis. At the same time, global military modernization and procurement activity remains elevated, with multiple states accelerating investments in air defense, naval capabilities, and unmanned systems in response to the evolving threat environment.

U.S. ATTACK ON IRAN - MIDDLE EAST DEPLOYMENT

- The U.S. Air Force deployed eight B-1B and three B-52H strategic bombers to RAF Fairford in the United Kingdom in support of the ongoing Epic Fury Operation. Forward deployment is expected to reduce mission duration by nearly half and enable higher sortie rates and increased operational tempo.

- The U.S. Air Force deployed three additional B-52H strategic bombers to RAF Fairford in the United Kingdom. A total of eight B-1B and six B-52H bombers have now been deployed to the base.

- The Ministry of National Defense of Türkiye announced that NATO will deploy Patriot air defense systems to Malatya in order to strengthen Türkiye's air and missile defense capacity. C-17 transport aircraft from NATO's Strategic Airlift Capability Heavy Airlift Wing are transporting Patriot system components from Ramstein Air Base in Germany to Malatya Erhaç Air Base.

- It has been claimed that the Royal Navy nuclear-powered submarine HMS Anson suspended its planned one-month port visit and maintenance period in Australia and departed for the Gulf region to support U.S. operations against Iran.

- The U.S. Air Force continues logistical airlift flights to bases in the Middle East. Within the last 24 hours, more than 20 flights have been conducted from Europe and the U.S. mainland to regional bases.

- The U.S. Army is reportedly redeploying THAAD and Patriot air defense systems from South Korea in order to support ongoing operations in the Middle East and reinforce systems that were destroyed by Iranian attacks.

- The Royal Australian Air Force announced that one E-7A airborne early warning and control (AEW&C) aircraft will be deployed to the Middle East to support regional operations.

- U.S. and Israeli operations continue to degrade Iran's ballistic missile launch capabilities. A decline in daily Iranian ballistic missile launches has been observed since the first day of the conflict, reflecting the impact of ongoing comprehensive strikes on Iran’s missile launchers by U.S. and Israeli forces.

Day	**Date**	**Estimated Ballistic Missiles**	**Details / Barrage Count**
Day 1	Feb 28, 2026	~350	20+ barrages (mostly small: 2-4 missiles each initially); ~170 to Israel, hundreds to Gulf countries and U.S. bases
Day 2	Mar 1, 2026	~175	4+ barrages (9-30 missiles per barrage)
Day 3	Mar 2, 2026	~120	At least 6 barrages (smaller salvos)
Day 4	Mar 3, 2026	~50	~7 barrages (low-impact, scattered); continued but limited Gulf countries and U.S. bases strikes
Day 5	Mar 4, 2026	~40	Low volume; 7-8 attack waves reported by afternoon; some night barrages
Day 6	Mar 5, 2026	~32+	New waves detected (2-3+ barrages early)
Day 7	Mar 6, 2026	~28	
Day 8	Mar 7, 2026	~35+	
Day 9	Mar 8, 2026	~55	
Day 10	Mar 9, 2026	~25	

GLOBAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

- U.S. and Israeli air strikes against Iran continued to expand. Within the scope of the operation, military facilities, IRGC command centers, and missile infrastructure in Tehran and other cities were targeted, and Iran's air defense capacity is assessed to have been significantly degraded.

- The United States and Israel began targeting Iran's energy infrastructure. Oil storage sites and fuel distribution facilities in Tehran were struck, which is being assessed as a new phase of the operation aimed at degrading Iran's war logistics and energy infrastructure.

- According to data released by the Iranian Ministry of Health, more than 1,200 people have been killed and over 12,000 injured since the early days of the conflict.

- Hezbollah continued its attacks against Israel. Hezbollah forces supporting Iran carried out rocket and drone attacks against northern Israel.

- Israel conducted new air strikes in Lebanon. Israeli fighter aircraft targeted Hezbollah missile depots and command centers.

- U.S. and Russian leaders held a phone call regarding the war with Iran. Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump discussed proposals aimed at bringing the conflict to an end quickly.

- Fighting continues along the front lines in the Russia–Ukraine war. Ukrainian forces are conducting counteroffensive operations in the Zaporizhzhia and Donbas regions.

- Ukraine–Russia peace talks were postponed. Planned trilateral negotiations were delayed at the request of the United States due to the war in the Middle East.

GLOBAL DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS

- A Royal Navy (RN) Crowsnest-configured Lockheed Martin-Leonardo AW101 Merlin HM2 helicopter has arrived on Cyprus to provide airborne surveillance and control (ASaC) for the Sovereign Base Areas that include RAF Akrotiri.

- Beretta Defense Technologies (BDT) confirms delivery of 7,000 NARP assault rifles to Italian Army.

- Latest satellite imagery of the port area at Kochi confirms that the Iranian naval landing ship IRIS Lavan is docked within a controlled zone typically utilised by Indian naval vessels.

- The U.S. Army is deploying the Merops counter-drone system to the Middle East to intercept Iranian Shahed-type attack drones threatening U.S. forces and regional infrastructure.

- Australia announced the transfer of AIM-120 AMRAAM air-to-air missiles to the United Arab Emirates as Iranian missile and drone attacks expand across the Middle East.

- India's Defence Procurement Board recommended the acquisition of 60 Ghatak unmanned combat aerial vehicles for deep strike and suppression of enemy air defences.

- Azerbaijan has ordered 40 ASELPOD targeting pods from Türkiye for JF-17 Block III fighter aircraft expected from Pakistan.

- China has commissioned two additional Type 055 guided-missile destroyers, Dongguan (Hull 109) and Anqing (Hull 110), bringing the People's Liberation Army Navy's operational fleet of the advanced warships to ten. Their assignment to the Eastern Theater Command strengthens China's naval combat capability in the East China Sea and around Taiwan.

- France is deploying a major naval force, including the aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle, eight frigates, and two Mistral-class amphibious ships to the eastern Mediterranean and surrounding waters.

- Greek Defense Minister Nikos Dendias confirmed that negotiations with Italy for the acquisition of two Italian FREMM Bergamini-class frigates with a 2+2 option are expected to conclude with a contract by April 2026.

- The U.S. Department of War is moving to integrate the Patriot PAC-3 MSE interceptor onto U.S. Navy destroyers equipped with the Aegis combat system.

- The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) has commissioned the fifth of its Taigei-class diesel-electric attack submarines.

- Canada plans to invest more than $663 million to expand drone and airborne defense research, including the creation of a new testing and research facility.

FORWARD LOOK – NEXT 7 DAYS

• Monitoring the operational tempo of U.S. and Israeli air strikes against Iranian military and energy infrastructure

• Tracking additional deployments of U.S. strategic bombers and logistical airlift flights supporting operations in the Middle East

• Indicators of further degradation in Iranian ballistic missile launch capacity and changes in retaliation patterns

• Potential expansion of Israeli military operations against Hezbollah infrastructure in Lebanon

• Deployment and operational use of additional air and missile defense systems across the Middle East

• Monitoring counter-drone deployments aimed at intercepting Iranian Shahed-type attack drones

• Diplomatic engagement between the United States, Russia, and other actors regarding possible conflict de-escalation

• Continued fighting along the Russia–Ukraine front lines and potential impacts on postponed negotiation timelines

• Naval deployments by European powers in the Eastern Mediterranean as regional security risks increase