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GLOBAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS DAILY

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Executive Assessment

Military escalation between the United States, Israel, and Iran continues to define the global security environment as sustained air operations target Iranian military facilities, IRGC command centers, and missile infrastructure. The forward deployment of U.S. strategic bombers to RAF Fairford in the United Kingdom, where 11 B-1B and 6 B-52H aircraft are now stationed, alongside continuous large-scale logistical airlift operations, indicates preparations for sustained high-tempo strike missions. A gradual decline in daily Iranian ballistic missile launches suggests that ongoing strikes are successfully degrading Iran’s launch infrastructure and operational capacity, even as retaliatory attacks against regional targets persist.

Regional tensions are further intensified by the expansion of the conflict across multiple domains and geographies. Israeli forces have intensified long-range strikes into western, northern, and central Iran, targeting military logistics centers and missile storage to expand their operational reach. Casualty figures have risen significantly, with over 1,200 killed in Iran and 570 in Lebanon, while regional air defense missile stockpiles in Gulf countries have reportedly declined to critical levels. The United States and its allies are reinforcing their defensive posture through the transfer of Patriot systems to Türkiye and the planned redeployment of THAAD components from South Korea to the Middle East.

The widening conflict is increasingly affecting global maritime security and strategic dynamics. Risks to global energy routes have escalated following reports of potential Iranian mine-laying operations in the Strait of Hormuz and recent unmanned surface vessel attacks on commercial shipping. While diplomatic engagement between Washington and Moscow reflects international concern over escalation, the Russia and Ukraine war continues without de-escalation, and negotiation timelines have been impacted by the Middle East crisis. Concurrently, global military modernization remains elevated, characterized by 5.6 billion dollars in U.S. munition expenditures in the conflict's opening days and accelerated procurement of advanced strike, naval, and unmanned systems by states such as Sweden, Indonesia, and Australia.

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U.S. ATTACK ON IRAN - MIDDLE EAST DEPLOYMENT

- The U.S. Air Force continues logistical airlift flights to bases in the Middle East. Within the last 24 hours, more than 15 flights have been conducted from Europe and the U.S. mainland to regional bases.

- The U.S. Air Force has begun conducting strike missions against Iran using bombers deployed to RAF Fairford in the United Kingdom. Three B-1B strategic bombers reportedly carried out strike missions and subsequently returned to RAF Fairford.

- Three additional B-1B strategic bombers were deployed to RAF Fairford, bringing the total number at the base to 11 B-1B and 6 B-52H bombers. This means approximately one-quarter of the U.S. Air Force's B-1B bomber fleet is currently forward-deployed at RAF Fairford.

- C-17 transport aircraft from NATO's Strategic Airlift Capability (SAC) Heavy Airlift Wing continue transporting Patriot air defense system components from Ramstein Air Base in Germany to Malatya Erhaç Air Base in Türkiye.

- It was reported that THAAD components deployed in South Korea will be transferred to the Middle East. South Korean authorities stated that they do not support the transfer but confirmed that the systems belong to the United States, meaning the deployment decision ultimately rests with Washington.

- 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**
Day 1	Feb 28, 2026	~350
Day 2	Mar 1, 2026	~175
Day 3	Mar 2, 2026	~120
Day 4	Mar 3, 2026	~50
Day 5	Mar 4, 2026	~40
Day 6	Mar 5, 2026	~32+
Day 7	Mar 6, 2026	~28
Day 8	Mar 7, 2026	~35+
Day 9	Mar 8, 2026	~55
Day 10	Mar 9, 2026	~25
Day 11	Mar 10, 2026	~45

GLOBAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

- Recent strike waves targeted command centers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), ballistic missile depots, and military air bases. Israeli sources indicate that strategic facilities in western and northern Iran have also been targeted, reportedly in anticipation of the possibility that the United States could scale down or end its participation in the operation.

- The Israeli Air Force intensified long-range strikes against targets inside Iran. Military logistics centers and missile storage facilities located in Iran's central regions were hit, and Israel is assessed to have expanded its operational reach within Iranian airspace.

- Iranian officials warned that attacks against U.S. bases could continue, stating that the conflict could evolve into a broader regional front.

- Iran continued missile and drone attacks against U.S. and allied bases across the Gulf region. U.S. military installations and logistical nodes were targeted, while several attacks were reportedly intercepted by regional air defense systems.

- Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar announced that a significant portion of the ballistic missiles and kamikaze drones launched from Iran had been intercepted. However, reports suggest that air defense missile stockpiles in several Gulf countries have declined to critical levels.

- Claims emerged that Iran may have begun deploying naval mines in the Strait of Hormuz. U.S. and Western intelligence sources are assessing indications that Iran could be preparing mine-laying operations around the strait.

- The U.S. Navy increased its readiness against potential mine threats. Mine countermeasure vessels and maritime patrol assets in the region have intensified patrols around the Strait of Hormuz.

- According to a statement by U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), several Iranian naval vessels capable of conducting mine-laying operations were targeted during recent strikes.

- Attacks against commercial shipping in the Gulf and around the Strait of Hormuz have reportedly increased. Three commercial vessels attempting to transit the strait were attacked and later evacuated, with at least three sailors reported missing. Visual evidence suggests that the ships were likely struck by kamikaze unmanned surface vessels (USVs).

- Risks to global energy and trade routes are increasing. Security threats in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf are contributing to volatility in global oil and LNG markets.

- Throughout the attacks launched by the United States and Israel against Iran, numerous casualties and injuries have been reported in Iran and in countries across the region. The data available so far regarding the losses from the attacks are as follows:

Country	Killed	Injured
Iran	1,255	12,000
Lebanon	570	1,444
Israel	13	Nearly 2,000
Iraq	15	Dozens
Jordan	0	14
Kuwait	6	Dozens
Bahrain	2	Dozens
Qatar	0	16
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	6	122
Saudi Arabia	2	12
Oman	1	5
US Military	8	140–150

GLOBAL DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS

- Serbian MiG-29 appears armed With Chinese made supersonic standoff missiles.

- Poland receives final leased AH-64D as preparations for AH-64E continue.

- Thales has launched the SkyDefender multilayer, multidomain integrated air and missile defence shield. The system provides protection against all types of air threats, on land, at sea, and in space, integrating a network of advanced sensors and effectors with a command-and-control (C2) system.

- Indonesia announced that it has reached an agreement with India to procure the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system for its maritime forces.

- The U.S. Department of State has approved a possible Foreign Military Sale to Sweden for M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems and related equipment valued at an estimated $930 million.

- Australian defence technology firm DroneShield is opening a new production facility in Belgium to manufacture counter-unmanned aerial systems for European customers.

- Canada will upgrade five Portuguese Air Force P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft under a $39 million government-to-government contract executed by General Dynamics Mission Systems Canada.

- North Korea launched several cruise missiles from its newest destroyer in a second sea-based test within a week, with Kim Jong Un monitoring remotely.

- The Pentagon used approximately $5.6 billion worth of munitions during the first two days of the United States' war with Iran, according to a congressional source.

- The U.S. Department of War announced that it had signed a contract with Lockheed Martin to begin the production process for additional F-35A Lightning II aircraft ordered by Denmark. The contract has a total value of $700 million and covers the initiation of production for components associated with the 20th and 21st production lots of the aircraft.

- Australia's Department of Defence has awarded a new seven-year contract worth $163 million to BAE Systems Australia to support critical maritime capabilities for the Royal Australian Navy.

- B-21 Raider stealth bomber spotted during aerial refueling test for the first time.

- The Royal Navy is preparing to acquire a fleet of 20 uncrewed surface vessels under a programme known as Project Beehive. The contract, valued at £10.25 million excluding VAT, is to be awarded to UK firm Kraken Works Ltd following a competitive tender process that drew bids from 12 companies, including BAE Systems, Kongsberg and L3Harris.

FORWARD LOOK – NEXT 7 DAYS

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

• Monitoring the potential deployment of naval mines by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz and the corresponding increase in U.S. Navy mine countermeasure readiness.

• Tracking the targeting of Iranian naval vessels capable of mine-laying operations to mitigate threats to global energy and trade routes

• 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