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# GLOBAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS DAILY

**Region:** Middle East | Europe | Indo-Pacific | Global
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**Scope:** Security | Energy | Diplomacy | Defence Industry
**Classification:** Client Confidential

## Executive Assessment

The United States and Israel have continued expanding their military campaign against Iran, with sustained air strikes targeting ballistic missile infrastructure, radar networks, and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps command centers across multiple locations including Tehran. Forward deployment of U.S. strategic bombers to RAF Fairford has enabled the initiation of bomber strike missions against Iranian targets, while additional bomber deployments have further strengthened the forward strike posture. At the same time, intensive logistical airlift operations using C-17 and C-5 aircraft indicate ongoing efforts to sustain high operational tempo across regional bases. The United States is also reinforcing regional air defense networks by transferring Patriot and THAAD resources and replenishing missile stocks following heavy operational usage.

Operational indicators suggest that the combined U.S. and Israeli campaign is significantly degrading Iran’s missile launch capabilities. The number of Iranian ballistic missile launches has declined substantially since the beginning of the conflict, reflecting the impact of continued strikes on launch infrastructure and supporting systems. In response, Iran has increasingly targeted regional air defense assets such as Patriot and THAAD radar systems and has expanded its pressure campaign into the maritime domain.

Security risks in the Strait of Hormuz have intensified as Iran reportedly attempted to deploy naval mines and issued explicit threats against commercial vessels linked to the United States, Israel, or their partners. U.S. naval forces have begun counter mine operations and destroyed Iranian naval assets believed capable of conducting mining activities near the strait. Several commercial vessels have already been attacked, forcing some ships to conduct dark transit by disabling identification systems, while oil terminals in the region have temporarily suspended operations due to security concerns.

Regional states are responding by strengthening integrated air defense coordination with the United States and expanding early warning capabilities. At the same time, the broader global security environment remains active, with continued Ukrainian strikes against Russian military infrastructure and multiple defense modernization initiatives underway across Europe, Asia, and the Indo Pacific, reflecting a wider acceleration in military technological development and capability expansion.

## U.S. ATTACK ON IRAN - MIDDLE EAST DEPLOYMENT

- The U.S. Air Force has begun conducting strike missions against Iran using bombers deployed to RAF Fairford in the United Kingdom. Four 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.

- Romanian President Nicușor Dan approved a US request to temporarily deploy aircraft, equipment, and personnel supporting operations against Iran at Romanian bases following a national security council meeting.

- U.S. Air Force logistical airlift operations to Middle Eastern bases are continuing. C-17 and C-5 cargo aircraft are conducting intensive flights to supply regional bases.

- The U.S. military is reinforcing missile stocks in the region using Patriot and THAAD batteries from South Korea, after missile inventories in ongoing operations against Iran fell below critical levels.

- Preparations began to transfer elements from a THAAD battery deployed in South Korea to the Middle East, intended to replace AN/TPY-2 radar systems damaged by Iranian kamikaze drone attacks.

- Transportation of Patriot air defense system components for the NATO deployment to Turkey continues. Components are being airlifted from Ramstein Air Base in Germany to Malatya Erhaç Air Base.

- Four RAF F-35Bs deploy from Marham to Akrotiri to strengthen Cyprus air defence against Iranian drone and missile threats.

- The Royal Australian Air Force deployed air assets to the United Arab Emirates in order to support and strengthen Gulf countries' air defense capabilities, including one E-7A airborne early warning and control aircraft, two A330 MRTT tanker aircraft, and one C-17 transport aircraft.

- 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 | March 4, 2026 | ~40 |
| Day 6 | March 5, 2026 | ~32+ |
| Day 7 | March 6, 2026 | ~28 |
| Day 8 | March 7, 2026 | ~35+ |
| Day 9 | March 8, 2026 | ~55 |
| Day 10 | March 9, 2026 | ~25 |
| Day 11 | March 10, 2026 | ~45 |
| Day 12 | March 11, 2026 | ~30 |

## GLOBAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

- The United States and Israel continued large-scale air strikes against Iran. Iranian ballistic missile infrastructure, military radar networks, and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) command centers were targeted, while numerous explosions were reported in Tehran. Since the beginning of the war, more than 1,200 people are reported to have been killed in Iran.

- The Israeli Air Force continued conducting strikes against military targets inside Iran, while also maintaining air operations against Hezbollah infrastructure in Lebanon.

- U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) announced that thousands of military targets inside Iran have been struck since the beginning of the war, and that Iran’s missile capabilities have been significantly degraded.

- Iran has conducted attacks aimed at U.S.-made Patriot and THAAD radar systems, seeking to reduce the effectiveness of air defense networks across the Gulf region.

- Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain have taken new steps to strengthen air defense integration with the United States, including efforts to expand early warning systems.

- Reports emerged claiming that Iran attempted to deploy naval mines in the Strait of Hormuz. U.S. and Western intelligence sources assess that Iran may be conducting mining activities around the strait to pressure commercial shipping traffic.

- The U.S. Navy initiated operations against the mine threat. U.S. forces reportedly destroyed several Iranian naval assets capable of mine-laying operations near the strait.

- Tankers and commercial vessels have begun conducting “dark transit” by switching off their AIS systems. Due to heightened security risks in the region, some ships are transiting the strait without broadcasting identification signals.

- Iran issued explicit threats against vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian military officials declared that ships linked to the United States, Israel, or their allies could be considered legitimate targets.

- Multiple commercial vessels were attacked in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf. On 11 March, three commercial ships were reportedly struck by unknown munitions near the strait, causing a fire on one vessel and forcing the evacuation of its crew.

- The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) stated that some vessels had been deliberately targeted, claiming that warning shots were fired at ships allegedly linked to Israel and that their transit had been halted.

- Several ships, including tankers and container vessels, were attacked in the Gulf, and some oil terminals temporarily suspended operations due to security concerns.

- Ukraine conducted strikes against Russian military infrastructure. Ukrainian unmanned systems targeted Russian command centers, fuel depots, and ammunition storage facilities.

## GLOBAL DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS

- Belgium is trialling the use of its Lockheed Martin F-16 Fighting Falcon combat aircraft armed with laser-guided rockets for the counter-unmanned aircraft system (C-UAS) role.

- ArianeGroup and Thales presented the FLP-T 150 guided rocket system intended to restore long-range artillery capability for the French Army with strikes reaching 150 km.

- Japan has revealed the EC-2 electronic warfare aircraft developed from the Kawasaki C-2 airlifter to conduct stand-off radar and communications jamming missions.

- Australia received its second MC-55A Peregrine airborne intelligence aircraft at RAAF Base Edinburgh on March 12, 2026, following a ferry flight from the United States with stops in Hawaii and Guam.

- A Synapsis interface upgrade allows the Hunter-class frigates to operate with the Aegis combat architecture while connecting these ships with the missile engagement network already used on Australian Hobart-class destroyers.

- The Australian ministry of defense announced it is acquiring a fleet of 40 Bluebottle uncrewed surface vessels (USV) to enhance the Royal Australian Navy's undersea warfare capabilities.

- The U.S.Navy resumed testing of its electromagnetic railgun weapon system in February 2025 at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

- The U.S. Navy has awarded a $19.5 million contract modification to General Dynamics Bath Iron Works to continue engineering and technical support for the Navy's Zumwalt-class destroyers.

- U.S.-based iRocket announced the successful completion of a test flight of its iRX-100 missile integrated with a launcher supplied by Arnold Defense.

**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