

GLOBAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS DAILY

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Executive Assessment

The military confrontation between the United States, Israel, and Iran continues to intensify through sustained air operations, expanded regional deployments, and growing maritime instability around the Strait of Hormuz. The United States is reinforcing its presence through both air and naval forces, including the planned deployment of an Amphibious Ready Group led by USS Tripoli and a Marine Expeditionary Unit of more than 2,200 personnel to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

Long range strike operations remain central to the campaign. U.S. Air Force B-1B bombers operating from RAF Fairford have conducted strike missions against targets in Iran, while logistical airlift missions using C-17 and C-5 aircraft continue to support regional deployments. Following the crash of a KC-135R tanker aircraft in Iraq, aerial refueling operations have been partially rerouted through Jordanian and Saudi airspace, with additional tanker aircraft redeployed to sustain operational continuity.

The conflict is also placing pressure on regional air and missile defense networks. Iranian kamikaze drone attacks damaged AN TPY 2 radar systems, prompting preparations to redeploy elements of a THAAD battery from South Korea to the Middle East. The United States has also reinforced its regional airpower posture by deploying additional F-35A fighter aircraft, while Iranian drone attacks resulted in the loss of an Italian MQ-9 Reaper UAV.

The maritime dimension of the conflict is becoming increasingly critical. The Strait of Hormuz has effectively become a high risk operational zone, with commercial shipping traffic declining significantly amid Iranian threats to target vessels linked to the United States or Israel. U.S. forces have intensified operations against Iran's naval mine laying capabilities, although intelligence assessments indicate that Iran retains the ability to conduct additional mining operations.

The crisis is also producing broader geopolitical and economic effects. With approximately one fifth of global oil and LNG flows passing through the Strait of Hormuz, disruptions to tanker traffic are directly affecting global energy markets. In response, the International Energy

U.S. ATTACK ON IRAN - MIDDLE EAST DEPLOYMENT

- The Pentagon announced that, as part of operations against Iran, an Amphibious Ready Group led by the USS Tripoli amphibious assault ship and a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) consisting of at least 2,200 U.S. Marines will be deployed to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility.
- The U.S. Air Force has begun conducting strike missions against Iran using bombers deployed to RAF Fairford in the United Kingdom. Six B-1B strategic bombers reportedly carried out strike missions and subsequently returned to RAF Fairford.
- 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.
- Following the crash of a KC-135R tanker aircraft in Iraq, the U.S. Air Force significantly reduced flight operations over Iraqi airspace. Tanker aircraft are now primarily operating along routes over Jordan and Saudi Arabia.
- Nine tanker aircraft previously deployed at Sofia International Airport were redeployed to the Middle East.
- U.S. Air Force logistical airlift operations to the Middle East and the Gulf continue. C-17 and C-5 cargo aircraft are conducting regular flights to support regional deployments.
- The Italian Air Force announced that one MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle was destroyed following Iranian kamikaze drone attacks targeting Kuwait.
- The U.S. Air Force redeployed eight F-35A fighter jets from RAF Lakenheath to bases in the Middle East.

GLOBAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

- The United States and Israel continued large-scale airstrikes against military targets in Iran. Operations targeting Iran's missile and drone infrastructure remain one of the central objectives of the campaign.
- Israeli strikes also targeted fuel depots and military logistics facilities in Iran. Iranian authorities described these attacks as "ecocide."
- U.S. forces continued to strike Iranian military assets supporting Gulf operations. The operations are aimed at degrading Iran's naval mine, drone, and anti-ship missile capabilities.
- Iranian security forces detained more than 500 individuals accused of having links to U.S. and Israeli attacks inside the country.
- The Strait of Hormuz has effectively become a high-risk maritime zone. Tanker and commercial shipping traffic has significantly declined due to the ongoing hostilities.
- The U.S. administration described the limited resumption of tanker transits as a positive development for energy supply. Some vessels linked to China and India have begun transiting the strait again.
- The United States requested allied countries to deploy warships to help escort tanker convoys. Some countries, including Japan and Australia, have responded cautiously to the request.
- Approximately 20% of global oil and LNG flows transit through the Strait of Hormuz, making the crisis in the strait directly impactful on global energy markets.
- U.S. forces conducted operations targeting Iran's naval mine-laying capability. Several Iranian mine-laying vessels and boats in the Gulf were reportedly destroyed.
- U.S. intelligence assesses that Iran still retains mine-laying capabilities, prompting an intensification of mine countermeasure operations around the strait.
- Iran declared vessels linked to the United States or Israel transiting the Strait of Hormuz as "legitimate targets."
- The International Energy Agency (IEA) initiated the largest strategic petroleum reserve release in its history in an effort to stabilize global energy markets.
- The Israeli Air Force continued conducting strikes against military targets inside Iran, while also maintaining air operations against Hezbollah infrastructure in Lebanon.

GLOBAL DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS

- The U.S. Air Force has increased by \$2 billion the value of a contract with Raytheon to produce and sustain terminals that connect aircraft, command posts and other platforms to the military's most secure satellite communications network.
- The U.S. Navy awarded Boeing a \$489 million contract to develop and integrate the AN-ALQ-264(V) Beowulf electronic warfare system on EA-18G Growler aircraft.
- The U.S. Central Command confirmed the operational use of EC-130H Compass Call electronic warfare aircraft during Operation Epic Fury to target Iranian military command networks.
- The U.S. Navy will keep the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) in operational service through 2027 while beginning the industrial and logistical preparations required for its eventual inactivation and nuclear defueling.
- The U.S. Department of War awarded Kongsberg Defence and Aerospace a \$45.54 million contract tied to Latvia's Naval Strike Missile Coastal Defense System under the Foreign Military Sales process.
- Anduril has been selected by the U.S. Navy and the Defense Innovation Unit to demonstrate its Dive-XL extra-large autonomous undersea vehicle for long-range unmanned missions.
- The U.S. Navy confirmed plans to increase production of the Hammerhead anti-submarine mine system through a contract modification expected to be awarded to General Dynamics Mission Systems.
- The U.S. Army has awarded a contract valued at up to \$20 billion to Anduril Industries to consolidate a wide range of artificial intelligence-driven battlefield technologies into a unified operational system built around the company's Lattice software platform.
- Elbit Systems of America has been awarded a \$120.5 million contract by the U.S. Army to develop a new Soldier Borne Mission Command (SBMC) capability. The award, issued through an Other Transaction Authority agreement, aims to enhance how soldiers operate and share information on the battlefield.
- Raytheon confirmed it has completed a 26,000 sq ft (2,415.5 m²) expansion of its Redstone Raytheon Missile Integration Facility slated to increase the facility's

integration and delivery capacity by over 50% and grow the company's footprint at the site in Alabama.

- The Lithuanian Armed Forces have received a new delivery of missiles and ammunition valued at more than €5.7 million, strengthening the country's military capabilities. The shipment includes AMRAAM 120B air defence missiles, Spike LR2 anti-tank missiles and 5.56×45 mm NATO BALL ammunition.
- North Korea has conducted a 'firepower strike drill' involving its 600 mm multiple rocket launcher (MRL) system, signalling the weapon's deployment.
- A new rotary-wing unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that China unveiled in 2025 has been seen aboard a People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) Type 075 Yushen-class landing helicopter dock (LHD) in recently released state-owned video footage.
- Turkey's defense manufacturer Baykar unveiled the K2 long-range kamikaze unmanned aerial vehicle. A runway-operated loitering munition designed for extended strike missions and coordinated swarm operations.
- Germany has delivered a new batch of PAC-3 Patriot interceptor missiles to Ukraine, reinforcing Kyiv's ability to defend against Russian ballistic and hypersonic-class threats, including Kinzhal and Iskander strikes.
- Egypt has begun local co-production of the K9A1 Thunder 155 mm self-propelled howitzer through a defense industrial partnership with South Korea's Hanwha Defense.

FORWARD LOOK – NEXT 7 DAYS

- Continued U.S. and Israeli air operations targeting Iranian missile, drone, and military infrastructure across the country.
- Arrival and operational deployment of the USS Tripoli led Amphibious Ready Group and Marine Expeditionary Unit within the CENTCOM area.
- Expansion of U.S. and allied naval operations in the Gulf focused on mine countermeasure missions and protection of maritime routes in the Strait of Hormuz.
- Possible further decline or disruption in commercial shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz depending on the security situation.

- Continued volatility in global energy markets linked to tanker traffic disruptions and the International Energy Agency strategic petroleum reserve release.
- Additional allied naval contributions or escort missions for tanker convoys in the Gulf region.
- Ongoing Iranian drone and missile operations targeting regional military installations and maritime infrastructure.
- Continued Israeli air operations against Iranian targets and Hezbollah infrastructure in Lebanon.
- Further announcements of defense procurement and military modernization programs linked to emerging operational requirements.