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GLOBAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS DAILY

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Executive Assessment

The United States continues to expand its military posture in the Middle East through a combination of airpower, naval deployments, and reinforced air defense measures. The planned deployment of an Amphibious Ready Group led by USS Tripoli alongside a Marine Expeditionary Unit signals increased readiness for contingency operations across the CENTCOM area. Strategic air operations are ongoing, with B-1B bombers from RAF Fairford conducting strike missions against targets in Iran, supported by sustained logistical airlift operations. At the same time, NATO has strengthened regional air defense with the deployment of an additional Patriot battery to Incirlik Air Base, reflecting heightened concerns over missile threats.

The air campaign remains focused on degrading Iran's strategic capabilities. U.S. forces are conducting SEAD and DEAD missions against radar and early warning systems, particularly along the southern coastline near the Strait of Hormuz, while also employing bunker-buster munitions against hardened underground missile facilities. These operations are supported by long-range bomber missions and adjusted aerial refueling chains operating at greater stand-off distances. Israeli operations complement this effort through deep strikes on missile storage sites and time-sensitive targeting of mobile launchers using integrated intelligence and surveillance capabilities. Iran has responded by reducing salvo volumes while focusing on higher-value military targets, indicating a more controlled use of its missile inventory.

The maritime domain is becoming increasingly central to the conflict. Iran is expanding pressure in the Gulf by targeting commercial shipping and conducting reconnaissance with fast attack craft and unmanned surface vessels. This has contributed to a reported decline of up to 30 percent in daily oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz, with regional producers adjusting export routes to mitigate disruption. The evolving threat environment highlights the growing linkage between military operations and global energy security.

At the same time, the conflict is unfolding alongside broader global security pressures, including intensified strikes in the Russia-Ukraine war targeting energy infrastructure. Parallel defense developments emphasize electronic warfare, missile defense, unmanned systems, and naval capabilities, reflecting continued adaptation to multi-domain conflict environments and the increasing importance of advanced technologies in sustaining operational advantage.

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. Four B-1B strategic bombers reportedly carried out strike missions and subsequently returned to RAF Fairford.

- 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 Turkish Ministry of National Defense announced the deployment of an additional NATO Patriot battery to Incirlik Air Base in Adana. The system components were transported from Ramstein Air Base in Germany using U.S. Air Force C-17 cargo aircraft.

- USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78) is preparing to leave the Red Sea to undergo repairs at the U.S. Navy base on Crete after a fire last week required several hours of damage control efforts.

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- The U.S. Air Force conducted SEAD/DEAD missions targeting Iran’s radar and early warning networks along its southern coastline. These strikes are assessed to be aimed at degrading Iranian air defense coverage, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz.

- The Israeli Air Force continued conducting strikes against military targets inside Iran, while also maintaining air operations against Hezbollah infrastructure in Lebanon. IAF carried out deep strike operations against ballistic missile storage sites in western Iran.

- The United States employed GBU-72 A/B bunker-buster munitions against hardened missile facilities in Iran. Underground ballistic missile storage complexes and mountain-based installations were specifically targeted.

- U.S. strikes are assessed to have utilized long-range mission profiles involving B-2 and B-1B bombers. The aerial refueling chain was repositioned to operate at greater stand-off distances for enhanced security.

- Israel conducted “time-sensitive targeting” operations against mobile missile launchers in western Iran. These operations integrated satellite, UAV, and SIGINT capabilities.

- Iran responded with lower salvo volumes but a more selective target set in its strikes against Israel. Military bases and radar installations were prioritized.

- Iran increased maritime pressure in the Gulf, expanding the conflict into the economic domain. Commercial shipping routes have become primary targets.

- Iranian fast attack craft and unmanned surface vessels conducted reconnaissance and tracking operations along tanker routes.

- Daily oil flow through the Strait of Hormuz reportedly declined by up to 30%. Saudi Arabia increased oil shipments redirected from its eastern fields toward the Red Sea.

- Russia carried out simultaneous saturation strikes targeting Ukraine's energy transmission infrastructure.

- Ukraine expanded long-range UAV strikes against refineries and fuel depots inside Russia.

GLOBAL DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS

- The British Royal Navy is deploying its Wildcat HMA2 helicopter equipped with Martlet missiles and advanced sensors to counter drones and fast-attack craft in contested waters.

- The Pentagon has raised its baseline cost estimate for the Golden Dome missile defense system to $185 billion, an increase of $10 billion driven by expanded requirements for space-based sensing and data infrastructure.

- BAE Systems won a U.S. Air Force contract to sustain and modernize the AN/ALQ-221 electronic warfare system that protects the U-2 Dragon Lady reconnaissance aircraft.

- The U.S. Navy is deploying the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Mustin to Yokosuka, replacing the cruiser USS Robert Smalls as part of a scheduled force rotation.

- Japan has begun introducing its upgraded Type 12 Surface-to-Ship Missile, with initial elements shown at Kumamoto ahead of deployment.

- Japanese defense manufacturer Kawasaki Heavy Industries has confirmed that it is studying the development of two types of collaborative unmanned aircraft, including a missile-like system and an aircraft-type platform.

- Mitsubishi Heavy Industries confirmed it has successfully conducted flight demonstrations of AI-powered mission autonomy for unmanned aerial vehicles, using the Hivemind Enterprise development environment from U.S.-based Shield AI.

- The Japan Air Self-Defense Force confirmed it supported the first flight of a new stand-off electronic warfare aircraft, known as the EC-2, developed in cooperation with the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency.

- The Italian Ministry of Defense's Naval Armaments Directorate (NAVARM) has issued a preliminary market consultation notice for the procurement of one containerized naval mine laying system for in-service munitions.

- The Royal Netherlands Navy has used Shield AI's V-BAT reconnaissance drone at sea for the first time, launching the system from the amphibious transport ship HNLMS Johan de Witt during Exercise Cold Response off Norway

- U.S. space intelligence company BlackSky has signed a seven-figure contract extension with an international customer for its Assured satellite data service.

- Norwegian defence company Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace has signed an agreement with Lockheed Martin valued at approximately USD 209 million to supply components for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter programme.

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.

• Ongoing Iranian drone and missile operations targeting regional military installations and maritime infrastructure.