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GLOBAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS DAILY

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Executive Assessment

The operational environment in the Middle East reflects sustained pressure on Iranian strategic and energy infrastructure, executed through coordinated US and Israeli air and missile strikes. US bomber rotations from forward bases in the United Kingdom, coupled with forward-deployed F-16s and extended-range tanker support, enable persistent deep-strike capability and operational reach. Amphibious forces and expeditionary units maintain readiness for potential rapid deployment, while ISR and electronic warfare assets continue to monitor Iranian missile brigades and air defense networks.

Iran's response remains measured, relying on proxy UAV attacks, limited missile launches, and asymmetric actions such as targeting civilian aircraft. The repetition of one-way UAV attacks near US positions indicates a focus on saturation and harassment rather than precision, maintaining pressure without escalating to full-scale engagement. Maritime risks are elevated, with GPS spoofing affecting crude and LNG shipping and security alerts issued for energy infrastructure in the Gulf and offshore gas fields.

Global defense developments reflect accelerated long-range strike and counter-drone capabilities, with key investments in bomber production, tactical UAVs, and integrated maritime autonomy systems. These trends enhance both strategic deterrence and operational flexibility across multiple theaters, signaling a continued emphasis on sustaining high readiness and rapid response options in response to regional and global security pressures.

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 and 4 B-52H strategic bombers reportedly carried out strike missions and subsequently returned to RAF Fairford.

- B-1B and B-2 bomber rotations maintained at forward operating locations; sortie tempo indicates sustained deep-strike capability readiness

- 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 U.S. Air Force deployed six F-16 fighter jets from the continental United States to Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany.

- Additional US Air Force tanker aircraft (KC-135, KC-46) repositioned to forward bases in CENTCOM AOR to sustain extended-range bomber and fighter operations.

- The USS Tripoli amphibious assault ship and a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) consisting of at least 2,200 U.S. Marines are continuing their deployment toward the Middle East. The group transited the Strait of Malacca and entered the Indian Ocean.

- An unidentified stealth drone was spotted over Larissa, Greece. It is believed to be a US Air Force RQ-180 that made an emergency landing at Larissa air base.

GLOBAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

- The United States is preparing options to deploy ground forces in the Gulf to secure critical energy infrastructure and prevent disruption in the Strait of Hormuz.
- Israel targeted areas inside Iran where energy and military infrastructure intersect. Fuel storage facilities and military logistics lines were prioritized in the strikes.
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- Iran reportedly conducted an attack targeting aircraft at Ben Gurion Airport in Israel. Several private jets are reported to have sustained damage.
- The United States expanded the use of electronic warfare and stand-off munitions to maintain pressure on Iran's air defense network.
- Iranian proxy groups resumed one-way UAV attacks targeting US positions near Al-Tanf and Erbil; majority intercepted, indicating saturation attempts rather than precision targeting
- U.S. ISR coverage intensified over Iranian missile brigades, including persistent RQ-4 UAV and SIGINT aircraft sorties along western Iranian airspace boundaries
- An explosion and fire were reported near natural gas fields off the coast of Qatar. It remains unclear whether the incident was caused by a direct attack or secondary effects, but production was temporarily halted.
- Simultaneous security alerts were issued at facilities near Iran's South Pars gas field. Evacuation procedures were initiated on some platforms.
- Donald Trump stated that he had not been informed in advance of Israel's latest strikes against Iran. The statement raised questions regarding the level of operational coordination.
- The U.S. administration emphasized that Israel is conducting its operations based on its own national security assessments.
- Two crude oil tankers reported GPS spoofing disruptions while transiting Strait of Hormuz, causing temporary course deviations
- One LNG carrier delayed entry into Gulf following security advisory citing elevated threat of asymmetric maritime attacks
- Russia intensified missile and UAV strikes against Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Power generation and transmission networks were targeted.
- Ukraine continued strikes against fuel depots and logistics hubs inside Russia.

GLOBAL DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS

- Rheinmetall from Germany and Italy's Agenzia Industrie Difesa have launched a program to convert the Italian Army's legacy MATS anti-tank mines into the upgraded MATS MK2, extending service life while improving safety, reliability, and battlefield effectiveness.

- France introduces telecom-based counter-drone network using 19,700 towers to protect critical assets.

- Poland announced that two Czech UH-1Y Venom helicopters have deployed to replace Mi-171 aircraft in countering low-altitude drone threats along NATO's eastern flank.

- The United States is weighing a major increase in B-21 Raider production, including the opening of a second assembly line, in a move that would significantly expand U.S. long-range strike capacity as tensions rise with China, Russia, and Iran.

- Turkey inducted multiple SÜPER ŞİMŞEK tactical UAVs into the Turkish Air Force inventory, fielding an indigenous jet-powered unmanned system designed for decoy, strike, and electronic warfare missions.

- Havoc announced that it had teamed with Lockheed Martin and Vatn Systems in West Palm Beach to demonstrate coordinated maritime autonomy using Rampage surface drones and Skelmir S6 underwater vehicles.

- The U.S. Missile Defense Agency has awarded Raytheon an $8.41 billion contract ceiling increase to support the sustainment and engineering of Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) variants, expanding the total contract value to $11.74 billion.

- Embraer completes maiden flight of Korea's first C-390. The Republic of Korea Air Force's first Embraer C-390 Millennium military transport aircraft has completed its maiden flight from the manufacturer's facility near Sao Paulo, Brazil.

- The U.S. Navy has awarded General Dynamics Electric Boat a $15.38 billion contract modification to support the Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine program, including design work, lead yard support, and industrial base development.

- Milrem Robotics and Polska Grupa Zbrojeniowa (PGZ) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to explore cooperation in advanced defence technologies and strengthen industrial ties between Estonia and Poland.

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.