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GLOBAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS DAILY

Region: Middle East | Europe | Indo-Pacific | Global
Date: 23 March 2026
Scope: Security | Energy | Diplomacy | Defence Industry
Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

The United States is sustaining a high-tempo, multi-domain campaign against Iran, combining long-range bomber strikes, electronic warfare, and persistent ISR to systematically degrade missile infrastructure and coastal anti-ship capabilities. The deployment of additional fighter aircraft to Europe, expanded tanker support, and continuous strategic airlift operations indicate preparation for prolonged operations with flexible reinforcement options. Amphibious forces moving into the region, alongside the potential replacement of USS Gerald R. Ford with USS George H.W. Bush, point to contingency planning for escalation, including possible ground or rapid response operations.

Israel's strike profile demonstrates a deliberate focus on dual-use targets linking Iran's military logistics with energy infrastructure, aiming to constrain both operational mobility and internal sustainment capacity. Iran's response remains calibrated but expanding in scope, with UAV swarm activity, symbolic targeting such as Ben Gurion Airport, and increased maritime signaling through IRGC naval maneuvers and surveillance of Gulf energy assets. The temporary suspension of US strikes on Iranian energy infrastructure for five days reflects an attempt to control escalation while preserving operational pressure, though Iranian warnings of reciprocal action underscore the fragility of this balance.

The Gulf security environment is increasingly volatile, with GPS spoofing incidents, delayed LNG transit, and heightened naval activity indicating growing risks to maritime traffic without direct kinetic engagement. Concurrently, large-scale US and allied defense agreements with Gulf states are strengthening layered air and missile defense architectures, particularly against UAV and ballistic missile threats. Broader global developments show parallel reinforcement of high-end capabilities including long-range strike systems, missile defense, autonomous platforms, and industrial base expansion, reflecting a wider shift toward sustained readiness for multi-theater competition.

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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 two B-52H 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 U.S. Air Force deployed twelwe 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. USS Tripoli Amphibious Ready Group advanced through the Indian Ocean, maintaining readiness for contingency operations in the Gulf region.

- The USS Boxer Amphibious Ready Group and the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) departed from California for deployment to the region. The group is expected to serve as the second amphibious task force in the area, potentially providing support for possible ground operations.

- Forward deployment of fighter aircraft to Europe enhanced flexibility for rapid reinforcement of Middle East operations

- The USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier transited the Suez Canal and arrived at Souda Naval Base in Crete. The vessel is reported to have withdrawn from operations against Iran due to its extended deployment period exceeding nine months and a fire incident onboard, and will undergo maintenance and repair activities. The duration of the repair period and whether the carrier will return to operations within the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility remain unclear.

- It is assessed that the USS George H.W. Bush aircraft carrier may be deployed to the region to replace USS Gerald R. Ford.

- Five E-2D AEW&C aircraft and six EA-18G electronic warfare aircraft departed from Lajes Air Base in the Azores and were deployed to the Middle East.

- Royal Navy deploys HMS Anson nuclear-powered dubmarine srmed with Tomahawk missiles to Arabian Sea.

GLOBAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

- U.S. strategic bombers continued long-range strike sorties against Iranian hardened infrastructure, with repeated targeting of underground missile depots and command facilities.

- U.S. forces expanded strikes to include coastal anti-ship missile batteries in southern Iran, degrading systems positioned to threaten Gulf maritime traffic.

- Israel intensified deep-strike operations inside Iran, focusing on dual-use nodes where military logistics and energy infrastructure intersect, including fuel storage and distribution networks.

- Israeli strikes disrupted segments of Iran's internal fuel logistics chain, particularly those linked to IRGC operational mobility.

- Iran conducted a retaliatory strike targeting Ben Gurion Airport area; multiple non-military aircraft sustained damage, indicating expansion toward economic and symbolic targets.

- Iranian proxy groups increased UAV swarm attempts against US positions in Iraq and Syria, with repeated launches from western Iraq corridors toward Al-Tanf and Erbil.

- U.S. expanded use of electronic warfare assets to suppress Iranian radar coverage and degrade air defense response times during strike Windows.

- Persistent ISR operations continued over western Iran, tracking missile brigade dispersal patterns and mobile launcher activity.

- IRGC naval units intensified asymmetric activity in the Gulf, including swarm maneuvers by fast attack craft near commercial shipping lanes.

- UAV reconnaissance activity observed over offshore energy platforms in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, indicating continued surveillance of critical infrastructure.

- Regional states elevated naval and air patrol frequency around key export terminals and offshore platforms.

- Multiple commercial vessels reported GPS spoofing and navigation interference while transiting the Strait of Hormuz, causing temporary route deviations.

- One LNG tanker delayed entry into Gulf waters following security warnings linked to potential asymmetric maritime threats.

- Donald Trump announced a temporary five-day halt to US strikes against Iranian energy infrastructure, signaling a controlled de-escalation measure while maintaining broader military pressure.

- Iranian officials issued statements warning that continued targeting of energy assets would prompt reciprocal actions against regional energy infrastructure.

- The United Kingdom has authorized U.S. forces to launch strikes from British bases against missile systems threatening commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz

GLOBAL DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS

- The US Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (BPMA) announced that it has approved the sale of new ballistic missile defence radars for the Kuwait. Kuwait has requested five Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor Radars (LTAMDS) and related equipment and services worth an estimated USD8 billion.

- The United States has approved a $1.22 billion Foreign Military Sale to the United Arab Emirates for 400 AIM-120C-7/C-8 AMRAAM air-to-air missiles, reinforcing the country’s ability to intercept advanced aerial threats in beyond-visual-range engagements.

- The U.S. State Department approved a $644 million emergency weapons sale to arm UAE F-16s with SDB and JDAM precision bombs. The package includes 1,500 GBU-39/B Small Diameter Bombs and 1,200 JDAM guidance kits, alongside Link 16 support, encryption systems, and mission planning tools.

- The U.S. State Department approved a $4.5 billion Foreign Military Sale to the United Arab Emirates for a Long-Range Discrimination Radar (LRDR) integrated with the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system. The package includes one advanced long-range discrimination radar, associated command, control, communications, and battle management systems, as well as integration with existing THAAD architecture, support equipment, and training/logistics elements. The system is designed to enhance long-range ballistic missile tracking and discrimination capabilities, particularly against complex threats such as multiple reentry vehicles and decoys.

- The U.S. State Department approved a $1.2 billion Foreign Military Sale to the United Arab Emirates for a Fixed-Site Low, Slow, Small Unmanned Aircraft Integrated Defeat System (LSS Counter-UAS system). The package includes integrated counter-drone sensors, command-and-control systems, electronic warfare components, and intercept capabilities designed to detect, track, and neutralize low-speed, low-altitude unmanned aerial threats. The system is intended to strengthen the UAE's layered air defense network against kamikaze drones and small UAV threats, complementing existing high-end missile defense systems such as THAAD and Patriot.

- The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) has received the first Type 23 armored bulldozer at the Engineer School at Katsuta Garrison in Ibaraki Prefecture, marking a key step in renewing Japan's armored engineering vehicle fleet.

- The Missile Defense Agency (MDA), in partnership with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), successfully conducted the first live target tracking exercise using the SPY-7 radar during Japan Flight Test Experiment Aegis Weapon System (JFTX)-01.

- The Swiss government has suspended the authorisation of new arms exports to the United States due to the ongoing conflict involving Iran.

- Roketsan announced that its L-OMTAS medium-range anti-tank missile has entered mass production following successful test firings, shifting the system into sustained output for operational use.

- Russia's Baltic Fleet activated Bal and Bastion coastal missile systems in a Baltic Sea drill simulating the destruction of enemy surface ships.

- The U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division Combat Aviation Brigade has received its first Boeing AH-64E Apache attack helicopters at Biggs Army Airfield, Fort Bliss.

- Kratos Unmanned Aerial Systems has secured a $13.29 million U.S. Navy contract to sustain the BQM-177A Subsonic Aerial Target System, ensuring the continued availability of high-fidelity threat simulators for fleet training and weapons testing.

- General Dynamics Electric Boat of the United States has received a $15.38 billion contract modification for additional Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine design work, class lead-yard support, sustainment, integrated enterprise planning, and supplier-base expansion.

- Lockheed Martin has signed executive agreements with Poland's Wojskowe Zakłady Lotnicze No. 1 (WZL-1) in Lodz, part of the PGZ Group, to support key components of AH-64E Apache attack helicopters. The agreements, valued at approximately $81 million cover maintenance, repair, and testing of critical systems.

- The U.S. Army has awarded Skydio a contract exceeding $52 million for more than 2,500 X10D drones.

- Poland and Sweden have launched a new phase of joint Baltic defense operations, aligning surveillance, infrastructure protection, and combat readiness to counter rising regional threats.

- The U.S. State Department has notified Congress of a possible $1 billion Foreign Military Sale for the United Kingdom covering SSN-AUKUS submarine combat and weapon-system support, including AUKUS-specific vertical deployment tubes, common weapon launchers, simulation gear, software, training, and embedded U.S. and UK personnel.

- Leonardo will fly an M-346 as a “mother aircraft” controlling two Baykar-built unmanned fighters in a mid-2026 demonstration, aiming to prove a near-term collaborative combat model ready for NATO and export customers.

- Elbit Systems has secured a contract from the Israeli Ministry of Defense to develop an airborne high-power laser for the Israeli Air Force, with initial integration focused on helicopter platforms.

- Colt Canada has been awarded a C$273 million contract to supply new assault rifles to the Canadian Armed Forces under the Canadian Modular Assault Rifle project. The agreement will replace the long-serving C7 and C8 rifle fleet, which has been in use for more than 35 years.

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.

• Additional allied naval contributions or escort missions for tanker convoys in the Gulf region.

• 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.