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GLOBAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS DAILY

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Executive Assessment

U.S. and Israeli military operations have maintained sustained pressure on Iranian strategic and operational assets. Precision airstrikes targeted IRGC command nodes, missile production sites, and critical energy logistics hubs, while US long-range strike missions focused on hardened underground facilities and coastal missile batteries, degrading Iran's ability to threaten maritime traffic and regional stability. Electronic warfare and suppression operations continue to degrade Iranian radar coherence, enabling repeated strike opportunities with reduced engagement risk.

Iran's response has remained calibrated, emphasizing asymmetric operations such as UAV swarm launches and naval swarm maneuvers in central Gulf shipping lanes. The deployment of unmanned surface vehicles and persistent UAV reconnaissance over offshore platforms indicates continued monitoring and potential targeting of regional energy infrastructure. US decision to suspend strikes on Iranian energy assets for five days reflects a controlled measure to reduce immediate escalation while maintaining broader operational pressure. Iranian leadership has warned that any resumption of attacks on energy infrastructure will trigger reciprocal targeting of regional oil and gas facilities.

US military posture is reinforced through forward-deployed amphibious groups, strategic bombers, fighter jets, and electronic warfare platforms. Coordination with Israeli air operations has achieved high interception rates and integration of air and missile defense assets. Commercial shipping continues to experience GPS spoofing and near-miss incidents, prompting reclassification of Gulf transit zones as severe risk areas.

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. Two 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 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 amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli has anchored at NSF Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. It is stated that the ship will remain on standby, ready to deploy to the region for potential ground operations.

- 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.

- 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.

- The U.S. Air Force has deployed 12 combat-ready F-16 fighter jets from Spangdahlem Air Base to the Middle East.

- Five F-35C fighter jets from the U.S. Marine Corps have been stationed at RAF Lakenheath in the U.K., and they are expected to be sent to the Middle East in the coming days.

- A U.S. Air Force B-52H strategic bomber took off from RAF Fairford on a mission targeting Iran but declared an emergency shortly after and returned.

GLOBAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

- Israeli Air Force carried out a large-scale strike package targeting IRGC command infrastructure, missile production facilities, and intelligence centers in Tehran and central Iran.

- U.S. Air Force sustained long-range strike missions targeting hardened missile storage sites and underground command infrastructure in central and southern Iran.

- Follow-on US strikes focused on coastal anti-ship missile batteries and radar nodes along the Persian Gulf littoral, reducing Iran’s capacity to threaten maritime traffic.

- Israeli Air Force expanded strike packages deeper into Iranian territory, concentrating on fuel depots, distribution hubs, and IRGC-linked logistics corridors supporting missile and UAV operations.

- Israeli targeting patterns increasingly linked military infrastructure with energy supply nodes to constrain Iranian operational endurance.

- US electronic warfare aircraft intensified suppression activity against Iranian air defense networks, enabling repeated strike üite with reduced engagement risk.

- Iran maintained calibrated retaliation posture, avoiding large-scale ballistic missile salvos while expanding asymmetric responses.

- Donald Trump publicly confirmed a five-day suspension of US strikes specifically targeting Iranian energy infrastructure while continuing operations against military targets.

- Iranian leadership stated that any resumption of strikes on energy facilities would trigger direct retaliation against regional oil and gas infrastructure.

- IRGC naval units conducted coordinated swarm maneuvers involving fast attack craft in central Gulf shipping lanes, reducing standoff distances with commercial vessels.

- Increased UAV surveillance flights observed over offshore oil platforms in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, indicating continued targeting reconnaissance.

- Iranian air defense response showed degraded radar coherence in southern sectors, indicating cumulative impact of SEAD operations.

- A bulk carrier experienced localized hull impact consistent with small explosive device, remaining operational but requiring inspection.

- Multiple vessels reported GPS spoofing events causing positional drift up to several nautical miles.

GLOBAL DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS

- U.S.-based company Sikorsky has delivered a mission-capable UH-60MX Black Hawk to the U.S. Army, completing flight tests of its MATRIX autonomy üite, which enables the aircraft to fly with or without a crew.

- Final assembly of the first F-35A Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) for Germany has begun at Lockheed Martin's Fort Worth production facility in Texas.

- British armed forces have intercepted more than 40 one-way attack drones in the Middle East, driving the United Kingdom to expand procurement of Martlet Lightweight Multirole Missiles to sustain counter-drone defenses.

- China’s PLA Air Force is positioning the J-10C as a networked combat node integrated with airborne early warning platforms, ground-based radars, air defense systems, and electronic warfare assets during high-intensity drills conducted in complex electromagnetic conditions.

- The U.S. Navy’s MQ-25 Stingray carrier-based unmanned tanker program missed its originally scheduled Milestone C decision after production delays, test-asset delays, and concerns that the available data were not suitable to support the move into the next acquisition phase.

- Keel Holdings, an advanced manufacturing leader for the U.S. Navy and broader defense applications for naval, land and space applications, in partnership with Palantir Technologies Inc., announced a major collaboration supporting the United States Navy’s ShipOS initiative, a program designed to transform America’s Maritime Industrial Base (MIB) through advanced artificial intelligence and data integration.

- Saab has signed a memorandum of understanding with Canadian artificial intelligence company Cohere to collaborate on advanced AI Technologies. The agreement focuses on supporting the GlobalEye airborne early warning and control system and enhancing future aerospace capabilities.

- IDF reports 92% interception rate as Israel and U.S. integrate air and missile defense operations amid ongoing threats.

- The Royal Navy’s second Type 31 Inspiration-class frigate, HMS Active, has been launched during an operation carried out on 23 March. The vessel is being built at Babcock International’s shipyard in Rosyth, Scotland.

- Peru has selected U.S.-made F-16 Block 70/72 fighter jets as its new combat aircraft. The decision follows U.S. approval late last year of a potential sale of 12 F-16 aircraft to Peru. The proposed package includes 10 single-seat F-16C and two two-seat F-16D aircraft, along with weapons and support, valued at approximately $3.42 billion.

- The Italian Navy announced that it had conducted a live firing of MBDA Aster 30 missiles from the multipurpose offshore patrol vessel Raimondo Montecuccoli. The test formed part of trials of the SAAM ESD air defence system designed to counter aerial threats.

- Leonardo Electronics US Inc., a subsidiary of Italy's Leonardo, has been awarded a place on the U.S. Missile Defense Agency's SHIELD contract, the company said. The indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity contract has a ceiling value of $151 billion.

- Anduril announced the start of the YFQ-44A's production at its Arsenal-1 factory.

- Milrem Robotics and Polska Grupa Zbrojeniowa (PGZ) have signed a memorandum of understanding to expand defense cooperation between Estonia and Poland and strengthen industrial ties across Central and Eastern Europe.

- Ukraine's Saab 340 Airborne Early Warning plane spotted operating over the country.

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 and USS Boxer 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.