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# GLOBAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS DAILY

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## Executive Assessment

U.S. military operations against Iran are being sustained through a combination of long-range strike capabilities and expanded regional force posture. Strategic bombers operating from the United Kingdom are actively conducting strike missions, while continuous airlift operations are reinforcing the theater with personnel and equipment. Amphibious forces centered around USS Tripoli and USS Boxer, alongside Marine Expeditionary Units, are positioning for rapid response, indicating preparation for potential escalation scenarios including ground operations. Additional fighter deployments and the reported preparation of elements from the 82nd Airborne Division further reinforce U.S. readiness and force projection across the region.

Iranian-aligned militia activity has intensified in parallel, with drone attacks targeting U.S. aviation and air defense assets in Iraq and increased indirect fire near key U.S. positions. At the same time, Iran continues to rely on hybrid and asymmetric tactics in the maritime domain, including GPS spoofing, electronic interference, and harassment of commercial shipping. These actions are contributing to elevated risk levels in the Gulf and Strait of Hormuz, directly impacting energy transit security and driving volatility in global oil markets. Regional actors have responded by strengthening air defense coverage around critical energy infrastructure.

U.S. decision to temporarily suspend strikes on Iranian energy infrastructure reflects a calibrated approach aimed at controlling escalation while maintaining pressure on military targets. Iranian leadership has rejected this measure as insufficient, signaling that de-escalation remains unlikely without broader concessions. Israeli operations targeting Iranian-linked logistics in Syria and continued U.S. ISR and refueling activity demonstrate sustained operational tempo across multiple fronts. Concurrently, global defense developments highlight an accelerated focus on counter-drone systems, missile production, and advanced strike capabilities, reflecting adaptation to high-intensity and technologically complex conflict environments.

## 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 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.

- The U.S. Air Force has deployed 6 combat-ready F-16 fighter jets from Spangdahlem Air Base to the Middle East.

- Five aditional 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. Total ten F-35C fighter jets from the U.S. Marine Corps have been stationed at RAF Lakenheath.

- An FPV drone attack carried out by Iran-backed militia groups in Iraq struck a HH-60M Black Hawk helicopter and an AN/MPQ-64 Sentinel radar system.

- The U.S. Army has reportedly begun preparations to deploy elements of the 82nd Airborne Division to the Middle East.

## GLOBAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

- Donald Trump publicly confirmed a temporary operational pause on US strikes targeting Iranian energy infrastructure, stating that attacks on oil refineries and power generation facilities would be suspended for five days to “create space for de-escalation while maintaining deterrence posture”.

- Iranian leadership rejected the pause as insufficient and tactical, with senior officials emphasizing that any halt in US strikes must be permanent and accompanied by a withdrawal of US assets from the Gulf region.

- Israeli Air Force conducted precision strikes against suspected Iranian-linked logistical nodes in Syria, targeting weapons storage facilities believed to be supporting Hezbollah force regeneration.

- Iranian-backed militia groups in Iraq increased indirect fire attacks against US positions, particularly near Ain al-Asad Airbase, indicating coordinated retaliation aligned with Tehran’s escalation ladder.

- US Central Command maintained elevated readiness levels, with additional ISR flights and aerial refueling operations observed across the eastern Mediterranean and northern Arabian Sea.

- At least two commercial vessels reported electronic interference and GPS spoofing incidents in the Gulf of Oman, consistent with previous Iranian hybrid maritime tactics.
- A Liberian-flagged tanker reported a near-miss incident involving fast-approaching unidentified boats, forcing evasive maneuvers before coalition naval presence stabilized the situation.

- Maritime security firms raised threat levels to “high risk” for energy shipments transiting the Strait of Hormuz and adjacent waters.

- Oil markets reacted with short-term volatility, with Brent crude experiencing upward pressure driven by supply disruption fears and maritime risk premiums.

- Gulf energy infrastructure security posture was reinforced, particularly in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, with increased air defense readiness against potential drone and missile attacks.

- China conducted naval exercises in the South China Sea, signaling continued strategic competition with the United States in the Indo-Pacific.

## GLOBAL DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS

- The Italian Senate has approved the free transfer of the aircraft carrier Giuseppe Garibaldi to Indonesia.

- U.S. Navy deploys Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Mason (DDG 87) as Missile Defense Commander in Bush Carrier Strike Group.

- U.S. Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369 deployed AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom helicopters to Osan Air Base, expanding the U.S. Marine Corps attack and assault aviation reach on the Korean Peninsula.

- The Royal Navy announced that HMS Dragon had arrived in the Eastern Mediterranean to begin operational integration into Cyprus's defences alongside allied forces.

- Three U.S. companies, Epirus, General Dynamics Land Systems, and Kodiak AI, developed the Leonidas Autonomous Ground Vehicle (AGV), a self-driving counter-drone system integrating a high-power microwave weapon to neutralize drone swarms within seconds.

- Joint Interagency Task Force 401 has ordered 210 SMASH 2000LE rifle-mounted counter-drone systems and a Cerberus XL sensor suite for U.S. Northern and Strategic Command missions, supporting U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Strategic Command.

- AeroVironment, a U.S. defense company, unveiled the Locust X3 laser weapon at the AUSA Global Force 2026 conference, introducing a scalable laser system designed to neutralize drone swarms at minimal cost per engagement.

- Lockheed Martin and the U.S. Department of War have announced a framework agreement to accelerate production of the Precision Strike Missile. The move is intended to significantly increase output capacity in support of U.S. Army requirements.

- BAE Systems has signed a seven-year framework agreement with the U.S. Department of War to increase production of infrared seekers for the THAAD interceptor missile. The agreement is intended to expand capacity and accelerate delivery in support of Lockheed Martin.

- The U.S. Air Force opened market research for a new GPS Increment 2 GNSS M-code receiver for the AGM-158B Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile.

- British forces deployed Stormer High Velocity Missile air defense combat vehicles to Cyprus after destroying 14 kamikaze drones in a single engagement.

- Lockheed Martin announced that its new GRIZZLY containerized launcher had completed live-fire trials, including an integrated HELLFIRE missile firing and a vertical-launch test.

- South Korea rolled out the first mass-production KF-21 Boramae, marking a decisive milestone in a national combat aviation program designed to replace the Republic of Korea Air Force's aging F-4 and F-5 fighter fleets.

- A U.S. Air Force B-52H Stratofortress shown by U.S. Central Command being refueled during a combat mission in support of Operation Epic Fury appears to be carrying AGM-158 JASSM cruise missiles under its wings.

- Ukrainian strike drones targeted a major Russian shipbuilding facility in the Leningrad region, damaging a Project 23550 patrol icebreaker under construction.

- Indra Group and Hanwha Aerospace have signed a binding agreement to develop advanced self-propelled artillery systems tailored to the needs of the Spanish Armed Forces.

- The U.S. Space Force has awarded Kratos Technology a new award worth up to $446.8 million to build the ground system for the service's medium Earth orbit (MEO) constellation to track ballistic and hypersonic cruise missiles.

## FORWARD LOOK – NEXT 7 DAYS

• Continued U.S. and Israeli air operations targeting Iranian missile, drone, and military infrastructure across the country.

• 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.