

GLOBAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS DAILY

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Executive Assessment

U.S. and Israeli operations continue to focus on degrading Iran's missile sustainment architecture and operational logistics. Recent strike patterns indicate a shift toward targeting transfer nodes and supply corridors rather than fixed launch infrastructure, aiming to disrupt deployment cycles and reduce operational flexibility. Long-range bomber missions from both forward European bases and the continental United States, combined with intensified ISR activity, suggest preparation for sustained follow-on strike phases. Israeli operations have expanded deeper into southern Iran, reinforcing pressure on IRGC-linked logistics networks connected to coastal deployment areas.

Iran has maintained a controlled escalation posture, avoiding large-scale ballistic missile launches while relying on limited precision strikes and distributed retaliation through proxy-linked and deniable systems. This approach reflects an effort to impose costs without triggering full-scale escalation. In the maritime domain, Iranian naval forces have increased close-range shadowing of commercial tankers, while hybrid tactics including GPS spoofing, AIS manipulation, and electronic interference continue to disrupt navigation and elevate operational risk. Incidents involving suspected unmanned explosive platforms and low-intensity blasts against commercial vessels highlight a persistent threat environment across the Gulf and Strait of Hormuz.

U.S. force posture demonstrates continued escalation readiness, with amphibious groups, Marine Expeditionary Units, and strategic air assets positioned to support rapid operational expansion if required. The temporary pause on U.S. strikes targeting Iranian energy infrastructure reflects a calibrated attempt to create limited de-escalation space while preserving deterrence and strike capability. Iran has rejected the pause as insufficient and maintains a reciprocal stance regarding energy infrastructure targeting. Concurrent disruptions to LNG exports, reduced oil transit flows, and heightened maritime risk classifications indicate that the conflict is increasingly impacting global energy supply chains and commercial shipping stability.

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 strategic bombers reportedly carried out strike missions and subsequently returned to RAF Fairford.
- Four U.S. Marine Corps F-35C fighter jets have departed RAF Lakenheath in the UK to deploy to the Middle East.
- Three U.S. Air Force B-2A strategic bombers conducted strike missions against Iran from the continental United States.
- 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.

GLOBAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

- U.S. strategic bombers operating from forward European bases executed a new wave of long-range strike missions targeting Iranian missile sustainment infrastructure, with emphasis on storage-to-launch transfer nodes rather than fixed silos.
- Israeli Air Force expanded its strike envelope deeper into southern Iran, focusing on logistics corridors linking IRGC missile units to coastal deployment zones.
- Iranian forces refrained from large-scale ballistic missile launches but conducted limited precision strikes using shorter-range systems against US-linked facilities in the region.
- Iranian command shifted to a distributed retaliation posture, relying on proxy-linked and deniable platforms rather than overt state-level missile salvos.
- U.S. and Israeli ISR activity intensified over western and southern Iran, indicating preparation for potential follow-on targeting cycles.

- Donald Trump announced that the United States would pause direct strikes on Iranian energy infrastructure for a period of five days, describing the measure as a controlled de-escalation window.
- Trump stated that the pause was intended to provide space for indirect communication channels while maintaining readiness to resume operations if required.
- Iranian officials declared that any suspension of attacks does not alter Iran's readiness to respond to future strikes, emphasizing deterrence posture.
- Iranian leadership signaled that energy infrastructure targeting remains reciprocal and conditional on continued external attacks.
- Israeli officials maintained that ongoing operations against Iranian military infrastructure will continue independently of US tactical pauses.
- Iranian naval units increased shadow tracking of LNG carriers and crude tankers, maintaining close-distance parallel movement without direct engagement.
- U.S. Navy assets implemented adaptive escort formations, repositioning destroyers and patrol aircraft dynamically based on real-time threat indicators.
- Multiple incidents of electronic interference affecting commercial navigation systems were recorded across the central Gulf.
- A crude tanker transiting the eastern Gulf reported proximity interaction with a suspected explosive-laden unmanned surface platform, prompting evasive maneuvering.
- A container vessel sustained minor structural damage following a low-intensity blast event, continuing transit under monitoring.
- Several commercial operators reported persistent GPS spoofing and AIS manipulation, complicating navigation and tracking accuracy.
- Maritime insurers expanded high-risk designations to additional Gulf transit zones, increasing operational constraints on shipping.
- Security incidents were reported near Qatar's offshore gas production infrastructure, leading to temporary output adjustments and heightened defensive posture.
- Iranian energy facilities in the South Pars region experienced restricted operational activity following security alerts and force protection measures.
- LNG export schedules from the Gulf showed further disruption, with delays linked to maritime security conditions and rerouting requirements.
- Oil transit flows through Hormuz experienced intermittent reductions due to convoy structuring and threat monitoring pauses.

GLOBAL DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS

- The U.S. State Department approved a \$200 million Foreign Military Sale to the Republic of Korea for ARC-210 RT-2036(C) secure radios and KY-100M communication security devices. The package includes ARC-210 airborne radios, KY-100M encryption systems, associated communication security equipment, integration support, spare parts, and technical assistance aimed at enhancing secure, interoperable communications across air platforms.
- The U.S. State Department approved a \$340 million Foreign Military Sale to Japan in support of its Hyper Velocity Gliding Projectile (HVGP) program. The package includes technical assistance, engineering and integration support, testing and evaluation services, and related programmatic support to enhance Japan's indigenous hypersonic glide weapon development capabilities.
- The U.S. State Department approved a \$156.1 million Foreign Military Sale to Belgium for communications equipment. The package includes secure communication systems, encryption devices, associated support equipment, software, integration services, spare parts, and technical support to improve Belgium's military communications infrastructure and interoperability with NATO forces.
- The Pentagon is considering redirecting weapons originally intended for Ukraine to the Middle East. The potential shift specifically involves interceptor missiles for air defense that were ordered under the PURL program.
- L3Harris Technologies has received an Other Transaction Authority contract from the Department of War's Defense Innovation Unit to provide an autonomous underwater capability for U.S. Navy submarines. The contract covers delivery of the Torpedo Tube Launch and Recovery (TTLR) system, designed to deploy and retrieve Iver4 900 autonomous underwater vehicles through submarine torpedo tubes.
- The United Kingdom and Türkiye have signed a multi-billion-pound agreement to provide training and support for Turkish Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft. The deal forms part of the wider £8 billion export agreement announced in October 2025 for the purchase of 20 aircraft.
- Royal Canadian Air Force F/A-18A/B Hornet aircraft conducted live-fire launches of AIM-120D-3 AMRAAM missiles during the WSEP 26.02 exercise held in Florida
- Volkswagen is in discussions with Israeli defense company Rafael Advanced Defence Systems to convert its factory in Osnabrück, Germany, into a production site for components of the Iron Dome air defense system.

MINTEL WORLD

Conflict and energy consultancy

- Canada has unveiled a new scale model of the River-class destroyer featuring major combat system adjustments, as the Royal Canadian Navy refines its next-generation surface combatant to enhance integration, stability, and operational effectiveness.
- The United Kingdom has authorized its armed forces and law enforcement to board and seize sanctioned Russian-linked vessels in its waters.
- The United Kingdom has deployed Royal Navy Merlin and Wildcat helicopters to Cyprus, transforming them into airborne nodes for counter-drone defense.
- Brazil officially unveiled the first Gripen E fighter produced in the country at Embraer's Gavião Peixoto facility, a milestone presented jointly by Embraer, Saab and the Brazilian Air Force.
- OCCAR announced the successful firing of France's AKERON LP missile at the Île du Levant test site operated by DGA Essais de Missiles. An instrumented prototype was launched from a ground installation against a sea-borne target to validate key functions, including laser-guided targeting and the missile-launcher datalink.
- China has revealed two laser-based air defense systems, Guangjian-11E and 21A, designed to destroy low-flying drones at close range.

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.
- Further announcements of defense procurement and military modernization programs linked to emerging operational requirements.