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GLOBAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS WEEKLY

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Executive Assessment

The military campaign against Iran has transitioned into a phase of strategic maneuvering, characterized by a massive buildup of U.S. ground-response forces alongside a tactical suspension of specific strikes. President Donald Trump confirmed a 5-day suspension of strikes targeting Iranian energy infrastructure, which was subsequently extended to 10 days to monitor Iranian maritime behavior. However, Iranian leadership has dismissed this pause as "coercive," demanding a total withdrawal of U.S. assets from the Gulf before any de-escalation can occur. Amidst this diplomatic tension, the U.S. is positioning significant rapid-response capabilities, including the deployment of the USS Tripoli and USS Boxer Amphibious Ready Groups carrying over 4,400 Marines, as well as elements of the 82nd Airborne Division and Tier 1 special operations units to regional bases.

Concurrently, a high-tempo air campaign continues from RAF Fairford, which currently hosts 15 B-1B and 6 B-52H bombers. To mitigate identification risks, the U.S. Air Force has begun removing unit markings and tail numbers from aircraft operating in the Middle East. In terms of naval rotations, the USS Gerald R. Ford has withdrawn for repairs at Souda Naval Base following a fire and an extended deployment, with the USS George H.W. Bush expected as its replacement. Meanwhile, Iran persists with asymmetric hybrid warfare in the Strait of Hormuz, utilizing GPS spoofing and unmanned surface platforms to harass commercial shipping.

The crisis is driving a global redistribution of military assets, notably strengthening NATO's presence in Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean. NATO has deployed Patriot air defense systems to Malatya Erhaç Air Base following the interception of an Iranian ballistic missile over Turkish airspace. Regional tensions are further evidenced by Turkey deploying F-16s and air defenses to Northern Cyprus, while Greece has stationed F-16 Viper jets in western Cyprus and deployed its new Kimon-class frigates. A coordinated European maritime mission is also underway, with naval and air assets from the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, and the Netherlands converging on the region.

In Europe and the Indo-Pacific, security dynamics remain tense as powers balance active conflict with long-term strategic positioning. While Russian forces intensify assaults along the Donetsk axis, Ukraine has retaliated by damaging a Russian patrol icebreaker in the Leningrad region using strike drones. In the Indo-Pacific, China continues naval exercises in the South China Sea to signal strategic competition, while the PLA Air Force refines its J-10C aircraft as networked combat nodes. These geopolitical shifts are mirrored in the defense industry, with massive contracts being awarded for Columbia-class submarine design ($15.38 billion), Kuwaiti radar systems ($8.0 billion), and various precision munitions and missile defense upgrades for the UAE.

U.S. ATTACK ON IRAN - MIDDLE EAST DEPLOYMENT

The military campaign against Iran has entered a phase of strategic maneuvering, where the United States is combining a massive buildup of ground-response forces with a tactical suspension of specific strike categories to test diplomatic and de-escalation channels.

- **Strategic "Pause" and Iranian Rejection:** President Donald Trump publicly confirmed a 5-day suspension of U.S. strikes specifically targeting Iranian energy infrastructure (oil refineries and power plants), which was later extended to 10 days to assess Iran’s maritime and proxy behavior. Iranian leadership has rejected this pause as "insufficient" and "coercive," stating that no de-escalation is possible without a permanent halt to strikes and the total withdrawal of U.S. assets from the Gulf.

- **Massive Ground and Amphibious Buildup:** The U.S. is positioning significant rapid-response capabilities. The USS Tripoli and USS Boxer Amphibious Ready Groups, carrying at least 4,400 U.S. Marines (11th and 13th MEUs), are moving into the theater. Additionally, elements of the 82nd Airborne Division and Tier 1 special operations units, including the 160th SOAR, have reportedly been deployed to regional bases.

- **Strategic Air Campaign:** Strike missions from RAF Fairford remain high-tempo. The base now hosts a combined total of 15 B-1B and 6 B-52H bombers. To enhance operational security, the U.S. Air Force has begun removing unit markings and tail numbers from aircraft operating in the Middle East to reduce identification risk.

- **Naval Rotation:** The USS Gerald R. Ford has withdrawn from operations due to its deployment exceeding nine months and a fire incident onboard. It is currently at Souda Naval Base for repairs and is expected to be replaced by the USS George H.W. Bush.

- **Hybrid Maritime Warfare:** Iran continues to employ asymmetric tactics in the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman, including GPS spoofing, AIS manipulation, and electronic interference. Several commercial tankers have reported "near-miss" incidents with fast-attack craft and suspected explosive-laden unmanned surface platforms.

GLOBAL SECURITY & GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS

Middle East – Eastern Mediterranean

The Middle East crisis is forcing a significant redistribution of global military assets, impacting security postures in Europe and Asia.

- **Support for Turkey:** NATO has begun deploying Patriot air defense systems to Malatya Erhaç Air Base in Türkiye to strengthen its defense capacity. A ballistic missile launched from Iran toward Turkish airspace was intercepted by NATO assets, with debris falling in Gaziantep.

- **Eastern Mediterranean Deployments:**

    - **Turkey:** Deployed six F-16 fighter jets and advanced air defense systems to Northern Cyprus to strengthen its regional presence.

    - **Greece:** Deployed its new Kimon-class (Belharra) frigates and the frigate Psara. Additionally, F-16 Viper jets have been stationed in western Cyprus to protect the island's airspace.

    - **United Kingdom:** Deployed four additional Typhoons to Qatar and an AW101 Merlin helicopter to Cyprus for airborne surveillance. One Daring class destroyer deployed Eastern Mediterranean. The nuclear submarine HMS Anson suspended a port visit in Australia to deploy to the Gulf.

    - **Australia:** Deployed an E-7A Wedgetail AEW&C aircraft, tankers, and a C-17 to the UAE.

    - **France:** Deploying a major naval force led by the aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle* to the Eastern Mediterranean.

    - **Italy:** Dispatched the frigate Federico Martinengo as part of a coordinated European maritime security mission.

    - **Germany:** The frigate FGS Nordrhein-Westfalen arrived in the waters near Cyprus.

    - **Spain:** Deployed the frigate Cristóbal Colón, one of its most advanced naval assets, to the region.

    - **Netherlands:** Prepared the air defense frigate HNLMS Evertsen for deployment to support allied operations.

Europe

The European security landscape is currently defined by a duality of high-intensity attrition and proactive strategic positioning. While active combat persists in Eastern Europe, major powers are simultaneously projecting force into the Arctic to secure long-term geopolitical interests.

- **Ukraine-Russia Conflict:** Russian forces have intensified offensive pressure along the Donetsk axis with mechanized assaults. In retaliation, Ukrainian strike drones targeted a major Russian shipbuilding facility in the Leningrad region, damaging a Project 23550 patrol icebreaker.

- **European Deterrence:** In response to drone threats, British forces deployed Stormer High Velocity Missile systems to Cyprus after successfully destroying 14 kamikaze drones in a single engagement. France and Belgium are discussing a proposal for nuclear-armed Rafale fighters to operate from Belgian bases.

- **European and Naval Power:** A coordinated security mission is underway as several European nations deploy significant naval and air assets to the Eastern Mediterranean and Gulf regions. France is deploying a major naval force led by the aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle to the Eastern Mediterranean. This effort is supported by the United Kingdom, which has deployed a Daring-class destroyer and Typhoons , and Italy, which dispatched the frigate Federico Martinengo. Additionally, Germany's frigate FGS Nordrhein-Westfalen has arrived near Cyprus , Spain has deployed the advanced frigate Cristóbal Colón , and the Netherlands has prepared the air defense frigate HNLMS Evertsen to support these allied operations.

- **Arctic Cooperation:** The European security landscape is increasingly defined by strategic positioning, with major powers projecting force into the Arctic to secure long-term geopolitical interests.

Asia – Pacific

Developments in the Indo-Pacific point toward medium-term deterrence and qualitative upgrades to maritime strike capabilities.

- **Indo-Pacific Maneuvers:** China conducted naval exercises in the South China Sea to signal continued strategic competition. Simultaneously, the PLA Air Force is refining the J-10C as a networked combat node integrated with early warning and electronic warfare assets.

GLOBAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS

Project / Procurement	Value / Quantity	Source Country / Company	Details
Columbia-class Submarine Design	$15.38 Billion	General Dynamics Electric Boat (USA)	Contract modification for design, sustainment, and supplier-base expansion.
LTAMDS Radar System	$8.0 Billion / 5 Units	Raytheon (USA) / Kuwait	Kuwait requested five Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor Radars.
LRDR / THAAD Integration	$4.5 Billion	USA / UAE	Sale of Long-Range Discrimination Radar integrated with THAAD architecture.
F-16 Block 70/72 Fighter Jets	$3.42 Billion / 12 Units	USA / Peru	Peru selected 12 aircraft (10 single-seat, 2 two-seat) with weapons and support.
AN/TPY-2 Radar Support	$773.5 Million	Raytheon (USA)	Noncompetitive contract modification for R&D, upgrades, and engineering.
AMRAAM Missiles (FMS)	$1.22 Billion / 400 Units	USA / UAE	Sale of AIM-120C-7/C-8 missiles for beyond-visual-range interception.
LSS Counter-UAS System	$1.2 Billion	USA / UAE	Integrated defeat system for low, slow, and small unmanned aircraft.
SSN-AUKUS Submarine Support	$1.0 Billion	USA / United Kingdom	Combat and weapon-system support, including vertical deployment tubes.
UAE Precision Munitions	$644 Million	USA / UAE	Emergency sale of 1,500 SDB bombs and 1,200 JDAM guidance kits for F-16s.
MEO Constellation Ground System	$446.8 Million	Kratos Technology (USA)	U.S. Space Force contract to track ballistic and hypersonic cruise missiles.
CH-47F Chinook Block II	$326 Million / 6 Units	Boeing (USA)	Contract to upgrade heavy-lift helicopters to the latest Block II standard.
British Maritime Support	GBP 283.5 Million	UK MoD / 5 Companies	Nine contracts to maintain and support approximately 3,000 military boats.
Canadian Assault Rifles	C$273 Million	Colt Canada	Contract to replace the C7/C8 fleet under the Modular Assault Rifle project.
AN/TPY-2 Spares & Sustainment	$193.2 Million	Raytheon (USA)	Contract modification for spares replenishment and ongoing technical support.
AH-64 Apache Support	$81 Million	Lockheed Martin / Poland	Executive agreements for maintenance, repair, and testing of Polish Apaches.
Skydio X10D Drones	$52 Million / 2,500 Units	Skydio (USA)	U.S. Army contract for small autonomous reconnaissance drones.

Precision Strike Missile (PrSM)	Not Disclosed	Lockheed Martin (USA)	Framework agreement to accelerate production and increase output capacity.
Giuseppe Garibaldi Transfer	Free Transfer	Italy / Indonesia	Italian Senate approved the transfer of the decommissioned aircraft carrier.
EuroPULS Joint Venture	New Partnership	KNDS / Elbit Systems	Establishing a joint venture to deliver rocket artillery systems for Europe.
KSS-III Submarine Deployment	1 Unit	Hanwha Ocean (S. Korea)	Milestone deployment of a South Korean submarine to Canada for cooperation.