

## GLOBAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS DAILY

**Region:** Middle East | Europe | Indo-Pacific | Global

**Date:** 9 March 2026

**Scope:** Security | Energy | Diplomacy | Defence Industry

**Classification:** Client Confidential

### Executive Assessment

Escalation between the United States, Israel, and Iran continues to dominate the global security landscape, with sustained air operations targeting Iranian military infrastructure, air bases, and missile launch capabilities. The operational tempo of U.S. and allied forces remains high, supported by forward deployments of strategic bombers and multiple carrier strike groups, while adjustments in tanker movements may indicate evolving phases of the campaign. The cumulative impact of coordinated strikes has contributed to a gradual decline in the number of Iranian ballistic missile launches, though retaliatory attacks against regional targets and maritime threats in the Persian Gulf continue. The conflict is increasingly affecting regional stability and global energy markets, particularly as security risks around the Strait of Hormuz disrupt shipping and elevate oil and LNG price volatility. Gulf states are strengthening defensive coordination, and NATO members are expanding their military presence in the Eastern Mediterranean and surrounding areas in response to the widening conflict environment. Parallel developments, including Israeli strikes against Hezbollah-linked infrastructure in Lebanon and continued military activities across other regions, underline the risk of broader regional escalation while global defense procurement and modernization programs accelerate amid rising strategic uncertainty.

### U.S. ATTACK ON IRAN - MIDDLE EAST DEPLOYMENT

- Eight U.S. Air Force KC-135R/T aerial refueling aircraft departed from Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia and Ben Gurion Airport in Israel, returning to Europe and the United States. This movement is assessed as a possible indication of a reduction in the tempo of ongoing U.S. air operations.
- The U.S. Air Force deployed eight B-1B and three B-52H strategic bombers to RAF Fairford in the United Kingdom in support of the ongoing Epic Fury Operation. Forward deployment is expected to reduce mission duration by nearly half and enable higher sortie rates and increased operational tempo.
- The carrier strike group centered on USS George H. W. Bush has completed command integration and joint training exercises and is preparing to deploy to the Mediterranean

to begin operations within the area of responsibility of United States Central Command.

- The carrier strike group of USS Gerald R. Ford transited the Suez Canal from the Mediterranean into the Red Sea. The group is assessed to support the carrier strike group led by USS Abraham Lincoln in ongoing air operations against Iran.
- The Ministry of National Defense of Türkiye announced that a ballistic missile launched from Iran and detected entering Turkish airspace was intercepted by NATO ballistic missile defense assets deployed in the Eastern Mediterranean. Debris from the interceptor missile reportedly fell in the city of Gaziantep.
- The UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced the deployment of an additional four Eurofighter Typhoon FGR4 combat aircraft to bolster the air defence of Qatar.
- UK Prepares HMS Prince of Wales aircraft carrier for Middle East deployment amid U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict.
- Israeli strike at Iranian airport destroys last Boeing 747-100 still flying and used as KC-747 tanker.
- U.S. and Israeli operations continue to degrade Iran's ballistic missile launch capabilities. A decline in daily Iranian ballistic missile launches has been observed since the first day of the conflict, reflecting the impact of ongoing comprehensive strikes on Iran's missile launchers by U.S. and Israeli forces.

| Day   | Date         | Estimated Ballistic Missiles | Details / Barrage Count                                                                                             |
|-------|--------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Day 1 | Feb 28, 2026 | ~350                         | 20+ barrages (mostly small: 2-4 missiles each initially); ~170 to Israel, hundreds to Gulf countries and U.S. bases |
| Day 2 | Mar 1, 2026  | ~175                         | 4+ barrages (9-30 missiles per barrage)                                                                             |
| Day 3 | Mar 2, 2026  | ~120                         | At least 6 barrages (smaller salvos)                                                                                |
| Day 4 | Mar 3, 2026  | ~50                          | ~7 barrages (low-impact, scattered); continued but limited Gulf countries and U.S. bases strikes                    |
| Day 5 | Mar 4, 2026  | ~40                          | Low volume; 7-8 attack waves reported by afternoon; some night barrages                                             |
| Day 6 | Mar 5, 2026  | ~32+                         | New waves detected (2-3+ barrages early)                                                                            |
| Day 7 | Mar 6, 2026  | ~28                          |                                                                                                                     |
| Day 8 | Mar 7, 2026  | ~35+                         |                                                                                                                     |
| Day 9 | Mar 8, 2026  | ~40                          |                                                                                                                     |

## GLOBAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

- U.S. and Israeli air operations against Iran are continuing. Israeli fighter aircraft conducted new waves of strikes against military facilities in and around Tehran, while U.S. forces supported operations in southern Iran and the Gulf region. Targets reportedly included air bases and other military infrastructure.
- Mehrabad International Airport in Tehran was among the locations reportedly targeted during the strikes. Iranian sources stated that U.S. and Israeli air attacks hit airport infrastructure and military facilities, and that civilian airline and military cargo aircraft located at the airport were destroyed.
- The President of Iran issued an apology message to Gulf countries following several attacks affecting the region, while emphasizing that Iran would continue retaliatory actions against U.S. and Israeli strikes.
- Iranian forces were reported to have targeted an oil tanker in the Persian Gulf, highlighting ongoing threats to regional energy transportation routes.
- Security concerns surrounding the Strait of Hormuz have moved to the forefront of the global agenda. The expansion of hostilities near the strait has created risks for global oil shipments, and energy markets continue to react to security threats and shipping disruptions.
- The Middle East conflict is increasingly affecting global energy markets, with oil and LNG prices experiencing volatility due to security risks in the Gulf.
- Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states have increased defense coordination, evaluating joint defensive measures in response to Iranian attacks.
- Israeli fighter aircraft conducted large-scale air strikes against Hezbollah infrastructure in southern Beirut, targeting facilities believed to be linked to the group's military capabilities.
- European countries are increasing their military presence in the Middle East. NATO states have begun reinforcing naval and air assets in the Eastern Mediterranean and surrounding regions.
- U.S. Southern Command announced that U.S. forces killed six men in a strike on a vessel suspected of carrying illicit narcotics.

## GLOBAL DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS

- Air Force Global Strike Command conducted an operational test launch Tuesday of an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile equipped with two test reentry vehicles.
- Ghana has received from Airbus Helicopters the ACH175 corporate-configured helicopter, the Ghana Air Force.
- UAE and Qatar seek 7,000 ukrainian interceptor drones to stop Iranian kamikaze drones cheaper than Patriot.
- Japan has begun deploying upgraded Type-12 land-to-ship missiles to Camp Kengun in Kumamoto Prefecture on Kyushu, marking the first operational placement of its new long-range strike capability.
- The U.S. Navy began Operation ICE CAMP Boarfish in the Arctic Ocean, deploying the attack submarines USS Delaware and USS Santa Fe to conduct under-ice training supported by a temporary camp on drifting sea ice.
- British radar manufacturer Blighter, signed a contract to supply its ground surveillance radar systems and AI-assisted software to an undisclosed Eastern European army for border protection missions.
- The U.S. Naval Air Systems Command confirmed that it awarded a contract to Rockwell Collins to repair and reconfigure TacNet 1.0 datalink radios used on the Joint Standoff Weapon and Harpoon Block II+ missile systems.
- The U.S. Department of War has approved a \$53 million contract modification for Lockheed Martin to support increased production of the Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRASM).
- The Swiss Federal Council confirmed that Switzerland will proceed with the acquisition of Lockheed Martin F-35A fighter jets but will no longer pursue the originally planned fleet of 36 aircraft due to financial constraints.
- The United States Department of State has awarded a contract to Washington-based Echodyne for the provision of 360-degree, four-paneled tactical radar systems and related support services in Ukraine. The contract, valued at \$14.9 million.

# MINTEL WORLD

Conflict and energy consultancy

- A Polish-Ukrainian defense joint venture is preparing to launch production of the Ukrainian-designed Bogdana 155mm self-propelled howitzer in Poland.
- United States delivers Javelin anti-tank missile systems to Albania under defence cooperation programme.

## **FORWARD LOOK – NEXT 7 DAYS**

- Monitoring U.S. and allied bomber deployments and carrier strike group movements supporting ongoing air operations against Iran
- Tracking the effectiveness of U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iranian ballistic missile launch infrastructure and command-and-control networks
- Indicators of continued Iranian retaliatory activity including ballistic missile launches, drone operations, and maritime threats in the Persian Gulf
- Security developments around the Strait of Hormuz and risks to commercial shipping and global energy supply routes
- Gulf state defensive coordination and potential shortages in regional air defense interceptor inventories
- Expansion of NATO and European naval and air deployments in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East