

## GLOBAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS DAILY

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

**Date:** 6 April 2026

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

**Classification:** Client Confidential

### Executive Assessment

U.S. military operations against Iran are expanding in scope and complexity, supported by sustained strategic bomber sorties from the United Kingdom and a broadening regional force posture. The deployment of electronic warfare aircraft to Crete, AWACS replacement operations, continued UAV transfers, and persistent logistical airlift indicate a deliberate effort to enhance battlespace awareness, electronic attack capability, and operational endurance. At the same time, disruptions such as the aborted A-10 deployment highlight ongoing challenges in sustainment and aerial refueling reliability. The overall posture reflects a transition toward a more durable and multi-domain campaign framework across the Middle East and adjacent theaters.

The combat search and rescue operation deep inside Iranian territory underscores the elevated operational risk environment and the prioritization of personnel recovery under contested conditions. The destruction of U.S. aircraft and helicopters on the ground to prevent capture demonstrates strict adherence to technology denial principles, even at significant material cost. Iranian responses, including claims of nearing the extraction zone and continued reinforcement of air defense systems, indicate an increasingly confident approach to contesting U.S. operations. Escalatory rhetoric from U.S. leadership regarding potential strikes on critical infrastructure is matched by explicit Iranian warnings of broader retaliation, raising the risk of horizontal and vertical escalation beyond purely military targets.

Israeli operations continue to apply sustained pressure on Iranian military infrastructure, with an observable expansion toward logistics, transportation, and energy-linked targets that support military sustainment. Iranian missile and UAV activity remains measured, suggesting an intent to preserve deterrence without triggering full-scale escalation. Meanwhile, maritime insecurity in the Persian Gulf, combined with electronic interference and increased naval activity, is contributing to heightened global energy market sensitivity. Regional actors are maintaining elevated alert levels and reinforcing defensive measures, while international responses emphasize de-escalation amid concerns over systemic economic and security consequences.

Defense industrial activity reflects parallel preparation for prolonged competition, with significant U.S. budget allocations favoring next-generation airpower, naval expansion, and hypersonic strike capabilities. Allied and partner developments, including NATO air policing transitions, European and Asian procurement programs, and advancements in missile defense and armored systems, indicate a broader trend of capability modernization aligned with high-intensity conflict scenarios. Simultaneously, emerging domains such as electromagnetic spectrum operations, drone warfare, and cyber activities are receiving increased focus, reinforcing the multidimensional nature of current and future conflicts.

## **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. Three B-1B and two B-52H strategic bombers reportedly carried out strike missions and subsequently returned to RAF Fairford.
- The U.S. Air Force has relocated two EA-37B electronic warfare aircraft from RAF Mildenhall in the UK to the Chania Airbase in Crete.
- The U.S. Air Force has deployed one E-3G Sentry AWACS aircraft to RAF Mildenhall in the UK to replace the aircraft destroyed in Saudi Arabia. The aircraft conducted a flight via the Strait of Gibraltar to deploy to Saudi Arabia. France and Spain reportedly denied overflight clearance.
- Twelve U.S. Air Force A-10C aircraft took off from RAF Lakenheath en route to the Middle East but later returned to base due to technical issues with aerial refueling tankers.
- Five U.S. Army MQ-9 Reaper UAVs conducted flights from the continental United States for deployment to the Jordan in support of operations in Iran.
- 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.
- Additional aerial refueling tanker aircraft have been deployed to multiple bases across the Middle East and Europe.

## GLOBAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

- U.S. Central Command conducted a high-risk combat search and rescue operation deep inside Iranian territory to recover the Weapon Systems Officer of the downed F-15E Strike Eagle, following earlier reports that the pilot had been successfully extracted.
- The rescue mission involved special operations aviation assets, including MH-6 helicopters and fixed-wing support, operating under contested airspace conditions with active Iranian air defense threats and limited ISR visibility.
- During the operation, U.S. forces destroyed a C-130 aircraft and multiple MH-6 helicopters on the ground to prevent their capture by Iranian forces after mechanical issues and operational constraints made extraction unfeasible.
- The deliberate destruction of these assets highlights U.S. prioritization of personnel recovery and technology denial in denied environments, even at the cost of high-value platforms.
- Iranian military sources claimed that their forces were closing in on the extraction zone during the operation, framing the incident as evidence of increasing ability to contest U.S. special operations inside Iranian territory.
- U.S. officials have not publicly detailed the full extent of the operation but emphasized that personnel recovery remains a non-negotiable priority under all operational conditions.
- U.S. President Donald Trump escalated rhetoric by warning that the United States is prepared to strike Iranian critical infrastructure, specifically referencing bridges and energy facilities as potential targets if Iran does not alter its current posture.
- Trump stated that such strikes could be initiated as early as Tuesday, indicating a willingness to expand the scope of the campaign beyond strictly military targets into strategic infrastructure.
- Iranian leadership responded by warning that any expansion of target sets to include civilian or economic infrastructure would trigger proportionate and regionally widespread retaliation against U.S. and allied assets.
- Iran continued to reinforce its air defense posture following the earlier downing of the F-15E, with reports indicating redeployment of systems and increased readiness levels around key strategic zones.

- Israeli forces maintained sustained strike operations against Iranian military infrastructure, including repeated targeting of logistics nodes and facilities assessed to support missile production and deployment.
- Israeli targeting patterns continue to expand to include transportation and energy-related infrastructure linked to military sustainment, reflecting a broader operational approach.
- Iranian missile and UAV activity against Israeli territory persisted at a controlled level, with launches focused on maintaining deterrence signaling and testing defensive systems rather than large-scale escalation.
- Maritime security conditions in the Persian Gulf remained unstable, with continued electronic interference, elevated naval activity, and persistent concerns over potential attacks on commercial shipping.
- Global energy markets reacted to the increased risk of infrastructure targeting, with oil price volatility driven by concerns over potential disruption to production and transit routes.
- Regional states maintained heightened alert levels, reinforcing air defense systems and increasing force protection measures around U.S. bases and critical infrastructure.
- European governments intensified diplomatic efforts to prevent further escalation, warning that strikes on energy infrastructure could have systemic global economic consequences.
- Russia and China reiterated calls for de escalation while criticizing the expansion of U.S. military operations, emphasizing the risks to global stability and energy security.
- Cyber and information operations activity increased further, with both sides attempting to shape narratives around the rescue operation, asset losses, and escalation risks.

## GLOBAL DEFENSE DEVELOPMENTS

- The Pentagon's request for new shipbuilding funds is among the highest-ever since the Korean War, rivaling the Reagan-era 600-ship spending plan and the nuclear submarine buildup in the 1960s, according to budget documents. In a \$1.5 trillion Fiscal Year 2027 national security submission split between the base budget and reconciliation, the Navy wants a total of \$65.8 billion for shipbuilding, as President Donald Trump pursues several new ship classes under the Golden Fleet concept.
- The Trump administration's fiscal 2027 defense budget proposal allocates significantly more funding to the Air Force's sixth-generation F-47 fighter than to the Navy's F/A-XX program. The \$1.5 trillion request includes about \$5 billion for F-47 development, compared with \$140 million for the Navy's next-generation aircraft.
- The U.S. Strategic Command hosted a first-of-its-kind electromagnetic spectrum tabletop exercise, Aurora Pulse.
- Electro Optic Systems (EOS) said it has secured two new U.S. contracts worth a combined \$12 million for remote weapon systems while continuing discussions on a conditional laser weapons agreement in South Korea.
- Rocket Lab has secured a \$190 million contract for 20 hypersonic test launches using its HASTE vehicle under a U.S. Department of War programme. The agreement represents the company's largest launch contract to date.
- The Pentagon has requested funding for 85 F-35 fighter jets in its fiscal 2027 budget, including 38 F-35A variants for the U.S. Air Force. The proposal forms part of President Donald Trump's \$1.5 trillion defense budget aimed at restoring force readiness and lethality.
- The U.S. Department of War has awarded a contract modification worth approximately \$1.356 billion to Lockheed Martin to advance the Conventional Prompt Strike (CPS) hypersonic missile programme.
- The NATO has confirmed the conclusion of an Italian Air Force deployment supporting Baltic Air Policing operations in Estonia. The mission ended at Ämari Air Base following two consecutive rotations, with responsibility now transferred to the Portuguese Air Force.
- Boeing Canada has committed C\$7 million to Vac Aero International Inc. to support expanded manufacturing capabilities under the CP8A Poseidon Industrial and Technological Benefits program.

- The Royal Navy has completed a four-day NATO Submarine Rescue System exercise in Fort William involving military and civilian personnel. The trials were conducted alongside the Submarine Delivery Agency and JFD Ltd as part of routine training.
- The UK confirmed the deployment of its Rapid Sentry air defence system to Kuwait following an overnight Iranian drone strike on a Kuwaiti oil facility.
- The UK Defence Innovation has launched a market engagement activity seeking novel technologies capable of detecting and defeating fibre-optic controlled drones, opening a formal call to industry that closes on April 21, 2026.
- Elbit Systems announced that it has secured a \$750 million contract to supply its Precise & Universal Launching System, known as PULS, to the Hellenic Armed Forces under a defense agreement between Israel and Greece.
- Russian Frigate Admiral Grigorovich struck by Ukrainian drone in Port of Novorossiysk.
- The Pakistan Navy held the induction ceremony for the second Babur-class (PN MILGEM) corvette, the PNS KHAIBAR (F-282), in Karachi.
- Indian Navy has quietly inducted a new nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, INS Aridhaman, into service, marking a further step in its strategic capabilities. On the same day, the navy also formally commissioned a new guided missile frigate, INS Taragiri, in Visakhapatnam.
- New reporting indicated that the PLA has begun fielding Type 96A main battle tanks fitted with the GL-6 active protection system within units associated with the Eastern Theatre Command.
- The Israeli Ministry of Defense announced a new step to accelerate production of Arrow interceptors, underscoring the importance of long-range missile defense in the country's current security posture.
- The Royal Malaysian Air Force has test-flown its newly acquired Turkish Aerospace Anka-S unmanned aerial vehicle platform for the first time.
- Knightec Group Brasil Serviços e Engenharia, the Brazilian subsidiary of Swedish technology consulting firm Knightec Group, has begun concept design work on a new transmission housing for the BvS10 armoured all-terrain vehicle BAE Systems.

## FORWARD LOOK – NEXT 7 DAYS

- Continued U.S. and Israeli air operations targeting Iranian military infrastructure, including command networks, logistics corridors, and dual-use facilities.
- Increased integration of electronic warfare capabilities, particularly EA-37B platforms, to suppress Iranian air defenses and enable follow-on strike packages.
- Expansion of U.S. naval presence in the Gulf, including carrier strike group deployment and mine warfare operations aimed at securing the Strait of Hormuz.
- Sustained volatility in maritime traffic, with further rerouting or delays of commercial vessels depending on threat perceptions and security incidents.
- Continued elevation of military readiness levels among Gulf states, including enhanced air defense deployments and naval patrol operations.
- Ongoing diplomatic signaling and indirect mediation efforts, with limited prospects for immediate de-escalation despite conditional messaging from both sides.
- Additional defense procurement and industrial announcements reflecting increased demand for air defense, strike systems, and autonomous capabilities.