



IT'S A TOUGH WORLD.

MENA Executive SITREP

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**MAX
INTELLIGENCE**



Executive Brief: US – Israeli Operations Against Iran and Regional Implications

Explainer: This daily report provides an executive summary of major developments related to the ongoing war in the Middle East. It complements MAX Security's more in-depth Situation Update reports. If you haven't yet received our situation updates and other reporting amid the current escalation, or would like to receive more details, join our [WhatsApp community](#). For operational support, please contact our Protection Division at operations@max-security.com.

Operational Overview

The Israeli-US aerial campaign against Iran continued on March 24–25. A state-linked Iranian media reported that on March 24, a projectile impacted the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant. No damage was caused. The IDF stated it has targeted two central maritime cruise missile production sites in Tehran. In Isfahan, the IDF targeted a central site for Arms production.

Meanwhile, a March 24 report indicates that around 2000 US paratroopers are being sent to the Middle East.

In a press conference with President Trump, Secretary of War Hegseth stated that “we’re negotiating with bombs. You have a choice as we loiter over the top of Tehran, about your [Iran’s] future. The President has made it clear that you will not have nuclear weapons. The War Department agrees, we should ensure that...and we are keeping our hand on that throttle, as long and as hard as is necessary.”

Efforts persist to facilitate talks between the US and Iran. As of March 25, the future of the negotiations remains unclear. US President Trump expressed optimism about the talks, also claiming that he had “received a gift” related to oil and gas from Tehran. Formally, Iran is projecting a completely different stance, projecting defiance and continued resistance to US demands. There are indications that the stances of both parties remain unbridgeable. All of this indicates that mistrust and suspicion between the parties remain high, and that the risk of further escalation of the conflict remains high, especially as additional US forces are being deployed to the region.

Iranian actions

Iran continued to launch missiles and UAVs toward Gulf states. A UAV struck a fuel tank at Kuwait International Airport (KWI), the UAE’s air defenses engaged Iranian Ballistic and Cruise Missiles and UAVs Attacks.

Iran also continued to launch missiles toward Israel. On March 24 and 25, Iran launched several cluster munition missiles targeting several areas across Israel, leading to damage and injuries.

On March 25, the son of the Iranian President, Yousef Pezeshkian, stated, "Our military sector has no fear of a prolonged war. We have enough missiles to fight for months."

On March 24, Iran informed the UNSC and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) that "non-hostile vessels" may transit the Strait of Hormuz, provided they coordinate with Iranian authorities.

Other notable developments

Global: On March 25, the Israeli National Security Council (NSC) issued a warning stating that Iran is expected to increase its attempts to target Israelis and Jews abroad ahead of the Passover holiday, which begins on April 1. It advised Israelis to refrain from attending public, unsecured Passover holiday events and to take precautions, highlighting risks in countries near Iran, such as the UAE, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, as well as in other states, specifically Thailand and the Philippines.

Iran-Gulf: A March 24 report suggested that Saudi leader Mohammed Bin Salman (MbS) is currently urging Washington to continue its war with Iran. In a press conference, US President Donald Trump stated that Saudi leader Mohammed bin Salman (MbS) "is a warrior; he is fighting with us," indicating that Saudi Arabia, along with the UAE and Qatar, has been "excellent." This constitutes the most explicit suggestion by a US leader that Gulf countries actively contribute to the US's war effort, which will likely further increase Gulf-Iran tensions.

Iraq: Iran and pro-Iranian militias continued to launch attacks against US-linked targets in the country. KRG Peshmerga personnel were killed in an attack north of Erbil. US forces continued to strike PMF positions in the country. On March 24, Iraq's Security Council allowed the PMF as a body to engage in "self-defense" actions against repeated strikes against them. Iran-backed militias released a video showing again their use of First Person View (FPV) explosive-laden drones, which were used to target a radar and combat helicopters at Baghdad International Airport's Victory Base.

Israel-Lebanon: Hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah continued through March 24–25. Hezbollah UAV and rocket fire continued, causing one death and injuries in northern Israel. During the night hours on March 24–25, the IDF continued to conduct strikes in Beirut's Dahiyeh suburb, and on March 25, the IDF targeted additional bridges along the Litani River, stating that IDF forces would control the rest.

Lebanon has declared the Iranian Ambassador to the country a persona non grata, underscoring deteriorating bilateral relations between the governments in light of Hezbollah's decision to join the war to support Iran. In subsequent hours, an Iranian missile was intercepted over Lebanese territory, in parallel to Iranian launches toward Israel. Missile debris fell in an area north of Beirut, causing injuries.



Travel & Security Aspects

- Regional travel conditions remain highly volatile, with most states in the region exposed to extreme risk due to repeated and unpredictable missile and UAV attacks.
- Inclement weather conditions are also reported across the Gulf region, requiring vigilance, extra time for travel, and adherence to authorities' updates.
- Inclement weather conditions are also affecting southern Israel and routes leading to Eilat and the southern borders with Egypt and Jordan.
- Airspace restrictions and sudden closures continue to disrupt travel across the region. Risks to travelers also remain high despite **Gulf** authorities' eagerness to facilitate commercial flight operations.
- Evacuations outside of the country and safe havens within countries should be considered as part of contingency planning.
- Extraction routes are still most viable through **Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt**. Despite not releasing formal statistics, Saudi Arabia appears to be increasingly impacted by Iranian attacks.
- **Egypt** and **Turkey broadly** remain outside direct hostilities and are assessed as medium-risk environments compared with other regional states. Turkey is exposed to risks in its southeastern border areas near Iran and around its NATO bases, as tensions increase.
- **Oman** remains comparatively less affected and continues to function as a key transit point for evacuations and regional travel adjustments. The US Embassy implemented a shelter-in-place procedure for all areas of Oman except for Muscat on March 23.
- **Israel** is reducing operations at Ben Gurion International Airport to one departing flight per hour. Arriving flights will not be subject to passenger limits, while outbound flights from Israel will be restricted to a maximum of 50 passengers per flight. Some Israeli carriers have transitioned to operating flights from Jordan's Aqaba and Egypt's Taba due to current constraints.

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