



IT'S A TOUGH WORLD.

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March 31, 2026



**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

On March 30-31, the US-Israeli military campaigns in Iran continued, and airstrikes were reported in multiple areas of the country, including Tehran, Isfahan, and Zanjan. In Isfahan, the US reportedly utilized bunker-busting munitions against arms depots. Israel conducted waves of strikes against Iran's weapons production and research industry, including facilities to produce UAV engines. Temporary power outages were reported in Tehran following the airstrikes. Also on March 30, the IDF stated that it attacked Tehran's Imam Hussein University, and specifically compounds used to research nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, and ballistic missiles.

Following the arrival of around 3,500 sailors and Marines aboard the USS Tripoli and the dispatchment of the USS Boxer, carrying the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit to the region, March 30 reports indicate that the USS Boxer has made a stop at Hawaii's Pearl Harbor base as part of its journey. Meanwhile, thousands of troops from the 82nd Airborne Division (paratroopers) have started arriving in the Middle East, according to a March 31 report.

On March 30, US President Trump released old footage of him making an argument for the takeover of Iran's oil installations. In addition, he stated that great progress has been made during mediated talks with Iran. However, if a deal is not reached and if the Strait of Hormuz is not immediately opened, the US will respond by targeting Iran's power plants, oil wells, Kharg Island, and possibly Iran's desalination plants. This reiterates the high stakes President Trump is willing to attribute to a potential failure in negotiations.

Iranian actions

Iran continued to launch missiles and UAVs toward several Gulf states on March 30-31. Several countries, including the UAE, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, reported intercepting Iranian munitions. An Iranian attack impacted a Kuwaiti tanker at the UAE's Jebel Ali Port during the overnight hours of March 30-31, causing a fire and prompting an emergency response at the port. Iranian launches against Israel also continued on March 30, with intercepted debris falling in several areas in central Israel.

Other notable developments

Gulf: A report citing US, Gulf, and Israeli officials suggested that US Gulf allies, led by Saudi Arabia and the UAE, are urging President Trump to continue the war against Iran, arguing that Tehran has not been weakened in a sufficient manner.

Persian Gulf: As of March 30, a vessel reported two explosions in the water off the coast of Saudi Arabia's Ras Tanura. In subsequent hours, as mentioned above, a Kuwaiti tanker was attacked by a UAV at Dubai's Jebel Ali Port. This follows a lull in such attacks over the past week and reiterates Iran's ability to remain a threat to vessels operating off the coast of Gulf countries in the Persian Gulf.

Turkey: NATO defenses intercepted an Iranian ballistic missile that entered Turkey's airspace on March 30. This constitutes the fourth such incident since the beginning of the war. It is still unlikely to lead to direct military retaliation by Turkey, which is currently engaged in mediation efforts to end the conflict.

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.
- Evacuations outside of certain countries and safe havens within countries should be considered as part of contingency planning, especially if power and desalination plants will potentially be targeted and cause utility-related threats.
- Airspace restrictions are broadly being alleviated, and commercial traffic is picking up in several Gulf states.
- Extraction routes are still most viable through **Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.**
- **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.
- **Oman** remains comparatively less affected and continues to function as a key transit point for evacuations and regional travel adjustments.
- The US Embassy in **Qatar** removed its shelter-in-place advisory. It announced a change to its "mission posture," stating that the embassy is conducting "reduced operations" with remaining emergency personnel. It advised US citizens to remain vigilant and follow Qatari authorities' directions in case an alert is issued.
- **Israel's** national carrier, El Al, announced the cancellation of all flights until after the Passover Holiday on April 11.



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