



**IT'S A TOUGH WORLD.**

# **MENA Executive SITREP**

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**MAX  
INTELLIGENCE**

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

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**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](mailto:operations@max-security.com).

### Operational Overview

The Israeli-US aerial campaign against Iran continued on March 26–27. The IDF revealed that with IRGC Navy commander Alireza Tangsiri in Bandar Abbas, his head of Intelligence and other senior officers, were killed as well. During the overnight hours, the IDF targeted weapon and ballistic missile production infrastructures in Tehran and attacked other targets in western Iran.

According to March 27 reports citing the Pentagon, the US has deployed uncrewed UAV speedboats as part of operations against Iran.

According to an unconfirmed March 26 report, Israel has reportedly shifted the focus of its air campaign from efforts aimed at destabilizing Iran's governance structures to targeting its military-industrial base, to inflict as much enduring damage within a possibly limited timeframe before a potential truce is reached. This comes amid growing doubts that regime-change goals can be achieved within the current operation's framework.

US President Donald Trump stated that at the request of the Iranian government, he postponed the ultimatum to Tehran (regarding bombing Iran's power plants in case it fails to reach a ceasefire) by ten days, to the overnight hours of April 6-7 (Iran time).

Meanwhile, a March 27 report suggests that President Trump is considering deploying up to 10,000 additional ground troops to the Middle East, as part of efforts to expand his military options.

### Iranian actions

Iran continued to launch missiles and UAVs toward several Gulf states, leading to an impact in Kuwait's Shuwaikh port. Saudi Arabia responded to UAV launchings in its Eastern Province, and Qatar also responded to incoming aerial threats.

At least ten ballistic missile barrages from Iran targeting Israel were recorded on March 26. Impacts were recorded in Tel Aviv, Kfar Qassem, and the Sharon area. Six individuals were lightly wounded in one



attack.

On March 26, Iranian state news media reported that Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi stated that “friendly nations,” including China, Russia, India, Pakistan, and Iraq, have received authorization to transit through the Strait of Hormuz.

### Other notable developments

**MENA:** Iranian media used American reports to suggest that US soldiers are stationing themselves in hotels in the region (instead of military sites that are being targeted) and stated that such hotels, especially in the UAE and Bahrain, would become legitimate targets. Iranian FM Araghchi referenced the threat and encouraged hotels to expel US military personnel from their premises.

**Syria:** As part of the abovementioned campaign, Iran has explicitly referenced the Four Seasons and Sheraton hotels in Damascus, as well as the Syrian People’s Palace (Republican Palace), as alleged venues used by US, Israeli, and British personnel.

**Djibouti:** The abovementioned Iranian media outlet, referenced Djibouti, claiming that US Marine forces were “transferred to the Djibouti International Airport air base this week, via Istanbul and Sofia, and have been stationed in the area.” This is an indication that Iran is watching alleged US deployments and activities in Djibouti, given that the US retains a naval base in the country, and US-linked assets in the country might be targeted in the future by either Iran or its Houthi allies.

### Yemen / Red Sea

Houthi leader Abdelmalik al-Houthi stated on March 26 that his movement stands ready to intervene in the war in support of Iran if the necessity arises.

**Israel-Lebanon:** According to an Israeli military correspondent, Hezbollah launched more than 100 rockets toward Israel on March 26. Hezbollah has reported increasing numbers of attacks against Israel on March 26, and direct clashes were reported between IDF and Hezbollah forces in southern Lebanon.

### 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**. Several roads have been blocked.



- 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.
- An attack against **Qatar** on March 27 disrupted a days-long lull in aerial threats against the country, since the March 19 Iranian attack on Ras Laffan.
- 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 mulling alleviating some regulations at Ben Gurion International Airport, from the current one departing flight per hour with a maximum capacity of 50 travelers.

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