



Houthi Escalation Projectile Tracker: 3/18/25 Update

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The Jewish Institute for National Security of America's (JINSA) [Iran Projectile Tracker](#) presents regularly updated charts and graphs on missiles, rockets, drones, and mortars that Iran and its regional proxies have fired at U.S. personnel, partners, and interests in the Middle East, as well as data for other Iran-linked malign activity. With an escalation of strikes by the United States and the Houthis, JINSA is releasing this update detailing their exchanges of fire.

1. Strategic and Operational Insights

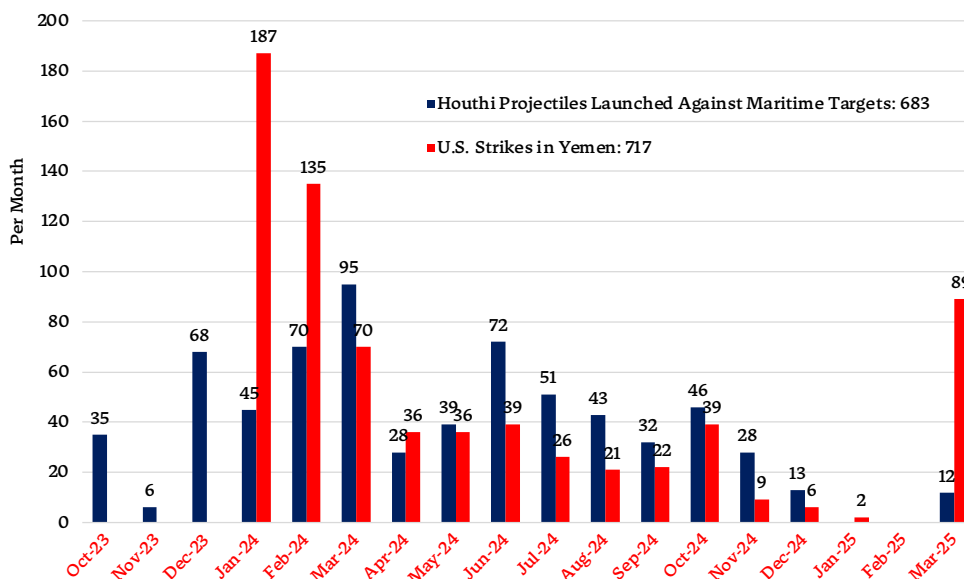
- Compared to the Biden administration's limited operations against the Houthis that primarily focused on targeting capabilities, U.S. strikes against the Houthis on March 15, 16, and 17 demonstrated a clear willingness to expand the scale, scope, and persistency of U.S. efforts against the Iran-backed terrorist group.
 - » The U.S. strikes against the Houthis on March 15 coincided with the Houthis' [deadline](#) for Israel to resume permitting humanitarian aid trucks to enter Gaza or else face renewed attacks against ships traveling to Israel.
 - It also came a month after the Houthis [targeted](#) a U.S. MQ-9 UAV and a U.S. F-16 fighter jet on February 19, the first time the group has targeted a U.S. fighter aircraft.
 - » The Biden administration's [intermittent](#) strikes against the Houthis were ineffective at deterring further Houthi attacks because they were too infrequent, [defensive](#), focused on avoiding escalation, and primarily targeted launchpads and weapons stores.
 - On July 19, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that Commander of U.S. Central Command General Michael E. Kurilla sent a memo to then-Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin arguing that the current U.S. approach is “failing” to deter Houthi attacks and that instead “a whole of government approach” is necessary.
 - » Israel's previous [strikes](#) against the Houthis, which focused on destroying their ability to arm and fund themselves, offered a better model toward disrupting further aggression than America's limited strikes.
 - The Houthis [launched](#) missiles and drones that cost mere tens of thousands of dollars and are readily replaceable, so long as Iran's resupply lines remain intact. On the other hand, destroying command-and-control sites and port access can have a more widespread and long-term effect on Houthi operations.
 - » The Trump administration's strikes, in contrast to Biden-era strikes, have been larger, more frequent thus far, and directed at higher value targets.
 - The United States launched more strikes between March 15-17 than during any other three-day period since U.S. operations against the Houthis began in January 2024.

- The Trump administration has targeted the Houthis every day since conducting its first strikes against the terrorist group on March 15, compared to the Biden administration launching strikes an average of every three days.
- Early indications of the U.S. operations under the Trump administration show that the U.S. has launched an average of at least 30 strikes per day, compared to only 5 strikes per day during the Biden administration.
- Unlike Biden-era strikes, the Trump administration targeted, for the first time, Houthi leaders, [reportedly killing](#) the head of security for the Houthis' leader, Abdul Malik al-Houthi, in addition to air defenses, radars, missiles, and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) systems.
- » To be effective, the U.S. strikes will have to continue, more extensively degrade Houthi capacity, and likely directly target Iranian assets.
 - Trump [posted](#) that “every shot fired by the Houthis will be looked upon, from this point forward, as being a shot fired from the weapons and leadership of IRAN, and IRAN will be held responsible, and suffer the consequences, and those consequences will be dire!”
 - A U.S. official told [Reuters](#) that the U.S. strikes could continue for several weeks.
- After the U.S. strikes on March 15, the Houthis retaliated with attacks against U.S. ships and resumed their fire against Israel, demonstrating that a single operation, even one larger in scale, was insufficient to deter the terrorist group and that persistent military operations against the group remain necessary to deter and degrade them.
 - » On March 16, the Houthis [launched](#) at least 11 UAVs and one ballistic missile at ships in the USS Harry S. Truman aircraft carrier group as it sailed in the Red Sea.
 - No Houthi missiles struck their targets. U.S. Air Force aircraft shot down 10 UAVs, a Navy aircraft shot down one UAV, and the ballistic missile fell short of its target.
 - The Houthis claimed to have launched 18 ballistic missiles and one UAV.
 - » On March 17 and 18, the Houthis made [unverified claims](#) of launching additional ballistic missiles and UAVs at U.S. ships.
 - » On March 18, three days after the date that the Houthis threatened to resume their attacks against Israel, the Houthis launched their first attack against Israel since January.
- Israel's previous [strikes](#) against the Houthis that focused on destroying the Houthis' ability to arm and fund themselves offered a better model toward disrupting further aggression than the previous limited U.S. strikes, but neither the United States nor Israel had taken the strong deterrent measure of targeting Houthi leadership until the U.S. strikes on March 15.
 - The Houthis [launched](#) missiles and drones that cost only tens of thousands of dollars and are readily replaceable, so long as Iran's resupply lines remain intact. On the other hand, destroying command-and-control sites and port access can have a more widespread and long-term effect on Houthi operations.

2. Charts and Trends

- The United States launched 423 percent more strikes during its operation against the Houthis in March 2025 alone than it had during all of its operations targeting the Iran-backed terrorist group in Yemen since November 2024.
 - » The 89 strikes that the United States has already launched against the Houthis in March 2025 have surpassed the total of any month since February 2024.
 - » The at least 47 strikes that the United States launched on March 15 against Houthi targets in Yemen marked the largest single operation against the group since strikes against the group began in January 2024.
 - On January 12, 2024, a coalition of U.S. and U.K. aircraft, with support from Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, and Bahrain [fired](#) at least 150 munitions at 60 Houthi targets in 28 locations.
 - » The United States has conducted at least 717 strikes on Houthi targets in Yemen since January 2024.

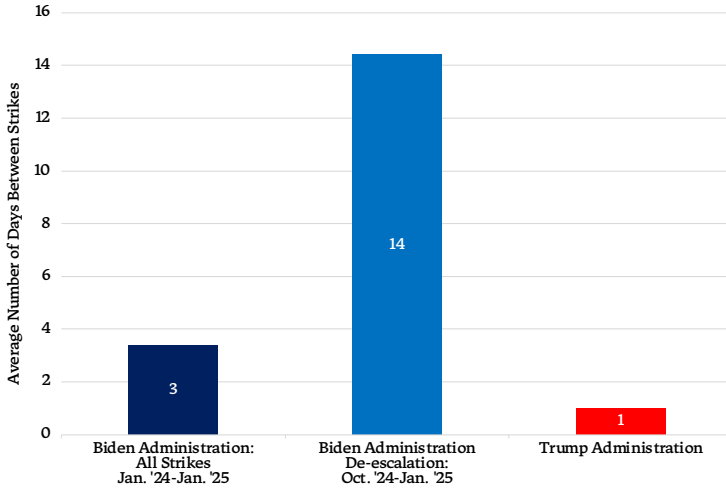
Houthi Projectiles Launched Against Maritime Targets and U.S. Strikes in Yemen Since 10/7 



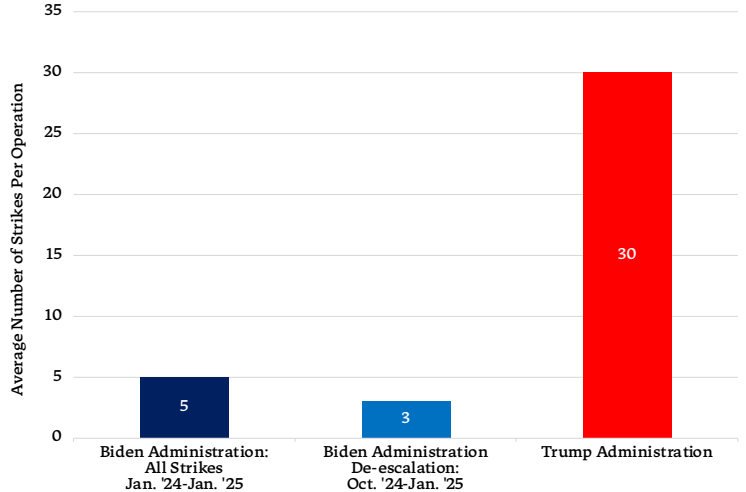
- The 12 projectiles that the Houthis launched during its first maritime attack this year, targeting U.S. Navy ships on March 16, marked the largest single Houthi attack since November 2024.
 - » The 12 projectiles that the Houthis fired during the attack amounted to 92 percent of the projectiles the group fired during the entire month of December 2024, the last month it had targeted ships at sea.
 - » The Houthis have launched at least 683 projectiles against maritime targets since the Iran-backed terrorist group began their escalation in October 2023.
- Since striking the Houthis on March 15, the Trump administration has targeted the group every day, decreasing the number of days between operations by 66 percent compared to when the Biden administration launched operations from January 2024 to January 2025.
 - » The Trump administration has conducted attacks against the Houthis on three consecutive days, compared to the Biden administration launching operations an average of every three days.

- » However, the Biden administration had been more active against the Houthis early in 2024. Between October 2024 and January 2025, it significantly lowered the tempo of its attacks on the terrorist group, down to just one operation every two weeks on average. Compared to this period, the Trump administration has increased the frequency of U.S. operations by 93 percent.

Average Number of Days Between Strikes Against the Houthis During Biden and Trump Presidencies JINSA



Average Number of Strikes Per U.S. Operation Against the Houthis During Biden and Trump Presidencies JINSA



- The Trump administration has launched an average of 500 percent more strikes per operation against the Houthis compared to when the Biden administration launched strikes from January 2024 to January 2025.
 - » The Trump administration has launched an average of 30 strikes per operation, compared to the Biden administration launching only five strikes per operation.
 - » However, the Trump administration has launched an average of 900 percent more strikes per operation compared to the period between October 2024 and January 2025 when the Biden administration decreased the size of its operations against the Houthis by 40 percent to only three strikes on average per operation.
- The Houthis resumed attacks against Israel in March, ending the longest pause in Houthi attacks against Israel since September 2024.

- » The ballistic missile that the Houthis launched at Israel on March 18 was the first projectile that clearly targeted Israeli territory since January 18, 2025.
- » Since U.S. and Israeli forces intercept numerous Houthi projectiles over the Red Sea before they near their targets, incidents recorded as maritime attacks may have been targeting Israel, making the total number of attacks against Israel higher.

Houthi Attacks that Reached Israel or Downed by Israeli Forces Since October 7, 2023 JINSA

