



## Iran Projectile Tracker: Attacks Against U.S. Troops Resume

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With Iranian proxies resuming their attacks against U.S. service members in the Middle East for the first time since December 2024, JINSA has released the update below detailing the Iran-backed aggression and its connection to the ongoing Israel-Iran conflict.

### 1. Strategic and Operational Insights

- With Israel severely degrading Iran's military and nuclear capabilities, as well as eliminating the upper echelons of its military leadership, Iran has turned to its proxies to resume attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria, who have conducted six attacks (three in each country) between June 14-16 after there being no Iran-backed attacks against U.S. forces since December 2024.
  - » On June 14, U.S. forces [neutralized](#) at least three drones that approached the Ain al-Asad airbase in Iraq; a drone was [intercepted](#) that was aimed at the U.S. consulate in Erbil, Iraq; and U.S. coalition forces neutralized a missile that [targeted](#) the Kharab al-Jir base in Syria.
  - » On June 15, three Iran-linked missiles were [shot down](#) before they could strike the al-Shaddadi base in southern Hasakah, Syria and another missile was shot down before it could reach a U.S.-led coalition base in central Hasakah.
  - » On June 16, another drone was [downed](#) near the U.S. consulate in Erbil, Iraq.
- The sudden resumption of Iran-backed attacks against U.S. forces shortly after Israel started Operation Rising Lion against Iran likely indicates that Tehran seeks to use its proxy attacks to test President Donald Trump's [red line](#) against attacks against U.S. forces, to send a deterrent signal as Trump [weighs striking](#) Iran's Fordow facility, and as a means of potentially driving Washington to pressure Israel against further strikes.
  - » Although Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social on June 15 that "If we are attacked in any way, shape or form by Iran, the full strength and might of the U.S. Armed Forces will come down on you at levels never seen before," the United States has not responded with military force against Iran or its proxies since the recent attacks.
  - » The United States has military bases near Iran, in particular the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) headquarters in Bahrain and al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar. These facilities would be highly vulnerable to Iranian attack during a major conflict, as General Kenneth "Frank" McKenzie, Jr., the former commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) and a JINSA distinguished fellow, detailed in a [JINSA report](#) about the U.S. basing structure in the Middle East.
  - » Satellite imagery has shown that in recent days U.S. aircraft have [left al-Udeid](#) and several U.S. ships have [left their homeports in Bahrain](#), likely a precaution in case of an Iranian attack.
  - » U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth also [confirmed](#) on June 20 that the United States has diverted counter drone technologies from Ukraine to the Middle East. Laser-guided 70mm Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System II (APKWS II) rocket systems were among the systems being diverted.

- A contributing factor to Iran-backed militias resuming their attacks against U.S. forces may have been a desire to show their displeasure at Israel's use of Iraqi airspace during Operation Rising Lion.
  - » Israeli use of Iraqi airspace has been vital to the success of Operation Rising Lion but has also angered pro-Iranian Iraqis.
- Recent Trump administration willingness to downsize the U.S. footprint in Syria may have emboldened Iranian proxies to drive the U.S. presence out of the country more rapidly.
  - » The Trump administration has withdrawn U.S. troops from Syria and is in the process of [consolidating the U.S. presence](#) from eight military facilities down to only one site (likely the Tanf Garrison located along the critical Iraq-Syria border).
  - » On June 17, Reuters reporters who visited the al-Wazir and Tel Baydar bases in Hasakah, Syria noted that U.S. forces have withdrawn from both bases. The timing of the Reuters visit likely means that the attacks did not cause the withdrawal, but U.S. forces leaving those bases, as well as other locations in Syria, may have further emboldened Iran-backed militia.
  - » According to reporting from [Fox News's Jennifer Griffin](#) on June 2, the Trump administration has withdrawn 500 U.S. service members from Syria and closed or transferred three facilities to the control of U.S.-partner Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).
    - The United States closed Mission Support Site Green Village, transferred Mission Support Site Euphrates to SDF control, and withdrew from another smaller unspecified outpost, which may be either al-Wazir or Tel Baydar.

## 2. Charts and Trends

- The six attacks that Iranian proxies launched in June marked the first such incidents since December 2024 and the most in a single month since October 2024.
  - » The escalation ended a six-month pause in Iranian proxy attacks against U.S. troops, the longest pause in these attacks since the seven months before the October 7, 2023, attack kickstarted an unprecedented escalation of Iranian proxy attacks.
  - » Iran-backed militia have conducted at least 216 attacks against U.S. forces since October 7, 2023, which included 372 rockets, missiles, and drones.
    - Iranian proxies have launched at least 78 attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq since October 7, 2023, using at least 145 rockets, missiles, and drones.
    - Iran-linked groups have conducted at least 137 attacks against U.S. forces in Syria since October 7, 2023, with at least 227 rockets, missiles, and drones.
    - Iran-backed groups also conducted a deadly drone attack against U.S. forces deployed at the Tower 22 facility in Jordan.

**Iran-linked Projectile Attacks Against U.S. Personnel Since October 7, 2023**

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