

Ari Cicurel Associate Director of Foreign Policy

> Yoni Tobin Senior Policy Analyst

> > Jonah Brody Policy Analyst

Sarah Havdala Policy Analyst

# **U.S.-Israel-Iran Conflict:** 6/23/25 Update

During the ongoing U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict, JINSA will regularly release updates. JINSA continues to map Israeli strikes against Iranian targets and track international responses to Israeli and Iranian operations. The update below includes information as of June 23, 2025 at 12:45 pm ET since JINSA's last release.

### 1. U.S. Operations

- On June 21, 125 U.S. military aircraft and a guided-missile submarine conducted Operation Midnight Hammer, involving 75 precision munitions being launched against the Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan nuclear sites, as well as Iranian air defense assets. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dan Caine claimed during a press briefing on June 22 that "initial battle damage assessments indicate that all three sites sustained extremely severe damage and destruction."
  - » At midnight on June 20, a large B-2 strike package took off from Whiteman Air Base in Missouri. To maintain surprise, part of the package proceeded west into the Pacific as a decoy. The main strike package of seven B-2 bombers proceeded to the east and completed multiple in-flight refueling operations on the way to Iran. Once over land, the seven B-2s joined flight patterns with multiple fourth and fifth generation fighter aircraft, integrating multiple types of aircraft while using minimal communication.
  - At approximately 5:00 pm ET on June 21 and before the U.S. strike package entered Iran, a U.S. submarine fired 30 Tomahawk missiles at surface targets at Isfahan. To maintain surprise throughout the operation, those missiles impacted after the B-2 bombers had completed their strikes. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) later indicated that U.S. missiles hit the tunnel entrances to the Isfahan nuclear site.
  - As the B-2s and fighter aircraft approached Fordow, the fighter aircraft launched preemptive suppressing fire against Iranian targets to ensure safe passage to the nuclear sites. Caine indicated during the June 22 press briefing that the United States is not aware of any Iranian shots fired at U.S. aircraft and no Iranian aircraft flew to intercept the U.S. aircraft during the operation.
  - Between 6:40 pm ET and 7:05 pm ET on June 21, U.S. B-2 bombers dropped a total of 14 GBU-57 Massive Ordinance Penetrator (MOP) bombs, including 12 on Fordow and two on Natanz. Caine noted that the strike marked the largest B-2 operational strike in history and the second longest B-2 mission, exceeded only by those in the days immediately after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

## 2. Israeli Operations

- On June 23, the Israeli Air Force carried out its largest-ever set of daytime strikes in Tehran.
  - The strikes, which involved over 50 fighter jets and over 100 munitions, targeted key regime assets, according to Israel's Channel 12 outlet. These included:
    - Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) headquarters; the offices of Iran's internal security agency, a potential reference to Iran's Ministry of Internal Security (MOIS); the headquarters of Iran's Basij paramilitary forces; the main facilities of an IRGC subdivision tasked with suppressing Iranian dissent and protests; and several other Iranian military targets.
    - These additional targets included "military headquarters of the Iranian regime, missile production sites, radar systems, and missile storage infrastructure," according to an official IDF statement.
    - Israel also <u>targeted</u> symbolic assets, according to Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz, including an Iranian state-run broadcaster's building; the gates to Iran's Evin prison, where many Iranian dissidents are held; and a large clock in downtown Tehran that counted down to Israel's supposed destruction.
  - That day, as part of Israel's effort to degrade Iran's military capabilities, 15 Israeli fighter jets also conducted strikes against several Iranian ballistic missile launch and storage sites in Iran's western Kermanshah province.
- On June 23, Israel launched airstrikes against Iran's Fordow nuclear facility following over a dozen U.S. strikes against the facility over the weekend. Israeli strikes aimed to disrupt access routes to the facility, according to officials.
- Overnight between June 22 and June 23, the Israeli Air Force destroyed an advanced Iranian air defense battery in Tehran and used remotely piloted aircraft to destroy 15 Iranian fighter jets and helicopters, as well as missile storage and launch sites and radars.
  - The Israeli strikes targeted runways, underground hangars, a refueling aircraft and warplanes, including Iranians F-14 and F-5 fighter aircraft and AH-1 helicopters.
- On June 22, 20 Israeli fighter jets struck two F-5 fighter jets located at Iran's Dezful Airport; eight ballistic missile launchers, six of which were ready to fire towards Israel; weapons and explosives production facilities; Iranian satellites and radar equipment in Kermanshah and Hamedan, as well as an air defense system in Tehran; and a ballistic missile engine production site near Shahrud in northern Iran.
  - Iranian news sources also reported hearing three explosions in Bushehr.
- On June 22, Israel assassinated at least <u>nine members</u> of the IRGC in central Iran.
  - » Saeed Izadi, head of the Palestinian Division in the IRGC Quds Force, was killed in an airstrike on an apartment in Qom.
  - Behnam Shahriyari, a senior IRGC Quds Force official, was killed in an airstrike while driving in a car in western Iran.
- On June 21, Israel bombed three Iranian F-14 fighter jets, four primed missile launchers, the Isfahan nuclear site, and 30 IAF fighter jets launched 50 munitions against several military sites in Ahvaz, including a missile launcher storage site and radar.
  - Iranian news reported of Israeli strikes hitting two locations within the city of Tabriz, activating Iranian air defenses.
- The IDF announced on June 23 that it has intercepted dozens of drone attacks by Iran using electronic warfare means.

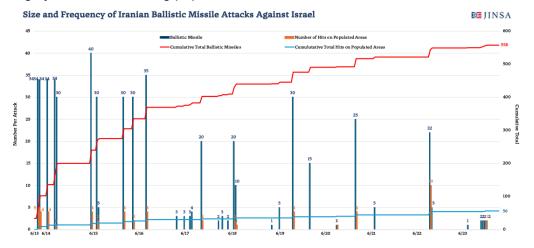
Following a direct request from President Donald Trump to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli aircraft targeted Iranian air defenses to clear space for the U.S. operation in the 48 hours before the U.S. strikes against Iran's nuclear sites, according to U.S. and Israeli officials who spoke with Axios.

### 3. Iranian and Proxy Operations

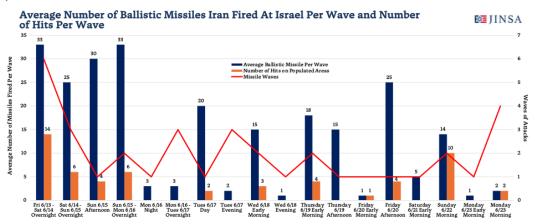
- On June 23, Iran launched at least 10 missiles at U.S. forces located at al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar and at least one missile at U.S. forces in Iraq, according to initial estimates.
- During the morning of June 23, Israeli authorities confirmed that Iran launched nine ballistic missiles over five different salvos. Two missiles landed outside Israel.
  - One missile struck an electric facility in southern Israel, near Ashdod, stopping power distribution to around 8,000 Israelis in southern Israel for roughly three hours.
    - Impacts, either from missiles or missile shrapnel, were heard by residents in northern and southern Israel. Sirens sounded across much of Israel.
- Earlier on June 23, Iran launched one ballistic missile that Israel intercepted.
- On June 23, Iran shot down an Israeli Hermes drone over the Khorramabad area of western Iran, marking the second time Iran intercepted a Hermes drone in its airspace.
- Early in the morning Israel time on June 22, Iran launched 27 ballistic missiles over two waves, ending the first 24-hour period since the conflict began without any Iranian ballistic missile launches. The missiles struck 10 sites, the most of any single attack, causing at least 86 injuries. The IDF also intercepted at least 30 drones on June 22.
  - Iranian state television claimed that the regime launched a Khorramshahr-4 ballistic missile (3,000 km range and 1,500 kg payload), also called Kheibar, which has the longest range and heaviest payload of any missile in Iran's arsenal, as well as among its most accurate. The missile is also capable of launching cluster munitions.
    - If true, Iran's use of advanced, deadly missiles may have enabled it to penetrate through Israeli air defenses and cause a much higher number of casualties.
    - Iran's decision to launch more advanced missiles was likely to deter further U.S. or Israeli strikes following the U.S. strikes on its nuclear facilities and because Israel has degraded Iran's capacity to launch other missiles.
    - Iranian media outlets had circulated videos on June 19 of a Khorramshahr-4 launch, prompting speculation about its use, but that footage was from 2023, and the recent Iranian state television report on June 22 marks the first explicit claim that the regime launched its most deadly missile.
  - » One missile directly struck a public square in a residential area of Haifa following an Israeli "technical failure," according to officials, to detect the missile's warhead after it split off from the missile's back section. The strike injured three people.
- Continued Iranian missile attacks, in addition to their proximate damage, continue to disrupt Israeli society's normal functioning. Israel's Federation of Local Authorities announced on June 23 that approximately 9,000 Israelis have been evacuated from their homes since the start of Israel's operation against Iran.
- On June 21, Iran launched five ballistic missiles over one wave, with no reports of projectiles landing. The IDF intercepted at least 40 Iranian drones, but an Iranian Shahed-136 drone struck Beit She'an, the first drone to hit a populated area since the conflict began.

#### 4. Charts and Trends

- Iran's latest large barrage on June 22 was 13 percent smaller than its previous barrage on June 20. However, Iran struck 900 percent more targets during its June 22 barrage than its attack on June 20. Since the June 22 barrage, Iran has only fired small waves of missile attacks, and it did not fire any missiles over a 24-hour period on June 21-22.
  - Iran launched 22 ballistic missiles during a barrage on June 22, with 10 sites hit, compared to 25 missiles on June 20, with four locations hit.
  - The four waves of attacks in the later morning hours of June 23 marked the shortest time between attacks since the conflict began.
  - Iran has launched at least 558 ballistic missiles at Israel since the conflict began, with roughly 56 missiles hitting populated areas.



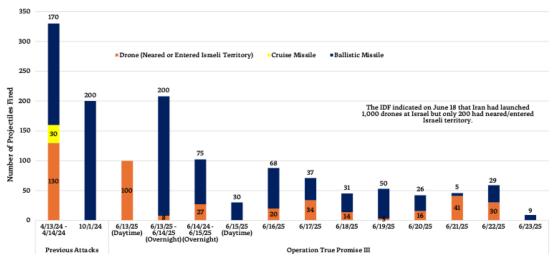
- Iran launched 80 percent fewer ballistic missiles during the early morning hours of June 23 compared to June 21 and 86 percent fewer ballistic missiles during the later morning of June 23 compared to June 22. The four waves that Iran fired during the morning of June 23 was the highest number of any period since the six waves the regime launched during the overnight attacks on June 13-14 when the conflict began.
  - Iran fired one ballistic missile during the early morning hours of June 23, compared to 5 missiles on June 21, and two missiles during the later morning hours on June 23, compared to 14 on June 22.



- Iran launched 480 percent more missiles on June 22 than on June 21 but 68 percent fewer so far on June 23.
  - Iran launched 9 ballistic missiles so far on June 23 and 29 ballistic missiles on June 22. compared to only 5 on June 21.

#### **Projectiles Iran Fired At Israel**





- Iran's ability to hit Israel with 37 percent of the missiles it launched during the strike on June 22 and 25 percent of the missiles it fired on June 23 marked its most successful attacks since the conflict began. This increased success may be due to Iran's shift to using more advanced ballistic missiles and cluster munitions.
  - » The 10 missiles that struck Israel on June 22 marked the single most successful Iranian attack since the escalation began.
    - Iran had struck roughly 14 targets in Israel overnight on June 13-14 when the conflict began but over six waves of attacks.
  - While Israel has intercepted 90-93 percent of Iranian ballistic missiles that threatened populated areas since the war began, when looking only at the attacks that did hit Israel, Iran's successful hit rate increased to 41 percent from June 17-22 compared to nine percent from June 13-16. This likely indicates that Iran recently adapted its tactics and the missiles it launched during specific barrages to better penetrate Israeli air defenses, that Israel may be running low on interceptors, or both.

