



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 3/9/26 Update

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With the United States and Israel launching a joint campaign—Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion, respectively—against Iranian regime targets and Iran launching retaliatory missile and drone attacks against U.S. forces in the region, Israel, and Arab nations, dubbed Operation True Promise IV, JINSA will regularly release updates detailing the conflict. The update below includes information since [JINSA's last update](#) as of March 9 at 11:00 am ET.

1. Overview

- Iran continues to launch fewer missiles than during the opening days of the war and has shifted to more attacks per day, but with fewer numbers of missiles per attack.
 - » On March 8, Iran's rate of fire dropped to just 47 missiles, an 89 percent decline from the 428 missiles fired on February 28. With Iran firing 35 missiles so far on March 9, a 26 percent decline from yesterday, it appears that the regime's attacks are likely to continue to decline.
 - » Iran has launched over 2,200 drones and 1,000 ballistic missiles since the war began, with roughly 52 percent of total projectiles targeting the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.).
 - » Iran has emphasized attacking Iraqi Kurdistan and Turkey in recent days, suggesting the regime seeks to deter reported U.S. plans to arm Kurdish groups by inflicting costs on regional partners.
- On March 8, Iran officially [appointed](#) Mojtaba Khamenei, the son of the late Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as the country's next Supreme Leader.
- Following media reports of [U.S. displeasure](#) with Israel's March 7 strikes against at least 30 Iranian fuel depots, U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff and White House advisor Jared Kushner are reportedly [scheduled](#) to travel to Israel on March 10 for high-level talks.
 - » While U.S. officials were informed beforehand of Israel's planned strikes on energy facilities, they were reportedly [taken aback](#) by their scope. *Axios* reported, citing an advisor to President Donald Trump, that "the president doesn't like" Israel's decision to conduct wide-ranging strikes against the energy sites.
- President Trump [called](#) the [soaring prices](#) of crude oil since the start of operations a "small price to pay" for removing the threat posed by Iran.

2. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Day 10 of Operations: March 9

Iran

- U.S.-Israeli strikes reportedly [targeted](#) several regime sites throughout Iran, including:
 - » An army aviation base in Masjed Soleyman; the Electronics Industries complex in Shiraz; Mobarakeh Steel Company; Isfahan defense industries; the Lenjan defense industries area; Haft Tir industrial complex; Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)-linked Amir al-Momenin University in Sepahan Shahr; Bakeri military base outside Dezful; Bandar Abbas air base; and Jask port city.
- IDF strikes also [targeted](#) several sites in Isfahan, including Iran's "regional corps" headquarters for that area; a Basij command center; and the IRGC's police headquarters.
 - » Israeli strikes also [targeted](#) missile launch sites and a complex where rocket engines are produced.

Lebanon

- The Israeli military [commenced](#) a targeted raid in the southern Lebanese town of Rab al-Thalathine, clearing the area of Hezbollah infrastructure and combatants.
 - » The IDF reported that its troops [pushed](#) further into Lebanon overnight to establish an "enhanced forward posture." The raid was [preceded](#) by air and artillery strikes.
- Overnight, the IDF also [killed](#) Abu Hussein Ra'ab, Hezbollah's Nasr Unit commander, who helps oversee operations in southern Lebanon.
- Israel [threatened](#) to re-attack Al-Qard Al-Hasan, a Hezbollah-affiliated bank, as strikes were also reported throughout southern Beirut near the group's strongholds.
- Over the past week, the IDF has [hit](#) 700 targets in Lebanon, with 120 targets struck in the last day.

Iraq

- An airstrike [struck](#) a base belonging to the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), a collection of Iran-backed militia in Iraq, in the Bartella area near Mosul.
 - » The PMF [blamed](#) the United States for the strike, though Washington has not confirmed responsibility.

Day 9 of Operations: March 8

Iran

- The Israeli Air Force [destroyed](#) the IRGC Air Force's headquarters in Tehran, a site Iranian operatives used to direct missile and drone attacks.
- Strikes also [destroyed](#) fuel tanks near Iran's Qeshm Airport by the Strait of Hormuz.

Lebanon

- Overnight, the Israeli Navy [struck](#) a hotel room in Beirut, killing five IRGC commanders including: Lebanon Corps intelligence chief Ali Reza Bi-Azar; Lebanon Corps operative Hossein Ahmadlou; Palestine Corps intelligence chief Ahmad Rasouli; Palestine Corps' Hezbollah representative Abu Muhammad Ali; and senior Lebanon Corps financier Majid Hassini.
- Over the past day, the IDF [launched](#) over 100 strikes targeting key Hezbollah targets, including a Radwan Force training camp, a command center, and weapons depots. The strikes also killed Mustafa Ahmad al-Zein, a Hezbollah operative directly linked to the IRGC Quds Force.

U.S. and Israeli Rationale and Policy Objectives

United States

- President Trump [stated](#) that the decision on when to end the war would be a “mutual” one with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, though President Trump said he would make the final call “at the right time.”

Israel

- Israeli officials have [reported](#) “cracks” forming in the regime and have held internal discussions about a “slow collapse,” of the Iranian regime, according to Stav Levaton of the *Times of Israel*. Reportedly, some Israeli defense officials envision the war ending with the current regime in place but significantly weakened and susceptible to a further erosion of stability.

3. Iranian Operations

- The Iranian regime has [activated](#) sleeper cells in multiple countries, according to a U.S. federal alert to law enforcement agencies.
 - » According to *ABC News*, the alert [stated](#) that the United States has intercepted encrypted transmissions of Iranian origin that seem to “activate, or provide instructions to, prepositioned sleeper assets” in several unnamed countries.
 - » In addition, Iran is [recruiting](#) a network of “gig-economy” spies across Europe through Telegram channels offering cash payments for a variety of tasks, including surveillance and potentially violent attacks, according to British officials.
- Iranian strikes continued targeting sites in Israel, including:
 - » A cluster warhead missile that hit at least six locations in [central Israel](#), killing two people and injuring three; and
 - » An unsuccessful missile attack targeting [northern Israel](#).
- Iran’s terror proxy Hezbollah [targeted](#) Misgav Am in Israel with a rocket attack.
- Regional Arab countries continue to come under Iranian fire. Bahrain, Iraq, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the U.A.E. have all [reported](#) Iranian attacks on their countries.
 - » The U.A.E. [detected](#) 18 UAVs and 15 ballistic missiles fired from Iran on March 9.
 - According to the country’s defense ministry, Emirati air defenses [intercepted](#) 17 UAVs and destroyed 12 ballistic missiles. The 18th UAV “fell within the country’s territory” and “three missiles fell into the sea.”
 - » The Qatari defense ministry [stated](#) that it had successfully intercepted 17 ballistic missiles and six drones launched by Iran.
 - » Iran [fired](#) a barrage of drones toward Saudi Arabia, hours after a projectile attack killed two people in the country.
 - Saudi Arabia [intercepted](#) five drones and three ballistic missiles throughout the string of Iranian attacks.
 - » Two Iranian drones struck Bahrain, including the island of [Sitra](#) and the [Bapco oil facility](#), the country’s main oil refinery.
 - » British forces [intercepted](#) a drone fired from Iran toward Iraq yesterday.
- Rijal al-Bas al-Shadid, a pro-Iranian group in Iraq, [claimed](#) responsibility for two drone strikes that hit a U.S. military installation inside Erbil International Airport on March 9.
 - » A suicide drone [targeted](#) a U.S. military compound inside Baghdad International Airport but was intercepted, and no group has claimed responsibility.

- Turkey’s defense ministry [reported](#) that NATO defense systems intercepted an Iranian ballistic missile in Turkish airspace, the second such incident in five days.

4. Estimated Casualties of Iranian Operations

- An Iranian drone attack [killed](#) six U.S. servicemembers at Port Shuaiba in Kuwait on March 1: Maj. Jeffrey O’Brien, 45; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Marzan, 54; Capt. Cody Khork, 35; Sgt. 1st Class Nicole Amor, 39; Sgt. 1st Class Noah Tietjens, 42; and Sgt. Declan Coady (posthumously promoted from specialist), 20.
- Another U.S. servicemember was [killed](#) on March 1 during an Iranian attack targeting U.S. troops at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia. The Pentagon [identified](#) the fallen servicemember as Sgt. Benjamin Pennington, 26.
 - » At least 18 U.S. servicemembers have been seriously [wounded](#).
- Since the war’s outbreak, numerous other casualties have been reported:
 - » 17 Israelis have [been killed](#), two of them soldiers [killed](#) in southern Lebanon, and over 1,473 have been [hospitalized](#);
 - » In the U.A.E., four people have been [killed](#), and 117 have been [injured](#);
 - » Two [Kuwaiti navy sailors](#), two [interior ministry officers](#), and a [Kuwaiti civilian](#) have been killed, and over 67 Kuwaiti military personnel have been [injured](#);
 - » Four people have been [killed](#) in Syria, and several have been [injured](#);
 - » Two foreign nationals have been [killed](#) in Saudi Arabia;
 - » In Qatar, around 20 people have been [wounded](#);
 - » In Oman, one person has been [killed](#);
 - » In Bahrain, one person has been [killed](#) and 35 people have [been injured](#);
 - » One Iraqi security officer has been [killed](#), and an airport employee has been wounded in Iraqi Kurdistan;
 - » In Azerbaijan, four civilians have been [injured](#);
 - » In Lebanon, at least 394 individuals have been [killed](#), and 1,130 have been [wounded](#);
 - » In Iran, at least 1,332 Iranians have been [killed](#); and
 - » Thousands of IRGC and internal security officials have reportedly been [killed](#) in the war.

5. Threats and Condemnation from Iranian Officials

- After Israel struck at least five energy sites in and around Tehran, Iran [threatened](#) retaliatory attacks on oil facilities in neighboring countries.
 - » The United States has sought to allay global oil fears by promising not to target Iran’s energy infrastructure.
 - » Washington did not claim responsibility for Israel’s strikes on Iranian oil facilities.
- Iran’s Assembly of Experts, responsible for choosing Mojtaba Khamenei as the new Supreme Leader, [urged](#) citizens across Iran, “especially the elites and intellectuals of the seminaries and universities,” to rally around and pledge allegiance to the new leader.
- Iran’s judiciary [threatened](#) to confiscate the assets of, and execute, Iranians living abroad who are found aiding U.S. or Israeli operations.
- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian [pledged](#) support for Mojtaba Khamenei, calling his appointment “wise and decisive.”

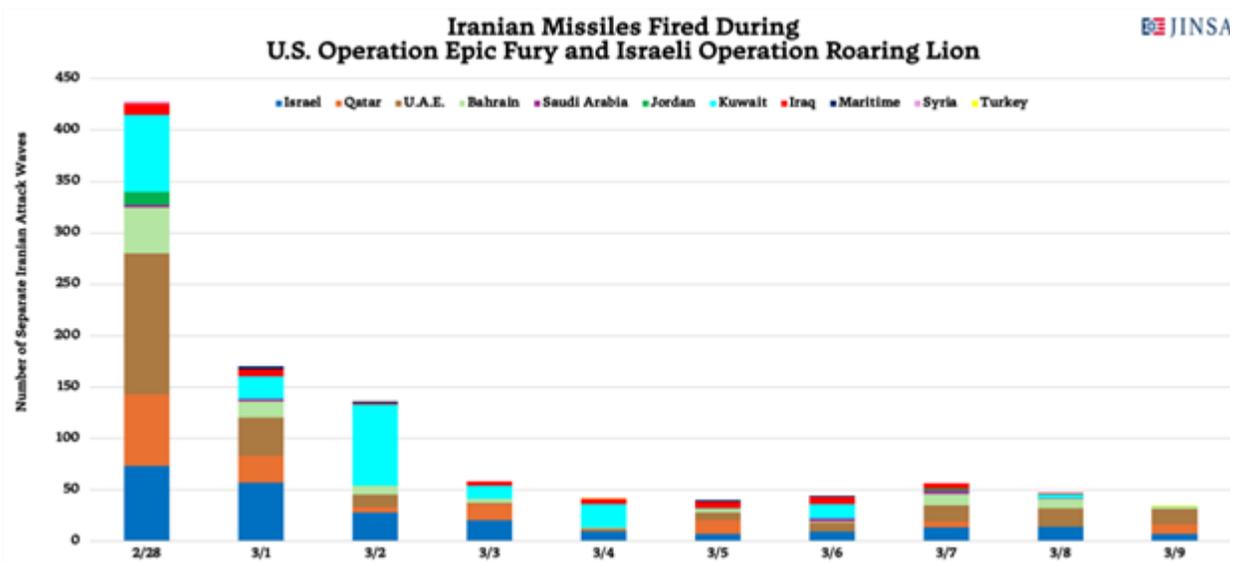
- » Lebanese Hezbollah also [pledged](#) allegiance to Mojtaba Khamenei, expressing its “warmest congratulations and blessings” for the regime’s new leader.

6. International Response

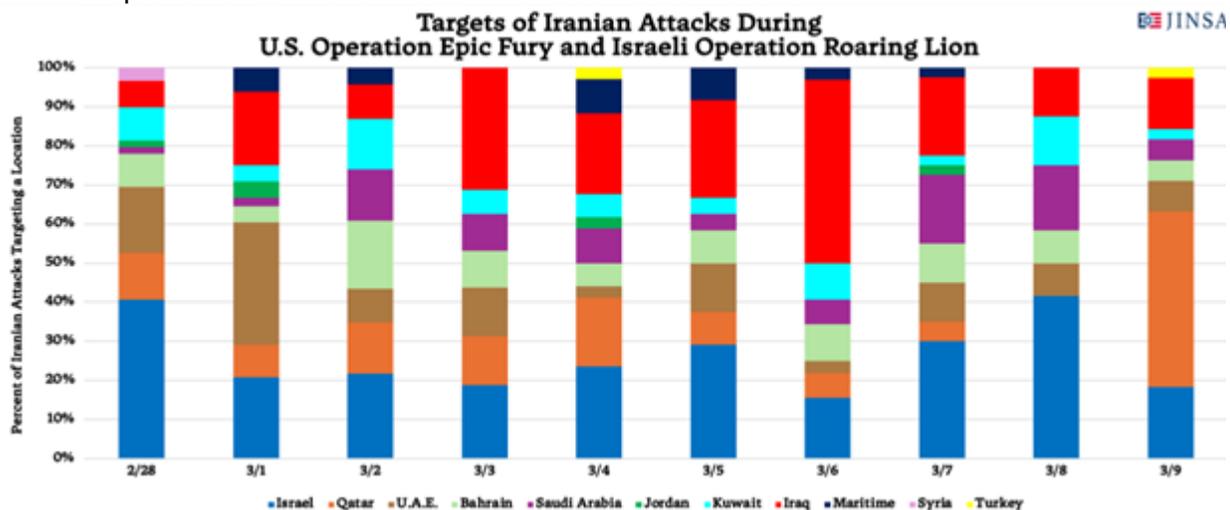
- Kurdish residents of northeast Syria [warned](#) Iranian Kurds against aligning with the United States, referencing their own experience to suggest that Iranian Kurds would be “abandoned.”
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky [said](#) Ukraine sent interceptor drones and a team of drone experts to help protect U.S. military installations in Jordan.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin [sent](#) a congratulatory message to Mojtaba Khamenei on his appointment as the new Iranian Supreme Leader, promising “unwavering support for Tehran.”
- Lebanese President Joseph Aoun [told](#) ambassadors from Scandinavian countries that Israel will not achieve its objectives against Hezbollah by striking in Lebanon.
- Qatar has [arrested](#) 300 people for sharing supposedly “misleading information” amid Iran’s attacks on the country.
- Qatar [told](#) U.S. officials that it will finally expel Hamas’s leadership from the country, citing the group’s unwillingness to condemn Iranian attacks on Qatar, according to Israel’s *N12* outlet.
- Turkey [stated](#) it deployed six F-16 fighter jets and air defense systems to bases in northern Cyprus.
- French President Emmanuel Macron [said](#) France will send two frigates to the Red Sea as part of the European Union’s naval mission *Aspides*, describing it as a “purely defensive” escort mission.
- Saudi Arabia, following a series of Iranian attacks, said in a [statement](#) that Iran would be the “greatest loser” of a widening regional escalation.
- Crude oil prices have [soared](#) to above \$115 per barrel amid the war’s effects on production and shipping.
 - » President Trump has [referred](#) to the 20 percent hike in oil prices as a “small price to pay” for removing the Iranian threat.
 - » The G-7 nations—Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States—are [holding an emergency summit](#) on March 9 to discuss how to respond to the rising price of crude oil and related economic issues.
 - » Saudi Arabia has [begun cutting](#) oil output at two of its major oilfields, Reuters reported, though it was unclear to what extent.
 - » Bahrain’s state oil company [declared](#) force majeure for shipments after its refinery was set ablaze by an Iranian attack.
 - » Iraqi oil production in its southern oil fields has [fallen](#) by 70 percent to 1.3 million barrels per day as the country cannot export oil through the Strait of Hormuz.

7. Charts and Trends

- Overall, Iranian missile fire continued its decline on March 9, with the total number falling 26 percent, from 47 on March 8, to 35 so far on March 9.

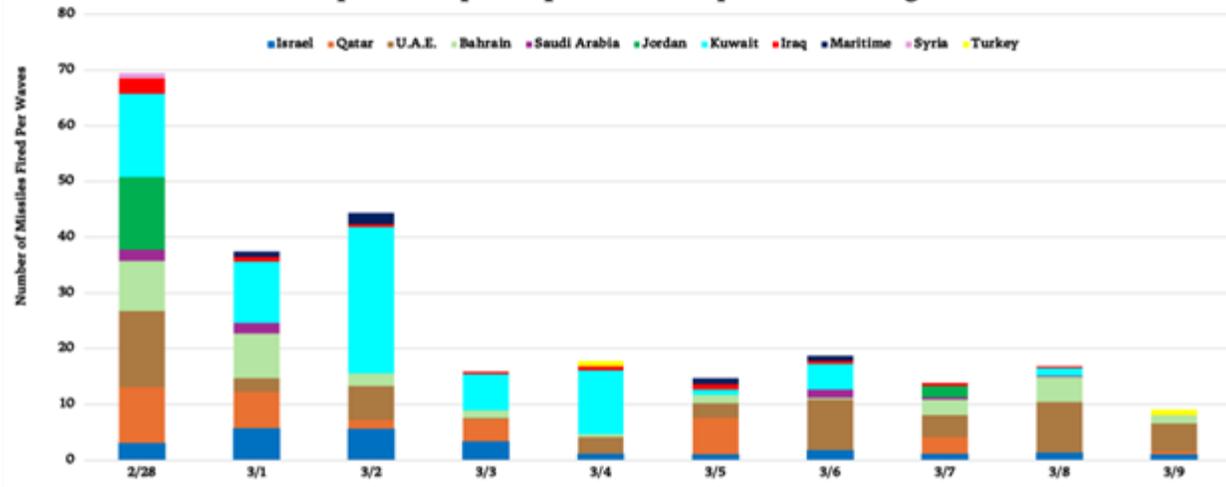


- Since the afternoon of March 8, Iran shifted its missile fire significantly, with the U.A.E. absorbing the largest share of missiles at roughly 43 percent of all missiles fired on March 9, up from 38 percent on March 8. As a percentage of its missile fire, Iran escalated against Qatar and decreased against Israel.
 - » The percentage of missiles targeting Israel fell from roughly 30 percent on March 8 to 20 percent on March 9.
 - » After a decrease in attacks targeting Iraq on March 8, Iran escalated its attacks against Iraqi Kurdistan with at least 5 attacks so far on March 9.



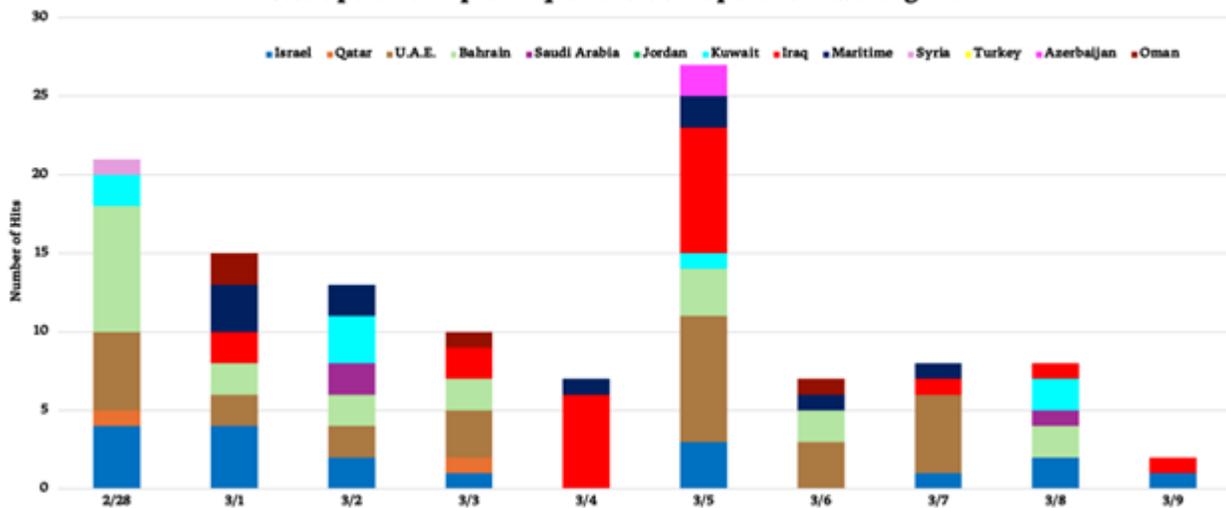
- Iran has decreased missiles fired per attack by 87 percent since February 28, from roughly seven missiles per attack to now most attacks involving no missiles as Iran increasingly turns toward drone attacks.

Number of Iranian Missile Launches Per Attack During U.S. Operation Epic Fury and Israeli Operation Roaring Lion



- Since the afternoon of March 8, the number of Iranian projectiles successfully hitting targets dropped 75 percent, from 8 hits on March 8, to as few as 2 hits on March 9, with at least one hit each in Israel and Iraq. The overall hit rate fell from roughly 17 percent on March 8 to approximately 6 percent on March 9, suggesting continued degradation of Iran's ability to penetrate coalition missile defenses.
 - » Most successful strikes continue to appear to have been from drone attacks.

Number of Missile and Drone Hits on Populated or Critical Areas During U.S. Operation Epic Fury and Israeli Operation Roaring Lion



8. JINSA Resources

- Blaise Misztal, [Principles for U.S.-Kurdish Partnership](#), March 6, 2026
- Hussein Mansour, [Gulf Situation Assessment: Iran's Attacks on Arab States Will Backfire](#), March 5, 2026
- Ari Cicurel, [Iran's Missile Fire Has Almost Run Out](#), March 5, 2026
- Blaise Misztal, [Iran is Not Iraq](#), March 4, 2026
- Giran Ozcan and Jonah Brody, [The Kurdish Moment in Iran](#), March 4, 2026

- Gen. Frank McKenzie, USMC (ret.), IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, IDF MG (ret.) Oded Bassiuk, and John Hannah, "[Webinar: Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion](#)," March 1, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe and Ari Cicurel, [U.S.-Israel Joint Operations Against Iran's Regime](#), February 28, 2026
- Blaise Misztal, Giran Ozcan, and Jonah Brody, [The Rise of Iran's Kurdish Coalition](#), February 27, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe and Ari Cicurel, [Israel: America's Third Aircraft Carrier in the Middle East](#), February 25, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe and Ari Cicurel, [Iran's Evolving Missile and Drone Threat](#), February 20, 2026
- Lt Gen Thomas Bergeson, USAF (ret.), LTG Karen Gibson, USA (ret.), and Lt Gen Sam Mundy, USMC (ret.), "[Any Action Against Iran Needs to Account for the Proxies](#)," *Breaking Defense*, February 19, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe and Yoni Tobin, "[Iran Has Teeth. Can America Extract Them?](#)", *JNS*, February 12, 2026
- IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, VADM Robert Harward, USN (ret.), Lt Gen Charles Moore, USAF (ret.), and Blaise Misztal, "[Webinar: How Should the United States Respond to Iranian Protests?](#)", January 15, 2026
- Gen Charles Wald, USAF (ret.), VADM Mark Fox, USN (ret.), and LTG Robert Ashley, USA (ret.), [Operation Rising Lion: Insights from Israel's 12-Day War Against Iran](#), November 20, 2025
- Ari Cicurel, [Shielded by Fire: Middle East Air Defense During the June 2025 Israel-Iran War](#), August 21, 2025