Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 3/11/26 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 11 at 11:00 am ET.

1. Overview

- Iran continues to launch far fewer missiles than it did during the opening days of the war, but it has escalated its attacks against Saudi Arabia and maritime targets in an effort to pressure Washington and the Gulf nations to end the war.
  - » On March 10, Iran's rate of fire dropped to just 27 missiles, a 94 percent decline from 428 on February 28. So far on March 11, missile fire has fallen further to just 20 missiles, on pace to set the lowest single-day total of the conflict.
  - » Iran has launched over 2,470 drones, 1,117 ballistic missiles, and 21 cruise missiles since the war began, with roughly 48 percent of total projectiles targeting the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.).
  - » Iran has continued to fire missiles at Israel throughout the war, targeting it with six attacks on March 10 and five waves so far on March 11. Overnight attacks, in particular, have intended to cause societal disruption by repeatedly sending Israelis to shelters.
- President Donald Trump relayed to *Axios* on March 11 that there is "practically nothing left to target" in Iran, and that operations will likely "soon" conclude.
- An Israel Defense Forces (IDF) assessment on March 11 revealed that Iran now has roughly 160 active ballistic missile launchers—down two-thirds from the start of the campaign—and approximately 1,500 ballistic missiles of various types. The military assessment did not specify the estimated ranges or any other details about Iran's remaining ballistic missile arsenal.
- Following reports of Iran mining the Strait of Hormuz, President Trump said in a statement, "if for any reason mines were placed, and they are not removed forthwith, the military consequences to Iran will be at a level never seen before."
  - » President Trump added that "we are using the same technology and missile capabilities deployed against drug traffickers to permanently eliminate any boat or ship attempting to mine the Hormuz Strait."

- Iran's new Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, was injured on the first day of the war by Israeli and U.S. airstrikes, according to three senior Iranian officials and two senior Israeli officials who spoke with the *New York Times*.
  - He reportedly is conscious and alert, but sustained injuries to his legs, with the full extent of the injuries still unknown. Reportedly, he is sheltering in a secure site with very limited external communication.
- The Trump administration estimated, in a report to Congress, that the U.S. military used approximately $5.6 billion worth of munitions in the first two days of Operation Epic Fury.
  - However, six leading American defense firms have agreed to quadruple production of high-end munitions in an attempt to offset any munitions shortfalls.
  - U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth stated on March 8 that the United States and its regional partners have a sufficient quantity of munitions including "well beyond what we would need."
    - JINSA Distinguished Fellow General Charles Wald, USAF (ret.), former U.S. Air Force Director for Strategic Planning and Policy, concurred with Secretary Hegseth in a recent interview. He stated, "I don't think we're going to run out of anything," adding that the United States and its allies have a "huge amount" of stockpiled munitions to draw from.
  - Similarly, Israeli defense firms are ramping up production rates to avoid munition deficits, Israel's Ministry of Defense announced on March 9.
- Since the conflict began on February 28, Iran has continued exporting crude oil to China through the Strait of Hormuz, with tanker-tracking data showing at least 11.7 million barrels of Iranian crude transiting the strait—a level of exports that exceeds normal pre-war volumes. Aside from this, the strait is effectively closed to commercial ships.

2. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- President Trump told *Axios* in a March 11 interview that there is "practically nothing left to target" in Iran, and that operations will likely end "soon."
  - This comment came just a few hours after Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said that "the operation will continue without any time limit, as long as required, until we accomplish all objectives and achieve victory in the campaign."
  - U.S. and Israeli leaders seemingly have divergent views on how and when the war should end, according to a March 10 *Wall Street Journal* article. However, Israeli officials reportedly maintain that Israel plans to end its involvement in the war when the United States does.
  - Previously, Israeli press reported on March 10 that senior Israeli officials did not have the impression that the United States wanted to end the war soon.
- According to an IDF assessment from March 11, Iran has approximately 160 active ballistic missile launchers left—less than 35 percent of its pre-war total—and roughly 1,500 ballistic missiles, a significant decline from the war's start.
  - In addition, the assessment revealed that Israeli and U.S. strikes destroyed approximately one-third of Iran's ballistic missile launcher arsenal, and another one-third were rendered inoperable in other unspecified ways.
  - Separately, defense officials told Israel's *Ynet News* that Iran's military is reluctant to take missile launchers out of tunnels to use them, due to well-founded fears of exposing them to airstrikes.

- IDF Chief of Staff Major General Eyal Zamir announced on March 11 that Israel has killed "several thousand" Iranian regime soldiers and commanders.
- Pentagon leaders have reportedly declined near-daily requests from shipping firms for the U.S. Navy to escort commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, as the Navy assesses that such missions are currently too risky.
- The United States and Israel have jointly crafted a plan to create the proper conditions for regime collapse after the war, including providing real-time assistance to the Iranian people, *Israel Hayom* reported on March 10. Reportedly, U.S. and Israeli officials believe it may take weeks or months following the war for a popular uprising to take effect.
  - » Israel's *Kan News* quoted an Israeli minister as saying that it may take a year or more for the regime to fall.
- In Lebanon, Israel is considering a more expansive approach to countering Hezbollah.
  - » According to *Israel Hayom*, Israel's defense establishment is considering broadening Israel's current posture in southern Lebanon, amounting to several security posts, into an extensive troop deployment across swathes of area south of the Litani River.

Day 12 of Operations: March 11

Iran

- According to a statement from Admiral Brad Cooper, Commander, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), the American military has "struck more than 5,500 targets inside Iran, including more than 60 ships, using a variety of precision weapon systems."
- U.S. and Israeli strikes targeted several other regime sites throughout Iran, including:
  - » Sepah Bank's digital security center, which had been actively processing military payments, in Tehran; a military defense position in Masjed Soleyman; the Shahid Rajaee Port in Bandar Abbas; Kish Island, where a key Iranian radar is located; military aircraft at Shiraz Airport; Shahrekord Airport; and regime targets in Dashtestan, Qeshm, and Isfahan.

Lebanon

- The IDF struck several Hezbollah sites throughout the southern Beirut suburbs overnight, including the group's command centers and weapons storage facilities.
  - » The IDF also conducted a targeted strike on a residential site in central Beirut.
- The IDF announced that the Golani Brigade would be reassigned to the Northern Command, bolstering the military's presence along Israel's border with Lebanon.

Day 11 of Operations: March 10

Iran

- President Trump announced that throughout the day, the U.S. military "hit and completely destroyed 10 inactive mine laying boats and/or ships, with more to follow!"
  - » CENTCOM also announced that "U.S. forces eliminated multiple Iranian naval vessels on March 10, including 16 minelayers near the Strait of Hormuz."
- The Pentagon is redeploying parts of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system from South Korea to the Middle East.
- The Israeli military struck several regime headquarters in Tabriz and Tehran, including an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) compound, a Basij complex; a headquarters for Iranian special forces; a headquarters for Iranian security police; and a headquarters for firing ballistic missiles.
  - » Israel's military also announced that it had obliterated a majority of the Basij's and Iranian internal security's "central assets" in Ilam Province.

- According to Israeli Ambassador to the United States Yechiel Leiter, Israel's military also destroyed "a ballistic missile launcher that fired cluster munitions into Israel [and] an IRGC underground complex for weapons of mass destruction."

Lebanon

- The IDF bombed several Hezbollah sites throughout Lebanon, including the group's command center in Tyre.

U.S. and Israeli Rationale and Policy Objectives

United States

- The Trump administration reportedly asked Israel not to carry out additional strikes on Iranian energy facilities, arguing that such attacks could harm Iranian civilians, hinder energy cooperation with a future Iranian government, and provoke wider retaliation on regional energy sites.
- White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said President Trump does not expect Iran to formally declare "unconditional surrender," explaining the term refers instead to a point when Tehran no longer poses a credible threat to the United States or its allies.
  - » Leavitt also added that the United States is now shifting to dismantle Iran's missile infrastructure after rendering its navy "combat ineffective" and reiterated that U.S. policy objectives are destroying Iran's missile program, preventing a nuclear weapon, and curbing Tehran's regional proxy network.

Israel

- Israeli officials reportedly said the fall of Iran's regime could take up to a year, even if the current U.S.-Israeli military campaign ends sooner, adding that once the operation concludes, the final work will be up to the Iranian people.
  - » Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on the Iranian people to "seize the moment" to remove the Ayatollah regime, stating that Israel and the United States will soon "create the conditions" for Iranians to "grasp your destiny" as their campaign against Tehran intensifies.
- Israeli President Isaac Herzog defended the country's recent strikes on Iranian oil infrastructure, arguing that eliminating such sites removes assets used to fund the regime's "war machine."
- According to the *Financial Times*, Israel rejected Lebanon's request to cease its military operations against Hezbollah and will only allow negotiations to take place while the group remains "under fire."

3. Iranian Operations

- Iran has started to deploy mines in the Strait of Hormuz, including several dozen in recent days, according to *CNN*.
  - » The Iranian regime, until recent days, reportedly had the capability to lay hundreds of additional mines. However, subsequently, the U.S. Navy struck 16 Iranian mine-laying ships.
  - » President Trump downplayed the mine threat at a March 10 press conference, declaring, "the Strait of Hormuz is going to remain safe," and further stating that "we have the best equipment in the world inspecting for mines."
- Iranian strikes continued targeting sites in Israel.

- » Israel's military intercepted or allowed several Iranian ballistic missiles, launched in at least five salvos since midnight Israeli time, to hit open, unpopulated areas throughout northern and central Israel.
- » Based on claims submitted for damage from missiles, the last eleven days of Iranian missile strikes may have caused significantly less damage in Israel than during the 12-Day War.

- Hezbollah also continued targeting Israel.
  - » The IDF intercepted at least one Hezbollah drone en route to the Golan Heights.
    - – According to the IDF, Hezbollah has fired more than 850 rockets at Israel, many of which did not cross into Israeli territory and exploded in Lebanese territory.
- Iran's remaining surface-to-air missiles (SAM) pose a moderate threat to Israeli forces.
  - » In multiple instances, Iranian SAMs have reportedly come in close proximity to Israeli fighter jets, forcing the pilots to perform evasive maneuvers.
  - » The Iranian SAMs have shot down several Israeli unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) over the course of the conflict.
- Since the war began, Iran and its proxies have targeted at least 17 U.S. sites across the Middle East, including U.S. embassies and consular buildings, military bases hosting American forces, and several U.S. bases.
  - » These include U.S.-linked installations in Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the U.A.E.
- More broadly, regional Arab countries and international shipping in the Strait of Hormuz continue to come under Iranian fire. Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the U.A.E. have each reported Iranian attacks on their country over the past day:
  - » Saudi Arabia intercepted and destroyed eight ballistic missiles and seven drones, some of which were fired toward Prince Sultan Air Base.
  - » Kuwait intercepted and destroyed five drones.
  - » Two Iranian drones crashed near Dubai International Airport, wounding four.
  - » Qatar intercepted five missiles on March 10.
  - » Iranian missiles struck a German military facility at Al-Azraq Air Base in Jordan, damaging a building housing German troops but causing no reported injuries.
  - » Drones hit fuel storage tanks at Oman's Salalah Port. Several other drones were intercepted.
  - » Five drones targeted the headquarters of the Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan in Zargwezla, Iraqi Kurdistan, causing one death.
  - » Three vessels were struck by unspecified projectiles in the Strait of Hormuz, with two vessels suffering minor damage and one sustaining a fire in the engine room.
    - – At least 14 ships have been hit in the region since hostilities began.
- Iranian-backed proxies carried out drone attacks, striking various targets in Iraq.
  - » Six drones targeted a U.S. diplomatic compound near Baghdad International Airport, with five intercepted and one striking the facility without causing damage.
- Iran has shipped at least 11.7 million barrels of crude oil to China through the Strait of Hormuz since the war began—a higher level than average daily prewar shipments to China—and has resumed tanker loading at the Jask terminal on the Gulf of Oman.

- The IDF revealed on March 10 that Iran has launched approximately 300 ballistic missiles at Israel in the current conflict, with approximately half of the missiles containing cluster bombs on their warheads.
- The IDF's Persian-language spokesperson, Lt. Col. (res.) Kamal Penhasi, announced on March 11 that the Iranian military is purposely endangering civilians by firing ballistic missiles and drones from "densely populated civilian areas."
- Israeli defense officials have assessed that Iran and Hezbollah are coordinating management of the broader campaign against Israel, though there is no clear evidence of coordinated timing for missile launches.
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky claimed that Russia is supporting Iranian forces with drones, though he did not clarify whether this refers to providing additional drone supplies or sharing technology to enhance Iran's existing stockpiles.

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, Sgt. Benjamin Pennington, 26, was killed during a March 8 Iranian attack targeting U.S. troops at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia.
- Around 140 members of the U.S. military have been wounded thus far in the war, of whom eight sustained severe injuries.
- 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 2,500 have been hospitalized, including 205 over the past day;
  - » In the U.A.E., six people have been killed, and 126 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, two people have been killed, and 35 people have been injured;
  - » At least 16 people have been killed in Iraq, including an Iraqi security officer and several fighters in Iran-backed militias. A woman was killed after being hit by rocket shrapnel, and an airport employee has been wounded in Iraqi Kurdistan.
  - » In Azerbaijan, four civilians have been injured;
  - » In Lebanon, at least 570 individuals have been killed, and more than 1,130 have been wounded;
  - » In Iran, at least 1,332 people have been killed; and
  - » Roughly 1,900 IRGC and internal security officials have been killed in the war, according to Israel's official figures.

5. Threats and Condemnation from Iranian Officials

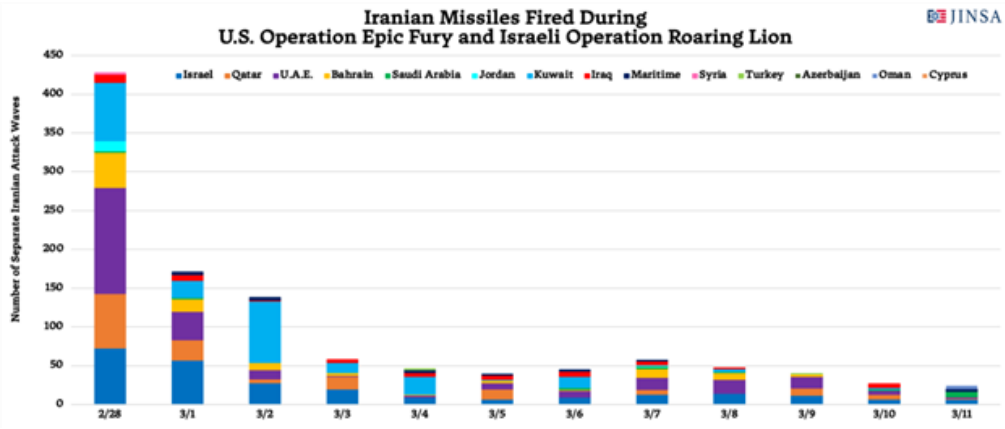
- Alireza Tangsiri, commander of the IRGC's naval forces, cautioned that vessels with connections to "aggressors" would not be allowed to transit through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Iranian police chief Ahmad-Rez Radan warned that anyone protesting at the "enemy's request" will be treated as an enemy, adding that security forces have their "fingers on the trigger."
- Iranian Armed Forces spokesperson Ebrahim Zolfaqari said Iran will shift from "reciprocal hits" to continuous strikes on its adversaries, warning that tankers supplying the United States, Israel, and their partners will be considered legitimate targets.
- General Ebrahim Jabari, a senior adviser to the IRGC, said Iran is prepared for a "ten-year war," claiming its missile and UAV stockpiles remain full despite strikes, that production continues unabated, and that more advanced and previously hidden capabilities could be introduced into the conflict if necessary.

6. International Response

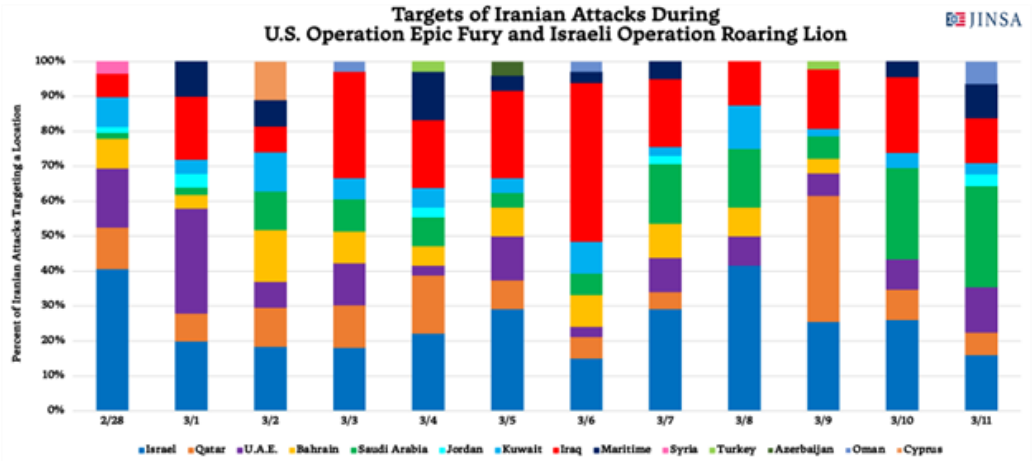
- The 32 member countries of the International Energy Agency will release 400 million barrels of oil from their strategic reserves—the largest such release in history—to counter rising oil prices.
- Lebanese President Joseph Aoun called for a new ceasefire with Israel that would cease all Israeli operations against Hezbollah, and pledged that the Lebanese Armed Forces would disarm Hezbollah and confiscate its weapons if Israel provided logistical support.
- The Syrian military warned it will "not tolerate any aggression targeting Syria" and said it is studying "appropriate options" for a potential response.
  - » President Aoun also spoke with Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa and said that the two agreed their governments must take more action "controlling the border and preventing any security breach from any side."
- President Zelensky announced that Ukraine will send anti-drone expert teams to Qatar, the U.A.E., and Saudi Arabia, with an additional team deploying to a U.S. base in Jordan to help counter Iranian drone threats.
  - » Last year, the United States reportedly rejected Ukraine's offer to sell Washington an undisclosed number of Kyiv's battle-tested anti-drone systems to help counter Iranian attack drones.
- Romania approved a U.S. request to host aerial refueling aircraft along with surveillance and satellite communications equipment for operations related to Iran, which Romanian President Nicușor Dan described as purely defensive.
- European Union envoys approved sanctions on 19 Iranian officials and entities involved in serious human rights violations.
- Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the country will send a military surveillance aircraft and missiles to the U.A.E. in a defense support mission, stressing Australia's actions are "purely defensive."
- Pakistan said it is prepared to support Saudi Arabia "no matter what" amid escalating regional tensions following Iranian strikes on Gulf states, citing the countries' longstanding security partnership and recent mutual defense pact.
- Spain permanently withdrew its ambassador to Israel on March 10. Moving forward, a chargé d'affaires will run the Spanish embassy in Tel Aviv.

7. Charts and Trends

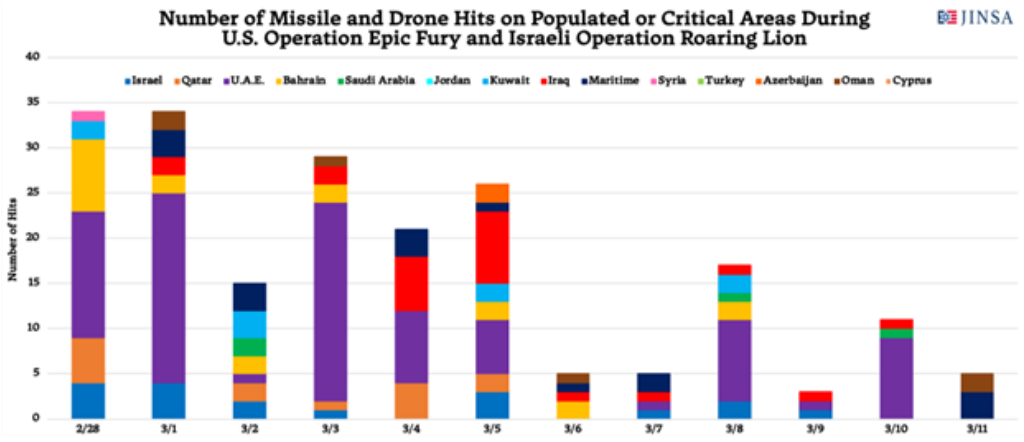
- Iranian missile fire continued its sharp decline on March 10, falling 33 percent from 40 missiles on March 9 to 27 on March 10, likely due to U.S. and Israeli forces continuing to degrade Iranian missile launch capacity, stockpiles, weapons storage, and command-and-control. So far on March 11, Iran has fired just 20 missiles, a further 26 percent decline from March 10, putting it on pace to set the lowest single-day missile total of the conflict for the fourth consecutive day.



- In recent days, Iran has sought to escalate its fire against key energy sites in the Gulf, in particular Saudi oil fields and oil tankers in the Gulf.
  - » Since March 9, Iran has shifted its targeting toward Saudi Arabia, with the percentage of Iranian attacks targeting Saudi Arabia surging from six percent on March 9 to 26 percent on March 10 and 30 percent so far on March 11.
  - » Iran also increased its fire against ships, with three attacks targeting ships in the Gulf on March 11.



- Despite the decrease in fire, Iran has struck targets in recent days by overwhelming air defenses or targeting vulnerable ships. The number of Iranian projectiles successfully hitting targets rose 267 percent from three hits on March 9 to 11 hits on March 10, with three hits so far on March 11 against commercial ships and several strikes on energy facilities in Oman.
  - » Iran's ability to hit the U.A.E. on March 10 was due to it launching a rare large attack of 35 drones, of which nine successfully penetrated U.A.E. air defenses.



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- Hussein Mansour, *Gulf Situation Assessment: Iran's Attacks on Arab States Will Backfire*, March 5, 2026
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- Jonathan Ruhe and Ari Cicurel, *Israel: America's Third Aircraft Carrier in the Middle East*, February 25, 2026
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