



# Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 3/27/26 Update

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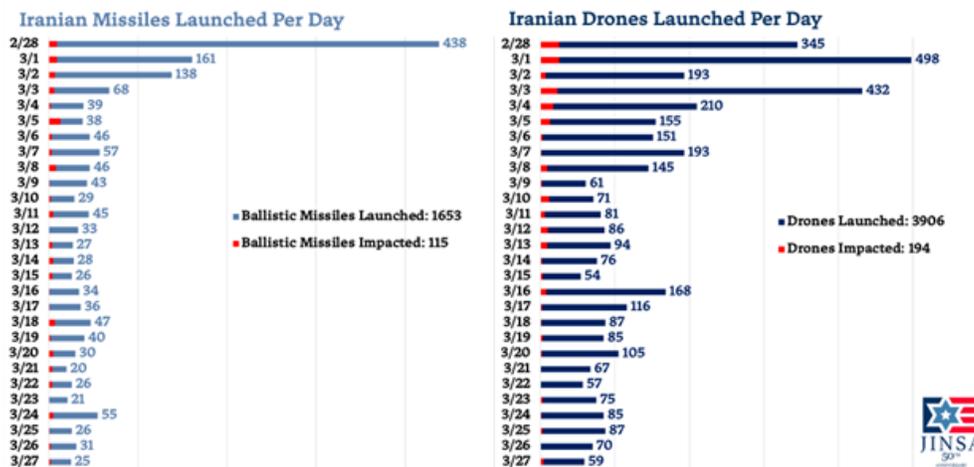
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With the United States and Israel launching a joint campaign—Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion, respectively—against Iranian regime targets and Iran launching retaliatory missile and drone attacks against U.S. forces in the region, Israel, and 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 27 at 11:00 am ET.

## 1. Overview

- On March 26, President Donald Trump [stated](#) that Operation Epic Fury is “extremely, extremely ahead of schedule,” while noting that the Iranians are “lousy fighters, but they’re great negotiators.”
- President Trump declared in a March 26 [statement](#) that, “per Iranian Government request,” he is “pausing the period of Energy Plant Destruction by 10 Days to Monday, April 6, 2025, at 8 p.m. Eastern Time.” President Trump continued, “Talks are ongoing, despite erroneous statements to the contrary by the Fake News Media, and others, they are going very well.”
- President Trump [remarked](#) on March 26 that the Iranian people are “petrified” of participating in demonstrations against the regime. He remarked that the regime maintains “very nasty guns,” and Iranians “are brave, but they’re not brave when they see people gunned down left and right.”
- Vice President JD Vance [held](#) a tense call with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earlier this week, according to *Axios*. Vance reportedly criticized Prime Minister Netanyahu for overstating the prospects for regime change in pre-war U.S.-Israel talks.
- *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that the Trump administration is considering deploying up to 10,000 more ground troops to the Middle East.
- After nearly a month of war, [vast quantities](#) of certain high-end U.S. munitions have been expended, U.S. officials told *The Washington Post*. These include over 1,000 total Patriot and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptors and over 850 Tomahawk cruise missiles, equaling between 1-2 years’ worth of Tomahawk production.
- Western intelligence [assessed](#) that Russia has begun supplying Iran with Geran-2 and Shahed-136 kamikaze drones, marking the first known transfer of lethal munitions from Moscow to Tehran since the start of the war, according to *The Telegraph*.
- Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir reportedly [warned](#) Israel’s security cabinet on March 26 about a growing manpower shortage within the IDF, and argued that Israeli lawmakers should pass new laws to increase manpower availability.

- 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, particularly through drones.
  - » Iranian missile fire increased 19 percent on March 26, with 31 missiles fired, up from 26 on March 25. So far on March 27, Iran has fired 21 missiles.
  - » Iran has launched roughly 3,900 drones, 1,650 ballistic missiles, and 28 cruise missiles since the war began, according to JINSA data.



## 2. Diplomatic Engagement

- President Trump [expressed](#) doubt that the United States can reach a deal with Iran and that the Iranians are “lousy fighters, but they’re great negotiators.”
  - » President Trump emphasized that reaching a deal is not a priority for the United States, remarking, “I’m the opposite of desperate to make a deal. ... We have other targets we want to hit before we leave.”
  - » President Trump said that, conversely, Iran is “now admitting to itself that they have been decisively defeated,” and “that’s why they’re talking to us.” He also stated that if the Iranians “make the right deal, then the Strait [of Hormuz] will open up,” but cautioned that U.S. strikes will continue until a deal is reached.
- U.S. Special Envoy Steve Witkoff [stated](#) that there are “strong signs” the United States will be able to “convince Iran that this is the inflection point, with no good alternatives for them other than more death and destruction.”
  - » He noted that the U.S. 15-point proposal presented to Iran “resulted in strong and positive messaging.” Witkoff also stated that Iran is searching for an “off-ramp” following President Trump’s 48-hour ultimatum issued last Saturday.
  - » Witkoff remarked that the United States, while communicating a preference for peace, has warned Iran of failing to agree to a deal: “We have told Iran one last thing, ‘Don’t miscalculate again.’”

## 3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- President Trump [highlighted](#) the gains achieved by Operation Epic Fury, noting, “We estimated [at the beginning of the war] it would take approximately four to six weeks to achieve our mission. 26 days in, we’re extremely, extremely ahead of schedule.”

- » He added: “The Iranian regime is now admitting to itself that they have been decisively defeated. They’re saying to people, this is a disaster. They know. That’s why they’re talking to us.”
- For the first time in its combat history, the U.S. Navy has [conducted](#) maritime patrols with unmanned drone speedboats.
- The United States has launched over 850 Tomahawk cruise missiles and over 1,000 interceptor missiles in the war, *The Washington Post* reported on March 27, leaving few Tomahawks remaining in the theater. In addition, the United States has reportedly expended over 1,000 total Patriot and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptor missiles.
  - » The 850 sum equates to over a year’s worth of total Tomahawk production and at least 15 to 20 percent of all Tomahawks in the U.S. arsenal, based on conservative estimates.
  - » Sean Parnell, the Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, told the *Post* that the American military “has everything it needs to execute any mission at the time and place of the President’s choosing, and on any timeline.”
    - Parnell further stated that the Pentagon has given U.S. servicemembers “every advantage to be successful.”
    - According to Parnell, certain U.S. press outlets are “biased, and obsessed with portraying the world’s strongest military as weak.” He also argued that these outlets seek to “frighten, and sow doubt in the minds of, the American people.”
- The United States can [confirm](#) with certainty that it has destroyed roughly one-third of Iran’s missile arsenal, with the status of another one-third unclear but believed to have been damaged, destroyed, or buried in underground tunnels and bunkers, according to U.S. intelligence officials cited by Reuters.
- Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz [stated](#) that since Iran continues to target Israeli civilians, “IDF strikes in Iran will intensify and expand to additional targets and domains that assist the regime in building and operating weapons against Israeli civilians.”
- IDF Northern Command Commander Maj. Gen. Rafi Milo [announced](#) that Israeli troops have eliminated over 750 Hezbollah fighters throughout Lebanon.
  - » Maj. Gen. Milo noted that the IDF has “expanded the ground operation one step further to widen the security zone” and that Israeli forces “are operating according to an organized plan to strike and push back the enemy and to distance the threat for better protection of the residents of the north.”
- The IDF [announced](#) it has pushed additional forces deeper into southern Lebanon to expand its buffer zone, with the 162nd Division conducting a targeted ground operation in the western sector aimed at neutralizing key Hezbollah targets.
  - » Moreover, the IDF [revealed](#) that since its troops pushed Hezbollah threats further north into Lebanon, the Home Front Command can expand the time needed for Israeli residents to take cover from Hezbollah attacks, who, up until now, have only had 30 seconds at most to shelter from fire.
- Chief IDF spokesman and former JINSA Visiting Fellow Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin [stated](#) that targeted killings of Iranian leaders will continue, adding the IDF “will continue to pursue anyone who threatens Israel.”

### **Day 28 of Operations: March 27**

#### *Iran*

- The Israeli military [carried out](#) attacks on Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)-linked storage facilities at the Khuzestan Steel Complex in Ahvaz and the power facility at the Mobarakeh Steel Complex in Isfahan.

- The Israeli military [bombed](#) a major naval missile development and storage facility in Yazd, as well as ballistic missile sites and the regime’s air defenses in Tehran and several other cities.
- Strikes also [targeted](#) several other regime sites throughout Iran, including in Tehran, Isfahan, Alborz, and Kurdistan provinces, according to *Iran International*.

#### *Lebanon*

- IDF ground troops operating in southern Lebanon [killed](#) a Hezbollah gunman as he surfaced from a terror tunnel and fired at them. After eliminating the operative, the troops uncovered several weapons and equipment within the tunnel.
- While operating in the Lebanese village of Khiam, which the IDF had cleared of weapons in December 2024, Israeli troops [discovered](#) a Hezbollah tunnel situated below a church, with Hezbollah moving back into the area after Israeli forces left.
  - » The IDF noted that this tunnel was built following the November 2024 ceasefire, “indicating the reactivation of the infrastructure in the area.”
  - » In Khiam, Shayetet 13 troops also [uncovered](#) weapons, including anti-tank missiles, rifles, rocket launchers, and several types of explosives inside a school.
- The Israeli military also [struck](#) Hezbollah territory in the southern Beirut suburbs.

#### **Day 27 of Operations: March 26**

#### *Iran*

- 60 Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircraft [dropped](#) 150 bombs on weapons sites throughout Iran, including:
  - » An IRGC Quds Force weapons manufacturing facility and other weapons production and air defense manufacturing sites in Isfahan; and
  - » The regime’s main missile and defense system manufacturing compound in Parchin, which includes a site for equipping warheads with explosives, a ballistic missile engine production site, and a building for developing parts for the military’s solid-fuel ballistic missiles.
- The IAF [dropped](#) approximately 70 bombs on dozens of Iranian missile facilities and air defense systems in Kermanshah and Dezful, killing Iranian soldiers.
- Strikes also targeted other regime sites, including:
  - » The [IRGC’s Ansar Garrison](#) in Tehranpars;
  - » [IRGC barracks](#) in Mashhad;
  - » [Aviation industries](#) in Tehran; and
  - » Basij bases and military facilities in [Kermanshah](#), [Lorestan](#), [Mazandaran](#), and other cities throughout Iran.

#### *Lebanon*

- Overnight, the IAF [eliminated](#) Hassan Mohammad Bashir, a commander for Hezbollah’s anti-tank missile unit.

#### *Iraq*

- An unattributed strike [hit](#) a base belonging to the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) in Al Anbar Governorate, injuring three fighters.

## 4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- Iran and Hezbollah continue to target Israel with an array of drone, missile, and rocket attacks. Over the past 24 hours:
  - » Hezbollah [launched](#) over 100 rockets at Israel on March 26, as well as a barrage of missiles at central Israel.
    - One rocket barrage [targeted](#) the northern town of Nahariya, in which one man was killed, and 14 other people were injured.
    - A barrage of 20 rockets [targeted](#) the Galilee region and the city of Haifa, with many projectiles landing in open areas and Israeli air defenses intercepting the others.
  - » Hezbollah also [fired](#) at Israeli ground troops operating in southern Lebanon.
  - » Iran launched at least [four](#) missile salvos at [Israel](#), with at least one missile carrying a [cluster munitions warhead](#).
  - » Fragments from an Iranian missile potentially equipped with cluster munitions [caused damage](#) to a hotel in Herzliya.
- Arab countries continue coming under Iranian and proxy fire. Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the U.A.E. each reported attacks on their country over the past day:
  - » Bahrain:
    - Bahrain [intercepted](#) 12 drones over the country.
  - » Kuwait:
    - Kuwait [intercepted](#) four ballistic missiles, one cruise missile, and three drones, while four additional drones struck the Kuwaiti ports of Shuwaikh and Mubarak Al-Kabeer, causing infrastructure damage but no casualties.
  - » Saudi Arabia:
    - The Saudi Ministry of Defense [reported](#) it intercepted six missiles and 31 drones.
  - » U.A.E.:
    - The U.A.E. [intercepted](#) six missiles and nine drones over various parts of the country.
- A Thai-flagged vessel that was [struck](#) by unspecified Iranian projectiles earlier this month ran aground off Iran's Qeshm Island, with the Omani navy rescuing 20 members of the ship's crew and three members missing.

## 5. Estimated Casualties of Iranian Operations

- Thirteen U.S. service members have died during Operation Epic Fury.
  - » 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.
  - » A U.S. servicemember, Sgt. Benjamin Pennington, 26, was [killed](#) in a March 8 Iranian attack targeting U.S. troops at the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia.
  - » Six U.S. servicemembers were [killed](#) when a KC-135 aerial refueling aircraft crashed over western Iraq on March 12: Major John A. Klinner, 33; Captain Ariana G. Savino, 31; Technical Sergeant Ashley B. Pruitt, 34; Captain Seth R. Koval, 38; Captain Curtis J. Angst, 30; and Technical Sergeant Tyler H. Simmons, 28.

- At least 200 members of the U.S. military have been [injured](#) thus far in the war, 10 of whom have been “seriously wounded,” according to U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Capt. Tim Hawkins.
- Since the war began, 30 [people have been killed in](#) Israel, while over 5,000 people have been [hospitalized](#).
  - » Four of these casualties include Israeli soldiers who have [been killed](#) while fighting Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.
  - » According to *The Times of Israel*, over the past day:
    - One Israeli soldier was [killed](#), and four others were wounded after Hezbollah fired two anti-tank missiles at the troops.
    - One man was [killed](#), and 14 other people were injured by flying shrapnel from a Hezbollah rocket attack on Nahariya.
- Since the war’s outbreak, numerous other casualties have been reported:
  - » Iran:
    - At least 3,329 people, including at least 1,167 military personnel, have been [killed](#), with at least 24,800 [wounded](#). However, *Iran International* reported that at least 5,000 military personnel have been [killed](#).
  - » Azerbaijan:
    - Four civilians have been [injured](#).
  - » Bahrain:
    - Three people have [been killed](#), including a [Moroccan contractor](#), and at least 40 people have [been injured](#), including five [Emirati soldiers](#).
  - » Iraq:
    - At least 96 people have been [killed](#), including 13 people in Iraqi Kurdistan.
  - » Jordan:
    - At least 29 people have been [injured](#).
  - » Kuwait:
    - Two [Kuwaiti navy sailors](#), two [Kuwaiti interior ministry officers](#), and two [Kuwaiti civilians](#) have been killed, over 70 Kuwaiti military personnel have [been injured](#), and two medical staff have been [wounded](#).
  - » Lebanon:
    - At least 1,116 people have been [killed](#), and more than 3,229 have been wounded—figures that do not distinguish between Hezbollah operatives and civilians.
  - » Oman:
    - At least [three people](#) have been killed, and at least 10 people have been [wounded](#).
  - » Qatar:
    - Around 20 people have been [wounded](#), and seven people were [killed](#) on March 22 in a helicopter crash in Qatari territorial waters due to a technical issue.
  - » Saudi Arabia:
    - Two foreign nationals have been [killed](#), and at least 16 others have [been injured](#).

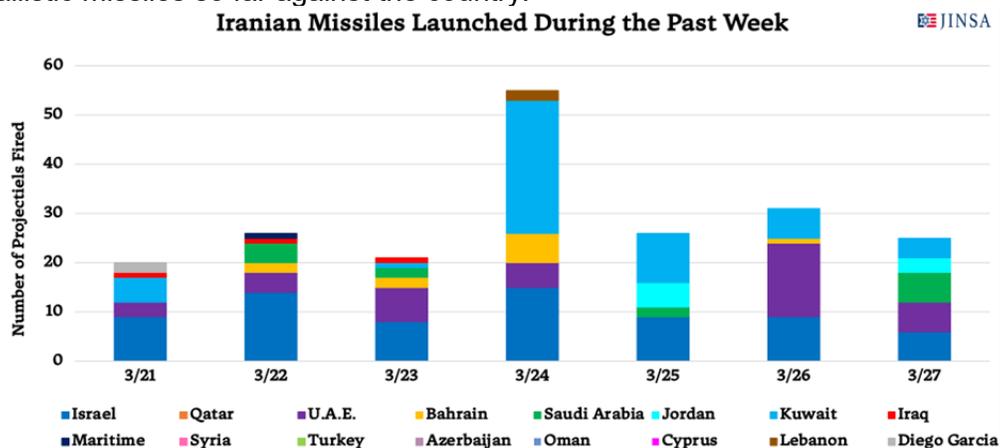
- » Syria:
  - At least four people have been [killed](#) in Syria, and several others have been [injured](#).
- » U.A.E.:
  - 11 people have been [killed](#), and at least 169 have been injured.

## 6. International Response

- Fitch Ratings [maintained](#) both Israel’s “A” credit rating and a negative outlook for the rating, the latter due to “a fractious domestic political environment that may hinder fiscal consolidation.”
  - » The credit agency noted, “Israel’s recent and ongoing military operations have somewhat diminished geopolitical risks to the ratings and demonstrated a highly effective defensive capability. The duration and scope of the war are uncertain, but our baseline assumes the current war will likely greatly diminish Iran’s threat to Israel.”
- Russia has [transferred](#) lethal military assistance to Iran for the first time since the war began, with Western intelligence indicating Moscow is supplying Tehran with Geran-2 and Shahed-136 kamikaze drones, according to *The Telegraph*.
- The French Ministry of Defense [stated](#) that 35 countries have joined discussions to reopen the Strait of Hormuz in a “strictly defensive mission” once the intensity of the ongoing fighting “has sufficiently decreased.”
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky [travelled](#) to Saudi Arabia for “important meetings.” In a post on X, he stated, “We appreciate the support and support those who are ready to work with us to ensure security.”

## 7. Charts and Trends

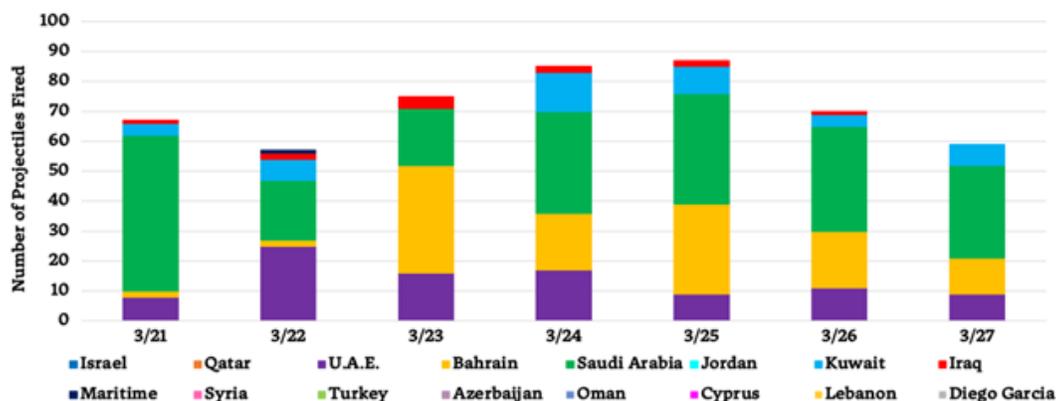
- Due to a large escalation of 15 ballistic missiles targeting the U.A.E., Iranian missile fire increased 19 percent on March 26, with 31 missiles fired compared to 26 missiles on March 25. So far on March 27, Iran has fired 21 ballistic missiles.
  - » On March 27, Iran also increased its missile fire against Saudi Arabia by launching six ballistic missiles so far against the country.



- Iran continued heavy drone attacks against Saudi Arabia, launching 35 drones on March 26 and 31 drones so far on March 27.
  - » Drone attacks against Bahrain declined from 30 on March 25 to 19 on March 26 and 12 so far on March 27.

### Iranian Drones Launched During the Past Week

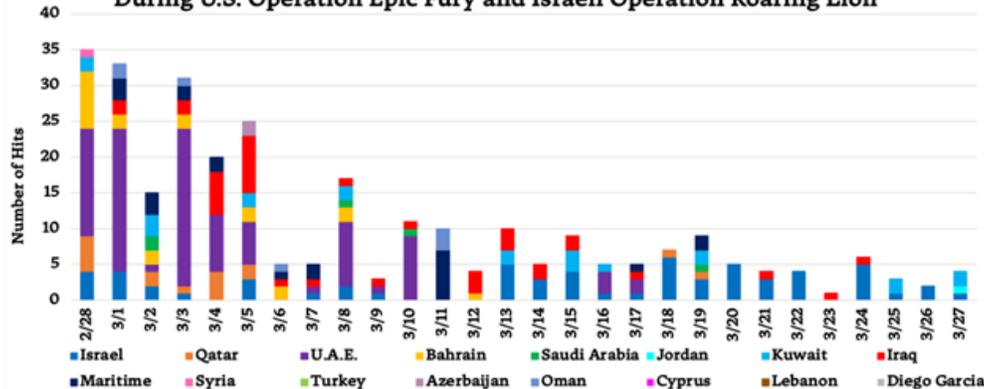
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- On March 26, two Iranian missiles successfully hit targets in Israel. Already on March 27, 4 Iranian projectiles have hit targets, with two drones striking Kuwaiti ports and one missile each hitting Israel and Jordan.

### Number of Iranian Projectile Hits on Populated or Critical Areas During U.S. Operation Epic Fury and Israeli Operation Roaring Lion

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## 8. JINSA Resources

- Ari Cicurel, [The Eroding Shield: Air Defense Against Iran](#), March 26, 2026
- Jonah Brody and Rena Gabber, [The Axis Behind Iran: How China, Russia, and North Korea Sustain Tehran's Military Threat](#), March 25, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe, [Scared Strait: Ending Iran's Threat to Hormuz and the Gulf](#), March 19, 2026
- VADM Herman Shelanski, USN (ret.), IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, and Blaise Misztal, [Webinar - Iran's Threat to Global Shipping: What Can Be Done?](#) March 19, 2026
- Giran Ozcan and Jonah Brody, [Iran's Kurdish Coalition and the Future of the Opposition](#), March 18, 2026
- Hussein Mansour, [If Tehran Falls: How Iran's Collapse Reshuffles Arab Gulf Relations](#), March 16
- Infographic: [Operation Epic Fury—What is the Aim Point?](#), March 13, 2026
- VADM Mark Fox, USN (ret.), IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, and Jonathan Ruhe, [Webinar: Washington and Jerusalem's Next Moves](#), March 12, 2026
- Meriem Mokhtari, [How the Muslim Brotherhood Funds Iran's Proxies](#), March 11, 2026
- Robert McNally and Michael Makovsky, PhD, [Webinar: Iran War Energy Disruption: Short-Term or Here To Stay?](#) March 10, 2026

- 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
- 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