



Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion: 4/13/26 Update

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The United States, Israel, and Iran reached a two-week ceasefire agreement on April 7. JINSA continues to release regular updates about the conflict. The update below includes information since [JINSA's last update](#) as of April 12 at 10:00 am ET.

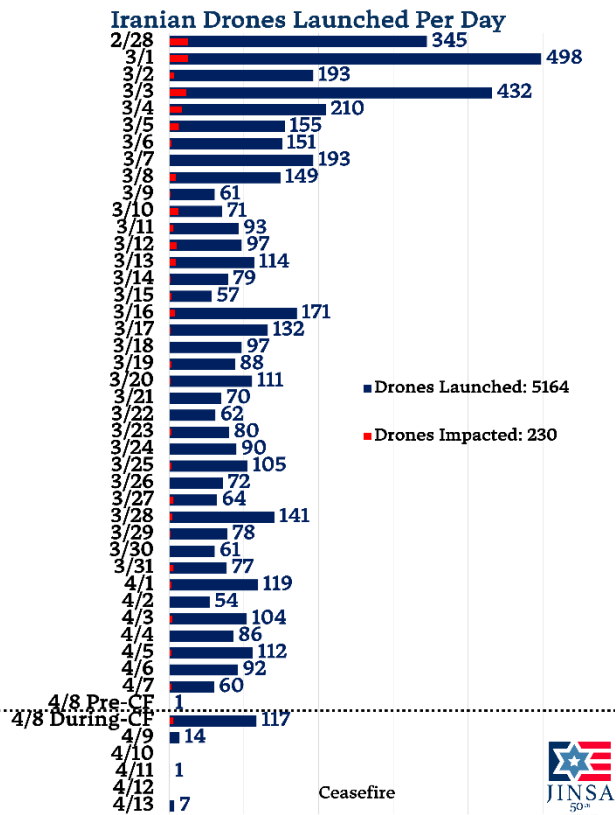
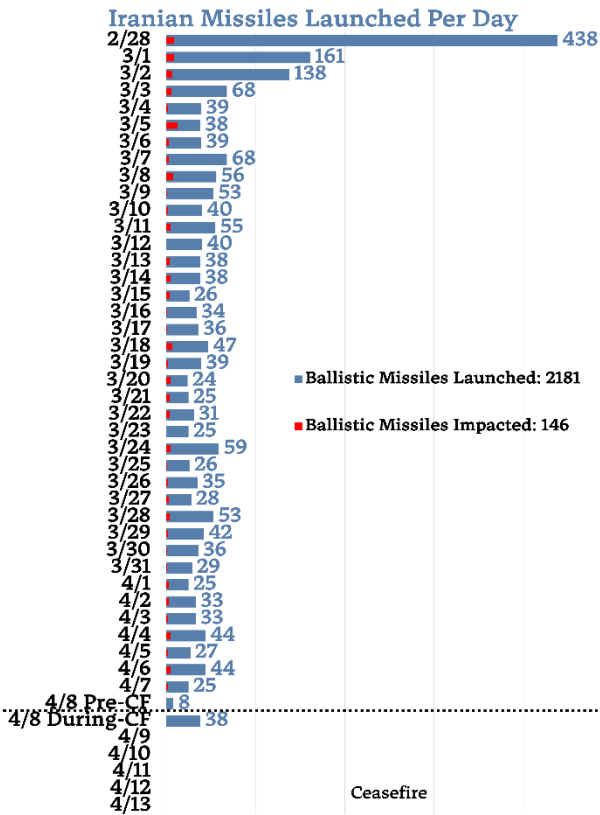
Days left in ceasefire: **9**

Iranian missiles and drones launched since ceasefire: **177** (8 since April 9)

Ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz since ceasefire: **roughly 40**.

1. Overview

- U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [announced](#) it will begin enforcing a blockade on all maritime traffic entering and exiting Iranian ports starting April 13 at 10:00 am ET, per orders from President Donald Trump.
 - » CENTCOM [stated](#) the blockade will be enforced impartially against vessels of all nations while facilitating freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz for non-Iranian destinations.
 - » The Associated Press, citing an unnamed intelligence firm, [reported](#) that “traffic through the Strait of Hormuz appeared to have come to a halt,” as of midday April 13 local time.
 - The Iranian regime [denies](#) it is charging ships a fee in exchange for safe passage, though two Chinese ships paid Iran a fee over the weekend to transit the strait, *Newsweek* [reported](#) on April 13.
 - » Oil prices [rose](#) in early trading on April 13 following the announcement, with U.S. crude rising eight percent to \$104.24 a barrel and Brent crude gaining seven percent to \$102.29 a barrel.
- During an April 13 cabinet meeting, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [claimed](#) that the U.S. and Iranian ceasefire agreement “could turn on a dime,” citing Iran’s refusal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.
- Despite the ongoing ceasefire, Bahrain announced that it had intercepted seven Iranian drones on April 13, marking the first attack since April 11.
 - » Over the first two days of the ceasefire, Iran launched 131 drones and 38 ballistic missiles at Israel and Gulf nations.
 - » Iran has launched roughly 5,164 drones, 2,181 ballistic missiles, and 59 cruise missiles since the war began.



2. Diplomatic Engagement

- In a statement sent to reporters on April 12, an unnamed American official [listed](#) all of the U.S. red lines in talks with Iran last weekend:
 - » Iran must halt all enrichment of uranium;
 - » All major enrichment plants must be taken apart;
 - » Iran must agree to a peace and security framework with regional allies;
 - » Iran must cease funding for Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis;
 - » Iran must reopen the Strait of Hormuz in full, without tolls; and
 - » Highly enriched uranium (HEU) must be retrieved.
- In a post on X on April 12, Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [wrote](#) that “Iran engaged with U.S in good faith to end war,” but when a Memorandum of Understanding was close, the Iranian negotiating team was faced with “maximalism, shifting goalposts, and blockade” from the Americans.
 - » Iran’s Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam, a senior official in Iran’s delegation to the Islamabad talks, [stressed](#) that they were “not an event but a process” that “laid the foundation for a diplomatic process that, if trust and will are strengthened, can create a sustainable framework for the interests of all parties.”
- On April 13, Lebanese Foreign Minister Youssef Raggi [stated](#) in an X post that Lebanon seeks to establish a ceasefire agreement with Israel “through direct negotiations,” and that he “stressed that this track has in practice reinforced the separation between the Lebanese file and the Iranian track.”

- » Concerned about Lebanon’s lack of involvement in recent negotiations between the United States and Iran, he further stressed that “the Lebanese state alone holds the authority to negotiate on behalf of Lebanon, in a clear message that reestablishes the principle of national sovereignty at the heart of Lebanese diplomacy.”
- In a speech on April 12, Prime Minister of Lebanon Nawaf Salam [said](#) that Beirut “will continue to work to stop this war, to ensure the Israeli withdrawal from all our lands.” He noted that negotiation efforts to end the war are ongoing.

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- According to a report by *The Wall Street Journal* on April 12, the Trump administration is [considering](#) restarting limited strikes in Iran, to, along with the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, create sufficient pressure for progress in peace talks.
- In an April 13 Israeli cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Netanyahu [stated](#) that the ceasefire agreement “could turn on a dime” and that the recent talks in Islamabad failed because the United States “could not tolerate Iran’s blatant violation of the agreement to enter negotiations. The agreement was that they would stop the fire, and the Iranians would immediately open the Strait [of Hormuz] — they did not do so. The Americans could not accept this.”
 - » Prime Minister Netanyahu also rejected claims of tensions between the United States and Israel, highlighting that “this level of coordination has never existed before — not in the history of Israel, and not in the history of the Jewish people.”
- The Israeli military’s 98th Division announced on April 13 that it has nearly [taken control](#) of Hezbollah’s stronghold in Bint Jbeil in southern Lebanon, killing at least 150 Hezbollah fighters, and [bombing](#) the town’s infamous stadium, which was the site of former Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah’s 2000 speech following Israel’s withdrawal from Lebanon branding Israel as “weaker than a spider web.”
- Following the attack, Israeli Brig. Gen. Guy Levy stated that “today, that man no longer exists, the stadium is gone, and his words are worth nothing.”

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- On April 13, two Iran-linked oil tankers [exited](#) the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz ahead of the planned U.S. blockade on Iranian ports and coastal areas, according to shipping data cited by Reuters.
- During the U.S. ceasefire with Iran, Hezbollah has continued to attack Israel.
 - » On April 13, Hezbollah [fired](#) fewer than 10 rockets at the northern Israeli city of Nahariya. One impacted the city, lightly injuring a woman and causing damage.
 - » On April 13, Israeli defenses [intercepted](#) two Hezbollah rockets and allowed others to crash into open areas near Karmiel in northern Israel.
 - » On April 12, two Israeli soldiers [sustained](#) injuries from a shockwave after a Hezbollah rocket impacted near them in southern Lebanon.
- On April 13, Bahrain [intercepted](#) seven drones, marking the first Iranian drone salvo targeting the country since April 11.

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 373 members of the U.S. military have been [injured](#) thus far in the war.
 - » Ten have been seriously [wounded](#), and at least 280 of the injured have reportedly returned to duty.
 - » At least 15 Americans were [hurt](#) in an Iranian drone strike on Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait overnight, most of whom were lightly injured.
 - » In the March 27 Iranian attack on a U.S. base in Saudi Arabia, at least 15 U.S. servicemembers were [injured](#), including two who were seriously wounded.
 - Since the war began, [43 people have been killed in](#) Israel, while over 7,693 have been [injured](#). [Twelve](#) of these casualties include Israeli soldiers who have been killed while fighting Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.
 - Since the war's outbreak, numerous other casualties have been reported:
 - » Iran: Through April 7, at least 3,636 people, including at least 1,221 military personnel, have been [killed](#), with at least 26,500 [wounded](#). *Iran International* reports that over 4,700 security personnel have been [killed](#), including members of the Basij, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and police forces.
 - » Azerbaijan: Four civilians have been [injured](#).
 - » Bahrain: Three people have [been killed](#), including a [Moroccan contractor](#), and at least 46 people [have been injured](#), including five [Emirati soldiers](#).
 - » Iraq: At least 117 people have been [killed](#), [including](#) 16 [people](#) in Iraqi Kurdistan.
 - » Jordan: At least 31 people have [been injured](#).
 - » Kuwait: Two [Kuwaiti navy sailors](#), two [Kuwaiti interior ministry officers](#), two [Kuwaiti civilians](#), and an [Indian national](#) have been killed; over 90 Kuwaiti military [personnel have been injured](#), and eight [civilians](#), including two [medical staff](#), have been wounded.
 - » Lebanon: At least 2,055 people have been [killed](#), and more than 6,588 have been [wounded](#)—figures that do not distinguish between Hezbollah operatives and civilians.
 - » Oman: At least [three people](#) have been killed, and at least 15 have been [wounded](#).
 - » Qatar: Around 20 people have been [wounded](#), and seven were [killed](#) on March 22 in a helicopter crash in Qatari territorial waters due to a technical issue.
 - » Saudi Arabia: Three people have been killed, including a Saudi [national](#) and two [foreign nationals](#), and at least 23 others [have been injured](#).
 - » Syria: At least four people have been [killed](#) in Syria, and several others have been [injured](#).
 - » United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.): Thirteen people have been [killed](#), and at least 224 have been [injured](#).

6. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

- On April 12, the IRGC [warned](#) that Iran’s military has “full control” over the Strait of Hormuz, adding that “The enemy will become trapped in a deadly vortex in the strait if it makes the wrong move.”
 - » In another statement, the IRGC Naval Command noted that the Strait of Hormuz is “open to the harmless passage of civilian vessels in compliance with specific relevant regulations,” though military ships nearing the Strait “will be considered in violation of the ceasefire and will be dealt with severely.”

7. International Response

- On April 13, French President Emmanuel Macron [announced](#) that France and the United Kingdom are working together to hold a conference for countries seeking to form “a peaceful multinational mission aimed at restoring freedom of navigation” for the Strait of Hormuz.
 - » He clarified that the operation would be “strictly defensive” and separate from the warring parties to the conflict.”
- On April 13, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz [blamed](#) Germany’s economic problems on the war with Iran, noting that the German government will reduce fuel taxes for its citizens.
- On April 13, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer [announced](#) that the United Kingdom will not join the U.S. naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, telling the BBC that the country “is not getting dragged in” to the war with Iran.
- On April 13, Russia announced that it was [evacuating](#) 108 workers from Iran’s Bushehr nuclear power plant, leaving only 20 employees at the plant. Russia had previously removed roughly 600 employees from the plant in March and April.
- On April 12, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) [condemned](#) Israeli military actions in southern Lebanon that limited its “freedom of movement” and damaged two vehicles.

8. JINSA Resources

- Jonathan Ruhe and Ari Cicurel, [Operation Epic Fury: A Work in Progress](#), April 10, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Jonathan Ruhe, [“Iran’s Next Move Is the Bomb—If the Regime Survives,”](#) *RealClearDefense*, April 9, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe, [“Trump Risks Losing the Plot—and the War—in Iran,”](#) *The Dispatch*, April 7, 2026
- Ari Cicurel, [Finishing the Job: Targeting Iran’s Repression Machine](#), April 7, 2026
- Jonah Brody, [Greece and Cyprus in the War Against Iran](#), April 6, 2026
- JINSA Iran Policy Project, [End States, Not End Dates: Defining Success for Operation Epic Fury](#), April 1, 2026
- Blaise Misztal, [How This War Will End, If It Ends Now](#), April 1, 2026
- Meriem Mokhtari, [The Triple Betrayal: Operation Epic Fury, The Gulf’s Public Discourse, and U.S. Stakes](#), March 31
- Jonathan Ruhe, [Strengthening U.S. Force Posture at Israeli Bases](#), March 31, 2026
- Yoni Tobin and Sarah Havdala, [From the Ceasefire’s Ashes: War Returns to Israel’s Northern Front](#), March 30, 2026
- Svante E. Cornell, [Turkey on Iran: Gains, Risks, and Strategic Restraint](#), March 30, 2026

- Hussein Aboubakr Mansour, [*If Tehran Survives*](#), March 27, 2026
- 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