



Iran War Update: 6/26/26

Ari Cicurel
Associate Director of Foreign Policy

Yoni Tobin
Senior Policy Analyst

Sarah Havdala
Policy Analyst

Rena Gabber
Research Associate

President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 17, outlining terms to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. The MOU launches a 60-day period of technical negotiations on Iran's nuclear program. JINSA continues to release regular updates about the conflict. The update below includes information since [JINSA's last update](#) as of June 26 at 10:00 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since June 14 U.S.-Iran MOU announcement: **At least 1** (1 on June 25)

Hezbollah projectiles fired since June 19 Israel-Lebanon ceasefire announcement: **At least 176** (0 Since June 21)

Ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since June 14 MOU announcement: **At least 244** (at least 92 between June 25–26)

- **Note:** Many ships in the area are transmitting false locations.

1. Overview

- On June 26, Israel-Lebanon negotiations will [continue](#) for a fourth day at the State Department after both sides agreed to extend talks for an additional day, reportedly in an effort to [secure](#) an “in-principle commitment” to a security framework in Lebanon.
- In an interview with Sohrab Ahmari of the British news site *UnHerd* published on June 25, Vice President J.D. Vance [indicated](#) that Tehran is willing to make concessions that are “radically different from [what Iran agreed to under] the JCPOA,” including significantly more rigorous inspections and the “elimination” of its enriched uranium stockpile.
 - » In exchange, the vice president claimed that the Iranians “really want a fundamentally transformed relationship with the United States and the world,” adding that “I don’t know where we’re going to be able to land in the middle.”
 - » He also revealed that a new U.S.-Iran deconfliction cell will include an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) official deploying to Doha for direct conversations with a U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) official there.
 - Previous reporting indicated separate [deconfliction mechanisms](#) for ensuring cease-fires in the Strait of Hormuz and Lebanon, and it remains unclear whether the IRGC official in Doha will participate in both.

- On June 25, an Iranian [drone attack](#) damaged the bridge of the *Ever Lovely*, a Singapore-flagged cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz, marking the regime's first projectile attack since June 16.
- The United States is considering shifting its military posture in the Middle East, which could include potentially relocating some bases in the Persian Gulf to Israel, according to a *Wall Street Journal* [article](#) published on June 25. The reporting detailed an estimated \$400 million of damage Iran inflicted upon the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain, one of 20 U.S. facilities Iran reportedly struck and damaged in the war.
 - » In a 2024 JINSA [report](#), former CENTCOM Commander and JINSA Hertog Distinguished Fellow General Frank McKenzie, USMC (ret.), argued that "the United States will not be able to maintain these [Gulf] bases in a full-throated conflict, because they will be rendered unusable by sustained Iranian attack."
 - General McKenzie called for the United States to shift U.S. military assets and personnel to Israel because it is better equipped than Gulf countries to defend against Iranian drone and missile attack, and has no track record of trying to restrict U.S. freedom of action.
 - » In 2025, JINSA published an [opinion piece](#) in *The Washington Times* and an in-depth [report](#) detailing the potential benefits of basing U.S. aircraft in Israel. Dozens of U.S. fighter and refueling aircraft were deployed to Israel throughout the war.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- On June 26, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi [stated](#) that "this MOU specifically indicates that the nuclear part of the memorandum will be supervised. This is the word, will be supervised by the IAEA." He added, "In order to supervise, we need to inspect. There is no other way."
 - » Grossi noted, "the technical work has started, and we hope to be there [in Iran] soon."
- In an interview published on June 25 with *UnHerd*, Vice President Vance [stated](#) that "the MOU is a much more generic document than the JCPOA." He noted, "It really is a foundational document: let's open the Strait, let's stop shooting at each other, and let's see if we can make a nuclear deal. And from their [Iran's] perspective, it's, 'Let's lift the blockade, let's stop shooting at each other, and let's see if there's a sanctions deal.'"
 - » Vice President Vance noted that Arab states appreciate the MOU "because of the conversations they're having with the Iranians."
 - He went on to note that the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) is "having conversations with the Iranians that have never happened before, including with the IRGC, about various types of economic incentives— 'Here's what we'd need to see to make your country investable'—and the Iranians come back and say, 'Okay, yeah, we're willing to do all those things.'"

Lebanon

- During his interview with *UnHerd* published on June 25, Vice President Vance [stated](#) that "Israel, and every other nation in the region, has the right of self-defense. But we want to make sure everyone has that right of self-defense in [a] background where we're talking about how to de-escalate."
 - » He also noted, "I think we're now [at] 48 hours where the ceasefire in Lebanon has effectively held."
- On June 25, French President Emmanuel Macron [revealed](#) that France and Italy "want to launch a coalition for the post-UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon]"

arrangement, obviously in coordination with the European Union and the United Nations, to strengthen Lebanon's sovereignty and that of its armed forces."

- » Lebanese President Joseph Aoun expressed his support for the initiative the next day, claiming that it is "a sincere expression of the international commitment to supporting Lebanon's sovereignty and stability."

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Lebanon

- On the morning of June 26, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) [eliminated](#) seven Hezbollah fighters transporting weapons to a post near the Israeli security zone in southern Lebanon.
- On the evening of June 25, IDF soldiers shot and killed a gunman, and the Israeli military shelled and conducted airstrikes on Hezbollah positions after a Hezbollah operative launched a grenade at troops that [wounded](#) four Israeli soldiers in the Beit Yahoun area of southern Lebanon.
- On June 25, Israeli forces [killed](#) six Hezbollah fighters operating in southern Lebanon on two separate occasions.
 - » In one instance, Golani Brigade soldiers identified five Hezbollah operatives in Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, which the IAF later struck.
 - » In another instance, Commando Brigade troops identified a Hezbollah fighter in the area of the Ali Taher ridge, which the IAF later struck as well.

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- On June 25, after an Iranian drone hit a commercial vessel in the Strait of Hormuz, the United Nations (UN) International Maritime Organization [suspended](#) its evacuation plan, conducted in coordination with Oman, for vessels stranded in the Gulf.
- On June 25, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [spoke](#) with his Omani counterpart, Badr Albusaidi, over the phone and wrote on X that, "We re-emphasized that Iran and Oman will conduct dialogue 'to define future administration and maritime services in Strait of Hormuz.' We're determined and will do so in discussion with our neighbors."

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- On June 25, an Iranian drone [hit](#) the *Ever Lovely*, a Singapore-flagged commercial vessel sailing near the coast of Oman in the Strait of Hormuz. The attack damaged the ship's bridge but caused no casualties.

6. Estimated Casualties of Iranian Operations

- Thirteen U.S. service members have died during Operation Epic Fury.
 - » An Iranian drone attack [killed](#) six U.S. service members 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, Staff Sgt. Benjamin Pennington (posthumously promoted), 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. service members 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 400 members of the U.S. military have been [injured](#) thus far in the war.
 - » Ten have been seriously [wounded](#), and at least 354 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 on April 6, 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. service members were [injured](#), including two who were seriously wounded.
- Since the war began, at least 64 people have been killed in Israel, including [26](#) civilians, while over 7,795 have been [injured](#). At least 38 of these [casualties](#) include 37 Israeli soldiers and one defense contractor killed while fighting Hezbollah.
- Since the war's outbreak, numerous other casualties have been reported:
 - » Iran: 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, 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 119 people have been [killed](#), including 20 [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 two [Indian nationals](#) have been [killed](#); over 90 Kuwaiti military [personnel have been injured](#), and [over 70 civilians](#), including two [medical staff](#), have been wounded.
 - » Lebanon: At least 4,211 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 12,173 have been wounded—figures that do not distinguish between Hezbollah operatives and civilians.
 - » Oman: At least [three people](#) have been killed, and at least 17 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: 13 people have been [killed](#), and at least 230 have been injured.

7. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

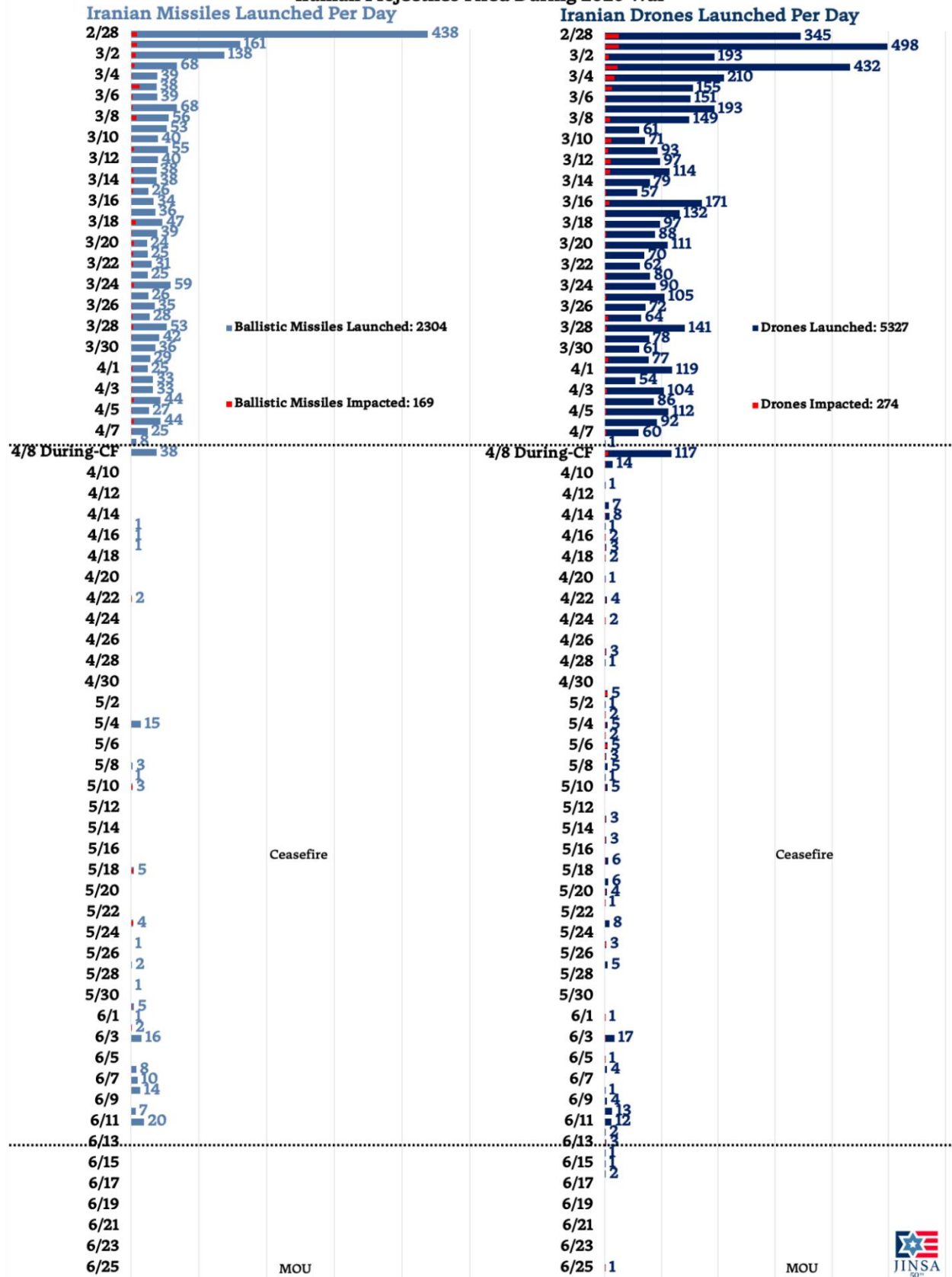
- On June 26, Hezbollah Secretary General Naim Qassem [declared](#) that the MOU represented a defeat for the United States and Israel, stating, “they wanted a major war...to eliminate our existence,” but that “we were able to stop this aggression and achieve a great victory... We have shattered the Israeli-American project and entered a new phase.”
 - » He claimed that “the memorandum of understanding” is “an official declaration of the defeat of America and Israel.”
 - » Qassem also [stated](#) that “Israel has no option but to withdraw completely from every inch of our Lebanese land... Israel must leave unconditionally.”

- » Addressing the Israel-Lebanon talks in Washington, D.C., Qassem demanded that there be “no normalization, no cancellation of the state of hostility, no gains for Israel, and no partial presence on Lebanese soil... Israel must leave humiliated and defeated, and that is what will happen.”

8. International Response

- On June 25, the Gulf Cooperation Council [released](#) a statement after meeting with Secretary Rubio in Bahrain which read, “the ministers further emphasized that lasting regional peace and security requires addressing the full spectrum of Iran’s threats, including its ballistic missiles, drones, and support of proxies in the region.”
 - » The statement stressed that “any trade and investment with Iran is conditional and reversible, contingent on Iran’s compliance with the MOU and the final agreement, cessation of its destabilizing behavior, and creation of the conditions necessary for economic engagement.”
 - » It further highlighted “the importance of reopening the Strait of Hormuz, noting that free, unconditional and unrestricted navigation, including the right of transit passage as guaranteed under international law, remains essential to regional and global security.”

Iranian Projectiles Fired During 2026 War



9. JINSA Resources

- Jonathan Ruhe, [How the MOU's "Nuclear Status Quo" Negates a Good Iran Deal](#), June 24, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, John Hannah, Blaise Misztal, and Jonathan Ruhe, [Reversal of Fortunes: The U.S.-Iran Memorandum of Understanding](#), June 23, 2026
- Ari Cicurel, ["Trump Went to War to End Iran's Missile Threat. Now He Endorses It,"](#) *Jewish News Syndicate*, June 23, 2026
- [Infographic - The Iran MOU: Did the U.S. Understand the Assignment?](#), June 18, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, ["Epic Fury Ends with a Flop,"](#) *Jewish News Syndicate*, June 17, 2026
- Blaise Misztal, [Uncertifiable and Illegal, but Probably Unstoppable: Congress Must Review the Iran MOU](#), June 17, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, [The Origins of the Iran Deal](#), June 16, 2026
- Sarah Havdala, [While the War Raged On: Repression in Iran](#), June 16, 2026
- [Infographic: What's the Deal with the Deal?](#) June 12, 2026
- John Hannah, ["Trump Is Stuck and His Iran Leverage Is Spent,"](#) *The Washington Examiner*, June 12, 2026
- Jonathan Ruhe, ["We Need a Long-Term Strategy to Deal With Iran,"](#) *The Dispatch*, June 11, 2026
- Maj Gen Charles Corcoran, USAF (ret.) and Yoni Tobin, ["What the Iran War Shows About the Future of Warfighting,"](#) *RealClearDefense*, June 8, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Blaise Misztal, [Trump Is Lost on Iran](#), June 5, 2026
- IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, Stephen Rademaker, and Blaise Misztal, [Webinar: Bad Deal Rising?](#), May 26, 2026
- LTG Charles Hooper, USA (ret.) and Yoni Tobin, [Abraham's Fortress: Strengthening Middle East Defenses Against Iran](#), May 19, 2026
- Yoni Tobin, [Blockade Evasion Update – 5/19/26](#), May 19, 2026
- Gen Charles Wald, USAF (ret.), VADM Mark Fox, USN (ret.), VADM Robert Harward, USN (ret.), LTG Karen Gibson, USA (ret.), VADM John Miller, USN (ret.), VADM John Bird, USN (ret.), Blaise Misztal, Jonathan Ruhe, and Ari Cicurel, [Epic Fury II: Securing U.S. Objectives in Iran](#), May 8, 2026
- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Blaise Misztal, ["The U.S. Blockade of Iran Is a Means, Not an End,"](#) *The National Interest*, May 8, 2026