



## Iran War Update: 6/16/26

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The United States and Iran digitally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to end the war on June 14, with a signing ceremony scheduled to take place in Switzerland on June 19. The MOU will launch 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 16 at 10:15 am ET.

Days left in Israel-Lebanon ceasefire: **26**, following May 15 45-day extension

Iranian missiles and drones launched since start of April 8 ceasefire: **At least 463** (0 on June 14–16)

Hezbollah attacks since April 8 ceasefire: **At least 246** (at least 3 on June 15)

Ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since April 8 ceasefire: **At least 440** (at least 6 between June 12–15)

- **Note:** Many of these ships are local fast boats, tugboats, or landing craft, not commercial vessels. Numerous ships in the area are also transmitting false locations.

Total blockade-eligible ships disabled or rerouted by U.S. forces since blockade began April 13: **At least 153**

- **Note:** President Donald Trump [announced](#) the end of the U.S. blockade on June 14 as part of the U.S.-Iran deal.

### 1. Overview

- Speaking at the G7 Summit on June 16, President Donald Trump [warned](#) that Iran is “not going to acquire a nuclear weapon. If they do, all hell will rain down on them.”
  - » President Trump noted that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Iran “says it loud and clear. They’re [the Iranians] not going to develop it [a nuclear weapon]. They’re not going to buy it. They’re not going to do anything with it. And if they do, they suffer unbelievable consequences.”
  - » President Trump also [stated](#), “I never cared about regime change. It [was] never a part” of the war, before reiterating his previous claims that regime change has occurred in Iran.
  - » Speaking on his relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Trump [stated](#), “We have a very good relationship...an unbelievable relationship,” though

he added that “Israel would have been blown up a long time ago had I not gotten involved.”

- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [shared](#) on June 16 that the next round of negotiations between the United States and Iran to reach a final agreement will begin on June 19, the expected date for the MOU’s signing ceremony.
  - » *Axios* [reported](#) that Vice President J.D. Vance, U.S. Envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi are expected to meet on June 19 for talks.
- On June 15, President Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social that “Iran has agreed to never have a Nuclear Weapon!,” adding that “the story that the U.S. is paying Iran 300 million Dollars is Fake News.”
- According to *Axios* reporting on June 15, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director John Ratcliffe and Secretary of State Marco Rubio [expressed](#) doubts that Tehran would agree to the nuclear concessions sought by the United States, based on evidence from the U.S. intelligence community.
  - » Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth reportedly also shared concerns on the U.S.-Iran MOU in discussions among administration officials.
- In an interview on Fox News on June 15, Vice President Vance [shared](#) that President Trump could release the text of the agreement before the planned signing ceremony on June 19.
  - » On June 15, Vice President Vance [noted](#) on CNN that “The MOU...is about a page and half so it is a very general document,” adding that “on a number of issues, we are going to have to figure this stuff out during the technical negotiation phase.”
  - » Speaking to NBC on June 15, Vice President Vance [stated](#), “We believe quite firmly that when the Israeli people understand what’s in this agreement, they’re going to see this as a pathway to a new Middle East, to peace and prosperity in that region.”
- According to *The Wall Street Journal* [reporting](#) from June 15, President Trump’s signing of a MOU with Iran “came as a surprise to some of his own top aides,” and that President Trump wanted to reach a deal as quickly as possible.
  - » *The Wall Street Journal* also reported that Israel’s strike on Hezbollah’s Dahiyeh stronghold over the weekend nearly upended the deal, which was reportedly salvaged by a 16-hour negotiating session between Qatari mediators and Iranian leaders.
- On June 16, President Trump [stated](#) that “I’m not happy with the way Israel has handled themselves with Lebanon and with Hezbollah,” and that “I suggested to Israel to let Syria take care of Hezbollah.”
- Israel has completely [halted](#) military operations in Lebanon, Israeli officials told *The Jerusalem Post* on June 15. However, Israel is not withdrawing its forces from southern Lebanon, those sources told the *Post*.
  - » Separately, an American official told Israel’s *Walla News* that Israel’s withdrawal from Lebanon is [not a stipulation](#) of the U.S.-Iran deal.

## 2. Diplomatic Engagement

### *Iran*

- The text of the U.S.-Iran MOU is not yet available to the public, and U.S. officials have differed in their account of when it will be released.
  - » Two senior U.S. officials [told](#) reporters on June 15 that the text would likely be released by June 17. However, President Trump, later that day, remarked that the text would likely

be released at some point after June 19. Vice President Vance also stated on June 15 that “we hope to release the text this week.”

- On June 16, President Trump [claimed](#) that “We are not investing any money” in Iran and that the United States has “no obligation” to do so after the two countries reached the MOU.
- On June 15, *Axios* [shared](#) key elements of the MOU, citing a source familiar with the text:
  - » Tehran commits to never acquiring or procuring a nuclear weapon;
  - » “Iran will make arrangements, using its best efforts, for the safe passage of commercial vessels with no charge for 60 days”;
  - » The U.S. blockade will be gradually lifted over 30 days;
  - » The United States and Iran commit to “resolve the disposition of stockpiled enriched material” and “discuss the issue of future enrichment and other mutually agreed matters related to Iran’s nuclear needs based on a satisfactory framework being agreed upon in the final deal”;
  - » An Iranian-Omani dialogue will take place “to define future administration and maritime services” in the Strait of Hormuz, with participation from other Gulf states to settle on a resolution “in line with applicable international law and sovereign rights” of states in the region;
  - » The United States “undertakes to make [Iran’s frozen funds] fully available for use ... upon the implementation of this MOU”;
  - » While negotiations take place on a final deal, the status quo of the Iranian nuclear program will be preserved, and the United States will refrain from putting additional sanctions on Iran or deploying new forces to the Middle East;
  - » The final agreement will include a “definitive and mutually agreed plan” to create and implement a fund worth \$300 billion for Iran’s “reconstruction and economic development”; and
  - » Should a final agreement be attained, the U.S. forces mobilized for the war will leave within 30 days, and all sanctions on Iran will be lifted in accordance with a negotiated timetable.
- Speaking to NBC News on June 15, Vice President Vance [noted](#) that the start date for nuclear inspections could be determined on June 19, the date of the signing ceremony for the MOU. He added, “our expectation is that...because there’s broad agreement on this, there isn’t a whole lot of disagreement on this particular issue, that should happen very quickly.”
  - » Vice President Vance [shared](#) that nuclear inspectors will “absolutely” return to Iran under the new agreement, noting that “one of the core parts of the agreement is that the [International Atomic Energy Agency] and the United States are going to help Iran destroy the highly enriched stockpile.”
  - » He also told NBC that “what the deal says is that for the 60 days that we’re negotiating the final deal, there will be toll-free access in and out of the Strait of Hormuz.”
  - » Vice President Vance further stated that “What we know is this agreement is going to make Israel safer, it’s going to make the entire region safer,” adding that “We feel quite confident the Israelis are going to be bought in on this when we get a little further down the road.”
  - » In addition, Vice President Vance noted that “Israel is often a good partner, we also have aligned interests, but also sometimes we’re going to disagree on issues from time to time,” adding, “that’s totally reasonable, even our closest allies, from the United Kingdom to Israel, we sometimes have disagreements.”

- » During a separate interview with CBS News, Vice President Vance [disputed](#) Iran's claim about receiving \$24 billion in sanctions relief, stating that "the text is very clear. There's nothing about \$24 billion."
- On June 16, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi [confirmed](#) that Parliament Speaker and chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf will attend the signing ceremony for the interim agreement with the United States.
- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [stated](#) on June 16 that an "immediate and permanent end to the war" in Lebanon is "perhaps the most important issue" in the U.S.-Iran memorandum of understanding and warned that any future Israeli operations or continued troop presence in Lebanon would constitute a violation of the deal.
- On June 15, an unnamed senior U.S. official [spoke](#) about the deal with Iran, stating, "The deal is a ceasefire, but it will not be a one-way ceasefire. If Iran is not able to control Hezbollah, and if they attack Israeli positions or Israeli towns, Israel will have the right to defend themselves and respond."
  - » The official continued, saying, "The first point in the MOU talks about how Iran and its allies and America and its allies seek to end hostilities and hopefully have a final peace that hopefully will include a lot of these proxy groups."
  - » The official added, "Hopefully, this will help us get the Israel-Lebanon normalization and peace done properly."
- On June 15, an unnamed senior U.S. official [stated](#) that "Sanctions relief is not tied specifically to any particular conduct; it's tied generally to [Iran] behaving more appropriately."
  - » The official claimed that the United States is more focused on Iran's nuclear program and proxy network than its internal repression, stating, "We care about the domestic situation too, but I would say that's the third priority over the first two."
  - » Another official claimed that "We are prepared to release sanctions, and we'll do some small gestures of that in the beginning, if they make some small gestures to us that show that they're willing to meet their commitments as well."
  - » The official said that "We discussed the possibility of releasing frozen funds, sanctions relief and a big \$300 billion fund to rebuild their country," and that "All of these things are going to be tied to performance."
  - » An official also assured that neither Qatar nor the United Arab Emirates will enter "side deals" with Iran out of concern for the MOU's success.
- On June 15, Prime Minister Netanyahu [stated](#) that Israel does not yet know the details of the emerging U.S.-Iran agreement, but declined to compare it to the 2015 nuclear deal.
  - » Netanyahu emphasized that Israel "will do what is necessary" to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and "preserve" its freedom of action in Lebanon.
- On June 15, Israel Hayom, citing three diplomatic sources, [claimed](#) that the United States approved of a Qatar-Iran agreement that permitted Qatar to send billions of dollars to Iran so that the Iranian government would allow Qatari ships and tankers to transit the Strait of Hormuz.

### *Lebanon*

- On June 16, President Trump [stated](#), "I'm not happy with the way Israel has handled themselves with Lebanon and with Hezbollah. They should have been able to do the job faster. It just goes on forever. And when that happens, it throws a negative light on the big deal, and that's the deal with Iran."
  - » He added that "I didn't like where, two hours before we're signing the agreement, that there was an attack in Lebanon, in Beirut."

- » President Trump stated that “I suggested to Israel to let Syria take care of Hezbollah,” adding, “Because to be honest with you, I think they’d do a better job of doing it.”
- » Speaking of Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa, President Trump stated, “He’s very capable. And he’s been very good for me. He’s protected everything that I’ve asked for... And if Israel can’t do the job without killing everyone else, he’ll do the job. Syria will do the job.”
- On June 16, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [stated](#) that “In our view, the two parties to this memorandum are the US and Israel on one side, and Iran and Hezbollah on the other.
  - » He stated, “This is perhaps the most important issue in the memorandum—the declaration of an immediate and permanent end to the war on all fronts, including in Lebanon.”
  - » Foreign Minister Araghchi added, “Without the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territories they occupied during this war, the war has not fully come to an end.”
  - » He noted that future Israeli attacks in Lebanon “will be considered by us a violation of the memorandum of understanding.”
- On June 16, Iran reportedly [told](#) Hezbollah that it would not finalize a nuclear deal with the United States unless the deal guaranteed Israel would withdraw from Lebanon as a result of the agreement.
- On June 15, President Trump [stated](#) that “We do want to see if we can straighten out the Lebanon thing,” noting, “It just seems to never end,” with Hezbollah.
  - » President Trump also spoke of Hezbollah, stating, “We have to have a little talk with them.”

### 3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- On June 16, Israel’s Channel 12 [reported](#) that the U.S. military will withdraw 20 percent of its refueling planes from Israel’s Ben Gurion airport as the region enters a ceasefire.

#### *Iran*

- On June 16, Israeli Air Force Commander Major General Omer Tischler [revealed](#) that following Iranian strikes targeting Israel last week, “the Air Force launched an offensive 1,500 kilometers [932 miles] from home. Within a few hours, dozens of targets in Iran were struck, significantly damaging the Iranian air defense system and hitting additional regime components.”
  - » He confirmed that on June 8, the Israeli Air Force was set to strike “hundreds of targets in the heart of Iran,” but that “the strike was halted while we were briefing in the squadrons, just one hour before the departure for the sortie.”
  - » According to *The Times of Israel*, Prime Minister Netanyahu called off the attack at the request of President Trump.
- Prime Minister Netanyahu [stated](#) on June 15 that Israel and the United States had removed an “immediate” Iranian nuclear threat and “saved the State of Israel from annihilation.” He pledged that “with an agreement or without an agreement, Iran will not have nuclear weapons.”
  - » Netanyahu added that Israel would continue to maintain security zones and act against Iranian-backed groups across the region, stressing that “the struggle is not over and complete.”
  - » Prime Minister Netanyahu later [stated](#) that the United States and Israel “have a relationship of partners who know each other. Many times, we agree; sometimes we don’t agree. That happens in the best families.”

- Netanyahu [asserted](#) on June 15 that the primary objectives of the war—eliminating Iran’s nuclear and ballistic missile threats—had been achieved, while maintaining that regime change was never an official war aim.
  - » While acknowledging that the Iranian regime remains in power, Netanyahu asserted that “there are cracks within this regime as well” and claimed that the campaign had created conditions that could eventually enable political change in Iran.

#### Lebanon

- On the morning of June 16, Lebanese media [reported](#) that Israel fired a drone, striking a vehicle traveling between Haddatha and Haris in southern Lebanon.
- On June 16, Israel’s Smart Shooter Company [confirmed](#) that it signed a deal with Israel’s Ministry of Defense to provide the IDF with remotely-operated electro-optical fire control systems.
- On June 15, *The Jerusalem Post* [reported](#) that “senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officials [said] there would be zero attacks anywhere in Lebanon – not just in Beirut – following the deal, provided Hezbollah also kept the ceasefire.”

## 4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping and Blockade Status

- Reuters reported on June 16 that the U.S. military has leveraged a network of ship-to-ship oil transfers—the same technique that Iran has employed to evade sanctions—near the Strait of Hormuz since early May to facilitate energy exports.
  - » According to Reuters, at least 92 vessels have [participated](#) in the operation, with transfers occurring off the coast of the United Arab Emirates and Oman under the protection of U.S. military assets.
- Mitsui O.S.K. Lines CEO Jotaro Tamura [told](#) the *Financial Times* on June 16 that commercial shipping companies are unlikely to immediately resume transits through the Strait of Hormuz despite the U.S.-Iran agreement.
  - » He stated that any agreement must be “material and translated into the real situations in the Strait of Hormuz.”
- Reuters [reported](#) on June 15 that efforts to clear potential naval mines from the Strait of Hormuz could delay a full return to normal commercial shipping for several weeks.
  - » Maritime security sources cited by Reuters estimated that mine-clearing operations and verification efforts could take 40 to 50 days before insurers, shipping companies, and energy firms regain confidence in the route.
- TankerTrackers [reported](#) on June 15 that a U.S.-sanctioned very large crude carrier (VLCC) appeared to have crossed the U.S. naval blockade line while spoofing its location and was allegedly loading Iranian crude, while several other Iranian tankers were observed making unusual movements near the blockade area.

## 5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

#### Israel

- On the evening of June 15, Israeli air defenses [shot down](#) several Hezbollah rockets targeting Israeli soldiers operating in southern Lebanon.
- In numerous incidents throughout the day on June 15, Hezbollah operatives [launched](#) mortars and an anti-tank missile at Israeli soldiers operating in southern Lebanon, but failed to cause any injuries.
- Throughout the day on June 15, the IDF [identified](#) groups of Hezbollah fighters in vehicles heading towards Israeli soldiers operating in southern Lebanon on four separate occasions, prompting the Israeli Air Force to successfully strike the threats.

## 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. 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 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. servicemembers were [injured](#), including two who were seriously wounded.
- Since the war began, [at least 58 people have been killed in Israel](#), while over 7,795 have been [injured](#). At least 28 of these [casualties](#) include 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 3,783 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 11,699 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.

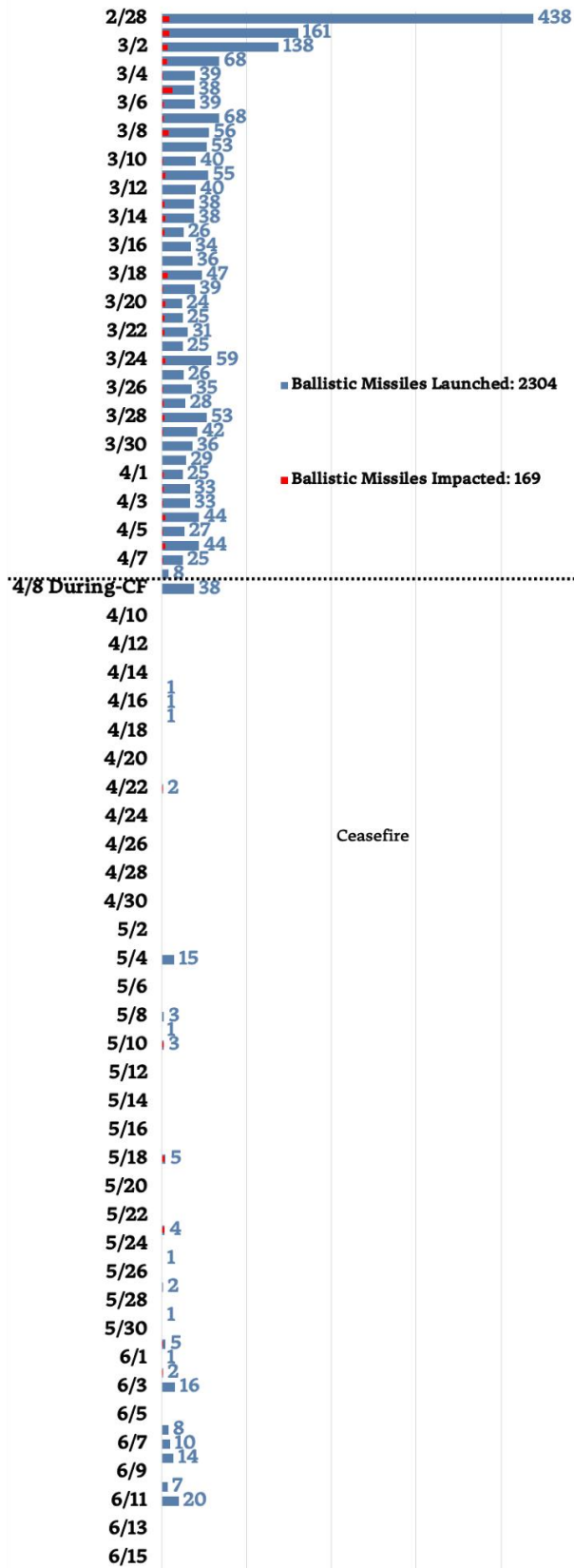
## 7. International Response

- On June 16, Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi [stated](#) that Iran is finalizing plans to connect the country's electricity grid to Qatar's while also noting that Tehran is seeking to connect its power to other Gulf country grids.

## 8. JINSA Resources

- 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
- Rena Gabber and Jonah Brody, [Holding China Accountable for Iran](#), May 13, 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

### Iranian Missiles Launched Per Day



### Iranian Drones Launched Per Day

