



Iran War Update: July 17, 2026

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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 over a 60-day period of further negotiations. However, on July 8, President Trump [declared](#) the MOU to be “over,” and both sides have resumed exchanging fire. JINSA continues to release regular updates about the conflict. The update below includes information since [JINSA's last update](#) as of July 16 at 10:00 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since June 14 U.S.-Iran MOU announcement: **At least 265** (58 on July 16–17)

Ships that have seemingly breached the U.S. blockade: **0**

Ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since June 14 MOU announcement: **At least 652** (at least 7 between July 16–July 17)

Daily average of ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since June 14 MOU announcement: **19.5**

Daily average of ships transiting Strait of Hormuz prior to the Iran war: **138**

1. Overview

- Overnight on July 16–17, in the sixth straight night of U.S. strikes on Iran, American forces struck “dozens of Iranian military targets,” including “coastal surveillance and air defense sites, military logistics infrastructure, and maritime capabilities,” according to a [statement](#) from U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).
- On July 16–17, Iran continued to conduct missile and drone attacks against Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, and commercial shipping, including an attack that hit a water desalination plant in Kuwait, with additional unconfirmed attacks against U.S. forces in al Tanf, Syria and Oman.
- On July 16, three sources told Reuters that Iranian authorities [instructed](#) the Houthi rebels in Yemen to be prepared to close the Bab el Mandeb Strait, a major shipping chokepoint by the Red Sea, if American forces strike Iran’s power infrastructure.
- Commercial shipping flows in the Strait of Hormuz have declined to their lowest level since the MOU was reached approximately a month ago. According to Kpler shipping data reviewed by JINSA, just one commercial vessel has transited the Strait on July 17.
- In an address to the American public on July 16, President Trump [stated](#) that the United States is “winning big in Iran and you will see the fruits of that labor very, very shortly.”

2. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Iran

- On the evening of July 16 (early morning on July 17 in Iran), CENTCOM [announced](#) that “U.S. forces, including fighter jets, aerial drones, and warships, launched precision munitions that hit dozens of Iranian military targets such as coastal surveillance and air defense sites, military logistics infrastructure, and maritime capabilities.”
 - » Iranian local officials and state media claimed that U.S. strikes [hit](#) six bridges, an airport, and a railway station.
 - » Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth [posted](#) a photo on X showing the collapse of a maritime control tower in Chabahar, on the Gulf of Oman.
 - » Iran’s Ministry of Energy [acknowledged](#) for the first time that there were “attacks on power infrastructure” on July 17.

3. Strait of Hormuz Shipping

- On July 16, CENTCOM [announced](#) that U.S. Marines boarded the M/T *Wen Yao* tanker in the Gulf of Oman to verify compliance with the U.S. blockade.
 - » CENTCOM stated that U.S. forces have redirected three commercial ships, disabled one non-compliant vessel, and boarded one ship to verify compliance with the blockade.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- Iranian and proxy operations continued to target Arab states and international shipping over the past 24 hours:
 - » Bahrain
 - Iran launched at least two attacks against Bahrain, with Tehran [claiming](#) to target helicopters and aircraft at a U.S. military base in the country.
 - » Iraq
 - International Coalition air defenses in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan [intercepted](#) eight explosive-laden drones. No injuries or damage were reported.
 - On July 17, Iranian strikes on a camp near Sulaimaniyah, Iraqi Kurdistan, belonging to the Kurdish Komala party, [killed](#) eight members of the group.
 - » Jordan
 - Jordan [announced](#) that its air defenses intercepted three Iranian missiles targeting the country. No casualties or damage were reported.
 - » Kuwait
 - On July 17, Kuwaiti air defenses [engaged](#) an unspecified number of Iranian missiles and drones. According to Kuwaiti authorities, projectiles from the recent strikes [hit](#) a power station and a water desalination plant, causing damage to power generation units.
 - On July 16, the Kuwaiti military [announced](#) that it intercepted 32 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).
 - » Maritime
 - On July 17, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) Center [reported](#) that a projectile struck a tanker off the coast of Oman.

- » Qatar
 - On July 17, Qatar announced that its air defenses [intercepted](#) an unspecified number of projectiles during at least two [attacks](#) targeting the country.
- » Oman
 - On July 17, the IRGC [claimed](#) that it targeted and destroyed two U.S. radar sites in Oman: a maritime surveillance radar and an air-surveillance radar. JINSA is unable to verify this claim.
- » Syria
 - On July 17, the IRGC [claimed](#) it targeted a U.S. special operations command at al-Tanf in southeastern Syria in retaliation for the killing of Iranian soldiers in Iranshahr.
 - A Syrian military source [denied](#) the al-Tanf area had been struck, according to Agence France-Presse. U.S. forces had previously [announced](#) they withdrew from the base earlier this year.

5. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian and Proxy Officials

- On July 17, Commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force Majid Mousavi [stated](#) that “Tehran and the south are one and indivisible as Iran,” adding that “effective and targeted strikes from across Iran against the enemy will continue” until attacks on “the southern coastline and the Strait of Hormuz”
- On July 17, Lebanon’s *Nidaa Al-Watan* newspaper reported that Iran has told its proxies to [prepare](#) for a broader conflict soon.
- On July 16, Houthi leader Abdul Malik al-Houthi [stated](#) that if Saudi Arabia escalates against the Houthis, the group will escalate as well.
 - » He [indicated](#) that “the equation is airports versus airports, ports versus ports, and siege versus siege.”

6. International Response

- In a meeting on July 17 between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, the two officials called on the United States and Iran “to immediately cease hostilities, surmount difficulties, remove disruptions, resume contacts and dialogue, and strive to reach a comprehensive peace agreement through negotiation,” according to a [statement](#) from the spokeswoman of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- On July 17, Kurdistan Regional Government Prime Minister Masrour Barzani [condemned](#) Iran’s “unjustified attacks” against the Kurdistan Region. He urged Tehran to end the escalation, while also calling on Iraq’s federal government and international community to “end these violations.”

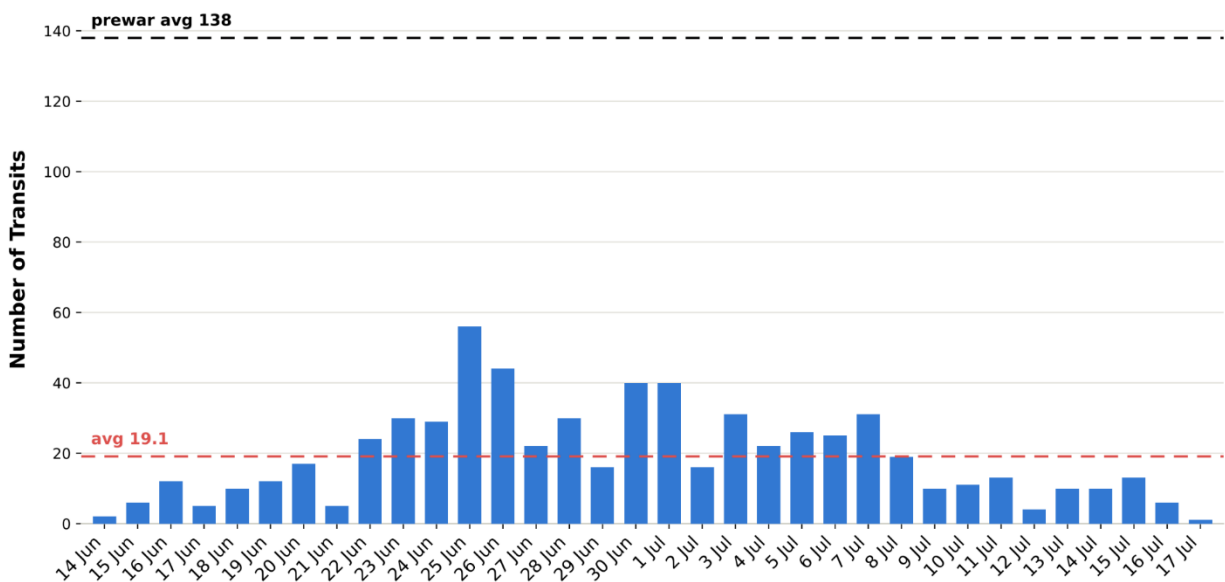
Estimated Casualties of Iranian Operations



Country	Killed	Injured	Notes
United States	14	400+	10 seriously wounded; 354+ returned to duty
Israel	65+	7,795+	Killed include 26 civilians and 39 killed fighting Hezbollah (38 soldiers, 1 contractor)
Iran	3,688+	26,520+	Includes 1,221+ military; Iran International reports 4,700+ security personnel killed
Azerbaijan	—	4	All civilians
Bahrain	3	46	Killed include a Moroccan contractor; injured include 5 Emirati soldiers
Iraq	127	Several	Includes 20 in Iraqi Kurdistan
Jordan	—	31+	
Kuwait	8	160+	Injured includes 90 soldiers
Lebanon	4,324	12,221	Figures do not distinguish Hezbollah operatives from civilians
Oman	3+	17+	
Qatar	7	23	Killed occurred in March 22 helicopter crash
Saudi Arabia	3	23	Killed include 1 Saudi national and 2 foreign nationals
Syria	4+	Several	
United Arab Emirates	12	230	
International Waters	10	Several	

Data compiled by JINSA from various sources.

Commercial Ships Transiting Strait of Hormuz Since MOU



Figures derived from Kpler shipping data reviewed by JINSA.



7. JINSA Resources

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- John Hannah, [How Trump Can Win Back Allies and Rejuvenate U.S. Diplomacy on Iran](#), *The Hill*, July 5, 2026

- Michael Makovsky, PhD, and Blaise Misztal, [Getting on Base: Israel is the Solution to Vulnerability of U.S. Bases in the Gulf](#), July 2, 2026
- Hussein Aboubakr Mansour, [The Unmaking of America's Persian Gulf Order](#), June 26, 2026
- 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
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- 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
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- 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