



Iran War Update: 7/2/26

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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. 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 July 2 at 10:00 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since June 14 U.S.-Iran MOU announcement: **At least 33** (3 on July 2)

Ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since June 14 MOU announcement: **At least 420** (at least 55 between July 1–July 2)

Daily average of ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since June 14 MOU announcement: **22.4**

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

1. Overview

- On July 1, Qatari Spokesman for Foreign Affairs Majed Al Ansari [posted](#) on X that the day's round of indirect U.S.-Iran talks in Qatar had concluded, and involved indications of "positive progress."
 - » He indicated that the next meeting would occur "at the earliest possible time" after former Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's funeral ceremonies, which are set to take place between July 4–9.
- On July 1, President Donald Trump [claimed](#) that "the denuclearization of Iran is moving along well," while indicating that U.S. officials have "had very good meetings, and we'll see" what comes next.
- On July 1, Vice President J.D. Vance [told](#) CNN that the American technical team "is sitting down with the Iranians, with the Qataris, and with others in Doha," adding that, "We're worried about the nuclear issue, we're going to start talking about that, so right now the talks are going well."
- According to *Axios* reporting on July 1, while in Doha for indirect talks, U.S. Special Envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner [have tried](#) to convince the Iranians that a nuclear agreement, including the lifting of all sanctions on Iran, would result in greater financial gain than charging tolls in the Strait of Hormuz.
- On July 1, Iran conducted [drone](#) and [missile](#) attacks against two Kurdish opposition groups in Iraqi Kurdistan.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- *Axios* [reported](#) on July 1 that Special Envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner have tried to convince their Iranian counterparts that Tehran stands to benefit more from a nuclear agreement that would lift all sanctions on Iran than a situation in which Iran keeps charging tolls in the Strait of Hormuz.
 - » According to *Axios* reporting, the United States and Iran reached an understanding on June 28 to de-escalate tensions in the Strait of Hormuz for one week, following tit-for-tat strikes at the end of last week and during the weekend.
 - However, a U.S. official speaking to *Axios* noted that “the President has been clear that every time they shoot, we will shoot more—and at targets that further degrade their position in the Strait.”
 - » Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi, who is leading Iran’s technical team in Doha, shared that the United States and Iran agreed to set up “an emergency communication channel” by July 2 to address MOU violations.
 - Gharibabadi also alleged that the release of Iranian funds frozen in Qatar was discussed, and “it was agreed that, based on Iran’s stated needs, the required goods would be purchased and delivered to Iran.”
 - » A regional source speaking to *Axios* noted that an understanding was reached on the release of \$3 billion of Iran’s frozen funds from Doha, confirming yesterday’s reporting. The source stated that Iran’s central bank could use the funds for humanitarian goods, some of which would be sourced from the United States, rather than receiving the sum in cash.
- On July 1, Qatari Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Majed al-Ansari [posted](#) to X that Qatar and Pakistan had held individual meetings with the American and Iranian negotiating teams, writing that, “Positive progress [was] made on issues related to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, building on the outcomes of the Lake Lucerne Summit.”
- On July 1, Iran’s Speaker of Parliament and lead negotiator, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, [stated](#) that “IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspectors do not have the right to inspect nuclear sites bombed by the U.S.,” referring to the Fordow, Isfahan, and Natanz nuclear facilities that were attacked during the 12-Day War in 2025.
 - » He clarified that “Currently, inspectors only have access to two locations: Bushehr power plant and Tehran reactor.”
 - However, on June 26, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, without specifically referencing any nuclear facilities, claimed that “there is an agreement, and to comply with that agreement, the IAEA will have to have access and inspect.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Iran

- On July 2, U.S. Central Command Commander Admiral Brad Cooper [posted](#) on X, “Today, I was proud to recognize American Soldiers and Sailors assigned to a Joint Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (C-UAS) unit in Bahrain for their exceptional performance in shooting down 14 Iranian one-way attack drones over the past several weeks. The incredible professionalism, skill, and dedication they displayed saved lives.”
- While speaking with U.S. troops on July 1, Vice President Vance [stated](#) that “if you look at what our own intelligence says about their [Iran’s] nuclear program, they are further away from developing a nuclear bomb than they have ever been since basically the last 20 or 30 years.”

- » He continued, stating, “What the president asks you to accomplish is to destroy the defense industrial base of that country, so that if they ever decided to rebuild their military, or if they ever decided to rebuild that nuclear program, they would be hard-pressed to do it. You did that exactly as well.”
- » He assured them that they are the reason for President Trump’s ability to “negotiate from a position of strength,” and that, “If the Iranians try to rebuild the nuclear program, the President’s got options. If the Iranians try to threaten their neighbors or fund terrorism, we’ve got options.”
- » He insisted, “but what we must never do is drop bombs just for the sake of dropping bombs. And that is what the president will never ask you to do.”
- » Vice President Vance continued, noting that “he’ll ask you to go to war, yes. But when he asks you to go to war, he’ll tell you exactly what you’re going for. And I think that is what you should expect out of your political leadership.”
- » After pushing back against criticism of President Trump’s decision to negotiate with the Iranians, he concluded, “we dropped some bombs a couple of days ago ... because the Iranians were shooting at commercial ships ... We applied some leverage, and we’ve had free commercial transit for the last three days.”

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping

- On June 30, CNBC [reported](#), citing a senior Iranian official, that Iran is selling its oil at prices 20 percent higher compared to before the war began.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- On July 1, Iran [launched](#) two drones [against](#) the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) Degala camp in Iraq.
- In a separate July 1 incident, Iran [launched](#) a ballistic missile toward a Kurdistan Freedom Party (PAK) camp in Iraq that air defenses intercepted.

6. Internal Iranian Dynamics

- On July 2, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) [announced](#) that its forces killed five armed individuals in Iran’s northwest region who they claimed crossed into Iran the day prior, according to *Iran International*.

7. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

- On July 2, Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters Commander Ali Abdollahi [stated](#) that as funeral processions for slain Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei approach, “we warn the enemies of Iran, especially the U.S. and the Zionist regime, to avoid any miscalculation and to think about the harsh retaliation our armed forces would make to any threat and aggression against our country.”

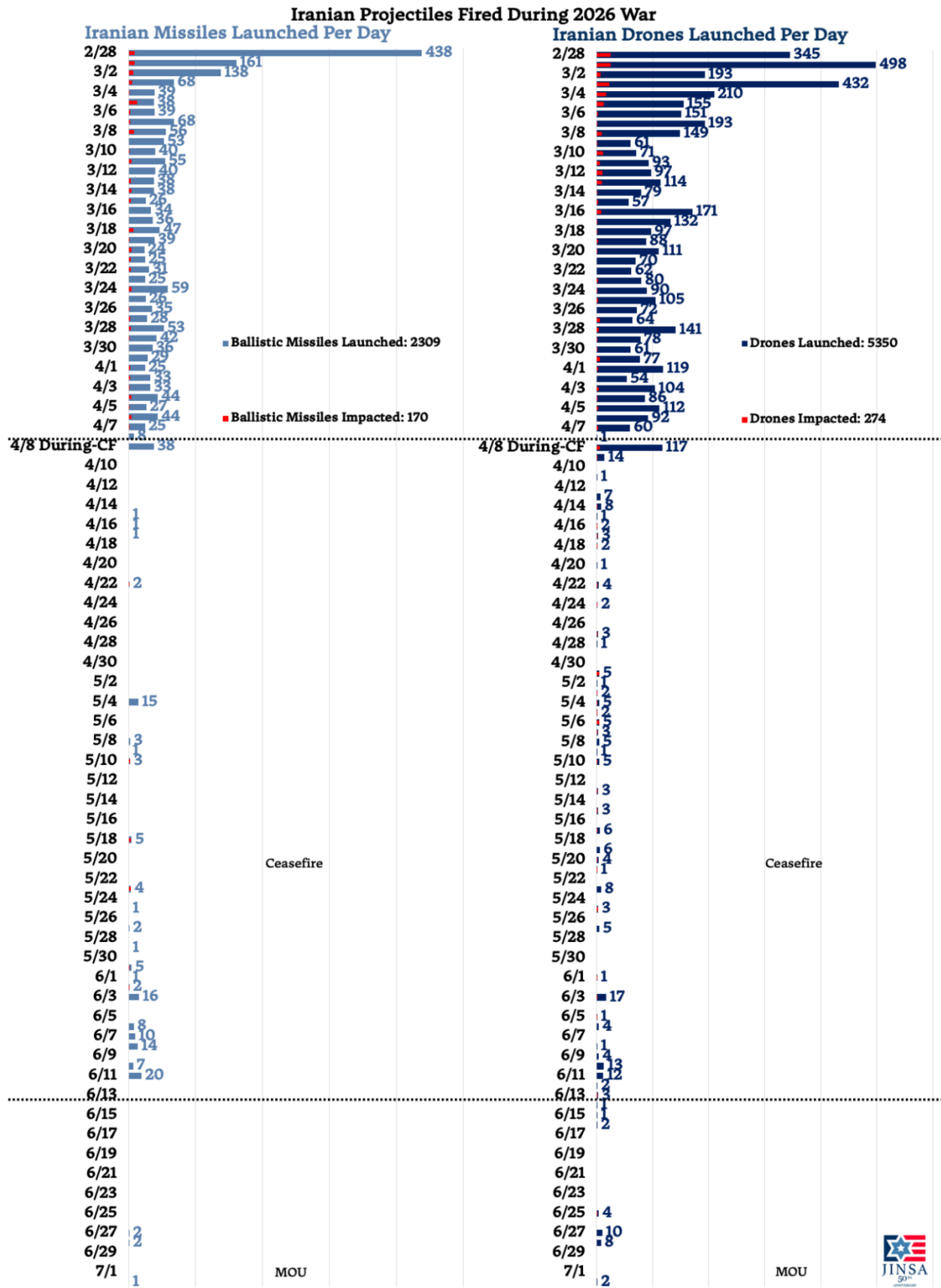
8. International Response

- On July 2, Syrian Foreign Minister Assad al-Shaibani [traveled](#) to Beirut to meet with Lebanon’s Speaker of Parliament and ally of Hezbollah, Nabih Berri.
 - » His visit follows claims by President Trump that he would rather Syria combat Hezbollah in Lebanon than the Israeli military, but the Syrian government has chosen not to enter Lebanon with military force, according to *The Times of Israel*.

9. 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 Khorak, 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 65 people have been killed in Israel, including [26](#) civilians, while over 7,795 have been [injured](#). At least 39 of these [casualties](#) include 38 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 4,257 people have been [killed](#), and nearly 12,196 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.



10. JINSA Resources

- 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
- 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