



Iran War Update: 7/6/26

Ari Cicurel
Associate Director of Foreign Policy

Yoni Tobin
Senior Policy Analyst

Jonah Brody
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 July 6 at 10:30 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since June 14 U.S.-Iran MOU announcement: **At least 33** (0 on July 3–6)

Ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since June 14 MOU announcement: **At least 524** (at least 103 between July 3–6)

Daily average of ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since June 14 MOU announcement: **22.8**

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

1. Overview

- U.S.-Iran negotiations are expected to [restart](#) on July 11, according to reporting from Saudi news outlet *Al Arabiya* over the weekend. The negotiations paused for former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's funeral, which began on July 4.
 - » The talks are expected to cover the lifting of sanctions on Iran, the release of Iranian frozen funds, and Iran's nuclear program.
- On July 6, President Donald Trump [told](#) reporters in the Oval Office that "we've gotten concessions [from Iran], now they have to hold [to] those concessions," while adding, "we're close to maybe making a deal... I don't know. We're going to win one way or the other. Either we're going to make a deal, or we're going to finish the job."
- In a Fox News interview which aired on July 5, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [stated](#) that Israel has "many, many friends," and noted that numerous countries seek defense and technology cooperation with Israel. His comment came in response to a question about recent [remarks](#) from Vice President J.D. Vance in which Vance claimed that President Trump is the only world leader sympathetic to Israel.
- On July 4, President Trump told *Axios* that Prime Minister Netanyahu [requested](#) a meeting at the White House, with the president adding, "we get along very good. [Netanyahu] knows who the boss is," in reference to himself.
 - » The meeting would mark the first for the two leaders since Prime Minister Netanyahu's pre-war visit to Washington in February.

- » President Trump indicated that the meeting could take place this week, but an Israeli official indicated that it was too soon for a meeting because of the NATO summit in Turkey on July 7–8 and that it could take place next week.
- On July 3, President Trump [claimed](#) that Iran is “dying to settle” with the United States, adding that the United States “gave them a week off for [Ali Khamenei’s] funeral.”
 - » Iran’s current Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, one of the former supreme leader’s sons, has not [attended](#) the funeral ceremonies, and his current health status remains unclear following serious injuries he sustained in a February airstrike.
- On July 2, *The New York Times* [reported](#) that U.S. officials asked Middle Eastern nations during ceasefire negotiations in April to warn Iran that they feared Israel was preparing to kill Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and chief Iranian negotiator and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf.
 - » Prime Minister Netanyahu replied to the story by labeling it “fake news” and “a complete fabrication of reality.”
- Satellite imagery from June reviewed by the Institute for Science and International Security showed [construction](#) at the Pickaxe Mountain site near the Natanz Nuclear Facility, possibly in violation of Iran’s obligation under the memorandum of understanding (MOU) [requirement](#) to “maintain the current status quo of its nuclear program.”
 - » However, the images did not indicate that Iran had begun repairing damage at nuclear sites hit during the war.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Iran

- In an interview with Fox News on July 5, Prime Minister Netanyahu [stated](#) that “President Trump believes that after the battering that the two of us—Israel and the United States—gave to Iran, he thinks that he can generate enough leeway, enough pressure through the negotiations to get these goals achieved. And, you know, we respect that, and I hope he succeeds.”
 - » Prime Minister Netanyahu remarked that he and President Trump “are set on the same goal,” stating that, “We want to see Iran give up its nuclear weapons program. We want to see the nuclear-enriched material removed. We want to see the enrichment sites for nuclear material dismantled. We have other common objectives.”
 - » Following President Trump’s [statement](#) to *Axios* the previous day that Netanyahu “knows who the boss is,” Prime Minister Netanyahu told Fox News that he is free to share his opinions with President Trump, stating, “believe me, if I have things that I want to point out in my own opinions, I do so in a free way. And when he has things he wants to tell me, he does that in a free way too.”
 - Describing his relationship with President Trump, Prime Minister Netanyahu shared that “ninety-nine percent of the time, we see eye to eye. But as in any family, any close friendship, there are sometimes differences of opinion, and we discuss them openly...and usually we resolve them too.”

Lebanon

- Speaking on the U.S.-Israel-Lebanon Trilateral Framework, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun [stated](#) on July 3 that the agreement “does not legitimize the continuation of the Israeli occupation in Lebanon,” noting that “our shared objective is one: to secure Israel’s withdrawal.”

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

- On July 5, Israeli Transportation Minister Miri Regev [confirmed](#) Israel's deployment of an Iron Dome battery to the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) near the beginning of the Iran war, becoming the first Israeli official to publicly acknowledge the Iron Dome's deployment to the U.A.E.
- According to reporting from Israel's *Walla News* on July 5, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and the Israeli Defense Ministry are [preparing](#) a multi-year procurement plan worth NIS 130 billion (roughly \$43 billion) to buy aircraft and munitions and build factories and production lines in Israel.
 - » The article noted that the Defense and Finance ministries remain deadlocked over funding the procurement plan, with three months of negotiations failing to narrow differences over Israel's long-term defense budget.
- In English-language remarks released on July 4, Prime Minister Netanyahu [commended](#) the United States as "the greatest force for liberty the modern world has known" and extolled the U.S.-Israel relationship, noting that it is "built not only on shared interests, it's built on shared values."
 - » Prime Minister Netanyahu remarked that "when America and Israel stand together, freedom stands stronger."
 - » Referring to Operations Epic Fury and Roaring Lion, Prime Minister Netanyahu shared, "The tyrants we face chant, 'Death to America, death to Israel.' They think freedom is weak. They think democracies are weak. They're wrong about our two democracies."

Lebanon

- On July 6, the IDF [announced](#) that over the past month, its troops seized more than 150 weapons belonging to Hezbollah in Haddatha in southern Lebanon, including anti-tank missiles, firearms, and RPGs.
 - » The IDF also confirmed that in Haddatha, its forces eliminated around 20 Hezbollah fighters and damaged 90 sites belonging to the organization.
- On July 6, Lebanese media [reported](#) that Israeli forces struck a car close to Nabatieh al-Fawqa in southern Lebanon, killing four people, including three women and one Syrian man.
- On July 5, Israeli forces [carried out](#) an airstrike on Hezbollah fighters traveling on motorcycles in the southern Lebanese town of al-Aqaide.
 - » In a separate July 5 incident, Lebanese media [reported](#) that Israeli forces had conducted an airstrike in the area of the Ali Taher ridge in southern Lebanon.
- Speaking to Fox News on July 5, Prime Minister Netanyahu [claimed](#) that some Christian villages in Lebanon "have actually asked to be annexed to Israel because we protect them against the Hezbollah fanatics who want to kill them."
 - » Prime Minister Netanyahu added, "It's not only the Christians in Lebanon who asked for our protection. It's the Druze, it's Muslims, the Sunni Muslims and quite a few of the Shi-ite Muslims too... they'd like to free Lebanon. I hope we can get more peace deals."
 - » Prime Minister Netanyahu remarked that the U.S.-Israel-Lebanon Trilateral Framework makes clear that he and President Trump "have more cards to play" to strengthen Israel's ties in the Middle East.
- On July 4, Israeli soldiers [killed](#) a Hezbollah gunman in the area of Majdal Zoun in southern Lebanon following a manhunt after he opened fire on the troops.

- On July 3, the Israeli Air Force (IAF) [bombed](#) around 10 Hezbollah positions in the southern Lebanese towns of Baraashit, Beit Yahoun, Bint Jbeil, and Kounine after a Hezbollah gunman fired on Israeli soldiers in Bint Jbeil, injuring a reservist.
- Overnight on July 3, the IAF [bombed](#) a Hezbollah truck that fighters were using to transport weapons close to Israel's security zone in southern Lebanon.
- On July 2, the IDF [announced](#) that it killed a Hezbollah operative who emerged from a tunnel at the Ali Taher ridge in southern Lebanon, stating that the individual posed an immediate threat to Israeli forces operating in the area.

4. Strait of Hormuz Shipping

- On July 4, Iranian Ambassador to China Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli [stated](#) that Iran intends to impose "service fees" on vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz after the 60-day fee-free period established under the interim agreement.
 - » Fazli said Iran would provide "special treatment" to countries that "were friendly to us and specially stood by us during the hard times."
- Reuters reported on July 3 that Iran has begun [discussions](#) with Japanese companies to resume oil exports under the temporary U.S. sanctions waiver, though prospective buyers are seeking a longer waiver and assurances regarding the security of maritime transit.

5. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- On July 6, Israeli prosecutors [indicted](#) Bekhruz Shakhriev Dodobaev, a Tajik national, accused of conducting intelligence collection on behalf of Iran, including documenting missile impact sites and sensitive infrastructure such as Haifa Port and an Elbit Systems facility.
- On July 5, Iran-backed Houthi fighters operating south of Hodeidah in Yemen [killed](#) 14 government troops in the Hays district during hours-long clashes.
- On July 4, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi [met](#) with Hamas Shura Council Chairman Muhammad Ismail Darwish and other Hamas and Hezbollah representatives, according to photos published on his official Telegram channel.
- On July 2, a Hezbollah gunman [fired](#) at Israeli soldiers operating in Bint Jbeil in southern Lebanon, severely injuring one Israeli reservist.

6. Internal Iranian Dynamics

- On July 6, *Iran International* [confirmed](#) that the Iranian government reappointed Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, known for his hardline beliefs and severe repressive practices, as the country's Chief Justice.
- On July 3, IRGC Commander Brig. Gen. Ahmad Vahidi [appeared](#) publicly for the first time since February 8, attending events surrounding Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's funeral.
 - » The Associated Press previously [reported](#) that Vahidi has become a key figure in formulating Iran's negotiating position and is believed to be among the senior officials in direct contact with Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei.

7. Threats, Condemnations, and Statements from Iranian Officials

- On July 5, Iranian Chief Justice Ejei [threatened](#) the United States for killing former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, saying, "the ruling on corruption on earth, waging war against God, war criminals, and those who illegally start a war is clear," and that "we will try you according to human and divine standards and international law. A criminal must be tried and punished, and must pay the price for their crimes."

- On July 4, the new commander of the IRGC's Navy, Rear Admiral Ali Ozmaei, [warned](#) that, "We are confident that divine retribution against the terrorist US and the illegitimate Zionist regime is not far away, and that the banner of truth will remain raised at the summit of dignity and power."
 - » Directly referencing the assassination of Ali Khamenei, Ozmaei stated that "Those who committed this crime believed they could halt the path of truth, but instead they exposed themselves to history's condemnation and to the wrath and severe retribution of this nation."
- On July 4, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi [wrote](#) on X that, "The Strait of Hormuz is not a theater for the military display of extra-regional powers. Iran, as the responsible power and guarantor of the Strait's security, warns with sensitivity to any military movement in this waterway. The security of Hormuz lies with the coastal states; the crisis-makers will be held accountable for the consequences of their adventurism; this is a serious warning."
 - » His post [followed](#) a joint statement from the British and French governments claiming that they are cooperating with Oman to ensure safe transit through the waterway.
 - In this statement, the governments also [reaffirmed](#) their preparedness "to deploy the wider Multinational Military Mission to support freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz."
- On July 3, Iranian parliament speaker and lead negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf [urged](#) the United States and Israel to abide by the MOU, asserting, "we will firmly demand the full implementation of the understandings that have been reached," and that "If the United States and the Zionist regime do not honor their commitments, the Islamic Republic of Iran will resume its proportionate measures."
- On July 3, Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree [threatened](#) Saudi Arabia after claiming that Riyadh had intruded in Yemeni airspace, saying, "we warn the criminal Saudi enemy against repeating any attempt to violate our airspace or any aggression targeting our country. Such actions will be met with a comprehensive response targeting its airports and vital interests on land and sea."

8. International Response

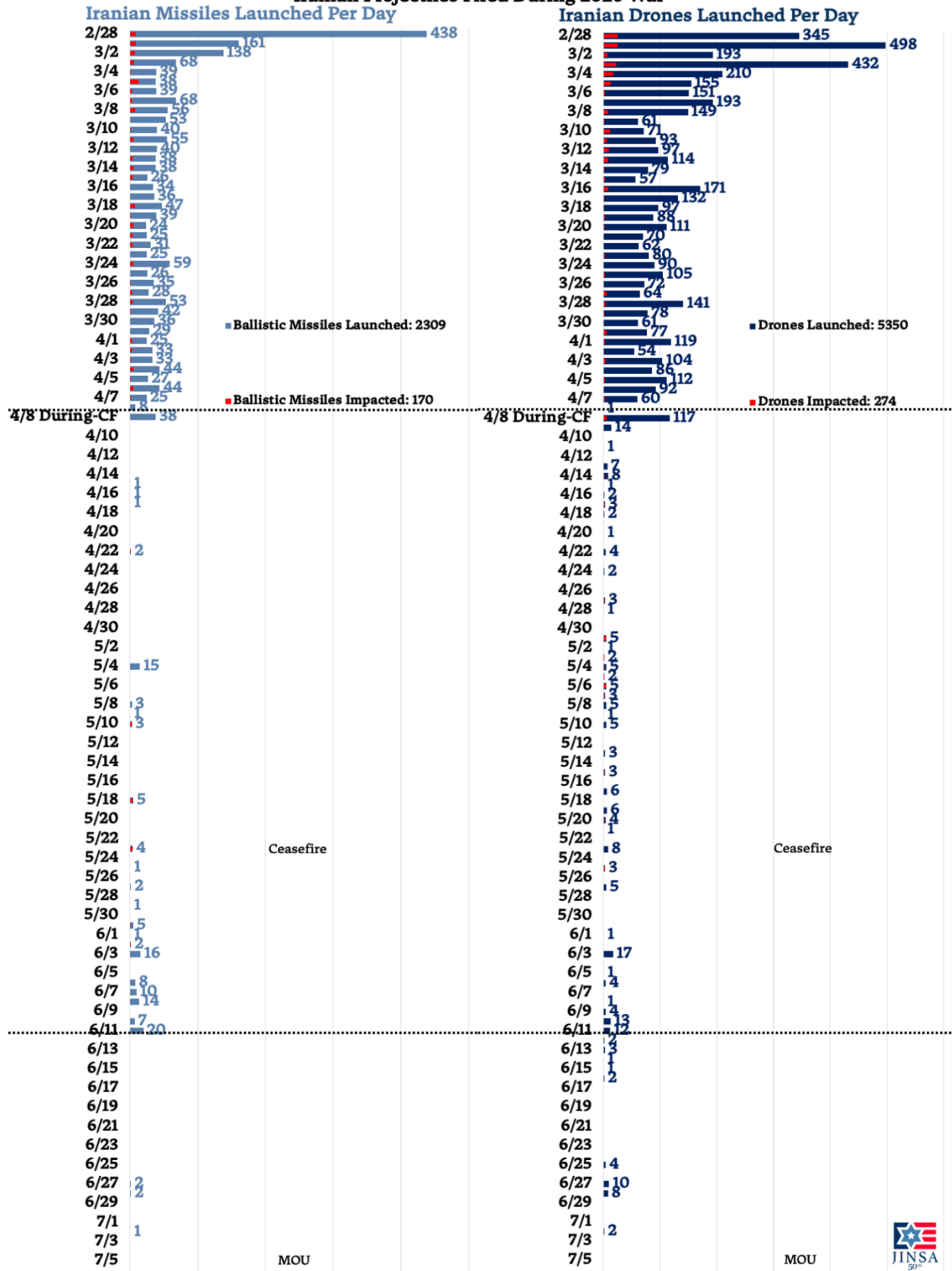
- On July 6, Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear corporation, indicated that its staff will [return](#) in mid-July to Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant, which it had evacuated during the war.
- On July 5, Reuters [reported](#) that Iran and Qatar resumed maritime trade after a roughly five-month suspension. According to Iranian officials cited by Reuters, the U.A.E.'s Jebel Ali Port has also resumed clearing Iranian goods.
- On July 4, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan [accused](#) Israel's government of tying "its political survival to the continuation of conflicts in the region" and warned that the "war-addicted" Israeli government should not be allowed to plunge the region back into the "smell of gunpowder and blood."
- On July 3, foreign dignitaries attended former Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's [funeral](#), including Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who has mediated U.S.-Iran talks, and Dmitry Medvedev, Russia's former president and deputy chair of its Security Council, as well as representatives from Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, China, Namibia, Afghanistan, Cuba, Serbia, and Turkmenistan.

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.

Iranian Projectiles Fired During 2026 War



10. JINSA Resources

- 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
- 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