



Iran War Update: July 9, 2026

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 8 at 10:00 am ET.

Iranian missiles and drones launched since June 14 U.S.-Iran MOU announcement: **At least 89** (37 between July 8–9)

Ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since June 14 MOU announcement: **At least 579** (at least 23 between July 8–July 9)

Daily average of ships transiting Strait of Hormuz since June 14 MOU announcement: **22.6**

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

1. Overview

- Following U.S. strikes against Iran on June 8, Iran [launched](#) roughly 31 missiles and drones at targets in Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq, and Qatar, with hits reported in Bahrain and Iraq.
- Following Iranian missile and drone attacks against Bahrain and Kuwait on July 8, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) [conducted](#) airstrikes in Iran against approximately 90 targets, ten more than it had hit during [strikes](#) on July 7.
 - » Targets included “air defense systems, coastal surveillance assets, missile and drone storage sites, naval capabilities, and military logistics infrastructure along Iran’s coastline,” according to a [statement](#) from CENTCOM.
 - » Iran also announced that a U.S. projectile [hit](#) the perimeter of Iran’s Bushehr nuclear power plant, and that the Aq Taqueh Khan railway bridge linking Iran to China and Russia was [struck](#).
- President Donald Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social on July 8 that [U.S. strikes](#) against 80 Iranian targets earlier that day were “in retribution for yesterday’s bombing of ships by Iran,” adding that, “If it happens again, it will get much worse!”
 - » However, a few hours prior to his Truth Social post, President Trump [denied](#) that the conflict with Iran would restart, adding that “anything that happens is going to be over very quickly, and we’ll only make it safer—including for oil.”
 - » When asked why he was calling Iranian leaders crazy after repeatedly characterizing them as more reasonable, President Trump [remarked](#), “when you say rational, I think

they're much more rational than level one, level two," referring to Iranian leaders eliminated during the war. He noted, "This is level three. I think they are more rational, but, based on their actions over the last week or two, they're not doing a service to their people."

- » Late on July 8, President Trump [claimed](#) that Iran "called a little while ago, they want to make a deal so badly," but added that "I don't know if they are going to honor a deal, that's the problem." He also warned that "every time they hit us we're going to hit them twenty[fold]."
 - President Trump had [shared](#) earlier in the day that U.S. negotiators continue to engage with Iran, though he then declared, "I'm not sure I want to make a deal. Let's just finish the job."
- According to *Axios* reporting on July 8, the White House is [preparing](#) for an escalation with Iran over the Strait of Hormuz that could span multiple days or weeks, depending on Iran's next actions.

2. Diplomatic Engagement

Lebanon

- A Lebanese diplomatic source speaking yesterday to Agence France-Presse [shared](#) that Beirut is requiring the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to withdraw from two pilot zones in southern Lebanon in order to join negotiations with Israel scheduled for July 15–16 in Rome, Italy.

3. U.S. and Israeli Operations

Iran

- On the evening of July 8, CENTCOM [announced](#) on X that its forces struck around 90 regime sites in Iran, "including air defense systems, coastal surveillance assets, missile and drone storage sites, naval capabilities, and military logistics infrastructure along Iran's coastline."
 - » Overnight, U.S. forces also reportedly [launched](#) cruise missiles in northern Iran, targeting two railway bridges.
 - » According to Iranian state media, strikes also [targeted](#) the Kalantari Port, Shahid Beheshti Port, and the port city of Chabahar's maritime traffic control tower.
 - » Iranian officials also [confirmed](#) that American forces attacked the Iranshahr Airport/Airbase, a facility used by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC) Aerospace Force.
 - The strikes on the Iranshahr base [mark](#) the deepest U.S. attack on Iranian territory since the two countries agreed to a ceasefire.
 - » Following the overnight attacks, Iran's Ministry of Health [reported](#) on July 9 that over the past two days, 14 people have died and 78 others have sustained injuries due to U.S. strikes on the country.
 - According to Iranian military officials, a U.S. airstrike on the morning of July 9 [killed](#) two members of the IRGC and one Basij member in Iran's Khuzestan province.
- Describing the most recent bout of escalation, President Trump [noted](#) on July 8 that Iran "hit a couple of ships, and so we hit them much harder."
- On July 8, Israel's Kan public broadcaster [reported](#) that the United States has started to re-deploy refueling jets to the CENTCOM area of responsibility as the U.S. and Iranian militaries exchange strikes.

Lebanon

- After President Trump [claimed](#) on July 8 that the IDF would withdraw from Lebanon, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz stated on July 9 that “we didn’t ask for anyone’s approval to enter Lebanon, and we don’t need approval to stay in Lebanon.”
 - » Defense Minister Katz continued, insisting, “It is our right and duty to defend the residents of the Galilee and Israeli citizens from the threats of the jihadist terror group Hezbollah, which aims to destroy the State of Israel.”
 - » He also assured that “As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and I have clarified, we will continue to stay in the security zone in Lebanon and to act from it as needed, until Hezbollah is disarmed in all of Lebanon and the threat to the residents of the north is removed.”
- On July 8, Lebanese media [reported](#) that an Israeli drone strike killed two people close to a hospital in the southern Lebanese town of Nabatieh al-Fawqa.
- On July 7, Israeli troops in the Yiftah Brigade [encountered](#) two members of Hezbollah’s Radwan Force in the southern Lebanese town of Bint Jbeil, killing one of the operatives and taking another captive.

4. Iranian and Proxy Operations

- On July 9, Kuwait [intercepted](#) 1 cruise missile, 3 ballistic missiles, and 10 drones. Falling debris caused one casualty and material damage in several locations across the country. The IRGC [stated](#) it targeted two U.S. military installations in Kuwait, while the Iranian military [claimed](#) it had targeted a Patriot missile interceptor system.
- On July 9, Iran claimed to [fire](#) 10 ballistic missiles at Jordan, with Jordanian forces [intercepting](#) eight missiles.
 - » Jordan’s state media reported that no injuries or damages were caused in the attack.
- On June 9, an Iranian drone [targeted](#) an unspecified Iranian Kurdish opposition party outside Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan without any initially reported casualties.
- On June 9, Iran’s military [claimed](#) it targeted an early warning system in Qatar with one-way attack drones.
- On July 8–9, the Bahrain Defence Force [reported](#) it intercepted an unspecified number of projectiles across three separate attack waves. The IRGC [claimed](#) it targeted two U.S. military installations in Bahrain, while Iran’s military [claimed](#) to have targeted fuel storage tanks.
 - » Open-source videos circulating online [appeared](#) to show a ballistic missile impact in Bahrain on the morning of July 9.

5. International Response

- On July 9, Qatar’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs [released](#) a statement condemning Iran’s targeting of Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan, calling the attacks “a blatant violation of the sovereignty of these countries and a flagrant breach of international law.”

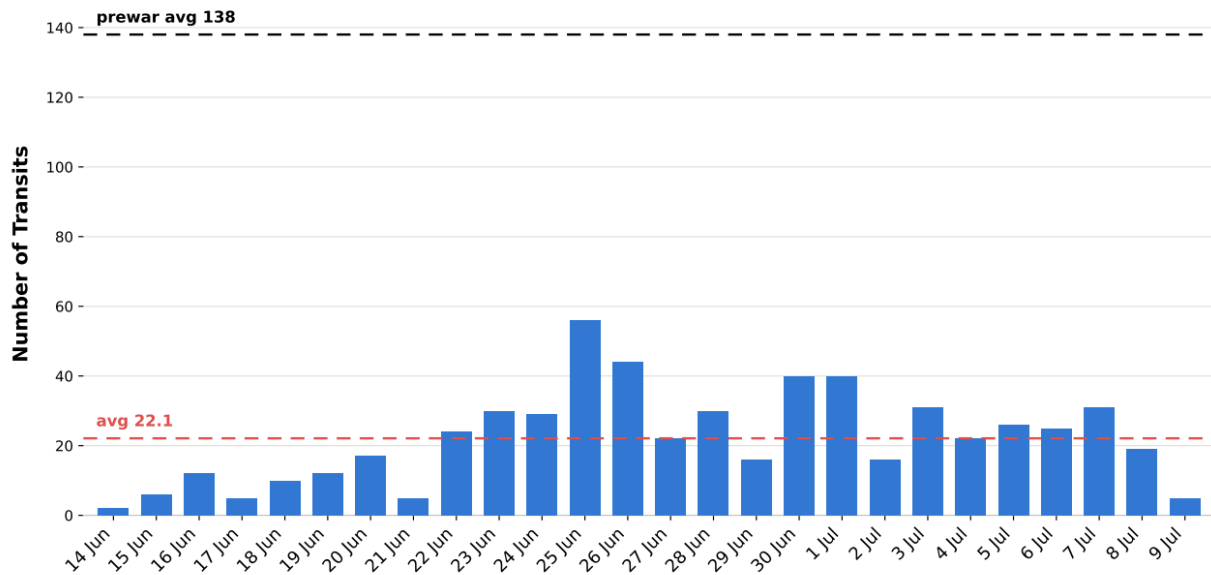
Estimated Casualties of Iranian Operations



Country	Killed	Injured	Notes
United States	13	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	3,650+	26,500+	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	119	—	Includes 20 in Iraqi Kurdistan
Jordan	—	31+	
Kuwait	8	161+	Injured includes 90 soldiers
Lebanon	4,321	12,203	Figures do not distinguish Hezbollah operatives from civilians
Oman	3+	17+	
Qatar	7	20	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	

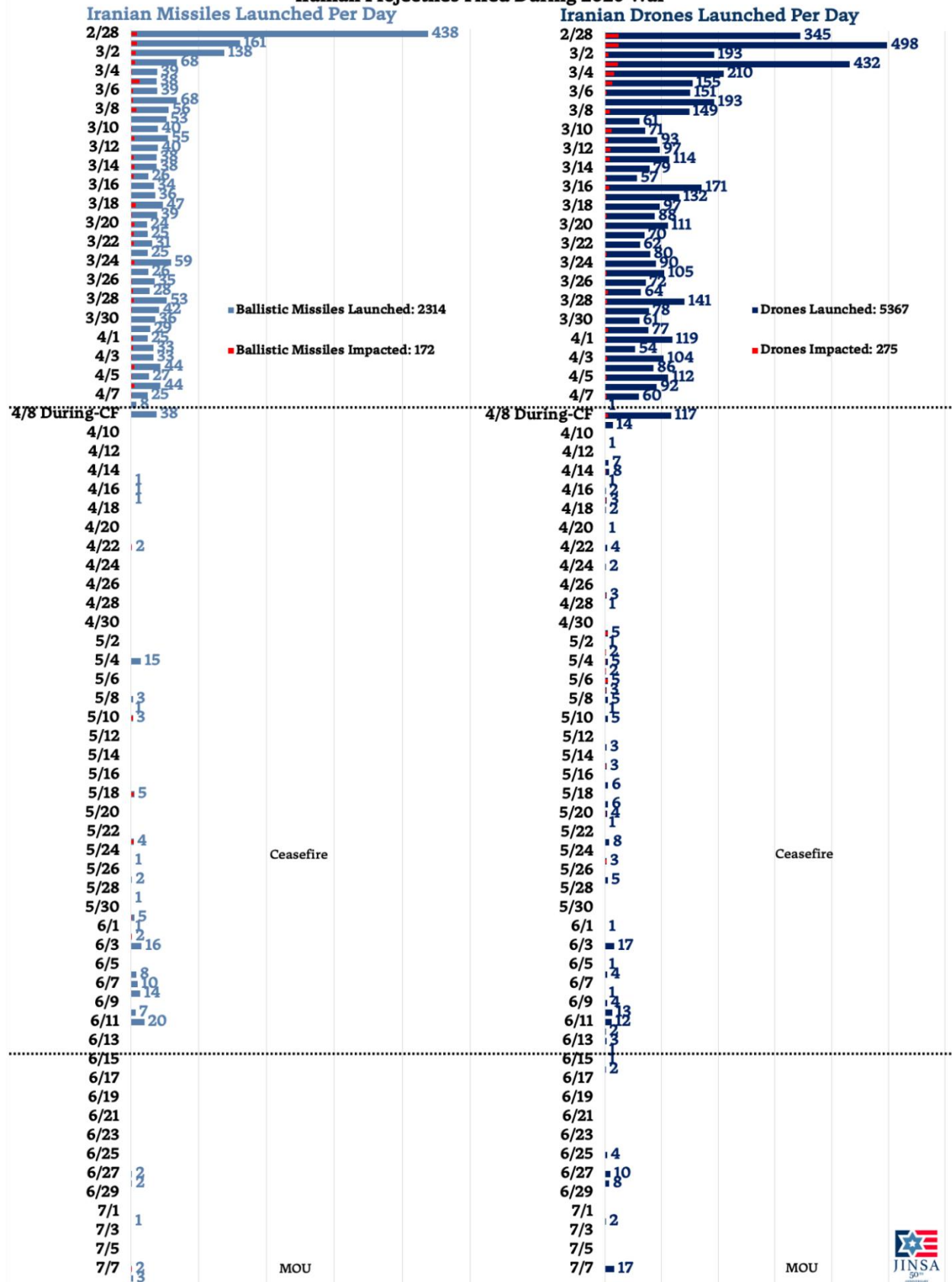
Data compiled by JINSA from various sources.

Commercial Ships Transiting Strait of Hormuz Since MOU



Figures derived from Kpler shipping data reviewed by JINSA.

Iranian Projectiles Fired During 2026 War



6. JINSA Resources

- Yoni Tobin, [*Oil For Tehran, Not Us: Removing Iran's Strait Jacket on Global Energy Flows*](#), July 8, 2026
- 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