

US–Iran Conflict Briefing

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U.S. destroys two Iranian boats in drone clash off Larak Island

- The U.S. military said Tuesday it destroyed two small Iranian boats this week that were trying to take possession of a U.S. unmanned surface vessel off Iran. CENTCOM spokesman Capt. Tim Hawkins identified the drone as a Saildrone, a roughly 25-foot autonomous craft, and said all surface drones 'remain fully accounted for.' — [AP](#)
- Iranian state media (IRNA), citing Hormozgan deputy governor Ahmad Nafisi, said Monday evening a pair of fishing boats off the Kargan coast near Larak Island came under attack from an 'enemy drone' and several fishermen are missing; search and rescue underway. No mention of a drone-seizure attempt. — [AP](#)
- Axios, citing an anonymous U.S. official, says two missiles were fired, killing most of those on board — unconfirmed; no approved outlet has corroborated the casualty claim. — [Axios](#)
- Secretary of State Marco Rubio called Oman's foreign minister Tuesday to discuss de-escalation and reopening Hormuz, per the State Department. — [AP](#)

CBS publishes new photos of March strike damage on U.S. bases

- CBS News published newly obtained photos of the aftermath of the March 2026 Iranian missile/drone strikes: the severed tail and destroyed radar dome of a USAF E-3 Sentry at Prince Sultan Air Base, destroyed trailers/barracks/vehicles at Camp Buehring, and building damage at Camp Arifjan. CBS is not on the approved-outlet list — attribute images as 'published by CBS News, provided by active service members on condition of anonymity.' — [CBS News](#)
- This is newly released imagery of an earlier attack, not a new attack: the photos document the March 27 strikes. Unconfirmed: a service member's claim that this damage 'hasn't been communicated to the American public' — in tension with Monday's Pentagon IG loss accounting. — [CBS News](#)
- The underlying damage is already corroborated: CNN geolocated the E-3 wreckage to Prince Sultan; WSJ and AP reported the March 27 strike (6 ballistic missiles, 29 drones, at least 10-15 troops wounded); Air & Space Forces Magazine confirmed the E-3G Sentry loss. — [CNN](#), [WSJ](#), [AP](#)

MBS holds one-day Cairo visit; Red Sea navigation tops agenda

- Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman made a one-day working visit to Cairo, meeting President Sisi at Al-Ittihadiya Palace, followed by expanded delegation talks (Saudi delegation included FM Prince Faisal bin Farhan) and a luncheon; he departed the same day. — [Reuters](#)
- The Egyptian presidency readout: both leaders stressed freedom and security of navigation in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Red Sea; Sisi backed Saudi measures to protect its security and stability and called for a comprehensive, sustainable political solution to the Yemen crisis; Gulf security is 'an integral part of Egypt's national security.' Al Jazeera independently confirmed the readout. — [Reuters](#)
- Neither side gave firm details on any future steps; Egypt is unlikely to offer military help. No further outcomes were announced — mark remaining questions unconfirmed. — [AP](#)

Oil closes at four-month highs; Yanbu loadings suspended; Libya force majeure risk

- Brent closed +2.9% at \$108.75 and WTI +4.4% at \$105.83 — the highest closes since May 19. — [Wall Street Journal](#)
- Shipping sources say Saudi Arabia has suspended oil loadings at the port of Yanbu; full repair of the East-West pipeline pumping stations still seen at six to eight weeks. — [Reuters](#)
- China's yuan-denominated Shanghai crude futures hit 929.4 yuan (\$138.50)/bbl — a record since the contract's 2018 launch — driven by the Saudi pipeline outage and Chinese refiner buying. — [Bloomberg](#)
- Libya's NOC said Tuesday operations are suspended at the Hamada and Tahara fields and a pumping station after the Petroleum Facilities Guard closed a valve on the main Hamada-Zawiya pipeline; NOC may declare force majeure. Volumes are small (~10,000 b/d per Argus) but the Guard threatens a partial cut for one week at Wafa, Al-Khamsa and El Feel, then a complete shutdown. — [Reuters](#)
- Trump posted Monday: 'Oil will drop like a rock as soon as the Military Conflict with Iran is over, and that will not be long.' — [AP](#)

Daytime Hormuz escorts reported; TankerTrackers corroborates, volumes disputed

- Axios reports the U.S. military and Gulf nations have begun escorting tankers through Hormuz in daylight — the first daytime escorts since the short-lived Operation Project Freedom in May. Axios claims up to 40 transits in a single day last week and Trump claims up to 17M bpd exiting. Axios is not on the approved list; treat as reported, partially corroborated. — [New York Post \(citing Axios\)](#)
- Satellite imagery shows large tankers transiting in/out in daytime, corroborating the escort reports. But TankerTrackers' 60-day average crude flow is only ~7.85M bpd — well under Trump's 17M claim — and Reuters/Kpler showed fewer than 10 transits/day over the weekend. Volumes contested; mark medium confidence. — [@TankerTrackers \(X\)](#)

Saudi-Houthi front and El Gaia: latest

- A Houthi official said Tuesday that Saudi warplanes struck Yemen, killing three people including two children — a Houthi claim, not independently verified. — [AP](#)
- IOM now reports nearly 94,000 displaced in southwestern Yemen (up from 80-82k this morning), with 2,000+ crossing to Djibouti. Not yet approved-outlet verified. — [IOM \(via trade press\)](#)
- El Gaia dispute stands (IRGC mine claim vs. CENTCOM missile+drone account; IMO neutral). New X chatter: globalsecurity.org imagery digest cites an AIS-based challenge to the CENTCOM account (unverified, low confidence); the IRGC's PGSA warned insurers/P&I clubs/classification societies on X against servicing 'violating' vessels (Iranian official claim, no approved-outlet pickup — unconfirmed). — [X \(unverified\)](#)
- The Institute for Science and International Security published satellite imagery (Sept 14) saying Iran is limiting access to tunnel entrances at Pickaxe Mountain. Credible analysts but no approved-outlet pickup — unconfirmed. — [ISIS \(expert analysis\)](#)

What to watch next

- Watch list for Wednesday: the Fed decision at 2 PM Eastern (markets pricing a quarter-point hike under Chairman Warsh with \$108 oil); whether Saudi Arabia retaliates against the Houthis; any partial East-West pipeline restart at Yanbu; confirmation of the Hormuz escorts and real traffic numbers; the missing El Gaia crew member. — [AP](#)

Conflict map



Markers show reported strike sites, bases, and shipping areas. Purple polygons mark approximate or announced closure / exclusion zones.

Related media



Destroyed USAF E-3 Sentry AWACS wreckage at Prince Sultan Air Base — March 2026 imagery of the wreckage shown in CBS News's newly published photos — [view original](#)



Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman with President Sisi (file image, March 2026) — no same-day image of today's Cairo meeting was available — [view original](#)

■ [CBS News 24/7: new images show widespread damage at U.S. bases in the Middle East after the March Iranian attacks \(Sept 15\)](#)

■ [Al Arabiya English W News segment on the MBS/Sisi Cairo meeting \(Sept 15\)](#)

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