

Middle East war**US launches fresh strikes after Tehran declares Strait of Hormuz closed**

Iran retaliates against targets in Jordan, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar



US Central Command said its military hit about 140 Iranian targets using fighter jets, drones and warships in the most intense set of strikes this week © US Central Command/Reuters

Steff Chávez in Washington and **Najmeh Bozorgmehr** in Tehran

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The US has hit Iran with missile strikes for the third time this week after the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps struck a commercial ship transiting the Strait of Hormuz and declared the waterway closed.

American forces struck after the IRGC “blatantly attacked” the M/V GFS Galaxy, a Cyprus-flagged container ship, US Central Command said on Saturday.

Centcom said the US military hit roughly 140 Iranian targets using fighter jets, drones and warships in the most intense set of strikes this week.

Targets included “Iranian missile and drone sites, naval capabilities, ammunition storage facilities, communication networks and coastal surveillance locations”, Centcom added.

The US attacks came after the IRGC's naval forces announced on Saturday that the strait was "closed until further notice and until the end of US interference in the region, and no vessel would be permitted to transit".

The Revolutionary Guards said the decision followed an incident in which several vessels, "encouraged by foreign actors", attempted to transit via an "unauthorised route" and ignored warnings to proceed along the approved passage.

"As a result, one of the vessels — which had switched off its onboard systems, thereby endangering maritime safety — was struck by a warning shot and brought to a halt," the statement said.

The UK's Maritime Trade Operations said it had received a report of an incident nine nautical miles east of Oman.

The IRGC said in a statement that a second "offending" vessel in the Strait of Hormuz had been struck and brought to a halt, without providing further details.

Iran retaliates against Gulf nations after US strikes country for third time this week

Strikes over past 24 hours to 9.14am GMT on July 12 2026

◆ Iran airstrike

◆ US airstrike



Iran has retaliated against the US strikes, launching attacks against targets in Jordan, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar.

The IRGC confirmed it had struck Jordan's Prince Hassan Air Base, "destroying the base's command-and-control centre and MQ-9 drone hangars with several ballistic missiles" and adding that "any continuation of aggression by the treacherous US will be met with even more severe responses".

The force also said on Sunday that it had targeted the US Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar with ballistic missiles and had struck and destroyed the logistical support centres for warships and the refuelling platforms serving US aircraft carriers at Oman's Port of Duqm "in a heavy and surprise attack".

Drones had been used to target a Patriot missile system, an ammunition depot and a radar site belonging to the US in Kuwait, Iran's army added, as well as confirming an attack on a US communications system and a radar site in Bahrain.

Bahrain's interior ministry confirmed that its missile alert siren had been activated.

Oman's state news agency said drones targeted a coastal province, a day after Muscat had held talks with Iran about the strait.

Qatar, one of the lead mediators between Iran and the US, said it had intercepted missiles that were fired towards the country.

The United Arab Emirates' defence ministry said missile threats were detected this morning but were outside the country's borders, adding that its national monitoring and tracking systems were operating "around the clock at the highest levels of readiness".

The IRGC said separately on Sunday that the US had carried out air strikes against several coastal bases and communications towers along Iran's southern coastline.

Local officials in southern Iran said the cities of Bushehr, Asaluyeh and Dayyer had come under attack, adding that there had been no reports of injuries or fatalities. State media said explosions were heard in the port city of Bandar Abbas and in the city of Sirik.

Centcom did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the IRGC's claims.

RESUME

US Centcom said it had hit more than 300 Iranian targets across three days of strikes © Centcom

The IRGC's attack on the Galaxy came a day after top US officials issued a fresh demand for Tehran to declare publicly that it would halt attacks in the Strait of Hormuz.

Centcom said a civilian crew member from the Galaxy was missing, adding that there was a fire and the ship's engine room had sustained significant damage.

Washington's military action this week came in response to Tehran's attacks on commercial ships attempting to transit the strait.

"Iran was provided yet another opportunity to demonstrate adherence to the Memorandum of Understanding after being held accountable for earlier attacks on commercial vessels but has again failed," said Centcom, referring to the agreement signed by the US and Iran almost a month ago to extend a ceasefire by 60 days. Tehran had agreed to reopen the waterway after the MOU was signed.

"In response, the United States is imposing a heavy cost by continuing to degrade Iran's ability to attack civilian mariners and commercial ships freely transiting the strait," Centcom added. President Donald Trump ordered the strikes, the command said.

Iran's chief negotiator with the US, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, on Sunday posted on X: "The era of one-sided deals is OVER. We told you: keep your word or pay the price. Reality is knocking."

He highlighted one of the clauses of the agreement, which stated that "the Islamic republic of Iran will make arrangements" for the safe passage of vessels.

The US hit more than 160 targets on Tuesday and Wednesday, before pivoting back towards attempting negotiations with Iran. On Saturday Centcom said it had hit more than 300 Iranian targets across the three days of strikes.

Trump said on Friday that the US had agreed to continue talks with Tehran, but reiterated "in no uncertain terms" for Washington "the Cease Fire is OVER!"

Senior US officials told reporters on Friday that the talks could advance if Tehran issued a public statement pledging to stop any attacks on vessels in the strategic waterway.

"We are hoping to get to a place where they publicly say that they will stop shooting at ships," one senior US official said.

Since the US and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding on June 17 to extend an April ceasefire by 60 days and gradually reopen the strait, Iranian forces have attacked a number of vessels, including tankers belonging to Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The US has retaliated by launching air strikes on southern Iran, as both sides accuse the other of violating the ceasefire.

Iran has insisted that vessels use shipping lanes close to its shoreline as it seeks to maintain a degree of control of the strait, a chokepoint through which about a fifth of the world's oil and gas previously passed, and which has become a key source of leverage.

But the US has encouraged vessels to transit near the coast of Oman, whose territorial waters flow through the waterway.

Additional reporting by Andrew England and cartography by Steven Bernard

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