

ISRAEL WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY

Week #126 March 1 - March 7, 2026

This is a product of the IDSF Habithonistim Research Department, distributed by the David Institute for Security Policy in coordination with IDSF USA



Account of the main events in the Israel-Hamas war and hostilities by the Iranian Axis



Photo Cover: USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in the Arabian Sea

Source: CENTCOM on X

The USS Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group departed Israeli waters and is currently transiting the Suez Canal toward the Red Sea. It may be positioned either against the Houthis or in the Arabian Sea to support strikes against Iran. The USS George H. W. Bush carrier strike group, currently in the Atlantic Ocean, has begun sailing toward the Middle East and is expected to arrive within one to one and a half weeks. This will bring the total to three U.S. aircraft carriers in the region, one of the largest concentrations of carriers in the Middle East since the Gulf Wars.



SECURITY BRIEFING WEEK 126

**DAVID
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80%

Of Iran's Defense Systems have been destroyed

60%

Of Iran's Missile Launchers have been destroyed

90%

Dropp in Iranian ballistic missile launches



Global Impact

Global oil prices surged from \$70 to \$90 per barrel within a single week.



3 U.S. aircraft carriers

The arrival of the USS George H. W. Bush will bring the total to 3 U.S. aircraft carriers in the region.



\$151 million

An emergency arms deal worth \$151 million was approved, including 12,000 bomb bodies weighing 1,000 pounds each.



Neutralization of the Iranian Navy

30 Iranian naval vessels have been sunk so far, with all Iranian ships east of the Strait of Hormuz reportedly destroyed.

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- According to Iranian opposition sources, several Iranian military commanders have begun moving through public areas disguised as women out of fear that they may be identified and targeted during the ongoing conflict. The tactic reportedly reflects growing concern among regime officials regarding assassinations or targeted strikes. One example cited by opposition networks is Yasser Laftouti, a commander in the Basij militia, who was reportedly spotted in women's clothing on the streets of Tehran while attempting to conceal his identity.
- U.S. President Donald Trump declared on his social media platform Truth Social that the only acceptable deal with Iran is “unconditional surrender.” He stated that together with U.S. allies they intend to replace the Iranian leadership and “make Iran great again.” According to Trump, the objective is nothing less than the collapse of the Iranian regime, framing the conflict as a war aimed at decisive geopolitical victory rather than a limited military operation.
- Trump also stated that he rejects Mojtaba Khamenei—the son of the Supreme Leader—as a potential successor to power in Iran, claiming he is unfit to lead. Trump added that the United States would appoint a new leadership for Iran following the regime's fall. He further called on Iranian diplomats around the world to seek political asylum, urging them to join efforts to build a “new Iran.”
- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, in an interview, declared that Iran will never accept unconditional surrender, describing such expectations as an unrealistic fantasy. He added that Iran has decided not to attack neighboring countries unless attacks are launched against Iran from their territory, and publicly apologized to neighboring states, claiming Iran has no rivalry with them.



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- During a situational assessment on Thursday, March 5, the Israeli Chief of Staff stated that 80% of Iran's air defense systems and 60% of its ballistic missile launchers had already been destroyed. The goal of this phase was to reduce the threat to Israel's home front. After degrading Iran's aerial and ballistic capabilities, the next stage will focus on deeper strikes against regime infrastructure and military capabilities.
- Israeli forces have struck hundreds of targets across Iran, including missile launchers, UAV infrastructure, and military facilities. Among the sites attacked was an IRGC headquarters near Tehran's central Azadi Square, and evacuation warnings were issued for industrial zones in the city of Qom ahead of strikes on local weapons production facilities.
- The U.S. Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, stated that the campaign could last three to six weeks, depending on the strategic objectives set by President Trump.
- In a rare naval engagement, a U.S. submarine sank a ship using a torpedo, marking the first such incident since World War II.
- According to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), the volume of Iranian missile launches toward Israel during the first two days of Operation "Roaring Lion" was roughly seven times lower than the scale of launches seen during the previous conflict phase referred to as "Like a Lion," suggesting that Iran's launch capabilities were significantly degraded entering the current conflict.
- Iran has continued launching missiles and drones against Gulf states. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian expressed regret over damage caused to neighboring countries and said Iran intends to re-establish strategic good relations with them, claiming that future strikes will target only American installations in those countries.

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- Iran had hoped that sustained attacks would encourage Gulf states to pressure the US to demand an end to U.S. operations, but the opposite occurred. Qatar even claimed to have shot down two Iranian Su-24 aircraft.
- If Gulf states decide to participate militarily, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan could potentially join, creating what analysts describe as a full American–Israeli–Arab coalition against Iran. Such a coalition would effectively represent the strategic vision of a regional alliance that has been discussed since July 2024 under the framework of an expanded “Abraham Alliance.”
- The Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq is reluctant to join the conflict. Iran has warned it would attack Iraqi Kurdistan if it participates, and Kurdish leaders fear they lack air defense systems capable of stopping Shahed drones and short-range ballistic missiles, which could devastate energy infrastructure and cities.
- Several European countries announced plans to deploy naval forces to protect Cyprus. Italy, the Netherlands, France, and Spain will send ships, while the United Kingdom will dispatch a destroyer. Spain confirmed it would send a frigate, while Greek Defense Minister Nikos Dendias announced that Greece will deploy two F-16 fighter jets and two frigates to assist Cyprus in intercepting drones.
- President Trump announced that the United States is prepared to provide insurance and military escorts for oil tankers, ensuring that energy shipments can continue through the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding routes, preventing a global energy crisis.

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- French President Emmanuel Macron announced that the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle, currently conducting exercises in the Baltic Sea, will deploy to the Eastern Mediterranean to assist in protecting Qatar, Kuwait, and the UAE, as well as broader European economic interests.
- There are also reports suggesting Qatar may have carried out strikes inside Iran, though Doha officially claims it is acting only in self-defense. Meanwhile, Pakistan reaffirmed its defense pact with Saudi Arabia, potentially preparing the ground for a joint Gulf military operation.
- An anti-Hezbollah newspaper in Lebanon published a front-page editorial declaring Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem “wanted.” This reflects a significant shift in Lebanese public sentiment, as Hezbollah is losing both public support and its deterrent power over civilians. Such a publication could have resulted in the editor’s assassination just a few years ago.
- Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam stated that Hezbollah’s military wing is no longer legal and that the organization may remain only as a political party. Hezbollah, once dominant in Lebanese society and politics, is now described as a weakened and battered organization, and Israeli military pressure is bringing Lebanon closer to a state monopoly over weapons.
- The Lebanese government announced plans to outlaw the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) inside Lebanon and intends to arrest its operatives operating within the country. Authorities are also planning to cancel visa-free entry for Iranian citizens.

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- Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz stated that IDF forces will remain in defensive positions both in Gaza and in Lebanon.
- In the Beirut area, Israeli strikes killed Hezbollah's commander responsible for fire coordination and the commander responsible for artillery operations in southern Lebanon. Israeli naval forces also killed the Hamas training and operations chief in Lebanon north of Tripoli.
- During the week, Israeli forces arrested approximately 200 wanted individuals across the West Bank, a figure considered significantly higher than usual.
- These arrests and seizures occurred across seven separate brigade-level military operations, indicating an intensified counterterrorism campaign throughout the region.