

Israel Strike INCOMING!? Iran's New Weapon LOCKS on US KC-135s | Lt. Col. Anthony Aguilar

Retired Lt. Colonel Anthony Aguilar discusses Israel's preparations to enter the war directly against Iran as US KC-135 refueling tankers surge to the region under the target of a new Iranian weapon. Anthony Aguilar is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army, a Special Forces Green Beret who served as a combat infantry officer for 25 years. Subscribe for more in-depth geopolitical analysis! Leave your thoughts in the comments below! Support the Channel: Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/dannyhaiphong> SUBSCRIBE ON RUMBLE: Rumble: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> Follow Me on Social Media: Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DannyHaiphong> Telegram: <https://t.me/DannyHaiphong> Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhaiphong> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> #iranwar #trump #yemen #usmilitary

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. Danny Haiphong here. As you can see, I'm joined for the first time with Anthony Aguilar. Very, very pleased and honored to have him as a guest. We start and we begin with developments around the Iran war. According to Israel's Channel 12 News, Israel is saying that it is in preparation for the possibility of escalating with Iran, with a senior security official saying the situation is sensitive and fluid; things could spiral out of control real fast. I wanted Anthony's assessment, analysis of what Iran has been saying around new weapons that they've developed, an expanded geography of war, which will occur should the United States attack.

And Iran's military has been on high alert, especially given that there are right now 25 KC-135s stationed in Qatar. There have been some who have remarked that this development is almost baiting Iran to attack, given that Iran believes the U.S. could attack any moment. So, Anthony, I wanted to ask you your assessment of the situation right now with the Iran war. We have Trump at the UNGA saying he's going to wipe out Iran. Iran believes an attack could happen any moment. Where are we right now? And, yeah, please give us your expertise and assessment.

#Anthony Aguilar

Well, thank you, Danny. And I've been watching the U.N. General Assembly today with great attention. Donald Trump spoke earlier today, shortly after the opening remarks, and in his remarks, obviously made it about the midterms and made it very political, and also, again, gave veiled threats—actually, not even veiled threats, just overt threats—to Iran in terms of annihilating the

country if they don't make a deal. So when you consider how Donald Trump has conveyed information in the past with, "We're going to annihilate them, we're going to strike them. No, I'll wait for them to make a deal," he typically tries to lure them into thinking that there's going to be some type of peace talks, and then there's strikes.

The United States then strikes. So I think that if you look at what's happening in the region with the amount of aircraft, not only the tankers, but the F-16s that have been staged at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, which is the headquarters for U.S. Central Command Forward, when you consider the amount of aircraft that are there, the amount of tanker aircraft that are there, and the proclivity for Donald Trump to threaten and then kind of talk, and then come back and then do some kind of military operation, I think that the likelihood of a sneaky-boy attack, so to speak, is coming up for Donald Trump. And I think Iran expects it.

And to your point, it does seem kind of baiting, almost, to have so much military aircraft and assets at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, which is just across the Persian Gulf, not a great distance at all from the ability of Iran to strike, and strike with impunity. And if that's a risk that the Trump administration is calculating, it's a losing formula in terms of aircraft and the base at Al Udeid being hit pretty hard, which would result in substantial losses to equipment and personnel. At Al Udeid Air Base, this is not an underground bunker facility. This is not a hardened frontline wartime facility. There's a compound, an American compound, the coalition compound, on the U.S. base in Al Udeid, where people shift work, kind of office hours in their various capacities. It could be struck and hit hard. And Iran certainly possesses the capabilities to do that.

#Danny

Well, Anthony, I wanted to ask you about those capabilities in particular, because Iran keeps hinting at new weapons, new capabilities that they have not shown off yet. Do you have any idea what they could be referring to, even if we don't have specifics? Because, again, the equation seems to be U.S. escalation. U.S. goes back and forth. Trump says we're going to talk maybe at the UNGA, but yet behind the scenes, there's just escalation, with the U.S. almost getting involved in the war on Yemen directly. So, your thoughts on what these capabilities could be?

#Anthony Aguilar

This is one of the situations when you look at what the U.S. administration and representatives of the administration are saying, and then what's actually happening in the region, where the audio doesn't match the visual. So when you look at that in terms of what's being said and then what's actually happening, to include the trigger ready to be pulled to potentially strike something in Yemen, and now going back to this, "we just want to make a deal," the administration cannot be trusted. I don't think there's anyone in the Iranian administration, the Iranian government, that trusts anyone in the Donald Trump government, nor should they. I think that even within Donald Trump's cabinet, there is confusion as to what's going to happen.

It almost seems performative. If you saw today at the arrival of the UN General Assembly, Marco Rubio showed up a little bit before 10 o'clock. And, you know, as he arrived, in the beginning, he was kind of stopped at the escalators and had some comments. Donald Trump then had some comments, and both of them, you know, echoing this: "We want to—we want to talk to Iranian President Pezeshkian. We hope he'll talk to us." It almost seems forced, performative narrative there. And then when you look at what's actually going on in the region, it seems like the Trump administration is trying to once again pull the wool over the eyes of the Iranian forces, which isn't going to work.

But in terms of what Iran has that we haven't seen already, or maybe that we have seen but didn't necessarily know what was being used, but we know that the medium-range hypersonic anti-ship missile that Iran fired at the USS George Washington at the onset of this last escalation, that was the Qassem Basir hypersonic ballistic missile. It had success in terms of its ability to breach air defenses and strike. There was damage to the USS Washington. Despite CENTCOM denying that, it's clear that there was damage. But then also the IRGC and the Iranian Aerospace Missile Command, kind of a component within IRGC, they have the Arash-e Kamand air defense system. It's a newer-developed air defense system. It's organic. It's homegrown. And then they have the Fattah 2 and the Khyber hypersonic missiles. These are Khorramshahr-4 generation missiles. The Khyber is not one that we've seen used yet that they do have.

So if you saw the devastating effects of the Fattah 2 and the Khorramshahr missiles that hit Jordan, the Khorramshahr-4 generation missile hasn't been used yet. So that's a weapon that Iran could be alluding to that they haven't even used yet. We do know that China and Russia have been providing technical support in some of their weapons development, either providing weapons directly or providing the technical support to develop weapons that have longer range or can fly faster or have a greater impact. And now, from what we learned from this, it's not necessarily the sonic speeds of these missiles in terms of how fast they fly. It's more so a matter of the ability of an interceptor to interdict, mutually supporting in terms of the speed of the missile.

As a missile is launched, an interceptor, you really want to hit it as close as you can to launch before it goes into its ballistic arc and comes into its ballistic attack, because then it becomes a lot more difficult to hit it. That's why we've seen, in some cases, the interceptors fail, or we had to use many of them. Now, with this, the advanced missile systems are not necessarily about how fast they fly. It's the ability to have countermeasures on board when they go into their ballistic terminal arc to strike that makes them very difficult to impossible to hit, especially when you incorporate that with drone swarms or drone attacks or multiple missile attacks. It overwhelms air defenses very quickly.

So when you consider the proximity of Al Udeid Air Base and how much we have sitting there, it is almost, in a way, it's a taunt. It's a baiting, almost, to the United States, saying, "Hey, we want peace. We want peace. Let's negotiate. But here's this prime target-rich objective sitting right here. We dare you. We dare you." And I think that, you know, we're going to see another round of

escalation before the midterms. Donald Trump again mentioned today that, you know, he'll keep a lid on things until the midterms. And after the midterms, he hopes for a deal. If he's saying that, you know that he's got something planned coming up soon. And, you know, he's not just going to sit and wait forever.

#Danny

Anthony, talk about the role of Israel, in your opinion, because it always seems like when the U.S. is about to strike, Israel is talking about they're about to strike, or they're talking about escalation going out of control. Now, you blew the whistle on the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation and the U.S.'s direct participation in the crimes of the Israeli regime. Talk about what you believe Israel's role is now in continuing on this path toward escalation, despite Trump's back and forth when it comes to talks, no talks, deal, no deal. Your thoughts on this.

#Anthony Aguilar

Well, Israel is the primary sticking point in the United States being able to negotiate or accomplish any type of peace deal or MOU with Iran. Because, as we saw back in April, the 14-point memorandum of understanding, the MOU, all of the other points within that, there were some administrative points in there in terms of how many days until it would be considered met, in terms of 60 days or 30 days. And then 60 days came and that MOU expired, but it wasn't really in effect anyway. But within the hard points of that, about the seven hard points in that are the same seven points that Iran has recently proposed here in the last few days to Washington, in terms of, hey, here's our terms.

And those terms haven't changed in a year. One of the core tenets of those points is Israel withdrawing from Lebanon, from Gaza, from Syria, ending war on all fronts. So things have changed since April. Now, in terms of war on all fronts, it was Iran and the United States, and kind of Iran in the position of, hey, our position to end this war is that your ally, Israel, also needs to end war on all fronts. Well, now Iran has more leverage in this, has more political leverage at the negotiating table in terms of ending all wars, all fronts in the region, because of the success of Ansar Allah in Yemen and the risk that that puts to the Bab al-Mandab Strait. So the conditions have changed in terms of what that MOU looked like in April and what that would look like now.

But there's never going to be an advancement of talks or discussions or peace. The unfreezing of Iranian assets, that's relatively easy. The lifting of certain sanctions or all sanctions, those are all negotiable issues, politically easy compared to the other aspects that can be done. It comes down to the aspect of Israel not withdrawing from Lebanon, not withdrawing from Syria, not withdrawing from Gaza. And in fact, the rhetoric coming from Israel has doubled down on the genocide and the oppression in Gaza lately, with Prime— excuse me, Defense Minister Katz saying that, you know, if there's one more incident, there's one more hostage taken, or one more incident.

We're getting rid of all million inhabitants within Gaza. And that was also concerning because if he's saying that there's a million, then we know that the death toll in Gaza is far higher than what anyone has led on to tell in terms of the real numbers. It's not 70,000. It's not 100,000. It's close to a million. If you consider the population was 2.1 million on October 7th, and now he's saying that the remaining million, we'll get rid of them, okay, well, then we have a deficit there of about 1.1 million. But the point of what Israel's position in this is that I do believe that Israel encouraged, manipulated Donald Trump into this war with the idea of, we'll build statues in your name. You'll be a hero.

You're the only president willing to do this, to take on the— to take on Iran. It's got to be you. And, oh, by the way, they're two weeks away from a bomb. And then Donald Trump was probably like, "Hey, I thought we obliterated them in Midnight Hammer. I thought, you know, I told the world we obliterated them." "Well, we did, but they're back at it again, and they're two weeks away." You know, Netanyahu has been saying that Iran is two weeks away from a nuclear bomb since 1994. I'm actually surprised that Donald Trump didn't hold up one of the famous Netanyahu little cards with the drawing of the bomb on it, showing how far they were away from the bomb. Netanyahu still might do that when he arrives on Thursday.

#Danny

Yeah, he actually might.

#Anthony Aguilar

There's still a lot to come in terms of what might be said in the U.N., because we have President Trump and Xi Jinping meeting on the 24th in D.C. President Trump will be hosting him. Certainly, the discussion of Iran, the discussion of Hormuz, the discussion of Bab al-Mandab, the discussion of Saudi Arabia and Yemen, those are all going to be critical discussions. And then Netanyahu—today, actually, the U.N. ambassador of Israel to the U.N. was interviewed this morning and made it very clear that Netanyahu is coming in on Thursday for his remarks and then leaving that same day. He will not stay to see the president at the White House.

They—the excuse that they're using for that is that Mamdani is being anti-Semitic by threatening to arrest Netanyahu. And it's like, you know, so upholding the rulings of the International Criminal Court is now anti-Semitic. So it's just further propaganda. But we're seeing that all of those—they're playing all the old hits. You're anti-Semitic if you think that we shouldn't be in Gaza and in Lebanon and in Syria. We're the victims. And really, when you look at this, Israel is the greatest factor of instability in this region, and especially going forward with any negotiations that the United States could ever hope.

I just don't see that a situation where Iran would back down from the point of ending war on all fronts, offering to do their part to end the war in Yemen, as Ansar Allah has ties to Iran, obviously. But I just don't ever see a situation where Israel is going to comply with that in terms of southern

Lebanon and Gaza. And now in Syria, we see the IDF are pushing deeper and deeper into Syria, even shelling Damascus. So, you know, I don't really see a way to negotiate this with Israel in the equation unless it comes to a continuation of hostilities and conflict to where either Iran or the United States are then just unable to continue. But that's going to be a long time. Iran has demonstrated the ability to hold out, and they're willing to.

#Danny

Great points. And, you know, you have a wealth of military experience, former Special Forces Green Beret, Lieutenant Colonel. And so, in your experience, you know, I see all the time people are observing what's happening in this war and in the region, and they ask, well, if all these KC-135s are sitting there, why doesn't Iran preemptively attack? Why don't they— with the Strait of Hormuz, it's closed to a degree, but why don't they tighten the noose so it's impossible for the United States, like Trump was doing at the UNGA, to lie that all these barrels of oil are coming out?

There's all these questions about why doesn't Iran offensively, if they say they're on the offensive, why don't they offensively move at a faster pace to—as you said, talks are highly unlikely to bring any kind of progress toward a resolution. So that leaves the other side, which is resolving this on the battlefield. Your thoughts on people's questions about this? I get these messages all the time. I see it all across social media. What's your take on it?

#Anthony Aguilar

Well, it's a matter of looking at the facts as we know them, what I call facts bearing on the situation. So, the facts as we know them: Are the United States and Iran still considered to be at war? Yes, that's a fact. I don't think anybody would argue the difference or argue the contrary. Has the United States moved a considerable amount of its KC tankers and jets? The Ohio National Guard F-16 wing has been deployed to Al Udeid Air Base. That's a fact. Does Iran possess the capabilities to strike bases in the region? Yes. So if all of those are true, if all of those are facts, then it's not an argument of, oh, Iran doesn't have the weapons, or maybe the U.S. stuff is not there. Maybe it's just a facade or it's a feint. No, these are all facts.

So then we can get to the crux of the question: Okay, well then why not? Why is either the United States not doing what everyone thought the United States was going to do in either striking Yemen or continuing strikes on Iran a few days ago? Or why is Iran not attacking and hitting these bases where all these critical assets are? So the question then comes down to looking at each side in this. What is in their best interest? Every nation is acting in their best interest. So if you look at it in terms of Donald Trump's position, the United States is critically low in its interceptors and precision strike missiles. So the ability to defend and the ability to counterstrike, we know that that has been greatly depleted.

Everybody that has been following this knows that in the official Office of the Inspector General report that came out on Operation Epicure, which only covered up until the 30th of June, not including July, August, September, where we've seen even more munitions expended, especially in the attack on Jordan, where hundreds of munitions, interceptors, were expended and didn't hit all of the incoming ballistic missiles. So the United States doesn't have the depth, doesn't have the inventory to start this again in terms of massive amounts of strikes and then the ability to defend against it. So the United States right now, we see after the United States had its round of strikes, Donald Trump seeking to look like the strongman, that we have plenty of missiles, look what we can do. And in this last round of escalation, U.S. bases were either destroyed, wiped out, or made inoperable for future use.

But now Donald Trump is going back and showing face to the international community, to the world. We just want peace. Look, we just want peace. We'll make a deal. You know, if they want to make a deal, let's make a deal. But it's going to be—you know, the disclaimer of that is that Donald Trump's position is, but it's going to be on my terms. Well, that's not how deals and negotiations are made, especially in this situation. So when you look at the narrative that Donald Trump is trying to go back onto the defensive, look, look, we're just—we got the blockade, that's for the interests of the world. You know, the Strait of Hormuz is open.

There's plenty of oil going through because of our, because of our naval blockade, which, which doesn't make sense. You know, like, okay, there's a naval blockade, uh, but more has come through. Uh, that doesn't make sense. So when you look at that in terms of how Iran approaches this, Iran has to balance the military, the diplomatic, the political, with not looking like the aggressor, although I think that Iran is growing less and less concerned about looking like the aggressor. Because they see it now as, hey, the gloves are off. You've pushed the envelope too far. We now consider preemptive strikes within our right to do so, right of defense. So I think the only thing keeping Iran from striking hard Al Udeid Air Base is feeling out: is this—are we going to give diplomacy another chance?

The UN General Assembly is going on right now. That's a big high-vis event where Foreign Minister Araghchi and President Pezeshkian of Iran are both there. Donald Trump is there. Other nations—the Saudis are there. There's a chance—there's a remaining chance for some diplomacy, perhaps some side talks, some discussions. Maybe there can be a path to diplomacy. But I think that Iran is on the trigger and ready to strike. And the United States putting so many assets there is, I think, in a way trying to bait Iran into doing it, to then look like, oh, we're the victim again, like the United States is the victim. We've seen that constant back and forth of Donald Trump trying to play the strong man and then backpedal and look like the victim.

#Danny

Yeah, we've seen that over and over and over again. Well, let's play a piece of this UN General Assembly speech. I think it's apt, given all that you've talked about already. So here is what he said. And this is quite striking. I mean, you mentioned Pezeshkian and Araghchi here in the United States now at the UN General Assembly. I thought that was very risky, especially for the president's concern, just given how the United States has behaved in this war from the very get-go. Nevertheless, he's here. They're here. But this is how Donald Trump is talking about this war. It's just a quick minute, and I think it says a lot about the U.S.'s posture at this time.

#Donald Trump

But I have a big decision to make. Will a deal be made with Iran that lets them rebuild and create a far greater country than it ever was before, maybe one of the greatest in the Middle East or even the world? Or do I annihilate the Islamic Republic and do it quickly, never giving them a chance to kill and destroy people and countries again? Do I drive them into hell with no chance of survival and no hope of future greatness or generations? But I believe we'll make a deal right after the elections, because it doesn't make sense for them not to. They're waiting to see how I do in the midterm election. What they don't realize is that I'm not running. I did that already and won in a landslide.

#Danny

So your reaction to this? He says annihilate. He says no hope for future generations. Some have said, well, is he talking about nuclear weapons? I mean, there have been discussions inside Washington about that. But nevertheless, this kind of language at the U.N. General Assembly, incredible. Please, please react to this. I'm curious on your thoughts on it.

#Anthony Aguilar

It's embarrassing. Watching that clip, if you had not known that that was real and that actually did happen today, and that is not fiction, that is not a movie, that is not some bad '80s war movie, that that's real. It's very concerning because so much that he said there, you know, let's unpack that in terms of, you know, the option of Iran becoming this great nation, greater than they ever have and all that. Well, Israel is certainly not going to allow that. Even under the, you know, if Iran were to capitulate and comply with every term that the Trump administration or the United States wanted, Israel is still not going to be copacetic or accept a future where Iran could be even more powerful and prosperous.

So Donald Trump saying that, that's just patronizing and petulant. And then he goes with the "I have a choice to annihilate." He doesn't. And then he says the—he's like, "Oh, and then they don't know I'm not running." Well, of course they know that you're not running. They know that. I mean, the reason the midterms have been brought into this is because Donald Trump mentioned the midterms. You know, at the UN General Assembly, talking to the world, he's talking about the United

States midterm elections. Can you imagine if, like, the president of Brazil was up there and talking about his next election or, you know, world leaders going up there and talking about their own country's internal domestic government?

What are you doing? I mean, he sees the UN there as just a tool for America, a tool for colonialism, right? And that the United States—that everybody around the world—is just so concerned about the U.S. midterms, which I'm sure many are. But of course Iran knows that he's not running. It's not even a presidential election. So of course they know that he's not running. What they're waiting on and looking at is—because they've said it, Iranian high-level leadership has said that they will wait this—they will wait Donald Trump out until the next administration. How do the midterms play into that? Well, I think what they're looking at is, can they maintain enough pressure?

And look, Donald Trump's polling numbers as of yesterday are the lowest in history. So what they're looking at is the opportunity to perhaps flip the Senate, and then the House can impeach, the Senate can convict. And I think that Donald Trump knows that. And I think that Donald Trump is looking for the Richard Nixon way out of this by looking to, you know, that if the House turns blue, to avoid, you know, because in his first term, in his first term as president, as the 45th, he was impeached twice. The process is impeachment in the House, conviction in the Senate, and then you face removal, and then obviously conviction for such crimes. In his first term, being impeached twice, he was never convicted.

So now there's that inherent risk in the midterms to switch that dynamic to where he could be impeached and then convicted. So he knows that. Iran knows that. Iran knows that he's not running, and especially not in the midterms. So for him to say that is just—it's just narcissism on full display. But Iran is waiting it out. I mean, so, you know, the midterm elections now are not too far away, 40, 43, 44 days away. In some states here in the United States, like in Virginia, they've already started early voting. A lot of states start their voting, you know, two weeks to even a month early. Some states, as early as, depending on how they do their ballots, you know, 46 days early. So in some states, early voting has already started, where we're getting some of these initial poll reflections.

And then consider Israel. Israel is 35 days away as of today, 35 days away until their elections, and theirs aren't midterms. Their elections are going to potentially bring in a whole new government. So, you know, Netanyahu is concerned about that for his political survival, because his political survival is directly tied to him potentially not going to prison by being convicted by his own government. So there's so much that can happen in the next 35 days, in the next 43 days, that to say that where we sit today, right now, that that's set because Donald Trump says so, would be an incredibly naive view of the world. I think that we're going to see escalation again in the coming weeks.

#Danny

Well, I pulled up earlier, and here it is again, as you were saying. Trump's approval in the United States has fallen to a career low, 32%. I mean, that is a massive low for anybody in history. And then there's other numbers that are really popping out now. There's the fact that 64%, in a latest CNN poll, whether the U.S. is winning the war, 64% say no. And then you see that number on the bottom there underneath the headline. It says that the national diesel fuel price is \$6.53. I mean, there's the pressure cooker on the economy that's happening on the world economy. There's the midterm elections. How much of Donald Trump's and the Trump administration's behavior, its policy, the way that it's moving right now, remaining in this war—and also maybe you could comment on the Yemen situation—how much of these two factors are really placing pressure underneath the administration and influencing this chaotic behavior?

#Anthony Aguilar

Well, looking at those numbers, the American people are seeing the truth for what it is, especially now that we know that the IG report and the acting secretary of the Navy came out publicly and stated that our base in Bahrain, the Fifth Fleet headquarters, was destroyed completely. His words were "blown to hell." So, it's the approval rating, cost of living in the United States. Americans are not satisfied. Americans are not happy. Obviously, the Iran conflict has a lot to do with that. Republican support, even within intra-party approval, has dropped from 82% to 73%, even within his own party. So you see that the amount of Americans who think that this war, that we are losing it, 64%. And as his approval rating within his own party is declining, and his approval rating overall, a career low of 32%, I think the lowest it was before that was 33%, the lowest it got to in 2017 and in August of this year.

And now he's at 32%. And the prices of diesel and gas and groceries and every commodity that Americans require is all going up in price. It's having a real impact, a real impact. And now, when you consider how the spillover of this would be—we have to recognize that Ansar Allah's offensive in Yemen and the ability, you know, if you look at the situation with the Strait of Hormuz, Saudi Arabia then became kind of a bigger player with the East-West Pipeline, an alternative path, an alternative route for oil to come from the Persian Gulf fields to Yanbu, the port of Yanbu, to then go out through the Red Sea. So Saudi became very important. Ansar Allah surely recognized that.

And now is the point when your adversary becomes really dependent on something more so than ever. That's where you hit. And they did. They struck terminals on the East-West Pipeline. They took the entirety of the island chain—Zakar Island, the Greater and Lesser Hanish Islands, Perim Island, or Mayun Island, which is right in the middle of the Bab al-Mandab Strait—and they've taken the port city of Mocha, and they've taken the entire western—this is all that Ansar Allah has now taken—surrounding Taiz, potentially moving all the way to the south to Aden. So that risk that it puts the market in, considering both Bab al-Mandab and Hormuz are under risk or strain, prices are going to continue to go up, up, up, and up.

And those prices, even if the Strait of Hormuz—if we just had a magic wand and it said, okay, it's back to normal operating conditions, poof—it would still take weeks or months for those prices to reflect and actually come down, if any of them will come down. I don't think we're going to see fuel prices anywhere close to where they were before this conflict ever again. I think that we're going to see a state of elevated fuel costs just because once Big Oil and big industry get a taste of that cost, of that higher amount, they keep the prices up because they realize that Americans will tolerate it. So they bring it down a little bit, but it's not going to go back to where it was before this war.

#Danny

Yeah, that's a great point. And anyone who's been experiencing what's been going on the last seven months would be able to corroborate that with evidence. Do you have any faith in these claims today? Do you believe in the validity of any of these claims today by Reuters that says the East-West Pipeline that I believe had, what, seven areas hit? Do you believe that it is now restarted? Some have mentioned that by restart, it could mean a small, small trickle has been able to occur now, but it's being framed, it seems, in key market manipulation terms as a restart, like things are back to normal. And it had a huge impact on the price of oil, at least for this one day. Do you believe this? I mean, we know Reuters has a reputation as well. Maybe not at the Barak Ravid level, but we know that Reuters also has a reputation of framing things in a certain way. What's your thoughts on this?

#Anthony Aguilar

Yeah, it's all about the framing of it, right? Um, if you look at, on Friday, September 11th, um, of this year, uh, when the, uh, terminal, the primary, um, pump station terminal near the port of Yanbu, uh, was struck on the East-West Pipeline, as well as other points of the pipeline were hit by drones and missiles, uh, Saudi Arabia went into complete shutdown. They shut it down. Not a drop going. Have, in that time, have they had the ability to completely repair all that damage? Absolutely not. No, no, there's no way that they've had the ability to repair everything. Have they gotten it up to a point to where they maybe have a bypass valve or a bypass pipe, an auxiliary pipe through a bypass valve, to where they can get some through? It's like, you know, if you, if you, you know, someone that has a bypass surgery, right? Their main artery is clogged.

You know, a doctor goes in there and does a stent or a valve or a balloon pump, and they have a bypass surgery. It's not going to be running as, you know, things aren't going to be running optimally, but it's a fix. So have they imparted some type of temporary fix? A small bypass to get a small amount? Likely they have to get it running again, but it's not running at its full capacity. It's not, you know, turn the pump and oil's just coming out. It's a trickle of what it was. So in terms of seeing the East-West Pipeline back to a state of a trickle, though it is technically operating, you know, they can use the word operating. It is technically, it is, but nowhere near its full capacity.

You see the damage that was caused to these facilities, and these facilities at these pump stations, these terminal stations, these transfer stations are a lot of technical parts. Imagine if, in someone's

home, lightning struck and blew out the entire facility—blew out the entire electric grid in the house. You'd have to go back and follow, you know, every line and replace every line, and then every switch and every fuse. And you can figure it out, but it's going to take you time, just for the matter of things are in the wall and things are underground. Same thing with this, you know. Parts are underground, parts are on the surface. What's the extent of the damage? So to think that they have it all running up to full capacity would be a ridiculous thing.

So is it back to operating at a trickle? Possibly, possibly, possibly, but nowhere near its full capacity. And we're going to see the impact of those costs continuing to hit domestic markets, especially in diesel, because, you know, the fix to the Russian reduction in production and reduction in production of diesel was the ability for crude and Brent crude through the East-West Pipeline to make up the difference between the Strait of Hormuz shortage. But Russian ability to produce diesel is still lower than it has been prior to this year. So Americans, around the world, people are going to continue to feel that crunch.

And in the United States, where it mostly impacts Donald Trump going towards the midterms, this is the time right now, 43 days, 44 days before the midterms. This is that time right now where you see politicians putting out the smear ads and all the mailers coming in the mailbox. I can't go to my mailbox any day of the week and not get some kind of mailer about, "This person is bad. I'm great," whatever the case may be. Now is the season within that 45-day window when everyone is pushing hard on, "Don't vote for this guy, don't vote for this woman, vote for this person," because, well, that's sticking into the mind of every American right now, especially if you drive a diesel truck. My neighbor drives a Ford F-350 diesel, and he can't even fill it up because the pump won't allow it.

And also, there are some gas stations throughout here in North Carolina where they don't have any diesel to even sell. So when you consider the trains, trucks, so many things that run on diesel, it has been, but now it's becoming even more to where it's not necessarily the war with Iran that's become the single-voter issue. It's now the hit to the American pocket that's becoming the single-voter issue, which is directed at the administration and directed at the Republican Party. So it's going to have an impact, especially in this critical window where it's getting so bad, so close to the midterms, and it's going to get worse. There's no relief in sight in the next 44 days.

#Danny

Yeah, and it's going to be a very rough holiday for sure when, you know, the United States expects commerce and consumption to increase dramatically. It is likely going to get really bad at that time, given what you just outlined here. Now, Donald Trump called Iran the bully of the Middle East. Your reaction to this? I mean, you've been stationed in the Middle East. You know quite well the U.S.'s track record. What do you make of these claims that Iran is the bully of the Middle East? I'm curious on your thoughts on this.

#Anthony Aguilar

Well, the truth of it is that the United States is the bully of the Middle East. Right now, even with the bases that have been hit, made inoperable, or destroyed, we still have around 20, 22 bases throughout the region, between Syria and Iraq and Saudi Arabia and Jordan and Kuwait and Qatar and Israel. We have Egypt. We have a base in Djibouti, which is the Horn of Africa, but also still impacting the region. So when you consider the bully of the Middle East, that's us. That's the United States. You can look at the maps of the bases and how they surround Iran. And if you consider when we were still in Afghanistan, the number of bases that we had in Afghanistan.

So Iran was surrounded by U.S. bases. So Iran is not the bully of the region. The United States has been the bully of the region. And I think that what we're seeing now is that, over years and years and years and years, decades of the United States not leaving. In Iraq, we left and we came back. We kind of left in 2014, but we're right back in there under the surge against ISIS. Now we're boots on the ground in Syria. We have more and more bases that we were building and establishing, you know, to basically keep a boot on the neck in the region.

So, you know, for Donald Trump to say that Iran is the bully of the Middle East is such hypocrisy and laughably ironic. The United States has been the bully of the region, and what we're going to see, whether it be by force, by hook or by crook, as they say, whether it's by force or by choice, the U.S. presence in the region will be reduced. We already see our Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain is gone. They've reestablished in Diego Garcia, 2,000 miles away. There are other bases in the region that are now gone. So the United States won't have the ability to maintain the presence that it had.

But I think that this is a—one thing that Donald Trump said in his remarks is that, had the United States sought to normalize relations with Iran, to normalize the U.S. global presence to where we aren't in everybody's business, then perhaps there could have been avoidance of war and normalization of relations there. But Iran is going to rise as a power in the region, along with Pakistan and Turkey. And the United States can continue to try to pump life into the dead horse. But that's the change that's coming. And it's not because Iran is the bully. The United States has been the bully. The West has been the bully in the region.

#Danny

How much trouble do you see Saudi Arabia being in, given what you just outlined, that the U.S.'s presence has to be reduced? Well, Saudi Arabia is in an active war itself and not doing well, as you said before and gave evidence of before. And given how much trouble it's in, from your assessment, how much does this impact the United States? I see arguments and debates everywhere now talking about it won't impact that much, it'll impact a lot. But I'm curious on your take on this.

#Anthony Aguilar

Well, Saudi Arabia is simply a puppet of the United States and kind of the holdout, the last bastion to hold together the petrodollar. So the United States is going to double down its support to Saudi

Arabia. But there's limits to that as well, as we saw with Iran. The Ansar Allah offensive in Yemen—Saudi Arabia, in that week, reached out to Donald Trump not once but twice in the same afternoon, asking for support. And Donald Trump said no. So, but—and then, you know, now we see that we have upwards of over 200 service members in Saudi Arabia providing technical support, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance support. But there's a limit to that in terms of the United States not wanting to get its boots dirty with boots on the ground or more direct support.

We tried that in May of 2025 with Operation Rough Rider and lost aircraft and lost drones. Ansar Allah is a credible threat. So when you consider Saudi Arabia, they're at risk as well. If you can imagine, if Ansar Allah begins targeting Riyadh more—they've already been successful in a strike last week. If they begin to push into those western regions of Saudi Arabia and native Yemeni land, that could be a real problem for Saudi Arabia. Other nations aren't necessarily jumping at the bit to go help. We saw that the UK is now offering military support. What that will translate into in terms of actual support is yet to be seen. I'm sure it will primarily be through air capability.

No one wants to get their feet dirty in Yemen. And that's to the advantage of Ansar Allah and a disadvantage to Saudi Arabia. And, you know, that dynamic is changing in the region as well. You know, the vulnerabilities of the Saudi government have been shown. And the further that this war continues, those, you know, those are going to show more and more. And it's not to Saudi Arabia's advantage that this war in Yemen continues, where Ansar Allah continues to have tactical success, operational success. As we speak, the Ansar Allah forces on the Western Front are taking the Yemeni high ground in the south, which would give them position to hold what they have with considerable success, and that is not good for Saudi Arabia.

#Danny

In your opinion, why is it that the United States, in particular, you know, in the last five or ten minutes that we have here, remains so focused, laser-focused on developments in West Asia and throwing its weight around and, you know, complicit in the war crimes of genocide in Gaza all the way into the war on Iran? Why is it that the U.S. says one thing? You know, you made this reference to, you know, the difference between what we're being told and what's actually happening. And, you know, on the one hand, we were told that the United States is shifting its focus away from the Middle East, away from West Asia, moving toward the Western Hemisphere. Last time I checked, the bulk of U.S. foreign policy right now is being conducted right in West Asia. Why is it that this has occurred, in your opinion?

#Anthony Aguilar

Yeah, if you read the December 2025, so within his first year, Donald Trump put out the National Defense Strategy. And in that National Defense Strategy, it clearly outlined exactly what you just said, that the United States would shift away from West Asia, from the Middle East, and focus more in the Western Hemisphere and the Global South. And, you know, it's almost like we've doubled or

tripled down in the region. And I think that has to do a lot with the influence and the manipulation and the control, in some aspects, of Israel in U.S. governance, but then also the military-industrial complex. As, you know, as you look at the amount of money, billions and billions, trillions of dollars, in the military-industrial complex, in military sales and defense, in selling the United States.

I'll tell you, Lockheed and those that produce Patriot missiles and the Tomahawk missile and the PRISM missile and the ATACMS missile and all of these air defense capabilities and persistent strike capabilities—they're not sad. They're having a heyday. They're raking it in by the billions, and they stand to make a lot more. So the military-industrial, as Smedley Butler said, it's a racket, and it is. It's the military-industrial complex as part of the—a great part of the reason that has kept the United States in the region, at war, in these bases, Kellogg, Brown & Root, KBR—in maintaining all of these bases. They make millions and millions and millions, billions of dollars.

In Afghanistan, you look at how we left, and that two decades of war between four presidents, \$40 trillion, and we replaced the Taliban with the Taliban. But the companies that were involved in the sales of weapons and equipment and all the vehicles, they made a killing. So part of that is the military-industrial complex, money. Another part of that is global oil control, and another part of that is the U.S. still beholden to colonialism. I mean, really what we are doing in Western Asia is just a new—it's colonialism with new wrapping paper, camouflage wrapping paper around it, of nation-building, of stability. Here you go. And it just—it's the same thing.

That's why I thought it was—it had to have been a joke, I thought, when the first rollout of the Board of Peace for Gaza, for Palestine, had Tony Blair on it. I was like, what? Are you kidding? So it's the same cast of characters. It's the same motivations: money, money, money; power, power, power. And that's what's kept us in the region. And I think that that's going to be the death knell of the United States gripping onto Western Asia to stay. It's because of the—you know, look at all the weapon sales we make. We sell to everybody. We sell to all sides. We sell to everybody. You know, it's ridiculous.

#Danny

Given what you just said, the whole Greenland debacle also makes a lot more sense too, because many believed Trump was going to steamroll into Greenland, make a whole public humiliation spectacle out of it. It seems all we've really gotten out of it is a deal that looks more like the United States enforcing military diktats there and massive profits for weapons contractors. Your final words as we, you know, as we conclude here.

#Anthony Aguilar

I think it's going to be important to see what happens in the rest of today and tomorrow and Thursday at the UN General Assembly, where we have, you know, obviously the Iranian leadership, the president and the foreign minister. Trump gave his remarks today, so we'll kind of see what the

ripple effect of that is. And then at some point tomorrow, I believe Pezeshkian will be speaking. And then you have Netanyahu speaking. You know, these will be indications as to where this conflict could be heading in the near term. I think we're nowhere near peace or negotiations or a treaty, not anything that's real and substantive, but it could be an indication of what we hear in these next few days. You know, and I think that the situation in the United States in terms of the local economy is going to get harder.

It's going to get worse than we're seeing even right now before we see it easing up and getting better. That's what happens when you start an unjust war without a clear objective. It gets real expensive real fast, and it has unintended consequences that you should have seen coming. We should have seen and we should have considered, and we didn't because we were blinded by this idea of a quick victory. Now, when Donald Trump spoke to the nation on February 28th, when they rolled him out of bed in Mar-a-Lago and threw on his white and gold MAGA hat, you know, the business hat, um, you know, he made it seem like we were going to be in and out like Venezuela, and this has not been the case.

#Danny

No, it hasn't. Well, we're going to head out together. I want to make sure I thank you. It was a great, you know, great time. We'll have to do this again very soon. Absolutely. I want to thank everyone who watched, all the moderators, and YouTube members. Thank you for the Super Chats. Tomorrow, 4 p.m. Eastern Time, September 23rd, I'll be live with Ray McGovern and Garland Nixon, so tune into that. September 23rd. In the video description, all the places to support this channel: Patreon, Substack, and much more. Until next time, everyone, thanks so much, and I'll see you on the next show. Thank you.