

Iran's Missiles DESTROY Five KC-135s, Kharg Island Strike BACKFIRES

Iran has destroyed 5 US refueling aircraft in Saudi Arabia's Prince Sultan Airbase as Trump announces US forces "obliterating" Iranian military installations at Kharg Island in preparation for a GROUND INVASION. Meanwhile, numerous tankers have come under Iranian fire in the Persian Gulf, leading to massive panic in the oil markets and among US military planners themselves - Danny Haiphong reacts! FOLLOW ME ON RUMBLE: <https://rumble.com/c/DannyHaiphong> FOLLOW ME ON TELEGRAM: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> SUPPORT THE CHANNEL ON PATREON: <https://www.patreon.com/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> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong> #Iran #trump #refuelingtankers #saudiarabia

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Iran was not bluffing when it said it was going to raise the price of oil to over \$200 a barrel in retaliation for the U.S.-Israeli war of aggression, and its latest move changes everything. Five Air Force refueling planes have been hit by an Iranian ballistic missile strike at the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia. The U.S. Air Force has confirmed this to the Wall Street Journal, but of course CENTCOM has not commented. And we might hear in the next hours or days that these refueling tankers were supposedly involved in some kind of accident or malfunction, as we've seen over and over again with the USS Lincoln, the USS Gerald Ford, and those F-15 fighter pilots who were downed—three of them over Kuwait. We'll hear some excuse. But nonetheless, Iran has taken credit for this.

And this is a major escalation in the oil war that Iran is now waging against the United States following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The Donald Trump administration has tried to spin events away from Iran's historic retaliation and toward its own so-called powerful strikes on Iran. The latest of these is the strike on Karg Island. Donald Trump has announced that Karg Island has been obliterated—the crown jewel of Iranian oil exports, he says, was hit hard. But only military installations were targeted, and the oil infrastructure was spared. And why is that? Because the Trump administration is deeply afraid of rising oil prices, which now hover around \$100 a barrel for crude.

And this comes as the United States has announced that 2,500 to 5,000—actually, I believe the Wall Street Journal confirmed 5,000—Marines from an Expeditionary Force unit will be sent via Japan to the Middle East, in what many believe could be a potential invasion of Karg Island or an invasion of the Iranian coastline to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Donald Trump himself cited the Strait of

Hormuz as the reason he struck Karg Island. But Iran has said that not only was Karg Island not obliterated militarily and that its air defenses were operating just hours after the strikes, but that oil production hasn't been hit either. Now, I believe about 90% of Iranian oil goes through Karg Island.

So any attempt to invade and destroy it would be not just a major escalation, but a huge war crime meant to destroy the lives of the Iranian people. Nonetheless, this all marks a critical turning point in the war. Two KC-135s were hit over Iraq. One landed at Ben Gurion Airport in Israel, and the other crashed over western Iraq, killing all its crew members and bringing the number of dead to 11 at that time. This was just 48 hours ago. But we have updated numbers from CENTCOM saying 13 U.S. service members have now been killed and about 200 injured in this war. This is likely a massive undercount. Iran is not trying to kill U.S. service members.

It has been very meticulous and precise in its strikes on U.S. assets in the region. It's been hitting U.S. radars and has taken out all the eyes of U.S. air defense systems. It has also taken out key infrastructure of the U.S. military all over the region, including shutting down bases. Al Udeid, the headquarters of CENTCOM, is not operational at this time. So these strikes by Iran are precise. But nonetheless, these bases were not evacuated, and it's likely—according to sources and friends of this show, from Scott Ritter to Larry Johnson—that casualties are higher. So this is a major escalation. We're seeing Iran be very meticulous about how it's handling the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

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The surrounding area—the ability to trade at all—is being completely and utterly shut down. Hitting the KC-135 oil tankers in Saudi Arabia marks not just an escalation in the oil war, but a major one, because these refueling tankers are critical to ensuring that the U.S. Air Force—those fighter jets coming off the aircraft carriers—are able to reach their destinations. And Saudi Arabia has just exposed itself as a major participant in this war. You might remember that when this war began, and even before it, as the U.S. was preparing to strike Iran, Saudi Arabia said it would not allow its airspace to be used for attacks on Iran.

But with these five tankers being hit, Iran has just exposed to the entire world that Saudi Arabia has been using its U.S. assets in the region—or I should say, has been forced to use those assets—to strike Iran. But no more, because Iran will make sure these bases are inoperable, as it has in other parts of the Gulf. And these refueling tankers are a warning shot. Hitting them, destroying them, is a warning that this will only continue to get worse. Tehran, according to U.S. officials, has surprised them. The Financial Times reports that Iran's retaliation has shocked them—that Iran has fired more than 3,000 missiles and drones over roughly a two-week span at Gulf states, and hundreds at Israel itself.

A former U.S. official told the Financial Times that no one has waged war with less than the Iranians. These Shahed drones—these cheap drones that cost only tens of thousands of dollars—have hit radars, ports, bases, and oil facilities. They've shut them down. And we have the UAE, Kuwait, Saudi

Arabia, and Qatar all talking about either shutting down their oil production or lowering it dramatically. Saudi Arabia has announced it's lowering production. Qatar says it can't ship its gas right now because of the threat of Iranian missile strikes. And these U.S. officials are admitting they didn't anticipate how Iran would react to this war.

And they're also saying this to CNN—that they didn't anticipate what would happen with the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. So all of this is coming as a big surprise to the United States and, of course, to Israel, which has been very muted about its bravado of late. You might have noticed that Benjamin Netanyahu is the subject of massive rumors about not being present—maybe even being dead. "Where is Netanyahu?" everyone's asking. People are scrutinizing recent speeches he's given as possible AI videos that don't actually prove he's around. We haven't seen Netanyahu comment on his ex in a...

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Yair Netanyahu is very active on X, but he hasn't posted in five days. So many are speculating that there may be an issue with Netanyahu—that he might not be with us any longer. Of course, we can't confirm that, and we're not going to confirm it here right now. But nonetheless, where is Benjamin Netanyahu? Israel has been pounded by joint attacks—strikes by Iran and Hezbollah. What's interesting is that while Iran and Hezbollah sometimes announce how much they've fired—they said about 100, 150 missiles 48 hours ago—lately they haven't been reporting how many are getting through. But the IRGC has said that about 50% of all their missiles at Israel now are hitting their targets.

And that means, everyone, that Israel is being bludgeoned—they're being pummeled by ballistic missiles, no matter how much they censor the damage on the ground. You may recall that Israel actually doesn't allow their so-called citizens to film the missile strikes. We've seen videos across social media of people trying and then being turned away by Israeli security officials. And we also know that Israel has up to a five-year prison sentence for those who try to record. And we also know, mind you, that there are many who will listen to these directives. Why? Because 80% of Israel supports this war of aggression on Iran. They want to see Iran toppled.

They want to see the last sovereign nation in the region—one able to support the resistance, support Palestine, support Hezbollah, support national liberation movements across the region—destroyed. They want greater Israel. They want unfettered dominance in the region. So we know there are many who will just let this happen and follow the diktats of the Israeli government. Now, it's about to get a lot worse. The refueling tankers that were hit over Iraq a couple of days ago, and then in recent days in Saudi Arabia, really hurt militarily. And of course, the closure of the Strait of Hormuz really hurts militarily too.

But there are two major moves that Iran and its allies have announced that are about to make the situation even worse. Iran has told CNN, through an Iranian official, that they're going to allow a

limited number of oil tankers to pass through the Strait of Hormuz on a condition that will shock you. That condition is that if the cargo is traded—once it's traded for compensation—it has to be compensated in Chinese yuan. So that means Iran is not just trying to strangle the U.S. economically, and the entire world that follows it as vassals through oil price increases, but it's also working toward hitting the heart of the U.S.-dominated financial system itself: the petrodollar.

So this is a major move that, if it happens, will send the U.S. into a panic unlike anything we've seen in any war in history—and arguably, that's already happening. With moves toward Kharg Island, the Trump administration is signaling that it's willing to destroy the entire oil market, the entire oil economy at the heart of U.S.-dominated financial capitalism. It's willing to destroy all of this in order to meet its so-called objectives in Iran, which, as we've discussed on this program, have already failed. They haven't met their objectives, and they're not going to. Regime change—they're not going to meet that objective.

Getting rid of Iran's ballistic missile systems—they're not going to meet that objective. Getting rid of Iran's nuclear program—they're not going to meet that objective. Uh, obliterating Iran—I don't know what other fantasy the Trump administration and Israel have, but they haven't met those objectives, and they're not going to. You may have seen during Quds Day—al-Quds Day in Iran, founded in 1979 in solidarity with the Palestinian people and the Palestinian liberation movement, and with Palestine in general—it's been happening every single year, with massive rallies in Iran. You may have seen Abbas Araghchi. You might have seen Asadollah Asadi.

You might have seen Ali Larijani. These top Iranian officials—the president, the National Security Council secretary, and of course the foreign minister—were there without a security detail. They were walking the streets. And what did Ali Larijani say? Hegseth had called Iranian officials rats, saying they were hiding underground in bunkers. They're not hiding in bunkers. But Ali Larijani, the secretary of the National Security Council in Iran—what did he say? He said, "We're out here with the people. Where are your leaders? On Epstein Island." I mean, this is the level of humiliation, the level of trolling that's really impacting the United States empire at this time.

The oligarchs, the elites—they're absolutely losing it. Because not only is Iran hitting them militarily very hard—U.S. bases that every Western mainstream media outlet has had to acknowledge are destroyed—but now Iran is also hitting the economy. And when the economy crashes, they're already saying, in the Wall Street Journal, that this is worse than the 1970s oil crisis. And it's only been days. What happens in weeks? The Trump administration says this could go on for weeks. They said they're going to do this as long as it takes. Donald Trump said, "Whatever's in my mind—when I want to end this war, it'll end."

Well, one week, two weeks—how long can the United States really wait before the oil markets come crashing down? There are reports that oil facilities in the UAE have been hit, and now we see Bahrain firing ballistic missiles at Iran. What's going to happen now to Bahrain, which has already had its oil facilities hit? They're going to be hit more, and the Naval Fifth Fleet base there is going to

be hit more. This is getting out of control. This is getting out of control. The United States cannot handle this. Now, I just want to give you the report on what Iran said about the Karg Island strike, because, mind you, this is a prelude to a possible invasion of Iran.

These 5,000 Marines that are coming—it can take about two weeks to get from Japan to the Middle East. They said they heard 15 explosions on Karg Island and that they attempted to damage military fortifications, the naval base, the airport control tower, and the helicopter hangar there. They also reported thick smoke rising from the island, but said no oil infrastructure was confirmed hit. So they aligned with U.S. reports and warned that any attacks on infrastructure would lead to the destruction of all oil and gas facilities in the region, affecting everyone. Now, mind you, Donald Trump has also threatened to destroy Iran's entire electrical grid and turn the lights out in Iran altogether.

And Ali Larijani, the secretary of the National Security Council in Iran, said they would do the same to the Gulf and effectively end the U.S. military presence there by default. Trump claimed he struck all military targets, but that defenses were reactivated within an hour of the attack. He also said the destruction of Iran's missile capabilities had occurred. But the 48th round of Operation True Bombers Four went off without a hitch, and we see the results now all over Tel Aviv and central Israel. Haifa is also being pounded. We see a U.S. tanker burning off the coast of the UAE, and oil flow has not been interrupted on Karg Island.

So a lot of this feels like bravado. A lot of it feels like an attempt to build a case for victory. But if the U.S. invades Karg Island, after what Iran has demonstrated, what stops these Marines—who would be sent into a mountainous slaughter—what stops Iran from absolutely devastating not just the Marines heading there, but also intensifying their attacks on U.S. assets in the region again? Because remember, regardless of how many missiles we think Iran has right now—which Israel said was about 2,500 before the war started, probably a low estimate—high estimates go up to a hundred thousand or more, given that there's now demonstrative proof that the launchers Israel claimed to have destroyed during the 12-day war likely weren't actually destroyed.

And we know that the U.S. has been lying from the beginning of this—and Israel too—because they're hitting decoys that Iran has set up, some say with Chinese support, allowing Iran to purchase inflatable decoys. And of course, we've seen the thermal paint they've put on the ground to mimic helicopters and air power—fighter jets, etc.—that have been hit. And CENTCOM says, "We did it, we won." But the truth is that Iran's military capabilities are still well intact, especially their drone program, which I believe numbers in the hundreds of thousands. The low estimate by CNN and others is around 80,000. But 80,000 is a lot, because all it takes is one, two, three fired at these assets to render them inoperable.

Drones have taken out these radars in the UAE and in Jordan. This is a major crisis for the United States and Israel right now. They're trapped. Iran didn't even have to set this trap, because they knew the United States and Israel were going to attack. How quickly did Iran respond once the missiles hit the school in Iran, killing those 170-plus schoolchildren—the young girls at the Manab

School in Manab? Really quick, within hours. So they were ready. And now, lastly, I wanted to say that in addition to de-dollarizing the world economy through the enforcement of the Chinese yuan being used for oil tanker compensation—if allowed to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran said they will, if you use Chinese yuan.

But also, we haven't talked about Ansar Allah—the Houthis—who just said in recent hours that they will enter the war imminently. And what will they do? Well, we already have tanker activity moving into the Red Sea. When oil prices get above \$120, \$150, closing in on \$200 a barrel, I believe, it's my understanding from what I'm hearing from Ansar Allah in Yemen—and the fact that they haven't yet entered the war—that they're going to close the Bab al-Mandab Strait in the Red Sea when the moment is right. This is a miscalculation by the United States. Huge. The U.S. empire is making a huge miscalculation.

Israel was already decimated by Yemen's successful campaign to close the Red Sea from 2023 to 2024, before the ceasefire that year. Eilat port—gone. We don't hear about any activity from Eilat. Iran doesn't even have to hit it. It's gone. It was gone before the war. Now we're seeing what will happen when Yemen, Ansar Allah—the Houthis—close the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab, with the Strait of Hormuz also closed. You think the oil crisis is bad now, Wall Street Journal? The financial oil tycoons and analysts haven't seen anything yet. And they're underestimating it, because they're not even taking that into account. You know, this is what always happens.

You have the Western mainstream media everywhere, talking to their talking heads and think tanks. They're saying, "Oh, well, Ansar Allah hasn't entered, and they don't want to, obviously. It's been a couple of days—they don't want to." No. They're going to enter. And when they do, it's going to be at a time that deepens an already massive wound that's opening up. Iran has fired, in the last couple of days, hundreds of missiles at U.S. assets, and also, in conjunction with Hezbollah, at Israel. The casualties are mounting. Donald Trump and his administration are getting more desperate to make it seem like they're winning this war.

So it's about to make a fundamental mistake. They're not going to learn from what Iran just did to the refueling tankers in Saudi Arabia. No, they're going to keep sending these Marines—likely to Karg Island or the Iranian coastline. They're going to try to open the Strait of Hormuz by force. And we're going to see something we have not seen in modern, really in U.S. military and imperial history, ever. Which is not just defeat at the hands of guerrillas—the people, the masses—which we've seen in Vietnam, in Korea. We've seen this over and over again. They didn't have technology that could match the U.S. military, but nonetheless, after years, they were able to destroy U.S. war efforts.

But this time around, Iran has military capabilities. Even just the drones alone will make any attempt by U.S. warships to deploy Marines—whatever means they try, a raid on the coast or what have you—end in massive casualties. And when those massive casualties happen, what do you think will

happen to the oil markets and the economy? What do you think will happen to popular sentiment in the United States? And what do you think will happen to the Trump administration? It's all looking like a big blunder. Because it is. Because it is.

Because this was never a war the U.S. could win. And why? Because I've been saying it here on this program. People have laughed. "Danny, why do you say Hezbollah is strong, or any kind of factor? Look, they've been obliterated by Israel. They've been obliterated by the empire. What? Iran? Iran's weak. Operation True Promise 1, 2, 3—oh my God, Operation 1, 2, so weak. 3 didn't really do anything. Did some damage, but it didn't really stop anything." Over and over again I was told, "Nah, these forces, the resistance—they're nothing. They're dead, right? Because they couldn't stop the genocide in Gaza, yes. They couldn't stop U.S. military presence or Israel from existing, yes."

There is still the capacity of the U.S. empire to do massive damage. But that damage doesn't change the arc of history right now. The U.S. empire is in decline. It is in desperate decline. It is in chaos and crisis. It has an economic, political, and military system that cannot sustain itself at this time. It is overstretched, and now it is outmatched. Because the so-called enemies now—I've been saying this on my program, and I'll say it here again—the so-called enemies of the United States, which aren't enemies to us, they're the people of the United States. To me, to you, to whoever's watching this—they're not. They're not your enemies.

Really, nobody should be your enemy, because like other countries in the world—normal countries in the world—we should be talking and trading with each other, living in cooperation, and building a better world, addressing real problems, right? But no. The U.S., because it's an empire, because it's built on profits for the few at the expense of the many—because of the military-industrial complex, the banks, the oil tycoons, all of these oligarchs, these forces—they just want to take everything. So they need to destroy Iran because Iran doesn't jibe with that. They don't want that. But Iran, Russia, China—these countries—forget about it. The U.S. cannot win a conventional war, an unconventional war, an asymmetric war. They can't even win a nuclear war. They won't win a nuclear war. They won't. Why?

Because nobody wins a nuclear war. So no victory is available to the United States at this time. That is the state of the empire. That's what's happening right now. Iran has the initiative. Iran has seized the initiative. Iran has the momentum. Iran is dictating terms. Iran has demands—that no aggression will ever happen to it again, and that it's internationally guaranteed. And they're going to continue to hit U.S. bases and Israel until they get it. They're going to escalate their targets. They're going to hit not only where U.S. personnel are, but every single piece of energy infrastructure in the region is going to be hit. Why? Not because they want to see people with the lights out, or because they want to destroy the global economy, but because they know it's the leverage they have to make this eventually stop.

The U.S. can't defeat that, everybody. The U.S. cannot defeat that. If the U.S. tries to defeat that, they will be defeated. And that's what's happening right now—they will be defeated. Oh yeah? Israel

too? Defeated. Already defeated. Where's Netanyahu? Show yourself. But no, this is the situation we're in. You're going to keep seeing reports from me while I'm off from live streaming for a couple of days, since I'm away from my usual location. I'll be back next week, but you'll get updates from me like this—maybe some pre-recorded interviews. Anyway, hit the like button if you liked what you heard, subscribe if you haven't, check the description to see how you can support the channel, and I'll be back again soon.