



## Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers

### Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail June 16-22, 2025

Greetings Colleagues,

The Consortium is pleased to share its latest newsletter for the Indo-Pacific. Press the reply button for your feedback and comments.

### **Prioritizing Indo-Pacific with U.S. Involvement in Mideast Crisis**

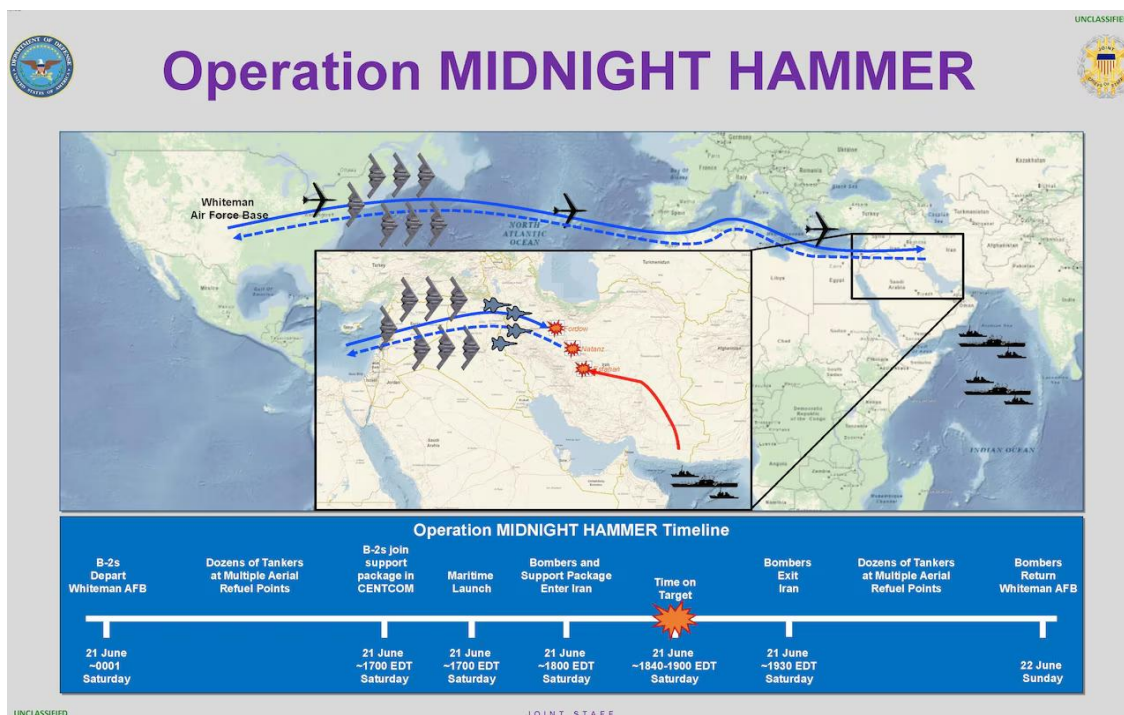


Figure 1: A timeline of United States air strike against Iranian nuclear sites /Image /DOD

On June 21, the United States targeted three nuclear sites in Iran and bombed them with its lethal and stealth B-2s bombers. In Operation "Midnight Hammer," America attacked Iran's sites of Fordo, Natanz, and Isfahan, resulting in significant damage. As President Trump states, "Iran's key nuclear enrichment facilities have been completely and totally obliterated."

America's attack references the International Atomic Energy Agency and intelligence report regarding Iran's lack of credibility in allowing the nuclear agency's officials access to its nuclear sites. It is worth mentioning that [President Donald Trump abruptly left the G-7 summit](#) early a day due to escalating conflict between Israel and Iran, declaring that Tehran should be evacuated "Immediately."

The primary objective of America's involvement in the Mideast is to eliminate Iran's nuclear program. That being said, the strategic focus remains on China. Last month, the U.S. Secretary of Defense delivered a significant [speech in Singapore](#), emphasizing the importance of strengthening military capabilities to effectively deter China's aggression in the region. In his remarks, he urged allies and partners to increase their defense spending and reassured them that the Indo-Pacific is America's "priority" theatre and America is here to stay. He reiterated that any change in the status quo by force or coercion in the region would have "devastating consequences." Stating that China poses an "imminent threat", he urged America's allies to be ready with "urgency and vigilance." If deterrence proves ineffective, America's strategy is to fight and win

decisively, as the Trump administration advocates for achieving peace through strength.

Additionally, South Korea's newly elected President [seeks to work closely with the U.S. and Japan](#) to strengthen security in the Indo-Pacific. Despite the lingering bitter past of South Korean and Japanese relations, both countries agree to strengthen the relations and establish peace in a challenging strategic environment in the region. In building alliance strength, the United States formed a Trilateral Security Alliance with Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK), and the Philippines, along with AUKUS and a non-military grouping known as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD).

The U.S. DoD has been stressing forward force posture, strengthening military capabilities, and advancing military-industrial cooperation with allies and partners to counter China's threat in the Indo-Pacific. For any contingency, the [U.S. deployed its B-2s bombers in Guam](#) a day before the strike in Iran. Guam is the most crucial U.S. military base in the Western Pacific, located 1,500 miles east of the Philippines and south of Japan.

In escalating tension in the Mideast, the probability of conflict spillover is beyond the region as China, Pakistan, and Russia condemn American attacks on Iranian nuclear sites. Moreover, Iran has retaliated with strikes on Israel, and in recent developments, [Iran has hit the American base in Qatar](#).

It remains to be seen how China and Russia will respond to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, especially as they provide diplomatic support to

Iran. Recently, China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, stated that China would assist Tehran in "defending its legitimate rights and interests." However, China's actions towards Taiwan's occupation could be devastating and may lead to a war in the Indo-Pacific region.

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## **U.S. and Singapore Kick off Joint Exercise**

U.S. and Singapore navies started bilateral exercise "Pacific Griffin 2025" in the waters off Guam. This is the fifth iteration of the biennial exercise, to deepen maritime partnership in the Indo-Pacific. The bilateral exercise will showcase advanced command-and-control tactics, procedures, and a series of anti-submarine, anti-air warfare events, along with maritime interdiction operations.

Capt. Matt Scarlett, commodore of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 7 said, "This year's exercise emphasizes combined maritime operations in a complex environment, reflecting our shared commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific region." [Read More](#)

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## **Pakistan Army Chief Visits White House**

Pakistan's Army Chief, Asim Munir, met with President Trump at the White House. This marks the first meeting of any high-ranking official from Pakistan since 2019. Interestingly, the military chief, who is neither the Prime Minister nor the President of the elected Pakistani government, had the rare opportunity

to meet the President of the United States. Munir played a central role in the India-Pakistan conflict in May 2025, during which President Trump repeatedly stated that he mediated the situation and that the war between two nuclear armed states ceased. For that, Pakistan nominates Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The meeting takes place during a time of escalating conflict between Israel and Iran. Pakistan, which is an ally of the U.S., supported the American war against terrorism in Afghanistan. However, Pakistan also maintains strong ties with Iran, making it difficult for the country to decide whether to allow the U.S. to use its bases for potential strikes against Iran. [Read More](#)

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## **Japan and South Korea Commemorate Sixty Years of Diplomatic Relation**

Japan and South Korea have acknowledged the importance of diplomatic relations between the two countries since they signed the "Treaty on Basic Relations" between Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) in 1965. On the occasion, Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba attended the ceremony at the South Korean Embassy in Japan. In his remarks, he states that both countries have accumulated a wide range of exchanges as close neighbors and called for them to join hands and take a new step towards a better future under the current strategic environment, expressing his hope for further leaps in Japan-ROK

relations. However, the legacy of colonialism and Japan's wartime aggression continue to cast a shadow amid ongoing political uncertainty.

In a recent development, Ishiba and South Korea's newly elected liberal president, Lee Jae-Myung, had earlier met on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Canada. The South Korean leader emphasized the importance of maintaining stable and "indispensable" relations with Japan and their mutual ally to establish peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. [Read More](#)

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## Indo-Pacific Quiz

What is the name of U.S. Strike in Iran?

- a. Operation Desert Storm
- b. Operation Midnight Hammer
- c. Operation Odyssey Dawn
- d. Operation Neptune Spear

Who left the G7 summit early due to the conflict in the Middle East?

- a. U.K. Prime Minister
  - b. French President
  - c. U.S. President
  - d. Japanese Prime Minister
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## Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Tune in: Podcast- Environmental Issues and Challenges in India, June 17, 2025 @10:00 AM EST

- ❖ A Commentary on **North Korea's Missile Program and Security in the Korean Peninsula** [Read Here.](#)
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## Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for June 15 Newsletter Quiz

Q. What is the name of U.S. foreign intelligence service?

c. CIA

Q. In which country an airplane crashed just after the take-off that killed onboard 241 people?

a. India

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