



US Navy to Escort Tankers through

“Oil prices soar!
Shares dive!”

based on <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/03/03/iran-oil-energy-military-trump-hormuz-00808825>

Felicia Schwartz and Zack Colman contributed to the original report

U.S. to Provide Military Support and Insurance for Middle East Oil Shipments

President Donald Trump announced Tuesday that the White House will provide naval escorts and political risk insurance for oil and gas tankers travelling through the Strait of Hormuz, aiming to stabilize energy markets rattled by escalating conflict with Iran.

The move marks the first major step by the administration to address the spike in fuel prices that began after the United States and Israel launched strikes against Iran over the weekend. Oil prices had climbed more than \$10 per barrel since Saturday, briefly exceeding \$77 before retreating to around \$73 following the announcement.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said he had directed the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation to offer political risk insurance and financial guarantees at what he described as reasonable rates for all maritime trade passing through the Gulf, with a particular focus on energy shipments. The coverage will be available to all shipping companies. He added that the U.S. Navy would begin escorting tankers through the Strait of Hormuz if necessary.

“The United States will ensure the free flow of energy to the world,” Trump wrote,

adding that additional measures could follow.

Energy markets remain on edge amid concerns that Iran may target oil and gas infrastructure across the Persian Gulf. Iran has threatened to strike vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint that handles roughly 20 percent of global seaborne oil shipments. Although the strait remains technically open, rising insurance costs and cancelled coverage have prompted some tankers to avoid the route, potentially disrupting supply.

Sources familiar with internal White House discussions said officials are increasingly concerned about the economic fallout from the expanding military campaign. Oil and natural gas shipments from key producers such as Qatar and Saudi Arabia depend heavily on access through Hormuz.

A former defence official said the Pentagon is discussing a maritime mission similar to previous U.S. operations in the Red Sea, where American naval forces were deployed to protect commercial shipping from threats by Iran-backed groups.

The widening conflict has heightened risks to regional energy infrastructure. Qatar has suspended operations at a major liquefied natural gas export facility, Saudi refineries have been attacked, and Iranian forces have fired on vessels transiting the strait.

Since the start of joint U.S.-Israeli operations, the U.S. military says it has sunk 11 Iranian

ships. Future operations may focus more on intercepting Iranian missile threats against civilian shipping rather than deterring small-vessel attacks. That effort could further strain U.S. air defence interceptor supplies, already depleted by recent operations in the region.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Monday that the administration would unveil a plan to address rising oil prices but did not provide details. “We’re going to destroy their Navy,” Rubio said.

UK Prime minister is no Churchill

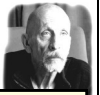
The UK has come under criticism for its handling of attacks on its territory, including the recent drone strike on the RAF base in Cyprus. Although the British government has maintained that it was not involved in the initial military operations against Iran, it has taken steps to strengthen defence measures and safeguard its personnel in the region.

Recent Attack on UK Territory

On March 2, 2026, an Iranian-made drone struck the Royal Air Force (RAF) base at Akrotiri in Cyprus. The drone hit the runway, causing minor damage but resulting in no casualties. The incident represents a notable escalation in the broader conflict involving Iran.

UK Response to the Attack

Following the strike, Prime Minister Keir Starmer reiterated that the UK had no role in the initial military actions against Iran. However, he confirmed that Britain would



permit the United States to use UK bases for what were described as “defensive” strikes against Iranian missile sites. The government stated that this decision was taken to protect British lives and national

interests in the region.

No Churchill

President Trump has said Starmer is no Churchill, suggesting that Starmer has no backbone for war.

Communication Concerns with Cyprus

The Cypriot government expressed frustration over what it described as insufficient communication from the UK regarding the use of RAF Akrotiri. Officials indicated that Britain had not clearly stated that the base would be used solely for humanitarian purposes, raising concerns about Cyprus potentially being drawn further into the conflict. Cyprus has not ruled out reviewing the terms governing the British military bases on the island.

Current Situation

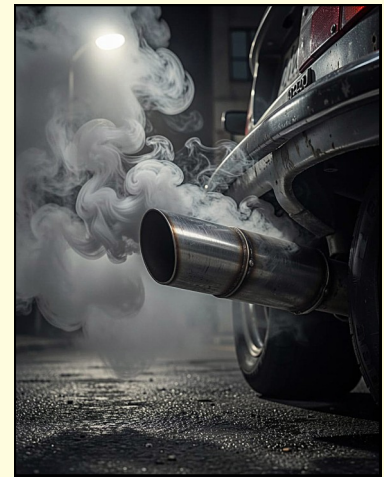
In response to heightened tensions, the UK has increased its military presence in the region, including deploying additional defensive capabilities at RAF Akrotiri. Meanwhile, the UK's national terror threat level remains at “substantial,” meaning an attack is

based on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq8g4jx14xgo>

Motorists who leave their engines running while parked could be fined up to £150 following a vote in the Senedd, Wales.

Currently, drivers can receive a £20 penalty for idling at the roadside. However, under the new measures, local councils will have the authority to set fines ranging from £75 to £150.

The Welsh government says the changes are aimed at cutting harmful air pollution and safeguarding public health, particularly for children. Deputy First Minister Huw Irranca-Davies rejected claims from the



Conservatives and Reform UK that the policy is “anti-motorist.”

Speaking during a Senedd debate, he said the move is “pro-good health, pro-children, and pro-vulnerable populations,” adding that there is clear evidence linking traffic-related air pollution to a range of health problems. He argued that the case for tackling engine idling in the interest of public health is strong and well supported.

Any revenue raised from the fines must be reinvested in enforcement, air quality improvements, and efforts to reduce exposure to vehicle emissions.

The original £20 fine has remained unchanged since it was introduced in 2003. According to the Welsh government, increasing the penalties will bring them more in line with other environmental offences and give councils stronger tools to deter idling.

However, Conservative MS Sam Rowlands criticised the move, saying higher fines send a message that drivers are being unfairly targeted. Reform UK MS James Evans also opposed the increase, describing it as excessive and unjustified.

In contrast, Labour MS Jenny Rathbone said she often politely asks drivers to switch off their engines, but some respond abusively or refuse. She argued that a £150 fine is appropriate for those who ignore requests, given the seriousness of the public health issue.

The new rules were approved by Members of the Senedd, with 37 voting in favour and 12 against. There were no abstentions.

bases in the Middle East, including facilities shared with allied forces in Qatar, Bahrain, Iraq, and Cyprus.

The UK has reportedly taken steps to reinforce air defences at vulnerable installations, including:

- Additional radar systems
- Counter-drone capabilities
- Fighter aircraft support

There have been reports of near-miss incidents involving missiles and drones, though



based on based on I paper

<https://inews.co.uk/news/world/iran-prepares-use-deadliest-weapon-uk-troops-targeted-4270209> and wiki

Iran's Khorramshahr-4 Missile and Regional Security Implications

Iran possesses a range of ballistic missiles and drones that have been used during recent regional hostilities. While numerous systems have reportedly been deployed, some of its more advanced missiles — including the Khorramshahr-4 — have not yet been publicly confirmed in combat use.

Technical Overview

The Khorramshahr missile family is classified as a medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM). According to open-source defence analyses:

Length: approximately 13 meters

Launch weight: about 19.5 tonnes

Range: up to 2,000 km

Warhead capacity: approximately 1,500–1,800 kg

Fuel: liquid-fuel propulsion (hypergolic in the Khorramshahr-4 variant)

Launch platform: mobile transporter-erector-launcher

The Khorramshahr-4, unveiled in May 2023, reportedly features:

Reduced launch preparation time (approximately 12 minutes)

Improved composite materials

Mid-course guidance correction outside the atmosphere

Potential multi-warhead capability (unconfirmed)

Its range allows it to strike targets across much of the Middle East from western Iran.

Strategic Context

Recent hostilities have involved missile and drone exchanges across multiple countries. Regional air defence systems — including US-made Patriot and other interceptor systems — have reportedly intercepted a high percentage of incoming threats. However, air defence systems can face logistical constraints, particularly in prolonged conflicts where interceptor stockpiles are limited and production rates are slower than offensive missile manufacturing.

Some analysts suggest that Iran may be using lower-cost drones and less advanced missiles in early phases of conflict to:

- Test air defence systems

- Deplete interceptor inventories

- Identify coverage gaps

This strategy — sometimes referred to as “saturation” or “exhaustion” tactics — aims to increase the probability of penetration by more advanced systems later.

Drone Warfare and Defence Pressure

Military observers note that relatively inexpensive, slow-moving drones can present complex challenges:

- They are cheaper to produce than interceptor missiles.

- They can force defenders to use costly air defence interceptors.

- They complicate radar tracking due to low altitude and slow speeds.

Even if individually less destructive than ballistic missiles, large numbers can strain defensive networks.

Implications for UK Forces

British personnel are stationed at multiple



However, offensive systems also depend on:

- Surviving launch infrastructure
- Mobile launch platforms
- Intelligence and targeting capability
- Efforts to strike launchers preemptively are therefore central to defensive strategy.

Conclusion

At present, there is no confirmed evidence that the Khorramshahr-4 has been deployed operationally in the current conflict. Its potential use would represent an escalation due to its payload capacity and range.

The broader issue is not a single missile system, but the evolving balance between:

- Offensive missile and drone production
- Defensive interception capacity
- Regional military infrastructure resilience

The situation remains fluid and highly dependent on both logistical endurance and strategic decision-making.

full story here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4q88m02711o>

Hundreds of police officers have taken to the streets of Liverpool as part of a crackdown on crime. A convoy of police vehicles left Merseyside Police headquarters earlier for the operation targeting criminals in the Anfield area.

The day of action is the second which has taken place since Chief Constable Rob Carden took up his post, in September last year, with a promise to take those involved in criminality "off the streets".

"The scale and impact of today's operation should leave criminals in absolutely no doubt - we are here, we are watching and, if you are involved in criminality, you can expect a knock on your door," he said.

A convoy of yellow police vans drive up a hill in the early hours of the morning

Merseyside Police said the force is "relentless" in its pursuit of criminals

Fourteen search warrants were carried out and the team of officers will also carry out land and underwater searches, roadside operations and the targeting of suspects wanted for offences, including domestic abuse, fraud and drug-related offending, Merseyside Police said.

no confirmed large-scale strikes on UK personnel in the current escalation.

Broader Strategic Balance

Ballistic missile defence systems such as THAAD, Arrow, and Patriot are expensive and slower to produce than many offensive systems. This creates an economic and logistical asymmetry: attackers may be able to manufacture missiles more quickly than defenders can replenish interceptors.

based on <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-clean-up-communities-with-deposit-return-scheme-for-plastic-bottles-and-cans>

Government to clean up communities with deposit return scheme for bottles and cans.

The Government has pledged to tackle the UK's throwaway culture and reduce litter by introducing a deposit return scheme (DRS) for drinks containers in England and Northern Ireland.

Under the scheme, launching in October 2027, consumers will pay a small deposit when purchasing drinks in single-use containers. This deposit will be refunded when empty containers are returned to designated collection points such as supermarkets, ensuring bottles and cans are recycled rather than discarded.

Deposit return schemes are already used in more than 50 countries worldwide and have proven highly effective in increasing recycling rates. Countries including Germany, Sweden and the Republic of Ireland have achieved return rates of around 90%, with Germany reaching 98%, according to environmental organisation Reloop.

Across England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, around 30 billion single-use drinks containers are sold every year, including 12 billion plastic bottles and 13 billion drinks cans. However, an estimated 6.5 billion containers are currently wasted instead of being recycled, with many ending up as litter. Research by the Marine Conservation Society found that 97% of surveyed UK beaches contained drinks-related litter in 2023, highlighting the scale of the problem.

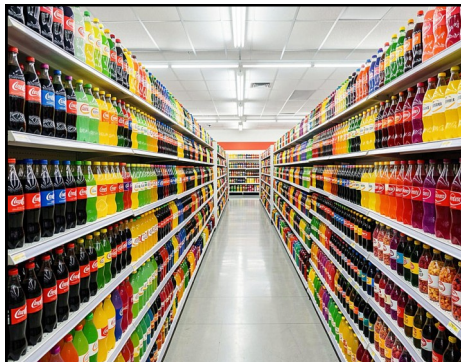
The scheme will cover single-use plastic and metal drinks containers between 150ml and three litres, encouraging consumers to return containers for recycling and helping create a more circular economy in which materials are reused to make new products.

Circular Economy Minister Mary Creagh said:

"This Government is determined to clean up Britain and end the throwaway society.

Introducing a deposit return scheme is a vital step in tackling the avalanche of rubbish polluting our streets, rivers and oceans while protecting wildlife.

By turning trash into cash, the scheme will boost recycling, support clean growth, strengthen supply chains and create new green jobs."



Northern Ireland's Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Minister Andrew Muir said:

"Protecting our climate, driving green growth and reducing unnecessary waste are key priorities.

Establishing a deposit return scheme is central to delivering those goals, and these regulations mark an important step in making that ambition a reality."

New legislation for England and Northern Ireland has now come into force, enabling the appointment of a Deposit Management Organisation (DMO) in April 2025. The DMO will be a not-for-profit, industry-led body responsible for running the scheme and managing its day-to-day operations.

With Scotland also progressing its own regulations, the development marks a significant step towards delivering a

coordinated scheme across Great Britain. Governments will continue working closely with businesses to ensure the necessary infrastructure and investment are in place ahead of the 2027 launch.

Allison Ogden-Newton, Chief Executive of Keep Britain Tidy, said the scheme could significantly reduce litter:

"A deposit return scheme can help remove plastic bottles and aluminium cans from parks, streets and waterways.

Millions of drinks containers are currently littered, burned or buried every day. This legislation will reduce clean-up costs, improve recycling and deliver real environmental benefits."

Industry has also welcomed greater regulatory clarity.

Stephen Moorhouse, Vice President and General Manager of Coca-Cola Europacific Partners GB, said:

"Deposit return schemes are proven to increase recycling, reduce waste and tackle litter. We welcome the clarity provided by the regulations and look forward to working with government and industry to design a system that works for businesses, consumers and the environment."

James Lowman, Chief Executive of the Association of Convenience Stores, added:

"Providing certainty on the regulations allows local shops to begin preparing for the scheme's introduction in 2027.

The focus now must be on building a network of return points that works for customers and delivers the environmental benefits the scheme promises."

Sandy Luk, Chief Executive of the Marine Conservation Society, said:

"With bottles and cans polluting almost all UK beaches, deposit return schemes will play a key role in reducing marine litter while increasing recycling and supporting a circular economy." The scheme forms part of the Government's wider programme of collection and packaging reforms, expected to support 21,000 new jobs and attract more than £10



The truth is here, not out

billion of investment in recycling infrastructure over the next decade.

Further measures to reduce waste are already underway. Legislation has been introduced to ban the sale of single-use vapes from 1 June 2025, following estimates that nearly five million disposable vapes were discarded each week in 2023.

The Government has also announced stricter planning rules for new waste incinerators and launched a £15 million fund to redistribute surplus food from farms to communities in need, helping prevent food waste while supporting vulnerable households.

based on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cewz8940q85o>

Lorries skipping border checks is disease risk - MPs

MPs have warned that lorries importing meat and dairy products could increase the risk of disease entering the UK if they bypass border inspection checks.

Under the post-Brexit border system, inspections on commercial vehicles arriving at Dover are not carried out at the port itself. Instead, vehicles transporting animal products must travel about 22 miles (35km) inland to a designated border control post at Sevington, near Ashford.

However, figures provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) indicate a rise in so-called "drive-bys", where trucks flagged for inspection fail to report to the Sevington facility due to limited enforcement.

A Defra spokesperson described failure to attend the control post as "a breach of regulation", adding that it expects relevant authorities to investigate and follow up on



such violations.

The data, drawn from three sample months, shows that in November 2025 around 18% of consignments of animal products requiring checks did not arrive at Sevington, compared with 8% in August of the same year.

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee (EFRA) — the cross-party parliamentary group responsible for scrutinising Defra — warned that this situation could pose serious risks to UK agriculture. Diseases currently circulating in parts of Europe, including African swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease, and the plant-damaging Xylella bacterium, could potentially enter the country if checks are missed.

The committee also

said there were growing concerns that perceived weaknesses in Dover's inspection regime could attract criminal groups seeking to import products that cannot legally be sold elsewhere in Europe.

Committee chair Alistair Carmichael said the evidence provided by Defra "paints a picture of a dysfunctional system", adding that unchecked meat and plant products risk being allowed into the country.

"The risks to our livestock and plant health are a disaster waiting to happen," he warned.

Carmichael said the government must ensure the current Sevington system operates effectively, at least until a new border arrangement can be negotiated with the European Union.

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Star Trek: Discovery

2017 American science fiction television series.

Star Trek: Discovery is an American science fiction television series created by Bryan Fuller and Alex Kurtzman for the streaming service CBS All Access. It is the seventh Star Trek series and was released from 2017 to 2024. The series follows the crew of the starship Discovery beginning a decade before Star Trek: The Original Series in the 23rd century. At the end of the second season, they travel to the 32nd century, which is the setting for subsequent seasons Continued in Wikipedia

Genre Adventure, Drama, Science fiction

Created by:

Bryan Fuller, Alex Kurtzman

Starring: Sonequa Martin-Green, Doug Jones, Shazad Latif, Anthony Rapp, Mary Wiseman, Jason Isaacs, Wilson Cruz, Anson Mount, David Ajala, Rachael Ancheril, Blu del Barrio, Tig Notaro, Callum Keith Rennie



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