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The War Moves to the Sea

87 dead, 32 rescued

Iris Dena-Frigate

based on https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/iran-ship-submarine-attack-sri-lanka-us-war-b2931613.html

A United States military submarine has sunk an Iranian warship near the coast of Sri Lanka, leaving more than 80 people dead and dozens injured.

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth confirmed during a press conference on Wednesday that the American vessel had fired a torpedo at the ship while it was in international waters.

"The Iranian navy now lies at the bottom of the Persian Gulf," Hegseth said, presenting footage of the strike carried out Tuesday night in the Indian Ocean against what he described as one of Iran's "flagship vessels."

He added that it was the first time since World War II that a torpedo had sunk an enemy warship.

Authorities in Sri Lanka said their navy recovered 87 bodies and rescued 32 survivors after initial reports indicated that more than 100 people might have been missing.

Sri Lanka's foreign minister, Vijitha Herath, told parliament that the navy had received information earlier that the Iranian frigate Iris Dena, carrying around 180 personnel, was in distress and going down. Sri Lanka subsequently dispatched naval ships and air force aircraft to conduct search-and-rescue operations.

Navy spokesperson Commander Buddhika Sampath said rescuers found no trace of the ship when they arrived at the location.

"There were only oil slicks and life rafts," he said. "We discovered people floating in the water."

The 32 survivors were taken to a hospital in the coastal city of Galle, while the recovered bodies were transported ashore. Security personnel guarded the National Hospital Galle as ambulances arrived at the nearby naval headquarters.

According to health ministry official Anil Jasinghe, one rescued sailor is in critical condition, seven others are receiving emergency treatment, and the remaining survivors suffered less severe injuries.

The Iris Dena is among Iran's newest warships. It is a Moudge-class frigate designed for deep-water patrols and equipped with heavy artillery, surface-to-air missiles, anti-ship missiles, torpedoes, and a helicopter.

In 2023, the frigate led a two-ship international voyage that included visits to ports in South Africa and Brazil. It was accompanied by the support vessel Iris Makran, a converted oil tanker.

Both ships were later placed under sanctions by the United States Department of the Treasury in February 2023, along with several executives linked to an Iranian drone manufacturer accused of supplying weapons to Russia for use in the war in Ukraine.

US Admiral Brad Cooper, who leads United States Central Command, said that at least 17 Iranian naval vessels have been destroyed since the conflict began.

"We are effectively eliminating the Iranian navy," he said in a video message. "So far we've sunk 17 ships, including their most capable submarine, which now has a hole in its hull."

Cooper accused Iran of harassing international shipping for decades, adding that no Iranian vessels are currently operating in the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, or the Gulf of Oman.

The destruction of the Iris Dena occurred on the fifth day of the war between the United States, Israel, and Iran, as the conflict continues to spread across the Middle East.

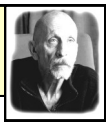
During the Pentagon briefing, Hegseth warned that military strikes against Iran would continue indefinitely if necessary.

"Our air defences and those of our allies have significant capacity," he said. "We can sustain this fight for as long as required."

He also stated that the US would retaliate for the deaths of six American service members killed during the conflict.

When asked about a reported strike on a girls' primary school in southern Iran that killed more than 160 people, including many students, he said the incident was under investigation.

Explosions were reported in Tehran on Wednesday as the conflict intensified. More



than 1,000 people have reportedly been killed across Iran so far.
Meanwhile, Israel's military said its air defence systems were activated to intercept incoming Iranian missiles, with blasts heard around Jerusalem.
Strikes were also reported in Lebanon, where Israel said it was targeting militants from Hezbollah. Large plumes of smoke rose above Beirut as airstrikes destroyed several buildings in the Haret Hreik district.
In another escalation, NATO air defence systems intercepted an Iranian ballistic missile heading toward Turkish airspace, according to officials in Turkey.
The missile was destroyed over the eastern Mediterranean Sea, and authorities reported no casualties.

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based on https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cdxzzqe82d2o
By Jonathan Beale

How shrinking weapons stockpiles could influence the war with Iran

US President Donald Trump has said the United States has a "virtually unlimited supply" of key weapons. Meanwhile, Iran's defence ministry insists it has "the capacity to resist the enemy" for longer than Washington anticipates.
Weapons reserves alone will not determine the outcome of the conflict. In the war in Ukraine, Ukrainian forces have continued fighting despite being outnumbered and outgunned by Russia. Nevertheless, the availability of weapons and ammunition remains a crucial factor.

The pace of military operations has been intense since the beginning of the war. Both sides are already consuming weapons faster than they can manufacture them.
According to the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), the US and Israel have carried out more than 2,000 strikes so far, with each attack involving multiple munitions.
The same report says Iran has fired 571 missiles and launched 1,391 drones. Many of these have likely been intercepted. Sustaining this level of combat will become increasingly difficult for both sides if the war continues.
Iran's arsenal
Western officials say Iran's missile launches have already declined significantly. During the first day of the conflict, hundreds were reportedly fired, but the number has since fallen to dozens.
Before the war, Iran was believed to possess more than 2,000 short-range ballistic missiles. Exact stockpile figures are rarely made public, as militaries keep such information classified to avoid revealing capabilities to adversaries.
America's senior military commander, Dan Caine, said Iran's ballistic missile launches have dropped by 86% since the first day of fighting. United States Central Command (Centcom) reported a further 23% decline within the past 24 hours.
Iran had also produced tens of thousands of its Shahed one-way attack drones before the conflict. The technology was exported to Russia, where similar drones have been used extensively in the war in Ukraine. Even the United States has developed systems inspired by the same design.
However, General Caine said Iran's drone launches have fallen by roughly 73% since the conflict began, suggesting Tehran may be struggling to maintain the early pace of operations.
It is possible that Iran is deliberately slowing its attacks in order to conserve its remaining weapons. However, sustaining production may become increasingly difficult.
US and Israeli aircraft now largely dominate Iranian airspace. Much of Iran's air-defence network has reportedly been destroyed, and its air force is no longer considered a significant threat.
Centcom says the next phase of the war will focus on locating and destroying Iran's missile launchers, drone bases, weapons stockpiles, and manufacturing facilities.
Even so, eliminating all of Iran's weapons will be difficult. The country is vast — roughly three times the size of France — and equipment can still be hidden from aerial surveillance.
Recent conflicts also illustrate the limits of air power alone. Israel has not fully defeated Hamas in Gaza despite years of intensive bombing. Similarly, Houthis in Yemen survived a year-long US bombing campaign, along with some of their weapon systems.
The US advantage
The United States remains the world's most powerful military force, with deeper conventional weapons stockpiles than any other country.
However, much of the US arsenal relies on costly precision-guided weapons that are produced in relatively limited quantities. Reports suggest President Trump plans to meet with defence contractors this week to encourage faster production — a sign that even US resources could face pressure during a prolonged war.
Some of that pressure may now be easing as US forces gain greater freedom to conduct strikes from closer distances.
General Caine said the US military has already moved away from relying primarily on long-range "stand-off weapons", such as Tomahawk cruise missile. Instead, aircraft are increasingly using cheaper "stand-in" munitions like JDAM bombs, which can be dropped directly over targets.
According to defence analyst Mark Cancian at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), once the initial long-range strikes are completed, the US can shift to less expensive weapons.
He believes the United States could maintain its current level of operations "almost indefinitely." As the war continues and the list of targets shrinks, the pace of strikes may naturally slow.
The air defence challenge
While the US possesses tens of thousands of JDAM bombs, more sophisticated air-defence systems are in shorter supply.
These defences have been vital in countering Iranian retaliation during the early stages of the conflict.
Patriot missile system interceptors are in particularly high demand, not only by the United States but also by its Middle Eastern allies and by Ukraine.
Each Patriot interceptor costs more than $4 million (£3 million), and US production is believed to be around 700 missiles per year. Continued Iranian ballistic missile attacks could quickly deplete existing supplies.
Cancian estimates that the US may have roughly 1,600 Patriot missiles in its stockpile — many of which have likely already been used.
While he believes the US could sustain the air-to-ground campaign for a long time, he describes the air-defence situation as "more uncertain".
"If President Trump is willing to draw down Patriot stocks, then we can probably outlast Iran," Cancian said. "But that could increase risks elsewhere, particularly in a potential conflict in the Pacific."
The planned meeting between Trump and defence manufacturers suggests some concern about weapons reserves. Still, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth remains confident.
"Iran cannot outlast us," he said — a claim that, for now, appears likely to be correct.

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based on https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2026/03/04/us-stealth-bombers-to-land-at-british-bases-in-days-b-2/
Tom Cotterill in Tel Aviv. Albert Tait

US stealth bombers expected at British bases within days

American Northrop Grumman B-2 Spirit bombers are expected to arrive at British military bases within the next few days as part of preparations for expanded strikes against Iran.
Two UK-controlled airbases — Diego Garcia in the Chagos Islands and RAF Fairford — are reportedly being readied for the deployment of the aircraft later this week.
Western officials revealed the plans on Wednesday, following warnings from US

President Donald Trump that Iran should expect a significant escalation in attacks.

"We haven't even started hitting them hard," Trump said on Monday. "The big wave hasn't even happened yet. It's coming soon."

The developments come on the fifth day of the war. Earlier this week, an Iranian warship was sunk by a US submarine near the coast of Sri Lanka, reportedly killing 87 people.

Air defence systems operated by NATO also intercepted an Iranian missile heading toward Turkey. Officials believe the missile may have been aimed at a military base hosting US forces.

Turkey urged restraint, warning all sides against actions that could further escalate the conflict. However, the incident raised concerns that another NATO member could be drawn directly into the war.

Reports also suggested that Israel is preparing for a prolonged campaign that could last several weeks.

Weapons pressures on both sides

Iran is thought to be running low on ballistic missiles and may no longer be capable of launching the large-scale missile barrages it initially used against the United States and Israel.

At the same time, the United States is reportedly consuming precision-guided weapons at a rapid pace. According to sources cited by The Wall Street Journal, American stockpiles could be depleted within days, potentially forcing commanders to prioritise which incoming threats to intercept.

UK position and political tensions

The British government initially refused US requests to conduct strikes from RAF bases, citing concerns about international law.

However, Prime Minister Keir Starmer later approved limited use of the bases on Sunday night, allowing US aircraft to operate from them for what he described as "specific and limited defensive purposes".

Trump subsequently criticised Starmer for what he described as insufficient support for the war effort. Speaking in the Oval Office, the president said he was "not happy with the UK", arguing the decision forced US aircraft to fly much longer routes across the Atlantic.

He also remarked that Starmer was "not Winston Churchill" and accused him of damaging international relationships.

Starmer, however, suggested that Washington lacked a clear long-term strategy for the conflict.


American Northrop Grumman B-2 Spirit bomber (wiki)

Addressing MPs on Wednesday, he said: "What I was not prepared to do on Saturday was commit the UK to a war without a clear legal basis and a credible, thought-through plan. That remains my position."

Debate within the US and Europe

Trump's decision to launch the military campaign without prior approval from Congress prompted a vote in the United States Senate.

Senior Democrats criticised the move, including Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer.

"This is not a necessary war," Schumer said. "It's a war of choice."

Concerns were echoed in Europe. Boris Pistorius warned it was unrealistic to believe Middle Eastern conflicts could be resolved "through military force and unilateral action alone".

Drone attack on British base

Meanwhile, RAF Akrotiri was struck by a drone on Sunday evening. The attack caused only minor damage.

Officials said the unmanned aircraft resembled an Iranian-designed Shahed drone — a type widely used by Russia in its war against Ukraine and by Iran against targets across the Middle East.

However, defence intelligence assessed that the drone was not launched directly from Iran. Western officials declined to disclose its origin.

Prior to the attack, Britain had strengthened air defences around RAF Akrotiri. These measures reportedly included the Rapid Sentry system, which uses lightweight multirole missiles and radar technology.

Personnel from the 12th Regiment Royal Artillery are also believed to have contributed to defending the base.

British military deployments

British troops with experience supporting Ukrainian forces have also been sent to the Middle East following requests from several regional partners.

According to Western officials, the first personnel arrived earlier this week, with additional teams arriving shortly afterwards. Their role will include advising allies on how to detect, track and intercept drone threats more effectively.

Britain is also preparing to deploy HMS Dragon, a missile-equipped Type 45 destroyer. The warship is currently being loaded with missiles and supplies and is expected to depart next week for the eastern Mediterranean.

Wider regional developments

The United States has also reportedly opened discussions with Kurdish militias near the Iran–Iraq border about possible operations against Iranian security forces in western Iran.

Trump said the US Navy would escort oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz if Iran attempts to block the vital shipping route.

Meanwhile, divisions have reportedly emerged within the US administration over how the conflict began.

Trump has argued he ordered strikes because he feared Iran was preparing a pre-emptive attack on US forces in the region.

However, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio appeared to offer a different interpretation, suggesting that Israeli strikes on Tehran may have drawn the United States into the conflict.

The Northrop B-2 Spirit is an American heavy strategic bomber that uses low-observable stealth technology to penetrate sophisticated anti-aircraft defences. It is often referred to as a "stealth bomber". A subsonic flying wing and lambda wing with a crew of two, the B-2 was designed by Northrop (later Northrop Grumman) as the prime contractor, with Boeing, Hughes Aircraft Company, and Vought as principal subcontractors. It was produced from 1988 to 2000. The bomber can drop conventional and thermonuclear weapons, such as up to eighty 500-pound class (230 kg) Mk 82 JDAM GPS-guided bombs, or sixteen 2,400-pound (1,100 kg) B83 nuclear bombs. The B-2 is the only acknowledged in-service aircraft that can carry large air-to-surface standoff weapons in a stealth configuration.

based on https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0q33nvj0qpo

UK regulator questions Meta over reports workers viewed private AI glasses footage

The UK's data protection regulator has contacted Meta following reports that outsourced workers were able to access highly personal videos recorded by the company's AI-powered smart glasses.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) said it would seek clarification from Meta after an investigation suggested contractors had reviewed sensitive footage captured by the devices.

Image is an AI RECONSTRUCTEED IMAGE of :Mark Zuckerberg wearing Ray-Ban Meta glasses

Meta acknowledged that subcontractors may occasionally examine photos, videos and other content recorded by its smart glasses in order to improve the performance of its artificial intelligence systems.

The footage is generated by the company's Ray-Ban Meta smart glasses.

However, an investigation by Swedish newspapers Svenska Dagbladet and Göteborgs-Posten reported that contractors based in Kenya had sometimes viewed extremely private recordings — including clips showing people using the toilet or having sex.

One worker involved in the process reportedly said: "We see everything — from living rooms to naked bodies."

Meta says data is reviewed to improve AI

Meta said it takes user privacy seriously and continues to refine safeguards designed to protect personal data.

"Ray-Ban Meta glasses allow people to use AI hands-free to answer questions about the world around them," the company said in a statement to BBC News.

"When users share content with Meta AI, we may sometimes use contractors to review this data to improve people's experience with the glasses, as outlined in our privacy policy."

Meta added that content is filtered before review in order to protect privacy.

According to the company, this can involve measures such as blurring faces in images.

However, sources who spoke to the Swedish newspapers said the safeguards did not always work, meaning people's identities could sometimes still be visible.

Users may not realise humans review content

Footage recorded by the glasses must be activated manually, either through a button or a voice command.

However, users may not realise that their recordings could later be reviewed by human contractors — information that is buried within Meta's detailed privacy policies and terms of service.

When asked by the BBC to clarify where this practice was explained, Meta provided a link to its additional terms of service but did not specify which section addressed human review of recorded content.

The company's UK AI terms state that interactions with its artificial intelligence systems may sometimes be reviewed, either automatically or manually.

"In some cases Meta will review your interactions with AIs," the document says. "This review may be automated or manual (human)."

UK watchdog raises concerns

The ICO said that devices collecting personal data — including wearable technology such as smart glasses — must give users clear control and transparency.

"Devices processing personal data should put users in control and provide appropriate transparency," the regulator said in a statement.

"Service providers must clearly explain what data is collected and how it is used.

"The claims in this article are concerning. We will be writing to Meta to request information on how it is meeting its obligations under UK data protection law."

Role of data annotators

The workers interviewed by the Swedish newspapers were employed as data annotators — people who help train AI systems by manually identifying and labelling content in images or videos.

They were hired through Sama, a Nairobi-based firm that provides training data services for artificial intelligence companies.

The BBC has contacted Sama for comment on the report.

According to the workers, their responsibilities included reviewing transcripts of conversations between users and Meta's AI to ensure responses were accurate.

They said their workplace had strict security measures, including surveillance cameras and a ban on mobile phones.

Nevertheless, the material they encountered could be extremely sensitive. Some workers said they had viewed recordings of people watching pornography.

In one example described in the report, a pair of smart glasses was allegedly left recording in a bedroom where it later captured a woman — believed to be the user's wife — undressing.

How the glasses work

Meta's smart glasses include a small indicator light that switches on when the built-in camera is recording video or images.

The company advises users to make others aware when recording is taking place and to avoid filming in private spaces.

The devices were launched last year in partnership with eyewear brands Ray-Ban and Oakley, both owned by EssilorLuxottica.

Concerns about misuse

Advances in artificial intelligence have led to a rapid increase in wearable devices capable of analysing images and sounds captured by the user.

These gadgets can perform tasks such as translating written text or answering questions about objects in the user's surroundings — features that can be particularly helpful for people who are blind or partially sighted.

However, as the technology becomes more widespread, concerns about privacy and misuse have also grown.

Some women have previously told BBC News they were secretly filmed by people using smart glasses.

Sama itself began as a non-profit organisation aimed at creating technology jobs in developing countries. It later became a certified ethical "B-corp".

However, its earlier work moderating online content for technology companies drew criticism and legal challenges from former employees.

The company has since ended its content moderation services and previously said it regretted taking on that work.

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based on https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/articles/c20ldynx710o

Saharan dust set to bring fiery sunsets and 'blood rain' to the UK

A dramatic change in the UK's skies is expected later this week as a vast cloud of dust from the Sahara Desert moves north across much of the country.

The plume is made up of extremely fine sand and mineral particles that have been lifted from North Africa's deserts and carried thousands of miles by warm southerly winds.

As the dust spreads across the UK, it is likely to turn ordinary sunrises and sunsets into vivid displays of deep gold, amber and burnt orange.

However, the phenomenon can also have a less welcome effect. When Saharan dust mixes with rainfall, it can leave a thin layer of reddish-brown residue on surfaces such as cars, windows and outdoor furniture — something often referred to as "blood rain".

Why the skies will look different

The most striking colours are expected on Thursday and into Friday, particularly if skies remain clear around sunrise and sunset.

The effect is likely to be most noticeable across England and Wales, where clearer and slightly cooler conditions are forecast to move in from the west by the end of the week.

The dust event follows severe weather across the Iberian Peninsula, where Storm Regina brought heavy rain, strong winds and disruption.

As the storm moved east into the Mediterranean, it pulled warm air northwards from the deserts of North Africa.

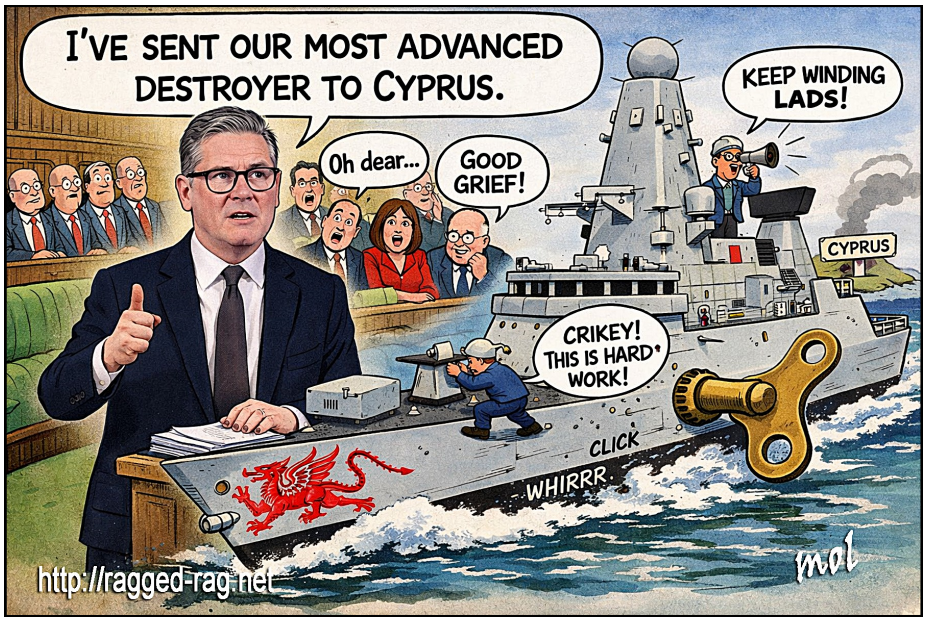
This airflow lifted large quantities of Saharan dust high into the atmosphere.
The dust is now circulating around an area of high pressure currently bringing mild, settled and sunny weather to the UK.
How Saharan dust creates vivid sunsets
The colourful displays occur high in the atmosphere, where the fine dust particles remain suspended several kilometres above the ground before slowly drifting downwards.
These particles scatter sunlight and filter out shorter blue and violet wavelengths, allowing longer red and orange wavelengths to dominate.
As a result, the sky can appear dramatically different at dawn and dusk, producing glowing horizons and intense shades of gold, amber and orange that can sometimes give the landscape an almost otherworldly appearance.

How unusual is it?

Saharan dust reaching the UK is a natural and fairly common weather event.
It usually happens several times each year, most often during late winter and spring when southerly winds transport warm air from North Africa towards Europe.
This week's dust plume arrives as the UK experiences a spell of unusually mild, spring-like conditions after a cold and particularly wet start to the year.

What is "blood rain"?

When Saharan dust mixes with rainfall it produces what is often called "blood rain".
Tiny dust particles suspended in the atmosphere become trapped in falling raindrops. When the rain reaches the ground, it leaves behind a thin layer of gritty, reddish-brown residue.
Cars, windows, roofs and garden furniture can all become coated with the dusty film, which often requires washing to remove.
The effect is expected to be most noticeable across parts of England and Wales, where dust concentrations are forecast to be highest due to prevailing winds and the position of the high-pressure system.
Even in areas with lower dust levels, some people may still notice a faint dusty layer after rainfall.
Despite its dramatic name and unusual appearance, blood rain is harmless. The dust poses no health risk for most people, and any impact is usually limited to cosmetic mess on outdoor surfaces.
In many ways, it serves as a striking reminder of how weather systems can transport material thousands of miles through the atmosphere



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based on https://news.sky.com/story/man-in-court-charged-with-two-attempted-murders-after-edinburgh-stabbing-13514987

Man in court charged with two attempted murders after Edinburgh stabbing

Suspect Mustafa Kokoneh, 23, was arrested and charged in connection with an incident in the city's Calder neighbourhood on Monday.
A man has appeared in court charged with two counts of attempted murder following an alleged stabbing incident in Edinburgh.
Police were called to the Calder Gardens neighbourhood at around 8.25am on Monday after reports of a man carrying a bladed weapon.
Armed officers responded to the incident and placed the nearby Cobbinshaw House tower block under lockdown. The building remained sealed off until shortly after 3.30pm.
The suspect, Mustafa Kokoneh, 23, was arrested and later charged in connection with the incident.
Kokoneh appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Wednesday. He made no plea to eight charges brought against him.

The charges include:

Assault to danger of life and attempted murder

Assault causing severe injury, permanent impairment, danger to life and attempted murder

Two counts of assault to danger of life

Breach of the peace

Possession of a bladed article in a public place

Carrying offensive weapons

Vandalism

The accused, whose address was given as Edinburgh, was remanded in custody and is expected to appear in court again within eight days.
Police Scotland previously confirmed the incident is not being treated as terrorism-related.
Officers said one man suffered injuries consistent with a stabbing, while a woman sustained a head laceration that is not believed to have been caused by a blade. Both were later treated and discharged from the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.
During the police response, crowds gathered near the high-rise building as the incident unfolded. Several residents said it had been difficult to determine what was happening amid widespread rumours circulating online.
Police also warned about misinformation being shared on social media.
Chief Inspector Scott Kennedy urged the public not to speculate about the incident.
"While we understand the situation was frightening, we ask people to avoid speculation and remember that inaccurate information could affect future court proceedings," he said.

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based on https://www.livescience.com/space/astronomy/truly-extraordinary-mega-laser-shooting-at-us-from-halfway-across-the-universe-is-the-brightest-cosmic-beacon-weve-ever-seen

By Harry Baker

'Truly extraordinary': Mega-laser shooting at us from halfway across the universe is the brightest 'cosmic beacon' we've ever seen

Astronomers detect record-breaking cosmic

"mega-laser" from halfway across the universe

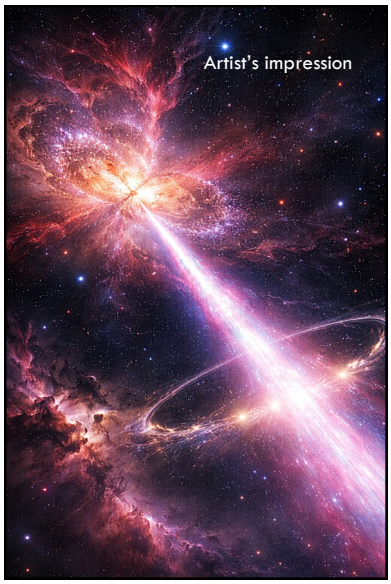
Astronomers have identified the brightest and most distant "megamaser" ever recorded — an intense beam of microwave radiation coming from a galaxy merger roughly 8 billion light-years away.

The extraordinary signal was detected using the MeerKAT radio telescope in South Africa. Scientists say the discovery was only possible because of a cosmic phenomenon known as gravitational lensing, a space-time effect predicted by Albert Einstein. This effect allows massive objects, such as galaxies, to bend and magnify light from objects located behind them, making extremely distant signals visible from Earth.

What is a megamaser?

The newly detected signal is known as a hydroxyl megamaser, a naturally occurring cosmic version of a laser.

Instead of producing visible light like the lasers used on Earth, masers amplify microwaves, a longer wavelength form of electromagnetic radiation. The process happens when enormous clouds of gas are compressed during violent galaxy collisions.



In these mergers, vast quantities of hydroxyl (OH) molecules become highly energized and release powerful microwave emissions. When these emissions are amplified, they form a narrow, extremely bright beam that can travel across billions of light-years of space.

Because of their intense brightness and long-range visibility, megamasers are often described by astronomers as "cosmic beacons." They can reveal important clues about how galaxies form, evolve and interact over cosmic time.

A signal stronger than expected

The newly discovered megamaser comes from two colliding galaxies known as HATLAS J142935.3–002836, first identified in 2014.

The microwaves emitted by the system are unusually long — about 18 centimetres in wavelength — and far more powerful than typical megamasers.

In fact, the signal is so intense that researchers have suggested it may belong to a new category of cosmic maser known as a "gigamaser," representing an even more powerful level of emission.

Looking back in time

Because the system is located around 8 billion light-years from Earth, the radiation astronomers observe today was actually emitted when the universe was only about half its current age.

That makes this the most distant megamaser ever detected.

Researchers say discoveries like this help scientists study the early universe and understand how massive galaxies grew through mergers and interactions.

The finding was first reported in a study posted on the preprint server arXiv and accepted for publication in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society: Letters.

based on https://www.msn.com/en-gb/money/other/rogue-roofer-jailed-as-16-victims-left-out-of-pocket-in-75k-swindle/ar-AA1XyI7S

Story by Gary Porter, Cheshire Live

Rogue roofer jailed after £75,000 fraud left 16 victims out of pocket

A rogue builder who took thousands of pounds from homeowners but failed to complete roofing and renovation work has been sentenced to prison.

Richard Williams, 53, of Wimbrick Hey in Wirral, was jailed for 32 months at Chester Crown Court after being convicted of fraud.

The case was brought by Cheshire West and Chester Council following an investigation by its Trading Standards team.

The offences involved 16 victims and took place between May 2019 and September 2023 across Cheshire, Merseyside and Flintshire.

Work left unfinished or poorly done

Investigators found that Williams would typically request large upfront payments for roofing or renovation projects. Once most of the agreed fee had been paid, he often failed to return to complete the work.

As a result, many victims were left with unfinished projects that had to be completed by other contractors.

In cases where work had begun, it was frequently carried out to such a poor standard that it had to be removed and redone. In some instances, Williams accepted payment but did not carry out any work at all. The total value of the fraud was calculated at £75,840.

#50 - White mates in 5