

US Expands Middle East Military Presence Amid Rising Tensions



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The United States has expanded its military presence in the Middle East as tensions with Iran intensify, according to reports by The New York Times, Reuters, CNN, and other US media outlets.

The move comes as President Donald Trump said he hopes force will not be necessary.

The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and its strike group have entered the US Central Command area of responsibility in the western Indian Ocean, placing the carrier within rapid operational range of Iran. The deployment includes guided-missile destroyers equipped with Tomahawk cruise missiles. US officials told media outlets that the carrier could carry out operations within days if ordered.

The Pentagon has also reportedly sent additional F-15E strike aircraft to the region and deployed Patriot and THAAD missile defense systems to protect US forces. Long-range bombers based in the United States remain on heightened alert.

President Trump described the buildup as precautionary. Speaking to reporters, he said the US had an “armada” heading toward the region but expressed hope it would not be used.

Pentagon officials have increased consultations with regional allies, including visits by US Central Command chief Adm. Brad Cooper. Washington has also signaled openness to dialogue if Tehran initiates contact.

Iranian officials warned of a “decisive response” to any attack. The United Nations urged restraint, while regional actors issued statements reflecting heightened concern over escalating tensions and the potential for conflict.