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Según se informa, el Pentágono enviará más buques de guerra e infantes de marina a Oriente Medio

Por **Riley Ceder** y **JD Simkins**

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Un F-35B Lightning II se prepara para despegar del USS Tripoli el 6 de marzo de 2026. (MC Reese Mitchell Taylor/Estados Unidos. Marina)

Estados Unidos está enviando más refuerzos a Oriente Medio en apoyo de la guerra con Irán.

EE.UU. Según se informa, el secretario de Defensa, Pete Hegseth, aprobó una solicitud de Estados Unidos. Comando Central para un elemento de un grupo anfibio listo y una Unidad Expedicionaria de la Marina adjunta para ayudar a combatir los ataques regionales de Irán, informó por primera vez el Wall Street Journal el viernes.



Las fuerzas suplementarias incluirían hasta 5.000 efectivos y varios buques de guerra, incluido el USS Tripoli, que se dirige al Medio Oriente desde su puerto base en Sasebo, Japón, según el informe.

El Tripoli Amphibious Ready Group incluye el buque de asalto anfibio USS Tripoli clase América, los buques de transporte anfibio USS New Orleans y USS San Diego clase San Antonio y los embarcados 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

The 31st MEU, meanwhile, includes a ground combat element, which features a battalion landing team — an infantry battalion and combat support elements — of around 1,100 Marines and sailors.

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Also included is the aviation combat element, which features tiltrotor and fixed-wing aircraft, transport and attack helicopters, ground support assets and air defense teams.

A combat logistics battalion with equipment and personnel capable of sustaining a MEU in austere environments for up to 15 days will also join the effort. This group includes medical, supply and explosive ordnance personnel, among others.

Requests for comment from the Pentagon and CENTCOM were not returned as of press time. The Navy told Military Times it would not be commenting.

The deployment of the Tripoli Amphibious Ready Group comes less than a year after a Military Times report found the readiness rate of the Navy's amphibious assault ships had dropped to just 41% amid the Trump administration's ramped-up effort to combat drug cartels in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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The readiness issue at the time resulted in a more than five-month gap in MEU deployments.

Despite any strain, the U.S. continues to ramp up attacks on the Islamic Republic.

CENTCOM on Thursday said that American forces have struck roughly 6,000 targets inside Iran since the war began. More than 60 Iranian ships and over 30 minelayers have also been eliminated, CENTCOM announced.

Pentagon officials told senators in a classified briefing this week that the first six days of Operation Epic Fury cost American taxpayers an estimated \$11.3 billion, according to a person familiar with the session.

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The figure, however, omitted a range of war-related expenses, indicating the overall total is likely to rise.

An incident Thursday saw U.S. deaths in the Iran war nearly double after a U.S. Air Force KC-135 refueling aircraft crashed during ongoing combat operations.

All six crew members were killed in the crash, which was not caused by hostile or friendly fire, CENTCOM confirmed Friday. Two aircraft were reportedly involved in the incident, officials said, with the second aircraft landing safely.

A total of 13 U.S. service members have been killed during combat actions and roughly 140 more wounded — eight severely — across the opening two weeks of Operation Epic Fury.

About **Riley Ceder** and **J.D. Simkins**

Riley Ceder is a reporter at Military Times, where he covers breaking news, criminal justice, investigations, and cyber. He previously worked as an investigative practicum student at The Washington Post, where he contributed to the Abused by the Badge investigation.

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