# US-Iran tensions escalate as military threats sharpen



Tensions between the United States and Iran have sharply escalated following a series of provocative statements from US President Donald Trump regarding a military response to Iran's nuclear activities. In an alarming development, Iranian military leaders have threatened to target British forces stationed at the joint US-UK naval base on Diego Garcia in the Chagos Islands if such an attack occurs.

Trump's ultimatum to Iran, which includes a warning of a military response should the country fail to agree to a deal regarding its nuclear programme, has prompted a robust reaction from Tehran. Military officials have indicated that a retaliatory strike against British and American forces would be inevitable if the US were to launch any aggressive action from bases in the region.

According to a report by The Telegraph, one high-ranking Iranian military official stated, "There will be no distinction in targeting British or American forces if Iran is attacked from any base in the region or within the range of Iranian missiles." They underscored the gravity of their message by adding, "When the time comes, it won't matter whether you're an American, British, or Turkish soldier – you will be targeted if your base is used by Americans."

In particular, Iranian state media have articulated plans to strike the Diego Garcia facility with ballistic missiles and combat drones, emphasising that the country possesses the requisite capabilities for such a strike, including the newer versions of the Khorramshahr missile and the Shahed-136B kamikaze drone, which can reach targets up to 4,000 kilometres away.

The strategic significance of the Diego Garcia base is underlined by the presence of B-2 Spirit bombers, known for their long-range capabilities and advanced stealth technology, which are thought to pose a considerable threat to Iran's underground military facilities. Recent satellite imagery has confirmed that at least three B-2 Spirit bombers have recently arrived at Diego Garcia, further intensifying concerns in Iran regarding their military readiness.

In response to Iran's threats, a spokesperson for the British government condemned the statements vehemently, asserting, "We condemn these threats in the strongest terms. The UK Government continues to work with partners across the region to encourage de-escalation. The base on Diego Garcia is vital to UK and US security and plays a crucial role in maintaining regional and international security."

The potential implications of these heightened tensions extend beyond the threat to Diego Garcia, as other US military sites throughout Asia and the Middle East could also face Iranian reprisals. Among these locations is a naval base in Bahrain, which is located near a facility operated by the Royal Navy, amplifying concerns among UK and US military personnel.

The Chagos Archipelago, of which Diego Garcia is the largest island, has been a subject of international dispute as the UK government has expressed intentions to transfer sovereignty over the territory to Mauritius. This historical context adds another layer of complexity to the already fraught military and diplomatic situation in the region.

As diplomatic efforts wane, President Trump has reiterated his administration's stance of "maximum pressure" against Iran, urging the country to agree to a nuclear deal. He articulated this position recently, stating that Iran must make a choice, either toward negotiation or face dire consequences. In contrast, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has firmly rejected the notion of engaging in direct negotiations with the United States, declaring, "No problem will be solved by negotiating with America."

This unfolding scenario continues to develop, with both military readiness and diplomatic avenues increasingly scrutinised amid the ongoing tensions between the US and Iran.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

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* <https://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/iran-update-march-28-2025> - This update details Iran's efforts to deter a potential military strike on its nuclear facilities, including signals of openness to indirect nuclear negotiations. It also mentions direct threats from Iranian officials regarding potential retaliation.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-50979696> - This source reports on the historical and current disputes surrounding the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, providing context to the strategic and diplomatic tensions in the region.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/oct/30/israel-iran-clash-escalating-khameini-warns-of-retaliation> - This article discusses Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's stance on negotiations with the US and Iran's readiness to retaliate if targeted. It highlights the current tensions and military posturing in the region.
* <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/10/29/israel-iran-drone-attacks> - This report details recent military actions and tensions between Israel and Iran, which contribute to the broader regional security concerns, including potential strikes on military bases like Diego Garcia.
* <https://www.csis.org/analysis/diego-garcia-and-regional-security> - This analysis explores the strategic importance of the Diego Garcia base and its implications for regional security, discussing the potential impact of military operations or attacks on such a facility.