

Iran says it is ready to 'hit' adversaries, as US sends more troops to Saudi Arabia and UAE

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PHOTO: The head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard said his forces have carried out "war exercises". (Reuters)

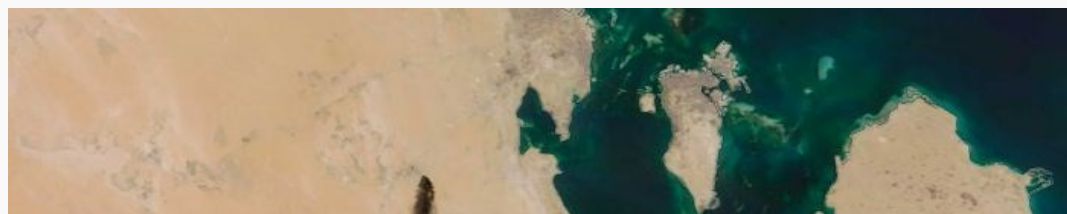
Iran's Revolutionary Guard is ready for combat and "any scenario," according to its chief commander, as the US has deployed more troops to Gulf states following drone strikes on the some of the world's biggest oil fields in Saudi Arabia.

Washington blames Tehran for the [September 14 attacks that knocked out half of Saudi Arabia's total oil production](#) — or about 6 per cent of the world's oil supply — despite Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels officially claiming responsibility.

Iran has denied involvement in the attacks and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif warned that any retaliatory strike on Iran by the US or Saudi Arabia would result in "an all-out war".

This was echoed by General Hossein Salami, chief commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, who said his forces have carried out "war exercises and are ready for any scenario".

“If anyone crosses our borders, we will hit them," he said.



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Key points:

- The US will deploy more troops to Saudi Arabia and the UAE after attacks on oil assets
- Washington blames Iran for the attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure, which Tehran denies
- Iran's Revolutionary Guard has carried out war exercises and is "ready for any scenario"

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PHOTO: The drone strikes disrupted about 6 per cent of global oil supply. (AP: NASA Worldview)

On Friday (local time), the [Pentagon said the US would deploy additional troops and military equipment to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates](#) to beef up security.

In a press conference, President Donald Trump said showing restraint "shows far more strength" and he wanted to avoid an all-out war.

This followed the Treasury Department's announcement that it took action against the Central Bank of Iran.

Iran's central bank chief, Abdolnasser Hemmati, said the action showed how little leverage Washington had left.

'Do not miscalculate and do not make a mistake'

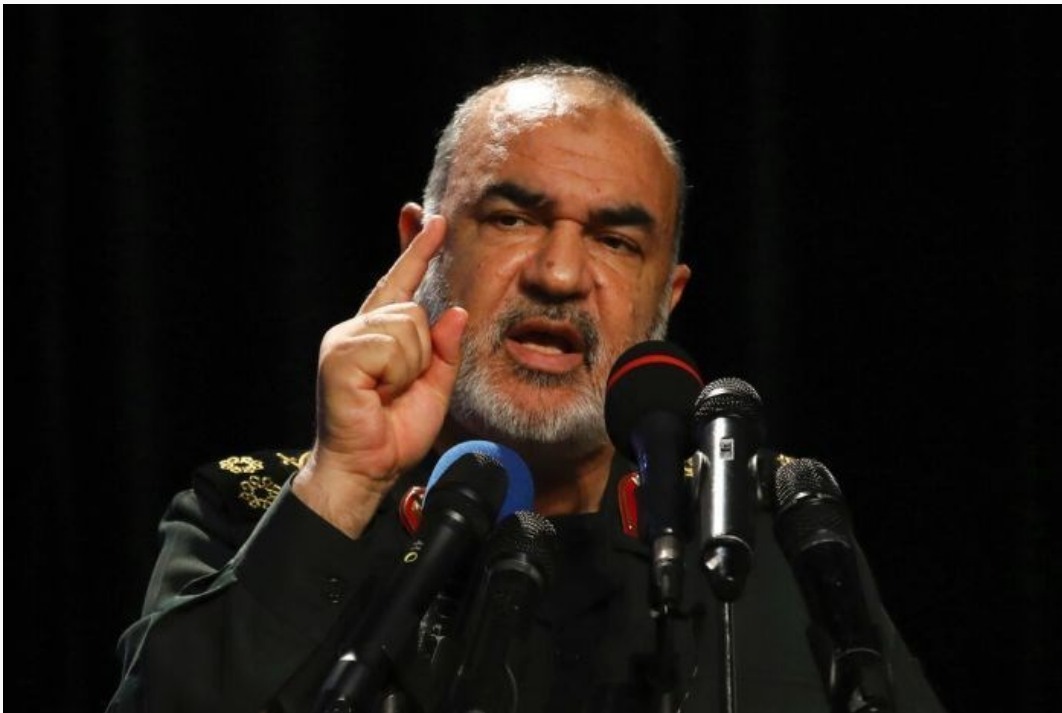


PHOTO: General Salami said Iran does not want to provoke a conflict.

Mr Zarif claimed in a tweet that Saudi Arabia does not believe its own allegations that Iran was responsible for the attack on the oil sites.

"It is clear that even the Saudis themselves don't believe the fiction of Iranian involvement," Mr Zarif said, pointing to what he described as a Saudi retaliatory attack on Houthi forces in south-west Yemen.

Saudi Arabia has been at war with the Houthi rebels since March 2015.



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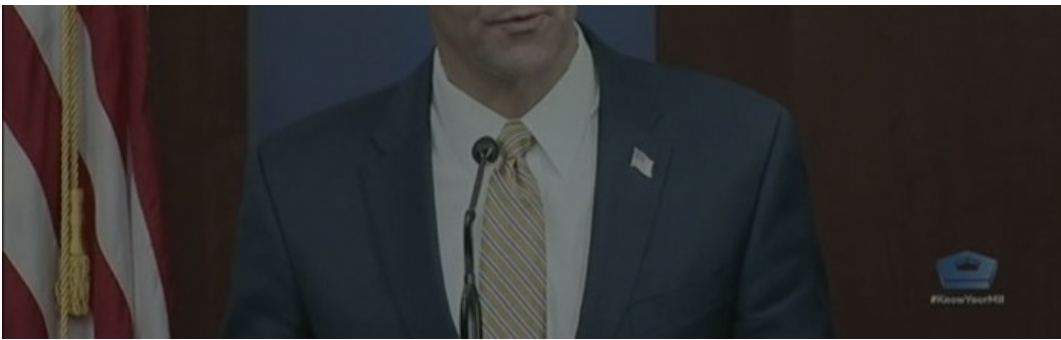
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VIDEO: [Pentagon announces US troop deployment to Saudi Arabia](#) (ABC News)

The UN, Gulf Arab nations and the US accuse Iran of supplying arms to the Houthis, something Tehran denies.

Analysts say the missiles used in the September 14 assault would not have had enough range to reach the oil sites in eastern Saudi Arabia from impoverished Yemen.

The missiles and drones used resembled Iranian-made weapons, although analysts say more study is needed to definitively link them to Iran.

General Salami added that Iran does not want to start a conflict, but appeared to warn the US and Saudi Arabia that Iran is prepared.

"We won't stop until the destruction of any aggressor. And we will not leave any secure spot," he said.

"Do not miscalculate and do not make a mistake."

'I'm dying, Daddy'



Many Australians may not know where Yemen is, let alone realise the conflict in Yemen is the world's worst humanitarian emergency.

Iran is trying to 'divide the world': Saudi Arabia



PHOTO: [US allies in the Persian Gulf, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, have asked for Washington's military support.](#) (US Navy: Tristan Kyle)

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia's minister of state for foreign affairs told reporters he held Iran accountable for the attack as it was "done with Iranian weapons".

But he added that he was waiting for the investigation's conclusion on where the strikes came from.

"The more engagement you have with Iran the more Iran believes its aggressive behaviour is acceptable in the world, and that is not acceptable, so those issues need to be considered," Adel al-Jubeir told a news conference.

"The Iranian position is to try to divide the world and in that it is not succeeding."

Next door in oil-rich Kuwait, the small country continued to sound the alarm over the potential for tensions to spiral out of control.

Its state-run KUNA news agency on Saturday quoted the chief executive of Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries as saying that it has foodstuffs available for upward of eight months if necessary.

Mutleg al-Zayed said the company had a readiness to cope "with ramifications that may emerge as a result of conditions in the region", without elaborating.

Kuwait has already raised the readiness of its armed forces and increased security at its ports.

ABC/wires

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Drone warfare spooks superpowers



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