

FACES

Sheeran's tour unraveling after Macklemore firing
Page 15



MILITARY

Republican Massie moves to impeach Hegseth over war
Page 3

MLB

Selfless Brewers clinch another NL Central title
Page 24



➤ Air Force plans career field aimed at bolstering base defenses ›› Page 4

STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 85 Edition 109 ©SS 2026 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

平成12年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥ 50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

CBO says Iran war has cost US \$38B

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

U.S. combat operations against Iran have cost at least \$38 billion and could cost up to \$3 billion a month as the war continues, according to an analysis released Tuesday by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

The estimate covers the price tag of the conflict through Aug. 1 and reflects the costs of replacing expended munitions and equipment lost in battle, increased flying hours and other operations and increased fuel costs.

It does not account for the damage inflicted by Iranian strikes on U.S. bases across the Middle East, according to the agency, which noted that the Pentagon did not respond to its requests for information.

The majority of the expenses, nearly \$22 billion, are for the expenditure of munitions, including \$13.1 billion for missile defense interceptors that have been used to counter Iranian missile and drone attacks, according to the agency.

The CBO said the U.S. has probably used between one-half to two-thirds of its inventory of certain interceptors since June 2025, when the U.S. joined Israel in bombing Iranian nuclear sites and intercepted retaliatory Iranian attacks.

Rebuilding the Pentagon's inventory of interceptors would probably take at least five years, even if currently low production rates are increased, the agency stated in a letter to Rep. Brendan Boyle, D-Pa.

Chief Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a statement Tuesday that "claims of U.S. munition shortages are false." Presi-

SEE COST ON PAGE 5



AP

Yemen's Houthi rebels march during a mobilization campaign in Sanaa, Yemen, on Sept. 10.

Advance warning

Houthis' gains near US base in Djibouti renew security concerns

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The expanding reach of Yemen's Houthi militants along the Red Sea is raising concerns about the security of the main American military hub in Africa, with recent territorial gains bringing the Iran-backed group closer to the installation.

Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, which hosts several thousand U.S.

military and civilian personnel, is roughly 80 miles from Perim Island, which the Houthis seized last week. The island sits in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a crucial passage for ships entering and leaving the Red Sea.

The advance comes as the war with Iran has exposed vulnerabilities in a U.S. basing network built for an era when installations well behind the front lines were largely

considered sanctuaries.

Even before the recent Houthi advance, the group's proximity and extensive missile and drone arsenal had prompted warnings from analysts and U.S. commanders.

The Houthis could target Camp Lemonnier as part of a Red Sea attack campaign, the American Enterprise Institute's Critical Threats Project said in a March

assessment.

U.S. Africa Command raised similar concerns last year.

"The Houthis have the capability to attack the Djibouti base cluster should they decide to escalate against the United States," former AFRICOM boss Gen. Michael Langley said in congressional testimony last year.

SEE ADVANCE ON PAGE 6