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Authorities in Kuwait said one of its power generation and water desalination stations had been hit in an Iranian attack. STEPHANIE MCGEHEE/REUTERS FILE

# U.S. and Iran trade infrastructure attacks

## Escalation in fighting pushes oil prices higher

Jana Choukeir and Eman Abouhassira  
REUTERS

DUBAI – The United States struck bridges and an airport in Iran on July 17 and Tehran responded by hitting a power and desalination plant in Kuwait, as the warring foes risked further escalation by expanding their targets to include infrastructure.

In the contested Strait of Hormuz, where the renewed conflict has again cut off global energy supplies from the Middle East, U.S. Marines boarded a tanker, and another ship was reported to have been hit by a projectile. Another vessel was boarded by armed men off Yemen, though one maritime security source said the incident appeared to be an act of Somali piracy rather than linked to the war with Iran.

Washington and Tehran have been testing the limits of escalation since their ceasefire agreement collapsed, raising the prospect of a return to active war. President Donald Trump has threatened to launch broad-based air strikes on Iran’s infrastructure and has also declined to rule out a ground as-



Washington and Tehran have been testing the limits of escalation since their ceasefire agreement collapsed, raising the prospect of a return to active war. MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY VIA REUTERS FILE

sault on Iran’s coast or islands.

U.S. officials have said attacks on southern Iran are designed in part to give Trump options. Such moves risk provoking Iran to escalate in turn by hitting the vital infrastructure of vulnerable neighboring Arab states, or having its allies in Yemen further disrupt global energy supplies by attacking shipping from the Red Sea.

In the latest strikes, the U.S. mili-

tary’s Central Command included “military logistics infrastructure” in the list of targets it said it had hit, the first time it has mentioned infrastructure in more than a week.

Iranian state media said at least five bridges had been struck in the south. Seven people were reported killed in attacks on bridges in the southern port of

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## Police arrest woman after ambulance stolen from hospital

JJ Bullock  
Peoria Journal Star  
USA TODAY NETWORK

PEORIA — A woman was arrested in Peoria on Wednesday afternoon after police say she stole an ambulance.

Peoria police arrested Crystal Crane, 41, believing her to be the person who stole and “recklessly” drove an ambulance before crashing it into a parked vehicle.

Crane, who was charged with unlawful possession of a stolen vehicle, is accused of stealing the ambulance from OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in Downtown Peoria around 2:28 p.m. on Wednesday. A first responder drone was deployed to locate the ambulance and located it on the 300 block of Wayne Street.

The ambulance later hit a parked vehicle on St. Marks Court and was rendered unoperable, according to police.

## President revisits allegations of election security

Phillip M. Bailey and Joey Garrison  
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump in a July 16 prime-time address sought to further sow distrust in U.S. elections, claiming broad vulnerabilities with voting systems and potential for interference from other nations.

Trump specifically pointed to China, alleging it interfered with the electoral process in 2020.

“Every American deserves to know that when they cast their vote, that vote will be counted accurately in a system, and that is to make that system secure – one where cheating and interference are not just difficult, but virtually impossible,” he said. “Unfortunately, the system we have today

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