

JCC COMMITTEE



ESCALATION

Of

IRAN

X

ISRAEL

CONFLICT

(The closure of the Strait of Hormuz and its consequences on the global economy)

Crisis Procedure

Crisis committees operate through directives rather than motions or General Speakers' Lists (GSLs). Directives are the most important tools in a crisis committee. These committees do not produce resolution papers and may be terminated at any time by the chairboard.

Directives must include all necessary details—no matter how small—in order to avoid potential chaos scenarios. There are several types of directives, including:

- **Information Directive:** Used when a delegate requires answers to specific questions, such as budget, troop numbers, or locations.
- **Personal Directive:** Written by a single delegate.
- **Joint Directive:** Written by two or more delegates, but not by the entire committee.
- **Committee Directive:** Written collectively by all delegates in the committee.
- **Press Release:** Used to communicate information to the public and attract attention or support.
- **Blueprint:** A highly detailed plan for a weapon or piece of equipment, including measurements and technical drawings, intended for production.
- **Doctrine:** A pre-written plan for a specific scenario. If that scenario occurs (especially in historical committees), the actions outlined in the doctrine are implemented immediately.
- **Top Secret Directive:** The most detailed type of directive. It should be at least one page long due to the level of detail required. Unlike other directives, it does not require approval from the chairboard before being sent to the crisis room. It may be delivered discreetly through an admin. This type is commonly used for espionage activities or internal changes, such as cabinet restructuring.

All directives, except Top Secret directives, must be approved by the chairboard before being sent to the backroom.

The most important aspect of directives is the level of detail. Nothing should be omitted if a directive is to be approved. Crisis team members—who evaluate these directives—often interpret them creatively and may exploit vague wording to create unintended consequences.

Crisis committees differ from General Assembly (GA) committees in that traditional diplomatic procedures are replaced by immediate executive action and strategic decision-making. These committees do not follow a fixed plan or historical timeline; instead, they are shaped entirely by delegates' directives, giving participants control over both their own and the committee's outcomes.

Unlike GA committees, crisis committees are not bound by a strict structure and may at times appear calm, though they can escalate rapidly.

Please note that ultimate authority within the crisis committee resides with the Cabinet Chairs.

Historical Background of the Israel–USA–Iran Conflict

The conflict involving Israel, the United States, and Iran is one of the most complex and longstanding geopolitical rivalries in the modern Middle East. Rather than emerging suddenly, it has developed over decades due to ideological differences, regional power struggles, security concerns, and shifting alliances. Understanding this conflict requires examining its origins in the 20th century and tracing its escalation into confrontation in the 21st century.

1. U.S.–Iran Relations and the 1979 Turning Point

Hostility between Iran and the United States can be traced back to the Cold War era. In 1953, the United States and the United Kingdom supported a coup that overthrew Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister, Mohammad Mossadegh, and reinstated Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. This event sparked long-term resentment among Iranians and fueled anti-Western sentiment. The decisive turning point came with the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which transformed Iran into an Islamic Republic under Ayatollah Khomeini. Following the revolution, Iran adopted a strongly anti-Western and anti-Israel foreign policy. Later that year, Iranian students seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, holding 52 American diplomats hostage for 444 days, effectively ending diplomatic relations between the two countries.

2. Breakdown of Iran–Israel Relations

Before 1979, Iran and Israel maintained relatively cooperative relations. After the revolution, however, Iran severed ties with Israel and began to view it as an illegitimate state. Iran's leadership adopted a policy opposing Israel's existence and began supporting anti-Israel groups in the region. Over time, this rivalry evolved into a proxy conflict, with Iran backing groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, while Israel conducted intelligence operations and military strikes targeting Iranian influence in the region.

3. The Role of the United States and Strategic Alliances

The United States has long been Israel's closest ally, providing military, economic, and diplomatic support. This alliance positioned the U.S. in direct opposition to Iran, particularly as Iran challenged American influence in the region.

From the 1980s onward, tensions were shaped by:

- Iran's opposition to the U.S. presence in the Middle East
- U.S. sanctions targeting Iran's economy
- Accusations of Iranian support for militant groups
- Concerns over Iran's nuclear program

The nuclear issue became a central point of tension. While the United States and its allies feared that Iran's uranium enrichment could lead to nuclear weapons development, Iran maintained that its program was intended for peaceful purposes.

4. The Shadow War (2000s–early 2020s)

For many years, the conflict between Israel and Iran remained indirect, often described as a “shadow war.” This included:

- Cyberattacks on Iranian nuclear facilities
- Targeted assassinations of Iranian nuclear scientists
- Israeli airstrikes on Iranian-linked positions in Syria
- Iranian support for armed groups targeting Israel

Despite the absence of full-scale war, tensions steadily increased.

5. Escalation into Direct Conflict (2024–2026)

In the mid-2020s, the long-standing proxy conflict escalated into direct confrontation. Missile and drone exchanges marked a new phase of open hostility. In June 2025, Israel launched large-scale strikes targeting Iranian military leaders and nuclear facilities. Iran responded with drone and missile attacks on Israeli territory, causing civilian and infrastructural damage on both sides. The United States initially pursued diplomatic solutions but later became directly involved. On June 22, 2025, U.S. forces conducted strikes on key Iranian nuclear facilities, including Fordow, marking a significant escalation.

6. The 2026 War and Regional Implications

By early 2026, the conflict escalated into a broader war involving the United States, Israel, and Iran. Coordinated strikes targeted Iranian military and governmental infrastructure, while Iran retaliated with attacks on Israeli territory and U.S. bases across the region. Iran also leveraged its strategic position by threatening global trade routes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, highlighting the conflict’s global economic impact. This phase marked a transition from indirect rivalry to open warfare, raising concerns about regional instability and the possibility of a wider international crisis.

Summary of Events

The Iran–Israel conflict escalated significantly between 2024 and 2026, evolving from a proxy rivalry into direct military confrontation.

In April 2024, tensions surged after Israel struck an Iranian-linked site in Syria, prompting Iran to launch a large-scale drone and missile attack—the first direct assault between the two states.

Throughout late 2024, hostilities intensified, with Israel targeting Iranian-backed groups and Iran responding with further missile strikes.

The conflict peaked in June 2025 during a brief but intense 12-day war. Israel launched major attacks on Iran’s nuclear and military infrastructure, while Iran retaliated with strikes on Israeli cities. The United States became directly involved by supporting Israel and striking Iranian targets.

Although a ceasefire ended that phase of fighting, tensions remained high. In early 2026, renewed clashes followed failed diplomacy, leading to further instability and disruptions to global oil routes, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz.

As of May 2026, the situation remains highly volatile. A ceasefire reached in April has paused large-scale fighting but has not resolved the conflict. Violations, proxy clashes, and military buildups continue, while negotiations remain stalled due to deep mistrust. The risk of escalation into another full-scale war remains high.

(Previous deaths are disregarded for this committee.)

IRAN CABINET

Ali Khamenei: As Supreme Leader, Khamenei held ultimate authority over Iran's government, military, judiciary, and foreign policy, meaning he had more power than any elected official. He strengthened institutions like the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and shaped Iran's regional strategy, including its opposition to Israel and tensions with the United States. He remained a central figure in global politics, especially regarding Iran's nuclear program and Middle East conflicts, including the Iran–Israel tensions. Supporters saw his rule as defending Iran's independence, while critics viewed it as authoritarian due to crackdowns on dissent.

Ebrahim Raisi: Born in 1960 in Mashhad, he built his career within Iran's judiciary, holding senior positions such as prosecutor and later **Chief Justice of Iran**, making him one of the most influential figures in the country before becoming president. As president, Raisi focused on strengthening Iran's economy under sanctions, expanding relations with countries like Russia and China, and maintaining a hardline stance in foreign policy, especially regarding the United States and Israel. His administration operated under the authority of the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who holds ultimate political power in Iran. Raisi's presidency coincided with rising regional tensions, including the early escalation of the Iran–Israel conflict. His government supported Iran's regional allies and its military deterrence strategy, while also facing internal economic challenges and international pressure.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian: A Han Iranian diplomat and politician who served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran. Born in 1964, he was a career diplomat specialising in Middle Eastern affairs and had previously held positions such as deputy foreign minister and ambassador-level roles within Iran's diplomatic service. As the foreign minister, Amir Abdollahian was responsible for managing Iran's international relations, nuclear negotiations, and regional diplomacy. He played an active role during a period of rising tensions with Israel and the United States, often emphasising Iran's support for its regional allies and maintaining a firm stance in negotiations over sanctions and nuclear issues. He worked closely under the direction of the Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, since, in Iran, foreign policy is ultimately controlled at the highest political level.

Mohammad Reza Ashtiani: an Iranian military officer and politician who has served as Iran's Minister of Defence since 2021. Born in 1958, he is a brigadier general in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and has held several high-ranking roles in Iran's military establishment. Before becoming the defence minister, Ashtiani worked as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces and played a key role in military planning and logistics. As defence minister, he is responsible for overseeing Iran's armed forces, defence strategy, and weapons development, including missile programs central to Iran's regional power. During the Iran–Israel tensions and conflicts, Ashtiani has been an important figure in coordinating Iran's military response and defence policies, often emphasising deterrence and strengthening Iran's capabilities. He is considered part of Iran's hardline security leadership, closely aligned with the country's top military and political authorities.

Mohammad Bagheri: Mohammad Bagheri is an Iranian senior military commander who serves as the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Iran, one of the most powerful military positions in the country. Born in 1960, he is a veteran of the Iran–Iraq War (1980–1988) and has spent decades in Iran's military and intelligence structures. Bagheri is responsible for coordinating all branches of Iran's armed forces, including the regular army (Artesh) and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). This makes him central to Iran's overall defence strategy, military planning, and wartime coordination. He is closely aligned with Iran's top leadership, especially the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. He plays a key role in shaping Iran's military posture in regional conflicts, including tensions with Israel and operations involving proxy forces in the Middle East. Bagheri is generally seen as part of Iran's hardline security establishment, focused on deterrence, missile-capability development, and the maintenance of Iran's regional influence.

Hossein Salami: Hossein Salami is an Iranian military commander who has served as the Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) since 2019. Born in 1960, he joined the IRGC during the Iran–Iraq War (1980–1988) and rose through its ranks over several decades. As IRGC chief, Salami oversees one of Iran’s most powerful military and political institutions, responsible for internal security, missile forces, and overseas operations through regional networks. The IRGC plays a central role in Iran’s defence strategy and its influence across the Middle East. Salami is known for his strong anti-Israel and anti-U.S. rhetoric, and he has been a key figure in Iran’s deterrence strategy, especially during escalating tensions with Israel. Under his leadership, the IRGC has expanded its missile capabilities and coordinated responses to regional conflicts.

Esmail Qaani: Esmail Qaani is an Iranian senior military commander who serves as the Commander of the IRGC Quds Force, the elite external operations branch of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Born in 1957, he is a veteran of the Iran–Iraq War (1980–1988) and has spent decades in Iran’s military and intelligence networks. He became Quds Force commander in 2020 after the assassination of Qasem Soleimani. In this role, Qaani oversees Iran’s foreign military and intelligence operations, including coordination with allied non-state groups across the Middle East, such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and other Iran-aligned factions in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen. Qaani plays a key role in Iran’s regional strategy and influence network, especially in conflicts involving Israel and U.S. interests. His work focuses on asymmetric warfare, intelligence coordination, and strategic partnerships outside Iran’s borders.

Esmail Khatib: Esmail Khatib is an Iranian cleric and politician who has served as the Minister of Intelligence of Iran since 2021. Born in 1961, he is part of Iran’s conservative political and security establishment and has held various roles in intelligence and judicial security throughout his career. As the intelligence minister, Khatib is responsible for domestic and foreign intelligence operations, including counter-espionage, internal security monitoring, and identifying threats to the Iranian state. His ministry works closely with other powerful security bodies such as the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and the police forces. Khatib is considered aligned with Iran’s hardline leadership and supports the policies of the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. During periods of heightened regional tension, including the Iran–Israel conflict, his role has been central in internal security control, intelligence coordination, and countering foreign intelligence activities inside Iran.

Ahmad Vahidi: Ahmad Vahidi is an Iranian military officer and conservative politician who has served as Minister of Interior since 2021. Born in 1958, he is a former commander in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and has long been involved in Iran’s security and intelligence apparatus. Before becoming interior minister, Vahidi held several senior defence and security positions, including Minister of Defence (2009–2013). In his current role, he is responsible for internal security, law enforcement, border control, and the management of domestic political affairs, including elections and regional governance. He is considered a key figure in Iran’s hardline security establishment and is closely aligned with the country’s top leadership, including the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. His background in the IRGC heavily influences his approach to internal security and crisis management. During periods of heightened regional tension, including the Iran–Israel conflict, Vahidi’s role has been important in maintaining internal stability and coordinating security responses within Iran.

Javad Owji: Javad Owji is an Iranian engineer and politician who has served as the Minister of Petroleum (Oil Minister) of Iran since 2021. Born in 1958, he has a technical background in engineering. He has worked in Iran's energy sector for many years, holding senior positions at national oil and gas companies before joining the cabinet. As oil minister, Owji is responsible for managing Iran's petroleum industry, including oil and gas production, exports, and energy diplomacy. This role is especially important because Iran's economy is heavily dependent on oil revenues and is significantly affected by international sanctions. He plays a key role in Iran's efforts to maintain and expand energy exports despite sanctions, often working to strengthen ties with countries willing to trade with Iran. His work is closely linked to Iran's broader economic strategy under the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. During periods of regional conflict, including tensions with Israel and the United States, Owji's ministry becomes even more important due to its connection to global oil markets and energy security, especially in sensitive areas like the Strait of Hormuz.

ISRAEL CABINET

Benjamin Netanyahu: Benjamin Netanyahu is an Israeli politician who has served as the Prime Minister of Israel for multiple terms, most recently returning to office in 2022. Born in 1949, he is the longest-serving prime minister in Israel's history, known for his strong influence on Israeli politics and national security policy. Netanyahu's leadership is strongly focused on security, especially regarding Iran, Hamas, and Hezbollah. He has consistently taken a hardline position against Iran's nuclear program and regional influence, supporting military and intelligence operations aimed at limiting Iran's capabilities. During the Iran–Israel escalation, Netanyahu has played a central role in directing Israeli military responses, authorising strikes on Iranian-linked targets, and coordinating with allies such as the United States. His government has also faced internal political divisions, but security threats have remained a unifying national issue. He is a key figure shaping Israel's strategy in the ongoing regional conflict, especially in the context of deterrence against Iran and its allied groups in the Middle East.

Yoav Gallant: Israeli politician and former general who served as Israel's Minister of Defence from 2022 to 2024. Born in 1958, he had a long military career in the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), where he rose to the rank of major general and commanded major operations, including service in elite naval and ground units. As defence minister, Gallant was responsible for Israel's military strategy, defence policy, and coordination of the IDF, especially during the heightened conflict period with Iran and its regional allies. He played a key role in managing military operations, approving airstrikes, and overseeing national security responses during escalations in Gaza, Lebanon, and Iran-related tensions. Gallant was known for taking a security-focused stance, though sometimes a more cautious approach than other hardline members of the Israeli government. He worked closely with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on wartime decisions and national defence planning during a period of intense regional instability.

Israel Katz: Israeli politician who has held several senior cabinet positions, including Foreign Minister and Transport Minister, and is a long-time member of the Likud party. Born in 1955, he has been active in Israeli politics for decades and is considered a key figure within the country's right-wing political establishment.

Katz has served in multiple high-profile roles, including Minister of Foreign Affairs, where he focused on strengthening Israel's diplomatic ties with allied countries and advocating strongly against Iran's regional influence. He is known for taking a hardline stance on Iran and its allied groups, often supporting a security-oriented foreign policy. He has also been involved in infrastructure and transportation development in Israel, but his political identity is most closely associated with national security and foreign policy issues. During the Iran–Israel escalation period, Katz has been an outspoken advocate of pressure and deterrence against Iran, supporting Israel's strategic alliances and military preparedness alongside leaders like Benjamin Netanyahu.

Herzi Halevi: Han Israeli general who served as the Chief of the General Staff of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), the highest-ranking military position in Israel. Born in 1967, he joined the IDF in 1985 and rose through the ranks of elite combat units, including service in the Paratroopers Brigade and in military intelligence. As IDF Chief of Staff, Halevi was responsible for overall command of Israel's military operations, strategy, and wartime planning, including coordination among the air force, ground forces, and intelligence branches. His leadership period coincided with a highly tense regional environment, including escalations involving Iran and its allied groups. Halevi played a central role in directing Israel's military responses during multi-front conflicts, working closely with political leadership, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant. His approach emphasised intelligence-driven operations, rapid response capabilities, and maintaining Israel's military superiority in the region.

Tomer Bar: Tomer Bar is an Israeli Air Force general who has served as the Commander of the Israeli Air Force (IAF) since 2022. Born in 1969, he joined the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) in 1987. He built his career as a fighter pilot and senior commander, eventually rising through key operational and planning roles within the Air Force. As Air Force commander, Bar is responsible for Israel's air operations, including air defence, air superiority, and long-range strike capabilities. This includes overseeing advanced fighter jets, drone operations, and missile defence coordination, all of which are central to Israel's military strategy. During the Iran–Israel escalation period, he has played a crucial role in planning and executing air operations, including strikes on regional threats and coordination of Israel's multi-layered air defence systems. His leadership is especially important in managing responses to missile and drone attacks originating from Iran and its allied groups.

David Saar Salama: David Saar Salama is an Israeli naval officer who serves as the Commander of the Israeli Navy (Israeli Naval Forces). In this role, he oversees Israel's maritime defence operations, including naval security, coastal protection, and strategic operations in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. As a Navy commander, Salama's duties include managing Israel's submarine fleet, missile ships, and naval intelligence operations, all of which are important for both national defence and deterrence. The Israeli Navy also plays a key role in protecting offshore energy infrastructure and responding to maritime threats posed by regional actors. During the Iran–Israel escalation period, the Navy's role has become more significant due to increased regional instability, missile threats, and maritime security concerns, especially in areas like the Eastern Mediterranean and Red Sea.

Isaac Herzog: Isaac Herzog is an Israeli politician who has served as the President of Israel since 2021. Born in 1960, he comes from a prominent political family—his father, Chaim Herzog, was also a former president of Israel. Before becoming president, Herzog held several major political roles, including serving as leader of the Israeli Labour Party and as head of the Jewish Agency for Israel, where he focused on Jewish immigration and global Jewish affairs. As president, Herzog's role is largely ceremonial and diplomatic, rather than executive. He represents Israel internationally, supports diplomatic engagement, and helps promote national unity during times of political division and conflict. During the Iran–Israel escalation period, Herzog has acted as a symbolic national figure, emphasising unity, international support for Israel, and diplomatic relations with allies.

David Barnea: David Barnea is an Israeli intelligence officer who has served as the Director of Mossad (Israel's national intelligence agency) since 2021. Born in 1965, he has spent most of his career in Israel's intelligence services, specialising in covert operations, counterterrorism, and strategic intelligence. As Mossad chief, Barnea is responsible for foreign intelligence gathering, secret operations outside Israel, and countering threats such as Iran's nuclear program and regional militant groups. Mossad operates globally, often focusing on preventing attacks against Israel and disrupting hostile networks.

During the Iran–Israel escalation, Barnea has played a central role in Israel's intelligence and covert operations strategy targeting Iranian military infrastructure, nuclear development, and allied groups in the region. His work is closely coordinated with Israel's political and military leadership, including Benjamin Netanyahu and senior IDF commanders.

Eli Cohen: Eli Cohen is an Israeli politician and member of the Likud party who served as Minister of Foreign Affairs. Born in 1972, he holds a background in accounting and public administration and previously served in several cabinet and parliamentary roles. As foreign minister, Cohen was responsible for managing Israel's diplomatic relations, international negotiations, and global alliances. His tenure focused heavily on strengthening ties with regional and global partners, expanding normalisation agreements, and maintaining strong diplomatic pressure against Iran's regional activities and nuclear program. He worked closely with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a period of heightened regional tension, including the escalation with Iran and its allied groups. His role involved coordinating Israel's international messaging, crisis diplomacy, and support from allies such as the United States.

Ronen Bar: Ronen Bar is an Israeli intelligence and security official who has served as the Director of Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) since 2021. Born in 1965, he joined Shin Bet in the late 1980s and spent his career working in counterterrorism, internal security, and intelligence operations. As head of Shin Bet, Bar is responsible for Israel's internal security, including preventing terrorism, counter-espionage, protecting government institutions, and monitoring security threats inside Israel and the Palestinian territories. His agency works closely with the military and Mossad to form Israel's overall security system. During the Iran–Israel escalation period, Bar has played a key role in internal threat prevention, intelligence coordination, and countering Iranian-backed groups operating indirectly through regional networks. He works closely with military and political leadership, including Benjamin Netanyahu, especially during high-risk security situations.

USA CABINET

Donald Trump: Donald Trump is serving as the President of the United States (second term, since January 20, 2025). He remains the sitting president and is actively leading domestic and foreign policy. In his current term, his administration has focused on a “America First” foreign policy approach, including withdrawing from or reducing U.S. involvement in several international organisations and prioritising national security and economic independence. One of the major ongoing issues in 2026 is the Iran–U.S.–Israel conflict, where the Trump administration has been involved in military and diplomatic actions. A recent ceasefire has been declared, but tensions remain high, and Congress is disputing the legal authority for continued military engagement. Domestically, his administration is also active in policy reforms, including expanding retirement savings programs, funding homeland security operations, and adjusting trade and tariff policies. Overall, Trump's presidency is marked by heightened international tensions, especially in the Middle East, active executive decision-making, and ongoing political debates within the U.S. government about foreign intervention and executive power.

Marco Rubio: Marco Rubio is an American politician and diplomat who has served as the United States Secretary of State since January 2025 in the administration of President Donald Trump. Born in 1971 in Miami, Florida, Rubio is the son of Cuban immigrants and previously served as a U.S. Senator from Florida (2011–2025). As Secretary of State, Rubio is responsible for leading U.S. foreign policy, managing diplomatic relations, and representing the United States internationally. He also plays a key role in coordinating U.S. responses to major global crises, including ongoing tensions in the Middle East involving Iran and Israel. In addition to diplomacy, he has been involved in shaping U.S. strategy on security alliances, energy routes, and regional stability. In 2026, Rubio has been especially active in Middle East security policy, including efforts on maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz and on diplomatic messaging toward Iran and Israel. He has also taken part in high-level discussions with global powers such as China and European allies, focusing on stability and conflict management. Rubio is widely seen as one of the most influential figures on the Trump administration’s foreign policy team, often described as holding multiple high-level roles simultaneously in national security and diplomacy.

J. D. Vance: J.D. Vance is an American politician, author, and lawyer who has served as the Vice President of the United States since January 2025. Born in 1984 in Ohio, he first gained national attention through his memoir *Hillbilly Elogy*, which described his upbringing in a working-class family and explored social and economic issues in the United States. Before becoming vice president, Vance served as a U.S. Senator from Ohio (2023–2025), where he focused on economic policy, manufacturing, immigration, and national security. He is a member of the Republican Party and is closely aligned with President Donald Trump’s political agenda. As Vice President, Vance plays a key role in supporting the administration’s domestic and foreign policy, including economic restructuring, border security, and international strategy. In 2026, he has also been involved in discussions related to U.S. policy in the Middle East, including tensions involving Iran and Israel, and broader questions about American military engagement abroad. He is considered part of the newer generation of Republican leadership, combining populist domestic policy views with a more cautious approach to long-term foreign military involvement.

Pete Hegseth: Pete Hegseth is an American television host, author, and military veteran who has served as the U.S. Secretary of Defence since 2025 under President Donald Trump. Born in 1980, Hegseth is a former officer in the U.S. Army National Guard, where he served deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. After leaving the military, he became a political commentator and television personality, focusing on defence, veterans’ issues, and national security. As Secretary of Defence, he is responsible for overseeing the U.S. Armed Forces, military operations, and defence policy, including global deployments, military readiness, and coordination with allies such as Israel and NATO partners. In 2026, his role has been especially important due to ongoing tensions in the Middle East involving Iran and Israel, where the United States has been involved in both deterrence operations and diplomatic efforts. Hegseth is known for advocating a strong military posture, increased defence spending, and a focus on American military strength and rapid-response capabilities, while supporting the broader “America First” strategy of the administration.

Robert C. O’Brien: Robert C. O’Brien is an American lawyer, diplomat, and national security official who served as the United States National Security Advisor during the first Trump administration. Born in 1966, he is a trained attorney and previously worked on international arbitration and foreign policy-related legal issues. As National Security Advisor, O’Brien was responsible for coordinating U.S. national security policy, advising the president on global threats, and managing interagency strategy. His tenure included major issues such as U.S.–China tensions, Middle East security policy, and counterterrorism operations. He was involved in shaping U.S. policy toward Iran and the broader Middle East, including maintaining pressure on Iran through sanctions and supporting close security coordination with allies like Israel. He also emphasised strengthening alliances in the Indo-Pacific region and countering strategic competitors. After leaving office, O’Brien remained active in policy circles, focusing on foreign affairs, defence strategy, and geopolitical analysis, and is often cited as part of the broader national security establishment that influences U.S. strategic thinking.

John Ratcliffe: John Ratcliffe is an American politician, lawyer, and intelligence official who has served as the United States Director of National Intelligence (DNI) since 2025. Born in 1965 in Illinois, Ratcliffe previously served as a U.S. Representative from Texas (2015–2020) and briefly as Director of National Intelligence in 2020 during the first Trump administration. Before entering politics, he worked as a federal prosecutor and mayor, focusing on national security and legal issues. As DNI, Ratcliffe oversees and coordinates the entire U.S. Intelligence Community, which includes agencies such as the CIA, the NSA, and the FBI's intelligence divisions. His role involves providing intelligence assessments to the President and shaping national security priorities. In 2026, he was particularly involved in assessments of global conflicts, including tensions between Iran and Israel, providing intelligence support to U.S. decision-making on military readiness, diplomacy, and threat analysis. He is considered a key figure in linking intelligence findings with executive-level national security policy.

Charles Q. Brown Jr.: Charles Q. Brown Jr. is a United States Air Force general who serves as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest-ranking military officer in the U.S. Armed Forces. Born in 1962, Brown has had a long career in the Air Force as a fighter pilot and senior commander. Before becoming Chairman, he served as the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force (2020–2023), where he focused on modernisation, readiness, and strategic competition with major global powers. As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Brown is the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defence, and the National Security Council. He does not command troops directly but plays a key role in military planning, global operations coordination, and strategic defence decisions. In the context of ongoing global tensions in 2026, including the Iran–Israel situation, Brown has been involved in high-level military planning, deterrence strategy, and coordination with allied forces, especially regarding force protection in the Middle East and maintaining regional stability.

Scott Bessent: Scott Bessent is an American investor and financial executive who has served as the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury since 2025 in the administration of President Donald Trump. Born in 1962, Bessent built his career in global finance, working for major investment firms such as Soros Fund Management before founding his own hedge fund. He is known for his expertise in macroeconomics, currency markets, and global investment strategy. As Treasury Secretary, Bessent is responsible for U.S. economic policy, federal finances, sanctions enforcement, and international financial relations. This includes managing U.S. sanctions programs, which are especially important in geopolitical conflicts such as tensions with Iran, as well as overseeing government debt and financial stability. In 2026, his role has been particularly significant amid global economic pressure from ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, disruptions in energy markets, and volatility in international trade routes. He is also involved in coordinating financial policy with allies to stabilise markets during periods of geopolitical uncertainty.

Chris Wright: Chris Wright is an American energy executive who has served as the U.S. Secretary of Energy since 2025 in the administration of President Donald Trump. Born in 1965, Wright is known for his background in the oil and energy industry, particularly in hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and domestic energy production. Before entering government, he founded and led an energy services company focused on expanding U.S. fossil fuel output. As Secretary of Energy, Wright is responsible for U.S. energy policy, nuclear energy programs, energy security, and domestic production strategy. His priorities include increasing U.S. oil and gas production, strengthening energy independence, and managing strategic energy reserves. In 2026, his role has been especially important due to global instability in energy markets, particularly disruptions caused by tensions in the Middle East involving Iran and Israel. These conflicts have affected oil prices, shipping routes such as the Strait of Hormuz, and global energy supply chains, making energy security a central issue for his department.

Elise Stefanik: Elise Stefanik is an American politician who has served as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations since 2025 in the administration of President Donald Trump. Born in 1984 in New York, she was previously a U.S. Representative (2015–2025) and became one of the leading Republican figures in the House of Representatives. Over time, she gained national prominence for her work on foreign policy and national security, as well as for her leadership roles in Congress. As U.N. Ambassador, Stefanik represents the United States at the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly, where she focuses on issues such as global security, human rights, and international conflicts. In 2026, her role has been particularly important in discussions on Middle East instability, including tensions involving Iran and Israel, where she advocates for strong U.S. positions and coordination with allies. She is considered a key voice in the administration's diplomatic strategy at the United Nations, often emphasising American interests, alliance support (especially with Israel), and pressure on adversarial states through international institutions.

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