Blue Water Brief

Weekly Briefing

Week ending November 6, 2026. Built automatically from the site's own data, with the source and confidence label beside each item.

Iran and the Gulf

Trump said in the Oval Office on Thursday 5 November that the US may have to 'destroy' the rest of Iran and that people will 'know soon enough' whether he acts, after meeting his national security team on Wednesday and Thursday (Trump, via Fox and Gulf News). Al Jazeera reports Iran has sent a nuclear proposal to the US through Qatari mediators, which Washington is reviewing; the content is not published. The IRGC says two more oil tankers hit mines near Hormuz on 6 November (IRGC claim; CBS says no maritime officials have confirmed any of these incidents). There is still no formal truce, and the US blockade in force since 14 July continues.

Tracker updated 2026-11-06. Open the tracker

Chokepoint Ship Transits

Source: IMF PortWatch, data to 2026-10-25. Daily counts of ships passing; change is against the same week last year.

Chokepoint	Last day	7-day average	Versus last year
Strait of Hormuz	2	3.3	n/a
Bab el-Mandeb Strait	36	28.9	n/a
Suez Canal	46	41.3	n/a
Malacca Strait	212	228.0	n/a
Taiwan Strait	240	190.0	n/a
Bosporus Strait	62	53.7	n/a
Panama Canal	28	28.7	n/a
Cape of Good Hope	100	87.1	n/a

Sanctions

Nothing new in the last 7 days. Latest items shown.

OFSI extends Lukoil Bulgaria licence to 26 February 2027; legal-services licence renewed

2026-10-29 · UK · Confidence: Medium

OFSI extended the Lukoil Bulgaria general licence (INT/2025/7895596) from 29 October 2026 to 26 February 2027. It also reissued the Legal Services General Licence (INT/2026/11112108), effective 29 October 2026 and expiring 28 April 2027, with new FAQ 206 and amended FAQs 64, 71 and 75. The summary does not give the new fee caps. Secondary summary by a law firm.

Source: Steptoe, Sanctions Update, 2 Nov 2026

Iran GL FF-1 pushes Iraq Development Bank wind-down to 1 December

2026-10-29 · US · Confidence: Medium

OFAC issued Iran-related General License FF-1, replacing GL FF, for wind-down of dealings with the International Development Bank for Investment and Finance (Iraq Development Bank) and entities 50 percent or more owned by it. The deadline moves from 30 October 2026 to 12:01 a.m. EST on 1 December 2026, and payments to blocked persons must go into a blocked account.

Source: Steptoe, Sanctions Update, 2 Nov 2026

DPRK IT-worker network (10 individuals, 1 entity); Rwandan defence ministry designated

2026-10-28 · US · Confidence: Medium

OFAC designated 10 individuals and 1 entity over DPRK IT-worker revenue schemes, in action the summary says was coordinated with Australia and the EU. Separately OFAC designated Rwanda's Ministry of Defense and Zigama Credit and Savings Society under E.O. 13413; the State Department urged supply-chain diligence on gold and coltan. The summary opened gives no count of vessels, and no EU or Australian listing pages were opened to confirm the coordination.

Source: Steptoe, Sanctions Update, 2 Nov 2026

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NATO Eastern Flank and Belarus

Poland reinforces northeast border after allied sabotage warnings tied to Kaliningrad

2026-11-04 · Kaliningrad · Confidence: Medium

Stars and Stripes reports that Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on 3 November that NATO's top commander, Gen. Alexus Grynkewich, had raised concerns about possible hostile activity, without disclosing the intelligence. The Kyiv Independent, citing RMF FM, says Poland deployed police counterterrorism units on 2 November to the Warmian-Masurian and Podlaskie regions near Kaliningrad after Polish military intelligence and allied services warned of possible sabotage, including incursions by armed groups. Stars and Stripes, citing RMF, adds that border guards saw people with flashlights near Sepopol who retreated into Kaliningrad without crossing. These are Polish government and allied intelligence claims relayed by media; no attack has been reported and Russia's response was not found in either article.

Source: Stars and Stripes, 4 Nov 2026; Kyiv Independent, 3 Nov 2026

Ukrainian border guards: no Belarus drone-signal repeater activity this week, no Russian redeployment into Belarus recorded

2026-11-04 · Belarus · Confidence: Medium

UA.NEWS (crediting Glavkom) and LIGA.net (via a machine-translated copy) report that border guard spokesman Andrii Demchenko said on 4 November that no repeaters relaying signals to Russian strike drones were detected in Belarus over the past week, and that they were last active the week before. He said no redeployment of Russian troops into Belarus has been recorded and no buildup along the border has been observed, while stressing that Belarus remains under Kremlin influence. This partly qualifies the 17 October claim that repeaters were operating; it is the same Ukrainian official source, so the sources differ in time rather than in fact.

Source: UA.NEWS, 4 Nov 2026; Bytes Europe, copy of LIGA.net, 4 Nov 2026

Gvardeysk radar: Chernyakhovsk antenna site, fighter shelters and S-400 positions reported

2026-11-03 · Kaliningrad · Confidence: Medium

Kyiv Post, relaying Deutsche Welle, says the suspected over-the-horizon radar near Gvardeysk is nearing completion, with three antenna arms each more than 500 m long. Retired Lithuanian commander Vaidotas Malinionis puts its range at about 3,000 km and says it is not known whether it is operational; Liga.net (2 Nov) carries the same DW report without attributing the range figure. The articles also relay FAZ, citing ICEYE imagery, on another large circular antenna complex near Chernyakhovsk (about 50 km from Gvardeysk), more than 20 signals-intelligence and electronic-warfare sites, new fighter shelters at Kaliningrad-Chkalovsk and S-400 launch positions near Baltiysk. These are imagery readings and expert estimates relayed second-hand, not confirmations; Russia has not confirmed the radar. Malinionis also cites unverified estimates of up to 100 nuclear warheads in the region.

Source: Kyiv Post, relaying DW, 3 Nov 2026; Liga.net, relaying DW, 2 Nov 2026

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Indo-Pacific

Chinese coast guard ships patrol off Taiwan's east coast; Taipei reports a vessel near Pratas

2026-11-01 · Taiwan · Confidence: Low

UkrMedia reports that on 31 October China sent coast guard vessels Hushi (1308) and Meishan (2303) to Taiwan's east coast, which Beijing called a routine law enforcement patrol; as Taiwan's account, its coast guard sent vessels including the Ji An and accused Beijing of harassing civilian vessels. The article also says Chinese vessel 3102 entered a restricted area near the Pratas Islands with AIS switched off, closing to about one nautical mile of a Taiwanese coast guard escort, and that Taipei counts 13 such operations in 2026. It states that as of 1 November there is no naval blockade of Taiwan, and it names no PLA exercise. This is a single secondary source citing Chinese and Taiwanese accounts.

Source: UkrMedia, 1 Nov 2026

Unidentified Chinese vessel in Scarborough Shoal lagoon; PLA announces combat-readiness patrols

2026-11-01 · South China Sea · Confidence: Medium

The Manila Times reports the Philippine Coast Guard first monitored an unidentified blue-and-white Chinese vessel inside the Scarborough Shoal (Bajo de Masinloc) lagoon on 3 October, and on 29 October a Philippine surveillance flight saw it towing a smaller boat and carrying a sensor-fitted orange object. The coast guard says it has not established the equipment's purpose or confirmed surveillance, and cautions against calling it a research ship because its numbers do not match known Chinese research vessels. As China's claim, the PLA Southern Theater Command said on 30 October that naval and air forces ran combat-readiness patrols around the shoal, which it called a response to Philippine provocations; the China Coast Guard also claimed law enforcement patrols there. The article reports no collision, water cannon use or injury.

Source: Manila Times, 1 Nov 2026

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Insurgency

Jordan

2026-11-05 · Middle East · Confidence: Medium

Jordan's Public Security Directorate said a security officer was killed on 5 November in what it called a terrorist stabbing attack in Amman; state-run Al-Mamlaka TV said the assailant tried to seize the officer's weapon and that he and a second officer were injured. The attacker was arrested, and the directorate said a preliminary investigation indicated he had been planning to attack General Security Directorate officers. The report says it is unclear whether the attack is linked to a church shooting in southern Jordan weeks earlier that killed nine people; the account is official and was still developing.

Source: Al Jazeera Staff and AP, 5 Nov 2026 (developing report; citing Jordan's Public Security Directorate and state TV)

Gaza

2026-11-05 · Middle East · Confidence: Medium

Medical sources told Al Jazeera that at least four Palestinians, including a child, were killed in Israeli attacks in central and southern Gaza on 5 November, among them a man hit by an Israeli drone at a tent west of az-Zawayda. The Gaza Health Ministry says 1,602 Palestinians have been killed since the ceasefire began on 11 October 2025, and Gaza's Government Media Office claims 5,989 Israeli ceasefire violations. Separately, the Israeli military reported 52 ceasefire violations by Hamas and other groups between 16 October and 5 November, per Long War Journal; these are party figures, not independently verified.

Source: Al Jazeera, 5 Nov 2026 (citing hospital sources, Gaza Health Ministry and Government Media Office)

Syria

2026-11-03 · Middle East · Confidence: Low

Long War Journal reports that Syria's Internal Security Forces, per state agency SANA, said on 3 November they foiled a plot against the Homs refinery and arrested members of a Hezbollah-linked cell, seizing explosive devices. SANA also reported the arrest of two Islamic State cell members on 1 November. These are Syrian government claims that were not independently verified.

Source: FDD's Long War Journal, 5 Nov 2026 (news analysis citing Syrian state agency SANA)

Afghanistan

2026-11-02 · Afghanistan and Pakistan · Confidence: Low

Long War Journal counted 82 attacks claimed by anti-Taliban resistance groups in October, more than double September, with the groups claiming about 122 Taliban killed and 68 wounded; these are group claims that LWJ did not verify. It says the Afghan United Front, led by former general Sami Sadat, claimed 36 operations, the National Resistance Front 11, the Afghan Freedom Front 10 and the Afghanistan Republican Front 9. A new Afghan National Liberation Front claimed its first attack on 31 October in Gardez, Paktia, and the Taliban denied the Green Unit's claim of downing a helicopter in Panjshir, saying it hit rocks while landing.

Source: FDD's Long War Journal, 2 Nov 2026 (news analysis of armed-group claims)

Gaza

2026-11-01 · Middle East · Confidence: Medium

Reuters reports that Israeli strikes killed at least eight Palestinians, including five police officers, in two attacks in Gaza on 1 November, according to medics and the Hamas-run interior ministry. Medics said three people died in a strike in Gaza City, and the interior ministry said five police were killed in western Khan Younis; the Israeli military said it struck several militants in Khan Younis and did not immediately comment on the Gaza City strike. Gaza health officials say at least 1,500 Palestinians have been killed since the ceasefire, while Israel says four of its soldiers have been killed; these are party figures, not independently verified.

Source: Reuters via The Express Tribune, 2 Nov 2026 (wire report citing medics, Hamas-run interior ministry and Israeli military)

Nigeria

2026-10-31 · Africa · Confidence: Low

Sahara Reporters, relaying analyst Zagazola Makama who cited security sources, says troops of Operation Hadin Kai reportedly repelled an ISWAP assault in Kukawa, Borno State, on 31 October with air support and killed several fighters. The sources named the dead as Abu Hajara, described as an ISWAP Shura Council member, and Abul Walid, a senior commander; the same article cites a separate operation near Buni Yadi that reportedly killed 55 militants. These are military-side claims and were not independently confirmed.

Source: Sahara Reporters, 1 Nov 2026 (citing conflict analyst Zagazola Makama and unnamed security sources; unverified military claims)

Lebanon

2026-10-30 · Middle East · Confidence: Medium

Long War Journal reports that Lebanon's military court prosecutor charged 13 people on 30 October over nearly 800 kg of explosives seized on 5 October at the Dahr al Baidar checkpoint; the accused are charged, not convicted. Hezbollah acknowledged ownership on 15 October, and a Hezbollah official and a Lebanese security source told Reuters the material was for explosive-laden drones against Israeli troops. A Hezbollah lawmaker called the charges politically motivated, and the cabinet had not approved a referral to the Judicial Council.

Source: FDD's Long War Journal, 3 Nov 2026 (news analysis; citing Lebanese military prosecutor, Hezbollah statements and Reuters)
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