



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on May 14, 2026

CENTCOM Chief: 90 Percent of Iran's Defense Industry Gone. Kent: Attacks on U.S. Had Stopped Before Epic Fury.

Central Command chief Admiral Brad Cooper told the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee that the U.S. attack on Iran destroyed 90 percent of the country's defense industry.

The commander of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region also testified that Iran's navy has been wrecked for a generation, and its drones and missiles will require years to replace.

But he also inadvertently admitted that Iran's proxies had stopped attacking U.S. assets before Operation Epic Fury began on February 28. Over video of Cooper's testimony, former U.S. counterterrorism chief Joe Kent noted that Iran and its proxies attacked Americans during Joe Biden's administration, but stopped cold when President Donald Trump was reelected because they feared a massive counterattack.

Thus, Kent concluded, Trump attacked Iran not because it had attacked us, but on behalf of Israel, and now is the time for the U.S. to declare victory and quit the war.



AP Images
Brad Cooper



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Joe Kent ✓
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Iran's proxies attacked our troops & diplomats under Biden, NOT under this Trump admin prior to Epic Fury, hence the 30 months time frame. When Trump returned to office in January of 2025 those attacks stopped.

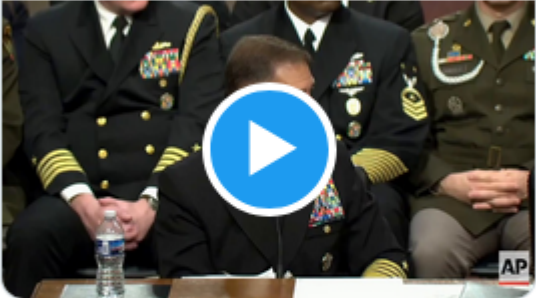
Iran stoped its proxies from attacking us b/c they knew Trump would [Show more](#)



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CENTCOM commander Adm. Brad Cooper says Iran and its proxies attacked U.S. troops and diplomats roughly 350 times in just 30 months before Operation Epic Fury.

"That's about every third day," Cooper testified.



8:55 AM · May 14, 2026

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Cooper Testimony

Noting that 90 percent of Iran's defense industry was "destroyed," Cooper said "the drone and missile force will take years to reconstitute." He also claimed that "[Iran's] navy likely will not get back to its previous size for a full generation."

That does not mean Iran cannot attack, but instead "that broad power projection capability no longer exists."

Those concerned about the munitions thus far expended in attacking Iran needn't worry, [he said](#):



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I have all the munitions necessary to both defend our forces as well as conduct a broad range of contingencies. Our partners also have the sufficient munitions necessary for defense.

Cooper does not think [reports that Iran](#) still has 75 percent of its mobile launchers and 70 percent of its missiles are accurate.

He “has studied or been a part of” Iran’s and its proxies’ attacks on America for 30 years, [he testified](#). And “just in the 30 months before Epic Fury commenced, Iran and its proxies had been attacking U.S. service members and diplomats about 350 times, about every third day.”

But not under President Trump, Kent replied over video of Cooper’s statement.

“Iran’s proxies attacked our troops & diplomats under Biden, NOT under this Trump admin prior to Epic Fury, hence the 30 months time frame,” Kent wrote. “When Trump returned to office in January of 2025 those attacks stopped”:

Iran stop[p]ed its proxies from attacking us b/c they knew Trump would hit back & they wanted to reach a deal w/Trump.

A deal was in the works, that deal would have thwarted Israel’s goal of getting us committed to a war against Iran, so Israel did everything they could to get us into a war with Iran.

Kent wrote that Trump’s course of action on Iran had the intended effect, but “tragically this success was squandered by letting the Israelis drive our decision making.”

Going to war on Israel’s behalf was a reason Kent quit his post as director of the U.S. counterterrorism office.

“High-ranking Israeli officials and influential members of the American media deployed a misinformation campaign that wholly undermined your America First platform and sowed pro-war sentiments to encourage a war with Iran,” [Kent wrote](#) in his resignation letter to Trump. He continued:

This echo chamber was used to deceive you into believing that Iran posed an imminent threat to the United States, and that should you strike now, there was a clear path to a swift victory.





Joe Kent 

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After much reflection, I have decided to resign from my position as Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, effective today.

I cannot in good conscience support the ongoing war in Iran. Iran posed no imminent threat to our nation, and it is clear that we started this [Show more](#)



Director of National Intelligence
National Counterterrorism Center

President Trump,

After much reflection, I have decided to resign from my position as Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, effective today.

I cannot in good conscience support the ongoing war in Iran. Iran posed no imminent threat to our nation, and it is clear that we started this war due to pressure from Israel and its powerful American lobby.

I support the values and the foreign policies that you campaigned on in 2016, 2020, 2024, which you enacted in your first term. Until June of 2025, you understood that the war in the Middle East was a trap that robbed America of the precious lives of our patriots and depleted the wealth and prosperity of our nation.

In your first administration, you understood better than any modern President how to decisively apply military power without getting us drawn into never-ending wars. You demonstrated this by killing Qasem Soleimani and by defeating ISIS.

Early in this administration, high-ranking Israeli officials and influential members of the American media deployed a misinformation campaign that wholly undermined your America First platform and sowed pro-war sentiments to encourage a war with Iran. This echo chamber was used to deceive you into believing that Iran posed an imminent threat to the United States, and that should you strike now, there was a clear path to a swift victory. This was a lie and in the same tactic the Israelis used to draw us into the disastrous Iraq war that cost our nation the lives of thousands of our best men and women. We cannot make this mistake again.

As a veteran who deployed to combat 11 times and as a Gold Star husband who lost my beloved wife Shavonne in a war manufactured by Israel, I cannot support sending the next generation off to fight and die in a war that serves no benefit to the American people nor justifies the cost of American lives.

I pray that you will reflect upon what we are doing in Iran, and who we are doing it for. The time for bold action is now. You can reverse course and chart a new path for our nation, or you can allow us to slip further toward decline and chaos. You hold the cards.

It was an honor to serve in your administration and to serve our great nation.

6:24 AM · Mar 17, 2026

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The former Green Beret [has since said](#) the United States must stop aid to Israel.

Trump Had a Better Deal Than Obama

Over a video of former President Barack Hussein Obama saying that the nuclear deal he inked with Iran “worked” and that “we didn’t have to kill a whole bunch of people or shut down the Strait of Hormuz,” Kent complimented Trump’s Iran policy before Israel talked him into war.

“Prior to letting the Israelis lead us into this war, President Trump was actually poised to cut a better deal than the [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] (aka the Obama Iran deal),” Kent wrote:

The Iranians feared and respected Trump in a way they never respected Obama — he took out the terror mastermind Qasem Soleimani, yet was prudent enough not to get sucked into the quicksand of another Middle Eastern quagmire that would only favor Iran and strengthen its hardliners.



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Marco Foster


[@MarcoFoster_](#)

President Obama on Iran: “We pulled it off without firing a missile. We got 97% of their enriched uranium out. There’s no dispute that it worked and we didn’t have to kill a whole bunch of people or shut down the Strait of Hormuz”



5:45 PM · May 13, 2026

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Thus, Kent continued, when Trump landed in the White House again in January 2025, “the Iranians stopped their proxies from attacking us and were immediately open to negotiations.”

Instead of pursuing that course, though, Trump foolishly swallowed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s claim that war in Iran would be — as Americans were told of war in Iraq — a cakewalk.

“President Trump can still correct course, but he has to break the current stalemate cycle we are in,” Kent concluded:

Get us out of the military standoff. Restrain the Israelis. Leverage the potential of sanctions relief to open the Strait of Hormuz and secure a new deal on the nuclear issue.



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