

## Newest Salvo Shows Limits Of U.S. Strikes

### Pounded, Houthis Keep Menacing Ships

By ERIC SCHMITT  
and SAEED AL-BATATI

WASHINGTON — The United States carried out a new military strike against Houthi ballistic missiles in Yemen on Tuesday, the U.S. military said, but the latest salvo against the Iran-backed group left the White House grappling with how to stop a battle-hardened foe from disrupting shipping lanes critical for global trade.

The strikes on Tuesday, the third overall against the group since a U.S.-led air and naval barrage hit dozens of targets last week, destroyed four missiles that the Pentagon's Central Command said had posed an imminent threat to merchant vessels and Navy ships traveling through the Red Sea and nearby waters.

But the pre-emptive American strike also came on the third day in a row that the Houthis had defied the Biden administration and its allies by firing missiles at passing ships, damaging a Greek-owned cargo vessel on Tuesday. The Houthis damaged a U.S.-owned commercial ship on Monday after trying to hit an American warship the day before.

"We're not looking for a war; we're not looking to expand this," John F. Kirby, the National Security Council spokesman, told reporters on Tuesday, adding, "We will continue to defend against them and counter them as appropriate."

That leaves the administration with difficult choices. President Biden could order another blitz of strikes against Houthi air defenses, weapons depots and facilities for launching and producing an array of missiles and drones, but analysts say that would risk widening the war even more. Or he could settle for more limited tit-for-tat exchanges, like Tuesday's strike, but that would not necessarily resolve the threat to commercial ships, analysts say.

Neither approach has fazed the Houthis so far. Vowing solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, the group's leaders have said they will continue their attacks in what they say is a protest against Israel's military campaign in the territory.

Mr. Kirby defended the strikes last Thursday and Friday that American and British attack planes and warships carried out against more than 60 targets using some 150 precision-guided bombs and missiles.

"The strike was designed to degrade and disrupt their military activity, their ability to store, launch and guide these missiles for their targets, as well as the drones that they have launched," he said. "We believe that we had good effects."

A confidential Pentagon analysis of the first barrage suggests otherwise. While the U.S.-led

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**U.S. AID** Senators tabled a measure threatening to freeze military support for Israel. PAGE A9

**IRANIAN STRIKES** Deadly attacks in Iraq and Pakistan only added to Mideast tensions. PAGE A9

## Emmys Left Eerie Feeling That Peak TV Is Passing Prime Time

By JOHN KOBLIN

As "Succession" cast members marched up to the Emmy stage on Monday night to grab their statuettes for the show's final season, they used it as one last opportunity to say goodbye.

Kieran Culkin, after kissing his co-star Brian Cox on the lips, gave a tearful speech while accepting

the award for best actor in a drama. Matthew Macfadyen and Sarah Snook, who each won acting awards as well, gave loving tributes to fellow cast members. And Jesse Armstrong, the creator of "Succession," capped off the night by accepting the best-drama award for the third and final time and noting: "We can now depart the stage."

It all punctuated an end-of-era

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feeling at the Emmy Awards on Monday night. "Succession" was one of many nominated shows that had farewell seasons, joined by a list that included "Ted Lasso,"

"Better Call Saul," "Barry," "Atlanta" and "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel."

But that was not the only reason that there was an elegiac theme to Monday night. The ceremony felt in many ways like a bookend to the so-called Peak TV era itself.

Nearly every year from 2010 through 2023, the number of TV programs rose in the United

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