Israel/Lebanon/MERV/Golan/Iraq/Yemen 26 December

Israel’s defence minister asserted that “we are in a multi-arena war, we are being attacked from seven different sectors - Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Iran”, adding: “We have already reacted and acted in six... And I say here in the most explicit way – anyone who acts against us is a potential target, there is no immunity for anyone”.

Tehran 26 December

The IAEA informed member states that Iran had “increased its production of highly enriched uranium, reversing a previous output reduction from mid-2023… Since the end of November 2023, the rate at which Iran has been producing uranium enriched up to 60 per cent U-235 at these two facilities [Natanz and Fordow] has increased to approximately 9kg per month”.

Washington/Yemen/Israel 26 December

According to CENTCOM, U.S. warships and aircraft downed “twelve one-way attack drones, three anti-ship ballistic missiles and two land attack cruise missiles in the southern Red Sea that were fired by the Houthis over a ten hour period... There was no damage to ships in the area or reported injuries”. A Houthi military spokesperson reported targeting a commercial ship, identified as MSC United, while reiterating “the continuation of their operations in the Red and Arab Seas against Israeli ships or those heading to the [Israeli] ports”. He also claimed that the Houthis had conducted drone attacks against “military targets” in southern Israel.

Washington/Iraq/MERV/Tanf 25 December

The White House confirmed that “in northern Iraq, U.S. military personnel were targeted by a one-way attack drone. The attack wounded three U.S. service-members, one critically... The President directed strikes against three locations utilised by Kata’ib Hizbollah and affiliated groups focused specifically on unmanned aerial drone activities”. The Iraqi prime minister’s office condemned what it described as “an unacceptable violation of Iraqi sovereignty”, reporting that “Iraqi military sites were targeted by the American side”, killing a service member and wounding eighteen individuals, including civilians.

Tehran/Israel/Golan 25 December

Iran confirmed the death of a senior IRGC official in Syria in what it asserted was an Israeli missile strike in Damascus. President Ebrahim Raisi contended that “this heinous act is another sign of
frustration and helplessness of the usurping Zionist regime [ie, Israel] in the region, and it will definitely pay for this crime”.

Israel/Lebanon 25 December

The Israeli military reported that “Hizbollah recently attacked civilian buildings of the northern residents. In response, we struck a wide range of Hizbollah targets in Lebanon. Fighter jets attacked terrorist infrastructure and military buildings, and tanks targeted Hizbollah infrastructure along the border area”. Hizbollah confirmed two fatalities.