

## OPERATIONAL UPDATE: HOUTHI MISSILE STRIKE ON ANADOLUS

The Houthi forces have officially claimed responsibility for the missile strike on the vessel Anadolu-S. In a formal statement, Houthi Armed Forces spokesperson Yahya Saree confirmed that the ship was targeted using a combination of ballistic and anti-ship missiles.

- Based on Saree's statement and available information, it is likely that the weapon used was the Hatem-2 ballistic missile, a Yemeni-modified version of the Iranian-made Kheybar Shekan.



Illustrative image of Hatem-2 / Source: Houthi Military Media

## U.S. NAVAL MOVEMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

- The USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) has departed the Middle East, marking only the second time in over a year that the region is without an aircraft carrier presence.
- Following this shift, the U.S. has deployed the USS Jason Dunham (DDG-109), an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, to reinforce U.S. naval presence and maintain operational readiness in the region.
- Houthi Former Deputy Foreign Minister Hussein Al-Ezzi described the carrier's withdrawal from the Arabian Sea as a "positive step." He emphasized that Yemeni military operations will persist until aggression and blockades on Gaza and Lebanon are lifted, foreign interference in Yemen ceases, and full respect for its sovereignty is achieved, noting these as essential for long-term security.

# ESCALATION IN UKRAINE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR RED SEA SECURITY:

- Ukraine's recent deployment of U.S.-supplied Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) to strike targets within Russia marks a significant escalation in the ongoing conflict. This development has potential ramifications extending to the Red Sea region.
- In recent months, reports have surfaced indicating that Iran has been facilitating negotiations between Russia and Yemen's Houthi rebels for the transfer of advanced Yakhont P-800 anti-ship cruise missiles. Additionally, intelligence suggests that Russia has provided the Houthis with targeting data for maritime attacks.
- The intensification of hostilities in Ukraine may prompt Russia to enhance its support for the Houthis, potentially supplying advanced weaponry or intelligence. Such actions could elevate the threat level in the Red Sea, particularly for vessels and enterprises associated with NATO and EU member states.



Illustrative image of Yakhont ASCM/ Source : Russian Defense Export

## ANALYSIS

- The redeployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) from the Middle East has been perceived by Houthi forces as a favorable development, potentially emboldening them to target U.S. assets in the region. In response, the deployment of the USS Jason Dunham (DDG-109), an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, indicates a strategic shift by the U.S. Navy. This move aims to enhance missile and drone defense capabilities in the Red Sea and to conduct precision naval strikes against Houthi positions, reducing reliance on airstrikes.

- Concurrently, the escalation of hostilities in Ukraine introduces complexities that could influence dynamics in the Red Sea. Intelligence sharing and technological transfers may empower Houthi forces to more effectively target commercial vessels, elevating risks for maritime operations linked to NATO and EU member states. These developments underscore the necessity for vigilant monitoring and adaptive strategies to safeguard regional stability and secure vital maritime routes.

## SOURCES

SeaHawk Maritime Intelligence provides actionable, land-based intelligence on Somali piracy and other emerging threats in the region.

### **Saba News**

["https://www.saba.ye/ar/news3398846.htm"](https://www.saba.ye/ar/news3398846.htm)

### **USNI News**

["https://news.usni.org/2024/11/18/carrier-uss-abraham-lincoln-leaves-middle-east-vinson-carrier-strike-group-deploys?utm\\_campaign=mil-ebb&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=sailthru"](https://news.usni.org/2024/11/18/carrier-uss-abraham-lincoln-leaves-middle-east-vinson-carrier-strike-group-deploys?utm_campaign=mil-ebb&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sailthru)

### **USNI News**

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### **Al Masirah**

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### **The New York Times**

["https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/19/world/europe/ukraine-russia-atacms-missiles.html"](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/19/world/europe/ukraine-russia-atacms-missiles.html)

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### **The Wall Street Journal**

["https://www.wsj.com/world/russia-provided-targeting-data-for-houthi-assault-on-global-shipping-eabc2c2b"](https://www.wsj.com/world/russia-provided-targeting-data-for-houthi-assault-on-global-shipping-eabc2c2b)

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