

Baghdad, Iraq - Six Rockets Target Airbase Hosting US Contractors, Adding Further Challenges to the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Six rockets were fired on May 03, 2021, towards Iraq's Balad air base north of Baghdad
- Three rockets initially fell in an area where US company Sallyport maintains F-16 aircraft purchased by Iraq from the US
- The other three rockets were fired 15 minutes later, near the base without hitting it
- A foreign contractor working for a US company was lightly wounded
- This is the second attack targeting US interests in under 24 hours, after two rockets on May 02, 2021, targeted an airbase housing US-led coalition, troops
- Almost 30 rocket or bomb attacks have targeted American interests in Iraq since January 2021
- Along with these attacks, Iraq is also facing challenges due to the COVID-19 crisis
- Reported COVID-19 stats for Iraq:
 1. Confirmed Cases: 1,079,998
 2. Deaths: 15,566 (1.44%)
 3. Recoveries: 964,551 (89.31%)
- Supply Wisdom is continuously monitoring the situation and will alert you to any relevant developments

Source(s)

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/six-rockets-target-iraqs-balad-airbase-hosting-us-contractors-north-of-baghdad-2427491>
<https://rexoxer.in/six-rockets-target-iraq-airbase-hosting-us-contractors-north-of-baghdad/>
<https://news.google.com/covid19/map?hl=en-IN&gl=IN&ceid=IN%3Aen&mid=%2Fm%2F0d05q4>
<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/iraq/>
<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/iraq-population/>
<http://www.moh.gov.iq/>

Targets Affected:

Iraq

Category(s):

Geo-Political Risk

Event:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Incident(s)

Guidance

Actions to consider:

- Advisories issued by both the US Department of State as well as UK's Foreign Common Wealth Office restrict all travel to Iraq due to 'COVID-19, terrorism, kidnapping, and armed conflict'
- SW Subscribers should consider referring to US Department of State and UK Government's travel advisory sites found at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisory.html> and <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/iraq> for detailed information about the region
- Travelers are advised to avoid all non-essential travel to the affected regions and pay close attention to advisories issued by the local authorities
- It is advisable to communicate to employees about the importance of avoiding all non-essential travel to affected areas
- If there is a presence of business operations, SW Subscribers are advised to ensure that Business Continuity plans and programs are commensurate with the level and types of risk exposures of this location
- Security and travel departments of third parties/captive units should consider issuing internal alerts and appropriate travel restrictions recommendations
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- In an event of extended risk disrupting business operations, evaluate options to migrate critical processes to nearby unaffected regions
- Mechanisms must be in place for pre-emptive evacuation of employees if required
- Determine if a strict screening process for vehicles and people

entering the businesses premises are in place

Impact level Definitions

Impact Level	Definitions
Immediate	Certain - Supply Wisdom recommends considering prompt action. Examples of Immediate level alert events may include bankruptcy filings, data breaches, unexpected curfews, strikes, power black-outs, major geo-political events etc.
High	Highly likely to occur in the near term (within 3 months) - Supply Wisdom recommends being in a state of readiness to take quick action. Examples of High level alert events may include withdrawal of rating by ratings agencies, hostile takeover, multiple cyber-attacks, new business policies causing significant hardship etc.
Medium	Likely to occur in the mid-term (within 3 to 6 months) - Supply Wisdom recommends reviewing current mitigation steps and being ready to take proactive actions if and when situation deteriorates further. Examples of Medium level alert events may include unplanned C-level exits, suppliers caught in bribery cases, economy slipping into recession.
Low	Possible in the long-term (after 6 months) - Supply Wisdom recommends taking proactive action if situation does not resolve. Examples of Low level alert events may include lawsuits filed against suppliers, client losses, air pollution alerts issued by country's local authorities, unexpected holidays announced for the location etc.
Informational	The event is pertinent information but does not have a risk element associated with it. Examples of Info level alert events may include launch of new solutions, partnerships signed, industry outlook, positive changes in government policies, announcements regarding launch of software parks/ free trade zones/special economic zones etc.