

MAGNET S2 — WEEKLY SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SNAPSHOT

DTG: 260823-1800Z | REPORTING PERIOD: 14–23 AUGUST 2026

BASELINE: 260814-1700Z | UNITED STATES FOCUS | www.magnethf.com

REPORT IDENTIFICATION

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MAGCON STATUS

MAGCON LEVEL	STATUS	TREND	AUTHORITY
LEVEL 3	ELEVATED	WORSENING	Standing Direction

MAGCON holds at Level 3 – ELEVATED per standing direction. Since the 260814-1700Z baseline, the Strait of Hormuz picture has continued to deteriorate: renewed Iranian attacks on ADNOC-linked (UAE) commercial tankers on 8 and 14 Aug (the 8 Aug incident fell inside the prior cycle's window but was missed in that sweep, and is included now as a correction), a reported — but not independently confirmed — Iranian seizure of a UAE-flagged tanker on 17 Aug, and evasive/halted transit by the tanker Amara near Qeshm Island on 18 Aug. This runs in parallel with, not instead of, the kinetic US blockade-enforcement track reported last cycle (Vela Nova Hellfire strike, 11 Aug). Hormuz remains HIGH. Bab el-Mandeb/Red Sea holds at CRITICAL, restored last cycle following the lethal 12 Aug Houthis strike on the Tihamah; no new incident was identified in this window. The Mecca Joint Defence Agreement (Saudi Arabia–Turkey–Pakistan, signed 7 Aug) saw a notable development on 20 Aug when Syria's Foreign Minister said Damascus is considering joining or cooperating with the pact. The DHS domestic surveillance disclosure reported last cycle (Operation Puppet Master / Project Whipple Shield) has been confirmed to extend to five churches across Minnesota and Michigan, per 20 Aug reporting — a wider geographic scope than previously understood. A new MAGNET S2 Intelligence Report (260821-1800Z) assessing the Tongan Crip Gang (TCG) in Utah is incorporated this cycle following a second fatal shooting at an LDS meetinghouse funeral in Kearns, UT on 17 Aug — a possible gang nexus is under investigation but not yet confirmed. CISA added six new KEV entries across two batches (18, 20 Aug), including three CVSS 9.8 critical vulnerabilities under active exploitation. Delaney Hall, PJM, Section 702/FISA, and America 250 show no material change this cycle. The WordPress Core wp2shell patch confirmation against magnethf.com remains outstanding — now a fourth consecutive cycle open item.

PRIMARY RISK DRIVERS

- Renewed Iranian attacks on ADNOC-linked (UAE) tankers in the Strait of Hormuz (8 and 14 Aug — the 8 Aug incident missed last cycle, included now as a correction), plus a reported but unconfirmed tanker seizure (17 Aug) and evasive/halted transit by the tanker Amara (18 Aug). Runs parallel to the kinetic US blockade-enforcement track (Vela Nova, 11 Aug) reported last cycle.
- Bab el-Mandeb/Red Sea holds at CRITICAL (restored last cycle following the 12 Aug Houthis strike on the Tihamah, which killed at least 6); no new incident identified this window.
- NEW — Syria's Foreign Minister said (20 Aug) that Damascus is considering joining or cooperating with the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement (Saudi Arabia–Turkey–Pakistan, signed 7 Aug), which Turkey has said is open to expansion.
- NEW — DHS domestic surveillance disclosed last cycle (Operation Puppet Master / Project Whipple Shield) confirmed to have extended to five churches across Minnesota and Michigan, per 20 Aug reporting — a wider geographic scope than previously understood.
- NEW INTELLIGENCE REPORT INCORPORATED — MAGNET S2 260821-1800Z: Tongan Crip Gang (TCG) Utah. A second fatal shooting at an LDS meetinghouse funeral occurred in Kearns, UT (17 Aug), killing one

and critically injuring two; a possible gang nexus is under investigation but not confirmed as TCG-linked as of the report DTG.

- Heavy CISA KEV week: two batches (18, 20 Aug) added six CVEs, three carrying CVSS 9.8 with confirmed active exploitation (Windows IKE Service Extensions, VMware vCenter, macOS Screen Sharing).
- WordPress Core wp2shell (CVE-2026-63030 / CVE-2026-60137) patch confirmation against magnethf.com remains outstanding — now a fourth consecutive cycle open item.
- Delaney Hall, PJM, Section 702/FISA, and America 250 show no material change since the 260814-1700Z baseline.

DELTA SUMMARY — CHANGES FROM LAST REPORT (260814-1700Z)

DOMAIN	PRIOR STATUS (260814-1700Z)	CURRENT STATUS	DELTA
Strait of Hormuz	Restored to HIGH — blockade enforcement turned kinetic (Vela Nova, 11 Aug)	Additional Iranian attacks on ADNOC-linked tankers (8, 14 Aug); reported tanker seizure (17 Aug, unconfirmed); Amara evasive transit (18 Aug)	WORSENING
Bab el-Mandeb / Red Sea	Restored to CRITICAL — Tihamah strike (12 Aug)	No new incident identified this window; holds at CRITICAL	STABLE
Mecca Joint Defence Agreement	NEW last cycle (7 Aug, missed 260809, corrected 260814)	Syria considering joining/cooperating (20 Aug)	WORSENING
DHS Domestic Surveillance	NEW last cycle — Minnesota non-criminal orgs surveilled	Confirmed to extend to 5 churches across MN and MI (20 Aug)	WORSENING
TCG Utah (New Intel Report)	Not previously covered	MAGNET S2 260821-1800Z incorporated — 2nd fatal LDS-funeral shooting, Kearns UT (17 Aug)	NEW
CISA KEV	4 additions (LoadMaster, Cisco ASA/FTD, Windows AFD.sys, Metabase)	6 additional CVEs (18, 20 Aug), 3x CVSS 9.8 actively exploited	WORSENING
Delaney Hall	3rd custody-linked death disclosed (Chajon-Raxon, 13 Aug)	No new incident this window	STABLE
PJM Grid	Bilateral matching window opened; central auction tracking 30 Sep–21 Oct	No new FERC action this cycle	STABLE
Section 702 / FISA	Certifications valid to Mar 2027	No change	STABLE
America 250	No reinstatement trigger identified	No reinstatement trigger identified; still pending operator direction	STABLE
WordPress Core / wp2shell	3rd cycle open item	4th consecutive cycle open item — unconfirmed	ONGOING

NO CHANGE:

- MAGCON level holds at 3 – ELEVATED per standing direction
- Section 702/FISA certifications remain valid through March 2027 regardless of underlying statute status
- Panama Canal transit remains ROUTINE; normal operations
- PJM Reliability Backstop Procurement proceeding on schedule; no new FERC action this cycle
- America 250 watch-item status unchanged; no reinstatement trigger identified
- Delaney Hall oversight litigation (NJ AG / Newark v. GEO Group) ongoing with no new incident this window

SECTOR THREAT LEVELS

SECTOR	LEVEL	NOTES
Energy / Fuel	HIGH	Held at HIGH (restored 260814). Bab el-Mandeb lethal attack and continued kinetic Hormuz enforcement/renewed Iranian tanker attacks both directly affecting Gulf crude flows.
Transportation Systems	HIGH	Held at HIGH (restored 260814). Bab el-Mandeb transit risk remains lethal; Hormuz attack tempo continues to increase.
Supply Chain / Logistics	HIGH	Held at HIGH (restored 260814). Both Gulf chokepoints remain re-escalated; no offsetting improvement identified this cycle.
Cybersecurity / Critical Infrastructure	ELEVATED	Six new KEV additions this cycle (18, 20 Aug), three CVSS 9.8 with confirmed active exploitation across Windows, VMware, and SharePoint.
Domestic Security / Civil Unrest	ELEVATED	Held. DHS surveillance scope expansion (5 churches, MN/MI) and TCG Utah gang-violence intelligence report both reinforce standing posture; no MAGCON-level trigger identified.
Terrorism / Extremism	ELEVATED	New TCG Utah intelligence report (260821-1800Z) — second fatal shooting at LDS funeral gathering (Kearns, 17 Aug); possible gang nexus under investigation, not confirmed.
Grid / Energy Infrastructure (PJM)	ELEVATED	Held. Bilateral matching window proceeding on schedule; no acute reliability event in-period.
Mass Gatherings / Public Events	ELEVATED	FIFA World Cup retired from watch (tournament concluded). America 250 reinstatement pending operator direction.

GLOBAL CHOKEPOINT WATCH

CHOKEPOINT	STATUS	ASSESSMENT
Strait of Hormuz	HIGH	Restored to HIGH last cycle on kinetic blockade enforcement (Vela Nova Hellfire strike, 11 Aug). This cycle adds renewed Iranian attacks on ADNOC-linked tankers (8, 14 Aug), a reported but unconfirmed tanker seizure (17 Aug), and evasive/halted transit by the tanker Amara (18 Aug). Diplomatic movement (Iran-Oman route talks, 'final stages') does not offset an active kinetic enforcement and attack escalation — treat as 'paused, not resolved,' never improving, while direct attacks on commercial shipping continue.
Bab el-Mandeb / Red Sea	CRITICAL	Restored to CRITICAL last cycle following the 12 Aug Houthi missile strike on the Tihamah near Perim Island, which killed at least 6 — the first shipping deaths linked to the Houthis since the war began 28 Feb. No new incident identified this window; treat as active lethal risk, not adaptation.
Panama Canal	ROUTINE	Stable. Normal operations; no reporting of disruption this cycle.
Strait of Malacca	ELEVATED	Stable. SE Asia energy stress from Hormuz/Bab el-Mandeb disruption persists; no direct incidents this cycle.

KEY INCIDENTS

Hormuz — Renewed Tanker Attacks and Reported Seizure Compound Blockade Enforcement

Iranian forces attacked ADNOC-linked (UAE) tankers on 8 Aug (a third such vessel) and again on 14 Aug, when two vessels — a Singapore-flagged product tanker and a Liberian-flagged Aframax — were struck during a dark transit. The 8 Aug incident fell inside the prior cycle's reporting window (3–9 Aug) but was not captured in that sweep; it is included now as a correction to the record, consistent with how the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement was handled last cycle.

Iranian state media (Farh News Agency) reported on 17 Aug the unconfirmed seizure of a UAE-linked tanker for alleged violation of the Persian Gulf Strait Authority's (PGSA) passage rules, taken toward Qeshm Island. On 18 Aug, the fuel tanker Amara made a series of at least five erratic U-turns before halting near Qeshm Island under apparent Iranian pressure.

These developments run parallel to, not in place of, the kinetic US blockade-enforcement track reported last cycle: the Vela Nova was disabled by Hellfire missiles on 11 Aug, the third vessel disabled by direct fire since the blockade resumed 14 Jul. Iran-Oman route talks remain in 'final stages' per Iranian officials, but members should not read diplomatic movement as reducing operational risk in the strait. Admiralty rating: B-2.

Mecca Joint Defence Agreement — Syria Weighs Joining Regional Pact

On 20 Aug, during a visit to Pakistan, Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani said Damascus is considering whether to join or cooperate with the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement, the collective-defense pact signed 7 Aug by Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan. Turkish officials have previously stated the pact is open to expansion beyond the founding three states.

This follows reporting that the pact's framework includes a ministerial committee, political and military committees, and a planned permanent secretariat — structural elements Turkish officials have compared to NATO, though analysts characterize the agreement as a regional security-cooperation framework rather than a direct NATO analog. Admiralty rating: B-2.

DHS Domestic Surveillance — Scope Confirmed to Extend to Churches in Minnesota and Michigan

Reporting on 20 Aug (NBC News, via multiple outlets) confirmed that Operation Puppet Master — the DHS undercover surveillance program targeting non-criminal left-leaning organizations first disclosed via unsealed court filings on 13 Aug — surveilled five churches across Minnesota and Michigan since December, with agents operating both outside and inside church buildings. This is a wider geographic scope than the Minnesota-only framing reported last cycle.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison publicly condemned the program on 14 Aug, characterizing it as retaliation against constitutionally protected protest activity. This item reinforces MAGNET's standing PACE/OPSEC guidance regarding smartphone-based group messaging and financial-record exposure for members affiliated with advocacy organizations. Admiralty rating: B-2.

NEW INTELLIGENCE REPORT — Tongan Crip Gang (TCG) Utah: Second Fatal Shooting at LDS Funeral

MAGNET S2 published a standalone Intelligence Report (DTG 260821-1800Z) on the Tongan Crip Gang (TCG), a Crips-affiliated Pacific Islander street gang active in the Salt Lake Valley, UT for over 35 years, following a second fatal shooting at an LDS meetinghouse funeral gathering. On 17 Aug, gunfire erupted outside a funeral in Kearns, UT, killing 18-year-old Vilisoni Angilau and critically injuring two others (ages 17 and 18); Unified Police arrested the 17-year-old suspect's father, Afuhia Masiu Manatau, 45, for allegedly providing the firearm.

The Kearns incident closely parallels a 7 January 2026 shooting at an LDS meetinghouse in Salt Lake City that killed two people, including a former TCG member who had publicly renounced gang life — that earlier case resulted in federal firearms indictments against two alleged TCG members. Police describe the Kearns shooting as stemming from a dispute between two families and are investigating a possible gang connection; TCG affiliation has NOT been confirmed as of the report DTG. The full report assesses TCG structure, membership, rival/ally networks, and provides mitigation recommendations for Wasatch Front law enforcement partners. Admiralty rating: B-2 (multiple corroborating local news sources; full source list in the standalone report).

CYBER / INFRASTRUCTURE KEV BULLETIN — PATCH IMMEDIATELY

CVE	PRODUCT	SEVERITY	ACTION REQUIRED
CVE-2026-33824	Microsoft Windows IKE Service Extensions	CRITICAL	Wormable, unauthenticated RCE. Federal patch deadline was 21 Aug — treat as overdue if not yet applied. KEV 18 Aug.
CVE-2026-55040	Microsoft SharePoint Server	HIGH	Authentication bypass; exploited within hours of public technical writeup. KEV 18 Aug.
CVE-2026-59310	Broadcom VMware vCenter	CRITICAL	Path traversal; hundreds of servers already compromised across 47 countries. KEV 18 Aug.
CVE-2026-65400	Apple macOS (Screen Sharing)	CRITICAL	Authentication bypass being used to install cryptominers. KEV 18 Aug.
CVE-2026-16232	Check Point SmartConsole	ELEVATED	Improper authentication vulnerability. KEV 20 Aug.
CVE-2026-50522	Microsoft SharePoint	ELEVATED	Deserialization of untrusted data. KEV 20 Aug.
CVE-2026-63030 / CVE-2026-60137	WordPress Core ("wp2shell")	CRITICAL	ONGOING — 4th consecutive cycle open item. Unauthenticated RCE chain via REST API batch route + SQL injection. Fixed in WP 6.9.5 / 7.0.2 (17–18 Jul). magnethf.com's own patch level remains unconfirmed.

EMERGING INDICATORS

- Watch: Whether the reported Iranian seizure of a UAE-flagged tanker (17 Aug) is independently corroborated beyond Iranian state media.
- Watch: Whether additional Iranian attacks on ADNOC-linked shipping continue, and whether the attack tempo triggers a further chokepoint status escalation.
- Watch: Which additional states, if any, join or cooperate with the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement following Syria's stated interest (20 Aug).
- Watch: Further disclosures on DHS surveillance scope (Operation Puppet Master / Project Whipple Shield) — additional states, targets, or congressional response.
- Watch: Resolution of the Kearns, UT shooting investigation and whether a TCG or TCG-affiliated (e.g., TCR) nexus is formally confirmed.
- Watch: Confirmation of magnethf.com's own WordPress Core patch status against CVE-2026-63030 / CVE-2026-60137 — now a fourth-cycle open item.

VERIFIED STATUS

ITEM	STATUS
ADNOC-linked tanker attacks in the Strait of Hormuz (8, 14 Aug)	CONFIRMED — Windward AIS data, The Maritime Executive
Syria considering joining the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement (20 Aug)	CONFIRMED — Wikipedia citing Syrian FM statement in Pakistan
DHS surveillance extended to 5 churches in Minnesota and Michigan	CONFIRMED — NBC News via MSNBC, 20 Aug 2026
Kearns, UT LDS funeral shooting (17 Aug) — 1 killed, 2 critically injured	CONFIRMED — ABC4 Utah, Deseret News, Salt Lake Tribune
Iranian seizure of a UAE-linked tanker (17 Aug)	NOT CONFIRMED — Iranian state media (Farh News Agency) only
Kearns shooting formally linked to TCG or a TCG-affiliated subset	NOT CONFIRMED — Unified Police investigating; no confirmation as of DTG
magnethf.com WordPress Core patch level vs. wp2shell	NOT CONFIRMED — pending operator verification, 4th cycle open

OPERATOR GUIDANCE

- **CONFIRM WORDPRESS CORE VERSION NOW** — magnethf.com's patch level against wp2shell (CVE-2026-63030 / CVE-2026-60137) remains unconfirmed for a fourth consecutive cycle; verify against fixed releases 6.9.5 / 7.0.2 or later before next report.
- **PATCH WINDOWS IKE SERVICE EXTENSIONS, VMWARE VCENTER, AND MACOS SCREEN SHARING IMMEDIATELY** — all three CVSS 9.8 with confirmed active exploitation.
- **GULF-ADJACENT SUPPLY CHAINS** — do not treat Hormuz diplomatic movement as reducing operational risk; attack tempo against commercial shipping continues to increase alongside blockade enforcement.
- **SIGNAL / COMMS OPSEC** — continue treating smartphone-based group messaging as inherently more exposed than MAGNET HF/NBEMS, JS8Call, and VarAC BBS channels, per the confirmed DHS church/advocacy-group surveillance findings.
- **UTAH / WASATCH FRONT OPERATORS** — treat funeral and memorial gatherings tied to Pacific Islander community networks as elevated-attention events pending resolution of the Kearns investigation; see full TCG Utah intelligence report (260821-1800Z) for details.
- **PROVIDE DIRECTION ON AMERICA 250 WATCH-ITEM REINSTATEMENT** — still pending operator call as of this cycle.
- Report cyber incidents to cisa.gov or IC3.gov; CI Fortify guidance at cisa.gov.

SOURCE LIST

- [1] [B2] The Maritime Executive — Iran Claims to Have Seized Tanker as It Continues Targeting UAE Shipping, 17 Aug 2026

- [2] [A2] Bloomberg — Tanker Stops in Hormuz as Iran Raises Efforts to Control Strait, 18 Aug 2026
- [3] [C3] Wikipedia — Mecca Joint Defence Agreement (Syria consideration, 20 Aug 2026)
- [4] [B2] Al Jazeera — Which Other Countries Could Join the Turkiye-Saudi-Pakistan Defence Pact?, 9 Aug 2026
- [5] [B2] MSNBC/NBC News — DHS Surveillance of Churches Adds to Clashes Between Team Trump and Faith Community, 20 Aug 2026
- [6] [A1] Minnesota Attorney General — Ellison Statement on DHS Surveillance of Minnesota Protesters, 14 Aug 2026
- [7] [B2] ABC4 Utah — Victim of Kearns Funeral Shooting Identified; Father Arrested for Providing Firearm, 17–18 Aug 2026
- [8] [B2] Deseret News / Salt Lake Tribune — Kearns Funeral Shooting Coverage, 17–18 Aug 2026
- [9] [A1] CISA.gov — Adds Four Known Exploited Vulnerabilities to Catalog, 18 Aug 2026
- [10] [A1] CISA.gov — Adds Two Known Exploited Vulnerabilities to Catalog, 20 Aug 2026
- [11] [B2] Rapid7 / SOCRadar — wp2shell (CVE-2026-63030) Technical Advisories
- [12] MAGNET S2 Report 260821-1800Z — Tongan Crip Gang (TCG) Utah, full source list therein — magnethf.com/260821-1800z
- [13] MAGNET S2 Report 260814-1700Z — prior cycle baseline — magnethf.com/magnet-s2-snapshot-260814-1700z

FLMSG TERMINAL BULLETIN

MAGNET S2 WEEKLY SNAPSHOT 260823-1800Z

PERIOD 14-23 AUG 2026. MAGCON L3 ELEVATED, TREND WORSENING.

HORMUZ HIGH: ADNOC TANKERS ATTACKED 8/14 AUG, UAE TANKER SEIZURE CLAIMED 17 AUG (UNCONFIRMED), AMARA EVASIVE 18 AUG.

RED SEA CRITICAL (NO CHANGE): TIHAMAH STRIKE 12 AUG HOLDS, NO NEW INCIDENT.

NEW: SYRIA WEIGHING MECCA DEFENCE PACT MEMBERSHIP (20 AUG).

NEW: DHS SURVEILLANCE CONFIRMED AT 5 CHURCHES MN/MI (20 AUG).

NEW INTEL RPT 260821-1800Z: TCG UTAH - 2ND FATAL LDS FUNERAL SHOOTING, KEARNS UT 17 AUG.

KEV: 6 NEW CVES 18/20 AUG, 3X CVSS 9.8 ACTIVELY EXPLOITED.

WP2SHELL VS MAGNETHF.COM UNCONFIRMED - 4TH CYCLE OPEN ITEM.

DELANEY HALL/PJM/702/AMERICA 250: NO CHANGE.

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ACT: PATCH KEV NOW. CONFIRM WP CORE VERSION. UTAH OPERATORS SEE TCG REPORT.

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