Iranian proxy militia Kata’ib Hezbollah. Iran’s proxy and U.S.-designated terrorist organization Kata’ib Hezbollah (KB) fired approximately 30 Katyusha rockets at Camp Taji, 30 km northwest of Baghdad, from the Rashidiya area. The attack killed two Americans and one British soldier and wounded at least a dozen others. The attack was likely a symbolic commemoration of deceased Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) – Quds Force leader Qassem Soleimani, whose birthday is March 11.

11 Mar 1: Israeli Proxy Kata’ib Hezbollah Militia Fires 30 Rockets at Camp Taji, Killing Two Americans, Wounding Others. Kata’ib Hezbollah, a militia supported and armed by Iran, fired more than 30 rockets at Camp Taji, a U.S. base in northern Iraq. The rockets hit near a hospital and a δarkroom building. The attacks come amid tensions between the United States and Iran in the wake of recent U.S. military strikes against the IRGC-Quds Force in Iraq and Syria and the Iranian-sponsored militia’s attacks on U.S. bases. The attack was one of a series of attacks by the militia in recent days, and it demonstrated the group’s ability to conduct operations against U.S. targets in Iraq.

12 Mar 1: Iraqi Proxy Militia Kata'ib Hezbollah Fires Rockets at Camp Taji, Wounding Two Americans. Kata'ib Hezbollah, a militia supported and armed by Iran, fired rockets at Camp Taji, a U.S. base in northern Iraq. The rockets hit near a hospital and a darkroom building. The attacks come amid tensions between the United States and Iran in the wake of recent U.S. military strikes against the IRGC-Quds Force in Iraq and Syria and the Iranian-sponsored militia’s attacks on U.S. bases. The attack was one of a series of attacks by the militia in recent days, and it demonstrated the group’s ability to conduct operations against U.S. targets in Iraq.

13 Mar 1: U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo Tweets Support for PM-Designate Adnan al-Zurfi. President Barham Salih unilaterally designated U.S. citizen and former Najaf Governor Adnan Al-Zurfi as prime minister. Pompeo wrote that Iraqis want sovereign- and religious figures ordering the government to provide “all necessary supplies to protect doctors and workers treating patients” in the fight against COVID-19, adding that anyone who gives their life in this fight is considered a martyr.

14 Mar 1: Sistani Issues Fatwa Mandating Government Response to COVID-19. Iraq’s highest Shi’ite religious authority, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, issued a compulsory religious ruling ordering the government to provide “all necessary supplies to protect doctors and workers treating patients” in the fight against COVID-19, adding that anyone who gives their life in this fight is considered a martyr.

15 Mar 1: Three Rockets Land near Iraqi Presidential Compound and U.S. Embassy. Iraq’s Security Media Cell reported that unidentified militants launched two rockets near the Baghdad embassy compound toward the Jadriyah neighborhood. The rockets were fired from an area near the U.S. embassy and hit an abandoned building that crosses the river from the U.S. embassy and Iraq’s presidential compound.

16 Mar 1: President Salih Unilaterally Designates Former Naji Government Adnan Al-Zurfi as PM. Iraq’s president Barham Salih unilaterally designated U.S. citizen and former Najaf Governor Adnan Al-Zurfi as prime minister. Salih’s move comes amid continuing political deadlock in Iraq, where the new government formation process has stalled.

17 Mar 1: Iraqi Proxy Kata’ib Hezbollah Fires Rockets at Camp Taji, Wounding Two Americans. Kata’ib Hezbollah, a militia supported and armed by Iran, fired rockets at Camp Taji, a U.S. base in northern Iraq. The rockets hit near a hospital and a darkroom building. The attacks come amid tensions between the United States and Iran in the wake of recent U.S. military strikes against the IRGC-Quds Force in Iraq and Syria and the Iranian-sponsored militia’s attacks on U.S. bases. The attack was one of a series of attacks by the militia in recent days, and it demonstrated the group’s ability to conduct operations against U.S. targets in Iraq.

Key Takeaway: The U.S. began a planned drawdown from three Iraqi bases after Iran’s proxy militia targeted U.S. forces there. The attacks come amid tensions between the United States and Iran in the wake of recent U.S. military strikes against the IRGC-Quds Force in Iraq and Syria and the Iranian-sponsored militia’s attacks on U.S. bases. The attack was one of a series of attacks by the militia in recent days, and it demonstrated the group’s ability to conduct operations against U.S. targets in Iraq.