



An American F-15E shot down by Iran. One pilot recovered by American Special Forces infiltrated in enemy territory. The other is still missing.

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An American fighter jet **F-15E Strike Eagle** was shot down over Iranian territory, in what represents one of the most serious incidents since the beginning of the conflict in the Middle East. According to military sources and international media, this is the **first US combat aircraft shot down by enemy fire** since the start of the ongoing war.

What happened

The aircraft, belonging to the US Air Force, was reportedly hit by Iranian defense systems during an operational mission. Onboard were two crew members, as typical for this platform: a pilot and a weapons systems officer.

After the impact, **both ejected**, but the situation on the ground remains extremely critical:

One of the two was recovered by a team of US Special Forces during a complex operation with infiltration into Iranian territory, while the other is still missing, with searches ongoing by both American and Iranian forces.

Tehran has even invited the civilian population to collaborate in the hunt for the pilots, increasing the risk of capture.

High-risk recovery operation

The United States immediately launched a **CSAR (Combat Search and Rescue) mission**, employing dedicated assets such as HH-60 Pavehawk helicopters and C-130 support aircraft, infiltrating special forces operators directly on the ground.

Operations of this type are among the most complex in the military field, especially in hostile territory, where every intervention can turn into a direct combat action.

Strategic impact

The downing of the fighter jet represents a clear signal: it demonstrates that **Iranian air defense is still operational and effective**, calling into question the total air superiority of the United States in the theater and opening the real risk of **capture of US military personnel**, with enormous political and media consequences.

According to analysts, this event marks a **turning point in the war**, drastically increasing the tension between Washington and Tehran.

The episode comes after weeks already marked by losses and incidents. Other F-15Es were destroyed in a “friendly fire” incident in Kuwait, and several aircraft and drones have been shot down in the operational theater.

But this is the first time an American fighter jet has been **shot down directly by the enemy in Iranian territory** during the current conflict.

Conclusion

The downing of the F-15E is not just a military fact, but an event of high symbolic and strategic value.

If the second crew member were to be captured, the crisis could enter an even more delicate phase, with possible repercussions on a global scale.

The conflict, already complex and widespread, thus proves to have entered a **phase of real escalation**, where even Western technological superiority no longer guarantees invulnerability.

News link: <https://www.rainews.it/maratona/2026/04/007-usa-liran-non-disposto-a-trattative-sostanziali-sulla-fine-della-guerra-030c25d1-db20-48d5-a5ff-db706916fe82.html>