

## **Rocket Barrage Strikes Iraqi Base in Yet Another Attack on US, Coalition Forces**

Daniel Sonnenfeld / March 4, 2021

***Experts say a limited American response can be expected, but no direct retaliation against Iran***

At least 10 rockets hit Ain Al Asad Air Base, host to US, coalition and Iraqi troops, in western Iraq's Anbar Province on Wednesday.

An American civilian contractor died of cardiac arrest as a result. The attack follows a string of recent rocket attacks on concentrations of US troops in Iraq. Experts say a limited American response can be expected, and that the Biden administration will continue on the diplomatic path with Iran.

[...]

Col. (res.) **Eldad Shavit**, a senior research fellow at the **Institute for National Security Studies** at Tel Aviv University, was formerly responsible for intelligence assessments in the Israeli military and the Prime Minister's Office and is an expert on Middle East regional security and US policy in the area.

"I don't think that we're going to see another Qasem Soleimani tomorrow," Shavit told The Media Line.

"A response against Iranian militias in Iraq is a possibility," he says, but he is careful in projecting whether a direct response to the recent attack will be seen. "I wouldn't rule out an American response. I don't know if it will come tomorrow, and I don't know if it will be because of this [attack] ... but I wouldn't rule out American retaliation, and even harsher reactions than what we've seen."

Shavit does not connect the latest attacks with the current administration's expressed wish to return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

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