

# US Stock Express

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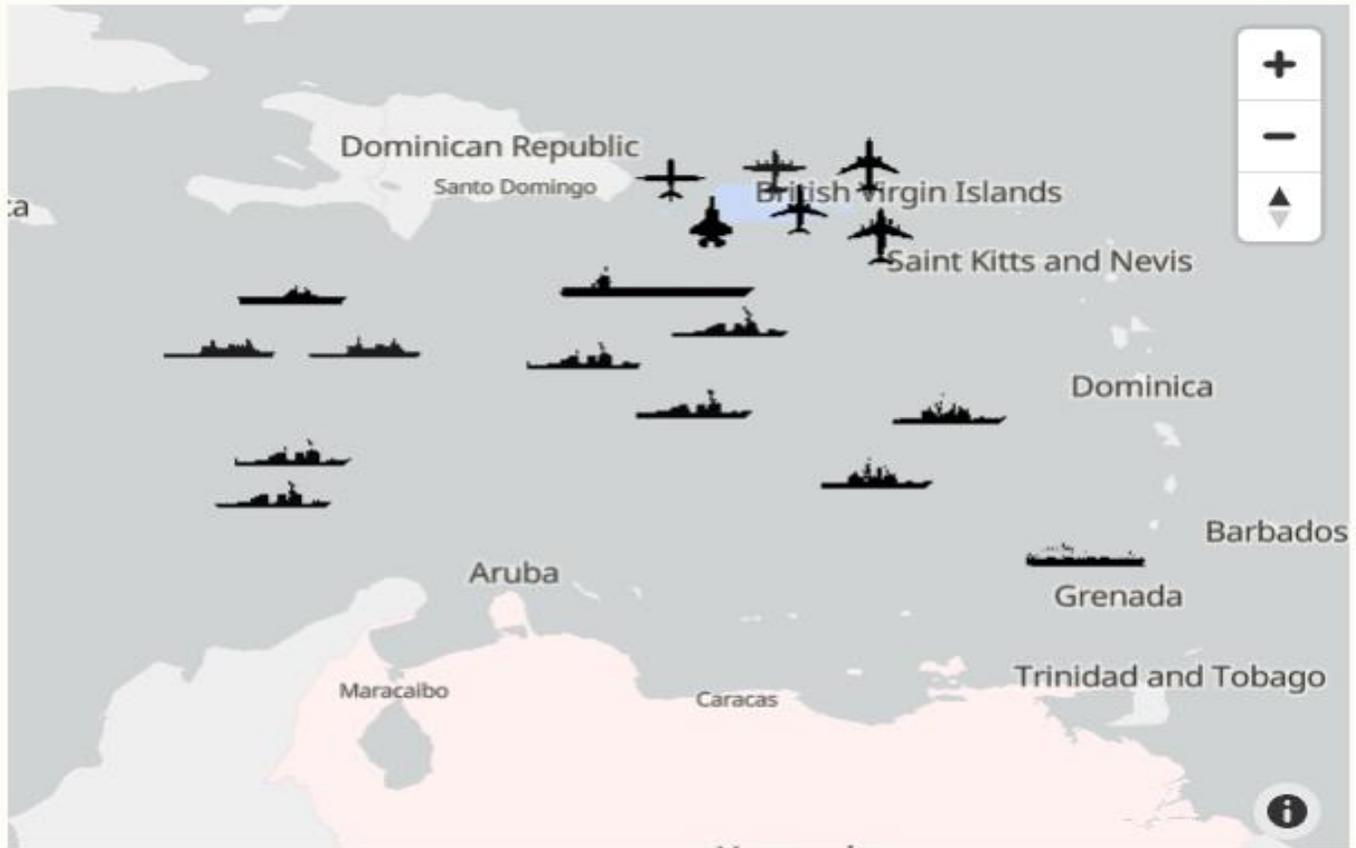
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## Operation Southern Spear

U.S. military units in and around the Caribbean Sea



Click on icon to display unit name and approximate location as of **Newsweek** Nov. 16, 2025.

*Donald Trump is going to start a war on narco-terrorism of Venezuela, you can have a real time tracking of aircraft carriers in the following website.*

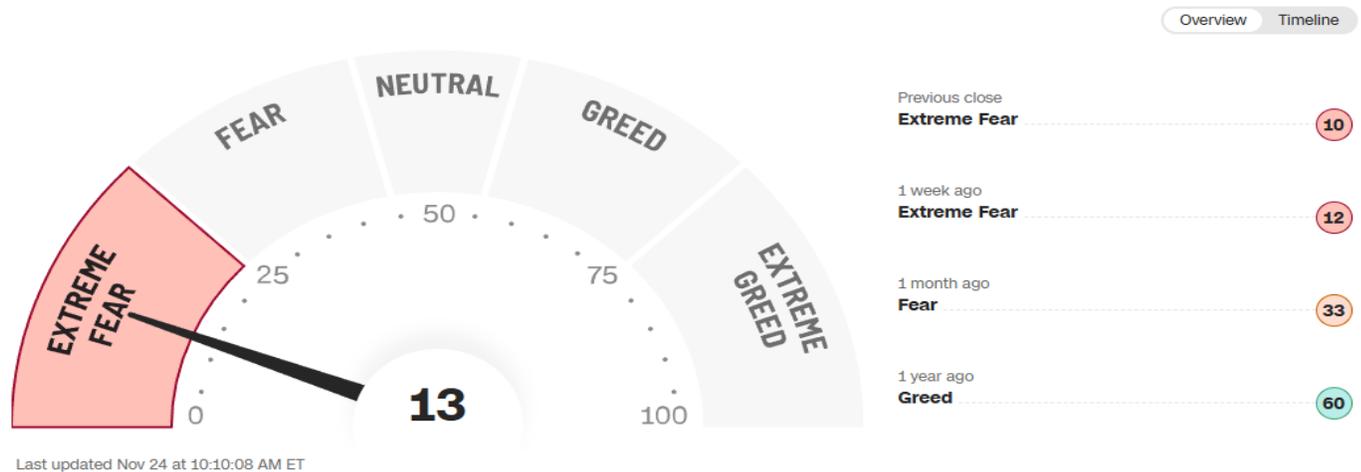
[Military Aircraft Carrier Live Ship Tracker | Real-Time Tracking of Aircraft Carriers Worldwide - Cruising Earth](#)  
[USS Gerald R Ford Tracker—World's largest aircraft carrier enters Caribbean](#)

*Risk disclosure: Price can go up and down at any moment, use free money to trade and bear the risk according to your own capital;  
Never trade with money that has a deadline for withdrawal.  
All suggestions are for reference only, even AI cannot be 100% reliable, final decision still lies upon investors.  
Copy trading cannot replicate another trader's background or psychological state.*

## Fear & Greed Index

What emotion is driving the market now?

[Learn more about the index](#)



## North East West South is NEWS

The White House stated that the talks in Switzerland regarding a proposal to end the war between Russia and Ukraine marked "significant progress" and reiterated that any final agreement would "fully uphold" the sovereignty of war-torn Ukraine.

The Israeli military announced that an airstrike in Beirut, Lebanon, hit an apartment building, killing Hezbollah's senior military commander, Tabtabai.

The European Union, meeting with US Commerce Secretary Rutnick in Brussels, Belgium today, will urge the US to further implement the trade agreement reached between the EU and the US in July, including reducing steel tariffs.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves welcomed London's plan to impose a tourist levy on overnight visitors with cautious enthusiasm. The levy is estimated to generate up to £240 million in revenue annually for London and could potentially trigger a chain reaction, with other major international cities following suit.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai, in an interview with the BBC at the company's Silicon Valley headquarters on the 20th, reiterated the company's unwavering commitment to and comprehensive implementation of its "AI-first" strategy, emphasizing that the \$90 billion investment is just the beginning. Pichai outlined the "agentic experience" that AI will bring to users and businesses in the future. He anticipates that within the next 12 months, AI will be able to perform more complex personal tasks, such as delegating shopping or gift-buying to chatbots. In the long term, AI may even assist in decision-making at crucial moments, such as weighing complex treatment options or evaluating stock investments.



## World Observation

Day 1371  
Russia/Ukraine Conflict

# Operation Southern Spear

In the battle against fentanyl, just giving pressure to China is not enough, for they only supply raw chemicals and a lot of them are for medical usage. So, Trump gave strikes directly on suspected drug trafficking boats in the Caribbean Sea. It is said that 21 drug boats were sunken. But some people said how can you know they are really drug boats; can they be fishery boats? They are not yet condemned guilty by the court; how can you have execution at the wide sea? Are there any victims inside?

The US president has no right to declare a war. It must be declared by the Congress. However, the president has the right to classify who is the terrorist, and he can start a military action against Nicolas Maduro, the Venezuela president. For Trump classified him as a narco-terrorist and not a president. For they use drug boat to carry chemicals to make fentanyl and bring to US. The US president has the right to start a military action but must be over in 90 days, or else it needs the Congress to have declaration of war. When the bill is not passed, the Congress has no right to stop any military action, but has the right not to pass the bill of giving salary to the force overseas.

Basically, Trump will only use air force, the first batch will be F-35 to destroy all radars, and then F-16 can fly to strike the military targets. They will use the style of Israel, that is MQ9 for DECAPITATION, that is to kill the leader of military or political groups or even the president. In the war of Gaza, Isreal had precises decapitation against their leaders while they gathered for military meetings, thus made no one dare to have a meeting to discuss how to fight the war, for all of them will be killed at once.

So, how's the percentage of the fighting, please refer to Grok, this version is 4.1. They listed out the possibilities and effect on individual stocks and the whole stock market. Well done!

As for tracking of USNI, it is *US Naval Institute* which is on page 7. CSG means Carrier Strike Group. Now the largest aircraft carrier USS Ford strike group is deployed to Caribbean Sea. A standard CSG includes a nuclear submarine sailing 50 miles ahead to clear all underwater threats, 2 supply ships sailing on each side of the carrier as human shield, and the outer side is one frigate, and the other side is a cruiser. Frigate is small and faster and can go out to chase enemy, cruiser has heavy weapons and can protect the carrier. While in the air, there are 2 reconnaissance aircraft circling round in diameter of 250 miles to clear the sky. In the Ford, it is MQ4, no pilot spy plane.

The USS Ford is now the largest aircraft carrier in the world @ 100,000 tons. The Iwo Jima is an ARG (**Amphibious Ready Group**) is an amphibious assault ship which can carry 25 helicopters. USS Tripoli (LHA-7) is an America-class amphibious assault ship, LHA stands for "**Landing Helicopter Assault.**" The USS Kearsage (LHD-3), LHD stand for "**Landing Helicopter Dock.**" Both LHA and LHD are for short takeoff/vertical landing aircraft like F35B.

US citizens do not want to deploy land force as it would cause too many deaths. But precise air strike will be what they want and what Trump want to use. Now Trump is giving a last chance to Venezuela and see how they reacts. During the War against Iraq in 1991 and 2003, before the war, US stocks dropped for several months, but on the day of open fire, stock market rebounded greatly because all bad news had come out and no worse news, for they believed US could win the war in weeks. But this time, another factor we cannot neglect, that is the peace talk and ceasefire of Ukrainian War is still far away. So, the evaluation is more complicated than the 2 Iraqi wars.



## Market Observation

**Earning US\$384 per day**

Philadelphia  
Semiconductor  
Index

**6675.59**

Recently, there are numerous advertisements in social media of Hong Kong, saying that they can teach you how to use AI for stock trading, and can earn HK\$3000 (US\$384) per day, by using their method of buy today and sell tomorrow. No need to have any IT background, even a housewife can become rich in a few days. They emphasize no need to download anything, just click their link. And you will have unbelievable experience.

I took a screenshot and asked the AI-----they are scammers, but known as "pig butchering" or "fishing" account. They would appear to be your girlfriend or boyfriend, in great care of you. Or your fans for you are a good stock trader, if you are a poor stock trader they would appear as your mentor. Pig butchering means the case of raising a small pig to a big pig needs time. They have to pay out something you want to eat, that is let you earn small money first, and when you are fat enough, put more money into the account and they will slaughter you. Fishing is the same meaning give you some bait to eat first and capture you later. They said you have earned great money, but you need to deposit some money in order to get the billions to cash.

Very simple, their headquarters are in KK Park of Myanmar or Cambodia, even a number of senior managements were captured, but just a corner of an iceberg. They are extending to other parts of the world in a very quick speed and very high scamming level. They will tell you on market closing, they are ready to disclose stocks that will rocket high tomorrow, and ugly duckling can turn into swan, mountain chicken can turn to phoenix. When you have any questions, ask AI first, do not transfer money to any person you have not seen.



## What the Advertisement Is Likely Doing

This ad appears to be a classic example of a **"get-rich-quick" investment scam** targeting Hong Kong residents interested in stock trading. It leverages the hype around AI tools (ChatGPT for idea generation, TradingView for charts, and DeepSeek for analysis) to promise unrealistic returns—HK\$3000 (~US\$384) per day through simple "buy today, sell tomorrow" trades on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKEX). The "no commissions, no fees" claim is a red flag, as legitimate HKEX trading always involves fees from brokers (e.g., stamp duty, transaction levies, and platform charges), even if minimal.

These ads are often spread on social media like Facebook (as in your screenshot) to drive clicks to a landing page or Telegram/WhatsApp group. Once engaged, users are typically upsold on a "free" or low-cost AI "system" that requires depositing funds into a controlled account. The tools mentioned are real and publicly available (free or low-cost), but the ad twists them into a proprietary "secret formula" that's anything but.

### How the Scam Typically Works (Step-by-Step)

☰ Add to chat

Based on common patterns in Hong Kong investment frauds (e.g., **"pig butchering"** or fake trading bots), here's what they're probably doing:

Stage	What Happens	Why It's a Trap
<b>1. Hookup (The Bait)</b>	You click the ad and join a "VIP" group or download a "free AI guide." A "mentor" (often posing as a successful trader) builds rapport with small "wins" via demo trades.	Builds false trust. Early demos use fake or backtested data, not live markets.
<b>2. The Pitch</b>	They claim their AI combo (ChatGPT prompts for signals + TradingView alerts + DeepSeek for predictions) guarantees 10-20% daily returns on HKEX stocks. You "start small" with HK\$1,000-5,000.	No legit strategy guarantees daily profits—markets are volatile. AI tools like these aren't magic; they hallucinate or use outdated data.
<b>3. Deposit &amp; Fake Gains</b>	Funds go to a shady offshore broker or wallet (often labeled "HKEX3000+"). The dashboard shows huge profits (e.g., your HK\$5,000 "grows" to HK\$50,000 overnight).	Gains are simulated. They might pay out tiny withdrawals (e.g., HK\$100) to hook you deeper.
<b>4. The Escalation</b>	Urge bigger deposits for "VIP features" or "leverage." Suddenly, "fees" appear for "taxes," "withdrawals," or "upgrades."	Classic "recovery scam" layer—pay more to "unlock" your money, which vanishes.
<b>5. The Vanish</b>	When you try a real withdrawal, excuses pile up (e.g., "market freeze"). Platform shuts down; contact info goes dark.	You've lost everything. In HK, scammers often use mule accounts or crypto to launder funds.

This mirrors real cases like the JPX crypto scam in Hong Kong (2023-2025), where over 2,700 victims lost HK\$1.6 billion (~US\$206 million) to fake platforms promising high returns. Police charged 16 people, the first use of anti-money laundering laws for crypto fraud. Similar AI-trading scams have surged in 2025, per HK police reports.



## Are They Reliable?

No, absolutely not.

- **The Tools Themselves Are Legit (But Overhyped):**
  - **ChatGPT:** Great for brainstorming strategies or explaining concepts, but it can't access real-time HKEX data and often gives generic or wrong advice (e.g., it "hallucinates" facts).
  - **TradingView:** A solid free charting tool for technical analysis, but it's just visuals—no automated trading or guarantees.
  - **DeepSeek:** A Chinese open-source AI (from a quant trading firm) that's beaten ChatGPT in some crypto sims (e.g., 116% returns in a 2025 contest vs. ChatGPT's -60% loss). It's cheap to use and good for coding trading scripts, but it's not a "trading bot." Recent tests show it excels in math/logic but struggles with live market volatility or regulations.

Together, they can help informed traders (e.g., backtest ideas), but pros use them as supplements, not shortcuts. No combo "earns HK\$3000/day" reliably— that's 750%+ annual returns, impossible without extreme risk (and luck).

- **The Ad's Claims Are Fabricated:** Promises of fee-free HKEX trading violate regulations. The HK Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) requires licensed brokers; unlicensed ones are illegal. "HKTKET" (from the ad) doesn't match any legit SFC-registered entity—it's likely a fake brand to evade searches.

## Is It a Trap?

**Yes, 100% a trap.** These are predatory scams exploiting AI buzz and Hong Kong's retail trading boom (HKEX daily volume hit HK\$200B+ in 2025). Victims are often middle-class workers lured by easy money. HK police reported 4,000+ investment fraud cases in 2024-2025, with losses over HK\$10B— many involving fake AI apps. Globally, deepfake trading scams (e.g., a HK firm lost US\$25M to AI video fraud in 2024) show the tech's dark side.

Red flags in your ad:

- Unrealistic returns (ignores market crashes like 2022's -20% Hang Seng drop).
- Urgency ("Start today!").
- No risk warnings (SFC mandates these).
- Vague "team" (Gelynn Eggermerman? Sounds fabricated—no verifiable pro trader by that name).


Grok - xAI
The  
World's Most Powerful AI

### Are AI Tools Really That Powerful for Trading?

**Powerful? Yes. Scam-Proof Magic? No.**

- AI shines in analysis: DeepSeek coded a Pine Script strategy in seconds during a 2025 test, outperforming humans in crypto sims. ChatGPT + TradingView can spot patterns (e.g., RSI divergences on Tencent stock).
- But limits: No real-time data access (you feed it manually), no emotional control, and markets defy prediction (e.g., AI missed the 2025 US tech dip from DeepSeek hype). Pros combine AI with fundamentals—expect 5-15% annual returns, not daily windfalls.
- Verdict: Use them yourself (free tiers available) for learning, but never pay strangers for "AI signals."

### What Should You Do?

- **Avoid & Report:** Don't click or share personal info. Report to HK police (cyberdefender.gov.hk) or SFC (sfc.hk). Forward the ad to Facebook for removal.
- **Protect Yourself:** Trade only via SFC-licensed brokers (e.g., Interactive Brokers, Futu). Start with paper trading on TradingView.
- **Learn Legit AI Trading:** Free resources: DeepSeek's chat.deepseek.com for prompts; YouTube tutorials on "AI + HKEX strategies." Books like "Quantitative Trading" by Ernie Chan.
- **If You've Engaged:** Freeze accounts, contact your bank, and seek free advice from HK's Investor and Financial Education Council (ifec.org.hk).

Scams prey on hope—real wealth builds slowly. If it sounds too good, it's a trap. Stay safe! If you share more details (e.g., the link), I can dig deeper.

## USNI News Fleet and Marine Tracker: Nov. 17, 2025

**BY U.S. NAVAL INSTITUTE STAFF**  
**NOVEMBER 17, 2025 11:36 AM**



USNI News graphic

*These are the approximate positions of the U.S. Navy's deployed carrier strike groups and amphibious ready groups throughout the world as of Nov. 17, 2025, based on Navy and public data. In cases in which a CSG or ARG is conducting disaggregated operations, the chart reflects the location of the capital ship.*

Total Battle Force	Deployed	Underway
287 (USS 229, USNS 58)	96 (USS 66, USNS 30)	61 (41 Deployed, 20 Local)

[USNI News Fleet and Marine Tracker: Nov. 17, 2025 - USNI News](#)

**These ads are highly misleading. While AI tools like ChatGPT, TradingView, and DeepSeek can assist with analysis, *none* guarantee daily profits of HK\$3000, and many such promotions are tied to scams or risky schemes.**

Here's a breakdown of what's really going on:



GPT-5 is here - OpenAI

## What These AI Tools Actually Do

- **ChatGPT:** A general-purpose AI chatbot. It can help explain financial concepts, summarize market news, or generate trading strategies—but it *does not* have real-time market data or trading execution capabilities.
- **TradingView:** A legitimate charting and social trading platform. It offers technical indicators, community scripts, and market data—but it's a *tool*, not a guaranteed profit engine.
- **DeepSeek:** A newer Chinese-language AI model. It's being tested for financial analysis, but its capabilities are still experimental. [1](#) [2](#)

These tools can *support* decision-making, but they don't replace human judgment, and they don't offer magic formulas for daily profits.

## Why These Ads Are Suspicious

- **Guaranteed profits** (e.g., "HK\$3000+ per day") are a classic red flag. No legitimate financial tool or strategy can promise consistent daily returns without risk.
- **"Buy today, earn tomorrow"** implies a simplistic, unrealistic strategy. Markets are volatile, and short-term trading is especially risky.
- **"No fees, no queue, no waiting"** is marketing fluff. Even if the tools are free, actual trading involves spreads, slippage, and potential hidden costs.
- **No mention of risk** or disclaimers—another hallmark of deceptive advertising.

These ads often lead to:

- **Pump-and-dump schemes**
- **Unregulated broker platforms**
- **Fake AI dashboards that mimic real tools but push you to deposit money**



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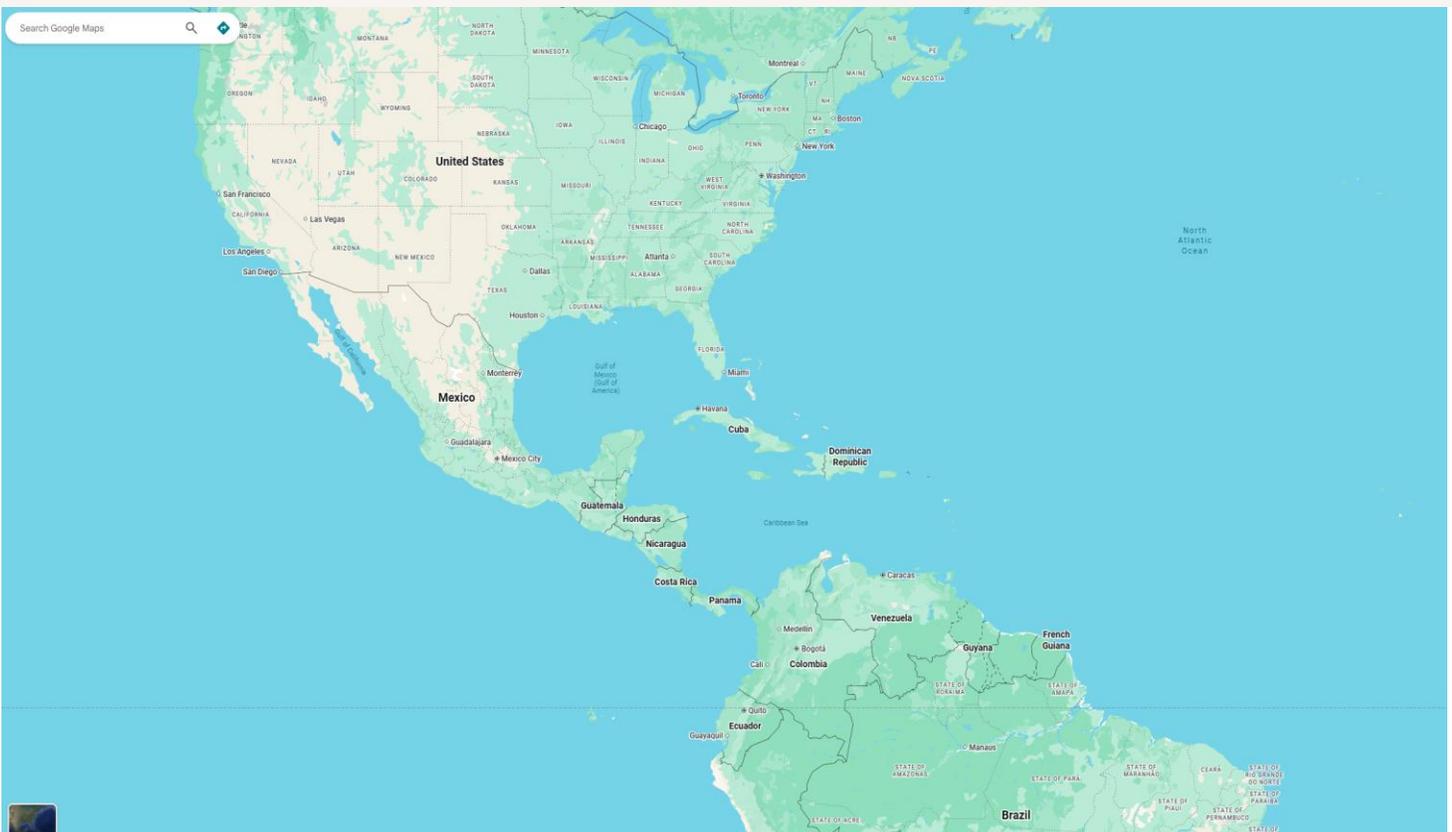
## 🔍 Are They Reliable?

- **The tools themselves (ChatGPT, TradingView)** are legitimate—but *how they're used* in these ads is not.
- **DeepSeek** is still in development and not widely validated for trading.
- **The ad campaigns** are likely run by third-party marketers or affiliate promoters, not the tool creators.

## ✅ What You Should Do

- **Avoid clicking on ads promising guaranteed returns.**
- **Use AI tools for research, not execution.** They're best for learning, backtesting, and strategy refinement.
- **Stick to regulated brokers** and platforms with transparent fee structures.
- **If you're curious about AI-assisted trading,** explore algorithmic trading with proper risk controls—not "get-rich-quick" shortcuts.

Would you like a side-by-side comparison of how these tools actually function in a real trading workflow? Or a risk/reward matrix for AI-assisted trading strategies?



Map of Venezuela and Caribbean Sea, Caracas is the capital and largest city of the country.



## Operation Southern Spear: Overview and Context

Operation Southern Spear is a U.S. military campaign announced on November 13, 2025, by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, framed as an escalation of anti-drug trafficking efforts in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific. Led by U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) and Joint Task Force Southern Spear, it involves a massive buildup: the USS Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group (arrived November 11), over a dozen warships, 15,000+ troops, F-35 jets, a nuclear submarine, and robotics/autonomous systems. So far, it includes 21 strikes on suspected drug boats, killing at least 83 people (allegedly linked to groups like Tren de Aragua and the National Liberation Army). The Trump administration ties this to narco-terrorism, designating Maduro and allies (e.g., Cartel de los Soles, effective November 24) as foreign terrorist organizations, enabling asset freezes and potential strikes on infrastructure.

While officially counter-narcotics, analysts (e.g., CSIS, Reuters) see it as a regime-change pressure tactic, echoing Trump's first-term threats. Back-channel talks with Maduro collapsed recently (he offered delayed resignation for oil access, rejected by the U.S.), but Trump has hinted at direct dialogue. No full invasion is planned—experts deem it logistically impossible without 5-20x more troops—but covert CIA ops (authorized November 18) and targeted strikes (e.g., on facilities/leaders) are on the table.

## Would Trump Start a Military Operation Against Narco-Terrorism in Venezuela?

Yes, Trump is highly likely to expand beyond boat strikes into targeted actions (e.g., air raids on drug routes or leadership), given his rhetoric ("We just have to take care of Venezuela") and approvals for CIA covert measures. He's framed Maduro as a "narco-terrorist" kingpin (bounty now \$50M) and notified Congress of a "non-international armed conflict" with cartels. However, a full ground invasion remains improbable—CSIS analysis shows Venezuela's military (500K+ troops, Russian arms) outmatches current U.S. deployments for sustained ops. Trump's pattern (e.g., Iran strikes in 2020) favors quick, symbolic force over quagmires, but escalation risks grow with Maduro's mobilization (200K troops, militia) and allies (Russia/China/Iran deliveries).

Scenario	Likelihood (My Assessment)	Key Drivers
Targeted Strikes (Air/Drone on Assets/Leaders)	High (80%)	Fits "America First" (low cost, high optics); aligns with Israel-style ops you mentioned.
Covert CIA/Special Ops Raids	High (70%)	Already authorized; prep for regime cracks (e.g., military defections).
Full Invasion (Boots on Ground)	Low (15%)	Logistical nightmare; public opposition (see below); echoes Iraq warnings.

## Chance of Actual Combat and Timeline—Will It Start This Week?

- **Combat Chance:** Medium-high (60–70% for limited ops in next 1–3 months). Strikes could ramp up immediately post-designation (November 24), but Trump paused for talks (November 17–23). Reuters reports a "new phase" (covert first) in "coming days" from November 22—possibly this week (ending November 30), but tied to Maduro's response. FAA warnings (flights over Venezuela hazardous) and airline cancellations signal imminent risks.
- **This Week?** Unlikely for major action (30% chance)—Thanksgiving (November 27) and back-channels provide off-ramps. Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Dan Caine's Caribbean visit (November 24) is "thanks to troops," but doubles as signaling. If no breakthrough, expect drone/MQ-9 probes or cyber/sabotage by December.

## Trump's Talks with Maduro: Will He Surrender Before Fighting?

Trump confirmed (November 17–18) he's open to direct talks ("I talk to everybody... they'll like to talk"), with back-channels resuming after a brief cutoff. Maduro echoed willingness for "face-to-face" diplomacy (November 18), rejecting "imperial threats." A pre-fight surrender? Low chance (10–20%)—Maduro's offered delayed exit (2 years) for concessions (e.g., oil access), but Trump rejected it as too soft. Surrender would require U.S. guarantees (e.g., no extradition on drug charges), which Rubio/Hegseth oppose. More likely: Stalemate or Maduro using talks to buy time, rallying nationalists ("Yankee go home" chants). If fighting starts, it's post-diplomacy failure, not avoidance.

## María Corina Machado's Role: New Government in Trump's Favor?

Machado, the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize winner (awarded October 10 for "tireless democratic work"), is Venezuela's opposition icon—unifying figure, Vente Venezuela leader, and 2024 proxy for winner Edmundo González (barred from running). She's in hiding, dedicating her prize to Trump ("decisive support") and calling his actions a "war" on Maduro's "narco-terrorism." She backs U.S. pressure for "peaceful transition."

- **New Government?** Possible but transitional (40% chance if Maduro falls). U.S. war games (2019) predict chaos post-regime: Factional fighting, guerrillas, oil disruptions. Machado could lead a unity interim council (with González), but Trump favors her hardline stance (e.g., pro-Israel ties, anti-BRICS). It'd align with his "favor" (e.g., sanctions relief for allies), but risks: She's seen as "pro-imperialist" by chavistas; polls show Venezuelans prioritize economy over intervention. Long-term: Democratic elections under OAS/UN oversight, but instability could drag (like post-Saddam Iraq).



## Effects on U.S. Stock Market If War Starts

A limited air/drone campaign (your scenario: USAF disables radars, MQ-9s/bombers target leaders, no ground forces) would echo Israel's Gaza ops—quick, asymmetric. Markets hate uncertainty, but "buy the rumor, sell the news" often plays out. Historical parallels (1991 Gulf War: S&P -5% pre-invasion, +4% on launch day; 2003 Iraq: Nasdaq -15% pre, +10% post) suggest initial dips on escalation, rallies on resolution. But 2025 context (Ukraine stalemate, AI boom) amplifies risks.

Phase/Asset	Short-Term Impact (1-4 Weeks)	Long-Term (3-6 Months)	Key Factors
<b>Overall Indices (S&amp;P 500, Nasdaq)</b>	-3-7% dip on outbreak (geopolitical risk-off); +2-5% rebound if quick win.	Neutral to +5% if oil stabilizes; -10% if prolonged.	Ukraine overlap: Dual fronts spike VIX (fear index) to 25-30; Fed rate cuts buffer.
<b>Energy (Oil Stocks: XOM, CVX)</b>	Brent +\$10-20/bbl (to \$85-95); stocks +5-15%. Venezuela (1M bpd) disruption hits heavy crude.	+10-20% if exports halt; volatility from Russia/China response.	No Strait of Hormuz risk, but Iran proxy fears add \$5-10 premium.
<b>Defense (LMT, RTX, NOC)</b>	+5-10% surge on contracts; sector ETFs (ITA) +8%.	Sustained +15% if ops expand.	MQ-9/Reaper demand; Israel-model boosts F-35 sales.
<b>Broader Market</b>	Gold +3-5%; bonds rally (yields -0.5%). Tech dips 5% (supply chains).	Inflation up 0.5-1% from oil; recession risk if Ukraine escalates.	2025 bubble (S&P P/E 25x): Correction to 5,800 if multi-front war.

Net: Mild volatility (S&P ends 2025 ~6,200-6,500), but Ukraine "far away" ceasefire drags sentiment—dual aid drains (\$100B+ combined) fuel deficit fears. Winners: Defense/energy; losers: Consumer staples (inflation).

## U.S. Air Force/No Ground Force Approach: Feasibility and Public Support

Your Israel-style plan (AF disables radars via SEAD/DEAD ops, then bombers/MQ-9s for decapitation strikes) is feasible—U.S. has overwhelming air superiority (F-35s from Puerto Rico/Florida, B-52s for standoff). No ground forces minimizes casualties (under 100 projected), echoing 1999 Kosovo (78 days air-only). Risks: Russian S-400s/Iranian drones complicate; civilian collateral (e.g., boat strikes' 83 dead) draws UN backlash.

**Public Support?** Low-moderate (35-45% overall). CBS/YouGov (Nov 19-21): 66% oppose invasion; only 15% support. Republicans defer to Trump (50% back), but independents/Dems (20-30%) resist "forever wars." YouGov (Oct): Navy buildup approval fell to 30% (from 36%). Venezuelan-Americans (key FL base) favor pressure (70%), but broader polls show fatigue—economy > intervention. If quick/low-casualty, support rises to 50% (post-Gulf War effect); prolonged = backlash (Iraq 2003: Approval from 70% to 40% in months). Congress pushes limits (Dems' Nov 21 bill for approval failed Senate).

In sum, Southern Spear is high-stakes brinkmanship—Trump's "art of the deal" with bombs. Talks offer an out, but miscalculation risks chaos. Markets brace for oil spikes; public wants wins, not quagmires. Stay tuned—December reconstitution (e.g., Nasdaq adds) could coincide with escalation.

[GPT-5 is here - OpenAI](#)

## Operation Southern Spear overview

Operation Southern Spear is described as a U.S. Southern Command–led campaign ordered by President Donald Trump to dismantle narco-terrorist networks across the Western Hemisphere, formally unveiled on November 13, 2025 by the U.S. Secretary of War/Defense Pete Hegseth. Reporting highlights a build-up of naval and air assets and a hybrid surveillance approach against drug trafficking networks. [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

## Current posture and timing

Recent coverage notes successive U.S. strikes against suspected drug boats in regional waters since September, a movement of the USS Gerald R. Ford carrier group, and White House meetings on potential military operations—alongside Trump signaling a decision could be imminent. Venezuela has responded by mobilizing large-scale air defense drills and forces. These developments indicate elevated readiness and the possibility of near-term actions, but there is no definitive public confirmation of an exact start date “this week.” Operational decisions can shift quickly, and official signals remain deliberately ambiguous. [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#)

## Prospects for talks and Venezuelan response

Trump has stated he is willing to speak with President Nicolás Maduro while keeping military options on the table; Maduro has publicly indicated openness to face-to-face dialogue. This dual-track—pressure with a stated openness to talks—suggests both escalation and diplomatic off-ramps are being explored, and does not preordain surrender or immediate regime change [9](#) [10](#). Separate analysis frames the U.S. approach as aiming to oust Maduro, with strikes and buildup presented as part of broader pressure on the regime, though outcomes depend on complex internal and external dynamics. [11](#)

## María Corina Machado and government formation claims

María Corina Machado was awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize for her work promoting democratic rights and a peaceful transition in Venezuela. She remains a prominent opposition figure. There is no reliable confirmation that she has formed—or will imminently form—a new government “in favor of Donald Trump.” Such a development would depend on Venezuelan political processes and events not established in current reporting. [12](#) [13](#) [14](#)



GPT-5 is here - OpenAI

## Public support inside the United States

Public sentiment can vary widely with perceived threats, legal basis, objectives, casualties, and duration. While some sources describe expanding U.S. deployments and strikes framed as counter-narcotics/security, there is no comprehensive polling cited here to quantify nationwide support. Analysts and former commanders have raised questions about clear objectives and risks, suggesting mixed views among stakeholders.

4 15

## Potential market impact scenarios

- **Short-term volatility:** Heightened geopolitical risk typically lifts volatility, with energy markets sensitive to any perceived impact on Venezuelan supply or regional shipping; prior tension reports have highlighted oil-linked ripple effects. Defense and cybersecurity names may see bid, while risk assets can wobble near headlines. 16 17
- **“Sell the rumor, buy the news” dynamics:** Historical episodes (e.g., Gulf Wars) have shown markets sometimes sell off into uncertainty and then bounce when operations begin as uncertainty narrows. However, each episode’s macro backdrop matters—current factors include AI-led capex cycles, rates, inflation, and Ukraine war dynamics. If conflict coincides with persistent global tensions and no Ukraine ceasefire, risk appetite could remain constrained, making a clean “pop” less certain.
- **Path dependence:** Clear, limited objectives with minimal collateral risk may compress risk premia faster; protracted or expanding operations could sustain higher volatility, weigh on cyclicals, and support defense/energy. The scale of sanctions and shipping insurance changes would also influence commodities and EM assets. 16 17

## High-level on tactics and escalation risks

Public reporting mentions air and naval assets, and Venezuela’s mobilization of air defenses. Detailed operational tactics (e.g., disabling radars, specific targeting sequences) are speculative and not confirmed in open sources; discussing or predicting such specifics is inappropriate here. What matters for markets is the scope, duration, and signaling around objectives—limited strikes versus broader campaign—plus any spillovers into energy, regional trade, and great-power involvement. 5 7

## Direct answers to your questions

- **Will it start this week?** It’s possible based on official signals and posture, but not confirmed; statements remain deliberately ambiguous. 6 7 8
- **Will Maduro surrender before fighting?** No evidence supports imminent surrender; both sides have signaled openness to talks alongside preparations, leaving outcomes uncertain. 9 10
- **Will María Corina Machado form a new government?** She won the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize and is a leading opposition figure, but there’s no verified formation of a new government tied to U.S. plans. 12 13 14
- **Market impact if war breaks out while Ukraine ceasefire is far away:** Expect elevated volatility; potential strength in energy/defense, pressure on EM risk and broader indices depending on scope/duration. A “day-one rally” is not guaranteed and would depend on the clarity of objectives and macro backdrop. 16 17

If you want, I can build a scenario matrix (Limited strikes / Extended campaign / Diplomatic pause) with sector impacts, probability ranges, and trading triggers (energy spreads, VIX levels, defense order flow).