

Trump says U.S. will speak to Iran next week

02:19

LIVE UPDATES

Trump says US will meet Iran 'next week' as he maintains strikes destroyed nuclear sites

By [Jessie Yeung](#), [Angus Watson](#), [Sophie Tanno](#) and [Maureen Chowdhury](#), CNN

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despite both sides accusing the other of violating the truce in the hours immediately after it was announced.



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What we know about the impacts of the Israeli and US strikes on Iran

From CNN staff

Iran's nuclear installations were "badly damaged" after "repeated attacks" by Israel and the US, Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said in a televised interview.

"Our nuclear installations have been badly damaged, that's for sure, because it has come under repeated attacks by Israeli and American aggressors," Baghaei told Al Jazeera.

Here's what else we know about the impact of Israeli and US strikes in Iran:

- **Impact on nuclear facilities:** Baghaei said the country's atomic energy organization and agencies are working on a technical assessment of Iran's nuclear facilities. The

International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN's nuclear watchdog, said the 12-day conflict "severely damaged several" of Iran's nuclear sites. Baghaei told Al Jazeera that the Iranian parliament voted to suspend cooperation with the IAEA, but did not approve the suspension of Iran's membership in the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

- **Casualties during conflict:** At least 627 people were killed in Iran during its conflict with Israel in the period between June 13 and today, Iranian state media outlet IRIB reported, citing the country's health ministry. At least 4,870 other people were injured during that time, IRIB said. The health ministry said 86% of the victims died at the scene of Israeli attacks, as cited by IRIB.
- **Top general dead:** Iran confirmed today that Maj. Gen. Ali Shadmani, who served as the commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, is dead after sustaining injuries in Israeli strikes last week. Shadmani stepped into the role on June 13 after Israel's initial strikes on Iran killed a number of top commanders, including his predecessor, Lt. Gen. Gholam Ali Rashid.
- **Dozens of air defense personnel killed:** At least 35 Air Defense Force personnel were killed in the Israeli attacks between June 13 and Tuesday, Iran's semi-official Student News Network (SNN) said today.



19 min ago

NATO chief clarifies earlier comments about Trump: "I didn't call him daddy"

From CNN's Heather Law and Kevin Liptak

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte denied calling President Donald Trump "daddy" in an exclusive interview with Reuters today.

Rutte explained that he used the word "daddy" during an earlier news conference with Trump, where the US president described the conflict between Iran and Israel as two children fighting, because he sometimes hears countries asking him if the US will stay with NATO.

"And I said, that sounds a little bit like a small child asking his daddy, 'hey, are you still staying with the family?' So, in that sense, I use 'daddy,' not that I was calling President Trump daddy," he continued.

More on Rutte's comments: Earlier, Rutte offered a vivid description of Trump's handling of

the Middle East crisis during their talks today.

After Trump compared the fighting sides — in this case, Israel and Iran — to “two kids in a school yard,” Rutte chimed in with his own analogy.

“Then daddy has to sometimes use strong language,” he said.

Later, Rutte dismissed a question about his “weak” and “demeaning” approach to Trump as a “matter of taste” after referring to Trump as “daddy.”



59 min ago

Qatar Airways says at least 90 flights were forced to divert during Iran's attack on US base

From CNN's Mohammed Tawfeeq

At least 90 Qatar Airways flights traveling to Doha with 20,000 passengers on board “were forced to divert immediately” when Iran attacked the US-run Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar on Monday, the airline’s CEO Badr Mohammed Al-Meer revealed on Wednesday.

“Twenty-five flights diverted into airports across Saudi Arabia, 18 into Turkey, 15 into India, 13 into Oman, and five into the United Arab Emirates. The remaining aircraft were re-routed to major hubs including London, Barcelona, and others across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East,” Al-Meer said in a statement.

All departures from Doha were suspended until Tuesday, according to Al-Meer.

Inside Hamad International Airport in Doha, more than “10,000 passengers were already in transit, expecting to depart when the escalation occurred. They found themselves caught in the middle of one of the most severe and complex operational challenges in modern aviation history,” the CEO said.



1 hr 3 min ago

Israeli ground commandos operated covertly in Iran,

military chief of staff says

From CNN's Dana Karni and Michael Rios

Israeli ground commando units operated covertly deep inside Iran during the 12-day conflict between the nations, according to the Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir.

He said the commando units, along with the Israeli Air Force, carried out "deception" tactics that helped Israel gain control of Iran's airspace and other areas.

"These achievements were made possible, among other things, by the integration and deception carried out by air forces and ground commando units, which operated covertly in the enemy's depth and granted us operational freedom of action," he said.



1 hr 27 min ago

Israel says Iran's nuclear program suffered "systemic" damage and was set back years

From CNN's Dana Karni and Michael Rios

Israel's military chief of staff has said Iran's nuclear program suffered "systemic" damage and was set back years during the 12-day conflict between the nations.

"According to the assessment of senior officials in the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) Intelligence Directorate, the damage to the nuclear program is not a pinpoint strike but a systemic one - the cumulative achievement allows us to determine that Iran's nuclear project sustained severe, broad, and deep damage and has been set back by years," Eyal Zamir said Wednesday.

He added that Israel had completed its goal of removing what he called an "immediate existential threat" from Iran.

His comments come a day after CNN reported that an early assessment from the US Defense Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon's intelligence arm, had found US strikes in Iran did not destroy the core components of the country's nuclear program and likely only set it back by months, according to people briefed on the assessment.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday undercut the assessment. "Last weekend, the

United States successfully carried out a massive precision strike on Iran's nuclear enrichment facilities and it was very, very successful," Trump said.



1 hr 35 min ago

At least 35 air defense personnel killed in Israeli attacks, Iranian media says

From CNN's Mohammed Tawfeeq

At least 35 Air Defense Force personnel were killed in the Israeli attacks between June 13 and Tuesday, Iran's semi-official Student News Network (SNN) said today.

SNN published the names of those who were killed. Among them were two brigadier generals, seven colonels and three lieutenant colonels.



2 hr 34 min ago

Iran confirms its military commander Ali Shadmani was killed in Israeli strikes

From CNN's Mohammed Tawfeeq





Ali Shadmani in 2024. Valery Sharifulin/TASS/Sipa USA

Iran confirmed Wednesday that Maj. Gen. Ali Shadmani, who served as the commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, is dead after sustaining injuries in Israeli strikes last week.

Shadmani stepped into the role on June 13 after Israel's initial strikes on Iran killed a number of top commanders, including his predecessor, Lt. Gen. Gholam Ali Rashid.

The Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters coordinates between the regular army and Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

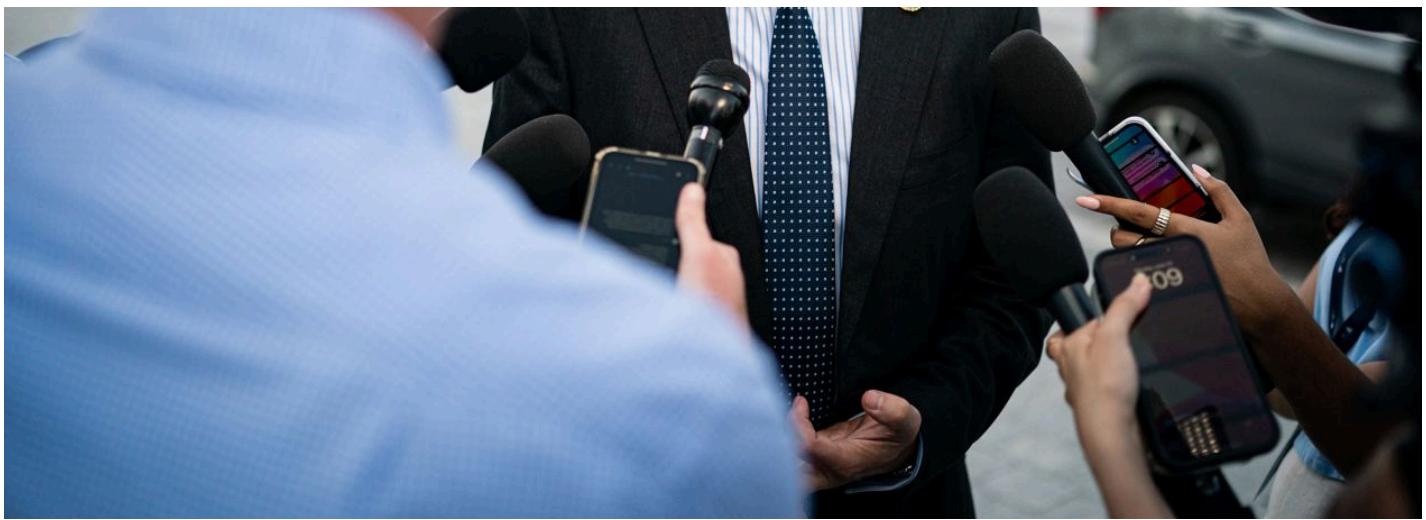


1 hr 40 min ago

Top House and Senate Intelligence Democrats warn administration against manipulating facts ahead of briefings

From CNN's Alison Main, Manu Raju, Casey Riddle and Piper Pascarella





Rep. Jim Himes speaks to members of the media following vote at the US Capitol in Washington, DC, on June 23. Al

Drago/Bloomberg/Getty Images

The top Democrats on the House and Senate Intelligence Committees are criticizing the Trump administration in the wake of US strikes in Iran ahead of congressional briefings. The briefings were postponed to Thursday in the Senate and Friday in the House.

Rep. Jim Himes, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, told CNN today that he had “precisely zero outreach” from the administration “before, during or after this very significant moment,” referring to US strikes on Iranian nuclear sites over the weekend.

The Connecticut congressman, a member of the Gang of Eight, said earlier in the week that intelligence committee staff had been briefed on Sunday, but he had not personally received a briefing from the administration.

Himes said the way the issue has been handled, “tells me that the Trump administration is not interested in the law and that they’re not interested in the facts. Because obviously, people in a position to know both the intelligence and the armed services … the military aspect of this, where we’re not consulted in the decisions here.”

Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee from Virginia, also warned the Trump administration against misrepresenting intelligence about US strikes in Iran.

“If you start trying to cook intelligence or try to manipulate it in a political fashion … we don’t have a good history with that. That’s how we got into Iraq in the first place,” Warner said. He also said if press reports that the sites are not destroyed are accurate, it opens up questions about whether further military intervention would be needed to finish the mission.

Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island, the top Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee,

told reporters it's "very surprising" that Congress didn't receive more information before the strikes, and said the delay in the briefings this week shows the administration is "not conscious of their responsibility to inform Congress."

Republicans in the know: In the lead-up to the US military strikes on three of Iran's nuclear facilities, the White House and GOP congressional leadership were actively helping to shape the message for Trump's Capitol Hill allies, according to talking points shared with CNN.

The White House, however, has not formally sent any guidance on how to respond to questions over the success of the strikes, according to three sources familiar with the matter.

Trump and his team were also in contact with top congressional Republicans before his strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, but some key Democrats were not told of his plans until after the bombs had dropped, according to multiple people familiar with the plans.

CNN's Sarah Ferris, Annie Grayer and Morgan Rimmer contributed to this post, which has been updated with comments from Sen. Mark Warner.



2 hr 59 min ago

With Iran's myth of invincibility broken, many now concerned about domestic crackdown

From CNN's Nadeen Ebrahim





Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks in a televised message following the Israeli strikes, in Tehran on June 18.

Office of the Iranian Supreme Leader/WANA/Reuters

Iran's image of invincibility crumbled in the span of hours on June 13, when Israel launched a surprise, unprecedented attack deep inside Iran that shattered Tehran's sense of security and unraveled its carefully cultivated aura of strength.

During the 12-day conflict, Iran repeatedly struck back at Israel, causing extensive damage to major cities like Tel Aviv and killing 28 people. Its ability to retaliate under fire won praise at home, even among people who spoke to CNN and are opposed to the regime.

But it's what happens next that has many Iranians concerned. There are growing fears of an imminent crackdown on reformists and calls for change, as the regime moves to root out perceived collaborators with Israel. By Wednesday, authorities had arrested 700 people accused of being "mercenaries of Israel," state-affiliated Fars News Agency reported.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the longest serving leader in the Middle East, is reportedly hiding in a bunker with little access to communications. He has yet to be seen in public since Israel and Iran reached the ceasefire, which came into effect Tuesday. He has ruled with an iron fist for more than 35 years, quashing protests since at least 2005.

What experts say: Arash Azizi, a New York City-based Iran expert and author of the book "What Iranians Want," said Iranians are likely worried about "a wounded regime coming after them and closing the political and civic space further."

Repression might worsen, he told CNN, adding that the Iranian opposition abroad has proved to be "inept and politically irrelevant," while civil society at home is "on the defensive."

Experts say that the attacks on Iran have only emboldened conservatives who have long felt that the West and Israel cannot be trusted and that negotiations are merely a tactic to weaken the country. The fate of reformers and pragmatists now hangs in the balance, and only time will tell whether they survive the change that's likely coming in the leadership's ranks, they said.

Read more about the possible fallout

3 hr 25 min ago

Trump departs the Netherlands after short NATO summit

From CNN's Kevin Liptak

President Donald Trump has departed the Netherlands after a quick visit to attend a truncated NATO summit.

Air Force One was wheels up from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport just before noon ET (6 p.m. local time).

Trump will be back in Washington, DC, in the early evening.



2 hr 58 min ago

Trump declares Iran strikes a success and downplays need for nuclear deal. Catch up here

From CNN staff





President Donald Trump gestures next to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, during a press conference at a NATO summit in The Hague, Netherlands June 25. Yves Herman/Reuters

President Donald Trump held a news conference at the NATO summit in the Netherlands today, where he touted the success of the US strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities.

"Last weekend the United States successfully carried out a massive precision strike on Iran's nuclear enrichment facilities and it was very, very successful," Trump said. He added that the strike paved the way for a ceasefire deal between Israel and Iran.

He also used the operation as an example of how the US has reasserted "the credibility of American deterrence, which is like no other."

Here are key lines Trump said during today's new conference:

- **Meeting with Iran:** Trump said the US will meet with Iran next week about a potential nuclear agreement, though he said repeatedly that he doesn't believe such a deal "is that necessary." Trump added that his administration would be asking for the same type of commitments it sought in negotiations with Iran prior to recent heightened tensions in the Middle East.
- **Intel report on US strikes:** Trump conceded that initial US intelligence assessments found damage to an Iranian nuclear facility struck by US bombers "could be limited," before adding that follow-up work showed it was "obliterated." He later repeatedly undercut those intelligence reports, calling them incomplete. The president also said the pilots were "devastated" by the reports, accusing media outlets of trying to minimize the impact of the operation. Trump said he doesn't have a message for the intelligence community except, "I would say, issue the report when you know what happened."
- **Flexibility on sanctions:** The US president said Iran will need oil money to "put the country back into shape" and said he doesn't have an issue with China purchasing Iranian oil, signaling possible sanctions flexibility on Iran.
- **NATO deal:** NATO leaders delivered Trump a major win by boosting their defense spending targets. "I came here because it was something I'm supposed to be doing," he said at the news conference. "But I left here a little bit different." Trump's comments as he departed the conference suggested the ample attempts to woo him this week — including a centerpiece agreement to boost defense spending — had worked.

- **Ukraine-Russia:** Trump said that Russian President Vladimir Putin had offered to help broker peace between Israel and Iran, but the US leader turned him down. Trump added that a ceasefire with Russia was not discussed during his meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky today. He said Zelensky wants to see the conflict end and that he plans to speak with Putin to "see if we can get it ended."



3 hr 32 min ago

White House and GOP leadership circulated talking points on Israel-Iran conflict ahead of US strikes

From CNN's Annie Grayer

In the lead up to the US military strikes on three of Iran's nuclear facilities, the White House and GOP congressional leadership were actively helping to shape the message for President Donald Trump's Capitol Hill allies, according to talking points shared with CNN.

The White House, however, has not formally sent any guidance on how to respond to questions over the success of the strikes, according to three sources familiar with the matter.

In a June 17 email, days before the US strikes, the White House sent an email to Capitol Hill with the subject line: "POTUS has made it abundantly clear; Iran cannot obtain a nuclear weapon."

The email, obtained by CNN, included recent statements by Trump and references to testimony from the top US general overseeing American forces in the Middle East, General Kurilla, Commander of US Central Command, who recently said that Iran is close to producing nuclear weapons.

One day earlier, the White House sought to counter an emerging narrative that Trump had changed his views on Iran over time.

"President Trump has never wavered in his stance that Iran cannot be allowed to have a nuclear weapon — a pledge he has made repeatedly, both in office and on the campaign trail," the email from June 16 reads.

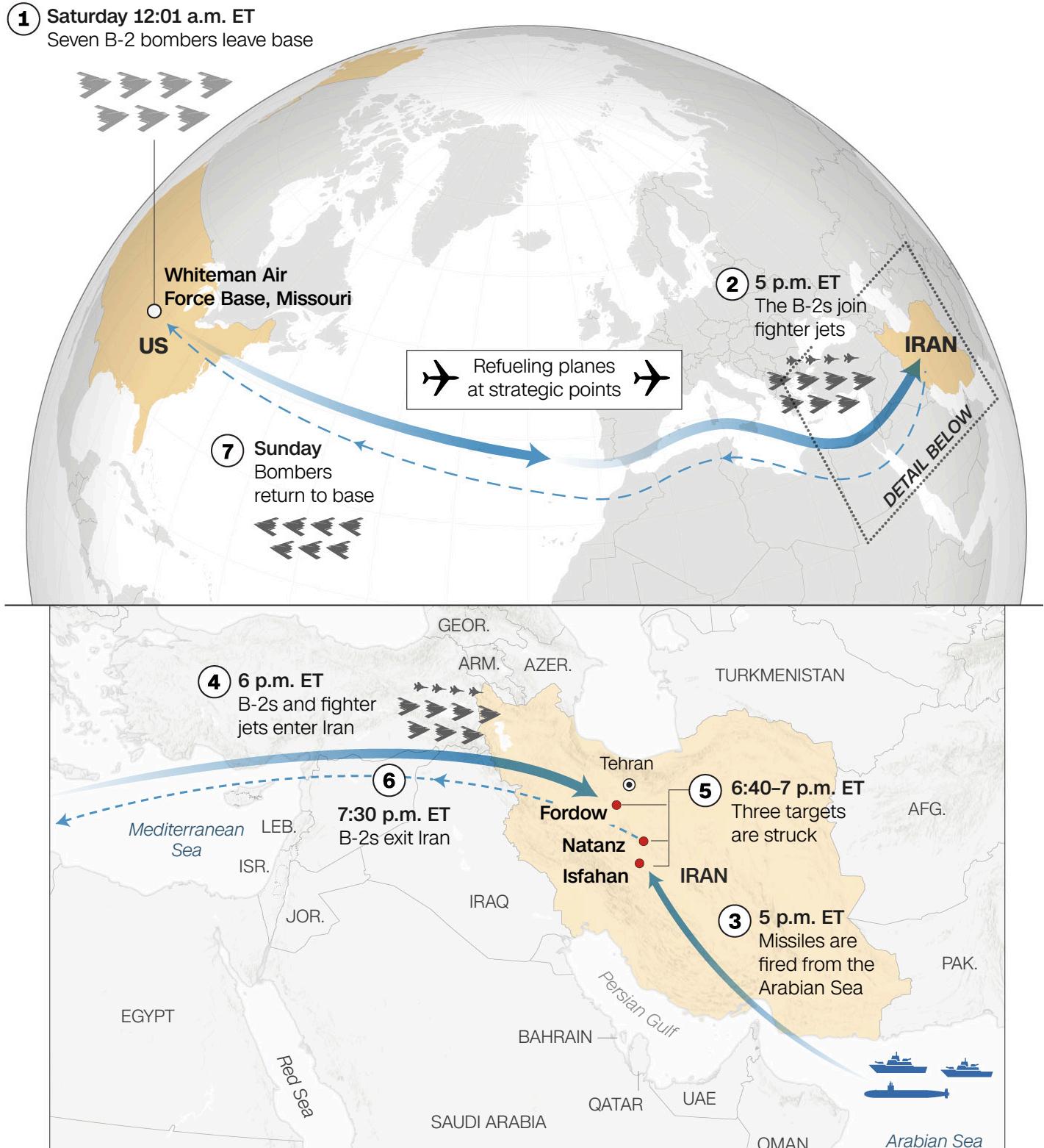
It then listed 34 examples of Trump saying Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon.

House Speaker Mike Johnson's office also advised lawmakers on how to frame the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran ahead of the strikes, according to a June 14 email obtained by

"As America's strongest ally in the Middle East, Israel deserves our support as it works to eliminate this existential threat," talking points from Johnson's office stated.

How Operation Midnight Hammer unfolded

This is how the United States carried out the operation to strike three nuclear facilities in Iran, according to the US Department of Defense.



Note: All times, locations and depictions are approximate.

Source: US Department of Defense

Graphic: Henrik Pettersson and Renée Rigdon, CNN



3 hr 41 min ago

At least 627 killed in Iran in conflict with Israel, Iranian state media reports

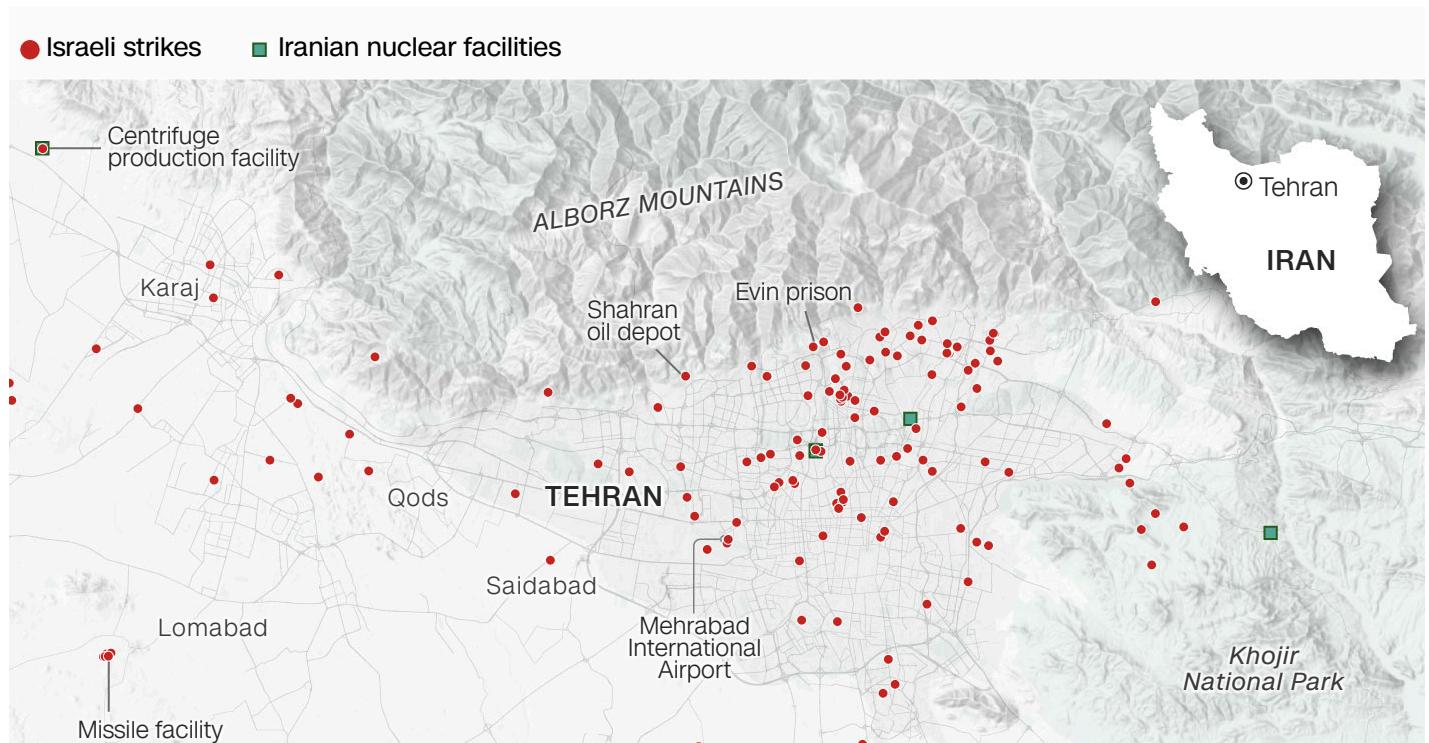
From CNN's Mohammed Tawfeeq

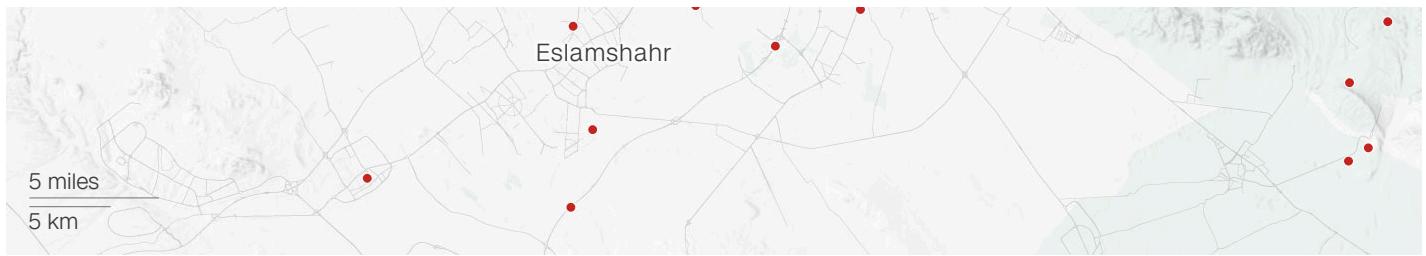
At least 627 people were killed in Iran during its conflict with Israel in the period between June 13 and June 25, Iranian state media outlet IRIB reported on Wednesday, citing the country's health ministry.

At least 4,870 other people were injured during that time, IRIB said.

The health ministry said 86% of the victims died at the scene of Israeli attacks, as cited by IRIB.

Locations in and around Tehran hit by Israeli strikes since June 13





Note: Data as of June 23, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. ET.

Source: The Institute for the Study of War with AEI's Critical Threats Project, International Atomic Energy Agency
Graphic: Soph Warnes, Lou Robinson, Amy O'Kruk and Annette Choi, CNN



3 hr 40 min ago

Trump: Early intel report that says US strikes only set back Iran's nuclear program by months is incomplete

From CNN's Maureen Chowdhury

President Donald Trump on Wednesday repeatedly undercut early US intelligence assessments on the strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities that said the attack did not destroy the core components of the country's nuclear program.

Asked by a reporter what his message is to the intelligence community Trump said: "They presented a report that wasn't finished. We're talking about something that took place three days ago."

"They didn't see it. All they can do is take a guess," he added.

Trump repeated that the nuclear facility has "been obliterated, totally obliterated."

He then asked Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to speak on the strike. Hegseth deflected and said questioning the severity of the strike is an insult to the team that carried out the operation. He also echoed Trump's attacks on media outlets, including CNN, which first reported on the intelligence report.

The president also said the pilots were "devastated" by the reports, accusing media outlets of trying to minimize the impact of the operation.

"You should be proud of those pilots and you shouldn't be trying to demean them. Those pilots

flew at great risk," he said.

Trump added that he doesn't really have a message for the intelligence community.

"I don't really have a message, I would say, issue the report when you know what happened. I wouldn't say, 'it could be severe, or maybe not.' They used the word severe, it could be severe, or maybe it's not. So, people like you picked up and said, 'oh it's not severe.' The report was not a complete report," he said.



4 hr 14 min ago

Trump says Iran needs oil money to rebuild, again signaling possible flexibility on US sanctions

From CNN's Alejandra Jaramillo



President Donald Trump speaks during a media conference at the NATO summit in The Hague on Wednesday. Matthias Schrader/AP

President Donald Trump on Wednesday said Iran will need oil money to “put the country back into shape” and said he doesn’t have an issue with China purchasing their oil, signaling possible sanctions flexibility on Iran.

“Look, they just had a war. The war was fought. They fought it bravely. I’m not giving up,” Trump told reporters when asked whether allowing China to buy Iranian oil — as he said he’d like to see — would mark the end of his administration’s “maximum pressure” campaign on Iran.

“They’re in the oil business. I mean, I could stop it if I want to – sell China the oil myself. I don’t want to do that. They’re going to need money to put that country back into shape. We want to see that happen,” he said of Iran.

“If they’re going to sell oil, they’re going to sell oil. We’re not taking over the oil,” he added.

On his way to the NATO summit on Tuesday, Trump posted on Truth Social: “China can now continue to purchase Oil from Iran. Hopefully, they will be purchasing plenty from the US, also. It was my Great Honor to make this happen!”

A senior White House official clarified later Tuesday that the president’s post was not an announcement of sanctions relief.

“The president was simply calling attention to the fact that, because of his decisive actions to obliterate Iran’s nuclear facilities and broker a ceasefire between Israel and Iran, the Strait of Hormuz will not be impacted, which would have been devastating for China,” the official said.

“The president continues to call on China and all countries to import our state-of-the-art oil rather than import Iranian oil in violation of U.S. sanctions,” they added.



4 hr 41 min ago

Trump says US will meet with Iran "next week" but doesn't believe a nuclear deal is necessary

From CNN's Alayna Treene

President Donald Trump told reporters on Wednesday that the US will meet with Iran next week about a potential nuclear agreement, though he said repeatedly that he doesn’t believe such a

deal "is that necessary."

"We're going to talk to them next week, with Iran. We may sign an agreement, I don't know. To me, I don't think it's that necessary. I mean, they had a war, they fought, now they're going back to their world. I don't care if I have an agreement or not," Trump said during a news conference at the end of the NATO summit in The Hague.

Trump added that his administration would be asking for the same type of commitments it sought in negotiations with Iran prior to recent heightened tensions in the Middle East.

"The only thing would be asking for is what we were asking for before," Trump said, adding again that he does not believe such an agreement is necessary due to his insistence that the US successfully destroyed Iran's nuclear capabilities, despite early intelligence assessments suggesting otherwise.

"We want no nuclear, but we destroyed the nuclear. In other words, it's destroyed. I said 'Iran will not have nuclear.' Well, we blew it up. It's blown up to kingdom come, and so I don't feel very strongly about it. If we got a document, it wouldn't be bad. We're going to meet with them," the president said.

Trump told reporters he had asked Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who also serves as his national security adviser, as they were walking up to the stage if he wanted to draw up an agreement. Trump said he believed the US could get the Iranians to sign such a document.

Rubio told reporters that such a deal depends on Iran's willingness to negotiate directly with the US, not through intermediaries.



4 hr 24 min ago

Trump says he's leaving NATO summit with a different view of the alliance

From CNN's Kevin Liptak

After a NATO summit tailored to his preferences, President Donald Trump said as he departed that he was left with a more positive impression of the alliance than when he arrived.

"I came here because it was something I'm supposed to be doing," he said at a concluding

news conference. "But I left here a little bit different."

news conference. But that's not all. It's different.

Trump has long railed against NATO, claiming its member states were ripping off the United States by not spending enough on defense.

Even on the way to the summit in the Netherlands, he stopped short of endorsing the alliance's Article 5 pact of collective defense.

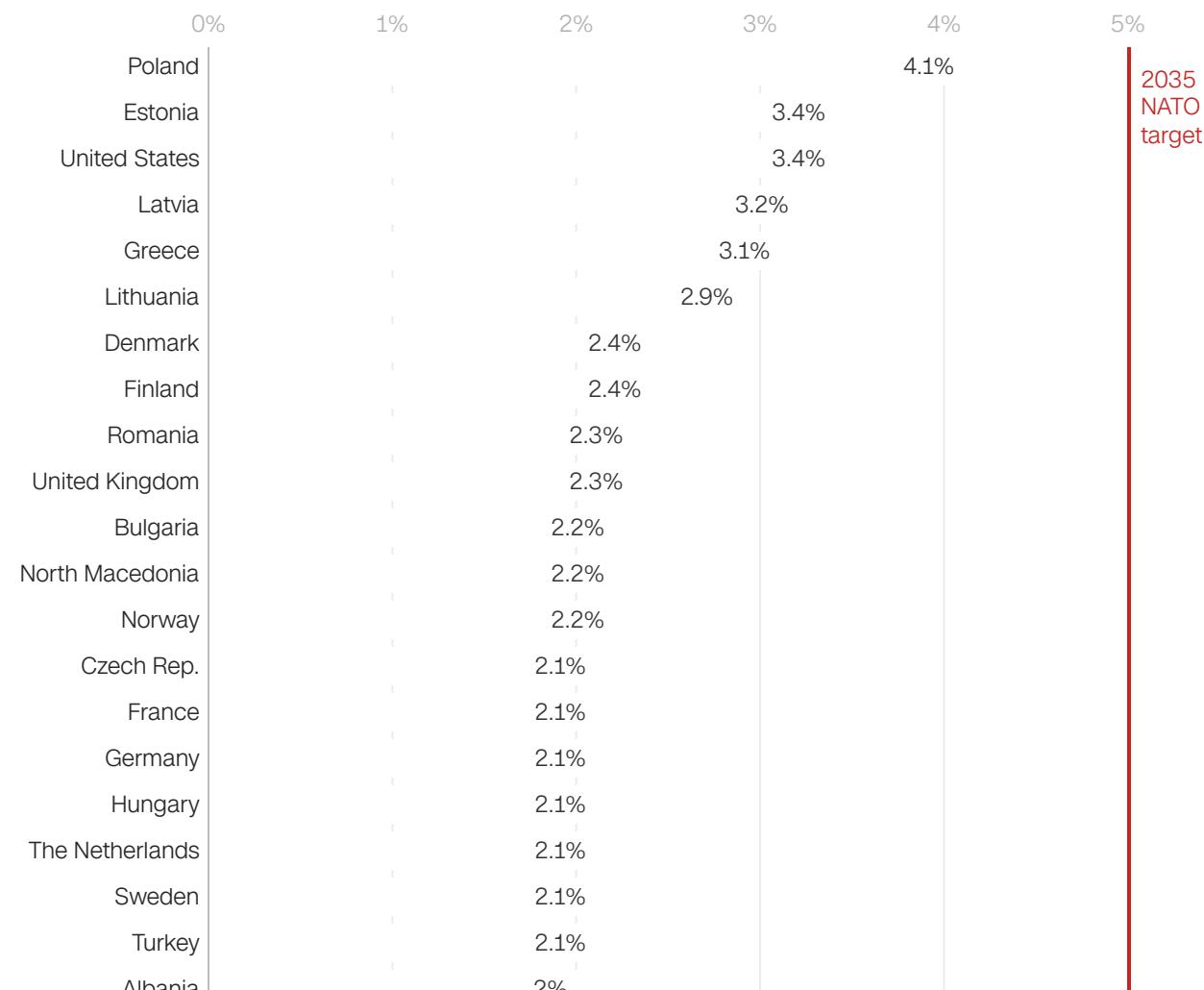
But Trump's comments as he departed the conference suggested the ample attempts to woo him this week — including a centerpiece agreement to boost defense spending — had worked.

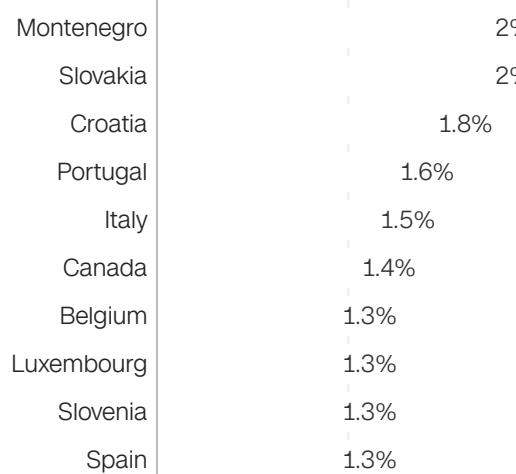
"They need the United States, and without the United States, it's not going to be the same," he said at his news conference Wednesday.

NATO members will need to increase spending to meet new defense targets

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization member countries pledged to boost defense spending to 5% of their GDP in the next decade, up from the current target of 2% — a goal long championed by US President Donald Trump.

Estimated defense expenditure as share of real GDP, 2024





Note: Iceland not shown because it does not have a military.

Source: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Graphic: Amy O'Kruk, CNN



4 hr 44 min ago

Trump concedes initial US assessment said Iran nuclear site damage "could be limited" or "very severe"

From CNN staff

President Donald Trump on Wednesday conceded that initial US intelligence assessments found damage to an Iranian nuclear facility struck by US bombers “could be limited,” before adding that follow-up work showed it was “obliterated.”

The comment came in response to a question from CNN’s Kaitlan Collins, who asked whether Trump was relying on Israeli intelligence to assess the damage done by the strikes. Trump referenced a statement by Iran and then pointed to the assessment from the US Defense Intelligence Agency.

“The document said it could be very severe damage. But they didn’t take that. They said it could be limited or it could be very severe. They really didn’t know other than to say it could be limited or it could be very, very severe,” Trump said during a news conference at a NATO meeting at the Hague on Wednesday.

Trump said the US has since “collected additional intelligence” and has spoken with people

who have "seen the site."

"The site is obliterated, and we think everything nuclear is down there," the president said.

The president has strongly pushed back on reporting suggesting the three sites targeted by US bombers in Iran over the weekend were not completely destroyed. CNN earlier reported that initial intelligence assessments showed the strikes did not destroy core components of Iran's nuclear program and only set back its development by a few months.



4 hr 43 min ago

Trump says US strikes on Iran were "very, very successful"

From CNN's Sophie Tanno and Maureen Chowdhury



President Donald Trump speaks during a media conference at the NATO summit in The Hague on Wednesday. Alex Brandon/AP

Netherlands.

Trump touted the success of the US strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities during the opening of his remarks.

"As you know, last weekend the United States successfully carried out a massive precision strike on Iran's nuclear enrichment facilities and it was very, very successful. It was called obliteration. No other military on earth could have done it, and now this incredible exercise of American strength has paved the way for peace with a historic ceasefire agreement," Trump said.



5 hr 38 min ago

Israel intercepts drone likely shot from Yemen, military says

From CNN's Tamar Michaelis

Israeli forces downed an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) likely launched from Yemen, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said yesterday, adding that the drone did not cross into Israeli territory.

"No sirens were sounded in accordance with protocol," the IDF said.

Some context: Yemen's Houthi rebels are one of several Iranian proxies in the region to have criticized US and Israeli attacks on Iran in recent days, before Israel and Iran reached a ceasefire deal on Monday.



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