

President Donald J. Trump on the United States Military Major Combat Operations in Iran

February 27, 2026

- 1 A short time ago, the United States
- 2 military began major combat operations in Iran.
- 3 Our objective is to defend the American
- 4 people by eliminating eminent threats
- 5 from the Iranian regime, a vicious group
- 6 of very hard, terrible people.
- 7 Its menacing activities directly
- 8 endanger the United States, our troops,
- 9 our bases overseas, and our allies
- 10 throughout the world. For 47 years, the
- 11 Iranian regime has chanted death to
- 12 America and waged an unending campaign
- 13 of bloodshed and mass murder, targeting
- 14 the United States, our troops, and the
- 15 innocent people in many, many countries.
- 16 Among the regime's very first acts was

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- 17 to back a violent takeover of the US
- 18 embassy in Iran, holding dozens of
- 19 American hostages for 444 days. In 1983,
- 20 Iran's proxies carried out the Marine
- 21 barracks bombing in Beirut that killed
- 22 241 American military personnel.
- 23 In 2000, they knew and were probably
- 24 involved with the attack on the USS
- 25 Cole. Many died.
- 26 Iranian forces killed and maimed
- 27 hundreds of American service members in
- 28 Iraq. The regime's proxies have
- 29 continued to launch countless attacks
- 30 against American forces stationed in the
- 31 Middle East in recent years, as well as
- 32 US naval and commercial vessels in

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33 international shipping lands. It's been
34 mass terror and we're not going to put
35 up with it any longer. From Lebanon to
36 Yemen and Syria to Iraq, the regime has
37 armed, trained, and funded terrorist
38 militias that have soaked the earth with
39 blood and guts.
40 And it was Iran's proxy Hamas that
41 launched the monstrous October 7th
42 attacks on Israel, slaughtering more
43 than 1,000 innocent people, including 46
44 Americans, while taking 12 of our
45 citizens hostage. It was brutal,
46 something like the world has never seen
47 before.
48 Iran is the world's number one state

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- 49 sponsor of terror and just recently
- 50 killed tens of thousands of its own
- 51 citizens on the street as they
- 52 protested. It has always been the policy
- 53 of the United States in particular my
- 54 administration that this terrorist
- 55 regime can never have a nuclear weapon.
- 56 I'll say it again. They can never have a
- 57 nuclear weapon.
- 58 That is why in operation midnight hammer
- 59 last June we obliterated the regime's
- 60 nuclear program at Ford Natans and
- 61 Isvahan.
- 62 After that attack we warned them never
- 63 to resume their malicious pursuit of
- 64 nuclear weapons and we sought repeatedly

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65 to make a deal. We tried. They wanted to
66 do it. They didn't want to do it again.
67 They wanted to do it. They didn't want
68 to do it. They didn't know what was
69 happening. They just wanted to practice
70 evil. But Iran refused, just as it has
71 for decades and decades. They've
72 rejected every opportunity to renounce
73 their nuclear ambitions,
74 and we can't take it anymore. Instead,
75 they attempted to rebuild their nuclear
76 program and to continue developing long
77 range missiles that can now threaten our
78 very good friends and allies in Europe,
79 our troops stationed overseas and could
80 soon reach the American homeland.

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81 Just imagine how emboldened this regime
82 would be if they ever had and actually
83 were armed with nuclear weapons as a
84 means to deliver their message. For
85 these reasons, the United States
86 military is undertaking a massive and
87 ongoing operation to prevent this very
88 wicked, radical dictatorship from
89 threatening America and our core
90 national security interests. We are
91 going to destroy their missiles and
92 raise their missile industry to the
93 ground. It will be totally again
94 obliterated. We are going to annihilate
95 their navy. We are going to ensure that
96 the region's terrorist proxies can no

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97 longer destabilize the region or the
98 world and attack our forces and no
99 longer use their IEDs or roadside bombs
100 as they are sometimes called to so
101 gravely wound and kill thousands and
102 thousands of people including many
103 Americans. And we will ensure that Iran
104 does not obtain a nuclear weapon. It's a
105 very simple message. They will never
106 have a nuclear weapon. This regime will
107 soon learn that no one should challenge
108 the strength and might of the United
109 States armed forces. I built and rebuilt
110 our military in my first administration,
111 and there is no military on earth even
112 close to its power, strength, or

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113 sophistication.

114 My administration has taken every

115 possible step to minimize the risk to US

116 personnel in the region. Even so, and I

117 do not make this statement lightly, the

118 Iranian regime seeks to kill. The lives

119 of courageous American heroes may be

120 lost and we may have casualties.

121 That often happens in war. But we're

122 doing this not for now. We're doing this

123 for the future. And it is a noble

124 mission. We pray for every service

125 member as they selflessly risk their

126 lives to ensure that Americans and our

127 children will never be threatened by a

128 nuclear armed Iran. We ask God to

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129 protect all of our heroes in harm's way.

130 And we trust that with his help, the men

131 and women of the armed forces will

132 prevail. We have the greatest in the

133 world and they will prevail. To the

134 members of the Islamic Revolutionary

135 Guard, the armed forces and all of the

136 police, I say tonight that you must lay

137 down your weapons and have complete

138 immunity or in the alternative face

139 certain death. So lay down your arms,

140 you will be treated fairly with total

141 immunity or you will face certain death.

142 Finally, to the great proud people of

143 Iran, I say tonight that the hour of

144 your freedom is at hand. Stay sheltered.

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145 Don't leave your home. It's very
146 dangerous outside. Bombs will be
147 dropping everywhere. When we are
148 finished, take over your government. It
149 will be yours to take. This will be
150 probably your only chance for
151 generations. For many years, you have
152 asked for America's help, but you never
153 got it. No president was willing to do
154 what I am willing to do tonight. Now you
155 have a president who is giving you what
156 you want. So let's see how you respond.
157 America is backing you with overwhelming
158 strength and devastating force. Now is
159 the time to seize control of your
160 destiny and to unleash the prosperous

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161 and glorious future that is close within

162 your reach. This is the moment for

163 action. Do not let it pass. May God

164 bless the brave men and women of

165 America's armed forces. May God bless

166 the United States of America. May God

167 bless you all. Thank you.