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VAHID SALEMI/AP

Plumes of smoke rise as strikes hit the city during the U.S. and Israeli military campaign in Tehran, Iran, on Thursday.

US continues Iran onslaught

Bahrain reports more Iranian strikes after relative calm period

By SHANNON RENFROE
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — A day of relative peace was shattered late Thursday afternoon in this capital city, home to U.S. sailors at Naval Support Activity Bahrain, as air sirens that have blared recurrently since Saturday warned of incoming Iranian attacks.

Moments earlier, Navy officials sent a text message to the military community, whose members were sheltering in place throughout the city.

“Seek hardened shelter immediately,” the

■ Pentagon names final 2 service members killed in Kuwait drone attack **Page 3**

emergency messaging system stated. “Real World.”

No U.S. casualties have been reported thus far in Bahrain, home to the U.S. 5th Fleet, as well as thousands of sailors and their families prior to the start of a war that has engulfed na-

tions throughout the Middle East.

U.S. and Israel battered Iran with nationwide strikes Thursday. At least 2,000 positions have been attacked in Iran since Saturday, according to U.S. military figures.

The attacks have eliminated much of Iran’s senior military leadership, U.S. officials have said.

In Bahrain, an air warning around 1:45 a.m. gave way to one of the longest periods of calm — about 16 hours — since Iran’s counterat-

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GAO: DOD readiness affected by shortfalls

By PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

Years of delayed maintenance and staffing shortfalls continue to drag down overall readiness, according to a Defense Department watchdog agency report that acknowledged the military’s ability to carry out specific missions despite those limitations.

The Government Accountability Office report released Wednesday drew on years of studies examining issues such as the condition of ships and aircraft, personnel levels and training.

The report was assembled before the U.S. on Saturday launched its most recent attacks on Iran and makes no mention of the ongoing war. But its findings are less focused on the immediate needs of a major campaign than on long-term sustainability.

The GAO said the Pentagon has yet to fully implement more than 150 recommendations from earlier reviews intended to improve equipment availability, strengthen personnel pipelines and support better decision-making on readiness.

Many of those recommendations span multiple administrations and remain open years after they were issued. The GAO said the Defense Department generally agreed with its recommendations.

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