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If the U.S. attacks Cuba, experts see swift military strike, uncertain fallout

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If President Donald Trump were to order military action against Cuba, analysts say the operation would likely unfold not as an invasion but as a race, one measured in minutes rather than weeks.

The opening moves could involve cyberattacks, electronic warfare and elite special-operations teams

targeting key figures or command sites before much of the island's military could respond. But while experts say Cuba might be vulnerable to a rapid strike, they warn the harder challenge could begin after the shooting stops.

Military analysts and former officers interviewed by the Miami Herald say if Washington ever resorted to force, the operation would likely bear little resemblance to the large-

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scale invasions that defined earlier U.S. interventions.

Instead, they envision a limited campaign centered on stealth, precision strikes and special operations aimed at disrupting command networks or targeting senior leadership — a

mission that they say Cuba might struggle to stop militarily but whose political fallout could prove far more difficult to contain.

The Pentagon has given no public indication that military action against Havana is under consideration, and many of the operational scenarios described by analysts remain hypothetical rather than evidence of active planning.

But as debate grows in exile and policy circles

about what pressure against Cuba might look like under Trump, the discussion increasingly centers on different questions: Not whether the United States could strike Cuba but what such an intervention would actually entail, how the Cuban military might respond and whether a successful raid could produce a stable outcome.

For many Cuban exiles, the prospect of U.S. military action against Havana

carries emotional and historical weight that extends far beyond contemporary strategy debates.

Since Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution and the subsequent consolidation of one-party communist rule, generations of Cubans who settled in South Florida have imagined — and at times openly advocated for — a forceful intervention that might end the regime, which has carried out political repression, executions and imprisonment. Those actions have created a mass exodus that has transformed Miami into the largest Cuban community outside the island.

That hope for interven-

SEE CUBA, 11A

Frederica Wilson is leaving Congress



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'Passing the baton.' Congresswoman reflects on her political career

BY RAISA HABERSHAM rhabersham@miamiherald.com

The fumes from the Agri-post landfill near Skyway Elementary School were so bad that the children couldn't go outside for gym class and their desks were covered in mold. Then-Principal Frederica Wilson organized a student letter-writing campaign to county commissioners, asking them to close the plant.

It was 1990, and she held firm. After an outcry from students, parents and community leaders, the commission voted to close the landfill.

The valiant effort was the impetus to a viable political career and is but one in a long line of accomplishments from the esteemed congresswoman, whose political career is now coming to a close.

On Friday, it was celebrated with a street-renaming ceremony just outside the same elementary school that now bears her name and where she announced she would be retiring from politics and opening the door to new leadership from the predominantly Black district, which has long been a Democratic stronghold.

SEE LEGACY, 2A

She explains why in exclusive interview

BY RAISA HABERSHAM rhabersham@miamiherald.com

Congresswoman Frederica Wilson will not seek a ninth term in Congress, she confirmed to the Miami Herald in a wide-ranging interview explaining why she obfuscated her plan to give up her seat, why she's not "retiring" and why the political luminary isn't ready just yet to get behind a successor.

Dressed in a pink two-piece suit topped with one of her signature hats (pink, of course), Wilson, 83, spoke with the Herald on Thursday about why she decided not to run,

her legacy in South Florida and in Washington, and what it will take to run District 24, a Miami-area district created to concentrate Black voting power that she has represented since 2011, following in the footsteps of Rep. Carrie Meek.

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"I think it's time, and I think I really held on as long as I did because of the 5000 Role Models program, and my concern about the future of it," the Democratic lawmaker said about the mentorship program that she created for Black and brown boys more than 30 years ago.

SEE WILSON, 4A



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