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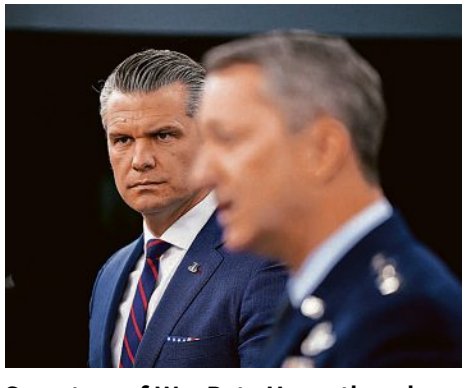
### ATTACKS HEAT UP AS MILITARY TRIES TO HELP AMERICANS OUT OF REGION

# U.S. submarine sinks an Iranian warship

Michael Loria, Jeanine Santucci, Cybele Mayes-Osterman, Bart Jansen and Zac Anderson  
USA TODAY

The White House on March 4 said there are no plans for ground troops in Iran, even as the Trump administration pledged more firepower in the war after officials said a U.S. submarine sank an Iranian warship, with reports of at least 80 people killed.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said that ground troops are currently "not part" of the operation in Iran, but did not take the option fully off the table.



Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine speak during a news briefing. ELIZABETH FRANTZ/REUTERS FILE

"They're not part of the plan for this operation at this time," she said during a White House press briefing. "But I certainly will never take away military options on behalf of the President of the United States or the Commander-in-Chief. And he wisely does not do the same for himself."

U.S. troops in the area remain under attack by Iran and its proxies, and over 1,000 U.S. citizens are still looking to escape the region as the war expands to neighboring countries, causing panic in the financial markets and oil prices to surge.

See **IRAN ATTACKS**, Page 7A

# War to disrupt the auto industry

## Experts: Gas prices could be biggest issue

Jamie L. LaReau  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Detroit Three have minimal exposure — in terms of new vehicle sales — in the Middle East, but as the war against Iran rages on, carmakers and auto analysts are watching developments closely for other serious fallout.

On Feb. 28, the United States and Israel bombed Iran after President Donald Trump said Iran was building nuclear weapons that threaten U.S. allies and could "soon" reach the shores of the United States. Iran retaliated by attacking Israel and Middle Eastern countries that host U.S. military bases.

"We are absolutely following the effects of this," said Sam Fiorani, vice president of Global Vehicle Forecasting at AutoForecast Solutions. "The largest disruptor, especially for the Detroit Three, will likely be economic. Changes in oil prices and wavering of consumer confidence will be the bigger drivers of the market over disruption of parts or vehicles."

Fiorani said an extended conflict will reduce demand in the region for Ford Motor vehicles made in China, which are what is mostly sold in that market. Also, General Motors and Stellantis will likely see a drop in demand for trucks that are made in North America. But overall new vehicle production in North America will likely not be impacted substantially, he said.

Ford, GM and Stellantis told the Detroit Free Press that they continue to closely monitor the war in case they have to evacuate personnel in the Middle East, the crisis escalates and disrupts the supply chain or other causes create economic fallout that could impact global new car sales.

### Detroit Three sales numbers in the Middle East

U.S. automakers do not sell a lot of vehicles in the Middle East overall, Fiorani said.

"The region's largest car market is Iran and American brands are not officially sold there," Fiorani said.

Here is how it breaks down: Including models produced outside of North America, American brands make up just over 8% of the market in Iraq, about 9% in Saudi Arabia, less than 12% in the United Arab Emirates and more than 14% in Kuwait, Fiorani said, citing data AutoForecast Solutions gets from a variety of sources.

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Imad Hamad, left, Imam Mohammad Ali Elahi, Imam Mustapha Elturk and Imam Arif Huskic, stand at a news conference at the Islamic House of Wisdom in Dearborn Heights on March 3. DAVID RODRIGUEZ MUNOZ/DETROIT FREE PRESS

# U.S. strains its foreign relationships

Michael Collins  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — On the night he was elected to a second term, President Donald Trump tried to put to rest concerns raised by his critics that he would lead the United States into war.

"I'm not going to start a war," he said during his victory speech before a crowd of supporters at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in Florida. "I'm going to stop wars."

Yet during his first year back in the White House, Trump unleashed U.S. military power on seven other nations. He ordered U.S. forces into Venezuela to capture that country's leader, Nicolás Maduro. And, in the most sweeping military operation of his presidency, the United States and Israel launched a joint attack on Iran last weekend that targeted the Middle Eastern country's missile capabilities and its leadership.

Six U.S. service members and more

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# Michigan Muslim leaders plead for Trump to end war

Niraj Warikoo  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Muslim leaders in Michigan gathered in a Dearborn Heights mosque to call for peace and an end to the war against Iran as mourners gathered in religious centers for services remembering people killed in Iran and other parts of the Middle East.

"We call on (President Donald) Trump ... to stop this war today," Imam Mohammad Ali Elahi, leader of the Islamic House of Wisdom in Dearborn Heights, said from his mosque Tuesday, March 3, at a news conference of Islamic and Arab American leaders. "Put America first, not (Israeli Prime Minister) Netanyahu first. ... This must come to an end today. It is hurting so many nations in the region. It is hurting the interest of our people. The price of oil is already up. Things are getting out of control. So much disruption, so

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much casualties." Elahi, a native of Iran who's a prominent interfaith leader in Michigan, appealed to Trump to live up to his promises on the campaign trail in 2024 in Dearborn of being a president of peace.

"Donald Trump promised to end the wars," Elahi said, but instead "he started the wars. ... American lives have been lost, and a big amount of

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Smoke rises following an explosion, after Israel and the United States launched strikes on Iran, in Tehran, Iran, on March 3. MAJID ASGARIPOUR/VIA REUTERS



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