

The Minnesota Star Tribune

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

H: 53° L: 42° | LATE RAIN

U.S. sinks warship as Iran threatens ruin



ARASH KHAMOOSHI • The New York Times

Residents in Tehran pass by on Wednesday, March 4, to survey the wreckage of a police station that was destroyed by a U.S.-Israeli airstrike two days earlier.

Federal agents still in state: 650

Number is quadruple the promise made by border czar Homan.

By LOUIS KRAUSS
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Nearly three weeks after federal officials announced that Operation Metro Surge was over, close to 650 federal agents remain in Minnesota, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem testified at a Senate Judiciary hearing March 3.

It's a figure higher than the estimates in two declarations filed Feb. 23 by DHS officials as part of a lawsuit by the ACLU, which estimated just under 600 agents remain in the state.

On Feb. 20, White House border czar Tom Homan said in a CNN interview that the Department of Homeland Security would return to its "regular footprint" of 150 agents by the end of last week, after the government sent 4,000 additional agents at its peak into Minnesota. Homan's CNN interview came a week after he announced on Feb. 12 that Operation Metro Surge was ending.

Noem gave the figure of fewer than 650 agents remaining in the state under questioning by Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who also asked: "When are you going to get down to the original footprint as promised to us?"

"We're continuing to work at that," Noem responded, adding that additional investigators are in the state to look into allegations of fraud in Minnesota. Homan noted on CNN that a "small team of security forces

SEE SURGE ON A7 »

Minnesotan is killed in drone strike

By ZOË JACKSON
The Minnesota Star Tribune

One of six American soldiers killed the day after the U.S. and Israel launched military strikes against Iran has been identified as a 39-year-old woman from White Bear Lake.

Late Tuesday, the Department of Defense announced that Sgt. 1st Class Nicole M. Amor was killed March 1 in Port Shuaiba, Kuwait, during an "unmanned aircraft system attack" as she and her fellow soldiers supported Operation Epic Fury.

Four of the six soldiers have been identified as members of the Army Reserve. They died Sunday when a drone hit

SEE AMOR ON A5 »

SGT. 1ST CLASS NICOLE M. AMOR 1986-2026



Provided by U.S. Army Reserve Command Press Desk

Sgt. 1st Class Nicole Amor, 39, was killed in Port Shuaiba, Kuwait, a day after the U.S. and Israel launched attacks on Iran. The Iranian drone strike killed six U.S. soldiers.

Kuwait operations site: Security precautions questioned. **A5**
War powers vote: Senate GOP rejects bill to halt conflict. **A5**
Supply chain: War may raise costs for drugs, electronics. **D1**

Tehran vows widespread destruction in Middle East

By JON GAMBRELL, ELENA BECATOROS and SAMY MAGDY
The Associated Press

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - A U.S. submarine sank an Iranian warship in the Indian Ocean, as Washington and Israel intensified their bombardment Wednesday of Iran's security forces and other symbols of power. Iran launched more missiles and drones and warned of the destruction of military and economic infrastructure across the Middle East.

The tempo of the strikes on Iran was so intense that state television announced the mourning ceremony for Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed at the start of the conflict, would be postponed. Millions attended the funeral of his predecessor,

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in 1989.

The U.S. and Israel launched the war Saturday, targeting Iran's leadership, missile arsenal and nuclear program while suggesting that toppling the government is a goal. But the exact aims and timelines have repeatedly shifted, signaling an open-ended conflict.

President Donald Trump praised the U.S. military Wednesday for "doing very well on the war front, to put it mildly."

Israel also traded fire with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon, while Iran fired on Bahrain, Kuwait and Israel. As the conflict spiraled, Turkey said NATO defenses intercepted a ballistic missile launched from Iran

SEE IRAN ON A5 »

Effort to ban masks faces pushback from GOP

Bid in state House to bring bill to floor fails on party-line vote.

By ALLISON KITE
The Minnesota Star Tribune

The image of masked agents in plainclothes and tactical gear, now inextricably linked with the federal immigration crackdown in Minnesota, is prompting Democrats - here and across the country - to seek to bar the practice.

Congressional Democrats have introduced bills to forbid masking for law officers.

They also are trying to negotiate limits on face coverings as part of their demands for reforms to the Department of Homeland Security. Proposals also have cropped up in state legislatures to prohibit masked agents.

The issue has particular urgency at the Minnesota Capitol, with Operation Metro Surge having led to the deaths of two U.S. citizens and violent confrontations between masked agents and protesters.

Months before the surge, a masked man pretending to be a law officer shot and killed former House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, and injured another lawmaker and his wife.

SEE MASKS ON A7 »

WALZ, ELLISON GRILLED AT FRAUD HEARING

Gov. Tim Walz and Attorney General Keith Ellison appeared before the U.S. House Oversight Committee to testify about fraud in the state's social services programs. They were asked to explain how the fraud got so widespread, what they are doing to correct it and why payments to some providers continued. They questioned how the Trump administration's deployment of federal agents addressed the problem. **A3**

Photo by ROD LAMKEY JR. • The Associated Press



TOP NEWS

First primaries show midterms will take place on shifting political ground for incumbents. **A4**

NATION & WORLD

Report on clergy sexual abuse in Rhode Island echoes findings elsewhere. **A2**

STATE & REGION

Minneapolis City Council panel votes to temporarily extend eviction timeline. **A6**

SPORTS

Legendary Gophers, Notre Dame football coach Lou Holtz dies at age 89. **C1**

BUSINESS

Billion-dollar company Pivot Bio is moving headquarters to Minnesota from California. **D1**

VARIETY

Roasting two chickens at once can provide meals for the week. We tell you how. **T1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Major historical documents begin a first-of-its kind journey around the U.S. to commemorate the country's 250th anniversary. **A2**

THE HEART AND VOICE OF THE NORTH

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THE MINNESOTA STAR TRIBUNE

Minneapolis, St. Paul MN • Volume XLIV • No. 335
March 5, 2026

