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Two U.S. aircraft shot down as war escalates

One crew member was rescued in Iran, but the whereabouts of at least one other was unknown.

By Sam Mednick, Konstantin Toropin, and Seung Min Kim
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Iran shot down two U.S. military planes in separate attacks Friday, with one service member rescued and at least one missing, in a dramatic escalation

since the war began nearly five weeks ago.

It was the first time U.S. aircraft have been downed in the conflict and came just two days after President Donald Trump said in a national address that the U.S. has “beaten and completely decimated Iran” and was “going to finish the job, and we’re going to finish it very fast.”

One fighter jet was shot down in Iran, officials said. A U.S. crew member from that plane was rescued, but a second was missing, and a U.S. military search-and-rescue operation was underway.

Neither the White House nor

Pentagon released public information about the downed planes. In a brief telephone interview with NBC News, Trump declined to discuss the search-and-rescue efforts but said what happened would not affect negotiations with Iran.

“No, not at all. No, it’s war,” he said.

Separately, Iranian state media said a U.S. A-10 attack aircraft crashed in the Persian Gulf after being struck by Iranian defense forces.

A U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive military situation said earlier that it was not clear if the

aircraft crashed or was shot down or whether Iran was involved. Neither the status of the crew nor exactly where it went down was immediately known.

Those incidents came as Iran fired on targets across the Middle East on Friday, keeping the pressure on Israel and its Gulf Arab neighbors despite U.S. and Israeli insistence that Iran’s military capabilities have been all but destroyed.

Second service member’s status unknown

Neither the White House nor the Pentagon released public

information about the downed planes. But the Pentagon notified the House Armed Services Committee that the status of a second service member from the fighter jet was not known.

In an email from the Pentagon that obtained by the Associated Press, meanwhile, the military said it received notification of “an aircraft being shot down” in the Middle East, without providing more details.

Iran’s attacks on Gulf energy infrastructure and its tight grip on the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world’s oil and

→ SEE IRAN ON A6



Good Friday procession

Pope Leo XIV carries a wooden cross for all of the 14 stations of the Way of the Cross at the Colosseum in Rome on his first Good Friday as pontiff. The procession marks the final hours of Jesus’ life, from his death sentence to taking up the cross to his crucifixion, death, and burial. Story, A2.

Alessandra Tarantino / AP

Shapiro joins lawsuit over voter restrictions

“Pennsylvanians choose their representatives, not Donald Trump,” he said after joining the multistate lawsuit.

By Fallon Roth and Gillian McGoldrick
Staff Writers

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro joined Democratic officials from 22 other states on Friday in filing a lawsuit against President Donald Trump’s recent executive order that restricts mail voting and directs federal agencies to create a national eligible voter list.

The suit, which was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, is part of a flurry of legal action following Trump’s executive order that voting law experts have said violates states’ constitutional power to carry out elections.

Trump’s presidential directive, signed Tuesday, instructs the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate with the Social Security Administration to develop a list of eligible voters in each state.



Gov. Josh Shapiro in January. Friday’s lawsuit is part of a flurry of legal action following an executive order that experts have said violates states’ constitutional power. Jose F. Moreno / Staff Photographer

It also aims to prevent the U.S. Postal Service from delivering absentee ballots to individuals not on the list and calls for envelopes with bar codes for tracking. The order instructs states to keep election records for five years after an election.

→ SEE SHAPIRO ON A4

ICE is still arresting many immigrants with no criminal record

By Emmanuel Martinez and Marianne LeVine
Washington Post

Federal immigration officers continued to target large numbers of immigrants with no criminal record in the weeks after two U.S. citizens were shot and killed in Minneapolis, newly released government data show, despite statements from Trump administration leaders indicating they wanted to take a more targeted approach.

White House border czar Tom Homan said in late January that “all operations will be targeted” and prioritize “criminal aliens, public safety threats and national security threats.” President Donald Trump said he wanted to see “a softer touch” following the unrest in Minneapolis. The shift in rhetoric came as polls indicated that a growing majority of Americans thought the administration had gone too far in deporting undocumented immigrants.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement data obtained through a Freedom of Information

Act lawsuit filed by the Deportation Data Project indicate that arrest numbers have dropped. ICE averaged about 7,000 arrests a week in the six weeks since Alex Pretti was shot and killed on Jan. 24 — down from 9,000 earlier in January.

But a Washington Post analysis of the data shows that people with no criminal record still make up the largest share of those detained. In all, 42% of those detained in the six weeks after Pretti’s death had no criminal record. That is a slight drop from the six weeks that preceded his death, when that figure was 46%. Thirty percent had prior convictions and 29% had pending charges in the latter weeks.

Julia Gelatt, associate director of the U.S. immigration policy program at the Migration Policy Institute, said the data reflect the view of senior Trump officials that “anybody without authorization should be arrested and deported.” While Homan stated that ICE would take a targeted approach after Pretti’s death, he also noted that “if you’re in the country illegally, you’re never off the table.”

→ SEE ICE ON A4

Trump’s budget seeks \$1.5T in defense spending

The president’s plan would slash spending on non-defense programs by 10%. “We’re fighting wars. We can’t take care of daycare,” he said.

By Lisa Mascaro and Kevin Freking
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has proposed boosting defense spending to \$1.5 trillion in his 2027 budget released Friday, the largest such request in decades, reflecting his emphasis on U.S. military investments over domestic programs.

The sizable increase for the Pentagon, some 44%, had been telegraphed by the Republican president even before the U.S.-led war against Iran. The president’s plan would also reduce spending on non-defense programs by 10%.

“President Trump promised to reinvest in America’s national security infrastructure, to make sure our nation is safe in a dangerous world,” wrote Budget Director Russell Vought.

The president’s annual budget is considered a reflection of the administration’s values and does not carry the force of law. The massive document typically highlights an administration’s priorities, but Congress, which handles federal spending issues, is free to reject it and often does.

This year’s White House document is intended to provide a road map from the president to Congress as lawmakers build their own budgets and annual appropriations bills to keep the government funded. Vought spoke to House GOP lawmakers on a private call Thursday.

Trump, speaking ahead of an address to the nation this week about the Iran war, signaled the military is his priority, setting up a

→ SEE BUDGET ON A7

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