

TSTC WACO



STUDENTS SHOW OFF MACHINING SKILLS



ROD AYDELOTTE PHOTOS, TRIBUNE-HERALD

Second- and third-semester precision machining students at Texas State Technical College in Waco compete Thursday in the program's second Machine Shop Mania. Teams of students answered machining-related questions and had an hour to produce an assembly with both milled and lathed parts to present to a panel of judges from the industry. The four students on the winning team each received a \$500 scholarship from the TSTC Foundation: Lionel Dmello, of Humble; Mason Clayton, of Graham; Michael VanZandt, of Waco; and Joshua Wiersema, of West, who is also an instructor in TSTC's welding program. Faculty also chose Byron McDonald III, of Corsicana, as the competition's "top technician." **LEFT:** Josh Appenfeldt, of Killeen, takes a measurement during Thursday's machining competition at TSTC. **RIGHT:** Sam Higham, of League City, works on the lathe while competing with fellow precision machining students in TSTC's Machine Shop Mania event Thursday.

Strikes strengthen options, officials say



KYLIE COOPER, REUTERS

President Donald Trump speaks Wednesday at the Pennsylvania Defense and Innovation Summit at the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Penn.

PHIL STEWART AND IDREES ALI
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Recent waves of U.S. strikes on Iran aimed at forcing open the Strait of Hormuz are also targeting Iranian military capabilities the U.S. would want to destroy before executing more complex operations against Iran, three U.S. officials said.

The officials, who were granted anonymity to discuss military matters, said the strikes effectively strengthen additional military options for President Donald Trump, who kept the world guessing about his next steps after notifying Congress last weekend of a formal resumption of conflict with Iran.

Now in its fifth month, the Iran war continues to rage after the unraveling of a memorandum of understanding that was meant to stop the fighting and pave the way for a peace agreement.

Despite heavy blows to Iran's military since the start of the U.S. and Israeli campaign Feb. 28, Tehran retains significant

drone and missile capability and has attacked passing tankers as well as its Gulf neighbors.

The U.S. military has said its latest bombings have targeted Iranian air defense systems, coastal radar, missile and drone sites as well as small boats and other maritime assets.

One of the U.S. officials said the strikes could be seen as "shaping operations" that are degrading Iranian defenses in case the U.S. military was ordered to carry out more intensive operations in the future.

"This is helping set the stage, if needed," the official said.

The Pentagon did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Military options

In March, Reuters reported on U.S. military planning to create options to deploy U.S. troops to Iran's shoreline to better secure the Strait. At the time, officials

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